

DIARY 1864

(Diary is unsigned, however there is a listing in the back for “Bills payable...30th ME band”. All spelling is as written by author and the format is as close to the original diary as possible. Some of the correct town spellings are in parentheses. Question marks indicate areas that were difficult, or impossible, to read and the transcriber is not sure of the accuracy of the word.)

February, SUNDAY, 7 1864
Leave Camp Keys* - arrive in Portland at 2 PM – embark at 5 in steamer Amerrimack (Merrimack) - anchor off Portland at 10

February, MONDAY, 8 1864
Windy - sail at 9 - sea rough - run the deck to keep from being sea sick but of no avail – all sea sick - 4 PM no land in sight – feel lonesome and homesick

February, TUESDAY, 9 1864
Weather pleasant – wind high -sea rough - all sea sick - feel some better - pass off New York at 3 PM

February, WEDNESDAY, 10 1864
Weather pleasant – Band plays on deck - feel some better - 4 PM feel real smart- at night windy - sea rough - rainy

February, THURSDAY, 11 1864
Morning windy and rainy - 12 clears off - see fish, porpoise playing around the boat – Band playing in the afternoon on deck

February, FRIDAY, 12 1864
Weather pleasant and warm - pass Charleston Harbor - feel smart – pass Cape Hatteras in the night – sea rough windy - steamer rocks very badly

February, SATURDAY, 13 1864
Weather pleasant and hot – see sharks and sword fish and see flying fish and much turtles - come in sight of land off the coast Florida - commence at 4 to write home - hot weather - Band play - sailing up the gulf stream - 4 get aground off the coast of Florida - throw over coal - get off - very lucky - 4 hours on the reefs

Camp Keyes was in Augusta. It was located... “3/4 mile above the State House on a hill. There are barracks for three regiments, poor.” As described by John Gould in THE CIVIL WAR JOURNALS OF JOHN MEAD GOULD 1861-1866, page 289.

February, SUNDAY, 14 1864
Fine weather read and think of home all day

February, MONDAY, 15 1864
Weather fine - Marcus White of Co. G cuts his throat and stabs himself - Band plays for his funeral - pay 100 for 20 apples 150 for 1 can of lobsters - in the night windy and rainy - sleep on deck – get wet

February, TUESDAY, 16 1864
Cloudy weather - 12 arrive in Mississippi – sail up the R - arrive in New Orleans at 11 – anchor off the harbor

February, WEDNESDAY, 17 1864
Morning cold and rainy soon clear off - steamer hails anchor and goes ashore - Band goes ashore - Privates not allowed on shore - get ashore walk over some parts of the city at night – go aboard and cross over to Algier (Algiers) and sleep in an old foundry – sleep cold - see the 29, see Billy Given, Frank Furber

February, THURSDAY, 18 1864
Weather cold - write home one letter - at 4 PM start from (?Frazzer) city in open cars - cold - arrive at 12 at night - march on board Silver Star – sleep in stateroom with Allen - sail up Bytash stream - sleep sound– boat gets aground

February, FRIDAY, 19 1864
Weather cool - pass rebel obstructions in Bytash - arrive at Franklin at 2 - Band playing before we stop - pay 100 for dinner - help (? cook of corn) and cook beans

February, SATURDAY, 20 1864
Weather pleasant – baked beans for breakfast – wash towel and hankerchief - play for guard mounting and mess parade - hear 8 Vermont band play

February, SUNDAY, 21 1864
Pleasant weather - 29 Regt arrive - see William Given and Frank Furber - write two letters home - at night play over to Gen Franklin's* Hqts

February, MONDAY, 22 1864
Very warm weather - reviewed by Franklin - have a nap in the afternoon - soft bread for supper - have clothes washed - serenade down town at night

* Major General William B. Franklin was in command of the 19th Army

February, TUESDAY, 23 1864
Weather pleasant - our tent blow down - rehearse twice - lose woolen blanket

February, WEDNESDAY, 24 1864
Weather fine - loaf around camp - do nothing but think of home and play for guard mounting - mosquitoes bite all night and make me mad

February, THURSDAY, 25 1864
Weather fine - write home - have new tents - have sore lips playing - no dress parade-play in the evening

February, FRIDAY, 26 1864
Weather fine - rehearse - clean up our (?trace stabins) and instruments - all wear white gloves and feel nice - rice for supper – serenade a Gen down street

February, SATURDAY, 27 1864
Weather warm - play for brigade guard mounting - have had cold and off duty in the afternoon

February, SUNDAY, 28 1864
Fine weather - feel some better in the morning - much better at night – write home - Band plays - commence writing home

February, MONDAY, 29 1864
Weather fine – Gammon sick - orders to go to New Orleans – Gammon sick cannot go – a man* of the 29 cut his fingers off and the Dr kills him

March, TUESDAY, 1 1864
Rain all day - cold and muddy - play for brigade guard mounting

March, WEDNESDAY, 2 1864
Weather pleasant - go over to the 29 Maine Regt and see the boys

March, THURSDAY, 3 1864
Weather pleasant – write home - play for one funeral - write to Ed (?Crowell) mans name Strout of Co. G

March, FRIDAY, 4 1864
Weather fine - copey music all day - play as usual

** The man's name was Newman Savage; "...he cut off his fingers...and while under the influence of Chloroform went into an epileptic fit and died. ...The Doctor is the butt of all profanity after such an accident and many are confident he killed him. ." Per John Gould in THE CIVIL WAR JOURNALS OF JOHN MEAD GOULD 1861-1866, page 306*

March, SATURDAY, 5 1864
Weather fine – copey music - (?darn mosquitoes buzz) - Beans for breakfast - Tom Holland comes over to see me

March, SUNDAY, 6 1864
Weather warm – write home - go over to the 29 – William comes back with me

March, MONDAY, 7 1864
Weather fine – copey music most all day – seranade at night

March, TUESDAY, 8 1864
Weather fine – 13 and 15 Maine Regt arrive here – look (?tired) and black – play for theater at night

March, WEDNESDAY, 9 1864
Weather pleasant – do nothing all day but think of home

March, THURSDAY, 10 1864
Weather foggy – nothing a doing – write home – hear from home by way of Billy Given – seranade – thinking of home - all some home sick

March, FRIDAY, 11 1864
Weather fine – strike tents – work all day and stock all up my tent – seranade at night until 11 o'clock – get cake to eat

March, SATURDAY, 12 1864
Weather fine – play for guard mounting and general inspection – have tea and soft bread for breakfast

March, SUNDAY, 13 1864
Weather fine – read all day and think of home – seranades at night

March, MONDAY, 14 1864
Weather cold and muddy – do nothing for all day – seranade our General - have marching orders to leave tomorrow – begin to get ready

March. TUESDAY, 15 1864
Weather cold – get up at 4 – strike tents at 7 ½ -march at 8 – feel smart – dusty
Roads – fall in mud puddle and get muddy - march 15 miles – encamp side of the Bytash - wash my feet - feel some tired – play at night – get some mollasses and some corn bun

March, WEDNESDAY, 16 1864
Weather fine – march 17 miles – pass New (?bizzy) (New Iberia) - encamp on the side of Spanish leake – played 2 at dock – Allen got some corn bread

March, THURSDAY, 17 1864
Morning - turned out early and helped assist the first mate - got 4 letters – felt pleased – got our knapsacks halled - lost my handkerchief - arrived within 3 miles of Vermillionelle (Vermilionville) - feel tired – serenade Franklin – Allen gets fresh pork – have a good supper - hard bread and coffee – march 16 miles today

March, FRIDAY, 18 1864
Revelle at 4 ½ - turn out and get ready to march – start at 6 – pass Vermillinnille (Vermillion) – play through the streets – marched very hard all day – 20 miles - 3 o'clock went in camp – very tired – wash my feet and feel better – Allen get some eggs – rebels fire into us – we take 15 prisoners – passed Carrion Crow bayou in the afternoon

March, SATURDAY, 19 1864
Weather cool good for us – start at 6 o'clock - after marching 7 miles we came to Opelusus (Opelousas) – we passed a nunnery & played until 10 – we went to Washington 6 miles from Opelusus and passed a bridge and encamped for Sunday – had some boiled eggs for supper – 12 miles

March, SUNDAY, 20 1864
Weather cloudy – wash myself all over – 13 army corps arrived at 2 o'clock – Josiah Townsend asked me over to get some chicken with him – write a good long letter to my wife –(? _____) some long in the afternoon – had some hoe cake for supper – feel well rested – think I can march tomorrow

March, MONDAY, 21 1864
Rained hard all night – started at 6 ¼ o'clock – struck my tent in 10 minutes and started with out my breakfast – rained when we started and muddy – hard marching – marched all day – went in camp side of old sugar mill – I got dipper full of sugar – cut my thumb fixing my tent – rained hard at dark – had some hoe cake for supper that Allen got for me – marched 18 miles

March, TUESDAY, 22 1864
Rained hard all night – slept cold and got some wet – struck tents at 5 and started at 6 ¼ - muddy and cold – how I did hate to march – marched 15 miles – cleared off at 12 – went in camp at 2 – Allen got a rooster and we cooked him – lots of sugar – in the woods the Rebs hid – drawed rations at night - had a good supper – went to bed

March, WEDNESDAY, 23 1864
Weather fine – march at 6 ¾ - quite muddy – passed a number of sugar mills – I got a hen of a darky – commenced raining just as we were crossing a corn field – got orfull wet and muddy – soon went into camp – got lots of rails and built a good large fire and got some dry – cleared off at 4 – fixed up my tent – got sticks to sleep on – cooked my chicken and one my tent mate got and had a good supper – Chainey's mills (Cheneyville) 15 miles

March, THURSDAY, 24 1864
Cloudy – looks like rain – marched at 6 – went to the head of the brigade and played –
marched 17 miles – went in camp – rained hard – a man in Company I died

March, FRIDAY, 25 1864
Weather fine – march at 7 ¼ o'clock – passed some splendid plantations – arrive in
Alexandria at 1 ½ o'clock – some tired – play going through the streets – got some good
sistern water

March, SATURDAY, 26 1864
Weather fine – I went down street and got breakfast – received a letter or 4 letters - wrote
home at night – seranaded Gen Franklin and Gen Banks* – went in and saw Gen Banks –
the boys drank wine with the Genl – wrote home for a pocket hankerchief

March, SUNDAY, 27 1864
Weather fine – burryed a man in Co K – wrote to my wife again – at night went down
street and serenaded some officers – a platform fell down and hurt Tom Edgcomb and 2
company boys

March, MONDAY, 28 1864
Weather rainy – marched at 9 o'clock – hard marching in the forenoon – very good
marching in the afternoon – went in camp at 5 – marched 18 miles – went in camp in a
corn field – had a bad headache – got some tea of the Dr and drank and felt much better

March, TUESDAY, 29 1864
Weather cooled and blow – roads orfull dusty – play 2 times – march at 9 o'clock –
march slow – have to wait to build a bridge – went over hill – I went ahead of the
regiment and saw the 29 – saw a niggro woman that wanted to know whare the Yankees
was that had horns – marched 7 miles – went in camp at S side of small steam

March, WEDNESDAY, 30 1864
Weather fine and warm – I commenced to wash my clothes and then we rehearsed a few
minutes and had orders to march – I packed my clothes wet – we started at 11 – played
marching over a hill – roads poor – marched 6 miles and encamped with woods –
finished washing my clothes

March, THURSDAY, 31 1864
Weather cloudy – marched at 7 – cleared off – went through long pine woods – came out
of pine woods and crossed Cain (Cane) river at 12 ½ o'clock – marched hard – roads
dusty – Hays caught a lamb and lugged him passed Cloutierville - at 4 went into camp –
at 5 had some of Hays sup – wind blew hard – marched 22 miles

**Major General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks*

April, FRIDAY, 1 1864
Cool and cloudy – marched at 8 ½ o'clock – came off clear – orfull windy and dusty, so dusty we cant hardly see – wait for our folks to build a pontoon across Cain river – marched 16 miles – went in camp at 5 o'clock

April, SATURDAY, 2 1864
Weather fine – march at 9 ¼ - march through Natchitoches at 1 o'clock – play through the streets – encamp on the outh side of the city – get a pig, lug him through the regt manced with my towl had him for supper – march 7 miles

April, SUNDAY, 3 1864
Weather some rainy – wrote home to my wife – cleaned up all day and thought of home

April, MONDAY, 4 1864
Weather fine – have some letters from home – write home again – think of home all day

April, TUESDAY, 5 1864
Weather pleasant – I went down street and got some corn bread – saw a rebel soldier – play for brigade guard mounting – reviewed by Genl Banks – seranade Gen Franklin and have orders to march tomorrow

April, WEDNESDAY, 6 1864
Pleasant weather – strike tents at 8 – start at 9 ¼ - a woman cryed because the soldiers took some of her well water – marched hard until 4 – halted in woods – started at dark, marched 2 miles – went in camp on a hill – bought 2 (?tounges) – Cobb lost his knapsack

April, THURSDAY, 7 1864
Weather cloudy – had to lug our knapsacks – our regiment was detailed for rear guard – started at 9 – Ed Merrill and my self went ahead and stopped at noon – made coffee – commenced raining at 12 – rained hard – Merrill and I passed away time talking of home – we got to Pleasant Hill at 5 – Merrill and myself built a fire, pitched our tent – made some pudding out of some corn meal we scraped up – layed down, slept cold – rained all night – 22 miles

April, FRIDAY, 8 1864
Cold and cloudy – get up and pack our things, go to the brigade – our regiment not ready –set down and make a hoe cake – our regiment caught up – we marched – saw cotton burning – arrived at some old saw mill – went in camp – fighting in front – all troops ordered up, we stopped with the teams – hard fighting – go to bed, soon turned out, pack up and retreat – march all night, arrive at Pleasant Hill at sun rise – orfull tired – lay down and have a nap – our army retreats back to P hill, fight and lick the Rebs – start for Natchitohes at 13 – march hard all day – get one old huss – see B Given lose his (?down bill) – get tired and slept side of the road

April, SATURDAY, 9 1864
Weather fine – get up early, get some meet of a man, have corn bread – John White sleep with me – soon catch up to the teams – rest - soon start marching hard all day – get my knapsack hauled just at dark, marched all night – orfull tired

April, SUNDAY, 10 1864
Cloudy weather – marched hard all day – arrived at Grand Ecore at dark – stop with the teams

April, MONDAY, 11 1864
Pleasant weather – our troops come back – our regt comes - we go to the regt – heavy cannonading up the river

April, TUESDAY, 12 1864
Weather fine – have some letters from home – write home - our regiment went out on picket

April, WEDNESDAY, 13 1864
Weather pleasant – our sultar comes – I help him sell his goods – our regiment come in from picket – just at dark formed a line of battle

April, THURSDAY, 14 1864
Weather fine – our troops all in a line of battle

April, FRIDAY, 15 1864
Weather pleasant – all quiet – write home

April, SATURDAY, 16 1864
Weather fine – all the same – think of home all day

April, SUNDAY, 17 1864
Weather fine – have 4 letters from home and 2 papers – feel pleased – write home

April, MONDAY, 18 1864
Weather pleasant – play for inspection – work and fix my tent up

April, TUESDAY, 19 1864
Weather warm – buy some flour, make frippins and our darky makes us some bread – have orders to be ready to march in one hours notice – write a few lines to my wife

April, WEDNESDAY, 20 1864
Weather pleasant – have orders to put all of our things on teams that we can not lug – teams standing all ready to start

April, THURSDAY, 21 1864
 Cloudy, comes off warm – all ready to start – move at 5 pm – feel tired – march hard until 3 in the morning – orfull tired

April, FRIDAY, 22 1864
 Cloudy – looks like rain – get up at 5 – skirmishing in front – march slow – fighting through Cloutierville – went in camp 3 miles from Cloutierville – slept on cotton soft bed

April, SATURDAY, 23 1864
 Weather fine – firing in our rear – commenced fighting on our front, the rebbs repulsed in front and rear, our regiment charges and takes a hill – Col. Fessenden* shot through the leg – try to find the regt, get lost, find the hospital after a hard run – teams all start, we start cross the Cain River after dark – find the regt – all of us stops under a tree – sleep cold – see fellow that I used to know from Hollowell, Alphonso Pottle

April, SUNDAY, 24 1864
 Weather pleasant – get up early, all start march fast – soon catch up to teams – Harry Webb gets kicked by a mule – see 2 rebels – find hard bread in a box side of the road – officer make me put out a fire, makes me mad – get 2 pig livers – Allen and my self camp together side the road – 22 miles

April, MONDAY, 25 1864
 Weather fine – regiment comes up – we play – march hard, hot, men fall out – arrive in Alexandria and march up on the side of the river 2 miles – got some letters from home

April, TUESDAY, 26 1864
 Weather fine – feel orfull tired – write home – heavy firing up the river all day – our gunboats shell the woods

April, WEDNESDAY, 27 1864
 Cloudy – hear from home – go down street – get shaved and get dinner on a boat

April, THURSDAY, 28 1864
 Very hot – bot some flour and we went up to the 29 – bot a coffee pot for 75 cts – saw Billy Given – struck tents at 4 – went down street – formed a line of battle – got some frippens fryed in a niggro hut – slept in a yard all night

April, FRIDAY, 29 1864
 Weather warm – went in camp in the afternoon – berry a man in the 162 N York Regt, we play at – write home – serenaded Gen Franklin

**Col. Francis Fessenden commanded 25th Maine*

April, SATURDAY, 30 1864
 Warm weather – serenaded Gen Grover* – mustered for pay

May, SUNDAY, 1 1864
 Weather hot – went down town – got dinner on the Starlight – commenced paying off the regt

May, MONDAY, 2 1864
 Weather pleasant – payed off, rec'd 11.25 – 29 Maine band arrives – see Johnson and the rest of the boys

May, TUESDAY, 3 1864
 Fine weather – Chandler of the 29 band comes over to see us – one of our boats lost and male 4 miles below here

May, WEDNESDAY, 4 1864
 Hot weather – our regt gone down river foraging – seranade Gen Banks – picket shooting all day

May, THURSDAY, 5 1864
 Very hot – I went over to the 29 saw Johnson – our regiment comes back this afternoon – our folk commence building a dam to get our gun boats down

May, FRIDAY, 6 1864
 Weather fine – loaf and do nothing but think of home

May, SATURDAY, 7 1864
 Do as Saturday

May, SUNDAY, 8 1864
 Weather hot – our brigade gone out foraging – come back at night, meet with poor success

May, MONDAY, 9 1864
 Weather fine – our gunboats come down over the dam – have orders to march – put our knapsacks a board – get some biscuits baked – buy some gelly of a niggro lady – sell some

May TUESDAY, 10 1864
 Weather fine – heavy rain last night – payed off today, 50 dollars bounty and 2 months pay up to May the 1st

**General Cuvier Grover*

May, WEDNESDAY, 11 1864
Very warm – regiment loading boats

May, THURSDAY, 12 1864
Weather warm – loaf around camp all day – at dark have orders to march ametiately – get extra pay 14 dollars – bake beans in my coffee pot

May, THURSDAY, 13 1864
Weather hot – our (?regt) axidently shot but not seriously – march at 7 – orfull dusty, march 10 miles – taste some mulbery plums – encamp side of red river

May, FRIDAY, 14 1864
Weather hot – march at 7 – skirmishing in front – rebels shoot in our rear – marched 12 miles – see our gun boats – see whare the rebels blockaded the red river

May, SATURDAY, 15 1864
Warm and dusty – march slow - about noon we left the river to the left and marched west to Marksville and camp for the night – went out to a house and got some huny – got news Lee was defeated – heavy fighting in front

May, SUNDAY, 16 1864
Very hot – march after light – our folks drove the rebels – saw a splendid sight – all of our enemy in line of battle in a large field – we fall in the rear, heavy cannonading – got 2 hens – went in a rebel apothecary shop – soon formed the regt

May, MONDAY, 17 1864
Weather pleasant – rebels retreat from our front – orfull hot – cross 1 byou at 3, cross one at 4, arrive at Simms port (Simmesport) at 5 – found our gun boats – went and got some blackberys

May, TUESDAY, 18 1864
Weather warm – rain some in the morning – Gen Smith* fighting in our rear – good many wounded – this is Atchafalaya Bay – I recd one letter from home

NO ENTRIES FROM MAY 19 TO JUNE 18

**General Andrew J. Smith commanded divisions from the 16th and 17th Corps*

June, SUNDAY, 19 1864
Weather fine – write home – bake bread – play for dress parade - play for two funerals

June, MONDAY, 20 1864
Pleasant weather – no rehearsal – Gammon sick – play for 2 funerals – bake beans – heavy blow

June, TUESDAY, 21 1864
Weather fine – play for dress parade – play for one funeral – rain in afternoon

June, WEDNESDAY, 22 1864
Weather fine – play for one funeral – play for dress parade – make biscuit – rehearse – go down to see Tom Holland – not see him – see (?S_____) of Hollowell – some men arrested for gambling – pay 20 cts for paper forms – expect some letters from home

June, THURSDAY, 23 1864
Weather fine – rehearse – play for a funeral – clean up my instrument – expect a mail anxious to hear from home – went over to see Tom Holland – set up until 10 o'clock to bake beans

June, FRIDAY, 24 1864
Weather fine – write home – play for 2 funerals – bake biscuit

June, SATURDAY, 25 1864
Weather hot – play for Grand review – recd 4 letters, one from Charles Conant – he made a mistake sent my letter to Billy Irvin and I got Billy's drawn rations

June, SUNDAY, 26 1864
Weather fine – write home – bake beans for the boys in Co G oven

June, MONDAY, 27 1864
Weather fine – beans for breakfast – work hard – build a brick oven – rehearse in the afternoon

June, TUESDAY, 28 1864
Weather fine – bake lots of bread – Josiah Webb starts for home – rehearse once – write home – copey music – a man tied up and gaged in the N York regt

June, WEDNESDAY, 29 1864
Weather orfull – suffer from heat – have bad cold – read most all day – rehearse in the forenoon – Charles Ward and myself get lots of wood out of the river – play for dress parade

June, THURSDAY, 30 1854
Weather (? ____) – bake some fresh beef for dinner, want me to cook – make a (?trade)
for 10 dollars per month – 12 (? __) regt arrives from a furlow - rec 2 letters from home
and 2 papers

July, FRIDAY, 1 1864
Weather hot – get my tent made – get some kettles – make bread and boil salt hoss – bake
beans – buy me a straw hat for 15 cts

July, SATURDAY, 2 1864
Weather fine – make one puddin – have orders to march – march at 9 – a man died in
Comp A just as we start – Bill sick with the cramp cholic

July, SUNDAY, 3 1864
Weather fine – sail down the river at 4 – scenic farms – make coffee and tea – three men
die on the boat – arrive in New Orleans at sunset – play symbols on the boat – sleep in
the boat

July, MONDAY, 4 1864
Weather fine – go ashore – get some dinner – get left – cross over to Algiers (Algiers) in
the (?pinory) boat – get letters from home – write – go over to New Orleans and see
Josiah Webb – have a good time – sleep in a bed – don't sleep very well

July, TUESDAY, 5 1864
Weather fine – go down town and get some breakfast – go back to camp

July, WEDNESDAY, 6
Weather fine – do nothing

July, THURSDAY, 7
Do as _____

(No other entries in diary)

For a more in depth description of this time in our history, see:

The Civil War Journals of John Mead Gould 1861 – 1866
Edited by William B. Jordan
Published by Butternut & Blue, Baltimore, MD 1997
Pgs 296 - 369

Names listed in diary & info from CW site

29th

Given, William H.-Co. H - from Lewiston – musc – disch 1866
Furber, Frank -Co. B - from Mt. Vernon - died 1866 of disease
Johnson, Alexander
Chandler, Daniel H. – musn
Webb, Harry
Johnson, Thomas – of Westbrook; taken prisoner June 1862

30th

Gammon, Edward F. - muscn
Edgecomb, Tom
Hayes, Charles – musn
Cobb, (?Edward)
Merrill, Edmund
White, John
Ward, Charles H.

Townsend, Josiah ?30
Holland, Ron & Tom
White, Marcus – Co G.; killed self on Merrimack
Pottle, Alphonso (Alonzo of 11th) of Hollowell
Strout, _____ Co G.
Allen (1st or surname?)
Irvin, Billy ?30
Webb, Josiah ?30