

Will Spaulding Diary

Spaulding kept a diary during at least parts of the war. His comments are brief, but point to his daily activities and mentions names of others in the Battery. At one point, he drew a symbol that appears to be the Masonic emblem in his diary. Several times he mentions going to "Lodge" in his diary and in 1890, he was living at the Masonic Home in Minneapolis.

The original diary is in the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. It is two small volumes, both in very fragile condition, faded writing on darkening paper. Best efforts were made to type accurately the contents of the diary, but Spaulding seemed to have an aversion to punctuation. He mostly used dashes instead of periods and capital letters appear randomly. The diary was typed as close as possible to represent what Spaulding wrote.

February 27th 1863

Capt. Starts for Minnesota tomorrow Send my Diary by him -- put my money with Lieut. Woodbury's & sent it home by Cap--

28th

Started for Nashville after horses -- Cap. started for home on furlough --

Sunday March 1st

At Nashville -- Went to church in the evening

Monday March 2d

looked around town & bothered with the ambulance, Went to Theater --

Tuesday March 3d--

Drew 20 horses & 6 mules got al ready to start back in the morning --

Wednesday March 4th

Started for camp about 8 o'clock & got there about 5 in the evening - got 2 letters

Thursday 5th

In camp all day --

Friday 6th

Started out on a 2 days scout - went towards Shelbyville about 7 miles fired a few rounds from the 1st. Sec.-

Saturday 7th March

Returned from the scout got to camp about 6 o'clock Signed the payroll for Nov & Dec 1862 -- Got a letter from Mother & Johnny-- weather very wet while out on the scout

Sunday March 8th

Usual duties &c.

Monday March 9

Ordered out on a 3 days Scout -- got 2 months pay about an hour before we started. -- sent \$20.00 to Murfreesboro by Wardwell to Express to Father -- Marched about 6 miles towards Eagleville then turned to the left & went to Versailles 9 miles from camp and camped rained hard all night--

Tuesday March 10

Started for Eagleville about 10 o'clock rainy all day - got to

Eagleville about 3 oclock got dinner & marched to within a mile of Triune, very dark and rainy, could hardly get a fire started --

Wednesday March 11th

Went over to the 2d Minn. Infantry -- about 2 miles -- saw Sgt. Fry - Lieut Alden was sick at Laverne, he is Brigade Inspector.

Tuesday March 12th

Went after some meat if it could be found - found some about 2 miles from camp - fresh beef and smoked side meat

Friday 13th

Started for Eagleville, got there about noon - got some Eggs, butter, milk, onions, dried apples & ducks - Went out with the forage team & got some shoulders & pickle pork -- House burned in town -

Saturday March 14th

Started back toward camp - got to Versailles about 4 oclock & camped

Sunday 15th

Got back to camp -- stayed in camp till the 24 of June -- made Corp the 5 June -- Went out on picket several times - once had a little fun with the rebs --

June 21st 1863 --

21 - on day guard

22 = " (on) Fatigue, Messroon(?) -- Wood

23 = Extra duty --

24 = Started after the rebs - commenced raining (*An added note sideways in the margin reads:*) Millersburg Camped

27 = passed through Hoovers Gap - Craven got hurt Sudley broke his leg - camped at Beach Grove --

28th = Marched towards Manchester rained every day since we left Murfreesboro - came into camp at 4 o'clock at night at Manchester -- rained hard all night.

29 Ordered to send our knapsacks to the rear -- & for the drivers to carry a change of shi---ts(?) for the cannons

30 = Still at Manchester - The first dry day since the 23rd

July

1 Started for Tullahoma got there about 11 at night saw Lieut. Alden -

2d = Started on south - Marched to Elk River, could not cross so we camped --

3d = Started again towards Winchester crossed both forks of Elk River & got to Winchester about 3 o'clock - Got a Win Daily paper ? one of the rebs.

4 = In camp at Win-- Wrote a letter to Mother fired a Salute of 35 guns at 12 o'clock

5 Went to church at 5 P.M. the Corps Chaplin preached -

6 = Usual camp duties -- on guard- Farny(?) got a goose & chickens out in the country -- also some potatoes in town --

7 = Our sec. on picket - rumor that Vicksburg is ours surrendered the 4th of July also that Lee whipped on the Potomac

8 = Came in from picket no relief -- fired a salute all around the lines -- ordered to get what vegetables we want from the gardens in town - the boys waded in -

9 = nothing of importance

10 & 11 " " " (*nothing of importance*)

12 = on guard

13 = Scott came up = policing. ordered to move camp at 1 o'clock -- Moved through town & camped on the Boiling Fork of Elk River

14 = Usual duties

15 - Went after forage in town,

16 - Nothing of importance pickets fired upon --

17 -- Liquor confiscated in the Brigade

18 = Usual duties &c 2 Regt. moved near town --

19 = Went over to the 2d Regt. took dinner with Lieut. Alden

20 = Usual duties &c letter from W.S.E.

21 -- Scotts goods came -- helped him all the afternoon - Gen Rosencrans & Staff came to town - is going to make this H Q

22 on guard--

23 -- Got 4 months pay & settled up for clothing I got 58.60 -- helped Scott till 9 o'clock at night

24 = Usual duties &c.

25 = Wrote to Father sent Davis' & Carlin's photographs also \$30.

26 = sent for some stamps

28 = Recd my stamps Lieut. Harder Sgt. Davis & a detail of men went to Nashville for horses -- A Detail of men came from the Inftry. Fox, &c 11 of them = on guard

29 = Usual duties - brought a bible for Mother - 1.50

30 Usual duties &c --

August

1 & 2. Usual duties &c

3 = Washed the carriages for painting - went after corn.

4 = Went after nails - &c on guard

5 & 6 Usual duties

16 = Went to church - up to this time usual camp duties --

17 - ordered to be ready to move at 2 P.M. moved at the

hour - Sgt. Hamilton went to hospital - Burnham Sick - & I am in charge of the detachment - marched about 5 miles & camped on guard

18 = Marched to the top of the Cumberland Mounts. hard hill to climb --

19 - Marched down the Mt. & camped in the valley - for 2 miles down we had to Lock the wheels of the carriages - almost perpendicular

20 - Marched to the Tenn. River near Stevenson & camped -

21 = Policing camp put up harness - got a new paulin(?) put up tent &c. &c. drew rations of Beef

29. Started again after the rebs - about 6 o'clock - marched down the river about 4 miles & stopped for them to put down the Pontoon Bridge went into Position on the bank to protect the crossing - Got the bridge down about 1 o'clock & Cavalry crossed -

30 - all quiet till noon Marched over the river & went into camp for the night - in a swamp

31. Started about 7 o'clock Goot(?) to the foot of Sand Mt. about 8. & to the top at 10 -- very steep & hard for the horses- but every = thing moved along first rate - camped on the top of the Mt.

September

1 Still in camp on the Mt. Got a letter from A.

2 = Marched at 6 south down the Mt. not so steep as the other side went about 15 miles & camped in the Valley --

3d. - The boys got some peach Brandy. ordered to change camp -- moved back about 2 miles to the foot of the Mountain

4 = In camp until about 1 o'clock when we marched to the foot of Lookout Mt. & camped

5th In camp in an open field in the valley very hot. -- Burnham on guard for the first time since we left Winchester drew 1 day rations sugar coffee meat Bread

6 on guard

7 ordered to move camp in the shade -- moved & got our tents up & ordered to be ready to move & for action about noon -- the forage train attacked Unharnessed about 4 o'clock

8 Cavalry went out after the rebs -- brought in 5 deserters & one prisoner Wrote 2 letters --

9 = The 1 & 3 Sec. of the Battery ordered out they crossed Lookout Mt.-- Cavalry passed with Spike bars to tear up R.R.

10 our Sec ordered out at 1 o'clock to move at 3 up the Mt. moved at the hour - Halted at the Top to let Johnsons Division pass - moved on & joined the rest of the Batty - or camped near it - got ready for bed at 10 -- on guard

11 - The other 2 Secs. came & joined us. Policing camp Charley Smith bit by a Poisonous Spider --

12 - In camp in the Valley, drew rations -- on guard

VOLUME TWO picks up in May 1864

Started from home for Minneapolis got there about 5 o'clock.

Friday 20th

Went to St. Paul & took dinner with Mrs. Brown- got pictures taken. Returned to Minneapolis about 4 o'clock - Sophia came down.

Saturday 21st

Levi & I ran all over town - eat ice cream to. spent the Evening at Mrs. Gilmores - very pleasant Bought a (*Drawing of a Masonic symbol*) book

Sunday 22

Went to church. took dinner at Mr. J.G Smiths - then went over to Mrs. Fletchers clouded up & brought quite a shower about 6 o'clock -

Monday 23d

Levi Started for Wis. Went down to the Fort & reported - got a pass to go to Minneapolis & back tomorrow - got there about 6 o'clock

Tuesday 24th

cut some wood for Mrs. Fletcher - Saw Wm Mealey - Started for the Fort at 2 got there at 3 -

Wednesday 25th

Went down to Mrs. Tillotsons & took dinner - ordered to be ready to move to St. Paul & embark for the south - Went on board the "Mankato" about 6 o'clock & started about 7 1/2 o'clock - Got to Prescott at 12 & changed Boats & took the "Keokuk"

Thursday 26th

Got to Lake City at 7 this morning - hung up on several sand bars - passed Winona about 6 1/2 o'clock - on guard - got to La Crosse at about 11 o'clock - stay in the depot until 7 in the morning

Friday 27th May

Went on board the cars about 6 3/4 bound for Milwaukee Changed cars at Minnesota Junction Took supper about 5 at Harvard - got to Chicago at 9 o'clock & stopped at the "Soldiers rest" had a good supper

Saturday 28th

Had a first rate breakfast - saw Tillotson -- he was arrested I had a pass all the afternoon -

Sunday 29th

Helped the Ladies get breakfast & wash up the dishes went to church M.E. helped the Ladies get dinner had an introduction to Miss Loomis. Helped them till dark

Monday 30th May

got up at 4 o'clock to help get breakfast - took breakfast at 5 & Started at 6 1/2 o'clock got into Michigan City at 9 & to Lafayette at 2 P.M. run around town until evening - Spent the eve- at private house, very pleasantly --

Tuesday 31st May

Roll Call at 4 1/2 o'clock Breakfast at 5 1/2 -- Started at 8 for New Albany got there about 8 1/2 in the evening stopped at

the Soldiers home

Wednesday June 1

Started for Louisville about 7 1/2 o'clock got to the Soldiers Home about 10 o'clock - Started for Nashville at 8 night

Thursday June 1 (*The date is crossed out and written over. The "1" is bolder and written beside.*) Got into Nashville at 7 this morning - went to the Zollicoffer house - got out & went around town a little -- saw Lieut. Alden -- went to Theater -

Friday 3

Ordered to be ready to march at 4 o'clock went out of town a little & camped - drew tents &c.

Saturday 4th

Capt issued Sabers & muskets to the boys - I got neither - a squad of men joined us to go to the front-

Sunday June 5th

Nothing of importance today till evening - commenced our prayer meeting had a good one 6 of us present

Monday 6th

Capt issued me a Saber - had an infantry drill-

Tuesday 7th

Order to move camp - moved out 4 miles on the Murfreesboro pike & camped - Quite a Smart Shower cattle came out and stopped over night

Wednesday June 8th

Went back to town & got horses, carbines and sabers Started for Murfreesboro, Marched 19 miles, got into camped at 12 night

Thursday 9th

Got to Murfreesboro at 12 Stopped for dinner & all night

Friday 10th

Started at 7 marched till 10 stopped for dinner started at 2 & marched till 6 & camped

Saturday 11th

Marched through Bellbuckle Camped at 6- got some milk & onions - on guard -

Sunday June 12

Marched 10 miles to Tullahoma got there at 12 camped - wrote letter to mother Wm Kimber went to Hosp.

Monday 13th

Marched to Dick and got there at 5 - got some milk and onions - wouldn't take pay for it --

Tuesday 14th

Marched over the Mt. camped in the valley got canteen milk for 15 cts(?) hurt my eye with a limb

Wednesday June 15th

Marched 16 miles to Stevenson -- Got there at 2 -- on guard

Thursday 16th

Started out to Graze horses about 7 Grazed until 8 -- Cap. called all the Non-Commish up for a lecture -- Ordered Sgt Davis to have 7 of us walk--till further orders - Walked about

2 hours = Wardwell walked 1/2 day camped at 6 o'clock -

Friday 17th

Marched from 7 till noon Stopped for dinner - My eye inflamed so had to ride in Ambulance -

Saturday 18th June

Rode in The Ambulance to Chattanooga got there at 12 - camped

Sunday 19th

Went to town to see a Surgeon - could not find one -

Monday 20th

Company moved into town in a fort - Went to the Post Dispensary to see about my eye - Sent me to Hosp. No 2

Friday June 24th

Got ticket for Nashville but did not go

July

Monday July 4th

Went down town saw Capt. Harris 38th Ill. also the non-Veterans of the 21st

Friday 8th

Went down town after valise from Sgt. Ed. Prescott 124 Ind.

Sunday 10

Got my discharge from Hospt. & reported to the Battery 2 miles from town

Monday 18th July

The Boys returned from the front

Tuesday 19th

40 of us went to town for horses got 100 --

Friday 22nd July

Went to town for some Medisins - Stayed at the Soldiers Home all night

Saturday 23

Returned to camp

Monday 25th

Took a man to town under guard that the Capt. arrested

(Here an entry was crossed out, though still legible. The date was first written "Monday 31st July" then the "3" was blacked out and the "July" lined out and "Aug." written in. The entry read: "Called up to sign the Pay Roll - expect our pay before long")

29th *(Saturday was crossed out.)* Friday 29th

Tillotson reported to the Battery. *(A large ink blotch crosses out the entire next line. It appears intentionally done.)*

Saturday 30th

Tillotson arrested - I took him to town = Asked Capt. for Tillotsons papers left with him, the pass and recommenda-

tion from Senator Ramsey - Capt. said he had disposed of them

August 1st 1864

Monday 1st August

Called up to sign the payroll -- expect pay in a short time

Friday ?th Aug.

Received 2 months & 9 days pay \$18. per month-- up to the 30th of June -- \$39.70

Saturday 6th

Received of Serg't L.S. Pratt on note 25.00

Sunday 7th

Sent in application for commish in U.S.C.T.

Tuesday 9

Recd Bounty 50.00 " of Sgt. Pratt Balance on note 20.00 Sent home 30.00

Friday 12th

15 (?) detail came from town --

Sunday 14th

Went out Patrolling with Averill & Oleson Went about 7 Miles from camp - returned to camp at 8 & went out again stayed till 4 in the morning.

Aug 19th Saturday 19th Aug.

Went to town to attend Lodge - Saw Tillotson he went to Lodge with me--

Sunday 20th

Returned to camp at 8 o'clock-- on guard --

Thursday Oct. 6th 1864

on Guard - orders came about 12 1/2 o'clock for 40 men to report at Fort Phelps at 4 o'clock - they were aroused and got breakfast and Started at 3.

Friday 7th Oct.

Revalie at 4. began to tear up camp - Got ready to march at 8 o'clock marched to town and went onto the fort we were in last spring --

Saturday 8th

Very cold last night policing ground for camp

Sunday 9th October

Went to Sick call with the men -- Saw Dwight Houlton of the 11th Regt. Albert Wells of the 4th "

Monday 10th

Went to Sick call in charge of men.

Friday 14th

Report that Hood is within 15 miles of us with Strong force Quite a Scare. All preparations made for defense.

Saturday 15 Oct.
divided up the battery one sec. at Stone fort. our Det.
with howitzer commanded by a man that says he is an
officer but he is no more than I. Our non-Vet. came back

Sunday 16.
The excitement is a little over--

END OF SECOND VOLUME