

A HANCOCK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CITIZEN SOLDIER'S  
EXPERIENCES IN THE CIVIL WAR: THE DIARIES OF  
ELISHA BENTLEY HAMILTON

An Abstract of a Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of History

Western Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in History

by

Daniel Richard Ryan

June, 1970

Elisha Hamilton was an ordinary man who became involved in an extraordinary war. He served three years in the Union Army as a quartermaster sergeant, and a first lieutenant in the 118th Illinois Infantry. The regiment saw service with Sherman at Chickasaw Bluffs in early 1863, with McClernand at Arkansas Post, with Grant at Vicksburg, and concluded its enlistment as part of General Nathaniel Banks' Department of the Gulf.

Just like thousands of other Civil War soldiers, Hamilton, a resident of Carthage and later Quincy, Illinois, kept a diary of the day by day occurrences of his enlistment. Elisha Bentley Hamilton, son of the subject of this paper, presented six volumes of his father's war diaries to the Quincy Historical Society. These volumes dealt with the period of January 1, 1864 to December 31, 1865, with a break from November 1, 1864 to May 3, 1865. Five additional volumes had been distributed among the grandchildren of Elisha Hamilton. Mr. E. B. Hamilton, of Durango, Colorado, was very helpful in acquiring access to these volumes. Two diaries dealt with full years--1861 and 1866--and three others covered short periods of time--July 4 to September 8, 1863, November 1 to May 2, 1864, and a few days in December, 1864. The latter volume fills some of the unrecorded dates in the November 1, 1864 to May 2, 1865 volume. A small portion of these diaries form the basis of this study.

Elisha Hamilton served as the 118th Illinois Infantry's quartermaster sergeant from the mustering of the regiment in late 1862 until January of 1864. This thesis is an editing of Hamilton's diaries from the fall of Vicksburg, on July 4, 1863, to his promotion as first

lieutenant in Company B, on January 20, 1864.

Much had been written regarding the military and political aspects of the Civil War, but little had been printed regarding the problem of supply at the regimental level. This is the major thrust of this paper. The editing of Hamilton's diaries vividly portray the problems and frustrations of the man who was the bottom rung in the quartermaster corps. Secondly, the volumes recount the minor events of a major war that swirled around the young man from Carthage.

The editor's task has been twofold; to expand the readers' knowledge of the duties and importance of a regimental quartermaster sergeant, and to corroborate all of the historical events Hamilton mentioned.

Quartermaster-sergeant Hamilton expressed joy and relief when Vicksburg surrendered on July 4, 1863. Within the week, the 118th Illinois was on the march as part of Sherman's expedition against Jackson, Mississippi. Hamilton's diary traces the movement to Jackson, activities during the siege, and the return to Vicksburg. The 118th Illinois remained at Vicksburg until August 8, at which time it was transferred to the Department of the Gulf with the Thirteenth Corps. After a week at Port Hudson, it was transported to Carrollton, Louisiana, to await the start of the Bayou Teche expedition. This attempt to gain a foothold in Texas failed and the 118th Illinois, now part of the Nineteenth Corps, marched to Donaldsonville, Louisiana. During the first week of January, 1864, the regiment was transferred to Port Hudson. The 118th Illinois remained in the District of Port Hudson and Baton Rouge until it was mustered out of service in November, 1865.

A HANCOCK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CITIZEN SOLDIER'S  
EXPERIENCES IN THE CIVIL WAR: THE DIARIES OF  
ELISHA BENTLEY HAMILTON

A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Department of History  
Western Illinois University

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the  
Degree of Master of Arts in History

by  
Daniel Richard Ryan

June, 1970

This thesis has been examined and approved.

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

7 May 1970

Date



Elisha Bentley Hamilton  
as First Lieutenant in Company B, 118th Illinois Infantry.  
(Photograph from Carthage Public Library,  
Fonda Manuscript Collection.)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The editor is indebted to a number of people for help in guiding the research and directing the writing of this thesis. I am particularly grateful for the inspiration and encouragement of Reverend William Warford, an avid historian in his own right, who introduced me to the six volumes of the Hamilton diary at the Quincy Historical Society. Mr. Elisha B. Hamilton of Durango, Colorado, grandson of the subject of this paper, provided a transcribed copy of a speech his grandfather had given at the reunion of the 118th Illinois Infantry in October, 1873. Mr. Hamilton and his brother George Hamilton of Three Rivers, Michigan, made available five additional volumes of their grandfather's diary. The librarians of the Carthage Public Library guided my research to the John G. Fonda collection which contained Colonel Fonda's unpublished regimental history and regiment pictures. The Hamilton Manuscript Collection at the Carthage Library contained the Hamilton family scrap-books, volumes of newspaper clippings dealing with the Hamilton family. Dr. Wayne Temple guided my research in the Civil War Collection in the State Archives. The editor appreciates the help of Mr. Paul Spence, Curator of Manuscripts, Illinois State Historical Library, for making available the Thomas Madison Reece and Samuel Gordan Manuscript Collections.

To Professor Victor Hicken, advisor to this thesis, I owe a debt of gratitude for his patient understanding and expert guidance. This study never would have reached completion without the critical reading

and significant suggestions of Professors John G. Westover and  
William L. Burton.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .	iv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS . . . . .	vii
LIST OF MAPS . . . . .	viii
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF ELISHA B. HAMILTON . . . . .	17
APPENDIX . . . . .	90
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	92

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Portrait of Elisha Bentley Hamilton (Frontispiece) . . . . .	iii
Regimental Officers . . . . .	12

LIST OF MAPS

	PAGE
Mississippi and Louisiana . . . . .	23
Jackson Campaign. . . . .	24
Port Hudson and Baton Rouge Area. . . . .	50
Lower Louisiana . . . . .	73

## INTRODUCTION

Elisha Bentley Hamilton served in the 118th Illinois Infantry for three years from late 1862 to November of 1865. During his enlistment he sporadically kept a diary of his duties as regimental quartermaster sergeant; a position of little reward but of great importance if a regiment was to function as an effective fighting unit. The edited Hamilton diaries give an insight into the life of this relatively minor regimental officer. This researcher does not award the laurels of winning the war to these men of supply, but it is hoped that this volume will direct the reader's attention to the actual performance in the field of a quartermaster sergeant.

The ablest of generals, both North and South, understood that supply was an important factor of success. The Union's war effort was faced with a momentous task. The prewar system, which had been geared to the needs of fewer than 20,000 officers and men, had to supply a flood of volunteers in 1861. Great bases, maintained at Cairo, Memphis, Chicago, and Springfield, Illinois, supplied the needs of Grant's army in the West.

The task of supply was divided into two departments, one headed by the quartermaster-general and the second by the commissary-general of subsistence, with subordinates at the army, corps, division, brigade, and regimental levels. The quartermaster department supplied the hardware of war; transportation, both on land and water; camp and garrison equipment; clothing; and shelter. The subsistence department forwarded food to the men in the federal army.

The lowest elements of the quartermaster corps were embodied in the regimental quartermaster, quartermaster sergeant, and commissary sergeant. Captain William K. Davison of Warsaw, Illinois, was the quartermaster of the 118th Illinois Infantry. The forty year old captain had been an editor in Hancock County before his enlistment. Davison, who was in charge of procuring the regiment's food and supplies, was assisted by Quartermaster Sergeant Hamilton and Commissary Sergeant Albert Homer Fuller.

The two sergeants, who can best be described as a combination of clerk and foreman, were the last link in the quartermaster-general's chain of command. They dealt with the men in the ranks.

There seemed to be an overlapping of duties between the two men. Hamilton frequently issued rations and Fuller often procured forage. They were responsible for monthly muster reports, supply requisitions, and quarterly ordnance reports. They also procured and distributed food, clothing, and ammunition. Hamilton and Fuller worked directly with the wagoners of each company in the transportation of the regimental equipment and supplies. These duties by their very nature kept them behind the lines during battles and skirmishes in which the regiment was involved.

\* \* \* \* \*

Hamilton's diaries relate the functions of the 118th Illinois Infantry's quartermaster sergeant. Physically the eleven volumes of diaries preserved by the Hamilton family vary from the small breast-pocket size to the large notebook variety. Two volumes cover full years, 1861 and 1866. The remaining nine, which deal with the war years,

average three to four months. Because of the nature of his position, Hamilton made almost all of his entries in ink. Hamilton wrote his diary when he had the time and inclination. Despite the obvious problem of his entries being written days or weeks later, Hamilton's diaries are usually accurate.

The initial volume commenced on July 4, 1863, the day of the surrender of Vicksburg. It follows the regiment through the Jackson Campaign,<sup>1</sup> and concludes on September 8 after the 118th Illinois moves to Carrollton, Louisiana. Hamilton's next volume began on July 1, 1864, with the regiment's movement to Port Hudson, Louisiana. This study concludes on January 20 with Hamilton's appointment as first lieutenant of Company B. The volume dealing with the period September 8 to January 1, 1864 has been lost.

In editing these volumes the author's intent has been to reproduce the diaries as accurately as possible. All punctuation, abbreviation, capitalization, paragraphing, underlining, spelling and word usage are those of the original author. Only those extreme errors that would cause the reader difficulty in grasping the intent of the passage have been corrected through the use of brackets.

Many other primary sources were important in the editing of these volumes. The John G. Fonda collection on deposit in the Carthage Public Library yielded pictures of the regiment as well as an unpublished regimental history. Colonel Fonda, from Fountain Green, the commander

---

<sup>1</sup>The Jackson Campaign commanded by General W. T. Sherman began on July 10, 1863, with the siege of Jackson, and concludes on July 17, with the Confederate evacuation of that city.

of the regiment, attempted to write a history of the regiment. His typed document was more accurately the Civil War exploits of John Fonda rather than the 118th Illinois Infantry. Fonda's history, however, was a valuable tool in corroborating incidents in the Hamilton diaries that were difficult to check in published sources.

The manuscript collection of the Illinois State Library contained the letters of Samuel Gordan of Company C, which were invaluable in developing a background of the training and early movement of the 118th Illinois. No venture of this nature could be possible without a thorough search of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion. This source contained orders and reports regarding the movements of the regiment. Finally, readings of secondary sources including histories of Illinois, county histories, and studies of Mormon settlement in Illinois supplied a background knowledge for a discussion of Hamilton's non-martial years.

Though he became an officer, Hamilton was an ordinary man who was involved in an extraordinary war. In fact, at no time in his pre-war years did he seem to exercise a talent for understanding the major events of his time. Yet he somehow managed to touch upon some of the milestones of American history.

A body was brought to his father's hotel and the six year old Elisha watched a coffin being built for it. He knew not, or cared less, that the deceased was Joseph Smith.<sup>1</sup> A minor religious war swirled

---

<sup>1</sup> Joseph and Hyrum Smith were killed by a band of "indians" in Carthage on June 27, 1844. The victims were taken to the Hamilton Hotel and on the following day were transported in two freight wagons to Nauvoo, Illinois. For a much more detailed account, see: Quincy Daily

about him in his youth--the Mormons and the "gentiles"--and he did not grasp its meaning. The great senatorial campaign of 1858 moved in and out of his sphere of thinking and, lacking the mental subtlety to place Lincoln and Douglas in their proper perspective, he missed the point of the entire canvass.

Hamilton was not among the first to volunteer from Hancock County, Illinois, when the war began in 1861.<sup>1</sup> Some months passed before he decided to cast his lot with Unionism, and one might suspect that his innate sympathy to the Democratic Party had something to do with this.<sup>2</sup> Not until 1862, when General John A. McClernand, a leading Illinois Democrat, led a great recruiting campaign, did Hamilton enter the army. He enlisted as a private even though he was a graduate of Illinois College and was, at the time, reading for the law. However, he was soon selected as the regiment's quartermaster sergeant.

The 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which Hamilton helped to organize and bring into the service, was a most undistinguished one. Following a three month training period, the 118th Illinois joined Sherman's early attempt to capture Vicksburg. It took part in

---

Journal, March 20, 1902, p. 2. O. W. Riegal, Crown of Glory (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1935), p. 30. B. H. Roberts, Rise and Fall of Nauvoo (Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1900), pp. 312-322. Hamilton Family Scrapbook, Carthage Public Library, Hamilton Collection. Ray B. West, Kingdom of the Saints (New York: Viking Press, 1957), p. 143.

<sup>1</sup>Six regiments of infantry and two of cavalry had been formed in Hancock County prior to the recruiting of the 118th Illinois. Civil War Centennial Commission on Illinois, Illinois Military Units in the Civil War (Springfield: Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, 1962), p. 9.

<sup>2</sup>Hamilton became very active in the Republican Party following the war.

McClelland's storming of Arkansas Post. The Hancock County regiment was then returned to Grant's command and to the Thirteenth Corps for the siege and capture of Vicksburg.

The months following Hamilton's commissioning as first lieutenant were spent in garrison duty in the military District of Baton Rouge and Port Hudson. During the first half of 1864 the 118th Illinois was primarily engaged in scouting, skirmishing, and repairing telegraph lines. To the men of the unit, the war was a long way from their river outpost in Louisiana. Hamilton had to become accustomed to the daily routine tasks required of a soldier assigned to garrison duty.

In early July, 1864, Hamilton received a twenty-day leave. After a long, tedious river voyage, the young lieutenant was once again with his family and friends. Hamilton spent his mornings caring for his brother John, who had been discharged because of a medical disability, and his evenings "caring" for the young ladies of the Carthage area.

Like all enjoyable periods, Hamilton's furlough was soon over. His torturous return trip was punctuated by delays, mosquitoes, and rebel bushwackers. By mid-August, Hamilton reached Baton Rouge, where the 118th Illinois had been moved shortly after his departure.

Hamilton described the new camp as an "old field full of high weeds & a mud hole." He added that the camp site was "one of Fonda's<sup>1</sup> selection." This location was the regiment's encampment until it was mustered out of service in the fall of 1865.

---

<sup>1</sup>Elisha Bentley Hamilton, Diary, August 11 - October 31, 1864. (Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado), August 18, 1864. Cited hereafter as the E. Bentley Hamilton Collection, (DC)

Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, was the headquarters of the military district, a staging area for "scouts in force" into the interior of the state. Hamilton's duties were sometimes more romantic than martial, and he was frequently accompanied to the circus, to the theater, on moonlight walks, and rides into the countryside by two young ladies of that city.

Hamilton, now an officer, led his company during a raid on Clinton, Louisiana, in August, 1864, and into southern Mississippi during November and December. The latter expedition, referred to by Hamilton as a "Sweet Potatoe Raid," was designed to cut General Beauregard's supply line, the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The affair was thwarted by high water and a misplaced pontoon bridge.<sup>1</sup>

The new year, 1865, found Hamilton, and the 118th Illinois, back at Baton Rouge. The remaining months of his enlistment were filled with the routine of serving on military commissions, acting as a permit officer,<sup>2</sup> and serving on the staff of the newly-brevetted General Fonda. Finally, almost six months after Lee's surrender, the regiment was notified that it was to be mustered out of federal service and returned to the homes from which they came.

Following a short period of relaxation in Carthage, Hamilton

---

<sup>1</sup>U.S. War Department, The War of the Rebellion. Prepared under the direction of the Secretary of War, by Bvt. Lt. Col. Robert N. Scott, Third U.S. Artillery, 70 vols. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. XLI, Pt. 4, 869.

<sup>2</sup>A civilian who wished to trade beyond the city was required to procure a pass describing the items he wished to take out of the city. These civilians were stopped at the picket posts. Hamilton visited each picket post periodically to determine if the description on the passes matched the goods being transported.

resumed the study of law in the office of Warren and Wheat of Quincy. Three years of writing briefs, running errands, and reading Blackstone earned him his license and billing as the third member of the firm.

In 1878, at the age of forty, Hamilton married for the first time. Mary Hamilton bore two children: Elisha Bentley and Lucy A., in 1879 and 1880.

Hamilton remained active in military affairs on both the state and local levels. Shortly after settling in Quincy, Hamilton was instrumental in the formation of the Quincy Guards which later became the Eighth Regiment of the Illinois National Guard. Hamilton was serving as a captain in that unit when the militia was called into state service during the 1877 railroad strike. For his service to the state during the labor strife, Hamilton was commissioned brigadier general and appointed chief of artillery in the Illinois militia. He also served as inspector general of the Illinois militia under Governors Cullum and Oglesby.

The citizens of Illinois were electing Republican governors to Springfield during the 1870's but Quincy maintained its allegiance to the Democratic Party. Hamilton, the Republican nominee for the state senate in 1878 was defeated in his only attempt to gain an elective office. He later recounted that he "only lacked about 800 votes to get in."<sup>1</sup> But he remained active in the party.

When President McKinley and his cabinet came to Quincy, in 1896, Hamilton was one of the local Republican dignitaries that met the

---

<sup>1</sup>Elisha Bentley Hamilton, "Request for Information Sheet," Illinois College Archives, Hamilton File, [p. 1.]

Presidential train. Hamilton rode in the large open barouche with the President to Washington Square where he, Hamilton, presided over the ceremonies. General Hamilton was described by The Weekly Quincy Herald as officiating "with his characteristic grace and geniality."<sup>1</sup>

On March 20, 1902, Hamilton was at the home of Joseph Barnes, township clerk, on a legal matter regarding the forthcoming township elections. During the conversation Hamilton asked for a drink of water and complained of pain in his chest. In a few moments the old soldier was dead. The death certificate indicated death was the result of "neuralgia of the heart or angina pectoris" which the attending surgeon stated was due to "senile changes in the blood vessels known as arterio-sclerosis."<sup>2</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

Hamilton's diaries recount only a part of his experience in the Civil War. Before their contents can be adequately studied and understood, they must be placed in proper context with the larger events in which they were involved.

On July 2, 1863, President Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 men for three year enlistments to be furnished by the states and territories loyal to the Union. Prominent men of western Illinois took it upon themselves to form companies in their communities. Under this Presidential call, the companies that were to comprise the 118th Illinois Infantry Regiment

---

<sup>1</sup>Weekly Quincy Herald, October 13, 1899, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>Quincy Daily Journal, March 20 to March 21, 1902.

formed.<sup>1</sup> Early in September, 1863, the newly recruited regiments assembled at Camp Butler.<sup>2</sup> Commencing with the initial note of reveille the first morning, the men of Adams and Hancock Counties were given medical examinations, issued their uniforms, and were taught the major elements of drill.<sup>3</sup>

Volunteer regiments were allowed to elect their officers. This long-established practice resulted in heated electioneering by many ex-farmers and clerks who had delusions of grandeur regarding their potential as officers. As a result of the regimental elections held on October 25, Hancock County men secured all but one of the staff positions. Dr. Madison Reece, the regimental surgeon, was the only exception. John G. Fonda of Warsaw was elected lieutenant colonel;<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Illinois was assigned a quota of 26,148, and raised 58,689 under the July 2, 1862 call. Frederick Phisterer, Statistical Record of the Armies of the United States (New York: The Blue and the Gray Press, n.d.), p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> Carthage Republican, September 4, 1862, p. 2. For a discussion of Camp Butler, see: Victor Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1966), pp. 6-7. Letter, Samuel Gordan to wife, September 9, 1863, Illinois State Historical Library, Samuel Gordan Manuscript Collection. A History of the Seventy-Third Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers (Published by Authority of the Regimental Reunion Association of Survivors of the 73rd Illinois Infantry Volunteers, 1890), p. 71. Helen E. Shepply, "Camp Butler in the Civil War," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXV, No. 4 (January, 1933), pp. 285-317.

<sup>3</sup> Letter, Samuel Gordan to wife, September 26, 1862, Gordan Manuscript Collection. Final Report of the Provost Marshall General, H.E. Doc., No. 1, Pt. 2, 39th Congress, 1st Session, Vol. IV, 288-89.

<sup>4</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Fonda was promoted to colonel on November 29, 1862. J. N. Reece, Brigadier General, Report of the Adjutant General, 8 vols., (Springfield: Journal Company, Printers and Binders, 1900), Vol. 6, 315.

Colonel  
John G. Fonda

Assistant Surgeon  
Knox Boude

Quartermaster Sergeant  
Elisha B. Hamilton

Sergeant Major  
Huddleston M. Sleater

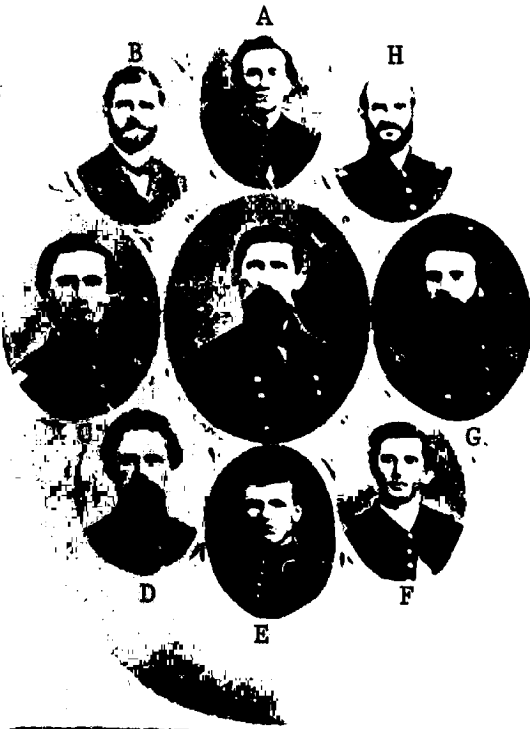
- A. Adjutant John W. Barnes
- B. Lt. Colonel Thomas Logan
- C. Unknown
- D. Quartermaster Sergeant  
Elisha B. Hamilton
- E. Unknown
- F. Unknown
- G. Surgeon Thomas M. Reece
- H. Unknown
- I. Colonel John G. Fonda

Captain  
Calendar Rohrbough

Lt. Colonel  
Thomas Logan

Lieutenant  
Levi B. Moore

Captain  
Thomas Hurst



*Handwritten text, possibly a name or signature.*

Robert W. McClaughry of Carthage, major; Madison Reece of Abingdon, surgeon; and William Davison of Warsaw, quartermaster.<sup>1</sup>

On December 1, following the normal training period, the regiment was ordered to Memphis, Tennessee, to join what was thought would be General McClernand's command.<sup>2</sup> However, five weeks intervened before they were under McClernand's charge.

The war in the West had been the one bright spot in the early years of the war. Generals in that region had been successful in a number of encounters with the Confederates. Grant captured Forts Henry and Donelson and in hard fighting had driven off a desperate Confederate attack at Shiloh. General Henry Halleck occupied Corinth, Mississippi. With the capture of New Orleans, the military planners began to consider the opening of the Mississippi River campaign.

McClernand had been ordered to Springfield, Illinois to superintend the training of the regiments being mustered under the July 2 Presidential call for troops. Some of these new regiments were designated for McClernand's independent command that had been assigned the task of opening the River.<sup>3</sup>

When Grant, commander of the Army of Tennessee, learned there was to be an independent command within his department, he ordered General William T. Sherman to assemble all the available units that

---

<sup>1</sup>Ibid., Vol. 6, 292.

<sup>2</sup>Carthage Republican, November 27, 1862, p. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War, pp. 85-93. Official Records, Ser. I., Vol. XXVII, Pt. 2, 371-72. Also see, Official Records, Ser. I., Vol. XXVII, Pt. 1, 497.

were gathering at Memphis and move on Vicksburg, the most significant of the Confederate river strongholds.<sup>1</sup>

The 118th Illinois arrived at Memphis on December 11, and was ordered aboard the steamer Northerner, to participate in Sherman's initial attempt to capture Vicksburg.<sup>2</sup> Following the river passage, the command moved up the Yazoo River in the hopes of attacking the city from the north.<sup>3</sup> Sherman's attempt was rebuffed by well-entrenched Confederate defenders.<sup>4</sup>

McClelland arrived upon the scene as the defeated army withdrew down the Yazoo. Sherman, McClelland, and Rear Admiral David Porter, who commanded the river fleet, discussed what to do with the army, and decided to attack Arkansas Post, a Confederate installation on the Arkansas River.<sup>5</sup> McClelland's army of 30,000 easily subdued the

---

<sup>1</sup>Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War, pp. 93-97.

<sup>2</sup>Elisha Bentley Hamilton, "History of the 118th Illinois Infantry Regiment," (An unpublished speech given at the October 1, 1873 Reunion of the 118th Illinois Infantry), E. Bentley Hamilton Collection (DC), p. 2. Letter, Samuel Gordan to his wife, December 21, 1862. Gordan Manuscript Collection. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 1, 615. At this time, the 118th Illinois was part of Brigadier General George Morgan's Second Division of the Thirteenth Corps.

<sup>3</sup>Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 1, 616.

<sup>4</sup>Kenneth P. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, 5 Vols. (New York: MacMillan Company, 1956), IV, 213-15. For McClelland's reasons for Sherman's failure to take Vicksburg, see: Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 1, 528-29.

<sup>5</sup>Lloyd Lewis, Sherman, Fighting Prophet (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1932), p. 259. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 1, 613. Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War, pp. 144-45.

Confederate garrison which numbered slightly less than 5,000 defenders.<sup>1</sup>

Grant, who outranked McClernand, did not agree with an attack on Arkansas Post. The commander of the Army of Tennessee made his reservations known to General-in-Chief Halleck and received permission to relieve McClernand. Grant ordered McClernand to return to Young's Point above Vicksburg.<sup>2</sup>

The next months were spent in attempts to dig a canal to by-pass Vicksburg, to accumulate supplies, and in waiting for the roads to dry. By the end of April, Grant felt conditions were adequate. In a stroke of military genius, Grant ordered his army, led by the Thirteenth Corps, to march below Vicksburg on the west side of the river, and the navy to run the city's batteries. On the last day of April, the first elements of the Thirteenth Corps were ferried across the Mississippi. As Grant's army moved to the east side of the river, General Joe Johnston, Confederate commander in the West, warned: "If Grant's army lands on this side of the river, the safety of Mississippi depends on beating it."<sup>3</sup>

In a series of battles and marches, Grant moved his troops from their foothold below Grand Gulf to the approaches to Vicksburg. On May 19 and 22, the Union army made two gallant but futile attempts to

---

<sup>1</sup>Mark M. Boatner, III, The Civil War Dictionary (New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1961), p. 25. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 1, pp. 747-48. Hamilton, "History," p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XVII, Pt. 2, 553-55. Ulysses S. Grant, Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant, ed. by B. Long (New York: Grossett & Dunlap, 1962), pp. 229-230.

<sup>3</sup>Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, IV, 350.

take the city by direct assault. From the twenty-third of May until the city's surrender on July 4, Vicksburg was under constant pressure and bombardment.

The 118th Illinois, as part of the Thirteenth Corps, had participated in the two attempts to take the city by assault. On May 23, the 118th Illinois, as part of the Ninth Division, was ordered to the area of the Big Black River to guard the rear of the besieging army.<sup>1</sup> This was the regiment's location on July 4, 1863 when Confederate General John Pemberton surrendered Vicksburg.

---

<sup>1</sup>Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 21. Hamilton, "History," p. 4.

THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF ELISHA B. HAMILTON

Saturday, July 4, 1863:

Ever memorable Fourth, Welcome! Thanks to our honored forefathers, who upon this day broke the bonds of a cruel despotism, and lighted the fires of liberty. All is as calm and quiet as though we were not in war. Soon comes to our ears the thunder of our National salute at Vicksburg, then all is quiet again. We are all filled with anxiety to know the cause of this stillness.<sup>1</sup> Soon we receive the joyful news that "Vicksburg with all its force has surrendered to Grant.["] Thank Heaven! Would that we had every place now in possession of Rebels. Capt. Higgins<sup>2</sup> & Maj. Marsh<sup>3</sup> come to our hut; after I think they have waited about long enough I give them a whiskey punch, & they leave. Wash and dress up. Ride over to Head Quarters with Homer [Fuller].<sup>4</sup> He sees an order there, for our Division to leave this

---

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Madison Reece, surgeon of the 118th Illinois wrote in his letterbook that "for forty-five days the sullen boom of cannon reverberated among the hills and down the valleys [and] had been to the Army the reveille and retreat." Reece, Letterbook, Illinois State Historical Library, Reece Manuscript Collection.

<sup>2</sup>Captain Silas Higgins, Company H, Second Illinois Cavalry, Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, was a native of Galesburg. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 293.

<sup>3</sup>Major Benjamin F. Marsh, Second Illinois Cavalry was a native of Warsaw. Major Marsh's brother, Arthur W. was the Captain of Company C of the 118th Illinois Infantry. Ibid., Vol. 6, 298. Ibid., Vol. 7, 486.

<sup>4</sup>Albert Homer Fuller of Warsaw, Illinois, was the 118th Illinois Infantry's commissary sergeant. Ibid., Vol. 6, 293.

Afternoon.<sup>1</sup> We have a big dinner; take Homer's [Fuller] Oysters, he lost last night. Write a short note to William [Hamilton]<sup>2</sup> & mail it. Capt. [Davison]<sup>3</sup> & I go over to draw some clothing. Leave it to the company. Draw Forage.<sup>4</sup> It is confirmed that we have captured Vicksburg with 23,000 prisoners.<sup>5</sup> Have the team out & loaded up. Go in to see Sample.<sup>6</sup> News comes that Sherman & McArthur have thrashed Johnson. [Johnston].<sup>7</sup> This has been a glorious Fourth; not that we have indulged in sensual pleasures, but the feelings that fill a patriot's

---

<sup>1</sup>This order directed the regiment to join General William T. Sherman's movement against Jackson, Mississippi. General John C. Pemberton's surrender allowed Grant to deal with the Confederate Army stationed at Jackson, Mississippi. Grant ordered Sherman to inflict as much damage upon Johnston's force as possible and drive his army from the area. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, Vol. IV, 419. Grant, Memoirs, pp. 301-2.

<sup>2</sup>William Hamilton, the thirty-four year old brother of Elisha Hamilton, farmed in the Carthage area.

<sup>3</sup>Captain William K. Davison, regimental quartermaster was from Warsaw. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 292.

<sup>4</sup>A portion of the regiment had been mounted, thus the need for forage. (see infra, n. 4, p. 21.)

<sup>5</sup>Williams indicated the Confederates surrendered 2,166 officers, 27,230 enlisted men and 115 civilians. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, IV, 420.

<sup>6</sup>Second Lieutenant James Sample of Company B was from Carthage, Illinois. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 295. Sample had been wounded on July 1 while a mounted detachment of the regiment was on a scout. Hamilton, "History," p. 5.

<sup>7</sup>There was evidence of contact between troops under the command of Brigadier General John McArthur, division commander in McPherson's Corps, and Sherman with those commanded by Johnston. Johnston's command was on the east side of the Big Black River conducting reconnaissance preparatory to attacking Grant's rear. Johnston recalled, "in the evening of the 4th, intelligence of the surrender of Vicksburg was received: in consequence of which the army fell back to Jackson, which

soul, at this great blow to this damnable Rebellion is joy unspeakable. How I should like to be with her, with whom I spent this night one year ago.<sup>1</sup> The memory of those hours is a pleasure indeed. Retire about 10 o'clock. Have to get up and issue forage. Weather hot.

Sunday, July 5:

We are still under marching orders.<sup>2</sup> Write & mail a letter to Mary [Hamilton].<sup>3</sup> The Col. [Fonda]<sup>4</sup> sends for me & questions me very

---

it reached on the afternoon of the 7th." Joseph E. Johnston, Narrative of Military Operations (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1959), pp. 202-04. Sherman's report to Grant dated July 7, 1863 indicated he had been aware of Johnston's presence but mentioned no fighting. However, there was ample evidence of skirmishing with Johnston's rear guard. For reports of commanders involved, see: Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 521,534. For another account see: Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 54,56.

<sup>1</sup>Diaries do not exist for July of 1862 and research does not indicate who Hamilton may have been referring to.

<sup>2</sup>See supra, n. 1, p. 18.

<sup>3</sup>Hamilton's sister Mary lived in the family home in Carthage.

<sup>4</sup>"Col." referred to Colonel John G. Fonda, commander of the 118th Illinois Infantry. Fonda, ex-lieutenant in the Mexican war, settled in Fountain Green, Illinois in 1835. He later moved to Carthage until his appointment as surveyor for the Warsaw and Rockford Railroad necessitated moving to Warsaw. When the Civil War broke out, Fonda helped recruit Company G of the Second Illinois Cavalry. In December of 1861, he resigned his commission as first lieutenant in the Second Illinois Cavalry to accept the rank of major in the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry. On June 21, 1862, he was given command of Camp Butler near Springfield. Following the President's July 2, 1862 call for volunteers, Fonda agreed to resign his commission in the Twelfth Illinois and accept the position of colonel in the newly forming regiment. John G. Fonda, "History of the 118th Illinois Infantry," (unpublished manuscript), Board of Supervisors of Hancock County, History of Hancock County, Illinois (Carthage, Illinois: Journal Printing Company, 1968), p. 626.

closely about a box of his that was broken in crossing a bridged Bayou in Louisiana. Go in to see Sample. Ride over to see Bob Huston.<sup>1</sup>  
Weather hot as blazes.

Monday, July 6:

Receive a letter directed to me from Sue Summerville.<sup>2</sup> to "My Brother Dear". This is a good joke: here I have the Brother Dear's letter, & I suppose he has mine. A pretty state of things. I write him a short note<sup>3</sup> & mail the two to him. I trust that he will do as I have; without reading it, mail to me. Go to Head Qrs to draw some forage. Pack our things & have an early dinner, ready for a move. Go to turn over some guns and draw some ammunition about 4 o'clock we start out.<sup>4</sup> Capt. D [Davison] and Sam Williams<sup>5</sup> stay behind; Homer [Fuller] & I

---

<sup>1</sup>Robert G. Huston of Warsaw was the sergeant of Company E. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 293.

<sup>2</sup>Sue Summerville of Carthage was one of the young ladies Hamilton courted prior to his enlistment. Elisha Hamilton, Diary, January 1 - December 31, 1861, E. Bentley Hamilton Collection, (DC), November 2, 1861.

<sup>3</sup>William Summerville was in the Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 2, 13.

<sup>4</sup>Hamilton did not travel with the regiment. He accompanied the regimental wagons, which as part of the brigade wagon train, reached the men of the 118th Illinois Infantry at the end of the day's march. At that time he issued food, forage and any other needed supplies.

<sup>5</sup>Sam Williams of Warsaw was a corporal in Company C of the 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 298. Captain Davison remained with the infantry portion of the regiment at the Big Black River. During Davison's absence Hamilton performed the duties of regimental quartermaster for the mounted portion of the regiment.

going with the Train. See John Ballard.<sup>1</sup> While waiting to cross [Big] Black River, a heavy wind storm comes up. Does not rain very much. Gen'l Hovey<sup>2</sup> cuts our train in two. I go to him to allow the rest of it to pass on; but he will not. Get across the river about dark. Drive to the Regiment; it is encamped within about a mile of Edwards Station.<sup>3</sup> Get to it about 11 o'clock. Have a little sow belly & hardtack. Crawl under the wagon and go to sleep. Weather hot.

Tuesday, July 7:

Get up about daylight, and hunt up some corn for my horse. After breakfast, repack the wagons & send one of them with the flour, ovens & bakers, back to Black River Camp, as the Infantry part of the Regt. was sent back last night.<sup>4</sup> Our Division takes the Advance. We do not get started with the train until about two o'clock. There has been one, continual stream of troops passing since morning. We move very slowly. One large house where we stop to rest, waiting for the train, somebody sets it on fire. We pass through Edwards Station. After a great deal of

---

<sup>1</sup> John A. Ballard of Pittsfield, First Sergeant of Company C, Ninety-ninth Illinois Infantry. Illinois-Vicksburg Military Park Commission, Illinois at Vicksburg (Published under authority of an Act of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly, 1907), p. 534.

<sup>2</sup> Brigadier General Alvin Peterson Hovey commanded the Twelfth Division of the Thirteenth Army Corps in the days following the fall of Vicksburg. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 412.

<sup>3</sup> Edward's Station or Edwards' Depot was located on the Vicksburg & Jackson Railroad, fifteen miles east of Vicksburg.

<sup>4</sup> Companies B, C, D, F, and H were mounted on June 13, 1863 by order of General McClernand. Fonda, "History," p. 15. In a speech delivered many years after the war, Hamilton commented that the men "frequently had no trouble in dismounting, the only trouble was for the same man to get on again." Hamilton, "History," p. 5.

dust, slow driving, long stoppages, rests, & c. we reach Champion Hill about sunset, where on the 16th of May we fought one among the most desperate battles of the war.<sup>1</sup> Scarcely a tree or bush but was pierced by one or more bullets; and the numerous and large graves are sad witnesses of the bloody contest. Here the Rebs had largely the advantage, being posted upon high hills, the sides of which were covered with thick brush, through which it was almost impossible to charge. But our brave boys were undaunted, & gained a glorious victory. This was almost exclusively an infantry fight; our artillery being of no use, until the Rebs commenced retreating. About dark a fearful storm comes up. The wind almost blows a hurricane, the lightning with its vivid glare continued almost incessantly, the thunder roared terribly, and the rain fell in torrents, but still we moved slowly forward. Unable to find the Regiment, we drive to Genl Osterhaus' headquarters, & stop: it is about 11 o'clock. This is where we were camped the day before the battle of Champion Hill.<sup>2</sup> Go to the Negro Quarters & finding a dry spot, I, tired, wet & supperless, pile down & am soon fast asleep. Day hot.

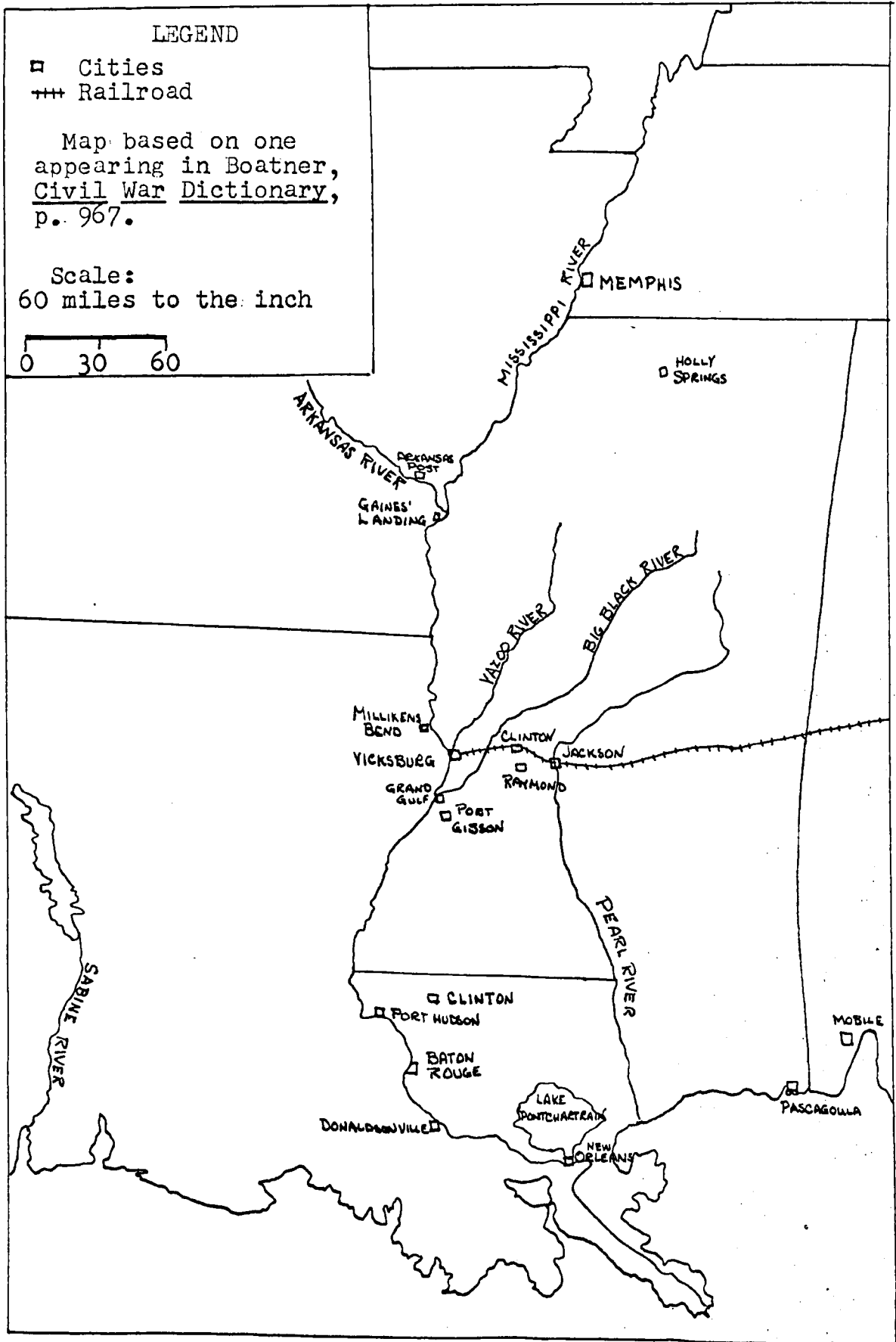
Wednesday, July 8:

Am up soon after daylight; go & get some green corn for my horses.

---

<sup>1</sup>On May 16, Confederate General John C. Pemberton was driven from the heights of Champion's Hill by Grant's advancing army. The 118th Illinois Infantry as part of Osterhaus' Ninth Division had attacked in the center. Fonda, "History," p. 13. For a detailed account of the engagement, see: Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War, pp. 158-160. Grant, Memoirs, pp. 269-272. Johnston, Narrative of Military Operations, pp. 180-184.

<sup>2</sup>On May 15, the day before the battle of Champion's Hill, the 118th Illinois had marched to within a mile of Bolton Station, turned east, and went into camp. Fonda, "History," p. 13.

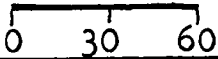


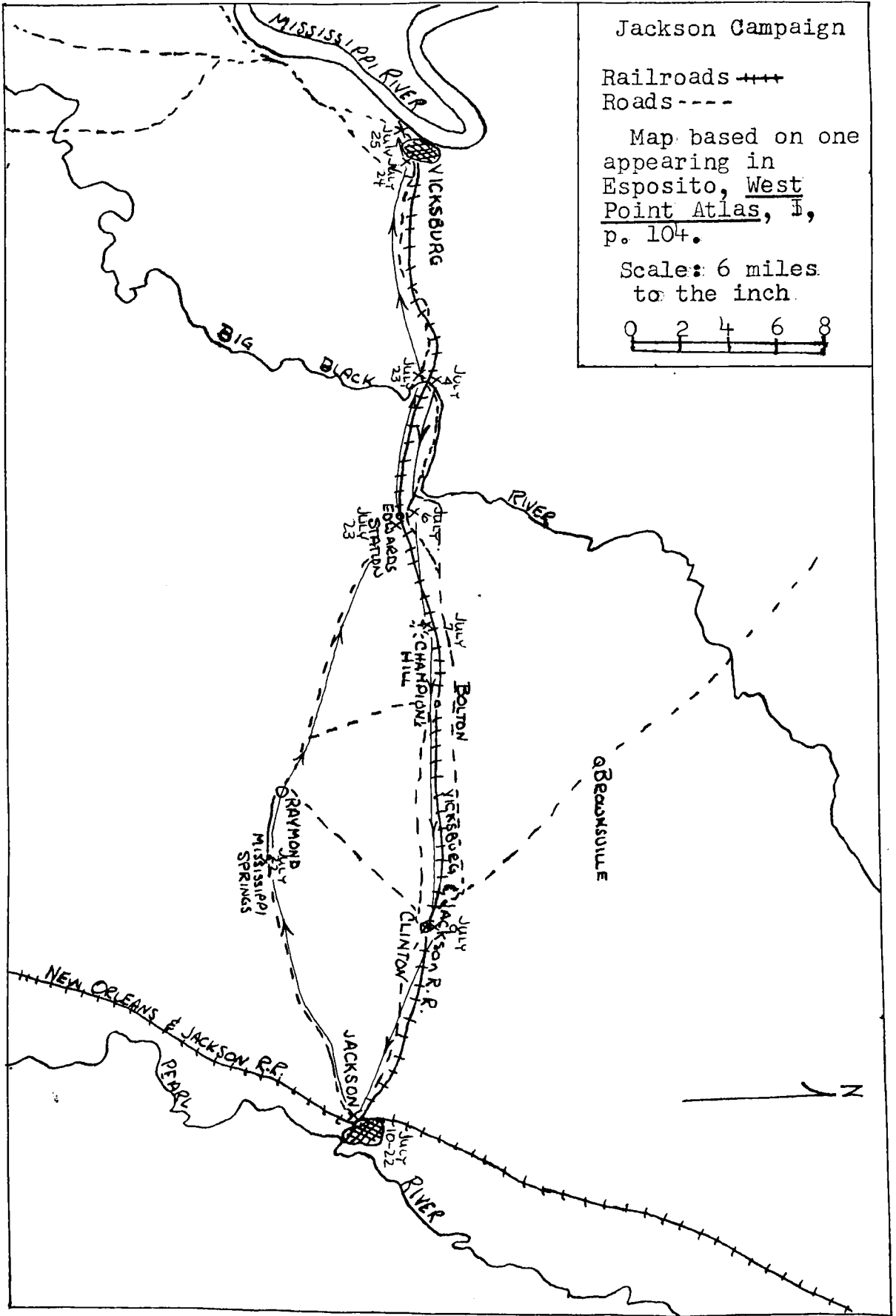
LEGEND

- Cities
- +++ Railroad

Map based on one appearing in Boatner, Civil War Dictionary, p. 967.

Scale:  
60 miles to the inch





Col Fonda sends for us to come to the Regt. with the teams. While we are eating breakfast he sends again. Going back we meet him; he is raving mad because we did not [get] to the Regt last night. Most unreasonable! Curses us all! Had he placed a man at the forks of the road, we could just as easily gone to the Regt. as where we went.<sup>1</sup> Issue to the Boys. Ride over to Bolton, a very small place. About 3/4 mile north of our camp on the Rail road.<sup>2</sup> Try to get a canteen of water but cannot. Lie about camp most of the day. The column moves toward Clinton<sup>3</sup> about 4 P.M. & from that time till 11 P.M. the troops pour bye. We move forward a few steps at a time, until we have made about 1½ miles, when we come to a period, for which none can account. Tired and sleepy I lie down in a fence corner, & am fast asleep, holding my noble horse by the bridle rein, and without covering over me. Weather hot and sultry.

Thursday, July 9:

When I awake from my hard bed & refreshing sleep, the sun has just risen and is shining forth in all his loveliness and grandeur. Rubbing my eyes open, I spring to my feet, with the unpleasant thought,

---

<sup>1</sup>Colonel Fonda mentioned the incident in his unpublished regimental history. "Our teams did not go into camp until late this morning, leaving us with little to eat until they arrived." Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>2</sup>Bolton was a station on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad about twelve miles east of Vicksburg.

<sup>3</sup>Clinton was located on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad eight miles east of Bolton.

that My Horse is gone. But my fears are soon banished, when I discover Henry Alton<sup>1</sup> riding him. We go to a house near by and get a wagon load of corn, some Turkeys, ducks, vegetables, green corn, & c. Have a fine breakfast, "roasting-ears" bully! After an hour or so the train begins to move forward, but at a slow stage. Homer Fuller & I occasionally stop to get water, peaches & c. and rest ourselves & horses beneath some shady tree, from the broiling sun. The country here is beautiful and rolling, heavily timbered, but very poorly watered. I make my dinner on a piece of raw fat, salt pork & a hard-cracker, having no time to stop and cook. We pass through Clinton about two o'clock. It is a very pretty town of, I should judge about 400 inhabitants.<sup>2</sup> There are four nice churches, all filled with sick & wounded Rebels. Get some tomatoes out of a garden, but most every vegetable is either pulled or destroyed. Pass on through the place, about three miles, & come to the Camp of our Regt about 4 o'clock. Issue rations to the boys. Unhitch & feed & have turkey for supper. Firing heard ahead. Homer [Fuller] & I ride ahead for water & "Roasting-ears."<sup>3</sup> Pass Genl Sherman's Head Qrs;<sup>4</sup> he is in

---

<sup>1</sup>Henry Alton of Fountain Green was a sergeant in Company A of the 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 293.

<sup>2</sup>The advance elements of Major General Frederick Steele's First Division of the Fifteenth Corps reached Clinton at 3:00 A.M. on July 9. Ord's Thirteenth Corps passed through Clinton just after sunrise the same morning. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 521.

<sup>3</sup>The "roasting ears" Hamilton collected were unripened field corn. These "roasting ears" sometimes called "horse-corn" were roasted in the husk. These half ripened ears often "physicked" the men. Lewis, Sherman Fighting Prophet, 293.

<sup>4</sup>Sherman's report of July 9 indicated his headquarters was at Clinton. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 521.

command of the Expedition. Lie down beside the road & go to sleep.  
Weather clear & hot as one could wish.

Friday, July 10:

We are ordered out early to join the Brigade train: and taking a hard cracker & a cup of half boiled coffee, I mount my horse [and] we move to our position in the train, which soon moves slowly forward by "fits and starts." We move up about 6 miles (within about two miles of Jackson) and halt in the road.<sup>1</sup> Then commences the usual hurry, bustle, & confusion. Officers swearing & giving orders alternately; Orderlies & men going hither & thither (stragglers going backwards); Ambulances & Ammunition wagons hurrying forward. We take it easy in the shade. Some firing in the front. This commences the siege of Jackson, & may it soon end & in the capture of the Rebel force. But I fear many a brave man must here bite the dust, ere victory is ours. Their forces are said to number about 60,000,<sup>2</sup> commanded by Genls Johnson [Johnston] and Breckenridge; some also add Genl Bragg.<sup>3</sup> A few wounded, & a good many sick from sun stroke are brought in to the Hospital. I ride out to

---

<sup>1</sup>Sherman reported the disposition of his troops upon their arrival before Jackson. Ord's Corps was South of the Clinton road astride the Raymond road. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 521.

<sup>2</sup>Sherman indicated in a dispatch to Grant that Johnston's strength was closer to 30,000 men. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528. Johnston gave his "effective force" on June 28 at 20,000 infantry and artillery, and 2,000 cavalry. Johnston, Narrative of Military Operations, p. 202.

<sup>3</sup>General Braxton Bragg was in Tennessee at this time. Major General John C. Breckenridge did command troops during the siege of Jackson. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, pp. 78, 83. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, pt. 2, 521.

Smith's Division Hospital.<sup>1</sup> Ride around to where the Regiment is posted: the 118th is about played out.<sup>2</sup> Fonda is just about as fit for a Colonel as a mule for a Parlor ornament. The balance of his field officers ditto. [The following two lines were crossed out and unreadable.] Our Brigade teams are corralled close to the creek. We are about 1½ miles from the Rebel works. Shell from their guns occasionally burst in the corn field in front of us. Large fire seen on the Left at night. Sleep in a wagon: unusually fortunate! Day intolerably hot.

Saturday, July 11:

Roll out about sunrise. Heavy firing in front. Understand that our men planted several batteries last night.<sup>3</sup> Forenoon saddle my steed & start out into the Country; but out about a mile our Pickets stop me, as the Rebs' Cavalry are in our Rear; Return & lie in the shade most all day. It is so very hot, that I cannot bear to stay in the sun long. We can get no water to use, only the warm, muddy, slimy, creek water; which enough to puke a wooden man. Considerable firing to. A great many men

---

<sup>1</sup> Brigadier General Andrew Jackson Smith commanded the Tenth Division of the Thirteenth Army Corps. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 768.

<sup>2</sup> The 118th Illinois as part of the advance had proceeded along the Raymond road, during the early hours of July 10, to within one and a half miles of the Confederate works. They had met stubborn resistance but continued to advance until they were 1000 yards from the enemy lines. At noon the 118th Illinois and the remainder of the First Brigade were sent to the rear to rest. Hamilton visited his comrades during this rest period. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 586, 590.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the dangerous siege work such as the planting of batteries and the construction of new lines of fortification was done at night.

getting sick from the effects of the sun & bad water.<sup>1</sup> It is reported officially that Port Hudson, with 5,000 Prisoners has surrendered.<sup>2</sup> Bully for Banks! Homer [Fuller] & I issue to the Regt. It commences raining. Go to the Regt; a mail comes; I get nothing Woe is me! Why will not someone write me? Hear of the Death of Ike Ritter, and the shooting of Ingraham and Ossman.<sup>3</sup> A sad affair! It pains me to hear

---

<sup>1</sup>Water was a major problem for the Union soldiers during these days in the trenches in front of Jackson. Dr. Madison Reece, surgeon of the 118th, treated ninety-four new cases of sickness among the 560 men then on the rolls. Reece, Letterbook. Historian Lloyd Lewis agreed with Hamilton's description of the creeks and ponds along the line of march. Lewis, Sherman Fighting Prophet, p. 293. For additional comments upon the lack of water and sickness, see: Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 60.

<sup>2</sup>Port Hudson surrendered on July 8, 1863. Sherman took note of Port Hudson's surrender in a dispatch to Grant on July 12. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 523. Major General Nathaniel Banks, commander of the Department of the Gulf, reported the capture of "over 5,500 prisoners." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 1, 55. Historian Edward Cunningham indicated that the federal command paroled 5,935 captives in addition to 405 officers who were not paroled and were sent to a prison camp. Edward Cunningham, The Port Hudson Campaign 1862-1863 (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963) p. 121.

<sup>3</sup>Ritter, member of Company G, Second Illinois Cavalry, came home on furlough June 27. The Carthage Republican reported that he would not shake hands with old friends until he ascertained if they were copperheads. Ritter threatened to shoot everyone who harbored anti-war feelings. On Monday morning, June 29, Ritter got into an argument with John Sample. Ritter allegedly struck Sample, drew his revolver and threatened to shoot Sample. Sample left the scene of the altercation, appeared before Judge Smith and swore out a warrant for Ritter's arrest. When Ritter learned of the warrant he fled. He was followed by Robert Inghram, sheriff and A. M. Ossman, his deputy. The lawmen stopped Ritter a few miles outside Carthage.

The sheriff informed Ritter that he was under arrest and began reading the warrant to the furloughed soldier. At this point, according to The Carthage Republican, Ritter drew his revolver and shot Ossman and then Sheriff Inghram. Ossman died of his wounds. A group of citizens gathered and pursued Ritter who had fled in the direction of Quincy. Within the next few hours Ritter was trapped in a wooded area and shot

it. I fear that they [copperheads] will yet carry the war to my beloved state. Heaven forbid! My native place never witness its desolation! We put up a tent to sleep under. Fires seen in the direction of Jackson. The Orderly & one man of Co D reported captured, whil out in the rear jay-hawking<sup>1</sup> - not much loss. Retire about 9 o'clock. Have to get up three times to issue cartridges, rations, & c. to the men.<sup>2</sup> The Cavalry starts out (our boys with them) to make a raid & destroy the Rail Roads running South and east from Jackson; to cut off the retreat of the Rebels.<sup>3</sup> Forenoon hot & sultry - afternoon & night cloudy with little rain.

Sunday, July 12:

Did not rain last night to do much good. All is as clear, calm and quiet as though we were not beseiging a city. At seven o'clock all

---

to death. The paper reported that an "inquest was held over the body and verdict returned that he came to his death by a ball shot by the hands of some person unknown to the jury." Carthage Republican, July 2, 1863, p. 2. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 507.

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton used the term "Jayhawking" to mean the act of acquiring supplies from the countryside without regard of ownership. He applied the term to Union as well as Confederate soldiers.

<sup>2</sup>The report of Colonel James Keigwin, Forty-Ninth Indiana Infantry who commanded the First Brigade, described the fighting of July 11. His unit drove off an attack by reinforced Confederate pickets. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 587.

<sup>3</sup>Colonel Fonda indicated he received orders at 10:00 P.M. directing the mounted companied of the 118th Illinois to participate in an expedition under the command of Major Hugh Fullerton, Second Illinois Cavalry, down the Pearl River to destroy the New Orleans Railroad. Fonda, "History," p. 16. Major Fullerton's report of the expedition can be found in Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 577. See, also, Sherman's dispatches to Grant regarding this cavalry expedition. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 526.

our batteries open fire, and keep up almost a continuous roar for an hour.<sup>1</sup> Go down to the creek & bathe, & wash my piece of shirt which I have been wearing. I did not bring a change of anything with me. Am as dirty as a hog. Reported that our men made some good charges.<sup>2</sup>

Glorious news reaches us of victories on the Potomac, in Tennessee, & at Helena, Ark.<sup>3</sup> Our Cavalry returns; having accomplished the object for which they went.<sup>4</sup> Lie about the tent trying to keep cool, but it is impossible. Considerable firing around the lines. Large fires to be seen on the Right. Day Hot. Towards night large clouds blow up, it rains a little, but they mostly pass around us. We need it very much; to lay the dust, & renew our supply of muddy creek water. Go to bunk about 10 o'clock.

---

<sup>1</sup>Sherman reported to Grant on July 12 that he "gave the enemy's line and town an hour's cannonading this morning. . . ." Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 522. See, also, General Peter J. Osterhaus' report in Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 582. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 57.

<sup>2</sup>Colonel Keigwin's report July 19 indicated that most of the activity on the twelfth of July was skirmishing between the two lines. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 587. The 118th Illinois had four enlisted men killed in the fighting around Jackson. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 545.

<sup>3</sup>Hamilton learned of the retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg, the victory of Major General William Rosecrans at Tullahoma, Tennessee, and Major General Benjamin Prentiss' repulse of General Sterling Price's Confederate command at Helena, Arkansas. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, pp. 392-93, 850-51.

<sup>4</sup>Major Fullerton reported that his cavalry force "went to Byran Station, 10 miles south of Jackson, and destroyed a number of railroad bridges. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 579. See, also: Fonda, "History," p. 16.

Monday, July 13:<sup>1</sup>

Tumble out pretty early. Forenoon draw grub. The Regt moves camp to the Rear about a mile and a half. Go to see Beigade QM [Paddock] if we can follow it, he says not. The Regt moves back to their old camp. Send a team out into the Country for lumber for them. Issue provisions & take their baggage to them. Weather hot appearance of rain in the evening.

Tuesday, July 14:

The Cavalry goes out on a scout this morning.<sup>2</sup> Lie about camp most all the forenoon. Afternoon the Regt Returns: I take a team & go out about 4 miles for beef they have captured. Tie the two beeves behind the wagon & start for camp. Have a hard time getting them along; one of them gets sullen & tired out & I have to leave it. Get to camp a little before sundown. Go to see the Col [Fonda] if I shall kill it. Considerable firing this evening. Fires seen around the lines. Weather cloudy & foggy at night; appearance of rain. Day hot & clear, Receive orders to be ready at 3 o'clock [A.M.] to go out foraging.

Wednesday, July 15:

Rise about 2 o'clock & wake the teamsters, and have them feed and

---

<sup>1</sup>The 118th Illinois was detached from the First Brigade and operated as mounted infantry attached to the Ninth Division's Cavalry Brigade commanded by Major Hugh Fullerton. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 545.

<sup>2</sup>Major Fullerton indicated his cavalry force was "engaged principally on picket duty and destroying railroads." Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 579. Colonel Fonda's regimental history had no entry for that date.

harness. Unload the wagons. By day-light we are ready to move but have to wait nearly an hour for our Cavalry. They come at last. We go out about seven miles: find a large crib of corn. While the wagons are being loaded, the way the chickens, ducks, Geese, pigs, Honey and all sorts of veatables suffer, is a caution; the boys not having their breakfast. I jay-hawk quite a lot of vegetables, salt, a duck, a chicken & a pig. One of the boys finds a double-barrelled shotgun, a pistol, powder flask, carpet sack & c. under the house.<sup>1</sup> I get the Pistol & powder flask. See no rebs. After taking all that we care for, we start for Camp about one o'clock. Reach camp about 5 o'clock. Considerable firing around the lines today. A dense, heavy fog in the morning & evening. Middle of day clear and hot. Lots of the men getting sick.

Thursday, July 16:

Receive orders to move our camp. I go up to Head Quarters to see the Colonel. [Fonda] Move down with the teams, close to Osterhaus' Head Quarters.<sup>2</sup> A poor place. Go to see Paddock<sup>3</sup> if I cannot move to the

---

<sup>1</sup>The nature of foraging or Jayhawking as Hamilton called it, had changed during the past few months in Grant's Western army. During April General-in-Chief Halleck directed his western commander to "live upon the enemy's country as much as possible and destroy his supplies." Sherman no longer considered chicken-stealing a crime or required his foragers to give receipts for confiscated goods. Officers, however, were directed to prevent the looting of personal belongings. Lewis, Sherman Fighting Prophet, pp. 295-96.

<sup>2</sup>Brigadier-General Peter J. Osterhaus' headquarters was southeast of the Raymond Road. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 582. Osterhaus, Prussian born, commanded the Ninth Division of Ord's Thirteenth Corps. Prior to the war Osterhaus had been a merchant and a bookkeeper in Missouri. In the years immediately following the war he served as consul to France and vice and deputy consul to Germany. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 613.

<sup>3</sup>Hamilton referred to Lieutenant Colonel John W. Paddock, of the

Regiment, he says, no. Afternoon kill a beef & issue it to the Regiment. Get orders to draw & issue to the Regt 3 days provisions. At night load the wagon & bring it up to the Regt. See Col; [Fonda] he says it is not necessary for Homer [Fuller], Alton or I to go with them, on the march which they commence in the morning.<sup>1</sup> Homer [Fuller] is sick; so I could not well leave. The Rebs make a charge on our right this afternoon, but were driven back. Pretty heavy firing. Large fire in the direction of Jackson. Retire about eleven. Morning and evening cloudy & very foggy, appearance of rain. Very singular weather indeed; & it, together with the miserable water we have, is fast using up our men.

Friday, July 17:

The Regt started at day-light, on a scout, taking one wagon with them.<sup>2</sup> After breakfast Alton & I ride over to Head Quarters. On the way, hear that Jackson was evacuated by the Rebs last night; and that our

---

113th Illinois, First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. He served as brigade quartermaster. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 3, 4.

<sup>1</sup> Colonel Fonda had received orders to prepare to cooperate with the 118th Illinois in a cavalry expedition to Brookhaven, Mississippi, fifty miles south of Jackson on the Jackson to New Orleans railroad. The raid was part of Sherman's effort to cut rail connections into Jackson. Colonel Fonda's report of the expedition can be found in Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 588-89. Also see the Report of Major Fullerton, commander of the expedition in Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 577-78. Fonda, "History," p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> See supra, n. 1, p. 34.

forces occupied it this morning.<sup>1</sup> We start for the place; get to the works just in time to pass in with Genl Steele & bodyguard. It send a thrill of joy to my heart to see the "stars and stripes" floating proudly over this Rebel stronghold.<sup>2</sup> It is planted upon their works, & upon the Capitol. We ride into and around the square. The Capitol is a fine, large, stone building. A few large business houses; some of which have been burned. The town is full of soldiers, sacking everything & place they can. But soon everything is guarded. There are some magnificent residences. The Rebel fortifications are very well built. The town is situated upon rough, hilly ground; but has been very little injured by the seige; but the torch has destroyed a great deal.<sup>3</sup> We captured some prisoners, I know not how many.<sup>4</sup> The Rebels left only

---

<sup>1</sup>At 6:00 A.M. on the morning of July 17, Sherman telegraphed Grant that Johnston had evacuated Jackson. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528.

<sup>2</sup>Major General Frederick Steele commanded the Fifteenth Corps during the Jackson Campaign. Steele had graduated near the bottom of his class at West Point in 1843. He fought in the Mexican War and remained in the Regular Army after the war. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, pp. 794-95.

Sherman indicated in his report to Grant dated July 17, that "I will occupy it [Jackson] with one division of Steele and hasten the enemy on his way east." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528.

The flag was raised on the state house by men of Robert Potter's Second Division, Ninth Corps. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 59.

<sup>3</sup>Sherman commented to Grant that he would "perfect the work of destruction . . . ." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528. Lewis indicated that Jackson was put to the torch with Sherman's blessing. Lewis, Sherman Fighting Prophet, p. 295. Williams indicated much of the damage was caused by fires started by Johnston. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 59.

<sup>4</sup>Sherman's reports of July 17 indicated the capture of "400 prisoners and more being picked up hourly." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528.

one cannon, a 64 pr rifled which had been disabled by a shot of ours.<sup>1</sup> Our forces are pursuing the fleeing enemy.<sup>2</sup> It is said he left by land; sending his sick & wounded by railroad. Though we cannot count - count killed wounded & prisoners by hundreds, & arms by thousands, yet this has been a great defeat to the Rebels. From all I can gather, the loss on both sides has been very small.<sup>3</sup> I think had Grant commanded instead of Sherman our victory had been far more complete, if not the Capture of the whole force of the enemy.<sup>4</sup> Return to camp. Afternoon draw "grub" & take it up to the boys that are left in camp. Ride over to the corral of the Provision train. Three of our teams there; just came out from [Big] Black River.<sup>5</sup> Give them some mail to take back with them. Go to Quarters. Read pretty late at night. Weather hot as blazes. Large

---

<sup>1</sup> Sherman's preliminary reports indicate the capture of "heavy guns" indicating more than just one 64 pr. rifled cannon. Ibid.

<sup>2</sup> Sherman informed Grant on the seventeenth that "the weather is too hot for a vigorous pursuit." Ibid. Also, see: B. H. Liddell Hart, Sherman (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1958), 197.

<sup>3</sup> Sherman's command lost 129 men killed, 762 wounded, and 231 captured or missing. The 118th Illinois had four men captured and missing. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 545, 552.

<sup>4</sup> General Edward Ord, Commander of the Thirteenth Corps, commented that had his gunners received needed ammunition they could have inflicted greater damage upon the departing enemy. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 58-59.

<sup>5</sup> Three of the regiment's wagons and teams were part of a shuttle to bring supplies Grant stock piled at the Big Black River crossing for Sherman's use. Ibid., V, 54.

fires in direction of Jackson [.]

Saturday, July 18:

Up bright & early. After breakfast Alton & I saddle our horses & ride into Jackson. The large light last night was from the burning of a large number of fine business houses. We pass on through to Pearl River. It is a narrow little stream, very low at present, and full of snags. Take a bath. Return to the Capitol, & pass out the street running north to the Reb fortifications. At this point their works are very strong; mounting a good many guns. There are some most magnificent residences upon this street. Perfect Paradises. Passing a little further along the line, we come to the splendid residence of Col Withers of Rebel Army, who was killed by one of our shells, on last Sunday. [July 12] It has been greatly damaged by our fire and soldiers. Passing along the line to the N.W. corner, we come to the largest & strongest work of the enemy. Here was mounted a large number of guns, all of which were taken away by them, except a 64 pr rifle, which was disabled by our guns. They have included entirely too much space in their works to be strong; it requiring an enormous force to man them. Our line of works approach to within, I judge, 1/8 to 1/4 mile of the enemy's. Ours are excellent for the opportunity we had to make them, having to work at night, or under fire; or both. Return to camp. Receive a letter from Capt Davison,<sup>1</sup> one from Sue Summerville, and some clean clothes; brought out by some of our boys just from Black River.

---

<sup>1</sup>Captain Davison remained with the infantry portion of the regiment at the Big Black River. See Supra, n. 5, p. 20.

Very glad indeed to hear from Sue: it seemed as though she was somewhat tardy. Go to Dr. Boude's quarters.<sup>1</sup> Write up my diary. Return to camp. We play seven up most afternoon.<sup>2</sup> Rains about an hour, very hard. Wind came near taking up our tent. After supper we play some more, retire about 9 o'clock. Forenoon very hot. Afternoon a very refreshing shower.

Sunday, July 19:

Up soon after the sun. Lie about the camp most all day. We draw provisions & issue to the boys. Read some. Go over to Dr. Boude's Quarters. No news from the Regiment.<sup>3</sup> Large fires to the front tonight. Weather hot.

Monday, July 20:

After breakfast ride over to Boude's quarters and chat awhile. Lie about the tent. About noon the Regt return from their rail-road raid.<sup>4</sup> The boys are pretty well loaded with tobacco & numerous other articles they have jay-hawked. I go with the wagons up to the Regt & give them their, things. Issue provisions am in hopes we will leave. Lie about camp & play seven up. Buy some tobacco for \$15.<sup>5</sup> Weather hot

---

<sup>1</sup>Dr. John Knox Boude of Carthage was the Assistant surgeon of the 118th Illinois. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 292.

<sup>2</sup>"Seven up" was one of Hamilton's favorite card games.

<sup>3</sup>See supra, n. 3, p. 33.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid. General Sherman informed Grant of the success of the Brookhaven Cavalry raid. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 530.

<sup>5</sup>The price was high but the researcher was unable to determine the quantity purchased.

as usual. Received a letter from Ed Chervill.<sup>1</sup>

Tuesday, July 21:

Go up to Regt Head Quarters. Ride around while. Lie about Camp most of the Afternoon. It is reported that we are to start for [Big] Black River in the morning;<sup>2</sup> Good News. Homer & I draw provision. Receive Orders to be ready to move at 3 o'clock in the morning. Send one team to the Regt to be ready to load up the baggage. Receive an order to report 3 teams to Dr. Powerine at 3 A.M.<sup>3</sup> Get things packed up. Retire about eleven. Weather hot.

Wednesday, July 22:

The Cavalry move at one o'clock [A.M.] Have to get up & go out about a half mile to get the baggage team out of a mud hole into which the Colonel has run it & left it.<sup>4</sup> After we get some coffee, hard tack, and sow-belly, report the three teams to Dr. Powerine, Go up to Dr. Boude's quarters to see that our sick is loaded. When I get back the train has started. Our division takes the Rear of the [Thirteenth] Corps. We move forward at very slow stages. All are jubilant over our

---

<sup>1</sup>Ed Chervill was the English-born president of the Exchange Bank of Carthage. His daughter Mary was the wife of Dr. Knox Boude. Biographical Review of Hancock County, Illinois (Chicago: Hobart Publishing Co., 1907), p. 32.

<sup>2</sup>Colonel Fonda confirmed that orders were received to return to the Vicksburg area. Fonda, "History," p. 17. Also, see: Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 530-31, 576.

<sup>3</sup>Investigation has been unable to identify Dr. Powerine.

<sup>4</sup>Fonda's unpublished history indicated that the cavalry departed at 1:30, but does not mention running a wagon in a mud hole. Fonda, "History," p. 17.

returning towards [Big] Black River. The quantity of sick which have to be hauled is enormous.<sup>1</sup> About noon Homer [Fuller] & I stop at a Negro shanty & get some corn boiled, & some green corn - corn bread. It tastes splendid, & I eat till I feel like bursting. We lay by some time waiting for the teams to come up. Have a little shower. Again we move on, stopping occasionally to gather roasting ears, ripe figs, peaches & c. About sundown our Division stops to camp at a place called by some "Coppers Wells" & by others, "Mississippi Springs." It seems to have been a Southern Resort, for health & c., in consequence, I suppose of the mineral water, which I find is nasty stuff; being strongly adulterated with sulphur. There are only some half dozen houses here; one of which is a very large, old frame hotel; looks as if it would accomodate about 800 to 1000 persons. The country is very rough and rocky; much more so than it is nearer Jackson or Black River. The way the boys slay the chickens, geese, pigs, sheep & goats is a caution. I go to Genl Osterhaus to see where our Regt is, so that I can take provision to them. He says it is 4 miles to the rear, & that I had better wait until they come up in the morning.<sup>2</sup> Go into camp, cook some supper,

---

<sup>1</sup>In his dispatch of July 17 to Grant, Sherman indicated the health of his command was very poor. "All the divisions, brigades, and regiments are so reduced, and so many officers of rank are sick and wounded . . . that I doubt if my corps will keep up to 8,000 men . . ." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 528. General Edward O. G. Ord, Commander of the Thirteenth Corps claimed his wagons had to make two trips to transport the corps' 3200 sick. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt.2, 576.

<sup>2</sup>Fonda indicated that the regiment had camped at the Big Black River at 8:30 A.M. on the morning of July 22 and remained there the rest of the day.

& then lie down for a nap. Very tired. Day hot. Has the appearance of rain. Receive orders to be ready to move at 3 A.M.

Thursday, July 23:

Get up about 3 o'clock. Cook breakfast. Go see the General [Osterhaus] again about issuing rations to our Regt. He was mistaken last night about its being in the rear, it is in the advance. Homer [Fuller] & I start ahead with one wagon, but find it impossible to pass the train, which is already in motion, with it. Let it stop & we ride on Genl [A. J.] Smith's rear guard stops us; I go to Genl Ransom<sup>1</sup> & after some quibbling he allows me to pass on. Riding along we pass Old Pemberton & another Reb General in a buggy by the roadside,<sup>2</sup> waiting for our column to pass. He looks very grim. Is a corpulent, rough looking old cuss. The impudence of soldiery was here well illustrated, by a

---

<sup>1</sup> Brigadier General Thomas Edward Greenfield Ransom commanded the Second Brigade, Sixth Division, Seventeenth Army Corp during the Jackson Campaign. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 680.

<sup>2</sup> A contemporary described Pemberton as "tall, lithe built and stately . . . black hair, black eyes, full beard and rather a severe if not sinister expression of countenance." This description does not sound like the man Hamilton encountered. Frank Moore, ed., The Rebellion Record, 12 Vols. (New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1864), Vol. 7, 52.

Sherman's report to Grant dated July 13 indicated "Pemberton is crossing with his paroled prisoners about 10 miles below Jackson." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 524. The Official Records contained reports filed by Pemberton from Brandon, Mississippi, fourteen miles east of Jackson on July 16, seven days before Hamilton reported seeing the Confederate General. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 3, 1006. On the twenty-third of July, the day Hamilton claimed to have seen Pemberton, the Confederate officer was reporting to Richmond from Gainesville, Alabama, one hundred and fifteen miles from Jackson. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 3, 1025. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 62, 306.

private of our Army, who, noticing the peculiarity of Genl. P's uniform, rides up on his mule, as large as life, & hails the General with, "Say, mister, what's your rank?" The reply elicited was, "I rank as Old Pemberton." When private rode away satisfied. About 9 o'clock overtake Capt. Evans,<sup>1</sup> with part of the Regt, acting as rear Guard to the Ambulance train. They are then within some six miles of [Big] Black River.<sup>2</sup> Pass through Edwards Depot. Truly it looks as if it had been thoroughly scourged. The dust is several inches deep, & the sun boiling hot; am nearly tuckered out. Homer & I reach [Big] Black River about 12 o'clock, [noon] stop at the Commissary & Bob [Houston] gives us a "snort." The Col is very sick from the effects of riding in the sun.<sup>3</sup> Get some dinner. Go down to see Alex [Sholl]<sup>4</sup>, who is sick. Sample is about again. Lie about camp. A storm blows up about night, & it rains. Day hot. We receive orders to be ready to move at 6 o'clock in the morning. The teams come in late.

---

<sup>1</sup>William Evans of Richfield was the captain of Company F, 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 304.

<sup>2</sup>Eighty men of the 118th Illinois commanded by Captain Evans had been detailed to guard the ambulance train. Fonda, "History," p. 17.

<sup>3</sup>Fonda indicated in his unpublished history of the Regiment that, "I am sick and go to bed as soon as arriving in camp." Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>4</sup>Alex Sholl was one of Hamilton's best friends prior to the war. Sholl, Captain of Company B resigned November 14, 1863 and returned to Carthage. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 295.

Friday, July 24:

Order the teams out and attend to the loading of the baggage. John Symonds<sup>1</sup> died at 2 o'clock this morning. We move out about seven o'clock, leaving the sick, one wagon, & part of the tents behind. Move along at slow stage, resting now & then out of the broiling sun, under some friendly shade. Reach the hill where our Division Hospital was when we were engaged in the seige about 2 o'clock. Here the column stops to rest. Ed Jourdan<sup>2</sup> & I ride over to the fortifications around V----g, Where [A. J.] Smith's & Osterhaus' Divisions fought. The Rebel works are very formidable, and it seems impossible that our men should have gained so much on them. At some points our rifle pits are within 30 or 40 feet of their forts. After looking around awhile, we start back and get lost, among the hills & hollows, & after wandering around some time, we finally get on track of the Division. Find them encamping in the same hollow, where we were encamped when here before, only about a mile lower down. Go to Schenck<sup>3</sup> to see if I can get some Forage; he gives me an order to Capt Allen<sup>4</sup> in the city. Return to camp & get a team & wagon & go to Vicksburg, for forage. Have much trouble finding his office, &

---

<sup>1</sup>John Symonds, a private in Company B was the regiment's only nonbattle death during the month of July. Ibid., Vol. 6, 296. Reece, Letterbook.

<sup>2</sup>Investigation has been unable to identify Ed Jourdan.

<sup>3</sup>Investigation has been unable to identify Schenck further than Hamilton's diary entry.

<sup>4</sup>Investigation has been unable to identify Captain Allen.

when I do he will not issue. Meet Jarvis Allen<sup>1</sup> in town he goes out with us. Get to camp about 9 o'clock. Orders to move at 6 in the morning. Day hot.

Sunday, July 25:

The column is in motion early, I have to remain behind with the train. Examine some of the forts & monster guns. Get some ripe figs. Get the teams blocked up in a pass, & have considerable trouble. We move through the city & about a mile below, under the bluffs, in a Cockle burr patch.<sup>2</sup> I take two team[s] & go to town for forage. Get back about sundown with some oats. Receive a letter from Mollie Nieder.<sup>3</sup> Glad indeed to hear from her; wish I could be with her tonight, to enjoy a renewal of some of those happy hours I have spent with her. Sam Williams is sick. Day very hot.

Sunday, July 26:

Out early. Take the teams and a detail and go to town for Hay. Get back about noon with forage. A heavy storm comes up. Blows a tree

---

<sup>1</sup>Jarvis Allen of Warsaw was the captain of Company E, 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 302.

<sup>2</sup>Doctor Madison Reece, surgeon of the 118th Illinois described the "cockle burr patch" as being "covered with filth and offal and . . . a miserable place to put troops. The sick were numerous." Reece, Letterbook, Fonda confirmed the regiments arrival at Vicksburg. Fonda, "History," p. 18.

<sup>3</sup>Mollie Nieder of Carthage was one of the young ladies Hamilton courted prior to his enlistment. His diary entry of November 10, 1861 related his evening with Mollie, ". . . have a splendid time. Take her in my arms and give her many a kiss, which is sweetly returned." Hamilton, Diary, November 10, 1861.

down near us. Nothing of special importance today. Heav[y] storm & wind at night. Forenoon very hot.

Monday, July 27:

Put in Requisition for Clothing[,] Camp & Garrison equipage, & Q. M. Stores.<sup>1</sup> Afternoon Go to town with teams for forage, but cannot draw it. Get some tents from the Depot. I ride up above the top of those high hills commanding the river. It is a grand view. There are some monster guns there. I cannot see how a boat, even a gun boat, could pass through under all these guns & not be sunk.<sup>2</sup> Ride through the city. There is hardly a house but what has one or more Ball or Shell holes through it. The Banks are full of caves, used by the Rebs & citizens during the Seige.<sup>3</sup> Return to camp. Day Hot.

Tuesday, July 28:

Go over to Capt. Paddocks and draw some Quartermasters stores. Return to camp & issue part of them. Go up to Capt. Finch's<sup>4</sup> & draw

---

<sup>1</sup>The items mentioned were ordered to replenish equipment depleted during the preceding weeks of fighting.

<sup>2</sup>On the night of April 16, 1863, eleven federal gunboats safely ran the Vicksburg batteries. All gunboats sustained some damage and a twelfth was sunk. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 873.

<sup>3</sup>For additional descriptions of Vicksburg, see: Moore, The Rebellion Record, Vol. 7, 52. U. S. Grant, "The Vicksburg Campaign," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, 4 Vols., ed. by Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, (New York: The Century Co., 1884), Vol. 3, 534. Harry E. Pratt, "Civil War Letters of Brigadier General William Orme, 1862-1866." Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXIII, No. 2 (July, 1930), p. 290.

<sup>4</sup>Absalom Finch was Quartermaster of the Second Brigade, Ninth Division. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 2, 212.

some clothing and issue it to the companies. Afternoon go to Paddocks for more things. Draw forage and issue. Weather very hot.

Wednesday, July 29:

Go to Paddocks & draw down some more Q. M. Stores. Afternoon go up to Finch's for more clothing & c. Return & issue it. Nothing unusual today. Weather scorching.

Thursday, July 30:<sup>1</sup>

Work a little on the reports. Have to draw & issue forage. Go to Finch's for our Invoices, they are not made out. Receive letters from Will [Hamilton] & Martha [Hamilton],<sup>2</sup> the first for months. Weather hot. Col Fonda starts home.<sup>3</sup> Receive our pay (2 months) to the 30th of June. I get \$42.<sup>4</sup>

Friday, July 31:

Work on reports. Go to Finch's, for our Invoices not done yet. Work on the Reports. Strong of Co C. comes into the Dept. to assist

---

<sup>1</sup>On this date the Ninth Division of which the 118th was part, was consolidated with the Fourteenth Division and designated as the First Division of the Thirteenth Corp.

<sup>2</sup>Martha Hamilton was the wife of Elisha's brother William.

<sup>3</sup>Fonda received a leave of absence and took passage aboard the steamer Ben Franklin on July 30. Major Robert McClaughry commanded the regiment in his absence. Fonda, "History," p. 18.

<sup>4</sup>The pay for a private at this time of the war was thirteen dollars per month. Hamilton's monthly rate was higher because of his rank. For a further discussion of soldiers pay, see: Fred Shannon, The Organization of the Union Army 1861-1865, 2 Vols., (Gloucester: Peter Smith, 1965), I, 246-47. Bell I. Wiley, The Life of Billy Yank, (New York: Grossett & Dunlap, 1952), 48-49.

me.<sup>1</sup> At evening receive Finch's invoices. Day hot.

Saturday, August 1, 1863:

Write a letter to Mary [Hamilton] & send it with a package, by Alton, who with several other boys, starts home on furlough. Work all day at the Reports. Weather Hot. Go for forage; can get none.

Sunday, August 2:

Work all day on the Reports, trying very hard to finish them. Weather hot as the d---1.

Monday, August 3:

Get the Reports finished & ready for mailing by the middle of the afternoon. Write the accompanying letters.<sup>2</sup> By late order from War Dept, we have only to make Duplicate papers, which greatly relieves me, in getting up the Report. As very glad it is done with, for it has been quite long & tedious this month. Receive order from Capt Paddock to make Requisitions for Forage, and Clothing, Camp & Garrison Equipage. Several of the boys start for home on furlough. Weather Hot, as usual.

Tuesday, August 4:

After breakfast Strong & I mount our horses, & go to the City. I

---

<sup>1</sup>Regimental quartermaster Davidson secured the services of Private Henry L. Strong, Company C, to help Hamilton with the preparation of reports and requisitions.

<sup>2</sup>Reports and cover letter were mailed to Brigadier General Montgomery Cunningham Meigs, Quartermaster in Washington, D. C. Shannon, Organization of the Union Army, II, 264.

feel relieved, to get out of Quarters again. Mail our Monthly Reports. Go up in Gallery & have my Ambrotype taken.<sup>1</sup> Get a splendid picture, a real "rough & ready." Want some photographs taken, but he wants 3 days to put them up in. Go to Barbershop & get my hair and whiskers trimmed. After loafing about town awhile return to camp. Sample & several of the boys start for home. At night commence a letter to Bill [Hamilton]. retire about 9. Weather Hot.

Wednesday, August 5:

Write a letter to Will [Hamilton] and send it with Vicksburg News/Wall/paper,<sup>2</sup> by Homer [Fuller]. Give him \$42 dollars to be put in Bank for me. Write a letter to Mary [Hamilton] & send it with \$2 (for her own use) a Book & my minature, by John Helfrich.<sup>3</sup> Have some running about to do. Homer [Fuller] leaves at noon. Write part of the Afternoon. Receive an order to turn over, in the morning, all of our teams but 6. Weather hot.

Thursday, August 6:

After breakfast take a team & go to town to turn it over to

---

<sup>1</sup>An ambrotype was a picture made from a glass plate negative by combining it with a dark background. For additional comments relating to Civil War soldiers and the photographer, see: Ibid., I, 248-49. Wiley, The Life of Billy Yank, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup>For lack of newsprint, the Vicksburg paper was printed on wall-paper.

<sup>3</sup>John Helfrick of Carthage was a private in Company B, 118th Illinois. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 296.

Capt. Gaster.<sup>1</sup> On the way to see John A. Ballard & chat a few minutes with him. Find Capt. Gaster, he will not take the team on my papers. Find Davison and we both go to him but no use. We the [n] go to Capt. Paddock, but he says we will have to accept Gasters papers. Have to go to Camp for new papers. Get dinner. Lt. Painter<sup>2</sup> and I return to the city. I see Capt. Gaster & deliver up the team & take receipt. Loaf about the Streets awhile. Return to Camp. We receive orders to move at six o'clock in the Morning, for Natchez.<sup>3</sup> At night write a letter to John [Hamilton]<sup>4</sup> & one to Ed Cherrill. Retire about 11. Weather Hot. A little shower during the afternoon.

Friday, August 7:

Am up pretty early. Get our things packed up. Attend to the loading of the wagons. Mail my letters to John Hamilton and Ed Cherrill. The Regt moves up to the lower part of the City to the landing. I ride around through the Camp awhile. Go up to the Regt. Capts Allen & Sholl and I walk to the Steamboat "Illinois,"<sup>5</sup> for dinner,

---

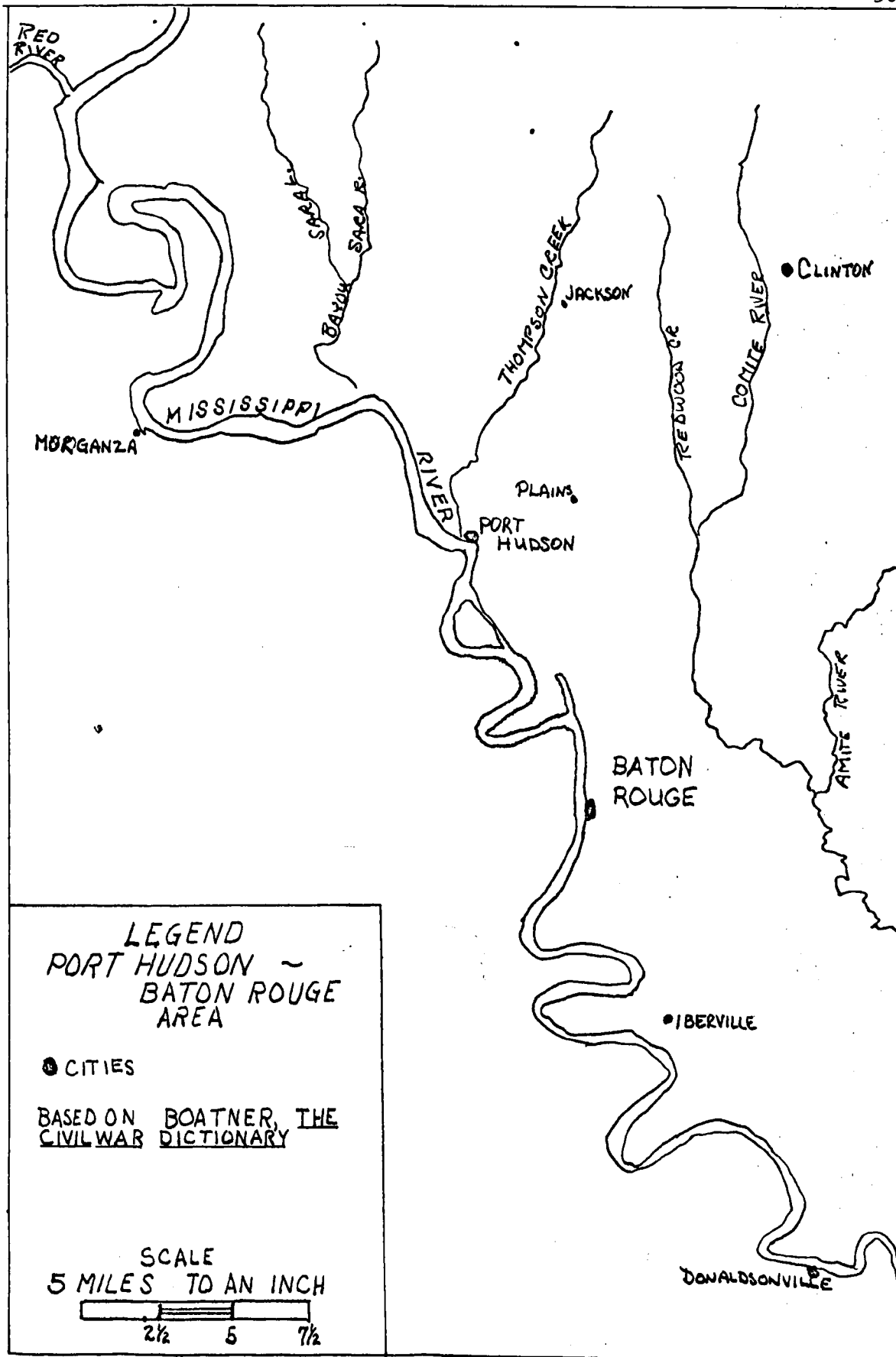
<sup>1</sup>Captain William Gaster was assistant Quartermaster, Army of the Tennessee. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 1, 687.

<sup>2</sup>Charles G. Painter of Terre Haute was a Second Lieutenant in Company G, 118th Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 306.

<sup>3</sup>The regiment did not depart until August 8.

<sup>4</sup>John Hamilton, Elisha's older brother, was a private in Company D, Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 5, 14.

<sup>5</sup>Steamer Illinois was one of the large river steamers with a capacity of 2000 passengers. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 3, 115.



RED RIVER

SACAS BAYOU SACAS R.

THOMPSON CREEK

REDWOOD CR.

COMITE RIVER

CLINTON

JACKSON

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

MORGANZA

PLAINS

PORT HUDSON

BATON ROUGE

AMITE RIVER

IBERVILLE

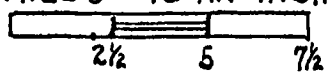
DONALDSONVILLE

LEGEND  
 PORT HUDSON -  
 BATON ROUGE  
 AREA

● CITIES

BASED ON BOATNER, THE  
 CIVIL WAR DICTIONARY

SCALE  
 5 MILES TO AN INCH



and a most miserable sell it was. Capt Allen has just received his resignation "accepted."<sup>1</sup> See to getting the saddles down to the Wharf. Put up our tent.<sup>2</sup> Have to draw some clothing, and issue it out. Capt. Davison unwell. Weather hot as blazes. Threatens rain.

Saturday, August 8:<sup>3</sup>

After breakfast Sam [Williams] & I take a ride. Lie about the Landing. Jarvis Allen gives his Photograph. About noon we receive orders to go aboard the "John Raine." It is one of the Ellet's "Guerilla Fleet."<sup>4</sup> We commence loading. I feel quite unwell am taken with a severe cramping.<sup>5</sup> Receive orders to leave behind all of our

---

<sup>1</sup>Captain Jarvis Allen's resignation was confirmed in, Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 302.

<sup>2</sup>Hamilton meant pack the tents.

<sup>3</sup>Grant was directed by General-in-Chief Halleck to send one corps to the Department of the Gulf. He selected the Thirteenth Corps. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXIV, Pt. 3, 562. As the result of the transfer and consolidation, the 118th Illinois as part of the Third Brigade, First Division. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 1, 664. For a discussion of the transfer, see: Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 314. Grant, Memoirs, p. 304.

<sup>4</sup>The Guerilla Fleet, or the Marine Brigade was commanded by Brigadier General Alfred W. Ellet. Charles Ellet, engineer and inventor of the ram fleet and brother of General Alfred Ellet, was killed in the summer of 1862 while leading the fleet against Memphis. Colonel Charles Rivers Ellet, son of Charles Ellet, commanded the ram fleet during the Vicksburg Campaign. For an account of Colonel Ellet's exploits during the Vicksburg campaign, see: James Russell Soley, "Naval Operations in the Vicksburg Campaign," Battles and Leaders, Vol. 3, 554-55. Williams, Lincoln Finds a General, V, 311-12. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, pp. 262, 677.

<sup>5</sup>Hamilton contracted one of the most common camp maladies, diarrhea. The problem struck an average of 711 men per thousand, during the Civil War. George Worthington Adams, Doctors in Blue (New York: Henry Schuman, 1952), pp. 226-27.

teams. I have to lie down in the shade, feel so bad. Get loaded a little before sundown. Capt. Davison remains behind to go home on furlough.<sup>1</sup> Bid him & Capt. Allen good-bye. The boat shoves out down the river. Feel bad; get a little supper and lie down. Our boat steadily ploughing her way down stream. There are four other boats with us. Weather hot.

Sunday, August 9:

A little after sun rise we heave in sight of Natchez;<sup>2</sup> we pass without landing. I wish we were to be stationed here. One can see hardly anything of the place from the river; there being only a few houses "under the hill. ["] The bluffs are very steep; the roads running diagonally up them. Am quite sick have to lie down; & take some medicine.<sup>3</sup> Do not get to see hardly any of the river & its scenery. Reach Port Hudson,<sup>4</sup> about one o'clock. Am so sick, cannot attend to unloading. They get our things off the boat about sundown. The Regt

---

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton assumed Captain Davison's quartermaster duties upon Davison's departure for home.

<sup>2</sup>The distance from Vicksburg to Natchez was about seventy-five miles. For an interesting first hand account of life of a common soldier in that city, see: Stephen E. Ambrose, ed., A Wisconsin Boy in Dixie (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1961), pp. 84-95.

<sup>3</sup>The normal medication for diarrhea was laxatives; epsom salts or castor oil and opium. Some cases of diarrhea were mistaken for malaria and treated with quinine. Adams, Doctors in Blue, p. 226-27.

<sup>4</sup>Port Hudson, about 75 miles below Natchez, was a natural stronghold, located on "precipitous bluff." The city was possibly one of the most defensible positions on the river. Prior to the war, Port Hudson had been a major river port, catering to the needs of the many rich and fertile plantations in the immediate area. Cunningham, Port Hudson, pp. 6-8. Surgeon Madison Reece described the regiment's camp while at Port Hudson as being "constantly surrounded by hucksters selling pies, cakes, beer, etc. in all the soldiers freely indulged without restraint." Reece, Letterbook.

camps close on the river bank. Go to bed as soon as they get my tent up. Have the diarrhea very badly. Day hot. Almost every creeping & flying insect, troubles at night.

Monday, August 10:

No better this morning, but worse. The Regt moves back to New Camp, do not have my tent moved out until afternoon. Had to borrow wagons to move with. I ride out on my horse. Stay at the Major's<sup>1</sup> tent while mine is being put up. No better yet. Day very hot. Mosquitoes very troublesome.

Tuesday, August 11:

Feel no better yet, nothing but blood & water passes me. Have to lie abed all day. The Piles is coming on me too.<sup>2</sup> Send Sam [Williams] to draw Provision; but there was none there. Send him for forage; they say they do not recognize us in this Department.<sup>3</sup> No news today. Weather Hot as blazes.

---

<sup>1</sup>Major Robert McClaughry commanded the regiment until August 30, 1863 when he obtained a leave of absence because of illness. Captain Arthur Marsh assumed command until Colonel Fonda's return. Lieutenant Colonel Logan was home on furlough during this time. Reece, Letterbook. Fonda, "History," p. 18.

<sup>2</sup>Hamilton's attack of diarrhea was regarded medically severe enough to entitle him to a pension. Pension Application File, Elisha B. Hamilton. Record Group No. 15-B, "Records of the Veterans Administration," National Archives, Washington, D. C.

<sup>3</sup>Hamilton referred to the Department of the Gulf.

Wednesday, August 12:

Feel a very little better this morning. The boys get a little Forage. Sam [Williams] draws 5 days provisions; can only get Hard bread, Coffee, Sugar, Salt, Candles and 4/7ths of Pork.<sup>1</sup> Write a letter to Martha [Hamilton]. At night I discover that the bakers are baking bread; & upon asking them about it they say it is for the 69th Ind [Infantry]; (whom I had refused in the morning to bake for) They get very mad because I spoke to them about [it]. The[y] sell off all the bread, & pocket the money.<sup>2</sup> Have a rain storm in the Afternoon. At night we receive orders to move by four in the morning; but it is countermanded in a half hour. Weather hot, & mosquitoes worse.

Thursday, August 13:

Am very little better this morning. Agree to bake some bread for the 120th Ohio [Infantry]. During the day write a letter to Capt. Davison; & with it, mail my letter to Martha [Hamilton]. Nothing particular going on today. Have a heavy shower in the afternoon. Clears off

---

<sup>1</sup>The rations for troops in camp included, one pound of biscuit or hardtack, one and one quarter pounds of fresh or salted meat, in addition to beans, rice, coffee, sugar, vinegar, salt, candles, and soap. Shannon, Organization of the Union Army, I, 208-09. Erna Risch, Quartermaster Support of the Army (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1962), pp. 447-49.

<sup>2</sup>Since Capt. Davison was home on leave, Hamilton made the decision for whom the regimental bakers would bake. Each company supplied regimental bakers. Also, see: infra, n. 1, p. 81.

again. Forenoon Hot.

Friday, August 14:

Rested pretty well last night. Am improving slowly. We boys play cards awhile. The Bakers get mad, take their traps & go to their companies, without saying a word to me. Afternoon Major [McClaghry] sends for me to come to his tent; the line officers are there; have complained of their men not getting the rations due them. I explain it (seemingly) satisfactory to them. That we were out one day because, we could not draw on the 11th, nor for it.<sup>1</sup> Send Strong for Forage. Have a heavy shower. We boys play "Seven Up" at night. Receive an order to be ready to move on boat at 5 o'clock in the Morning. Retire. Write up my diary. Weather a little cooler than usual, Mosquitoes about the same, or a little worse.

Saturday, August 15:<sup>2</sup>

We are roused out by daylight, and commence packing, for the move. I feel very poorly, for the duties before me. Am a little better this morning, but my piles trouble me very much. After the usual fussing & delays we get our things down to the Steamboat "Dove," & put them on board. Are very much crowded, there being some of Hoveys Division teams on board.<sup>3</sup> I take a state-room as "Quartermaster

---

<sup>1</sup>See supra, n. 1, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup>Regiment began a move to Carrollton, Louisiana.

<sup>3</sup>General Hovey's command, Third Division, Thirteenth Corps, was also being transferred to the Department of the Gulf.

Hamilton."<sup>1</sup> We shove out down the river about noon. Sholl, Hurst,  
<sup>2</sup> Menn & I have a game at cards. Take dinner in cabin. Play some more  
 cards. Have a heavy shower. Pass Baton Rouge about two o'clock. It  
 is a small looking Capitol for so wealthy a state.<sup>3</sup> The two most  
 prominent objects are the Insane Asylum and the Ruins of the State  
 House.<sup>4</sup> Our boat does not land. We boys [officers] make the wine  
 suffer. At night we play some more at cards. Sing awhile. This is the  
 wealthiest country I have ever travelled through. On either side of the  
 river, it is almost one continuous line of the finest plantations, with  
 here & there a little town.<sup>5</sup> Pass Plaquemine in the afternoon. Retire  
 about two o'clock. Forenoon very hot. Afternoon showery & cooler.

Sunday, August 16:

Awake about sunrise to find our boat, at the Wharf of Carrollton,  
 which is of the suburbs of the City of New Orleans. Upon going out I see

---

<sup>1</sup> Since Davison was home on leave, Hamilton assumed the title and privilege of "quartermaster" since he had been performing the duties.

<sup>2</sup> Tom Hurst of Carthage was the First Lieutenant of Company B, 118th Illinois Infantry. Lewis W. Menn of Quincy was the First Lieutenant of Company D, 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 295, 300.

<sup>3</sup> Baton Rouge fell into Union hands initially in late April, 1862 following the fall of New Orleans. John D. Winters, The Civil War in Louisiana (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963), p. 103.

<sup>4</sup> For an account of the burning of the Capitol building and the location of the insane asylum, see: Ibid., pp. 115, 123, 167.

<sup>5</sup> Benjamin McIntyre traveled the same route as Hamilton on the thirteenth of August. He commented on the richness of the quality of the plantations as well. Nannie M. Tilley, Federals on the Frontier: The Diary of Benjamin F. McIntyre, 1862-1864 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1963), pp. 205-06.

for the first time in my life, a ship; there are several lying at the wharf. Take breakfast on the boat; having first taken some good Brandy. Alex [Sholl] & I go up in town & get something good to drink. We move our things off the boat. Our teams arrived here last night per another boat. The barge upon which they were first loaded broke in two, near Natchez, & part of it sunk; one of our wagons was lost, & part of two others, which render them useless. Sholl, Boude, Reece, Marsh and I meet at the saloon; we try to get dinner; they are full; go to another beer garden, they are overrun. We return to the first place; if we will wait, they will try for us. We walk through the adjoining Garden. It [is] one of the most beautiful places, I ever saw. There are beautiful fountains throwing their sparkling waters on high; here almost every description of flowers blooming. Lemons, Oranges, Bananas & c. hanging in sweet luxuriance from their native boughs. The large "Century" plant is an especial curiosity to me. Palmettoes, Magnolias & the like amidst the myriad variety have ceased to attract our notice.<sup>1</sup> At last our Meal is announced and we find it excellent; with a charge of \$1 each. Go to Genl Herrons<sup>2</sup> Head Qrs to see if we can draw provisions. Return to the wharf. Only 3 of our teams fit for use. About dark we start out to

---

<sup>1</sup>For an additional description of the beauty of Carrollton, see: Tilley, Federals on the Frontier, pp. 206-07. For a discussion of Carrollton as an Union Army garrison, see: Winters, Louisiana in the Civil War, p. 137.

<sup>2</sup>Major General Francis Joy Herron commanded the Second Division, Thirteenth Army Corps during the transfer to the Department of the Gulf. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, pp. 397-98.

camp; about 3/4 mile from the river on Shell-road. A pretty place. One of the wagons upsets; have considerable trouble with it. About 9 or 10 o'clock we get our tent pitched; & without a blanket or anything to cover me, tired out & hungry & turn in for some rest & sleep. Forenoon very hot. PM cloudy, evening appearance of rain.

Monday, August 17:

Set the teams to hauling out Camp Equipage and stores. Feel bad. Go into town & get my breakfast. Return to camp. Go up to [First] Divsn Head Qrs to see about Rations; cannot draw yet. Send Sam [Williams] to Genl Herron's to report the fact. Receive various & contradictory orders from Cols Lindsey<sup>1</sup> and Keigwin, concerning the matter. But at last am ordered to draw from Lt. Parks, A.C.S. of Divnsn.<sup>2</sup> But he has not yet got the provisions cannot draw until tomorrow. Have much to attend to. Draw & issue some wood. Get my tent & pitch it in place. Sam [Williams] unwell & I feel pretty bad. Weather showery & cool all day. Rains at night.

Tuesday, August 18:

Go up to see if I can draw rations; cannot as, the commissary has not yet drawn them. Write a letter to Mary [Hamilton]. Go to town for a coffin for Co. I.<sup>3</sup> Write a letter to Capt Davison. Go up & draw five

---

<sup>1</sup>Colonel Daniel W. Lindsey commanded the consolidated Third and Fourth Brigades of the First Division, Thirteenth Army Corps. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 1, 709.

<sup>2</sup>Lieutenant Parks was in charge of the division's commissary departments. Research was unable to identify Lieutenant Parks further.

<sup>3</sup>Hamilton acquired the coffin for Sergeant Jacob M. C. Robertson who died on August 17. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol, 6,

days rations, and issue them immediately. Have all the work to do myself. Get pretty wet, as it is showery most of the day.

Wednesday, August 19:

Go to town & draw a coffin for Co. D.<sup>1</sup> Draw some forage & wood. Am pretty busy all day attending to the business. Sam [Williams] sick yet. Go to Post Bakery & draw bread & issue it to Regiment.<sup>2</sup> Day wet, cold & rainy; find my overcoat pretty comfortable.

Thursday, August 20:

Take a ride down town. A board of survey is called & it condemns, a part of the meat I issued the last time.<sup>3</sup> I go to Commissary to see if I can Draw rations. Write a letter to Will Callon.<sup>4</sup> After noon, go to the Depot & take the cars for New Orleans.<sup>5</sup> It is one

---

309. Surgeon Reece of the 118th reported 145 new cases of sickness, no battle deaths, four deaths from sickness, and three deaths in hospitals "away from the Regiment." The regiment's strength was listed as 559. Reece, Letterbook.

<sup>1</sup>This coffin was designated for Henry Konsteiner of Quincy who had died on the eighteenth. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 301.

<sup>2</sup>At Carrollton the regiment did not have to bake its own bread. The post provided that facility.

<sup>3</sup>The Commissary Department purchased meat "in bulk, subject to inspection" and transported it to the field. In these particular cases, the meat was condemned so that settlement could be made with the contractor. Risch, Quartermaster Support of the Army, p. 384.

<sup>4</sup>Will Callon of Lincoln, Illinois was first lieutenant, Company H, Fourth Illinois Cavalry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 7, 621.

<sup>5</sup>The New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad ran between Carrollton and New Orleans with trains arriving and departing on the hour. Tilley, Federals on the Frontier, p. 206.

continuous City all the way. Getting out of the Cars at the Depot, I look for Alex Sholl, who agreed to meet me there; but do not find him. I walk up into the city. Stepping into a saloon I order a "Catawba Cobbler," & just then, to my surprise, Bob Huston enters: glad to see him. We drink together. Walk about the city. On Canal Street we stand before the large, life like & size & bronze statue of Henry Clay; it is a magnificent piece of workmanship; mounted upon a pedestal some six feet in Heighth. From here we go to Jackson Square; which is one of the most splendid places I ever saw. The large life size statue of the "Immortal Hickory" [Andrew Jackson] in full uniform seated upon his proud steed, mounted upon a pedestal about 8 ft high, is a fitting memorial to perpetuate the Memory of this great & good man. Upon either side of the pedestal, is that, well nigh holy inscription; "The Union Must & shall be preserved."<sup>1</sup> Then we proceed to the pier; from which we have a view of Algiers,<sup>2</sup> (across the river) & the numberless ships that lie so gracefully upon the bosom of the "Mighty father of Waters." With pennons flying, there lie a French Man-of-war, & an English gun-ship. We return to Canal Street where I take the street-car for the Depot; just in time for the cars. Reach Carrolton Depot, about 7 o'clock. [P.M.]

---

<sup>1</sup>The bronze equestrian statue of Jackson was sculptured in 1856 by Clark Mills. General Ben Butler had the inscription carved in the statue's base, just as Hamilton recorded it. The inscription was from Jackson's toast given at the Jefferson Day Dinner in 1830. Hicks quotes Jackson as saying, "Our Federal Union - - it must be preserved." John D. Hicks, The Federal Union (Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1957), p. 380. For another soldier's description of Jackson square, see: Tilley, Federals on the Frontier, p. 212.

<sup>2</sup>Algiers was a small rail center directly across the river from New Orleans.

Walk out to camp. My feet are so sore that I can scarcely stand. I have at last seen the great "Crescent City;" little did I think to have been here, when I left home. Have to make out a Requisition for the Shelter tents required by the Regt, & take it to Brig QM. Go to bed about 10. Day warm.

Friday, August 21:

After breakfast take a ride down to town. Go to the Commissary to see if I can Draw; cannot until afternoon. After dinner take a detail & go draw rations, for five days. Have to do the issuing alone. Nat Kendal<sup>1</sup> is detailed at Genl Banks Head Qrs. Receiver a letter from Mary [Hamilton], of date July 5 & 12th, enclosing one from Tom Cozad.<sup>2</sup> Very glad to hear from them; but the news from home is far from pleasing. The course of father [Artois Hamilton] and Will [Hamilton] grieves me. Why, oh why do they not embrace the cause of the Union heartily.<sup>3</sup> Weather hot.

Saturday, August 22:

Am out pretty early. Go to Dutch Beer Garden (Mrs. Schroeders), Strong & I, & get our breakfasts. The troops all turn out on Grand

---

<sup>1</sup>Nathaniel Kendall of Warsaw was a private in Company E, 118th Illinois. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General General, Vol. 6, 302.

<sup>2</sup>Tom Cozad of Oaklawn, Oregon frequently corresponded with Hamilton. Hamilton, Diary, July 4 - September 8, 1863, Letterlist.

<sup>3</sup>Elisha's father Artois and his brother William were peace Democrats. See the Carthage Republican, May 24, 1860, for an account of Artois Hamilton's speech to the County Democratic Committee asking for passage of a resolution supporting the Charleston Convention and its candidates.

Review, under Genl Banks.<sup>1</sup> I do not go down. Go to town to find our Division Ord' Officer; but cannot. Am ordered to report at Commissary immediately after dinner, to draw beef. Send Pollock<sup>2</sup> & some of the teamsters to the City to get 3 new wagons & c. which Paddock is to deliver to them. Afternoon, go to Commissary for beef; they send me to the Corral; the butchers say it is too hot, they will not butcher for me [and] to come back in two hours. There is a Mistake in my order; go to Commissary & have it corrected. Take a team and go down to Bakery for bread; they have none ready; leave the team & detail there, to get it. Return to camp. Go to see about beef again; they have not commenced killing yet. Wait an hour or so, & return to find the butchers drunk, & the beef all gone (but 3 poor little things). Go to the Commissary & report the facts. The Sergeant says I can get it tomorrow. Go down to the Bakery & draw 1½ days rations of bread, & issue it to the Regt. Sam [Williams] & I go down to Mrs. Schroeders [Dutch Beer Garden]<sup>3</sup> & get supper. Strong went to New Orleans this afternoon; he return about 10 o'clock. Day clear & hot; evening clear, bright, breezy. Moonlight.

Sunday, August 23:

Fee quite unwell this morning, have high fever, am afraid I will

---

<sup>1</sup>Major General Nathaniel Banks, ex-Congressman and ex-Governor of Massachusetts, had replaced General Ben Butler in December of 1862 as commander of the Department of the Gulf. Banks, however, lacked the tactical knowledge of Grant, but, like McClernand, was well liked by the men of his command. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 42.

<sup>2</sup>James R. Pollock was a wagoner in Company G, 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 306.

<sup>3</sup>Investigation has been unable to identify Mrs. Schroeder.

have a severe spell.<sup>1</sup> Lie in bed most all day. Nothing of importance transpires today. About night a heavy wind storm comes up. After my fever goes down I suffer very severely from the ague pains. It rains quite hard for a time. Day variable.

Monday, August 24:

Spent most miserable night, hardly slept at all I suffered to severely with pains. Lie in my tent most all of the day. Nothing unusual today. Weather variable.

Tuesday, August 25:

Rested very little last night; was so nervous from the effects of the Quinine I had taken. But am feeling considerably better this morning. Receive a letter from Fred Cahill; very glad to hear from him. Afternoon commenced a letter to Sue Summerville. Sam [Williams] draws six days provisions, & issues three. Capt. Noyes<sup>2</sup> has taken charge of our Division Commissary; Bob Huston is staying with him. Bob calls to see me. Write some at night. Weather clear & warm.

Wednesday, August 26:

Am up pretty early. Feel pretty dull, not having rested very well. Write a letter to Mary [Hamilton]. Lt. Paddock is relieved as

---

<sup>1</sup>He was suffering from what he referred to as "ague," commonly called malaria. His symptoms were intermittent high fever and cramps. Malarial fever was treated mainly with quinine in dosage as large as ten grains. This sickness was quite common in the Union Army, slightly over fifty per cent of all soldiers in the army suffered from its chills and fever. Adams, Doctors in Blue, p. 227.

<sup>2</sup>Investigation was unable to identify Captain Noyes beyond the information in Hamilton's diary entry.

Brigade Quartermaster by Capt. Moffitt of 120th Ohio.<sup>1</sup> Receive an order to put in Requisition for clothing; do so. Also an order to state what parts of wagons & harness I need, which I do. Work some on the report. Then go draw Bread. Alex [Sholl] and I go to Commissary & get a canteen of whiskey. Strong & I go to town to get some supper; have hard work but at last find a dirty little hole, where we meet Dr. Boude and Nichols.<sup>2</sup> Return to camp. Alex [Sholl], Lewis Menn and Tom [Hurst] have hired a cab and want me to go to New Orleans with them. I put on a suit of Alex's Military, & we seat ourselves in the cab for a drive by shell road.<sup>3</sup> We cross the Canal, the first real one I ever saw. The Marine Hospital is most a splendid building judging it my moonlight. [Four lines crossed out.] Go to a saloon take each a dozen fried oysters. Starting out again we meet Tom [Hurst] on the street. [The next three and one half lines were crossed out and unreadable.] hire a cab and start for camp, where we arrive about 2 o'clock [A.M.] Take a drink & go to bed having had a pretty good trip, [The next line was crossed out.] Day hot and clear. Night lovely, as clear and balmy as one could wish.

Friday, August 28:

Major [McClaughry] leaves for home, on sick leave absence, I send by him a letter to Mary [Hamilton], and Sue Summerville. He is looking

---

<sup>1</sup>Investigation was unable to identify Captain Moffitt any further than Hamilton's diary entry.

<sup>2</sup>Elmer Nichols of Aurora was the assistant surgeon of the 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 292.

<sup>3</sup>At this time Alex Sholl was the Captain of Company B. If Hamilton wore a Captain's uniform, he would be in violation of Military law.

very poorly indeed. Receive some clothing and issue it to the Regiment. Receive an order to go to New Orleans, in the morning with mules, wagons & harness for repair. Not much going on in camp. Weather clear and warm. Night beautiful. In the Era<sup>1</sup> of this afternoon, appears among the arrivals at the St Charles Hotel. The names of Maj E. B. Hamilton, Capt Alex Sholl, Adjut Hurst & Lt Louis Menn, which Alex [Sholl] registered there last night, in fun. The boys gave me the title of Maj-- [one line crossed out] Commence a letter to Mollie Nieder.

Saturday, August 29:

Am up early, see that the teams are ready, & report to Brigade Head Qrs. We all drive to the river & there load up the parts then start for the city. Find the blacksmith shops at last, & stop. I go to a Market House & get my dinner. Return to the shop & find that cannot get our wagons & harness fixed & only a few mules shod. Ride about the city a while, & return to Camp. Finish my letter to Mollie Nieders. Dress up. Sam Williams, Bob Huston & I walk to the Depot & take the Cars to the City. At St Charles Hotel meet Alex Sholl & Captain Evans as per agreement. We go to saloon & take some oysters. In the evening start out on a tramp [Three lines crossed out] Go down to Old Basin to a Masked Ball, but it is not opened. Return to the city. [Two lines crossed out] Go to the St. Charles. Find Sam [Williams] there, we go take a dozen Fried oysters. Hire a Cab & start for Camp, where we arrive about one o'clock, having a very pleasant ride. Day clear and warm. So beautifully bright moonlight night as one could wish.

---

<sup>1</sup>The Era was a New Orleans newspaper.

Sunday, August 30:

Am up in pretty good season. Send the boys to the City to have the mules shod & wagons fixed. Write some on the reports. Lie about camp most of the day. Sam [Williams] and I take a ride. At night commence a letter to Fred Cahill.<sup>1</sup> Bob Huston & another fellow come in; & they, with Sam [Williams] & I go to a neighboring beer shop, & they soak the beer, while I drink nearly a bottle of Claret wine. Go to bed about ten. Weather clear & warm night beautifully pleasant. Mailed my letter to Mollie Nieder.

Monday, August 31:

Out pretty early. Have little or no breakfast. Ride to river & water my horse. Finish & mail my letter to Fred Cahill. Work part of the forenoon on the Reports. Ride down to town, & leave my shoes to be mended. The Regiment musters for pay. Go and draw 1 days rations bread & issue it to the Regt. Sam [Williams] Draws rations for seven days. I go up to the Commissary & get a Canteen of whiskey. Capt. Rosenbrook, Lieuts Robinson & Dillon<sup>2</sup> Returned this morning from home on [steamer] "Leaves." Have bread & milk for supper. Ride to the river to water.

---

<sup>1</sup>Fred Cahill was a member of Company D, Sixteenth Illinois Infantry. Cahill was in the same regiment as John Hamilton and William Summerville. Hamilton referred to Cahill as Fred but listed him in his letter list (which appeared at the end of each diary volume) as J. B. Cahill. The Report of the Adjutant General listed Cahill as James B. Hamilton, Diary, December 31, 1861. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 2, 13.

<sup>2</sup>Captain John Rosenbrook, Lieutenant Abram Robinson and Lieutenant Jephtha Dillion had received leaves following the return of the regiment to Vicksburg in late July. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 298,312.

Retire pretty early. Weather warm and clear. Pleasant night.

Tuesday, September 1, 1863:

Go down to town & get our breakfasts. Work some on the report - can do but little, for I cannot get the papers from Brigade Quarter Master. Nothing unusual in camp to day. I am kept so busy I hardly know what to do. Weather Hot.

Wednesday, September 2:

Strong & I go to town to get our breakfasts. Have to draw some clothing & issue it. Work most of the time I can get from other business, on the Reports. I am nearly run to death for I have nobody, worth a cuss to help me. Weather hot. Sam [Williams] quite sick.

Thursday, September 3:

Am out early. Go to our boarding house & get breakfast. Ride down to the river to water. Go to Genl Washburn's Head Qrs, (see the old Genl.)<sup>1</sup> to find Capt During. I find [him] at his boarding house. Get him to sign his requisitions for August. Return to camp. Work on the Reports. Draw forage. Gillman<sup>2</sup> helps me a little on the Reports. At night ride down to water. Sam [Williams] sick. Finish the Reports

---

<sup>1</sup> Major General Cadwallader Washburn, commander of the Thirteenth Corps, was only forty-five in 1863. Washburn's public career overshadowed his military career. One of three brothers who served in Congress, Washburn was a post-war Governor of Wisconsin as well as a school teacher, surveyor, lawyer and banker at various periods in his life. Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964), pp. 542-43. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 892.

<sup>2</sup> Sergeant Hiram H. Gillman of Montebello was a sergeant of Company C, 118th Illinois Infantry. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 298.

ready for mailing. Weather very hot.

Friday, September 4:

Mail our Monthly Report at Head Qrs Brigade. Go up to Commissary to see if I can draw ten days rations as ordered; they have not it on hand. Ride down to Post Q.M, to see if I can turn over some hats & c.<sup>1</sup> Go down to where our (13th) Army Corps & artillery is formed for review. There are about 20,000 troops formed in long lines, with Cavalry. It is one of the grandest sights I ever saw. At length, Genls Grant & Banks & Staffs approach, as the bands play some spirited national air. Get a good sight at both of them. As they pass along the lines, the boys give rousing cheers for "Grant."<sup>2</sup> Return to camp. After dinner go to the Commissary. Leave there on memorandum receipt; one Barrel salt Beef, 5 barrels flour, 9 barrels Hd bread, 80 lbs sugar, 5 lobs canles, 50 lbs salt, 75 lbs rice, 75 lbs hominy, 24 lbs ground coffee. Load up 3 wagons, and start them, in charge of Strong, to Algiers, to cross the river. Sam [Williams] quite sick. Settle up with our boarding house, paying in

---

<sup>1</sup> During the time the 118th was stationed at Carrollton, Generals Halleck, Grant, and Banks discussed the fate of the Thirteenth Corps. Grant and Banks suggested a combined movement against the Confederate forces at Mobile and were rejected. Halleck based his decision of the overall military and political posture of the nation. He felt the presence of French troops in Mexico necessitated a movement into Texas which he directed Banks to execute. Banks inturn selected General William Buel Franklin to command the main thrust at Sabine City, Texas. Following the capture of that city, Franklin was directed to move upon Galveston. A second force was to threaten Houston and Galveston via Berwick Bay and Vermillionville. The 118th was to be part of the second force. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 1, 672-74, 682-83. Grant, Memoirs, p. 303. Winter, Louisiana in the Civil War, p. 294.

<sup>2</sup> Grant, who had been ordered to assist Banks, came to New Orleans early in September to aid in the planning of the proposed Texas movement. Winters, Louisiana in the Civil War, p. 295. For another soldiers account of the review of the Thirteenth Corps and favorable reaction to the sight of Grant, see: Tilley, Federals on the Frontier, pp. 218-219.

commissaries.<sup>1</sup> Fix up, Capt. Brown, Lts. Sleater, Rohrbough, Moore,<sup>2</sup> & others return from home. I wish Capt. Davison & Homer [Fuller] had done the same.<sup>3</sup> Go to the Depot & take the car for the City. There find Alex Sholl, Louis Menn, Tom Hurst, & they with Capt. Brown & Sleater & I go up in town. I stop & get some oysters. [Two and one half lines crossed out and unreadable.] Capt. Brown as "tight as a brick." A little after twelve we hire a cab & start for camp, where we arrive between one & two o'clock [A. M.] Have a great time with Brown. Tom Hurst received, from home, per Sleater, a uniform with Captains shoulder straps on. Rather fast, I think.<sup>4</sup> Roll into bed. Weather hot. Night pleasant.

Saturday, September 5:

Pretty sleepy this morning from last nights dissipation. Do some writing. After dinner receive orders to turn over what mules we could not use; as I had 10 without harness & minus one wagon. I take them & teamsters, & go down to [Thirteenth] Corps Head Qrs & turn them over in

---

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton paid his bill in some form of script.

<sup>2</sup>Captain William J. Brown and Second Lieutenant Huddleston Sleater of Company D, and Lieutenant Calendar Rohrbough and Second Lieutenant Levi Moore of Company H were officers of the 118th Illinois. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 300, 307.

<sup>3</sup>Davison and Fuller were still on leave; thus, Hamilton was responsible for the major share of the regimental quartermaster duties.

<sup>4</sup>At the time of this incident, Tom Hurst was first Lieutenant in Company B. He received a promotion to captain November 14, 1863. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 295.

<sup>1</sup>corrall, to be receipted for by Capt Moffitt, Brig QM. Capt Moffitt orders me to turn over to Lt O S Plummer, QM 69th Ind Vols, my extra wagon, for this expedition.<sup>2</sup> I do so. Are ordered to move immediately on board Steamboat "Atlantic." I have the teams hitched up & loaded. Am alone as Sam [Williams] is sick & Strong was today detailed in Post Commissary.<sup>3</sup> Have to leave all camp equipage, & part of forage. Have only four teams.<sup>4</sup> Go to the boat & Report to Capt Moffitt, who says the teams will have to go by shell road to New Orleans. Sam [Williams] is so sick I have to [go] back to camp with him. Cannot find the teams anywhere. Start for the city; [New Orleans] go in with the 69th Ind. Find the teams on the levee, water & feed my horse. Have a piece of bread & corned beef for supper. About 11 or 12 o'clock, lie down on a doorstep for a nap, having only my rubber [blanket] & overcoat for a bed. Mosquitoes murderous. AM hot. Showers PM Night cool.

Sunday, September 6:

Rise from my limestone bed about sun-up. Get on my horse & ride up in the city & get an oyster stew & coffee for breakfast; look around awhile, & return to the teams. No chance to cross yet. Ride up to the

---

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton does not mean he turned over his spare teamsters.

<sup>2</sup>See supra, n. 1, p. 68.

<sup>3</sup>No one helped Hamilton from the regimental quartermaster staff. He supervised the loading that was done by company wagoner's.

<sup>4</sup>The minimum compliment was six wagons per regiment. Some regiments, however, had as many as ten. Hamilton did not indicate the number of wagons the 118th Illinois had assigned. For a general discussion of the use of regimental wagons, see: Risch, Quartermaster Support of the Army, pp. 420-26.

Market House, Jackson Square, & the Cathedral. The market is one vast swarm of human beings, of every age & age & description, moving hither and thither, engaged in most all trading. Buy some undershirts. Meet Bob Huston & others & we take "something to drink." Get my teams across the river, to Algiers, about 10 o'clock, & drive to the Depot, where I find the Regt. Report to Capt Moffitt. Get two wagons on train then loading. More Cars are run in, & I get the others on. Go back in town [Algiers] & get some dinner. Return to the Depot, attend to loading the mules on the Cars. The Brig QM clerk, Brig Wagon Master & I go up in town & get "something to take" & some oysters. Return to the Depot; the train is loaded and ready to start; we have one [railroad car] opened & crowd our horses into a car with mules, and pile on. This morning we took our leave of New Orleans & now we take our farewell of Algiers; which is a place low & flat, of some 6 or 8000 inhabitants, with nothing of special importance. About 3 o'clock we move off on the cars, having an enormous train, which it takes the old Locomotive about half an hour to get it under headway. After a long ride & passing some twelve stations, we reach Bayou Boeuf, a distance of 73 miles, about one o'clock.<sup>1</sup> Get my horse off, & superintend unloading mules and harness, which is a most unpleasant job. Watch the harness awhile, tell the boys to take care of their mules, when, with overcoat on and without blankets, I lie down on a pike of harness, about 3 o'clock, and am soon asleep. Weather warm.

---

<sup>1</sup>See the map on page 73 for the location of Bayou Boeuf.

Monday, September 7:

Awake out of my refeshing snooze, a little before sun-up. Find our wagon blocked in with the Division wagons. Have a little coffee, Bread and Pickled Pork for Breakfast. Ride up the bayou to the Regt; find them, scattered along the bayou. Return and get the wagons & take them to the Regt. Return & haul up the Commissaries. Alex [Sholl] has put up my tent, we two messing together. This is the most miserable country I have ever seen; but one vast swamp from here to New Orleans. Issue 3 days rations to the companies. Report the number of Animals & amt [amount] of forage onhand, to Brig. Q M[.] Sing some at night. Weather clear and very sultry. Wrote & sent a letter to Bill [Hamilton] today. Have Gillman detailed to help me.

Tuesday, September 8:

Am up early. Go to Brigade HD Qrs to see if I can Draw some wood. Capt Moffitt tells me to report in half an hour with two teams. Get the teams out & send Gillman with them. Write up my diary. Issue the wood, two cords. Bob Huston comes up in the Afternoon, to borrow some rations;<sup>1</sup> let him have 1 barrel flour, 1 box hard Bread, 21 lbs tongues, 14 lbs Beef, 15 lbs rice, 1½ lbs Tea. After supper Alex [Sholl] & I ride down to Divsn Commissary to get some whiskey; they have none opened. Passing through the 90th N.Y. Regt, hear their Band, which is one of the finest I ever heard. See John A. Ballard on the road & chat a few minutes. At night feel quite bad, the boys singing & raising "Ned"

---

<sup>1</sup>Bob Huston had been assigned to the division commissary. There was no indication why he borrowed supplies from Hamilton. See supra, pp. 63-64.



generally. Weather hot as blazes, for continuance of diary, see new one.<sup>1</sup>

Friday, January 1, 1864:<sup>2</sup>

Happy New Year; Happy New Year, to all. Another year has passed

---

<sup>1</sup>This study was unable to follow Hamilton's directions to "see new one." The next volume of his diary has been lost.

General Franklin's attempt to gain a foothold in Texas failed. The heroic action of forty raw confederate militia manning the guns of the city's fort forced the expedition to retreat. Franklin returned with his command to take personal charge of the second expedition.

On September 16 the 118th Illinois moved to Brashear City on Berwick Bay and on October 3 began to march up Teche Bayou as part of Franklin's second attempt to plant the flag on Texas soil. On the sixth the regiment was ordered back to Algiers to be mounted. (The regiment had been dismounted before they left Vicksburg.) By October 14 the 118th had rejoined the main force near Vermillionville and on the following day Franklin's command reached Carrion Crow Bayou. During the regiment's five day stay in Carrion Crow Bayou, they were engaged in scouting and skirmishing. On the twenty-first of October the expedition reached Opelousas and remained until the end of the month. Franklin decided against continuing the march across western Louisiana and began to withdraw in two columns.

By the third of November the main force was camped at Carrion Crow Bayou. The expedition's wagon train was four miles away at Grand Couteau guarded by a brigade of the Thirteenth Corps and Colonel Fonda's 500 man cavalry force. At noon the detachment at Grand Couteau was attacked by a large Confederate force of cavalry and infantry. The Union camp was over-run. The federal force quickly regrouped and regained their lost ground.

Franklin's retreat continued through Vermillionville and arrived at New Iberia on the seventeenth of November. The 118th Illinois remained at New Iberia as part of General A. L. Lee's Cavalry Division, Nineteenth Army Corps, until middle December when the unit was ordered to Port Hudson, Louisiana. The Illinois Regiment arrived at Donaldsonville on December 24 to await transportation up river. January 1, 1864 the 118th was still at Donaldsonville. For a detailed discussion of this period of the 118th Illinois enlistment, see: Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 1, 258, 278-79, 288, 304, 336, 357-58, 360, 369, 372-73, 828. Winter, Louisiana in the Civil War, pp. 295-300. Hamilton, "History," pp. 6-7. Fonda, "History," pp. 18-19. Thomas Logan, "History of the 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry," Field and Staff Book, 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Illinois State Archives, Civil War Collection. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 316.

<sup>2</sup>The 118th Illinois arrived at Donaldsonville, Louisiana on December 24. Now that the Mississippi ran "unvexed to the sea," the

away for ever, and a new one is upon us. What joy, what sorrow may it not bring. May it expiration find us in the full enjoyment of health & happyness, and whitness the supression of this cruel cussed rebellion and restoration of the Union and the full enjoyment of an honorable and lasting peace. May the enemies of our beloved country be driven to full submission to the old "Stars and Stripes." May we each be enabled to fullfill the good resolves, that when the year has passed away, we may look back over all our thoughts and actions without a single regret. Rise about 8 o'clock. Very cold the ground is frozen hard, & ice that will bare a mans pretty enough, I should judge for the "sunny South" spend most of the day about camp trying to keep warm; but it is an impossibility. Many of the men are on a big drunk.<sup>1</sup> Hurst & I send some whiskey around to Madame Morsiui's<sup>2</sup> to have some Egg Nog make for us tonight. Oh how I should like to be at home today, to call upon my old friends, what pleasure would it be! But how vain the wish, hundreds of miles separate us, so I must make the best of it. How the turkeys had to suffer last night; Co. G making a raid into the country & capturing fourteen of them & 60 chickens. When I woke this morning, a large

---

Union commanders had to control the inland waterway. Sufficient troops were encamped to maintain and repair telegraph lines and keep continual pressure on the Confederate forces in the area. Walker's Texas Division operated freely at Morganza, Louisiana, shelling Union transportation on the river. Protection was needed. Union cavalry and artillery had to be maintained at all the major defensible points along the river. Fonda, "History," pp. 26-27. Winter, The Civil War in Louisiana, p. 299.

<sup>1</sup>For a brief discussion of the problem of drunkenness in the Union army, see: Shannon, Organization of Union Army, pp. 219-20, 227. Wiley, The Life of Billy Yank, pp. 252-53.

<sup>2</sup>Investigation was unable to identify Madame Morsiui.

muscovy Duck stood upon my pillow, looking as sober & sedate as a country "Justice of the Peace." He was captured by our little darkie, (General Taylor) because, as he said, "it on our land."<sup>1</sup> Suffice to say we dissected it for dinner. In the evening Tom Hurst & I having duelly shirted & blacked our brogans, we sauntered around to Madame Morsiui's, where we meet, several others, principally Dutch officers & men (fine fellows) belonging to 1st Indiana Battery. We have a fine supper & after which some cigars. Song, mirth and laughter. Having had "quantum suffi" at we take our leave of the ladies about 10 o'clock. Walk down to the levee to see if we can get some oysters, but the shops is closed. Return to Tom's [Hurst] hut and set by the fire, chatting over happy hours long passed. Go to my comfortless bed about 11. Weather very cold and freezing very hard. More than last night. This passed the commencement of the new Year: May it end more pleasantly!

Saturday, January 2:

We get up pretty early. Has cleared off, very cold. Froze the mud solid last night. After breakfast Capt. Davison<sup>2</sup> & I walked down to the river to see if the boat which lies there, is for us. It is. We return to camp. I receive 3 letters, one from Bob Huston, one from Mary [Hamilton], and one from Sue Summerville. Very glad indeed to get them especially the latter two. Susie has written me one excellent letter.

---

<sup>1</sup>For additional accounts of Negro Servants of Union Officers, see: Wiley, Billy Yank, p. 110. Hicken, Illinois in the Civil War, p. 134. Hamilton recounted "jayhawking" activities of another of his Negro servants in, Hamilton, "History," p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Captain Davison had returned to the regiment.

She is a fine woman. How I wish I could spend a few hours with her, as of old. We commence packing up our things. About noon we move down to the river, & go on board the "Laurel Hill" a fine transport. One company of the 3rd Ill Cavly., Brigade Head Quarters,<sup>1</sup> the Surgeon & ours Store,<sup>2</sup> is all that goes. They cannot carry more; so the two Squadrons of our regiment which had been ordered down, returned to camp. We shove off for Port Hudson about two o'clock. Take dinner on the boat. It is so cool outside that we dispose of our selves in the cabin. I take a nap. Have rather a thin supper. After which Captain Davison & Colonel Fonda, play Euchre against Knox Boude and I. After awhile the Colonel resigns his seat to a officer of the boat. Quite about ten. Homer [Fuller] & I take a room. Weather clear and Cold. Boat making fairly good headway.

Sunday, January 3:

Slept very poorly last night had too soft & warm bed I guess, was very restless. Get up quite early. The boat is landed at Port Hudson.<sup>3</sup> Go below, we commence unloading our waggons. The commissary propose that we shall not unload accross his warf boat; but we pay little attention to him & keep to work.<sup>4</sup> After we get disembarked the boat starts

---

<sup>1</sup>The 118th Illinois and the Third Illinois formed the Second Brigade of the Cavalry Division of the Nineteenth Army Corps, Department of the Gulf. Colonel Fonda commanded the brigade. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 2, 196.

<sup>2</sup>Hamilton made references to commissary and quartermaster supplies. Hamilton accompanied this material on the Laural Hill's first trip to Port Hudson.

<sup>3</sup>For a description of Port Hudson, see: supra, n. 4, p. 52.

<sup>4</sup>Hamilton made reference to the officer in charge of the post commissary.

back after the Regt: Capt. D----- [Davison] goes back to her. Have a very bad hill to pull up. About noon we get ready & start out to camp. Go into camp outside last of the new breast works. It is a tolerably good place. I pick a pretty nice spot - unload our wagons & pitch our tents, & fix up generally. After the teams have fed send them down to haul up the Sutlers (Lionburger's) goods.<sup>1</sup> Spend most of the afternoon in fixing up. In our camp grounds are plenty of marks of the great contest here, in the shape of Cannon Balls shells and their fragments.<sup>2</sup> We go bed pretty early. It commences raining about night. A.M. clear, & somewhat moderated. P.M. cloudy. We have a new cook, a female of African decent.<sup>3</sup>

Monday, January 4:

Rained considerable last night and still continues. Oh! The "Sunny South" this does not look much like it. After dinner take four teams and go to the landing to draw Forage. The hill is so bad we can hardly pull anything up it. Draw 20 sacks of oats and six bails of Hay. It takes us nearly all the afternoon. Spend most of the evening at Dr. Reece's tent, He having a chimney (built of mud & very good sub-

---

<sup>1</sup>Sutlers held a "semi-official" position in the Union army. These relatives of the Yankee peddlers were allowed to travel with regiments and sold their wares without encumbering restrictions. References to Sutler Lionburger appear intermittently throughout Hamilton's diaries: usually after Hamilton being paid. For a discussion of sutlers, see: Shannon, The Organization of the Union Army, I, 253-255.

<sup>2</sup>For an account of the "great contest," see: Cunningham, Port Hudson Campaign, pp. 45-120, passim.

<sup>3</sup>Six companies of the 118th Illinois acquired the services of undercooks of African descent shortly after arriving at Port Hudson. Thomas Osborn and Randall Williams residents of Louisiana were mustered into Company B. Reece, Report of the Adjutant General, Vol. 6, 297.

stitute) It is so cold, wet & disagreeable that we cannot keep comfortable any where. Retire pretty early. Day rainy, & most uncomfortable. Homer [Fuller] & I work some on the Report.

Tuesday, January 5:

Sleep pretty late, it is so cold & disagreeable, that I hate to get up. The "Laural Hill" arrives during the night, with 6 companies of the Regiment; Having still left A.H.G.K. at Donaldsonville.<sup>1</sup> After breakfast Capt Davison makes his appearance, very glad of it. Homer [Fuller] and I write some, making out Requisitions for Decembers Report. Afternoon we commence building Mud Chimney, it is so cold we cannot write in the office without. But night overtakes us with it not half done. Go to Dr. Reece's tent & spend the evening. It commences sleeting & snowing a little after dark & still continues when I retire, about 9. Day wet & disagreeable.

Wednesday, January 6:

When I get up, about 7, find an inch & a half or more of sleet & snow on the ground, & everything frozen up tight. Rather a cold reception. This, that we received at this position of the far-famed "Sunny south." We send for some brick.<sup>2</sup> Homer [Fuller] draws rations, spend

---

<sup>1</sup>G. B. Halstead, Assistant Adjutant General at Port Hudson reported the arrival of six companies of the 118th Illinois on January 5, 1864. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 2, 27.

<sup>2</sup>Chimney building during the winter was a time of great frustration. Usually constructed of mud, sticks and stone, the craftsman who could construct a chimney that would "draw" well was in great demand and

most of the day sitting around fires, trying to keep warm, but I find it almost impossible to be ever any where near comfortable. In the afternoon saw some fellows out taking a sleigh ride;-rather cool and novel sight for this Latitude. A good sleigh would run fine today. It reminds me of home & the pretty girls that thereabouts dwell, with whom I have had so many sleighrides. Make Report of Transportation & c to brigade QM. Retire about 9. Weather cold and freezing.

Thursday, January 7:

Get up pretty early. After breakfast, Homer [Fuller] and I go to work, and finish our chimney, topping out with a barrel. It draws fineley. The Regiment pulls up and moves over to where the Masecusetts Cavalry, moved from. Spent that part of the day which I can keep comfortable in writing the report. This morning the remainder of the Regiment disembarked & came out to camp.<sup>1</sup> It is still very cold; The snow has melted very little today.

Friday, January 8:

Hail: Glorious day! Ever memorable for the triumph of American liberty over British oppression.<sup>2</sup> Write most of the day on Report.

---

usually was able to barter his services. For a further discussion of chimneys, see: Shannon, Organization of the Union Army, I, 207-08. Francis T. Miller, ed., The Photographic History of the Civil War, 10 vols., (New York: The Review of Reviews Co., 1913), VIII, 22-25.

<sup>1</sup> Adjutant Halstead reported the arrival of the remaining companies of the 118th Illinois, "making up the whole command of John G. Fonda Colonel Commanding brigade." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 2, 37.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton made reference to General Andrew Jackson's victory at New Orleans on January 8, 1815 during the War of 1812.

Homer [Fuller] & Strong, helping me but little as they have to draw forage & issue rations. Address a letter to the Adj. Genl of the Post, asking for Captain Davison the privilege of running our baking.<sup>1</sup> These infernal Yankee Commanders seem to want to exercise a perfect tyranny over all who come (unfortunately) under their control. I wish we could get away from this place. Retire early weather cold, snow not gone yet. Write a letter to Mary [Hamilton].

Saturday, January 9:

Do not get up very early, it is so cold. Spend the forenoon writing on the Report. After dinner go over to the Regt awhile. Receive a good long letter from my kind friend Mollie Nieder; very glad indeed to hear from her. She always writes such excellent, pithy letters. Mollie [Nieder] is a sweet girl. How I like to see her. Afternoon write some other Reports. Homer [Fuller] helps me a little. Mailed today my letter to sister Mary [Hamilton]. Dear girls I wish I could be with her to night! Spend the evening chatting & singing. Retire about 9. Weather somewhat moderated. Most of the snow melted.

Sunday, January 10:

Rise in time for breakfast and at the correct solutation of our cook. Spend the forenoon in writing a letter (of five large pages) to Sue Summerville. Bless her little soul! How I should like to be with

---

<sup>1</sup>In some instances regiments were allowed to bake their own bread. If the quartermaster and the baker were frugal, the regiment could realize a savings on their allowances and would receive the difference in money which would go into a fund administered by the men in the ranks. Shannon, Organization of the Union Army, I, 212-13. See, also: Tilley, Federals on the Frontier, p. 368.

her today. But under the unfortunate circumstances I shall have to do the next best, i.e. write to her. Enclose in the letter, a sprig Arbor from Genl Brags plantation on Bayou Lafounche;<sup>1</sup> also my Photograph. Write a letter to John [Hamilton]. Write letters to W P Callon, Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Nellie Cahill inclosing to each my photography.<sup>2</sup> Enclose my photograph in a envelope & direct it to Eunice Nourse Clinton, Ind, as from her "Forgotten friend.["]<sup>3</sup> Oh what a good girl she was; I wish so much to see her. Well I believed I wish to see all my lady friends; what will become of me if I have to stay in the army two years longer, without seeing them. I fear I will go mad or wild or something else. Write some at night. Have pretty well - six letters today. Retire at 9 o'clock. Day cloudy, rainy at night. Roads very muddy.

Monday, January 11:

It is so cold out and disagreeable that I dislike to quit my bed; but the breakfast call, is an affirmative one. Send to mail my letter to

---

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton visited General Bragg's plantation during the regiments march to Donaldsonville. He commented that he was "very sorry the older general was not at home. It was no very great plantation to brag of, but we managed to make ourselves comfortable." Hamilton, "History," p. 7. Warner indicated that Bragg was a Louisiana planter prior to the war. Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Gray, (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959), p. 30. Boatner, The Civil War Dictionary, p. 78.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Nellie Cahill were pre-war acquaintances in the Carthage area. Hamilton read law in the Carthage law office of John Scofield. Hamilton, Diary, January 7, 1861.

<sup>3</sup>Investigation has located no additional information regarding Eunice Nourse.

brother John [Hamilton], WP Callon, Mrs Scofield, Mrs Cahill, Sue Summerville and Eunice Nourse. Oh! that last name, it seems to bear a magic spell, which thrills my heart; recalling that lovely form that dark hair and dark sparkling expressive eyes, and those sweet happy hours, long passed away. In her case; may the old saying be fulfilled, "Fortuna favit bounni;" for she merits it. Send the team out foraging, I write some on the report during the day, can do but little as the receipts are not all in. Read part of the time. Some of the boys & I cut down a large oak for wood. The teams return a little after dark; not very well loaded; -- say the Rebels got after them. Day cloudy foggy and damp misting very muddy.

Tuesday, January 12:

Up tolerably early, still damp & cloudy. Appearance of rain. Strong, Homer [Fuller] and I, after packing up things, go over to the Camp to the Regiment, to build, a chimney before moving our hut. Go back to dinner; return to work at the chimney. Capt Davison attends to the hauling over the rest of our things. The Regt which has been out scouting returns, bringing with them some 8 or 10 rebels, captured.<sup>1</sup> Get our chimney finished. It is the best one in the line. Put our tent & fix up generally. Evening sit at the fire. Commences raining. Mud deep enough. Weather miserable.

Wednesday, January 13:

Rained considerable last night. Slept very uncomfortably on our

---

<sup>1</sup>Colonel Fonda had been on a scout in cooperation with forces from Baton Rouge. For Brigadier General G. L. Andrews report, see: Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 2, 62.

clap-board bed. Write some on the report today. Capt Davison and Strong off to see about forage. Oh! What a mud hole this is. I wish we could get out of it again. There is nothing to look at, but timber, mud, niggers and gun fortification; indeed not very pleasing objects.<sup>1</sup> Our tent is a perfect pig pen but we have some clap-boards to keep us out of the mud. Spread my bed upon these & retire early. Have felt very bad today, weather wet most & disagreeable.

Thursday, January 14:

Though my bed was anything but comfortable, and my rest broken; my dreams were most sweet. In the fancies of a wearied mind, my thought I was beside my friend Carrie [Leavenworth];<sup>2</sup> I held her in my fond embrace, whilst she imprinted upon my lips a kiss, whose sweetness was joy to my soul. Oh! that the dream were real! But alas, twas all a dream! I awoke to find myself shivering with cold, in my comfortless tent. Captain [Davison] goes out into the country with the team after lumber & c. During the forenoon I finished up our Monthly Report for

---

<sup>1</sup>Port Hudson was garrisoned by "eastern troops and Negro regiments" at the time of the arrival of the 118th Illinois. Ibid., Ser. I, Vol. XXXIV, Pt. 2, 19. Hamilton, "History," p. 7. It would be difficult to accurately assess Hamilton's feelings regarding the Negro. He praised the black soldiers for their fine marching and soldierly appearance in a diary entry and in another he condemned them for shooting a horse that had strayed in front of their position. On other occasions, Hamilton only laughed at white soldiers who wasted ammunition on moving brush. At best Hamilton can be considered a moderate in his day. See, Elisha Bentley Hamilton Diary, March 20-June 3, 1864, Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois, May 6, 1864.

<sup>2</sup>Carrie Leavenworth was a resident of the Macomb area. Pastor Leavenworth, his wife, and two daughters had been residents of Carthage at the time of Hamilton's enlistment. Hamilton, Diary, August 20, 1861.

December.<sup>1</sup> Read some. Homer [Fuller] writing on the Invoices for the Companies. Capt [Davison] returns. Afternoon help Homer [Fuller] issue rations to the Companies. At night Capt [Davison], Homer [Fuller] and Boude & I go to Capt Shaw's tent, beside which is a good tent floor, formally used by some one, & get the floor & put it in our tent. It does finely, & makes us much more comfortable. Write a letter to Molly Nieder. Retire about eleven day cloudy & cold. Partially clear & moon light at night. The sun did shine a little while today.

Friday, January 15:

Cloudy and foggy this morning as usual. This morning commence breaking out a Return of our receipts, Issues & c for year 1863. Quite an undertaking, but I guess I must & can do it.<sup>2</sup> Spend the most of the day reading or writing. Toward evening go with a wagon down to the landing to see Strong about issuing the Forage he is there drawing. At night read in a novel entitled "Masks & Faces." Go to bed about 10. Half of the day has been clear & pretty pleasant.

Saturday, January 16:

Rise pretty early. Had dreams of Mollie, rather pleasant. During the forenoon. Seal up & mail our Report for December. There!

---

<sup>1</sup>Hamilton's monthly quartermaster report was normally mailed at the end of the month for which it was designated. December's report was probably late because of the regiment's movement during December.

<sup>2</sup>The yearly abstract must account for all the quartermaster materials that had passed through Hamilton's hands during the year. Hamilton finished the annual report on January 22. He commented that "it shows a clean years record for us, we are short only three pair of infantry pants, pretty well done." Hamilton, Diary, January 22, 1864.

I am glad I have got the thing off my hands last. Also mail my letter to Mollie Nieder; & a letter of Captain Davisons to Bob Huston, including some Commisary accounts against Capt Hoyes. Write on our yearly abstracts. A mail comes; but there is nothing for me. This is too bad; but I suppose I must put up with it. Lt. Cummins Brigade QM, starts for New Orleans.<sup>1</sup> After stores for our brigade. Surly it is true, for we need them bad enough. The men having done this long without tents, or with only shelter tents. We boys sing some at night. Well, we have at last had one fair, pleasant day. Retire about 11

Sunday, January 17:

Sleepy this morning as usual, but the breakfast call, soon rouses me. Afterwards take a good bath & dress up. Homer [Fuller] and I take a walk down to the boat landing. See what there is of the town here; which consists of some half dozen old houses. At the landing find Strong & some of our Regt. drawing forage. Ride back on wagon. Afternoon a Mr. Mellere of (Warsaw now clerk on Steamer John Warner) & Mr. Edwards<sup>2</sup> (clerk on Iberville) called to see Capt [Davison] & Homer [Fuller]. After they leave I take a nap. Evening Knox Boude & I go to sutlers shop and get a cigar. Read some. Day clear and rather pleasant. Rain some of the evening.

Monday, January 18:

After a very good nights rest and sleep, and a variety of dreams,

---

<sup>1</sup>Lieutenant Cummins cannot be identified beyond Hamilton's diary entry.

<sup>2</sup>Investigation was unable to identify Mr. Mellere or Mr. Edwards beyond the information in Hamilton's diary entry.

I rouse sufficiently, & in time for breakfast. Spend the most of the day in making out papers, and copying the December Report into the Record. Homer [Fuller] is making our Invoices for the Officers for the Past year. Old Fonda had been inquiring around about, & is very mad over the letter in the Carthage Republican signed Jayhawk.<sup>1</sup> I suppose he will make it hot for me henceforth. There are a good many asking me

---

<sup>1</sup>The letter that upset Fonda appeared in The Carthage Republican on December 18, 1863. Although the above diary entry does not admit authorship, Hamilton's entry of March 7, 1864 mentioned that he received a "letter containing my letter cut from the Carthage Republican, written at Vermillion Bayou." A search of the Republican, of the dates indicated, yielded only the letter signed Jay-hawk. The structure and word usage are similar to Hamilton's diary entries. The article was titled "A Tribute of Respect to Yankee Generals." The author traced the 118th Illinois movements from Vicksburg to Carrollton and the part the regiment played in the "great Texas Expedition." The article was too lengthy to include the full text, however, a few samples will indicate why Colonel Fonda was upset. ". . . we succeeded in reaching Opelousas on the 21st [October] a distance of twenty five miles in seven days, and that over as good roads as one could wish. (Potomac style, you see.) . . . Instead of threshing out the rebels who were only a few miles to our front, we were protecting those in our midst, and furnishing a market for their corn, sweet potatoes, beef & c. Every miserable wretch who asked protection was given his free papers, together with a guard to enforce them . . . Although our rations were quite scanty, while droves of cattle swarmed on the prairies around, and large plantations abundantly stocked with sheep, hogs, turkey, geese, chicken, & c. lay invitingly within our sight . . . wells were guarded and we were forced to use water from the same mud-holes with the horses; . . . This is Yankee generalship. May heaven protect us, and our cause, while in such hands! The off scouring of the Potomac commands us Banks and Franklin, Ord and Washburne! Incomparable squad!! The names of the former have ever emblazoned the banner of -- retreat and defeat; while the latter unsurpassed and unsurpassable in -- brass and style would make splendid walking advertisements. Such leadership can only bring failure. Human life is too precious to be placed in such hands. But we who are mostly interested, have no hope or relief; for the weak vision of our grandmother of the War Department is two [sic.] fully eclipsed by the immortal Rosecrans, to ever reach the Department of the Gulf. Give us such leaders as McClernand or Osterhaus, and we will soon rid the Soil of the traitors treads; . . ." Carthage Republican, December 18, 1863, p. 1.

if I wrote it. Evening sit around the tent. Day clear & rather pleasant, night beautiful.

Tuesday, January 19:

Am up about seven o'clock. Another beautiful morning. I believe our worst weather is over. Spent the forenoon writing on the Report. After dinner help Homer [Fuller] issue rations. Then finished copying December Report into the Record. Slosh about camp a while. Oh, what a dull tiresome place Port Hudson. Hail, the day which sees our departure hence! Evening Hurst, Robinson, & Dillon & I go to the landing. Get papers from a boat which has just arrived. Return to camp. Read some. A mail comes in. Receive letters from Flack & Hatfield of Jacksonville. Write up my diary. Go to bed about eleven. Weather clear & pleasant.

Wednesday, January 20:

Rise in pretty good season. Lt Sleater comes in & hands me my Commission as 1st Lieutenant of "B", before I am out of bed. If one would not rise for that, for what would he. After breakfast sign the acceptance of my commission, and take it to Adjutant.<sup>1</sup> Receive many congratulatory notes on my promotion. Slosh about camp in the forenoon. Address a note to Lt Col Logan asking 7 days leave of absence to go to New Orleans, to get me a uniform & outfit. Col Fonda will not approve it in consequence of an order just received. Homer [Fuller] & I go to

---

<sup>1</sup>Elisha Bentley Hamilton, Muster-in Roll of First Lieutenant, Elisha B. Hamilton, Company B, 118th Illinois Mounted Infantry, Illinois State Archives, 118th Illinois File.

Head quarters, & I present it to the Adjutant General, he will not approve it.<sup>1</sup> We go to the Photographic Gallery.<sup>2</sup> I buy a view which was taken here when we had that snow on the ground. After returning to camp Knox Boude & I take a walk down the river to the camp of the 22nd La (colored) to Miners Sutlers Shop. On the way see many curiosities, such as Rebel Magazines, Large cannon Shell & fragments (thrown during the siege) & c. In the evening Hurst, Strong, Sleater & others of us have a pleasant time singing. Oh it is such a lovely night! I wish I were at home, or with some of my dear friends far away. I have no way of enjoying myself in the dull monotony of camp. If I were with Julia [Hilt],<sup>3</sup> Sue [Summerville], Mollie [Nieder] or Carrie [Leavenworth]! Weather pleasant.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hamilton received permission to go to New Orleans on January 28 for a "uniform and outfit." Hamilton, Diary, January 28, 1864.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton had his picture taken many times during his enlistment. In mid-1864 the regiment was transferred to Baton Rouge and during the regiments tenure in that city the two pictures contained in this volume were taken by A. D. Lytle. A. D. Lytle was a member of the Confederate secret service. Miller, Photographic History of the Civil War, Vol. 8, 299, 301.

<sup>3</sup> This is the only reference in Hamilton's war diaries to Julia Hilt of Exeter, Illinois. Her name appears often in the 1861 volume of his diary.



<u>K</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>Page</u>
Keigwin, James	30, n. 2	Powerine, Dr.	39
Kendal, Nat	61	Prentiss, Benjamin	31, n. 3
Konsteiner, Henry	59, n. 1	Price, Sterling	31, n. 3
<u>L</u>		<u>R</u>	
Leavenworth, Carrie	84	Ransom, Thomas	41
Lindsey, Daniel	58	Reece, Dr. Thomas	17, n. 1
Lionburger, A. P.	78	Ritter, Ike	29
Logan, Thomas	53, n. 1	Robertson, Jacob	58, n. 3
<u>M</u>		Robinson, Abram	66
Marsh, Arthur	17	Rohrbough, John D.	69
Marsh, Benjamin	17	Rosecrans, William	31, n. 3
McArthur, John	18	Rosenbrook, John D.	66
McClaghry, Robert	53, n. 1	<u>S</u>	
McPherson, James	18, n. 7	Sample, James	18
Meigs, Montgomery	47, n. 2	Sample, John	29, n. 3
Mellere	86	Schenck	43
Menn, Lewis	56	Schroeder	61
Mills, Clark	60, n. 1	Scofield	82
Moffitt	64	Sherman, William	18
Moore, Levi	69	Sholl, Alex	42
Morsiui	75	Sleater, Huddleston	69
<u>N</u>		Smith, A. J.	28
Nieder, Mollie	44	Steele, Frederick	35
Nourse, Eunice	82	Strong, Henry L.	46
Noyes	63	Summerville, William	20, n. 3
<u>O</u>		Summerville, Sue	20
Ord, Edward	36, n. 4	Symonds, John	43
Osborn, Thomas	72, n. 3	<u>T</u>	
Ossman, A. M.	29	Taylor, General	76
Osterhaus, Peter	33	<u>W</u>	
<u>P</u>		Walker, John G.	74, n. 2
Paddock, John W.	33	Washburn, Cadwallader	67
Painter, Charles G.	49	Williams, Randall	78, n. 3
Parks	58	Williams, Sam	20
Pemberton, John G.	41		
Plummer, O. S.	70		
Pollack, James R.	62		
Potter, Robert	35		

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### BOOKS

- Adams, George Worthington. Doctors in Blue. New York: Henry Schuman, 1952.
- Ambrose, Stephen E., ed. A Wisconsin Boy in Dixie. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1961.
- Bacon, Edward. Among the Cotton Thieves. Detroit: The Free Press Steam Book and Job Printing House, 1867.
- Biographical Review of Hancock County, Illinois. Chicago: Hobart Publishing Co., 1907.
- Board of Supervisors of Hancock County. History of Hancock County, Illinois. Carthage, Illinois: Journal Printing Company, 1968.
- Boatner, Mark Mayo III. The Civil War Dictionary. New York: David McKay Company, Inc., 1959.
- Botkin, B.A. A Civil War Treasury of Tales, Legends and Folklore. New York: Random House, 1960.
- Burton, William L. Descriptive Bibliography of Civil War Manuscripts in Illinois. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1966.
- Catton, Bruce. Grant Moves South. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1960.
- Cunningham, Edward. The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963.
- Davis, Edwin Adams. Heroic Years, Louisiana in the War for Southern Independence. Baton Rouge: Bureau of Educational Material and Research, College of Education, Louisiana State University, 1964.
- Davis, Edwin Adams. Louisiana, A Narrative History. Baton Rouge: Claitor's Book Store, 1965.
- Dyer, Frederick H. A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion. 3 vols. New York: Thomas Yoseloff, Publisher, 1959.

- Esposito, Vincent J., ed. The West Point Atlas of American Wars. 2 vols. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1959.
- Fox, William F. Regimental Losses in the American Civil War. Albany, N.Y.: Albany Publishing Co., 1889.
- Grant, Ulysses S. Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant. Edited by E.B. Long. New York: Grossett & Dunlap, 1962.
- Hart, B.H. Liddell. Sherman. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1958.
- Hicken, Victor. Illinois in the Civil War. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1966.
- Hicks, John D. The Federal Union. 2 vols. Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin Company, The Riverside Press, 1957.
- History of the Seventy-Third Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers, A. Springfield: Published by Authority of the Regimental Reunion Association of Survivors of the 73rd Illinois Infantry Volunteers, 1890.
- Johnston, Joseph E. Narrative of Military Operations. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1959.
- Lewis, Lloyd. Sherman Fighting Prophet. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1932.
- Miller, Francis T., ed. The Photographic History of the Civil War. 10 vols. New York: The Review of Reviews Co., 1913.
- Moore, Frank, ed. The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events. 12 vols. New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1862-1868.
- Phisterer, Fredrick. Statistical Record of the Armies of the United States. New York: Jack Brussel, n.d.
- Rammelkamp, Charles. Illinois College: A Centennial History, 1829-1929. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1928.
- Riegal, O.W. Crown of Glory. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1935.
- Risch, Erna. Quartermaster Support of the Army. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1962.
- Roberts, B.H. Rise and Fall of Nauvoo. Salt Lake City: The Deseret News, 1900.
- Shannon, Fred A. The Organization and Administration of the Union Army, 1861-65. 2 vols. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1965.

- Steiner, Paul E. Disease in the Civil War. Springfield: Charles C. Thomas, 1968.
- Tilley, Nannie M. Federals on the Frontier, The Diary of Benjamin F. McIntyre, 1862-1864. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1963.
- Warner, Ezra J. Generals in Blue. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Generals in Gray. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1959.
- West, Ray B. Kingdom of the Saints. New York: Viking Press, 1957.
- Wiley, Bell I. The Life of Billy Yank. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1952.
- Williams, Kenneth P. Lincoln Finds A General. V Vols. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1956.
- Winter, John D. The Civil War In Louisiana. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1963.

#### ARTICLES

- Grant, U.S. "The Vicksburg Campaign." Vol. 3. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Edited by Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel. 4 vols. New York: The Century Co., 1884.
- Pratt, Harry E., "Civil War Letters of Brigadier General William Orme, 1862-1866." Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXIII, No. 2 (July, 1930), pp. 275-293.
- Shepply, Helen E. "Camp Butler in the Civil War." Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXV, No. 4 (January, 1933), 285-317.
- Soley, James Russell, "Naval Operations in the Vicksburg Campaign." Vol. 3. Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Edited by Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel. 4 vols. New York: The Century Co., 1884.

#### REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

- Civil War Centennial Commission of Illinois, Illinois Military Units in the Civil War, Springfield: Illinois Civil War Centennial Commission, 1962.

Compiled Military Service Record, Elisha B. Hamilton, Company B, 118th Illinois Infantry, Union Army. "Record Group No. 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office," The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Illinois-Vicksburg Military Park Commission, Illinois at Vicksburg. Published under authority of an Act of the Forty-Fifth General Assembly, 1907.

Pension Application File, Elisha B. Hamilton. Record Group No. 15-B, "Records of the Veterans' Administration," National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Reece, J.N., Brigadier General. Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Illinois. 8 vols., Springfield Journal Company, Printers and Binders, 1900.

U.S. War Department. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Prepared under the direction of the Secretary of War, by Bvt. Lt. Col. Robert N. Scott, Third U.S. Artillery, 70 vols. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

#### NEWSPAPERS

Chicago Tribune, July 24-July 26, 1877.

Daily Illinois State Register, July 25-July 31, 1877.

Gazette & Comet (Baton Rouge), December 10, 1864.

The Carthage Republican, March 14, 1854 - July 8, 1873.

The Quincy Daily Journal, March 20-March 21, 1902.

The Quincy Morning Whig, October 7, 1899.

The Quincy Weekly Whig, August 2, 1877 - November 14, 1878.

The Weekly Quincy Herald, October 13, 1899.

#### UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL

Carthage Public Library, Fonda Manuscript Collection.

Carthage Public Library, Hamilton Manuscript Collection.

Hamilton, Elisha B. "History of the 118th Illinois Infantry Regiment," (An unpublished speech given at the October 1, 1873 Reunion of the 118th Illinois Infantry), Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Typed)

- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, January 1-December 31, 1861. Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, July 4-September 8, 1863. Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Original and typed)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, January 1-March 19, 1864. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, March 20-June 3, 1864. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, June 4-August 10, 1864. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, August 11-October 31, 1864. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, November 1, 1864 - May 4, 1865. Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, December 2-December 21, 1864. Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, May 5-October 5, 1865. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, October 6-December 31, 1865. Hamilton Manuscript Collection, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Illinois. (Original)
- Hamilton, Elisha B. Diary, January 1-December 31, 1866. Private Manuscript Collection of E. Bentley Hamilton, Durango, Colorado. (Original)
- Illinois State Historical Library. Thomas Reece Manuscript Collection.
- Illinois State Historical Library, Samuel Gordan Manuscript Collection.
- Illinois State Archives. 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry File.
- Illinois State Archives. Field and Staff Book of the 118th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.
- Illinois College. Archives, Elisha Hamilton File.