

Rufus Coombs Ames Diary

1861-1885

1

I Rufus C Ames was born at Carvers Harbor South Fox Island Maine on the 13 of May 1839. My Father was Volentine Ames of North Fox Island, He was the son of Justice of the same place, and he was the son of Justice Marsh Field Mass. He was English, and settled on the Island when it was wild. there is a hill at Pulpit Harbor called Ames Mountain. Grandfather had a number of Brothers and Sisters Namely Joseph, Eben, Thomas, Debrah, and Liddie, I have no way of ascertaining whether this is the full number or not, Grandfather was the youngest of the Family. He married Betsey Hudson of Boston Mass. and settled at Old Harbor South Fox Island. Eben moved from the Island to Camden Maine and settled between Camden and Rockport on the Shore road on the South side and clost to the Rockport Graveyard. All there is now to mark the spot is a Suller and a few neglected Apple trees. Joseph lived on Matinicus a number of years then settled on North Island. Thomas settled on Deer Island and is living there

2

at the present time 1885. Grandmother Ames had Eight Children. Volentine, Menley, Rufus, Cristofer, Fredrick, Ezra, Ann Maria, and John Westly. Menley married Eben Dyer and is living on North Fox Island. About 1841, Grandfather moved to Illinois taking all the family excepting Menley and father they being both married. Cristofer enlisted in the Mexican War¹ and was killed. Ezra was in the servis and was killed in some of the Indian trouble Rufus was living in Illinois the last time I hered from there. Fredrick had a family and lived in Missoura where he died in 1866. Ann Maria died when she was about 24 years old. She was subject to Fits, John Westly is living in Galesburg Ill. where he has a family. Volentine my Father was married in 1838, to Sabra Coombs my mother she was the daughter of Anthony Coombs of South Fox Island, he the son of Anthony of New Meadows Mass. he was the son of Peater who came with two brothers from France. my Great Grandfather Anthony Coombs moved from New Meadows Mass. to South Fox Island when it was wild and made him a farm what

3

is called Coombs Neck, they followed the shore around in a small Boat, my Great Grand Father had 14 children. James, Anthony, Sylvenus, Enoch, Paty, Anna, Sallie. She dying young they named another Sallie, Benjamin, Richard, Susan, William, Christine, Jessie, Jessie died young Anthony and Sylvenus were twins. Enoch was drowned when young of Little Long Island, My Grandfather married Betsie Allen, Daughter of Lieut Colonel Johnithen Allen and a brother to Colonel Ethen Allen, of Revilution fame, and during the war he was taken prisoner and carred to Ireland and while there he got acquainted with an Irish Girl Anie Fitzgerald, her parents objected and he stole her in the night married her and brought her home. She was 16 years old. Grandfather had Eleven Children, Margret, Jessie, Rosanh, Hannah, Johnithen, Hiram D, Sabra, Elizabeth, Christina, Biger, and

¹ The Mexican-American War 1846-1848

James R, Margret married James Collins of Castine Jessie married Desire Harding,
Rosanh married John Collins of Castine Hannah married William Whitley Johnithen
married Patty Morgthau

4

and lived with her three weeks he then went off and was not hered from for a number of
years during the times she got married again he then came back and married Sarah
Richardson of Castine and has raised up a large family he was in the Navie and was
Boson.

Hiaram D. married a widow of Boston Mass, where he now lives two children. Elizabeth
married P, called William B. married Paul Coombs and are living at Gouldbaugh,
Christina married Robert Hassan and are living at Camden Maine. Biger called William
B. married a Boston Girl and is living at Gloucester Mass. James R. died when 22 years
old with Consumption he was not married died in Castine where his parents was then
living, as I have said I was born in 1839. And my Brother Alvin **Gusins** was born August
25, 1841. we being the only children of our parents, in 1842 we moved off to Camden. In
1843, we moved to Rockland, and in 1844, we moved to Illinois. we had to travle by
teams a part of the distance and owing to the condition of the Roads we stoped in Norvau
three weeks and while there the Moreman Press was distroyed and Joseph Smith was
killed.²

5

Grandfather was living about two miles from Gailsburg. we went there stoped a few
weeks. there Father took a Quarter Section of Government land built a Log house and
settled, it was on the edge of the Prairie and in front of the house was an open plain as far
as the eye could extend and behind the house was timber Land. Grandfather soon sold his
place and went to Nauvoo he and Grandmother were Mormons. he stoped there untill the
Mormons left for Salt Lake then he come where we were and lived in the house with us.
when he left Maine to go with the Mormons he had 6,000 Dollers. and when he joyned us
he had lost about every thing. Father give him his claim on this land and he took a farm
out hairn and in 1851 Father concluded to return to Maine. for we all was sick with
Feaver and Ague all the time we had been out there.

he sold a span of horses wagon and some other things making enough to get back if he
did not pay his depts, he was owing in Gailesburg so we left in the night engaging a man
and span of horses to carrye us to

6

where we could take the Boat we had 22 miles to drive and we got in sight of the Landing
at sunrise and the Boat was just leaving the landing we was then obliged to go to the
Hotell and while there an oficer came and arested Father and to get out of the scrape it

² Joseph Smith, leader of the Mormons was Mayor of Nauvoo, IL. His "press" published
one edition of the "Nauvoo Expositor". Smith was killed by a mob in Carthage, IL June
27, 1844

took about all he had, and the next day we got aboard of the Boat and went down the river between St. Louis and Alton (The two places are about 20 miles apart) the Landing was called Chipaway or American Bottom. there was but a few families there and they were Dutch and could not talk English. we moved into a log house one room about 12.16 no Floor. a mud Fire place and Mother hung a Quilt up for a door, we lived there all winter and Father cut cord wood one Dollar per cord. in the Spring we went to Kirtland Ohio where Aunt Hannah Whitley lived. Father left us there and went to Toledo Ohio crossed the River and went 5 miles into the Forest called the Black Swamp. built a log house and sent for us

7

he went to making staves that was pretty good business for he made from three to Four Dollars, per day. we lived there about 5 years, and the last summer we was there the Colory raged in its worse form. hardly a Family escaped the Town on our side was deserted within three days. Father sent Mother Alvin and me to Kirtland where we stoped three months Father was there through the whole and nursed the sick. one old man and his wife died within one hour of one another he give Father a wagon and a york of cattle. when we got back things looked as if they had been deserted for years. that fall there was a great excitement about Grandtravers Bay Mishigan. and Father concluded to go so he sold all but one cow and left. that was the last he had to do with his family in the spring we sold cow and most of the Furniture and went to Kirtland then Alvin and I went to live out and Aunt and Mother come on to Maine. in July Mother sent for us and we went to Castine I went to work on Nautilus Island

8

for Uncle Jessie Coombs, a making Fish I had 7 per Month I stoped there untill late in the Fall. I then went over to the Vilage and lived with John Bridges. and went to school. the next spring I went back on the Island to work. Alvin was living with Lawyer Abbot. in the Fall I went to live with Richard McCluskey to lern the Taylors trade. Alvin went to live with John Dennett to learn the Sailmakers trade. I staid to Mac untill the next Fall then I left and shiped in the schooner Magnet of Castine bound to the Bay a Mackerelig and while down there we undertook to make a harbor on Prince Edwards Island in a gail and lost her. six including myself hired two one horse teams and went to Sholottown about 20 miles from where we were (Tracedy Harbor) we arived there in the midle of the might and stoped at the Welenton Hotell we stoped there one week and then shiped on a Brig bound for Boston the first night out we had a strong breeze and was up all night pumping when I got to Boston I got aboard of a coster and

9

went home. the next March I went to Gloucester and went 7 trips on Georges Banks with Uncle Bigor Coombs and then went to the Bay Mackereling we don very poor and late in the Fall I came home and the next spring I shiped in the Glendwar of Castine. Capt Fredrick Coombs Jessie Coombs son and went to the Grand Banks. we was gon about 5

months I had 14 Dollers per month. the next spring on the E. L. Thompson of Castine went one trip on the Seile Island Bank. the next trip on the Grand Banks. I had 22 Dollers, per month. this was the summer of 1860, and during the winter we lived on Main St. and I went to dancing School Alvin was boading at home and working in the Sail Loft. (in the Spring of 1861 the Rebellion broke out and April 25 Alvin and I sined in a Company geting up in Castine to serve three Months and we was routed up on the night of April 27 by the firing of a big gun. and we assembled at the Jerves House got breakfast and at sunrise we fell in to March,

10

to Buxport. the Company consisted of 80or 90 but before we got to Buxport we was reduced to 60. we got dinner at the Roberson House then took the Boat for Bangor, where they had an escort of a Company and a Brass band. that afterwards went South with us. we was escorted one mile back of the City to Barcks of the 2nd Maine and we became Co B of the same our stacion on the extreem Left. Field officers were Charles D. Jameson, Bangor Colonel Charles W Roberts Bangor Lieutenant Colonel, George Varney Bangor Major, John E. Reynolds, Bangor Adjutant, Officers of Co B. Castine Light Infantry Seth H. Devereux Captain Charles W. Tilden, First Lieut, David D. Wardwell Second Lieut of Castine James C Collins orderly Sergent we had signed for three months but we got to Bangor the Government would not except us for any time short of two years. all belonging to the Castine Company agreed to go for two years excepting

11

Charles W Veazie and myself we went home, getting to Castine Friday evening. the next day I hunted up Veazie and told him I was agoing back and sign for two years. he said if I would wait untill Monday we would take the Stage for Bangor. it was very lonesome in Castine for all the boys that I cared for had enlisted

Bangor May 13, 1861

This is my Birthday. since we got here we have been organizing the Regiment all we have to do is dril and stand Guard. To day we received a Bounty of \$24 one Months pay \$11, and a Uniform which is Gray. this is all from the State. I am 22 years old to day. weight 140 Length 5 foot 9 inches. we received orders to day to start for Washington tomorrow

Bangor May 14 1861

This has been a very Rainy day. This morning we fell in and was presented By the Ladies of Bangor with a Beautiful set of Collors, made of silk surmounted

12

with a Gold Eagle and heavy Gold Tassels. We then marched to the Depot accompanied by an ci----- concouse of People from the whole City and vicinity who had come out to see us depart for the Ceat of War. although it Rained very hard the crowd did not leave

untill we left at 11. A. M. we got on the Cars amid the firing of cannon and the cheering of the people. we then proceeded to Portland where we stoped all night in the old City Building in the morning we started for Boston where there was a larger crowd than we seen in Bangor or Portland. the streets was so crowded that the Police had to go in forse to cleare us a road to march in there was a number of Companys of Millishyer and three Brass Bands, which escorted us to the Comon. there we was put through the Mahnual of Arms. then we was escorted to the Cradle of Liberty to rest and to eat.

New York May 16 — 61

we got here this afternoon and the Yorkers gethered around us to tell us that they had things fixed up nice for our reception

13

and we was marched towards the Hall expecting a feast. when news came to the authorities that we had the Small Poc in the Regiment, they the turned us around and we was put on board of a United States Steamer cared out on the Curenteen Ground³ where she droped her Mud Hooks and kept us there three days. but at the end of that time things comenced to look a little scitish and the oficers of the Boat began to worry about the safety of the Boat and they got promist to put us ashore on Willards Point. there was no doubt in my mind but what the Boys would of soon taken charge and run her ashore as they intended. there was Indignation Meetings held over her the last day and I should like to have a copy of some of the speaches I hered made. some would draw tears from a stone while others would make a Egipson Momey laugh. when we got ashore we was provided with Sibler⁴ Tents 14 in a tent. they would be about rite for 10. any more than that could not be comftable,

14

Willards Point May 22 —61

Capt S. H. Deverux has Resigned and gon to Castin to take the Castan House and now C W Tilden is Capt and Wardwell 1st Lieut. and the Company voted 2nd Sergent Geo I Brown in as 2nd Lieut. over Sargent James Collins this was not right, for Collins was a good soldier and well drilled besides he had no bad habits. but he is not a man that takes well the boys think he is to stif

W.P. May 28 —61

Great excitement in camp to day the war department sent us oficer here to muster us into United States serves for two years. but he and Jameson got tight and tried to muster us in for three years, when we had only enlisted for two. the Regiment was called into a line and all that would be mustered in for three years was to step two paces in front about two thirds stept in front Alvin with them then they tried to scare us into it they said that on the next day we should have our heads shaved butons cut of our uniforms and

³ Perhaps he means “quarantine”

⁴ Sibley tents are shaped like a teepee.

be sent home in disgrace.

W.P. May 30 —61

we left this afternoon bound for Washington. got to New York at 5 o'clock I must confess I was some disappointed we expected to be sent home to day I thought it was more agreeable to loose my hair than my head. I had got a taste of a Soldiers life and found it was not all sunshine and pleasure

Last night I was on guard and Posted at the Col. Quarters which was in a large House. I was posted at the front door and while there the Mustering in officer Lieut Cogswill Eight United States Infantry who was there to muster us in came down stairs to the front door where I was. he asked me if I was one of the numbr that would not be mustered in for three years I told him I was. I enlisted for two years and would not be mustered in for three. he said he pitied me and Government would do what they said when he got part way up stairs he turned and repeated what he had said

16

On the Road to Washington May 31 —61

* We get into Baltimore at noon to day and went through the streets with Fixed Bayonets Loaded Guns and capped. the inhabitants looked very hard at us but kept very Quiet. all the respect they shoed us was sending a little Girl to the front door with a Rebel Flag. the streets was dug up and blockaded and other things don to bother us in our march through the City. we was put on the Cattle cars, and arived at Washington at 5 P.M in one place we had to get out of the cars and march Quite a distence on account of a Bridge that was burning. we marched by the White House and Uncle Abe stod in front of the house with hat off we halted and he made some talk we was then Quartered in some old buildings, and some of us went out on the Street and see an Italian with a harp we got him in the house and wanted him to play Dixie he refused saying if he did they authorities would arest him after a good deal of coxing and promsing to protect him he played it that was

17

the first time we had ever hered the Rebel national song.

Meridian Hill June 1st —61

we left Washington this morning early and are now on Meridian Hill. it is very warm we have pitched our tents and making preperation to stay here Quite a while we ar one mile back of the City

M. H. June 5 —61

It has Rained very hard all day but we have drilled just as much and just as long. it dont make any difference what kind of weather we have about that. I have hered of men that

did not know enough to go in the house when it rains and I think our officers are that kind of men.

M. H. June 8 —61

It has Rained hard all day, the 3rd Maine Regiment arived here on the hill to day, wet and hungry we helped them pitch their tents. that was something they did not understand as well as we did, we are looked upon as old Soldiers

18

M. H. June 12 —61

Pleasant weather now. we drew some Salt Beef to day which was rotten we carred it back one Company cared theirs in front of the Col. Quarters and Buried it they had a Chaplin mourners and paull bearers it was a melancoly secan. in afternoon we had a Fantaskit drill about 400 assembled dressed in all kinds of shape and a large assortment of war impymts we had a review and Prade.

M. H. June 14 —61

we had a False alarm last night calling us into a line and dealing out armunitin we thought the whole Rebel army was upon us. it was don to see how Quick we could get out to practise us Some rushed out without their hats while others came in great dismay Some with packs upon their backs and others went another way

Shakespok

The regiment is composed of 10 Company
Company A on the Right.

A. F. D. I. C. H. E K. G. B. The Colors and Color Guard between C. & H.

19

M. H. June 15 —61

we have nothing to eat in camp to day and some of the Boys would not drill and the rest followed but the first to deny duty were the first to fall in

M. H. June 21 —61

The 4th Maine arived here to day and are agoing to camp on the Hill clost to us.

M. H. June 29 —61

This has been a very warm day on our Regimental drill a numbr fell with sun Stroke but it is so common that we do not take much notice of it

M. H. June 30 —61

One of Company G shot one of his own Company last night while on Guard they Chalenged one anouther in sport and one gun went off the Ball hiting one of them just above the knee. in taking the Leg off he died in the operation

M. H. July 2nd —61

Yesterday we struck our tents in a very hard Rain storm and started across the Potomac River, by the way of George Town, into

20

Virginia. we arrived here at Falls Church in the evening. I got into a School House and slept under a seat it was very cold I thought I would freeze before morning. but today it is warm enough our tents came today and we are pitching them.

Falls Church Va July 3 —61

we are fixing our Camp Ground and will have a pretty place when we get it all done. our Regiment is in the advance guard of the Union Army on the Fairfax road. we are in the First Brigade under Brigadier Keyes. First Division under Major General. Tyler, General McDowell in command⁵.

F. C. July 4th —61

at sunrise this morning we had a Liberty Pole up and the Stars and Stripes flying to the breeze. Then our Co. and Co. A went on Pickett Guard four miles in advance this is the first Pickett we were ever on. my Post is close to Balls house as big a Rebel as there is in the Rebel ranks. in the night I was shifted to the Barn. No particular difference. George Noyes was Corporal of the Guard

21

and Ball had a large dog that kept barking so Corporal Noyes called on Ball and told him if he did not take care of his Dog he would be under the painful necessity of Ordering one of his men to shoot him

F. C. July 5th —61

we got relieved this morning and are now back to camp. we passed some very nice farms. but they are going to ruin fast. although the Law is very strict the boys find a way to get things.

F. C. July 10 —61

Fine weather now 81 Recruits and 60 Horses came to our Regiment today Black berries are very plenty

F. C. July 13 — 61

we started on Pickett this morning I went out side of the Pickett lines after berries the boys thought I run considerable risk for berries

F. C. July 14 —61

we got relieved this morning and are back to camp. and have marching orders the

⁵ Brigadier General Irvin McDowell is commander of the Army of Northeastern Virginia. Stay tuned, he is in command at the Union's defeat at the 1st Battle of Bull Run on 7/21/61.

Prevailing opinion is that we are going to Bull Run whip the jones and march on to Richmond

F. C. July 15 —61

A Pleasant day and Great excitement for we are striking our tents and packing our knapsacks. we are preparing for a long march and we hail it with joy

July 16 —61

we did not leave Falls Church until this noon. and got to Vinia at 6. P.M. stacked guns and Alvin went and got an armful of straw and he and I laid down for the night. we are close by a Post Road and the Rebs have run a train of cars off the track

July 17 —61

we started early this morning and just before we got to Germantown we discovered a **Mask** Battery. one of our Batterys fired into it and the johnneys skydadled we then marched into the town and some of the boys are relieving the settlers of some of their Pigs ducks &c.&c.

July 18 —61

we started again early this morning. Last night we had an alarm that routed the whole Army out. it was caused by the Peakett firing on some cattle at 10. this forenoon the advance got to Centerville Hill, where they found the Rebel troops in force, and had a brush with them. the Rebs fell back and we camped on the Hill during the night I understand there has been two Spys caught and hung to day.

Centerville Hill July 19 —61

very warm and dry weather to day we went after Railes to make camps with. Quite a number woke up with their Faces swollen very bad. what we call Moon Stroke. they slept so the moon shone in their faces.

C. H. July 20 —61

we are having very warm weather. we was Presented to day with a very nice Flag it was sent from San Francisco. California by the ladies of that City in the care of George B. Haycock of California to be presented to the first Regiment that reached Washington or one which was composed part of Lumbermen.

as we met both of these requirements and no other filling either it was presented to us. we was drawn up in a hollow square and Mr Haycock made a speech and was responded to by the Colonel saying that it should never be dishonored nor be stained except by the

Blood of its defenders. the banner is a very large one of the heaviest description of India Silk and cost 1,200 Dollars. the stripes are red and white and the field Blue most elegantly painted showing one side the American Eagle and thirty four stars, and on the other the Arms of California and Maine in separate shields. The Legends Eureka and Dirigo, on each respectively while the Goddess of Liberty stood between with a hand resting on either shield. the staff was made of Mongarista Wood the slides rings and Battle axe surmountian the staff were of solid silver very heavy there is thirteen silver stars on the belt for the Color Sergeant and a socket of silver on which was the inscription 'Union and Liberty'

25

on the slide were the words, Presented to the 2nd Maine Regiment, by the Ladies of that State now residing in San Francisco June 21 1861. History speaks of this and sais that during the time we were excepting this Flag there was an American Eagle huvering over us I see the Bird and seposed it to be a Turkey Buzerd.

Bull Run. Sunday July 21 – 1861

very Pleasant hot and drye we have not had any Rains for a long time. We was routed up at 12 last night but did not get on the march untill 2 oclock. At sunrise the Battle of Bull Run comenced three or four miles in advance of us. at 10 we had orders to advance. we went three miles on a duple Quick. no wind and red hot and the dust flying so you could not see your fileader. when we got up to Shurmans Battrey that was firing at the Rebels, we halted long enough to throw of our coats and Haversacks and Knapsacks and then started again through woods ---d over streams. when we got up to the Rebels we reformed our line and found that about one third of the Regiment

26

as Quick as we got into line we charged and drove the rebs. we then reformed and made another charge. then the Rebels drove us we then fell back a few rods formed and charged over the field again to get our Color that was left on the field the Color Sergeant being killed. his name was Moore he took the Color from Deane that was kiled the first charge. after falling back again in the woods, Capt Tilden wanted some to go back on the field with him to see if we could see any of our Company that we could help off. Alvin and I with three others went with him, the Rebels did not fire at us untill the Capt comenced to pick up some guns then they opened fire and we gat. but they did not stop untill we gat under the hill. then Sergeant Collins come in from the woods, and said that he had seen a Rebel and wanted John Veazie and me to go with him and take the jonies, we went and hunted but found nothing but a hogg during this time the Regiment had been ordered to fall back, so we started for the road, and just as we came out to the road there was a Connetcut Regiment retreating on a duple Quick. the Colonel

27

dismounted. and when he see us he thought we were Rebels being dressed in a Gray uniform, and he sung out to his right Company shoot those damed rebels. they leveled their guns, redy for the word fire. William Smith of our Co had strayed from the Regiment and was on the opisit side of the Regiment from the Col. he sung out dont shoot they are our own men. the Col swong around his men and away they went on a duble Quick. but it was a number of minets before we moved. it was such a surprise to us that we could say nothing. we then continued on and got up with the Regiment just as they had got up to Bull Run Bridge when I went over the Bridge there was a solid body of soldirs crossing and to make it worse they rushed a 32 Pound Gun on with eight horses attached into the crowd untill they could go no further then they cut the horses loose mounted them and tried to drive them through the crowd. their was a good many soldiers crowded off the Bridge and the distens to fall must have kild some. after geting acrost,

28

our Regiment filed off to the left and faced to the front to protect the Bridge as we was rear guard. the Rebel Black Horse Cavelery made a charge at the Bridge. but the went back with some of their saddles empty, after staying there about one hour we fell back to Centervill Hill geting there about dark. it was raining then had comemced at 6 oclock. we stayed there a cuple of hours, then had orders to fall back on Alexandria, which was 22 miles from Centervill Hill, about one half of the Company is misen but we do not know what has become of them. Alvin is in the ranks with me.

----- July 22 —61

The Army comenced to retreat for Alexandria at about Eight last evening but the road leading to Alexandria has been full of straglers ever sense noon. it has Rained very hard through the night and mud has taken the place of dust Leaving the Roads in very bad shape when we fell in last our Company was very small. and the **cudinis** so bad it was hard to keep together. it would be impossible for me to write and

29

and give any ider of the condishon of the Army. as I see it last night and to day, it was every one for himself. I see a number that seemed to have lost all reason. they would rush along in crowds and if a gun was discharged as they often was in their excitement they would sing out the Rebels are coming and away they would go untill they was exausted, a good meny had thowed away their guns hats and most of their clothing. at sunrise there was eight of my company with me and we pushed on bye deserted wagons dead horses and Soldiers that had gon untill they could go no further and would fall down in the mud and lye as if they were dead. The first thing that brought me to my feelings was when I got in front of a house about five miles from Alexandria there was an Ambulance run to one side of the road full of wounded, and just out side of the front fence was a woman walking back and forth ringing her hands and baging for some one to take care of the wounded soldiers as the **-ses** were

cut cleare and rode off by some Soldiers, I got into Alexandria about 9 oclock. things had not improved any here there was just as much excitement Soldiers and Artillery rushing through every street. we went to a store busted in the door. and went up stairs and I took a side of Bacon for a Pillow and lyed down

Alexandria July 23—61

It have cleared off Quite pleasant. this morning I got up for the first time since I took my side of Bacon. I call it getting up but I was so lame and sore I did not get up but half way. but I am pleased to be able to get up that distence all the same. I get out in the streets and strowled down to the River and put myself in soak. we was on our feet 30 hours and made over 60 miles. I have not seen Alvin since yesterday morning early. there was a great meny that took the rong road that branched off from the Alex Road about 6 miles out and went to Washington. I sepose Alvin is with them. some of the boys got letters from home to day. none for

me, but I gut some hot coffee and hard bread. we do not know how meny we lost in the Battle or how meny were taken prisenor in our Company, for the Company is not together yet.

Alexandria July 24 —61

To day some of our Company arived from Washington. Alvin with them. our folks are transporting Guns from Washington and the Gun's Boats and puting them in the Forts around Alexandria. I hered to day that the Rebels was agoing to attecked us here.

Arlenton Hights July 25—61

we left Alexandria this morning with a number of other Regiments and arived here at noon. it is called 9 miles and is opesite Georgetown. we are at Fort Corcoren. built before Bull Run Battle it is on the Lee estate and clost to the Lee Homested. after we got here the Regiment denied further duty. and say as they enlisted for three months and have surved that time they want to go home. they are in so much earnest that they will not pitch their own tents.

A. H. July 26—61

I had fried hard bread for Breakfast and then I went down to the Canel and went in a swiming. this Canel croses to Georgetown on the Atridock Bridge and is called Chesipeak & Ohio, (I think) we are trying very hard to find how long we are in for.

A. H. July 30—61

we received our first payment from the United States to day of \$5-13 cents in Gold and silver. G

A. H. July 31—61
we was paid off again to day \$14-46 cents being all Government owes us up to date
Uncle Sam pays his Soldiers \$11 per Month

A. H. August 2nd 61
our Regiment is out on fertig⁶ cutting down the woods so the Rebels cannot advance on us
without making roads. I have not don much myself. fer I have been calling on my
neighbors, for something to eat . have engaged my dinner, and am now siting in the shade
and watching.

33

A. H. Aug 14—61
since Aug 2. there has been nothing of impurtence hapened. we have been on Fertig went
on Peakett a few times. had some drilling some camp guard and some fu--. 60 of the
Regiment that had denied duty and hung on to it were carred off to day and they say to be
put on the Riprops⁷. Colonel Jameson has been promoted to Brigadier General. now
Charles W Roberts will be Colonel. the Regiment is much pleased with the change. the
Boys think a good deal of Roberts

A. H. Aug 25 —61
nothing of impurtence since the 14 the Repurt is to day that the Rebs are agoing to attack
us here if they do they will catch hell. my weigh to day is 134 lbs.

A. H. Aug 28—61
we expected company and lied on our arms all night to receive them they did not call.
George B. McClellan is in Comand of the Armes of the Potomac.⁸

34

A. H. September 4 —61
I went out on Peket this morning my Post is at the Front door of Mrs Halls house it is
Quite a nice house for these parts rated at about \$8,000 Mrs Hall is here and an old Made
and a Girl about 18 years old, a Virginia Beauty.

A. H. September 18 —61
yesterday we went on Peaket and to day we was releived and instead of waiting and all
Marching in together according to orders. C. W. Viezey and I struck out for camp alone,
and when we got in the oficer of the guard reported us to the Colonel. and a Sergeant and
a file of Soldiers came and arested us. we was carred in side of Fort Corcoren to our
Colonels Quarters, and he ordered us to hug the Widow (a tree about as big as ours
body.) we asked him if he would not here our story he said he would we then spun him a
good excuse. and he dismissed us. if any of us disobeyed orders our arms were put around

⁶ By “fertig” he means “fatigue”, non-military duty done by soldiers

⁷ Perhaps he means “report”?

⁸ After the Union’s defeat at the Battle of Bull Run, General McDowell was demoted to commanding a division under George B. McClellan.

the widow and hand cuffs put on and if they made a good deal of noise there is a Gag aded to make it more binding.

35

A. H. September 19 —61

we was paid off to day \$23-73 cents in Greenbacks. we are now receiving \$13 per Month. some of the Boys trye all kind of doges to get out of the Army. some take Medisine to make them selves sick some cut themselves, while others hunt for deares. we are in Shermans⁹ Brigade now.

A. H. Sep 28 — 61

some of the army is marching to the front to take Mansons Hill about 8 miles in advance of our present position We have received an United States uniform Blue. And the State of Maine has sent in a bill to each of us for \$24 for the Gray Uniform they put on us when we left the State. there was a number in our Regiment that was killed or wounded on account of our Gray uniform, one N. Y Regiment fired into us while we was under fire.

Halls Hill October 12—61

we changed our Quarters to day and are now 4 or 5 miles in advance of Fort Corcoren and while pitching our tents just before sundown we had an alarm,

36

which called us into a line. after being in the ranks about one hour we broke ranks and went to work on our tents

H.H. Oct 29—61

we have had very nice weather letely there is three that tents with me in what is called a wedge tent. Charles Hooper Moses Veazie, Isic Sheaperd and myself we sent Charles Hooper to Washington for some heavy cotton Cloth to make a wall to our tent it makes more room and we have a fire place in the tent to warm it and cook our grub. the Regiment went out on Regimential drill this after noon. I did not go out but went to the Sutlers got a dollers worth of tickets and got some things to eat.

H.H. November 5 —61

I have been on fertigue duty to day and have helped cut down a very nice orchard to make room for Bragade drill

H.H. Nov 11—61

I am on peaket went on yesterday my Post was along side of a haystack. Charles Veazie are post with me when it became

⁹ General William Tecumseh Sherman

dark we got on top of the haystack where we staid all night

H. H. Nov 20 —61

we left camp early this morning with Raitions and packed Knapsack, for Bayles Cross Roads. 5 miles from Camp where the whole Arney assembled for a Grand Review. 20,000 Troops, and three or four thousand spectors Uncle Abe was there and a numbr of the Big Bugs of Washington. we got back at sundown very tired

H H. December 3—61

the 2nd Maine Regiment started last night at about 12 on a Scout we had one Company of the 22nd Mass regiment. this Company has Target Rifles. the Regiment belongs to our Bragade, we marched six miles out side of the Peaket line and stowed ourselves away in the woods along side of a road that our spyes had seen for a number of mornings a Company of Rebel Cavelery. we got stowed away just before light and we staid there untill after dark our orders were to keep still and

38

when this Company passed to fire on them and take them priseners it was a very cold day. we had all we could do to keep from freazing. diring the day we took one of the setlers that was riding by and detained him so he would not five us away he thought he had got in a very bad scrape, but we see nothing of the Cavelery and after dark we fell in and started for camp where we arived at about 12

H. H. Dec 16 —61

this morning I went on Peket Guard and made a raid on the Setlers

H. H. Dec 17 —61

got relieved and are in camp Pack we killed last night we eat to day.

H. H. Janery 1st — 62

this has been a pleasant and warm day we have made some Minse Pies in our tent to day. we Burned all we could and the rest we bought Ike Shephard is building them folks to home might growl at them but never mind we can handle them

39

H. H. January 6 — 62

we have some snow on the ground. I have signed the Elotment Roll agreeing to send \$11 home to Mother each month, it is to be paid to Mother instead of me. there was only one in the Company that signed \$11 beside me. Alvin signed \$10.

H. H. Jan 22 — 62

a fine day six including myself went in the woods to ire at a target. one was to put up mark 100 yard of the bigness of a pie we was to give three cents per shot. the one hitting them put up the mark and had the profits. I hit the Bulls Eye the first shot after geting back we had a pie feast

H. H. Feb 2nd 62

went on Peket yesterday. very bad weather cold and disegreeble. we have three Reliefs, two hours on post then we go back a short peace in the woods where we have our Ponchos pitched and fires in front of them. Countersign **Monterug**. We had considble excitement last night while I was on post, there was about 50 head of cattle come for out peket line

40

from the Rebel side and as they went through the woods it sounded very much like Cavellery. I must admit my legs were coxing me to beet a retreat and it was all I could do to keep them in place there was some that left their post our Sergeant with them. he run through Blackberries Bushes, and ovr a Brook where it was so bad that we never went over in the daytime we noticed the next day that he wore his cap further over his face but his cap was not big enough to cuver all the scratches. This was styled the Horned Cavellery Charge.

H. H. Feb 11 — 62

we the members of Company B. Presented Captain Tilden with a very nice watch

H. H. Feb 13 — 62

To day 14 including myself sined to go on detach duty. Seposed to be in a gun Boat up the Missisipi but the Capt would not let us go excepting two

H. H. Feb 14 —62

Isaac Shepherd went to the Regimental Hespital this morning he is Quite sick

41

Simeon Murch treated the Co on sider to day, on his promotion the Company voted him Sergeant from Coperel.

H. H. Feb 20 — 62

it is pleasent to day excepting the wind. it has blowed about as hard as I ever see it I went to the Hespitle to day to see Isk Shepherd but he was asleep.

H. H. Feb 24 — 62

this forenoon it rained and in the afternoon cleared off and comenced to blow very hard blowing the top of from our Guard house which was made of green hard wood logs and boards, it blowed a cuple of logs that were 30 feet long two at the but 100 feet. Isk

Shepherd died last night at 1. o'clock at the Hall house, where he was moved the other day
it is used as a Hospitale

H. H, Feb 25 — 62

the Company subscribed \$1.00 apiece to send Isks remains home. I drew some cloths
and a new Canteen which was 34 cents. (the Canteen was 34 cents)