

# Michael James Barnett's 1865 Pocket Diary

A Soldier's Life in the Last Year of the Civil War



MICHAEL J. BARNETT, 1864.  
Corporal "K" Company.

## Michael James Barnett (MJB) and the Civil War

On August 21, 1861, MJB enlisted as a Private in the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment for three years. He re-enlisted as a Veteran in 1864, and by the end of the war reached the rank of Corporal.

During the early years of the war the 33rd Illinois fought in Missouri, Arkansas, and Mississippi (where they took part in the monumental Vicksburg campaign of 1863). Later in 1863 the 33rd Illinois went to Louisiana and Texas, and finally went back to Illinois in mid-March of 1864. All received 30-day furloughs until April 16. During that time MJB married Margaret Jane Knowles ("Jane" in the diary). After the furlough, the regiment went south again, to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. For months after the war ended in April, 1865, they waited anxiously to be discharged. They finally were discharged on December 6, 1865.

This diary records little fighting, occasional hard marches, frequent guard duties, some sickness, and—after the War ended—a long period of anxiously waiting for their service to end. The 33rd Illinois soldiers were finally able to return home eight months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and were discharged from the Army on December 6, 1865.

A more complete record of the entire service of the 33rd Illinois is available in **History of the Thirty-Third Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry, 1861 to 1865**, compiled by Virgil G. Way, Secretary and Treasurer of the Veteran Association of the 33rd Illinois, and published by the Association in 1902. Mr. Way himself served in B Company of the 33rd Illinois. Online and PDF scans of this book's pages are available from the Library of Congress at <http://archive.org/details/historyofthirtyt00wayvir> . That site also has a searchable full text version of the book, but it was generated with automated character recognition and has some errors. Rosters of men who served in the 33rd Illinois are also provided at [http://civilwar.illinoisgenweb.org/reg\\_html/033\\_reg.html](http://civilwar.illinoisgenweb.org/reg_html/033_reg.html) .

Prior to the Civil War, MJB and his family spelled his last name Barnet, with one "t." It is spelled Barnett in the 33rd Illinois records, and the story is that he started using that spelling himself in order to get his Army pension.

This 1865 diary passed down to MJB's son William R. Barnett, his grandson C. C. Barnett, his great-granddaughter Catherine (Barnett) Garrells Wiley, and his great-great-granddaughter Linda (Garrells) Mullen. Ms Mullen had the diary professionally scanned, transcribed the entries and added some references and other comments. Great-great-grandson Gordon R. Morgan, son of Margaret (Barnett) Morgan, reformatted the transcription and added some more comments and references.

Michael James Barnett's writing is sometimes faded, has little regard for punctuation, and is often creative with spelling, so it has been a challenge to decipher...but it gives a heart-felt picture of the life of an enlisted man as the Civil War grinds to an end.

## Friends and Relatives Mentioned in the Diary

Annetta (**Annie**) Barnett was the first of MJB and Margaret Jane's eight children.

**Elijah Knoles** was one of the brothers of MJB's wife Margaret Jane Knowles.

**Father** is William C. Barnett, MJB's father.

**Frank Ford** was a Company K private from Washington, Iowa.

**Jake** is Jacob Crites the 33<sup>rd</sup>'s Co. K. He came from Mason County, Illinois.

**Jane** is Margaret Jane (Knowles) Barnett, MJB's wife.

**Jo Milstead** is Joseph M. Milstead, of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois, from Petersburg Illinois

**John** is John Wesley Barnett, MJB's younger brother.

**John F. Cue** of Illinois was married to Margaret Jane Crites, who may have been related to Jacob (Jake) Crites, a frequent correspondent of MJB.

**John A. Martin** was in Company K after transferring from the 99<sup>th</sup> Illinois. His term of enlistment expired in October, 1864.

**Lize Knoles** is Louisa Knowles, sister of Margaret Jane Knowles, and thus MJB's sister-in-law.

**Margaret Beall** *may* be Margaret (Barnes) Beall (b. 1826), the second wife of Thomas O. Beall, who appears in the 1850 Census of Mason County Illinois (near Menard County).

**Margaret Bracken** was a sister of Russell Demmon, and thus a granddaughter of Philip Barnett and another cousin of MJB.

**Nancy Demmon** is MJB's cousin, a sister of Russell Demmon (see Jan. 15). Nancy and Russell are in the 1860 Census of Menard County Illinois, with parents A. and Eliza Demmon, and are grandchildren (via Eliza Esther) of Philip Barnett, and thus MJB's cousins.

**Noble Bracken** was Margaret Bracken's husband.

**Russell A. Demmon** was in Company D of the 146<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. On Oct 29, 1868, he married Sarah E. Knoles in Menard County, IL. Sarah was a half sister of Betsy Ann Knowles, MJB's mother-in-law. Therefore, Russell was MJB's cousin and Sarah was MJB's wife's cousin.

**Sell** is Marcellus A. Whipp, the husband of MJB's sister Catherine Jane Barnett, and thus MJB's brother-in-law. He served in Company C of the 85<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

**S. D. Killion** is Samuel David Killion, brother of MJB's mother Asenith (Killion) Barnett.

**Wife's Father:** Reuben Reed Knowles (d. March 15, 1865, in Menard County, Illinois) was the father of MJB's wife Margaret Jane Knowles.

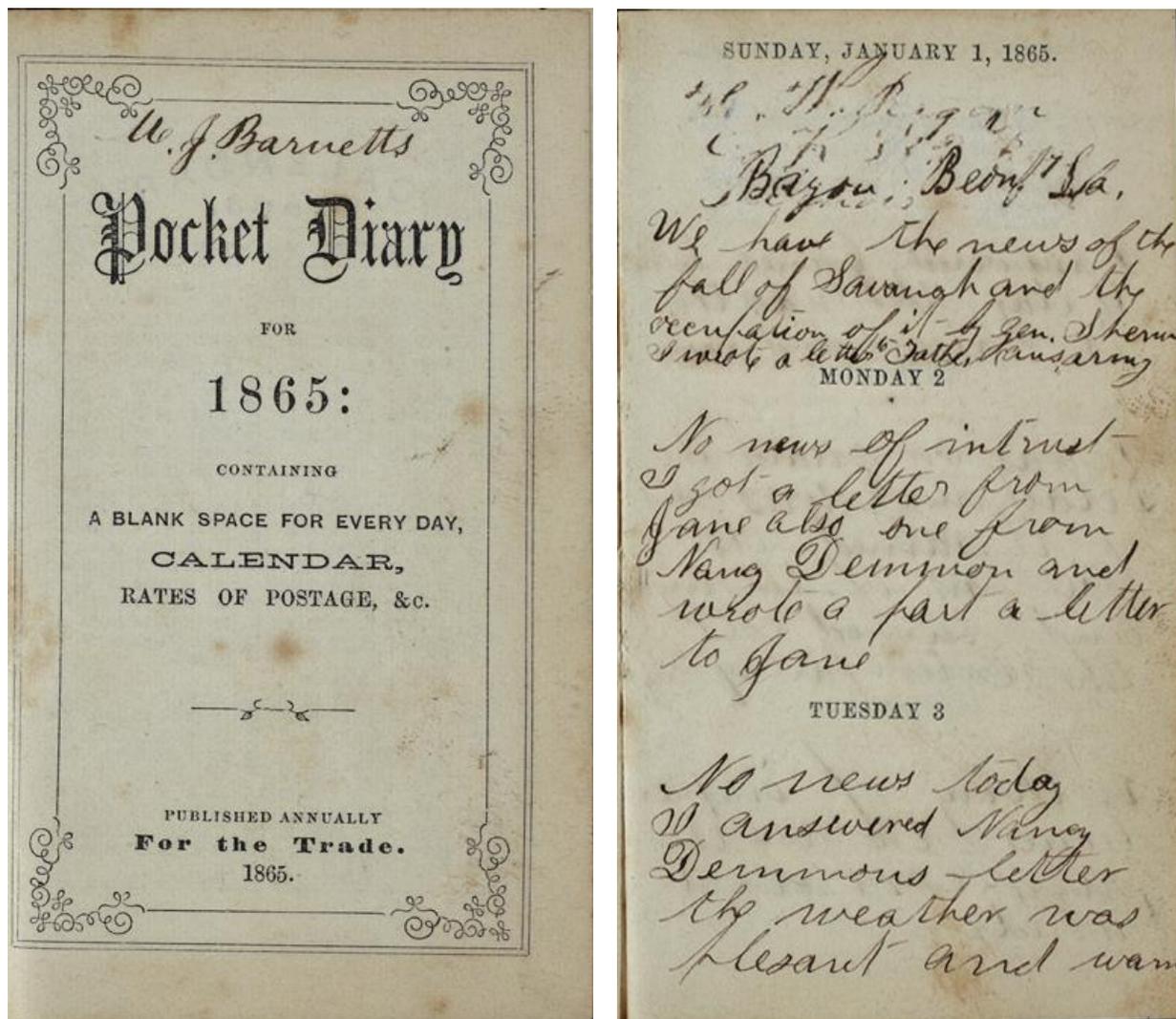
**William B. Killion** (b. 1831, Petersburg, Illinois) was a son of Jacob Killion (who was a brother of Michael C. Killion, William C. Barnett's father-in-law). Thus he was an uncle of MJB.

## MJB by Location in 1865

Jan. 1 – Mar. 2	Bayou Beouf, Louisiana
Mar. 2	Train to New Orleans
Mar. 2 – Apr. 9	New Orleans, Louisiana, vicinity
Apr. 10 – 11	Mobile, Alabama
Apr. 11 – 13	Fort Blakely, Alabama
Apr. 13 – 21	Marching to Greenville, Alabama
Apr. 21 – 23	Greenville, Alabama
Apr. 23 – 25	Marching to Montgomery, Alabama
Apr. 25 – May 10	Near Montgomery, Alabama
May 10 – 14	Marching to Selma, Alabama
May 14 – 16	Near Selma, Alabama
May 16 – 18	Train to Meridian, Mississippi
May 18 – Aug. 28	Meridian, Mississippi (with side trips to Enterprise & Paulding)
Aug. 28 – 30	Train & horse-drawn wagons to Vicksburg, Mississippi
Aug. 30 – Oct. 17	Vicksburg, Mississippi
Oct. 17	Boat up the Mississippi to Greenville, Mississippi
Oct. 18 – Nov. 26	Greenville, Mississippi
Nov. 26 - 29	Boat up the Mississippi to Cairo, Illinois
Nov. 29 – 30	Train to Camp Butler (near Springfield, Illinois)
Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	Camp Butler, Illinois
Dec. 7	Back home in Mason County, Illinois, 40 miles north of Springfield

## Navigating the Diary

The original diary has three days on each page, regardless of the day of the week. This transcription has seven days per page, beginning on Sunday. Each page is divided vertically, with the diary transcriptions on the right. The left side has added comments and explanations, where available and appropriate.



MJB sometimes made entries for a particular date at a later time than the date shown. This is particularly evident during the last two weeks, where some dates have more than one day's worth of information, and information for some days is recorded under more than one date. In this transcription, the date shown is the date events actually occurred. If they were entered as of a different date, that is noted before the entry.

# The Diary



General William T. **Sherman**

**Father** is William C. Barnett.

**Jane** is MJB's wife, Margaret Jane (Knowles) Barnett

**Nancy Demmon** is MJB's cousin, a sister of Russell Demmon (see Jan. 15). Nancy and Russell are in the 1860 Census of Menard County Illinois, with parents A. and Eliza Demmon.

## Sunday Jan 1, 1865

The Regt is in Bayou Boeuf, La We have the news of the fall of Savannah and the occupation of it – by Gen. Sherman. I wrote a letter to Father (ansaring

## Monday Jan 2

No news of interest I got a letter from Jane also one from Nancy Demmon and wrote a part a letter to Jane

## Tuesday Jan 3

No News today I answered Nancy Demmons letter the weather was plesant and warm

## Wednesday Jan 4

I answered Janes letter to day the weather is plsant and warm

## Thursday Jan 5

I was on guard the Detachment was paid of it rained the fore part of the night and turned cold the later part of the night

## Friday Jan 6

nothing of importance the wather quite cool and windy

## Saturday Jan 7

The Boys are having fine times plenty of money and beer weather plesant no news



Gen. Benjamin Grierson

Col. Benjamin **Grierson** led a famous raid in 1863 that is portrayed in the John Wayne movie *The Horse Soldiers*. From Dec. 21, 1864, to Jan. 5, 1865, now-Gen. Grierson led a successful raid on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad. <http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/UnionLeaders/p/American-Civil-War-Major-General-Benjamin-Grierson.htm>

**Uncle S. D. Killion** is Samuel David Killion, brother of MJB's mother Asenith (Killion) Barnett.



Gen. George Thomas

Union General **Thomas** routed Confederate General **Hood's** army at the Battle of Nashville in mid-December, 1864.

<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/americancivilwar/p/ghthomas.htm>  
<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/army/ig/Selected-Confederate-Generals/General-John-Bell-Hood.htm>



Gen. John Hood CSA

**John** is John Wesley Barnett, MJB's younger brother.

**Jake** is Jacob Crites of Mason Co. IL [33<sup>rd</sup> IL]

### Sunday Jan 8

We have a batch of southern news the Rebel press very despondent and complain bitterly of Jeff we have a sermon in the barracks by the Chapl.

### Monday Jan 9

We have the news of the return of Gen Griersons Raid on the O and Mobile R.R I were on guard rained and turned cold

### Tuesday Jan 10

No news we draw rations and I wrote a letter to Father the weather is cool and pleasant the Regt got mail but none for me

### Wednesday Jan 11

I wrote a letter to Uncle S. D. Killion no news on the account of the telegraph line breaking Weather clear and cool

### Thursday Jan 12

We have the news that Thomas is still pursuing Hood. I got a letter from Father and John Weather pleasant

### Friday Jan 13

No News I were on Picket Guard there was a french dance at Jarrets the boys stold most all their pzes [pyes? prizes?] weather pleasant

### Saturday Jan 14

Gen. Thomas has gon on an unknown expedition I got a letter from Jane and Grigg and wrote one to Father and John Jake came down answered Janes and Griggs letter

**Sell** is Marcellus A. Whipp, the husband of MJB's sister Catherine Jane Barnett, and thus MJB's brother-in-law. He served in Company C of the 85<sup>th</sup> Illinois.

<http://civilwar.illinoisgenweb.org/r100/085-c-in.html>

**Russell Demmon** is Russell A. Demmon, who was in Company D of the 146<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Regiment. On 29 Oct 1868 he married Sarah E. Knoles in Menard County, IL. Russell was a grandson (via Eliza Esther) of Philip Barnett, the Barnett immigrant ancestor. His wife Sarah was a half sister of Betsy Ann Knowles, MJB's mother-in-law. Therefore, Russell became MJB's cousin and Sarah was MJB's wife's cousin.

**Margaret Bracken** was a sister of Russell Demmon, and thus a granddaughter of Philip Barnett and another cousin of MJB. **Noble Bracken** was her husband.

MJB's **father**, William C. Barnett, visited his daughter Catherine and family in Kansas in 1865.

**Lize Knoles** is Louisa Knowles, daughter of Ruben Reed Knowles, sister of Margaret Jane Knowles, and thus MJB's sister-in-law.

### **Sunday Jan 15**

We have some news I got a letter from Father Sell Russell Demmon and Noble and Margaret Bracken

### **Monday Jan 16**

No News I wrote a letter to Noble and Margaret Bracken weather pleasant

### **Tuesday Jan 17**

No News I went to Terre Bonne Station and went on guard after coming back

### **Wednesday Jan 18**

We have peace romers I wrote a letter to Father and one to Russell Demmon

### **Thursday Jan 19**

No News I got a letter from Jane and answered it also wrote one to Sell Whipp

### **Friday Jan 20**

I got a letter from Father he was going to start west on the 9<sup>th</sup> we still have peace romers

### **Saturday Jan 21**

No News I got a letter from Lize Knoles it has rained, all day and is quite cool

The Second Battle of **Fort Fisher**, near Wilmington, North Carolina, took place on January 15, 1865. The joint assault by Union Army and Navy forces took away the last major coastal stronghold of the Confederacy.



Major General Alfred Howard **Terry**



Rear Admiral David Dixon **Porter**

**John A. Martin** transferred into Company K from the 99<sup>th</sup> Illinois. His term of enlistment expired in October, 1864.

### Sunday Jan 22

I was on guard it turned cold and J Jarret had a ball Sunday night as it was no news

### Monday Jan 23

We have the news that there will be an attack on Mobile soon we still have peace romers the weather quite cool we got a load of wood

### Tuesday Jan 24

We have the news of the capture of **Fort Fisher** by Gen **Terry** and Admarel **Porter** I wrote a letter to Lize Knoles

### Wednesday Jan 25

No News today we got a mail today but nothing for me the weather is quite cold I liked to froze

### Thursday Jan 26

No News the weather is still cold I wrote a letter to Jane

### Friday Jan 27

No News of interest I got a letter from John Martin It rained I was on guard at Skideoes

### Saturday Jan 28

No News I wrote a letter to Father Jake Crites came down from Terre Bonne Station weather pleasant

Perhaps MJB follows the price of **gold** on the New York markets as an indicator of the health of the American economy.

A **picket house** is a guard shack—a place to shelter a picket (perimeter guard)

A soldier's **warrant to date** is his back pay.

The Hampton Roads Conference of February 3, 1865, was a peace conference held by high officials on both sides to discuss terms for ending the American Civil War.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampton\\_Roads\\_Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampton_Roads_Conference)

### **Sunday Jan 29**

We have peace romers and the news that Gen. Sherman is moving on to Charleston gold in N. Y. 198 ¼

### **Monday Jan 30**

We still have peace romers also the news is good from all points the weather is plesant

### **Tuesday Jan 31**

We drew rations and have the news or a romer that Mobile has been evacuated I got a letter from Geo. Powell and answered it weather plesant

### **Wednesday Feb 1**

I was on guard we built a picket house it rained all night I as well as the rest got my warent to date from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> no news

### **Thursday Feb 2**

There is a romer that Wilmington has been evacuated and that the Rebs are about to evacuate Richmond I wrote a letter to John Martin weather warm

### **Friday Feb 3**

We have the news of the evacuation of Wilmington we built a kitchen I got a letter from Jane and answered it the weather is plesant

### **Saturday Feb 4**

We have peace romers through Rebel sorces and the news that Peace commissioners was to start on the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. from Richmond to Washington weather plesant

CSA Vice President Alexander H. **Stephens**, Senator Robert M. T. **Hunter**, and Assistant Secretary of War John A. **Campbell** were the three Confederate representatives to the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of Feb. 3, 1865. They met with President Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward. The Confederates would agree only to their independence, and not reunification of the nation, emancipation of the slaves, and disbanding Confederate troops. Agreement was reached only on prisoner-of-war exchanges.

### Sunday Feb 5

We still have peace rumors it rained hard in the afternoon I wrote a letter to Father and Brother John

### Monday Feb 6

No News it rained and turned cold we filled up our house with dirt and brick weather very unpleasant

### Tuesday Feb 7

We still have Peace rumors I got a letter from Nancy Demmon and answered it weather cool

### Wednesday Feb 8

No News as there has been no arrival from the North the weather is quite cold for this climate

### Thursday Feb 9

We have the news that Stephens Hunter and Campbell have arrived in Washington as Peace Commissioners from Richmond Weather cool

### Friday Feb 10

No News I am on guard as Corporal for the first time I wrote a letter to Jane we drew rations the weather is pleasant and cool

### Saturday Feb 11

The News is good from all points we still have peace rumors and every thing bids fair for peace Jake came down weather pleasant

At the Battle of Trent's Reach on the James River, Jan. 23-34, 1865, Union artillery and naval units rebuffed ships of the Confederate James River Squadron. The James River was a major Confederate route to the capital of Richmond.

[http://encyclopediavirginia.org/james\\_river\\_during\\_the\\_civil\\_war#start\\_entry](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/james_river_during_the_civil_war#start_entry)

Confederate General John **Pegram** was killed at the Battle of Hatcher's Run in Virginia on Feb. 6, 1865.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Pegram\\_\(general\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Pegram_(general))



CSA General John **Pegram**

Fatigue duty is an assignment to clean up an area or do other menial but necessary tasks. A soldier's "fatigue uniform" derives from this.

### **Sunday Feb 12**

We have the news that Shermans army is in 60 miles of Charlston peace is played out I got a letter from Jane answered it and wrot one to Father

### **Monday Feb 13**

I got a letter from Sell Whipp it rained hard I heard that Jake Crites has the small pox we have the news of the battle on James River

### **Tuesday Feb 14**

No News I answerd Sells letter weather plesant and warm with light showers

### **Wednesday Feb 15**

No News we have Skirmish drill and Company drill weather pleasant and warm

### **Thursday Feb 16**

We have the news that Sherman is near Branchville I got a letter from father he had just got back from the west also I got a letter from Jane and answered Father

### **Friday Feb 17**

We have the news that the rebel Gen. Pegram is killed the news is good from all points I wrote a letter to Jane the weather is warm no mail

### **Saturday Feb 18**

I was on fatigue in the fore noon we drilled in the afternoon no news of importance the weather is plesant

Maj. General Alfred H. **Terry**, along with Maj. General John M. Schofield, won the Battle of Wilmington (North Carolina), securing the largest remaining Atlantic port of the Confederacy.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Wilmington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wilmington)



Gen Alfred H. Terry

### **Sunday Feb 19**

We have the official report of the Peace Conference at Fortress Monroe no other news of interest the weather is very unpleasant and raining

### **Monday Feb 20**

We have a rumor through Rebel force that Sherman has taken Branchville in South Carolina weather pleasant

### **Tuesday Feb 21**

I was on guard it rained and was very disagreeable no news nor Mail

### **Wednesday Feb 22**

We have the news that Gen Terry has made an advance on Wilmington and has captured 1000 prisoners the weather lousy I bought a watch for \$5.00

### **Thursday Feb 23**

No News I got a letter from Russell Demmon it rained hard and was very disagreeable

### **Friday Feb 24**

No News except we have marching orders it rained most all day and we had quite a storm at night

### **Saturday Feb 25**

The news is good from Gen. Sherman's Army we have inspection and turn over all condemned camp and garrison equipage I got a letter from Jane and answered it



Captain Henry M. Bragg raising the flag over Fort Sumpter

[http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R/?func=dbin-jump-full&object\\_id=54912&local\\_base=GEN01](http://lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R/?func=dbin-jump-full&object_id=54912&local_base=GEN01)

The 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, served in Louisiana from April 4, 1864, to Nov. 25, 1865.

[http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-regiments-detail.htm?regiment\\_id=UUS0075RI00C](http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-regiments-detail.htm?regiment_id=UUS0075RI00C)

**Algiers** was a city across the river from New Orleans; it was annexed by that city in 1870.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers, New Orleans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algiers,_New_Orleans)

**Cotton press:** a building where cotton is pressed into bales a machine powered by mules or slaves

[www.civilwarinart.org/items/show/67](http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/4049801-148/cotton-building-to-get-new)  
<http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/4049801-148/cotton-building-to-get-new>

### **Sunday Feb 26**

The news is good from Gen. Shermans army in S.C. he has captured Branchville I answered R. A. Demmons letter

### **Monday Feb 27**

We have the news of the evacuation of Charleston S. C. and the occupation of the same by the union troops Capt Henry Bragg hosted the flag over Fort Sumpter good news from all points

### **Tuesday Feb 28**

We have the news of the capture of Columbia S. C. by General Shermans Army news good from all quarters we was mustered for pay I got a letter from E Knols and one from G Powell

### **Wednesday March 1**

We was relieved by the 75<sup>th</sup> U. S. Colored Regt today at Bayou Beouf La. The news is good from all quarters the weather pleasant

### **Thursday March 2**

We left Bayou Beouf this morning in great glee but our joy was turned into grief by the cars being throwed off of the track by a horse Lt was killed and some 50 wounded as soon as we could get read we proceded to Aljiers no news

### **Friday March 3**

Camped at Aljiers morning said of the Regt 250 injured in various ways we have the news of the evacuation of Wilmington by the Rebs news good I wrote a letter to Jane

### **Saturday March 4**

We crossed the river and are now camped in a cotton press news good from all fronts we are in fine spirits

There was a **William Killion** (b. 1831, Petersburg, Illinois) who was a son of Jacob Killion, brother of Michael C. Killion (William C. Barnett's father-in-law), making William Killion an uncle of MJB.

**Columbia**, South Carolina, was captured by Gen. Sherman on Feb. 17, 1865. Most of the city burned down, although Sherman denied responsibility. The fire may have been accidental, or a deliberate act of vengeance, or set by retreating Confederate soldiers who lit cotton bales while evacuating. Whatever the initial cause, it became devastating due to high winds.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia, South Carolina in the American Civil War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia,_South_Carolina_in_the_American_Civil_War)

John F. **Cue** of Illinois was married to Margaret Jane Crites, who may have been related to Jacob Crites (a frequent correspondent of MJB).

The **114<sup>th</sup> Illinois** Regiment was organized in September, 1862. Its members included MJB's brother-in-law Marcellus "Sell" Whipp. <http://www.114thillinois.com/HISTORY.htm>

### **Sunday March 5**

We have marching orders I answered Lize Knoles letter and got one from Jane and answered it also got one from Nancy and answered it no news but all confusion

### **Monday March 6**

We are now quartered in anchor press we have marching orders the news is good from all points I got a letter from Wm Killion and answered it weather plesant

### **Tuesday March 7**

We marched from Anchor press New Orleans to the race track near Lake Ponchetrain and went into camp it rained hard and we had a rough time of it news good

### **Wednesday March 8**

Camped race corse La We have the news of the burning of Columba S. C. by Gen. Shermans army we got ten recruits the weather is plesant after such a bad night we dried every thing

### **Thursday March 9**

I was on guard it was cold and rained we suffered a good deal no news of importance the troops are pushing forward to Mobile we are guarding the train

### **Friday March 10**

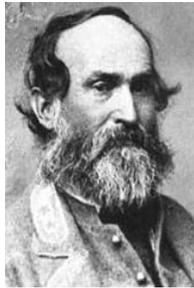
I got a letter from John Cue the weather is still cold and rany no news troups are still going to Mobile

### **Saturday March 11**

No News I got a letter from Father and went over to see the 114<sup>th</sup> Ill Boys the weather is plesant in day time and cold at night I nearly froze

In the Battle of Waynesboro (Virginia) of March 2, 1865 General Jubal **Early**'s forces were destroyed by Maj. Gen. Philip **Sheridan**. Early himself escaped, along with a few of his staff.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Waynesboro,\\_Virginia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Waynesboro,_Virginia)



General Jubal Early

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jubal\\_Early](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jubal_Early)

After capturing Columbia SC on Feb 17, **Sherman** marched into North Carolina. His next-and last-military engagement was the Battle of Bentonville, March 19-21.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Tecumseh\\_Sherman#Final\\_campaigns\\_in\\_the\\_Carolinas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Tecumseh_Sherman#Final_campaigns_in_the_Carolinas)

The City of **Mobile** was occupied by Union troops by March, 1865, but did not officially surrender until April 12—three days after Robert E. Lee's surrender.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile,\\_Alabama\\_in\\_the\\_American\\_Civil\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile,_Alabama_in_the_American_Civil_War)

### **Sunday March 12**

We have the news of the defeat and capture the Rebel Gen. Early and 1800 of his army by Gen. Sheridan's army in the Shenando Valley. The Chaplain preached weather pleasant

### **Monday March 13**

We have the news that four of the Rebel Batteries was silenced by our guns. I answered John Cues letter also we have a rumor of a battle in N. C. 15000 prisoners of Sherman

### **Tuesday March 14**

News good from all points I wrote a letter to Jane it rained all night and all day making it very disagreeable also it was cold

### **Wednesday March 15**

News good from Gen. Sherman's Army he was yet pushing forward news good from all points I got a letter from Jane I was quite unwell it rained

### **Thursday March 16**

We have a rumor that Mobile has been evacuated by the Rebs it rained and we had a considerable of a storm last night I am yet unwell weather pleasant today

### **Friday March 17**

News good our Regt marched to Lake Ponchartrain and went on a boat bound for Dauphine Island Co.K. is now quartered in the Halfway House weather good

### **Saturday March 18**

No News we are having fine times in our house I answered Jane's letter the Boys are having some sport the weather is pleasant and warm

Gen. Hugh Judson **Kilpatrick's** troops were routed at dawn on Mar. 10 by Confederate cavalry while he was with his mistress nearby. He and his troops regrouped. The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads ended with the Confederates withdrawing, but it allowed them extra time to cross the Cape Fear River at Fayetteville.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Monroe%27s\\_Crossroads](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Monroe%27s_Crossroads)

Union Gen. John **Schofield** prevailed over Confederate Gen. Braxton **Bragg** in the Battle of Wyse Fork near Wilmington, N.C.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Wyse\\_Fork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Wyse_Fork)



General Phillip Sheridan

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\\_Sheridan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Sheridan)

On April 1 Gen. George **Pickett**, famous for an ill-fated charge at Gettysburg, was defeated at the Battle of Five Forks, southwest of Petersburg, Virginia, by Gen. Philip **Sheridan**. The loss led to Robert E. **Lee's** decision to begin his retreat, and on April 9 he surrendered.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Five\\_Forks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Five_Forks)

### Sunday March 19

No News but today is spent in amusements by the Citizens such as horse racing and drinking several accidents happend one woman was killed

### Monday March 20

News good from Gen. Sheredon also from all points except Killpatrick we have the news that he has been defeated I got a letter from Father and answered it

### Tuesday March 21

We have the news of a fight between Schofield and Bragg in which our forces was victorious also we have good news from Gen. Sherman

### Wednesday March 22

I had a charge of a fatigue squad we loaded the St Charles Killpatrick is allright he whiped the Rebs news good from all points weather warm

### Thursday March 23

We have the news that Gen. Sherman has captured 100 pieces of Artillary and that England has denounced the southern Confederacy Sheredon was near Lynchburg Gold in N.Y. 163 on the 18<sup>th</sup>

### Friday March 24

No News of importance we marched from the Halfway House to Lake Ponchertrain and took up quarters in a deserted House 114<sup>th</sup> Ills left this morning

### Saturday March 25

News good from all points Gen. Sheredon whiped Gen Pickets Div. Gen. Lee wants the Generals to get together to make peace Gold 164 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in N.Y. on the 19<sup>th</sup> weather plesant.

Confederate General William J. **Hardee** was defeated by Gen. Sherman's army at the Battle of Bentonville, Mar. 19-21.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Bentonville](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Bentonville)

**Jo Milstead** is Joseph M. Milstead, of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois, from Petersburg Illinois

The USS **Osage** and USS **Milwaukee** were Union monitors (small shallow-draft armored warships with large guns). Their prototype was the USS Monitor.

### **Sunday March 26**

Our troops was advanceing toward Mobile I wrote a letter to Jane the weather was warm and looked like rain no news from the north

### **Monday March 27**

We have good news from Sherman and a report that Lee has been put in dictator of the southern Confederacy Gold in N.Y. the 21<sup>st</sup> 159 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> it rained hard

### **Tuesday March 28**

No News I was on mule guard the weather was warm the tide raised very high so we could hardly get to quarters

### **Wednesday March 29**

News good from all points Sherman is progressing finely Gold in N.Y. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> from 135 to 155 it rained very hard and turned cold at night

### **Thursday March 30**

We have the news of the defeat of Hardee by Gen Shermans Army also Gen. Lee sais the Confederacy is gon up and wants to save their army and property

### **Friday March 31**

News still good I and Jo Milstead went down to Greeville to see the 10<sup>th</sup> Ills Cav. we had a good time with the boys weather plesant

### **Saturday April 1**

We have the news that our forces have closed the lines around Mobile also that the monitors Osage and Milwaukee have been sunk by tarpedoes

**My wifes Father:** Reuben Reed Knowles d. March 15, 1865, in Menard County, Illinois

**Elijah Knoles:** One of MJB's wife's brothers.

**Selma** was the center of Confederate manufacturing of war equipment. In the Battle of Selma on April 2, 1865, the Confederate Army had 2700 casualties and lost 32 artillery pieces.

**Jake:** Jacob Crites

### **Sunday April 2**

News good from all quarters the rebels is deserting by Brigades Grant had advanced his lines I wrote a letter to Jane also I was on guard weather plesant and warm

### **Monday April 3**

News good from Mobile and Sherman forces are pushing forward with rapidity weather plesant

### **Tuesday April 4**

News good from our armies I got a letter from Nancy Demmon which told of the sad news of the death of my wifes Father also I answered Nancys letter weather warm

### **Wednesday April 5**

We have the news that Gen's Grant Sherman and Sheradons armies are on the move and that Spanish Fort Mobile is in a critical position look out Rebs weather warm

### **Thursday April 6**

News good from all points I was on guard it rained and turned cold Elijah Knoles came down to see me he was in fine spirits

### **Friday April 7**

We have the news of the capture of Selma Ala 23 Cannon any amount of ammuniton and all the rebs machinary I wrote a letter to Jane

### **Saturday April 8**

We have the news of the capture of Richmond by Gen Grants Army news good from all points as our Armies are driveing the Rebs before them I took Jake to the marine Hospital

**Fort Blakeley**, Alabama was east of Mobile.



General Edward **Canby**

<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/UnionLeaders/p/American-Civil-War-Major-General-Edward-Canby.htm>

Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox on April 9, 1865, but other Confederate generals had not yet surrendered.

**Sunday April 9**

We marched from Lake Poncertrain we came on the N. W. Thomas we had a pretty good trip news good from all points

**Monday April 10**

We arrived at the landing near Mobile Ala where we heard of the evacuation of Spanish Fort it was evacuated on the 6th Fort Blakely was taken the 8th

**Tuesday April 11**

We marched from the landing and joined our Reg near Fort Blakely the Rebs evacuated said Fort this day I got two letters from Jane and one from Father news good weather warm

**Wednesday April 12**

Mobile surrendered to Gen Canby this morning we are under marching orders news good from all points I answered Janes letters weather warm

**Thursday April 13**

We marched from near Fort Blakely to the Rail Road distance of ten miles and went into camp very tyred weather warm

**Friday April 14**

We marched ten miles from the Rail Road our Regt. was rear guard we never got into camp till 10 O'clock at night all tyred

**Saturday April 15**

We marched fifteen miles and camped it rained we have a report that Lee and his hole army has surrendered

The **Escambia** River flows north from the Florida panhandle and becomes the Conecuh River in Alabama. The 33<sup>rd</sup> probably took a route northeast from Ft. Blakeley through the corner of present-day Escambia County, Florida, before crossing back into Alabama.

**On picks** is on picket duty (guarding the perimeter)

By MJB's reckoning, the 33<sup>rd</sup> marched a total of 131 miles in 9 days to get from Fort Blakeley to **Greenville**, Alabama.

### Sunday April 16

We marched to Escanby River a distance of 18 miles all very tyred we have a report that peace has been mad[e] weather very warm

### Monday April 17

We marched from Escanbee River to little Escanbee a distance of ten miles our Brigade was rear guard we had very plesant march weather warm

### Tuesday April 18

We marched from little Escanbee a distance of 18 miles it was very hot and we suffered with heat it rained a shower in the evening

### Wednesday April 19

We marched about 15 miles we heard that the Rebs had give up their canfederacy our Co. was on picks as our Regt was in advance of the army weather warm

### Thursday April 20

We marched about fifteen miles our Brigade was rear guard the weather was very warm but the troops was in fine spirits

### Friday April 21

We marched 20 miles through the rain and mud to Greenville we was very tryred and wet a day long to be remembered

### Saturday April 22

We layed over today to rest and give the supply train a chance a cach up we was out of rations so we foraged right smart we heard good news from all points weather plesant

Another 49 miles of marching, in 3 days, to get to **Montgomery**, Alabama.

**Sunday April 23**

We marched from greenville a distance of seventeen miles our Div. was in front the weather was cool so it was plesant marching no news

**Monday April 24**

Our Brigade was rear guard so we marched only twelve miles and went into camp we have all sorts of rurmors

**Tuesday April 25**

We marched to Montgomery and through the city and went into camp two miles north of the city making a distance of 20 miles all tyred

**Wednesday April 26**

We are out of rations on the account of the Boats not geting here so we lived on parched corn pork and coffee we are all very tyred sore and hungary

**Thursday April 27**

I went out a foraging and got a hog and haver sack full of sweetpotatoes we hear that the Rebels have blockaded the River at Selma weather warm

**Friday April 28**

There was nothing of importance transpired today we are looking hourly for the Boats weather warm

**Saturday April 29**

We had Company drill the Boats have not yet come so we have no news weather warm

A **Ram** was a high-powered and maneuverable steam ship with armor plating and only a few heavy guns. The modern equivalent would be a fighter jet.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> the **Rebel Ram Webb** ran by New Orleans at the extraordinary speed of 25 mph. It was caught between two Union ships 24 miles below New Orleans, where it was torched and abandoned by its Rebel crew.

[http://www.treasurenet.com/forums/shi\\_pwrecks/14397-location-rebel-ram-webb.html](http://www.treasurenet.com/forums/shi_pwrecks/14397-location-rebel-ram-webb.html)

### **Sunday April 30**

We mustered for pay the Boats came in and we have the sad new that Presedent Lincoln and Seward has been assassinated we had meeting

### **Monday May 1**

We have the official report of the assassination of Lincoln and Seward I was in the city of Montgomery and at the 114th quarters weather warm

### **Tuesday May 2**

We had Battallion drill and company drill I wrote a letter to Jane no mail news good from all points weather warm

### **Wednesday May 3**

We have all sorts of rumors and a report that peace has been mad[e] we have drill weather warm

### **Thursday May 4**

News still good but no mail we have drill weather warm

### **Friday May 5**

We have the news of the Rebel Ram running by new Orleans and afterwards captured weather warm

### **Saturday May 6**

We had Brigade dress parade no news of importance weather warm

There is a Margaret (Barnes) Beall (b. 1826), the second wife of a Thomas O. Beall, in the 1850 Census of Mason County Illinois (near Menard County). Any connection with the **Aunt Margaret Beall** mentioned here is unknown.

On May 10, 1865, the Civil War was officially proclaimed to be over

### Sunday May 7

I was on guard and got three letters from Jane one from Father one from Cathern two from Jake and one from Aunt Margaret Beal news good weather warm

### Monday May 8

I answered Catherns Father Janes and Aunt Margaret Bealls letters we have marching orders news good weather pleasant

### Tuesday May 9

We have orders to stay in camp we are preparing to march weather pleasant news good from all points

### Wednesday May 10

We marched to and from Montgomery a distance of four miles which made eight miles we have the news of the killing of Booth the assassin of Lincoln

### Thursday May 11

We marched fifteen miles was very tired we came thru a good country weather warm

### Friday May 12

We marched eighteen miles and camped tow miles south of Prattsville it was very warm and we had a heavy rain

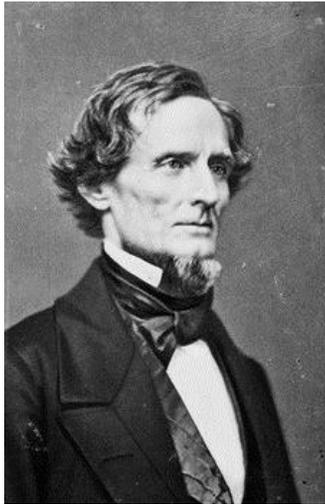
### Saturday May 13

We marched twenty three mile we pass through Autaugaville we was very tired and sore weath pleasant and cool no news

**Flux** was a common name for dysentery. It was one of the three most common ailments during the Civil War.

**On the cars** is travel by train.

**Demopolis** is a small town in Alabama.



CSA President **Jefferson Davis**

When Gen. Robert E. Lee informed Davis that Confederate defeat was imminent, Davis and his cabinet fled south from Richmond. He hoped to form a government in exile, but was captured on May 10 near Irwinville, Georgia.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson\\_Davis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jefferson_Davis)

### **Sunday May 14**

We marched ten miles and are camped near Selma Ala. we are under marching orders I wrote a letter to Father weather plesant

### **Monday May 15**

We laid over waiting for transportation I was taken sick with the flux we have all kinds of rumors weather warm

### **Tuesday May 16**

We left Selma on the Cars and run to Demopilas a distance of fifty miles I went down the River to the Station I was quite sick weather warm

### **Wednesday May 17**

We left Demopilas and run to Meridian Miss. a distance of fifty miles I was very sick weath warm no news of importance

### **Thursday May 18**

We are in camp at Meridian we hear all sorts of rumors about being mustered out I was very sick weath warm

### **Friday May 19**

Nothing of importance going on we moved camp I am still sick several was detailed for guards on the train

### **Saturday May 20**

We have the Official report of the capture of Jeff Davis on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant at Irwinville Irwin Co Ga. I was still sick weather warm I wrote a letter to Jane

The Great **Mobile Magazine** Explosion killed hundreds and devastated a large part of Mobile.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile\\_magazine\\_explosion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mobile_magazine_explosion)

### **Sunday May 21**

No News the chaplain preached today also we had a funeral sermon in the evening I was a gooddeal better weather warm

### **Monday May 22**

I was on picket guard west of Meridian no news of importance weather warm

### **Tuesday May 23**

I got a letter from Father and one from Jane we have also of rumors about going home weather warm also I got a letter from W<sup>m</sup> Killion

### **Wednesday May 24**

I answered Fathers letter and wrote one to Jake No news today of intrust weather warm

### **Thursday May 25**

I answered Janes letter Mobile was nearly all blowed to pieces today by the blowing up of a magazine thousands was killed and wounded

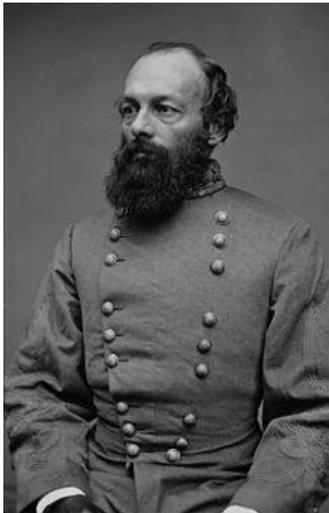
### **Friday May 26**

All is excitement about the blowing up of Mobile I was at Meeting at the 26<sup>th</sup> Ind. weather warm

### **Saturday May 27**

Five blocks was blowed to pieces in Mobile our Boy came out all right weather cool

General Edmund **Kirby Smith** surrendered the last significant Confederate field army on May 26.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund Kirby Smith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Kirby_Smith)

### **Sunday May 28**

I got a letter from Father one from Jane one from Jake and one from Nancy I went after eating to the Baptist Church we have the official report of the surrender of Kirby Smith on the 26th of May

### **Monday May 29**

I answered Fathers letter no news of importance we had a shower of rain weather pleasant

### **Tuesday May 30**

We had a Battalion drill I as well as several others went for black berries weather warm

### **Wednesday May 31**

I was in picket guard I answered Jane's letter wrote Nancy weather warm no news of importance

### **Thursday June 1**

I came today off guard we have all sorts of rumors about Keeping the Veterans in Serves

### **Friday June 2**

We have the news that we are to all be mustered out by the first of Aug. I answered Janes letter

### **Saturday June 3**

We had Battalion drill and dressparade the Citizens and Rebel Soldiers are coming and takeing the oath of Alegans weather warm

The **62 troops** probably are those soldiers who enlisted in 1862, as the typical 3-year enlistment period would end in 1865. This did not apply to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois troops, however, as most of its troops enlisted in August, 1861, and re-enlisted in 1864. However, some other regiments were authorized in 1862—including the 85<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry.

#### **Sunday June 4**

We had Regimental inspection and a sermon by the Chaplain also I and several others went to meeting in Meridian I got a letter from Jane

#### **Monday June 5**

We drilled Battalion drill and signed the pay Rolls for pay we have the news that the 62 troops are ordered home

#### **Tuesday June 6**

I wrote a letter to Lize Knoles we have an order to have every thing ready to be mustered out of the serves weather warm

#### **Wednesday June 7**

No News of importance we have all sorts of reports about being ordered home weather dry and hot we had drill

#### **Thursday June 8**

We was paid off and have got plenty of Money I drew \$777.90 no news weather warm

#### **Friday June 9**

I wrote a letter to Father no news of importance the weather is very hot and dry

#### **Saturday June 10**

We had a glorious shower of rain and we enjoy it finly as the weather has been very hot and dry

**Sunday June 11**

I was on guard and got a letter from Jane it rained at night and we took shelter in an old house

**Monday June 12**

I answered Janes letters the weather is showery and warm no news of importance

**Tuesday June 13**

We moved our shades and put them up it rained hard no news we are having good times and liveing

**Wednesday June 14**

We moved our Camp farther up the hill weather warm and showery

**Thursday June 15**

We drew Clothing we have a rumor that the Veterains is going to be mustered out right away we had meeting at night

**Friday June 16**

We had Genl Inspection I wrote a letter to father no news of importance weather warm

**Saturday June 17**

We are haveing good times no news of importance weath warm and showery

**Regulars** were career soldiers. President Lincoln's call for volunteers in 1861 led to the formation of regiments such as the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Volunteer Regiment in addition to the Regular Army. Volunteers who re-enlisted after their 3-year terms were called Veterans.

**Sunday June 18**

I went to the Babtist Church to meeting we had a good sermond I got a letter from Jane weather warm

**Monday June 19**

I was on picket guard we have the news that the President has made a call for Regulars weather warm

**Tuesday June 20**

I answered Janes letter we have the news that the delegasion has succeded in geting a provisionable Govner for the state of Miss.

**Wednesday June 21**

No news of importance we had drill weather warm also we had dressparade

**Thursday June 22**

I wrote a letter to Father we had prayr meeting at night weather warm no news

**Friday June 23**

Nothing of importance occurred to day we had drill as normal weather very warm and dry

**Saturday June 24**

We have the news that the army is to be reduced to one hundred Thousand weather still warm and dry

Indian **ball play** was a Native American sport, in this case put on for the amusement of the soldiers. It somewhat resembled a free-form lacrosse game.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_lacrosse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_lacrosse)



Maj. General John  
**McArthur**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_McArthur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McArthur)



Brigadier Gen. Charles  
**E. Lippincott**  
<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=51852133>



Maj. General James W.  
**McMillan**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James\\_W.\\_McMillan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_W._McMillan)

### Sunday June 25

We had Regimental inspection a squad of us went to the Babtist Church to meeting Rev. Blow preached also we had prayr meeting a night

### Monday June 26

I wrote a letter to George Powell we had drill no news of importance the weather is cool

### Tuesday June 27

I wrote a letter to Jane no news of importance the weather is warm and dry

### Wednesday June 28

We had drill and dressparade every thing is dry and dul as far as news is conserved weather very warm

### Thursday June 29

The Indians had a ball play we had a grand dressparade Generals McArthur, Lippincott and McMillen was present weather cool

### Friday June 30

The Indians had another Ball play it was grand also had a dance at night we had a shower so the weather is cool we was mustered for pay

### Saturday July 1

I got a letter from Jane we have the news the the Veterans is to be discharged and the recruits kept in it rained most all day

**Sunday July 2**

I answered Janes letter I was at meeting at the Babtist Church the Chaplain preached at night

**Monday July 3**

I was on guard we have all sorts of rumors about going home and being discharged weather very hott I got a letter from Jane

**Tuesday July 4**

We had a speech by Col Elliott and the Chaplain a lott of the Boys got drunk we had a big dinner weather very warm

**Wednesday July 5**

I answered W<sup>m</sup> B. Killions letter we have all sorts of grape vines about being mustered out weather hott

**Thursday July 6**

I wrote a letter to Father no news of importance except the Veteran Regt. of the Army of the Patomac is to be mustered out

**Friday July 7**

No news we are having very dull times the weather is very hott

**Saturday July 8**

We had some drill and dressparade and all sorts of rumors weather hott

**Sunday July 9**

I was on picket guard and got a letter from Jane Father was then in Ills we have the news that we are to be relieved soon by negro Troops

**Monday July 10**

I answered Janes letters we have the news through Gen. Lippincott that we will be mustered out in a few days weather warm and dry

**Tuesday July 11**

No news of importance we have all sorts of grape vines about being mustered out weather warm

**Wednesday July 12**

We had drill or the Regt. did I had to take an escort and take some ladies under guard to the Provost marsalls weather warm

**Thursday July 13**

Nothing of importance going on but we want to go home we had pray meeting at night weather warm and very dry

**Friday July 14**

We had drill and dressparade no news of importance all out of heart want to go home

**Saturday July 15**

I had charge of the Picket guard west of Merridian we have al sorts of reports about going home weather warm

The **122<sup>nd</sup> Illinois** Volunteer Infantry Regiment was formed on September 4, 1862, and disbanded on July 15, 1865. Volunteers who wanted to continue in the war effort had to sign on with other units.

**Frank Ford** was a Company K private from Washington, IA; see also July 29



SECOND LIEUTENANT FRANK FORD.  
"K" COMPANY.

The **114<sup>th</sup>**, **122<sup>nd</sup>**, **117<sup>th</sup>**, and **124<sup>th</sup>** were all Volunteer Infantry Regiments from Illinois. The 114<sup>th</sup> Illinois volunteers were mostly from Cass, Sangamon, and Menard Counties, near MJB's home.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Illinois\\_Civil\\_War\\_units](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Illinois_Civil_War_units)

The **10<sup>th</sup> Minnesota** was another Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

### **Sunday July 16**

We got a lott of recruits from the 122<sup>d</sup> Ills Frank Ford and I went to the Babtist Church and had a very good sermind we had rain at night

### **Monday July 17**

I got a letter from Jake Crites and one from E. Knoles I answered Jakes letter we had Gen'l inspection

### **Tuesday July 18**

I answered E. Knoles letter wrote one to Jane and one to Father no news of intrust weather Cool

### **Wednesday July 19**

The 114<sup>th</sup> arrived here enrout for home. I had a plesant time with the boys we got a lot of recruits from the 117<sup>th</sup> and 124<sup>th</sup> Ills

### **Thursday July 20**

The 114<sup>th</sup> left for Jackson to day also the 10<sup>th</sup> Minn. the troops are passing through here for home

### **Friday July 21**

We left our old Camp and are now Provst Guards in Meridian we have good quarters I was on guard weather hot

### **Saturday July 22**

We are haveing a good time and have the news that the 16<sup>th</sup> army Corps is to be mustered out weather very warm

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment was formed on Sep. 4, 1862, and on July 22, 1863 was converted to mounted infantry. The Regiment was disbanded in June, 1865, and some of its volunteers joined the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois.

**Sunday July 23**

I went to meeting to the Methodist Church we had a good sermon we have alsorts of reports about us being mustered out

**Monday July 24**

I got a letter from Jane and answered it also I was on guard at Brigade Head Quarters weather hot

**Tuesday July 25**

No news of importance I have a goodeal of duty to do weather very warm and dry

**Wednesday July 26**

I was on Guard at Brigade Head Quarters we got a lot of recruits from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Ills

**Thursday July 27**

We have alsorts of reports about being mustered out there was a big row in town weather hot

**Friday July 28**

Nothing of importance took place every thing dul as usual weather very hot

**Saturday July 29**

We have alsorts of reports about being mustered out Frank Ford got back from Selma he was mustered as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut.

**Sunday July 30**

I was on guard and went to the Baptist Church to Sunday School and meeting we have the news that all the married men is to be mustered out

**Monday July 31**

I went to the concert at night it was given by Miss Eliza Floyd at the Baptist church

**Tuesday August 1**

I wrote a letter to Jane no news we are very much displeased for haveing to stay so long in the Serves

**Wednesday August 2**

No news every thing flourishing around Meridian weather warm

**Thursday August 3**

I was on guard the Boys went for two Horses with brickbats weather warm

**Friday August 4**

I got a letter from Father and one from Catharine and answered them they like Kansas fine weather plesant

**Saturday August 5**

the 72<sup>nd</sup> Ohio came here enrout for Columbus Miss. weathe plesant no news of importance

MJB's sister **Catherine** and her husband Marcellus (Sell) Whipp moved to Wakarusa Township, Douglas County Kansas (about 10 miles south of Topeka), before May 13, 1865 (Kansas State Census)

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry was another volunteer regiment.

MJB was **born** August 8, 1840, in Menard County, Illinois, to William C. and Asenith (Killion) Barnett

MJB's **daughter** Annetta Barnett was the first of the eight children of MJB and Margaret Jane (Knowles)

**Enterprise**, Mississippi, was a small town about 15 miles southwest of Meridian.

### **Sunday August 6**

I went to the Methodist Church and there was no meeting for they congregation all left when the Chaplain came in

### **Monday August 7**

I am on guard to day I wrote a letter to George Powell to day is Election day in this State

### **Tuesday August 8**

I answered Janes letter and to day was my birthday I am twenty five. we are still at Meridian Miss no news weather warm.

### **Wednesday August 9**

Jake got back from home he was on furlough he brought the news of me haveing a fine daughter she was borned the 25<sup>th</sup> July

### **Thursday August 10**

I wrote a letter to Jane the weather is warm no news of interest

### **Friday August 11**

I was on guard and Lieut. Ford my self and three others went out confiscating whisky also we arested two men of Co. I

### **Saturday August 12**

Four Companies of our Regt. went to Enterprise Co. K and I was left at Meridian Miss. weather warm

**Sunday August 13**

I went to meeting to the Baptist Church we are ordered to Vicksburg weather warm

**Monday August 14**

Our Regt. came up this morning from Enterprise enroute for Vicksburg the news is that we are going to be mustered out

**Tuesday August 15**

I was on guard our Regt. left for Vicksburg we think that we are going to be mustered out weather hot

**Wednesday August 16**

I went down to Enterprise in charge of some freight weather hot

**Thursday August 17**

I came back from Enterprise we still have the news that we are going to be mustered out of the Serves weather hot

**Friday August 18**

Nothing of special notice took place today the black Troops has not got here yet weather hot

**Saturday August 19**

I was on guard we had a big row in our Co. no news weather warm

The **108<sup>th</sup> Regiment**, United States Colored Infantry, was organized in Kentucky on June 20, 1864, and served in Mississippi from June 1865 to March 1866.

**Paulding** is about 35 miles southwest of Meridian and **James** is about 200 miles northwest of Meridian. Perhaps there was another James (town or farm) closer to Paulding.

### **Sunday August 20**

I went to meeting to the Methodist Church we had a sermon but a very poor one weather very warm

### **Monday August 21**

I wrote a letter to Jane a squad of us went to Enterprise staid all night we was relieved by the 108<sup>th</sup> Colored Regt. weather warm

### **Tuesday August 22**

We left Enterprise and marched to Paulding 18 miles I took a squad and went out to James to arest two of them but they run away

### **Wednesday August 23**

We stayed at Paulding and two of the Boys went out to Warrens to arest one of the Hide Boys but he skidadled Grayson came up and reported

### **Thursday August 24**

I took a squad and to James before day but he had left for Meridian we went back to Paulding and returned to Enterprise tired

### **Friday August 25**

We came up from Enterprise to Meridian I got two letters from Jane and one from Father Answered Fathers letter

### **Saturday August 26**

I was on guard we are expecting to leave Meridian for Vicksburg soon no news weather warm

Bolton, Mississippi, is about 110 miles west of Meridian. They must have gone by railroad.

**Government teams** are probably Army horse-drawn wagons. The route from Bolton to Vicksburg crosses the **Big Black River** about 10 miles west of Bolton. It was another 20 miles to Vicksburg by the **Cars** (railroad).

### Sunday August 27

I went to meeting to the Baptist Church this time we had a splendid sermons we have marching orders

### Monday August 28

We left Meridian Miss. for Vicksburg we run through within two miles of Bolton and camped there for the night

### Tuesday August 29

We went down to Bolton stayed there til two o'clock next morning no news weather cool

### Wednesday August 30

We left Bolton with government teams and got to Big Black River Bridge there took the Cars and run to Vicksburg weather pleasant

### Thursday August 31

We moved into Lincoln Barricks I was on fatigue we mustered for pay I got a letter from Jane and answered it and two others

### Friday September 1

I was pretty sick we are out of humor the talk is that we are going to be kept in the serves

### Saturday September 2

I was on guard at the Merine hospital we had to guard the niger hospital no news

**Sunday September 3**

I wrote a letter to Father no news it rained  
weather warm

**Monday September 4**

I was on guard at the arsnel we have alsorts of  
rumors about going home weather hot

**Tuesday September 5**

I got two letters from Father and one from Jane  
answered Fathers letters weather warm

**Wednesday September 6**

I was on guard at the government saw mill no  
news of importance weather warm

**Thursday September 7**

No news we are all out of humor about being  
kept in the serves weather warm

**Friday September 8**

I was on guard at the Ordinance Depot the  
musquitoes was very bad no news weather very  
hot I answered Janes letter

**Saturday September 9**

Mistake above I was on guard today at  
Ordinance Depot no news all mad

The **11<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment** was part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Army Corps. The 11<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin mustered out in Mobile on Sep. 5, and arrived in Madison Wisconsin on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The 11<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin probably traveled northwest from Mobile to Vicksburg to get to the Mississippi, a major river route to Illinois.

The **Washington Gallery** (see banner on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, upper right in this 1864 photo) was one of many photographic establishments in Vicksburg during the Union occupation.



<http://oldcourthouse.org/photos/civil-war-tour/>

Company K's John C. Murphy of Chicago died at Vicksburg on Sep. 15, 1865, of remittent (remittent) fever, such as caused by malaria. In 1880 there were four occurrences of **Capher** as a family name in Illinois.

### **Sunday September 10**

We have the news that we are to be mustered out soon the 11<sup>th</sup> Wis. Cors passed here today for home

### **Monday September 11**

I was on guard at the saw mills and got a letter from Father and one from Cathern weather warm

### **Tuesday September 12**

I answered Fathers and Catherns letter news good we expect to be mustered out soon

### **Wednesday September 13**

I was on guard at the Blacksmith Shop no news we want to go home weather warm and dry

### **Thursday September 14**

Several of us went to the Washington gallery and I had our negatives taken no news weather warm

### **Friday September 15**

I was on guard at the Treasurer Department the pay master came to pay the troops here we expect to go home soon

### **Saturday September 16**

I took charge of a funeral escort yesterday we buried Capher Murphy of our Co. No news weather very hot

**Sunday September 17**

I went to meeting to the Methodist Church and wrote a letter to Jane also went to meeting at night

**Monday September 18**

I was on guard at the Ordinance Depot weather Cool and nice no news but all dissatisfied we expect to be paid soon

**Tuesday September 19**

I got a letter from Jane we had Monthly inspection no news of importance

**Wednesday September 20**

I wrote a letter to Father we expect to get orders soon to be mustered out no news weather cool

**Thursday September 21**

I was on guard at the Ordinance Depot we have the news that we are to soon go home

**Friday September 22**

I wrote a letter to George Powell no news we have showery weather all mad we want to go home

**Saturday September 23**

No news of importance all dissatisfied weather cool and showery

**Sunday September 24**

I was on guard at the marine barracks dull times no news there is a good many sick

**Monday September 25**

I answered Janes letter we have the news that we will soon be mustered out weather warm

**Tuesday September 26**

No news I had a chill and was very unwell all day we are nearly all sick weather damp

**Wednesday September 27**

Nothing of intrust took place today no news I was still unwell

**Thursday September 28**

I wrote a letter to Father we expect to be paid off soon weather warm

**Friday September 29**

I was on guard at the Government Blacksmith shop weather very warm no news I got a letter from Jane

**Saturday September 30**

No news we are expecting to be paid off soon all hands are very anctious to go home

**Sunday October 1**

I was on guard at the Treasurer Department no news of importance weather pleasant and cant go to church

**Monday October 2**

I wrote a letter to or and answered Janes letter to day is Election day in the State of Miss. we have to get out of the serves soon

**Tuesday October 3**

I was on guard at the Marine Barricks all quiet at Vicksburg weather cool

**Wednesday October 4**

The pay master commenced paying of our Reg. no news of importance weather cool

**Thursday October 5**

I was on guard at the Ordinance Depot we was paid off I drew \$122.00 and collected \$118.00 weather cool no news

**Friday October 6**

I sent \$200.00 home to day sent it to Geo. Powell also wrote a letter to Jane and one to George Powell

**Saturday October 7**

No news of importance weather cool we are all out of patiance want to get out of the serves and go hom

**Sunday October 8**

I went to the M.E. Church to meeting we had a splendid sermond at 11 O Clock and night both

**Monday October 9**

I was on guard at the provost marshalls also got a letter from Father and one from Jane weather cool

**Tuesday October 10**

I answered Fathers and Janes letters we are all out of humor about being kept in the serves weather cool

**Wednesday October 11**

A squad of us went to prair meeting to the M.E. Church no news we had a shower weather warm

**Thursday October 12**

I was on guard at the Provost Marshalls we had a big shower I wrote a letter to Father no news

**Friday October 13**

No news we expect to go home soon and we had aught to of been there sometime ago weather cool and plesant

**Saturday October 14**

I was on guard at the Q. M. Department six Co.s of our Regt left for Yazoo City and we are under marching orders news good

The **Q. M.** Department is the Quartermaster: storage and distribution of supplies

**Yazoo City** is about 50 miles northeast of Vicksburg.

The **M. E. Church** is the Methodist Episcopal Church, the first expression of Methodism in the U.S.. Apparently its preacher was not a Union sympathizer.

The **Dic Vernon** was a steamer used for Union troop movements.  
<http://waynefielder.com/>

**Greenville**, Mississippi, is about a hundred miles up the Mississippi River from Vicksburg.

### **Sunday October 15**

I went to meeting to the M. E. Church Dr G. B. Marsh preached a regular Rebel sermon no news weather cool

### **Monday October 16**

We are ordered to leave on the Dic Vernon we went down to the landing but the boat was gone so we went back and slept in Lincoln Barracks

### **Tuesday October 17**

We left Vicksburg on the Rebecca our Boys raised a big row at Vicksburg we hope to soon get out it rained and turned cold

### **Wednesday October 18**

We arrived at Greenville Miss. had a bullie nights rest had a good trip up no news weather cool

### **Thursday October 19**

Greenville we are all in an up roar but did not get fixed up I was on guard no news weather cool and pleasant

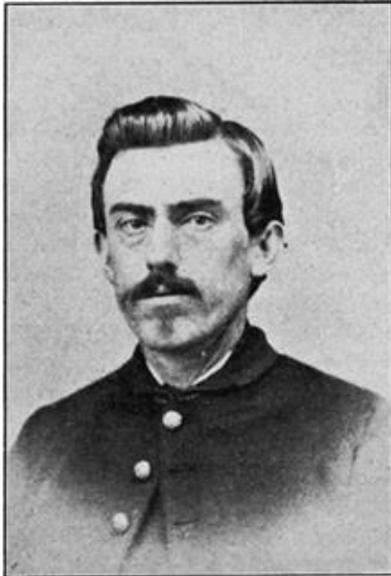
### **Friday October 20**

We took up quarters have a good shanty with fireplace to stay every thing is cheap no news weather pleasant

### **Saturday October 21**

We worked all day to get things in shape and are now pretty well fixed no news weather pleasant

Samuel **Kyle** of Co. K came from Scotland Township, McDonough County, Illinois.



SAMUEL KYLE, 1865.  
1st Sergeant "K" Company.

### **Sunday October 22**

I wrote a letter to Jane Kyle and I took a walk up to Town no news all lonsome weather plesant

### **Monday October 23**

We put an addition to our Shanty I went on guard we have the news that we are to be mustered out soon

### **Tuesday October 24**

I was not very well I wrote a letter to Father no news of importance weather plesant and warm I got a letter from Jane

### **Wednesday October 25**

We maid out the muster Rolls for pay no news I was taken sick with the flux about night weather plesant

### **Thursday October 26**

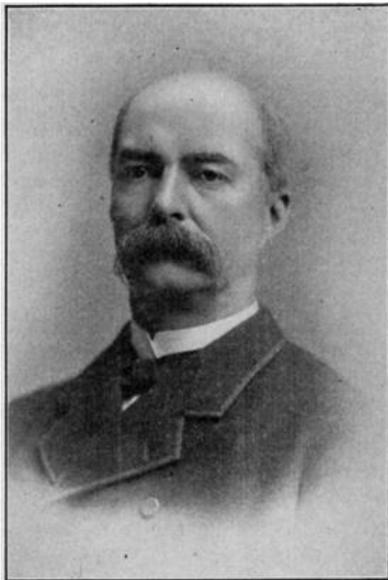
I was very sick all day it rained and turned cold no news

### **Friday October 27**

I was still sick but a little better the weather was very cool and damp no news

### **Saturday October 28**

I was still unwell weather damp and cool no news the boys was all busy geting up wood



GENERAL ISAAC H. ELLIOTT, 1900.

Col. Isaac H. **Elliot** was the commander of the Regiment at that time. He had started as the Captain of Company E, and rose to the rank of Colonel in 1865. Later he was made an acting Brigadier General. He was highly regarded by the men of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Volunteers, and later wrote part of the History of the Regiment.

### **Sunday October 29**

I was a goodeal better we got along fine to day we expect to be mustered out soon weather cool

### **Monday October 30**

No news I was able to be out some today no news of importance weather cool and plesant I got a letter from George Powell

### **Tuesday October 31**

The detachment was mustered for pay I answered Janes letter no news weather cool

### **Wednesday November 1**

I answered George Powells letter no news of importance we are expecting to be ordered home soon

### **Thursday November 2**

Col. Ellitt got back from home today he said we would be mustered out in a few days weather cool

### **Friday November 3**

I wrote a letter to Father no news of great importance weather cool

### **Saturday November 4**

We cleaned up for inspection no news we are all out of pasionts about going home

A **mistake** may mean MJB realized he didn't write that letter that day.

Captain Henry **Wirz**, who managed the infamous Andersonville Prison, was found guilty of conspiracy and cruelty, and was hanged on Nov. 10.



<http://www.biography.com/people/henry-wirz-560234>

After the war, Confederate President Jefferson **Davis** was accused of treason, but not tried, and was released two years later. By the late 1880s, he began to ask Southerners to be loyal to the Union

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jefferson-davis-captured>

### **Sunday November 5**

I wrote a letter to Father a mistake I was on guard no news weather cool

### **Monday November 6**

We have the news that Wirz has been convicted to be hung and that Jeff Davis will soon be tried weather pleasant

### **Tuesday November 7**

We have the news that fifty three more Regt.s has been ordered to be mustered out weather cool

### **Wednesday November 8**

I wrote a letter to Jane we have the news that our War vesals have been ordered to Sea weather plesant

### **Thursday November 9**

No news to day of importance the Boys are out of humor about going home or rather being kept in the serves

### **Friday November 10**

I was on fatigue four of our Boys left for home no news weather plesant and cool

### **Saturday November 11**

We have the news that we will be mustered out soon weather cool

John M. V. B. **Legg** and Edwin H. **Carman** were in Co. K of the 33<sup>rd</sup>.

*MJB mistakenly wrote entries for Nov. 24 and later six or seven days before the events actually occurred. Apparently MJB skipped a page (there are six days per double-sided page). However, he then wrote additional entries on the correct pages. On many of the following days he wrote "mistake" across an entry, and then added more text for the correct day.*

*Entries are reproduced here on the date the events actually occurred, as confirmed by the History of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Regiment, not necessarily on the date that MJB mistakenly entered them.*

### **Sunday November 12**

This is a dull day no Church no news but all want to go home we had inspection and dress parade weather warm

### **Monday November 13**

I got a letter from Jane and answered it we have the news that we will soon be mustered out of the serves it is raining

### **Tuesday November 14**

We still have news of us going out of the serves weather plesant

### **Wednesday November 15**

We are in a big way expect to go home soon the Boys are in better spirits than they have been for sometime

### **Thursday November 16**

I wrote a letter to John Legg and one to Edwin Carman news good weather plesant we had drill

### **Friday November 17**

I got a letter from Father and Cathern and answered them news good we expect to go home soon

### **Saturday November 18**

[From Nov. 24 entry: I got a letter from Father and answered it also one from Sell we have the news that we will be mustered out soon weather cool]

I got a letter from Father and answered it the mustering Officer is here to prepair our muster out Rolls weather rainy

**Sunday November 19**

[From Nov 25 entry: the mustering Officer came this morning with orders to muster us out and the Officers are making out the Rolls I got a letter from Father] The mustering Officer left for Yazoo City to muster out the Detachment there we are busy making out the Roll

**Monday November 20**

[From Nov. 26 entry: All hands busy getting ready to go home all full of life the Rolls are being made out fast] All full of glee about going home they are busy making out the muster out Rolls weather cool

**Tuesday November 21**

[From Nov. 27 entry: We are all full of life with the prospects of soon going home we are as happy a set of Boys as ever got together] Several of the Boys got back from the Hospital and off of Detached Serves weather pleasant

**Wednesday November 22**

[From Nov. 28 entry: All busy settling up and anxious to be off home all full of life and sport yet weather cool] I got a letter from Jane Father and Sell the Boys are all full of fun news good weather cool

**Thursday November 23**

[From Nov. 29 entry: News good the muster out Rolls will soon be made out we turned over our ordnance] Nothing more than usual took place today weather pleasant

**Friday November 24**

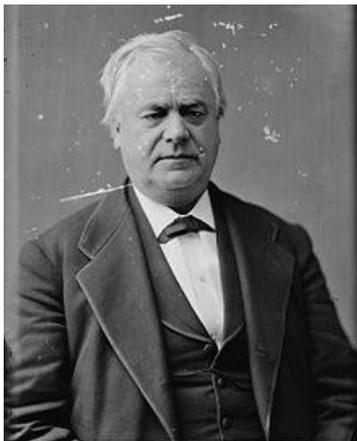
[From Nov. 30 entry: We are waiting and looking with earnest for the Regt we will soon be ready to start home weather pleasant] I got a letter from Father and answered it also one from Sell we have the news that we will be mustered out soon weather cool

**Saturday November 25**

[From Dec. 1 entry: All anxious to see the Boat come to take us up the River we are nearly ready to be mustered out] We was mustered out

The **Julia** took on **coal** near Greenville, Mississippi.

The Battle of **Island Number Ten**, near New Madrid, Missouri, was fought in the Spring of 1862. A Union victory gave it control of the Mississippi River nearly to Memphis, 150 miles farther south.



Illinois Govenor John G Oglesby  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard J. Oglesby](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_J._Oglesby)

### **Sunday November 26**

[From Dec 2 entry: Our Discharge papers was made out today the Regt came and we was mustered out about 11 Oclock at night got on the Boat and started home] we was on the boat

### **Monday November 27**

[From Dec 3 entry: We took on coal at the mouth of White River we are on Board the Steam Julia weather cool]

[From Dec 4 entry: We got to Memphis and stayed about two hours to get some grub weather cool] we go to memphis

### **Tuesday November 28**

[From Dec 5 entry: We passed Island No 10 about dark we had a plesant days run weather cool] we passed Island no 10

### **Wednesday November 29**

[From Dec 6 entry: We arrived at Cairo Ill's got off of the Boat took the train about nine OClock and proced for Springfield we got to Centralia about dark] we got to Cairo Ills

### **Thursday November 30**

[From Dec 7 entry: We arrived at Camp Butler went into Quarters and Govner Oglesbee came out and made us a speech weather cold] We got to Camp Butler

### **Friday December 1**

[From Dec 8 entry: We are wating for our pay and Discharge the weather is cold and very disagreeable] we are at Camp Butler

### **Saturday December 2**

[From Dec 9 entry: Weather cold and the Barracks dirty and full makes it very disagreeable the General Hospital burnt down today]

**Sunday December 3**

[From Dec 10 entry: Nothing took place all a little out of humor about having to stay so long in those dirty Barracks]

**Monday December 4**

[From Dec 11 entry: No news of importance we want to be discharged and paid off weather cold and rainy]

**Tuesday December 5**

[From Dec 12 entry: We expect to be paid of soon and leave for home weather very disagreeable]

**Wednesday December 6**

[From Dec 13 entry: We was paid off and Discharged today and left for home as happy a set of Boys as ever lived]

**Thursday December 7**

[From Dec 14 entry: I got home today found the folks all well except little Annie was real glad to see them all weather cold]

MJB's infant daughter **Annie** (Annetta Barnett) got well; she lived another 87 years.

*The entries for Dec. 8 through Dec. 14 have been relocated to Dec 1 through Dec. 7, the dates on which the noted events actually occurred.*