

Civil War Journal 1863
Part 3: 1 Oct 1863 – 31 Dec 1863
Thomas Hogarth III (1843–1906)

As transcribed by Denise Hogarth Bumford, 2nd Great Granddaughter

About the transcription:

I understand that historic writing is meant to be transcribed exactly as written; however, I have not done that because I wanted it to be easily readable, and the lack of punctuation would leave each entry a long, run-on of topics. There are surely transcription errors and inconsistencies, which may eventually be corrected by more experienced readers.

The handwriting is a slightly curly script, likely common for the period. It is mostly legible and consistent, but missing punctuation, so I punctuated as I imagined him speaking it. There are many random capitalizations. Every word beginning with C, I, L or Q is capitalized regardless of where it appears in a sentence. Apparently, there was a convention to use periods with numerals, which he does, and which I sometimes included in transcription. His spelling is occasionally poor or may follow conventions of the day – “thay” for they, “plane” for plain, “releaved” for relieved. I intermittently sic’d or corrected these to contemporary spelling. Although his spelling of some words and names may vary, he is careful to improve as he learns corrections – “vetrans” becomes veterans, “fateage” becomes fatigue. Today’s compound words are written as two words – to day, to night, to morrow. He seems to use “of” interchangeably for **of** or **off**, and “to” for **to** or **too**, so I made choices from context.

This Italic text represents uncertain, best-guess interpretation of unfamiliar terms or *indecipherable* writing. It also represents my voice and notes.

About Thomas Hogarth III:

He was born 1843 in New York City to Margaret Anderson Hogarth and Thomas Hogarth II, a stone cutter. Thomas and Margaret had immigrated from the Scottish Borders area arriving in NY in 1834 together with his parents, Thomas Hogarth I and Jean Stoddart Hogarth, and sisters, Jean and Elizabeth Hogarth. The Hogarth and Stoddart families both originated from the same village in Scotland. It is not yet known what prompted this family’s migration, but Jean Stoddart Hogarth’s brother, Robert Stoddart, was well established in New York by the time of their arrival in 1834.

Both Thomas III's parents had died by the time he was six years old. He was subsequently raised by an aunt and older sisters until the 1860 census finds 17-year-old Thomas in Fort Wayne, Indiana living with Aunt Jean and Uncle James Humphrey and cousins, including 17-year-old Thomas Humphrey. Uncle James' younger brother was Col. George Humphrey, an experienced officer at the start of this war, and Thomas encountered him in the field during 1863. His sweetheart, Desdemona Wilson, shows up variously as Miss Destimonia Wilson, Miss Desty or sometimes D.W. They married after the war. He has his 20th birthday in March 1863; she's 16 the same month.

In September 1861 the two young cousin Thomases, both 18, both born of Scottish immigrant parents, enlisted in the 30th Indiana Volunteers of the Union Army. This diary tells a small part of that story.

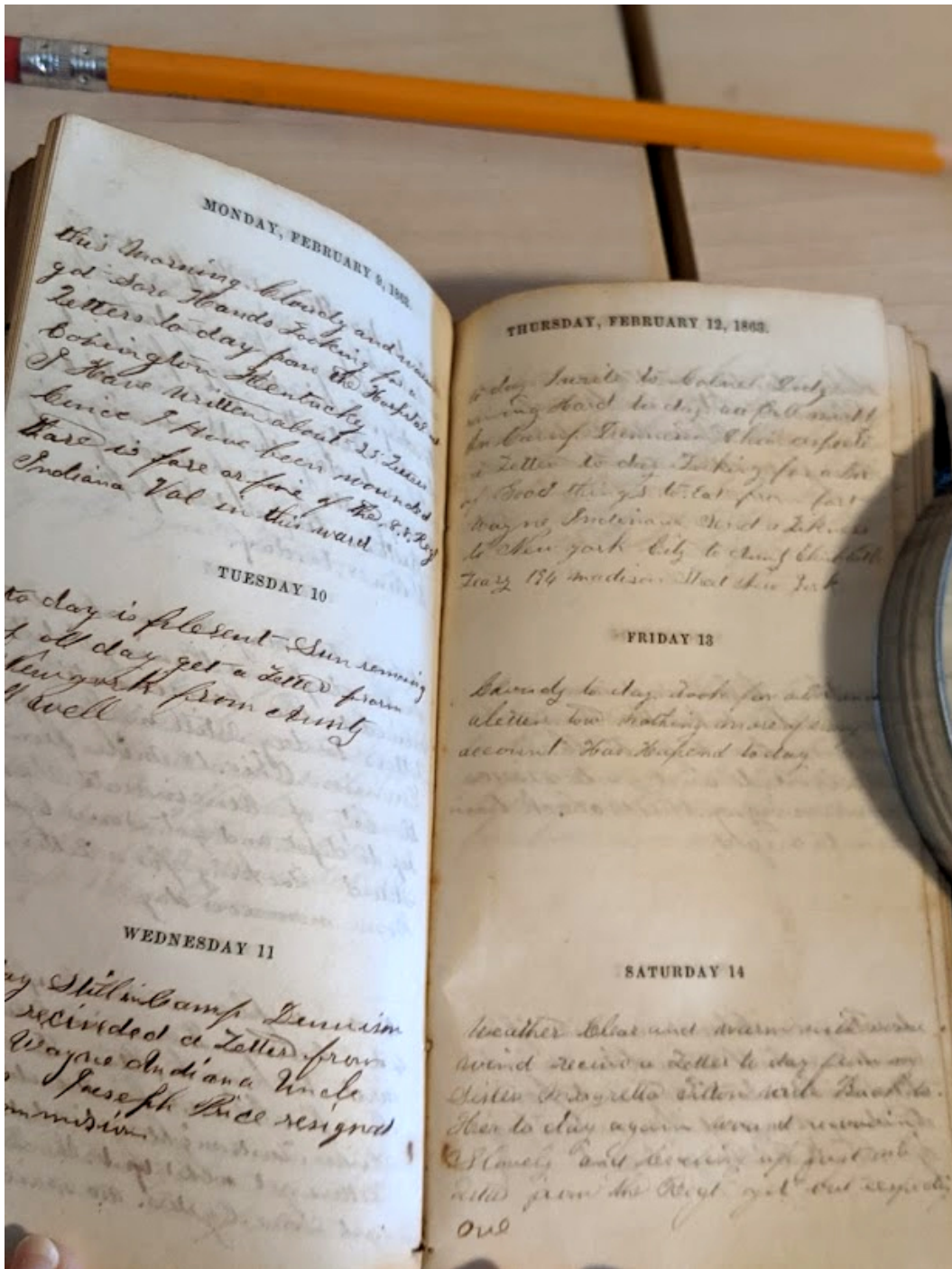
Following the war, Thomas Hogarth III became a railroad engineer in Indiana and Ohio prior to retiring in Stuart, Florida around 1900. He died in 1906.



Thomas Hogarth III



Col. George Humphrey



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1863.

This morning cloudy and raining
got sore hands took in for a
letters to day from the Hospital
Cobington Kentucky
I have written about 25 letters
since I have been wounded
There is fire as far as the 8th Reg
Indiana Vol in this ward

TUESDAY 10

to day is pleasant Sun shining
at all day get a letter from
New York from a party
well

WEDNESDAY 11

at Still Camp Gen. Sherman
received a letter from
Wayne Indiana Uncle
Joseph Rice resigned
mission

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1863.

to day wrote to Colonel Dyer
writing hard to day as felt much
for Gen. Sherman & his effects
a letter to day looking for other
of good things to eat for part
Wayne Indiana sent a letter
to New York City to Gen. Sherman
Feb 12 1863 Madison that the 1st

FRIDAY 13

cloudy to day look for a letter
letter too nothing more of any
account than before to day

SATURDAY 14

weather clear and warm with wind
wind received a letter to day from
Sister Mary who sister with Gen. Sherman
then to day again some at receiving
I have sent a letter up just
letter from the Regt get out reports
one

TRANSCRIPTION

(Handwritten on the inside cover:)

*Ohio
Camp Denison
Feb 4, 1863 *
Thomas Hogarth
C & E 30th Regiment
Indiana Volunteers
His Book*

**Apparently he copied all Jan entries to this journal from another source since on Feb 4 he records that Uncle James gave him "this book."*

Interior Printed pages include:

*"Pocket Diary 1863
Published annually Denton & Wood
Cambridgeport, Mass."*

The first pages are Almanac-style tables of assorted helpful information: distances between various cities, postage rates, sun-moon rises, etc. The pocket diary section of the journal is laid out with 3 dated spaces for handwritten entries on each page.

JOURNAL

(Part 3: 1 Oct 1863 – 31 Dec 1863)

For context Thomas was wounded in the left shoulder Dec 31, 1862 (Battle of Murfreesboro, Stones River) and begins the year 1863 in recovery.

Thu October 1 – We still lay at Chattanooga in the Chickamauga Valley, nothing much a going on I can not Hear from Home no way in shape. I saw the Col. 88 Ind. He is well and never looked finer In Health. Wrote a letter to my Aunty Elizabeth 194 Madison Street New York City. It rains today very hard. Get wet through tent.

Fri Oct 2 – The Regt. comes in off of picket this morning wet through to the skin. My clerk came over the river this morning, put up a fly tent and cannot get boards enough to make me a bed. Lieut Joseph McHenry of Co. H Ind Vols takes Command of the Company today. Make out the monthly rations today.

Sat Oct 3 – A line written today not much a going on today about camp as usual. I am detailed to go and work on the fortifications with 40 men of the 30th Indiana. Samuel Shane came to the company from the other side Tennessee River. Quite cool tonight. Mail comes in and nothing again on the road for me. I write to Charles M. Jones, Fort Wayne Ind.

Sun Oct 4 – Clear and quite cool. Not much wood to get at in this part of the world. The boys takes up the railroad ties to make a fire with. Five men detailed to work on the fortifications near the town of Chattanooga, Tenn. Lieut Joseph McKay makes out pay rolls today. It is one awful job to do up nice altogether. It is reported that the fight will commence tomorrow morning. Wrote to John Haunestine today

Mon Oct 5 – Clear and cool this morning. Making out another payroll this morning. Cannonading on our left this morning. They still detail men out of the 30th to work on fortifications up on our right on a Hill, torn down a large brick house to put up a fort there. Mail every day now, but none for me, but one from Jacob Fanerger wounded in the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. The Rebs send some cannon balls into our camp and kill three of the tenth Ohio Regt.

Tue Oct 6 – Clear and cool this morning. The Rebs throw three shells into camp last night about 11 o'clock but did no damage that I can hear from. I make out a muster roll, go up to the 15 Indiana Regt. They lay up on the mountain at the river. Saw William

Dougal. He is well. I think that the secesh have left the hill. They do not bother us today. Still cool.

Wed Oct 7 – It Is raining this morning, Quite cool this morning. Look for a letter this morning. Draw beef not more than enough for one mess for the Company. We have 29 men In the Co. 17 men for the Duty In the Regt. The Rebs do not feel inclined to trouble us. Go over and take dinner with Homer Robinson at General Reynolds headquarters. Write to James S. Kimberley late of Co. E. 30th. See Col. Humphrey to day, well and hearty too. Windy today.

Thu Oct 8 – Clear and cool today. The Rebs don't molest us much now. Waiten (sic) for a mail for a Letter. They detail .50 men to day to work on fortifications at Chattanooga Tenn We are getting fixed up very strong at this place mail comes In none for me nothing going on to day

Fri Oct 9 – Clear and Quite warm to day draw clothing to day pants and Boots and Shoes I draw one pair pants and one pair Shoes Homer Robinson of the 72 Ind Vols was here this morning a talks of going to his Company to morrow or next day I was to See Henry D Fulton to day. He looks well. His wound hurts him much now. The Sutler comes up to day, nothing but Cheese and tobacco. Go on picket to morrow.

Sat Oct 10 – Go on picket at 4 this morning on the reserve. Most awful warm. The Rebs are still in our front. There are some two or three men in Co. E that makes a good thing a playing off always about picket time John Bunton, Milton S. Fulton, D.D. Scott. I think that they had better be sent to a near hospital for men that can be sick and Eat full rations, ought to be every wares but In the field

Sun Oct 11 – We come to the front line this morning. Col. Hurd is sick this morning. Capt. Lautin is in command of the Regiment. I go down to the creek to wash and have a chat with a Reble of the Fourth Texas Regt. He says that the Confederate officers will not let the soldiers talk to us. I get a paper the name Southern Confederacy. Get a letter from D. W. Draw sow belly and hard tack today.

Mon Oct 12 – We got relieved this morning by the 79 Ill Regt. Col Allen Buckner have two days to stand yet comes as rain this evening and fills up the ditches so that we cannot stay in them. Cannot sleep tonight. Draw half rations this afternoon. Nothing much going on the front today. We shell the Rebles some today. They try to work on their fortifications and we have orders to fire on them when they try to work on them.

Tue Oct 13 – This morning wet through to the skin. Go out to the front line and relieve the 79th Ill Regt. Little fire, and fire wood cannot be had on any conditions at all. Rebels plenty in our front this morning. They don't seem to mind the Yankees much for they run around in the open fields. Orders not to shoot them at all without they advance on us. Some talk of getting relieved by Sheridan Div.

Wed Oct 14 – Rain all night last night, wet through. Get relieved by the first Ohio Regt. this morning. Get a letter from Uncle James Humphrey today. Capt. Silver gets notice today to settle up with the Government his accounts while with Co. E 30th Ind Vols. Come in off picket and find my tent drowded out very near. Eat some Red White and Blue soup today for dinner.

(I was unable to find this soup, but it may be a reference tohardtack "broken up with a rifle butt" and dropped into soup, presumably mostly water.)

Thu Oct 15 – Still raining this morning. Wet through to the skin. Take a walk up to the field hospital. See Henry D. Fulton. No mail today. Had some sow belly soup and crackers broke into it. The sun comes out about two o'clock and I hang my blankets out to dry. Send John D. Banta, Milton S. Fulton, Dewain D. Scott, James Huffman to hospital and hope that they will stay too. Write to Uncle James.

Fri Oct 16 – Still rainy. Some men detailed to go on picket. Capt. Joseph Whitaker and Lieut. Lash goes with. Most awful muddy this morning. Draw rations this morning for five days. Get the Sutler's wagon and haul some bricks and build me a chimney to my tent. John In?? and Nickolas Dering? help me. It is quite comfortable now. John Strong of the 44th? Ind Vols comes and sees me today. No mail today. Clear off and warm.

Sat Oct 17 – very foggy (sic) this morning. Mail comes in this morning. Frank Stin comes from the field hospital to see us and is going back again. Wind is blowing most awful hard. The boys are fixing up for inspections. Lieut Bxxxx? Hxxx? And we are detailed to work on the fortifications with .70. Men from the 33 Ind and some from the 77 Penn Vols. Quite a lot of fighting Orders comes to report to Division HQ to the mustering officer.

Sun Oct 18 – Rain this morning. Me, Lieut Camachy of Co. H and Lieut Kay/Ray of Co. G gets mustered in as 2nd Lieuts, mine to date from June 29, 1863 and theirs to date from May 30, 1863. Rain very hard at spells No mail today. Write to Uncle James. Clear off at about .6. o'clock. They still detail men to work on the fortifications around Chattanooga Tenn. Quite cool this morning, set by my fire very near all day.

Mon Oct 19 – Clear and cool this morning. Me and Orderly Wheeler talks over matters about my commission. McKay wants to get away and let me have command of the Co. I don't want him to go until Lieut Murphy comes back to the company. Go on picket at .6 o'clock tonight, quite cool. No mail yet today. My discharge has not come yet. Can see plenty of fire over on the Rebles lines.

Tue Oct 20 – Go out on the front line at 6 o'clock this morning. Cannot see the Secesh this morning. It is very fogg. Get relieved at half past 7 o'clock and come into camp and get orders to move out. Take down our tents and march over towards the left to Palmer's Division. Nothing to eat today. I take command of Co. E 30th this morning. No mail yet. Sergt Hamilton Fulton messes with me.

Wed Oct 21 – Cloudy and rainy this morning. Get in camp and build a hut. Me and Sergt Fulton puts up a fly tent and I think we will live high after awhile.

Thu Oct 22 – Cloudy and Cool this morning. Go on picket this morning with 29 men on this station. Can see the rebs quite plane (sic). They seem quite bold to me, comes out and shakes a paper at me and then runs back again. Clears off about ten o'clock and gets to be quite warm today. They throw some shells into the Rebles camps this afternoon but get no reply from get mail today, first in some time.

Fri Oct 23 – Came on to rain this morning at half past two o'clock and rained with unabated fury until daylight when it held up a little. Can see the rebs this morning as thick as ever. Our men shelled them last night from 11 o'clock until three every half hour. Some shells busted over our heads. Get relieved this morning at half past .8 o'clock, the old guard on the right of the new.

Sat Oct 24 – Cloudy and wet under foot. Sergt Fulton goes on picket this morning. Get some beef soup to eat and hard tack. William Foss Gets a letter from Sergt Jacob Fembling. He gets a 30 day furlough to go home. Get mail today, get orders to get ready to go over the river and march to Stevenson, Alabama and get orders to stay until (2)two o'clock in the morning. Rain tonight.

Sun Oct 25 – Leave our camp at two o'clock this morning and crost (sic) over the pontoon bridge at daylight, very bad roads all the way. Came to the foot of one of the Cumberland Mountains, most awful steep. Fine water running down and all the while mules lay all along the road up the mountain. Reach the top about 10 o'clock this morning. Nothing much to eat, pass a supply train and come to a halt about twelve o'clock. We draw rations. Plenty of rails up on this mountain. We house here.

Mon Oct 26 – Lay on top of the mountain this morning. Clears up this morning and is quite comfortable with a good fire. Are waiting for orders to go ahead. There is a grate (sic) many reports about where we are a going. I think that we will go to Shell Mound down the river to up our line of march at 12 o'clock and marched .8. miles and stopped on the edge of the mountain, look down and can see wagons on the move. Cooked sow belly and eat.

Tue Oct 27 – We get up and march at 7 o'clock this morning towards the valley. Commences to rain this morning. E.H. Judkins cooks something to eat. We march down and up a large ravine about one mile and a half, march along the mountain. Plenty of good water. Get to the valley about dark and build a fire. Lay down and sleep good all night.

Wed Oct 28 – The 30th Indiana is in the lead of the Division and march over some awful roads this morning. Came on to rain a little this morning, but clears up in the afternoon. We came to the 2nd Michigan Cav and the first Ohio Battery Co. H. We halt close to them. They give the boys some meat and hard tack. Some Body steals of thay (sic) coffee. I draw some coffee from the quarter master. The 12 Army Corp goes a long the other side the Tenn River.

Thu Oct 29 – Cannonading to wards Chattanooga last night. Go out Side our Camp Lines and come up with the 101st Regiment Ohio patrol Guard took Me and Sergt Fulton. March to Shell mound, cross the pontoon bridge and lay close to the railroad. Cannot draw any grub for myself. Wind blows most awful hard, rains tonight, most awful muddy tonight.

Fri Oct 30 – Still lay at Shell mound this morning. Raining this morning very hard. Some of the Potomac troop pass us this morning towards Chattanooga. The troop draw rations this morning. Took up our line of march at four o'clock and move towards Chattanooga Tenn, pass the 7th Ohio on the way. Halt in the woods and go on picket. Rain very hard until nine o'clock. Me and Sergt Fulton on the same post and ten men of Co. C and G 30th Indiana.

Sat Oct 31 – Clear and cold this morning. The Division moves out at .6. o'clock in the direction of fallen Water Bridge. Came right off picket and marched on the railroad to White Sides Depot 15 miles from Chattanooga. Arrived at White Sides about .12.o'clock. The bridge over the fallen water was burnt by Gen Bragg when on

retreat from Stone River last December. Go into camp at fallen water, Get mustered for pay this afternoon.

Mon November 1 – Clear and cool this morning, a very hard frost last night. The 60th New York Regiment was on picket last night at White Side Depot. We are on the Georgia and Tenn line now in a valley. The bridge over fallen water is 480 feet, mostly iron at that end. Draw rations this afternoon. Can hear cannonading in the direction of Chattanooga. We have not had any mail for the time we left Chattanooga. I have not drawn ration for some time now.

Tue Nov 2 – Clear and cool. Write to Uncle James. Clouds up and looks as though it would rain. Get a hogs head and have it cooked up into soup and is very good to these hard times. They send in an order to detail one non Commissioned Officer to go home to recruit for the Regiment, one out of each company to go. Sergt Fulton is detailed from Co. E 30th.

Tue Nov 3 – The sun comes up clear and warm. They detail pickets out the 30th today. Capt Joseph Whitaker Co. D and Lieut Jas Kennedy Co. A and 60 men get orders to regulate camp. So the boys puts up winter Qrts. Get mail today. Lieut Baluin/ Babrin 77th Regt Pennsylvania Vols brings it from Chattanooga. I receive two letters, one from Aunt Elizabeth and one from Uncle James Humphrey. Nothing much going on about camp.

Wed Nov 4 – Do not feel well this morning. Clear and warm today. The boys are hard at work at putting up winter quarters. Another detail for picket. We are still at White Sides Depot 18 miles from Bridgeport, Tenn. We are now on the Georgia line in mountains.

Thu Nov 5 – Comes on to rain this morning, quite disagreeable today. I have a large boil on my lip. My face is swelled up most awfully indeed, can hardly see out of my eye at all. Comp H comes from Chattanooga, Tenn with mail and the Desks. I get three letters today. Rain all day today. Capt Lawton and Lieut Day is on picket duty today, hard time, I expect, too.

Fri Nov 6 – Still laying at White Sides Depot on the Georgia state line. My face hurts most awful bad, but I think it will get well soon now. Make out Sergt Forbing and Jacob Fearinger Discriptive (sic) Rolls and send them to them. Have some fresh pork soup for dinner. The boys are busy indeed putting up their shantys (sic). They will be quite comfortable when they get them up. My house is not up yet.

Sat Nov 7 – Clear and quite cool in the morning, had a very heavy frost last night. Quarter Master William Furgerson and Peter Edsall Qrt. M.S. has gone to Stevenson, Alabama after goods turned over at the river. Our brigade draws clothing today. My head still hurts me much. Captain McElfattrick comes too and stays at the Regt all day today. The boys draw some clothing and some beef.

Sun Nov 8 – This morning quite cool but clear. Go to work on the fortifications at 8 o'clock and work till ten. Send a receipt to Annapolis and for James Manns Descriptive list. All we want now to make us sleep comfortable is blankets and tents. The campaines (sic) are making out their muster rolls. Can hear no church bells ring tonight.

Mon Nov 9 – Clear and cool today. Wind is blowing quite hard, most froze last night. Mail comes in today. A locomotive comes down to the bridge today and one last night. My face feels better today. Receive Rantces and Milton S. Fulton's descriptive rolls from Chattanooga today. No tent to live in yet, but got full rations and that goes good.

Tue Nov 10 – Clear and warm today, put up a good chimney at my tent or shanty. Jasper Ohlvine and William Hoss and Henry Bush, Quartermaster Furgerson came back from Stevenson with our things. Frank Sten returned to the Co. from Chattanooga. I get a Reble wall tent tonight and will put it up tomorrow. Snug and nice. Still at White Sides Depot Georgia.

Wed Nov 11 – Clear and awful cold. Like to froze my feet last night. I am on picket today. Bought a watch off Sergt Fulton today. Me and Capt Boydson Co.B was on picket in Willis Valley. I go on out post with 25 men, and he stays in reserve with 25 men. I go up on the mountain to find a post and come very near getting lost in the mountain. Very warm all day. Capt goes up and could not find the post.

Thu Nov 12 – Very clear and warm today. Get relieved at ten minutes past 7 o'clock by the 24 Ohio Regt. Came in, come and get a good breakfast of warm cakes and roast meat. E.F. Judkins cooks it for me and Sergt Fulton and Corp Gardiner. Putting up my shanty, got up my chimney and draws fine. Can draw no rations for myself yet. Capt Griswold went out .6. Miles 50 men after forage for teams, got back at dusk tonight.

Fri Nov 13 – Clear and warm this morning. It gets cloudy towards evening and looks like rain. Capt Thompson and Lieut Day goes on picket this morning. Sergt Fulton goes on too. The mail comes in and I get three letters, one from Uncle James, one from John Smith, and one from Miss Wilson. Hear from the boys that was taken at Chickamauga. Making out pay rolls today, making out two.

Sat Nov 14 – Clear and rainy this morning. Had some awful tough beef for breakfast this morning. It came near taking my teeth out of my jaw. In shelter, can't get wet today. Wrote letter to Mr. John C. Smith. Was sent with fateague (sic) party to unload a train of cars. 6.00 boxes of hard bread, got through at twelve o'clock. Cleaned up camp today. Inspections tomorrow.

Sun Nov 15 – Clear and a little cool this morning. Cleaning up quarters for inspections today. Make out Sergt Fulton's descriptive roll and he starts to Nashville this afternoon going home on recruiting service. Capt Dawson goes too. Orderly Sergt Robert Swan, of Co. D, Orderly Dewey of Co. C 30th goes too. Frank Stin comes and stays with me. Reported that the enemy is close on our front. Let them come.

Mon Nov 16 – Clear this morning, but cool. Five men and a corporal detailed to go on picket as grand guard. Get up this morning at .4.o'clock without the sound of the bugle and stack arms and the men keeps on their cartrages (sic) Rexas until day light and then stay to work the fortifications. Frank Stin rebuilds my chimney, don't smoke now. Finish my five muster rolls and send them to re inspections. Muster rolls comes back is right.

Tue Nov 17 – Cloudy this morning. Lieut Lash and Capt Hart comes in off picket this morning. Capt Griswold goes on fatigue with 30 men. The 12th Regt comes to Bridgeport, Tenn. James Huffman came to the Regiment yesterday. Sent him to Brigade under guard. Sent him changes and specifications to the Provost Marshall. Sign one pay roll tonight. 24 Ohio gets pay today.

Wed Nov 18 – Clear and warm this morning. Write a letter to Joseph H. Cutshall Fort Wayne, IN. Capt Hart goes out with a fatigue party to work on fortifications at White Sides, Tenn. Make out new charges and specifications against James Huffman. Mail came tonight, nothing for me. The 16th and 15th army Corp turns off at Shell Mound and goes towards Trenton, Georgia. Do not get to see them.

Thur Nov 19 – Clear and cool this morning. Go on fatigue on the fortifications at White Sides, Tenn. Get orders to march tomorrow morning. Some of Gen. Grant's men comes by this way today. Saw one of the 12th Ind boys out Company B. Write to Charlie Fisher and send by him. His name is Stewart and he gave information of the 12th Ind Vols on another road. indecipherable on picket.

Fri Nov 20 – Sat up until 2 o'clock this morning making out pay rolls. Make them out for four months. Got two sign up last night and had them signed by the Brigade Inspector

this morning. Sergt Staner Co. H, returns last night. The 12th Indiana train laid over at this place last night. They stold (sic) them blind most. Sergt Forbing returns today. I and Capt Boydson goes on picket this afternoon.

Sat Nov 21 – Rained all night last night, did not sleep any all night, wet through to the skin. About ten o'clock the relief comes from 30th Ind. Capt Thompson and Sergt Forbing acting lieut of the outpost. I receive a letter from James Ivins 48th Regiment, New York, Beaufort S.C. He bely to the Band. I write right back to him today. Send Judkins after grub to Brigade Head Quarters. Get some today al right again.

Sun Nov 22 – Clear and wind blowing quite hard from the northeast. My fire place smokes this morning. Sergt Forbing comes in off picket at night. Grant's train pulls out this morning. Order comes to read Gen. Order Dept. ? 80 and .248. to the companies.

Mon Nov 23 – (faded text difficult to interpret) and the 3rd Brigade pulls out behind them. I am on post with Companies B, E, H of the 35th Regt, a detail from it. Trains of wagons passing all the time. Caravans passing all the time. Heavy cannonading in the direction of Chattanooga. Convalescents passing 900. nine hundred from Nashville.

Tue Nov 24 – Comes on to rain this morning at daylight, but not hard though. We get relieved at .8. o'clock. Lieut Lash commanding Co. H 30th Ind Vols. Sergt Forbing in picket today. I send 200 dollars with Capt Whittaker to Stevenson for to get express to Uncle James Humphrey Fort Wayne. Peter Edsal comes in my tent and have some fun with his speaking and singing. Take a good smoke and go to bed.

Wed Nov 25 – (Again lines of faded text difficult to interpret)

Wrote a letter to Miss Belle Briant Fort Wayne, Indiana. I go on picket tomorrow

Note – (Beginning in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln encouraged Americans to recognize the last Thursday of November as "a day of Thanksgiving.")

Thur Nov 26 – Go on picket on the shell mound road this morning. Relieve Lieut James Kennedy Co. B 30th Ind. 1300 and 30 Reble prisoners past (sic) here last night at o'clock. I have 14 men and three non commissioned officers Corp John Miller Co. C 30th is in with me. Am bothered with wound a great deal today. Get some milk tonight. About 300 recruits passes us today from Nashville.

Fri Nov 27 – Quite cool this morning. Get relieved at 8 o'clock by Lieut Sam Bentley Co. D 30th. Come into camp, stop and give my report and get a good breakfast. Looking for a letter from home. Write home to Uncle James. Looks a little like rain tonight. It is reported that Gens Cheatham, Breckinridge is captured at Chattanooga. About 200 Secesh pass today walking on the railroad.

Sat Nov 28 – Raining this morning. My tent let a little water last night. Pickets goes out. Turns to be very cool, looks like snow. Lieut Kennedy goes on picket. Nothing from the front. Capt Whittaker comes from Stevenson, Ala. Joseph Cope comes back today. I write to Augustus Bailey today.

Sun Nov 29 – (faded lines of text difficult to interpret) I rec a letter from Uncle James Humphrey tonight. All will go on picket tomorrow morning. My fire place gets a fire and quite hard to go out again. James Henderson comes up and I pay him ten dollars.

Mon Nov 30 – Get up this morning at four o'clock, make a good fire. Go out and see 37.00 Rebs pass on the road. I go on picket at .8. o'clock. Orderly Curry of Co. F is on with me. Send him on the front line and I stay on the reserve with 18 men. Sergt Stone of Co. C is on with me. Awful cold today all day. Does not thaw in the shade at all today. No mail today. I am expecting a letter.

Tues December 1 – Still on picket this morning at 8 o'clock. Capt Thompson of Co. K and Sergt Mike Bennett is acting lieut on with him. Come in camp, get some warm pancakes and mutton for breakfast. My head aking (sic). At 12 o'clock Joseph Bryant of our company but absent since the 31st day of Dec 1862 at the Battle of Stones River returned under arrest. Took him to the Hurd Camp post.

Wed Dec 2 – Clear and warm this morning. Captain Lawton goes on picket this morning. The train comes in this morning. No mail. Last night 4.00 Rebles pass our Brigade camp from the Ring gold. This afternoon I was sent with 25 men to the double log house three quarters of a mile outside the picket line to help the wagon train. Do not get back until 8 o'clock tonight. The camp fires do shine tonight since the Brigade came in.

Thu Dec 3 – Clear and quite cool this morning. The rest of the Brigade goes on picket today. The boys are all makeing a greate fuss over the vetran (sic) service. Any officer who can get 2 d/z of his company to relist again gets from .30. to .90. days furlough. Capt Griswold thinks that he can get a whole company to go in again. I can't see it at all. In this light the mountain is afire tonight and looks splendid. Capt Frank Aveline was

killed a few days ago, and his father came after him today. Elijah Judkins stopped cooking and Frank Sten takes the stand.

Fri Dec 4 – This morning clear and cool. I am detailed to work on the road in Raccoon Hollow leading toward Chattanooga. Wagon trains passing all the morning going toward Bridgeport, Ala. Saw Gens Osterhouse and Woods pass this afternoon. Work until recall sounds for us to quit work. The troop that came in today lay in the valley at White Sides Tennessee. I am in hopes the 12th Regt will come this way if they go back at all. No mail today yet.

Sat Dec 5 – Cloudy and rainy this morning. Lieut H H Day of Co. G goes out with 25 men to work on the road in Chattanooga Valley. The division that laid down in the valley here moved out this morning. Trains is passing all day. They are going to open the railroad to Huntsville, Ala. No mail tonight. Get Lieut Joseph Williams of Co. B returned this evening after being absent since the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. I don't know what they will do with him, though.

Sun Dec 6 – Clear and pleasant this morning. Get orders to get ready for general inspection. Get ready and an order came to go out with one day rations in haversacks and guns and one man with a axe. We started and marched four miles. Come to a train of supplies for the fourth army corps. Capt Griswold gets into a mess with a wagon master. The man calls Capt a liar. Capt draws his sword and strikes him. Col puts the wagon master under arrest. We get to camp at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Get mail tonight.

Mon Dec 7 – Clear and warm this morning. Charles Broughton come from Bridgeport, Ala. Benjamin F. Blyler came too from the same place where he has been absent four or five days without leave. I bye (sic) some cheese off him. Will Foss washes some shirts today. Sergt Butts is on his way to the 88th Ind. Stops at Capt Whittaker Co. D. Mail tonight.

Tue Dec 8 – Cloudy and rainy this morning. The Adjt Came around wanting vetrans (sic) to enlist out of the thirtieth. Sergt Edgley Joseph Cope, and I think Sergt Wheeler has joined too. Mail today, but none for me. I cannot think what is up at home that they do not write to me oftener for the mail comes in regular and nothing to hinder the letters from coming through. Raining tonight yet.

Wed Dec 9 – Woke up this morning, clear and pleasant, cleared up last night. I go over to Brigade Sutler and byes a carpet sack, give ten dollars for it. Qtr Master William Ferguson is leave of absence. I think that I shall send and get a sword by him on his

return. Lieut Bentley was on fatigue today. I am on tomorrow. Frank Sten, Orderly Wheeler. Sergt Forbing is makeing mony (*sic*) fast now. I was looking for Lieut George E. Murphy to return today, did not.

Thur Dec 10 – Clear and warm this morning. I am detailed to go with 25 men and work on the roads. Go over and report at Brigade Head Qtr. They send me down by the Fallen Water Bridge. Go to work carting stone to fill the road up, cut timber to make a small bridge. No mail. Lieut McPreston returns today from home. Lieut James Kennedy goes to Stevenson to see about his muster. Lieuts Day and Lee Weldon returns today. Saw Louis Bridey today.

Fri Dec 11 – Clear and warm with signs of rain this morning. Captain John Thompson is Officer of the Day today. I am expecting Lieut to return today. Mail came in today. I got a letter from Uncle James Humphrey. Hear from Cousin Thomas today through Uncle's letter. Nothing more of any account. Frank Sten sews shoulder straps on to my coat too, the first time ever wore them.

Sat Dec 12 – Cloudy and signs of rain. Lieut Lee Weldon takes charge of a squad 25 men goes on the road to work. I am looking for Lieut Murphy to return today. I receive a letter from Aunty in New York. They are well. Lieut G.E. Murphy does not come today yet.

Sun Dec 13 – Raining this morning. No detail today out of our regt for fatigue. The 24th Ohio goes on picket this morning. I am expecting a letter today, but I cannot tell whether I will get one or not yet. I settled with E. F. Judkins 5 dollars and 32 cents for board. This does not seem like Sunday to me. Muddy and raining still.

Mon Dec 14 – Still continues to rain and be disagreeable. Main comes in today about now. I get one letter from Mr. John C. Smith Keyport Monmouth County, New Jersey. Enlisting volunteers for three years still goes on. Co. H has enlisted for a man, and the 9th Indiana has gone in again all but about 25 men and will start for home soon. They try big to get the 30th, but don't think that they feel disposed.

Tues Dec 15 – Cloudy and rainie (*sic*) at spells. Lieut Lash goes on picket today, not on picket but on fatigue out on the Chattanooga mudd road. Clears up this afternoon, Quite cool. The band plays retreat at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Get order to go with 25 men on fatigue duty. I get no mail today. I cannot see what keep Lieut Murphy so long in Nashville. Work on the roads at Fallen Water Bridge.

Wed Dec 16 – Clear and windy today. The boys are cleaning up camp this morning. No mail today. It comes on to rain towards night. I get orders to go on picket tomorrow morning. Col Oz Hurd is sick and Capt Joseph W. Whittaker is commanding the Regt. The wind blows awful hard tonight.

Thur Dec 17 – Still rainy this morning. Capt Hart of Co. C, myself and Lieut Day of Co. G goes on picket. I take ten men and four non commissioned officers and go up on the mountain on the Browns ferry road. I relieve the 24th Ohio. Very windy and cool today. Quite a great deal of travel on this road. I get a letter today from Sergt Hamilton Fulton from Ft. Wayne. All well at home now, nothing more.

Fri Dec 18 – At 8 I was relieved by a Lieut and ten men from the 84th Illinois. Pick up things and arrive at camp safe and sound. Had breakfast. Boys are a cleaning up camp. Very cool and it is quite comfortable at the fireplace in my tent. Mail comes in tonight. After roll call the news came to camp that the 12th Regt was two miles from us. I and Peter Edsall, Frank Sten went out and brought in some of the boys, Charles Fisher, George Jones, Fred Freck, Will Morrissey, Fred Myers. I got a letter from Uncle James today.

Sat Dec 19 – Cool and clear this morning. Charles Fisher slept with me last night. They stay until 12 o'clock. Then they move out on the railroad towards Bridgeport, Alabama. No mail today. I give Amos Stealy a pass to go to Chattanooga to get some things sent to him from home and is to start tomorrow morning to come back on Monday night. Awful cool for this time of year the people say that live here.

Sun Dec 20 – Clear and most awful cool this morning. Capt John Thompson starts home on leave of absence 20 days. Amos Stealy goes to Chattanooga this morning. No mail today. I get notice to go on fatigue duty tomorrow. Major Baldwin of the 12th Ind was here today but did not see him. I cannot see what can be the matter. The mail does not come in at all now. Reported that a bridge is broke down.

Mon Dec 21 – Clear and most awful cold this morning. I get out with my (25) men and report at Brigade Head Quarters and go to work down by the picket on the Shell Mound road. Lieut Kennedy of Co. A is on picket. I am at work putting a bridge in the road. Get a team and haul some timbers for the bridge. Lieut Murphy is not back yet. Sergt Jacob Forbing is on picket today. Amos Stealy comes back from Chattanooga. Nothing new today from front.

Tue Dec 22 – Clear and warm this morning. The boys has the rooster cocks a fighting today. Companys I and C Sergt Forbing and Kennedy comes in off picket. I look for Lieut Murphy today. Mail comes in today. I get a letter from Mr. Augustus F. Bailey. Quite warm tonight. The band gets out and plays three or four tunes tonight at 9 o'clock I write to my sister Jennetta tonight.

Wed Dec 23 – Clear and moderate this morning, but it clouds up some this afternoon. Mail came in. I get a notice that I have a letter in the Chattanooga post office. I send for it. I write to Augustus Bailey. The report is in camp that we have to go to Knoxville, Tennessee, but I do not beleave (sic) it though. Nothing new other ways. Take down my old chimney and Frank Sten puts up one in the back end of the tent.

Thu Dec 24 – Clear and quite windy this morning. The 30th is on picket today. I move my bed the other side of the tent, and my shanty is quite a good house now. Heard from Murphy. Samuel Hamilton came to the company today. Get muster rolls today. The 9th Ind gets mustered into the veterans' service today. Frank Sten makes some twister and vinegar pies. Wrote out Milton Fulton's discipline list.

Fri Dec 25 – Clear and a little cool this morning. Christmas doughnuts and vinaigar pies for dinner, baked beans. Frank Sten and Corporal Shane gets a pass go up on the mountain. I have made out part of a muster rolls today. Orderly Sergt Wheeler goes out in the country. Peter Edsall comes down and have a good time. Joseph Bryant makes a cave dance tonight. Come to rain.

Sat Dec 26 – Cloudy and rainie this morning. Nothing much going on today. I get two letters today, one from James G. Ivins and one from James E. Swaine. Lieut James Kennedy came this morning and have a long chat. Capt G W Hart of Co. C comes in. Get my watch fixed at the 24th Ohio this afternoon.

Sun Dec 27 – Still raining this morning, quite disagreeable in camp today. My tent leaks some. No mail. Capt Griswold is to Bridgeport, Alabama. Looking for a mustering officer to muster Co. H into the Veteran Service. No detail today to fatigue or picket. Nothing much going on today. Capt Joseph W. Whittaker command the regt now in the absence of Col. Hurd.

Mon Dec 28 – Cloudy this morning. I go on picket this morning with 12 men and four corporals on the Shell Mound road. About 6700 convalescence (sic) come in today from Nashville. Mail comes in today. I get nothing to eat today. Frank Sten don't know which road I am on. The boys shoot tonight something on the lines makes a light.

Tue Dec 29 – Clear this morning and warm, get relieved this morning at half past 8 o'clock. Capt Whittaker is an officer of the Grand Guard. I am relieved by the 84th Illinois Regt. this morning. Get orders that I am on Officer of the Day tomorrow. Lieuts Phillip P. Lash, H.H.Day and myself are detailed to examine a box of hard bread in the hands of Co. E 30th. Find them bad.

Wed Dec 30 – Clear and quite comfortable in camp this morning. Lieut H.H. Day goes on fatigue with 25 men. Capt G. W. Hart is on special duty getting at railroad ties. I am on Officer of the Day today cleaning up camp. See Nelson Borden Sutler in Co in camp with White Sutler of the 88th Indiana. I receive a paper from Fort Wayne.

Thu Dec 31 – Rained all night last night, but I did not get wet. It is just two years ago tonight since I was at home on a sick furlough and one year ago since the Battle of Stone River, Tennessee. It is a raining yet. We had general muster this morning. Lieut Murphy is not back yet, but I am looking for him. No mail.

After this, there are some ledger pages with lists of clothing purchased and amounts paid, funds sent to Uncle James from pay, small loan transactions with other men (\$2, \$5), and a few random entries from July that I included on the dates given.