

Rufus Coombs Ames Diary
1861-1885
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Feb. 24-63

clear over head, we got relieved from Pekett this morning and have got into camp the snow has not melted much to day. we have heard distant firing all day. heard that the Conscript Law was put in force. orders to be ready to march in a moments notice

March 5-63

pleasant but Quite cold. Company B excused from drill to work on their Cook house. we have orders to have Company Cooks hereafter I made Bean Swegal [swaggon?] for supper

March 9-63

Good weather. lots of drilling through the day. our Regimental Sutler set up in business yesterday and got robbed last night

March 11-63

Pleasant with heavy wind, our guard countersign Probscot [Penobscot?]. on dress parade. Thomas Belchers sentence was read off. the remainder of his enlistment to be served with ball.

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and Chane. 29 lbs, he denied duty over one year ago and has done no duty since.

March 12-63

Pleasant but windy I went on furlough in forenoon. Thomas Belcher left to day to serve his sentence he belonged to Company I.

March 17-63

went on guard at the Comersary Charles Veazie and Joseph Hackett arrived to day they have been to the Hospitale Veazie is to tent with me heavy firing towards Warrenton, officers all drunk

March 18-63

Threatning to Rain. the firing continues at Warrenton Junction we received orders to day to fill up our sullers. Weight 155.

March 25- 63

Rained hard through the night but is pleasant to day. orders came before day light this morn. to be ready to

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move in a moments notice, leaving Knapsacks in camp we have drilled to day as usual.

March 26-63

Snowed through the day. in forenoon fell in for Review but the order was countermanded. until afternoon then we had a Division review by General Meade¹ and Gen Griffin

April 1st-63

windy and very cold. been on duty all day. Troops have been moving through the night. John Collins is here on a visit. he is acting Master in the Navy.

April 5-63

Stormy and windy. 8 inches of snow fell last night but it went off through the day. Adjutant Mugett brother to Capt Mugett has left us to take command of a Negro Regiment

April 9 - 63

we were Reviewed to day, by President Lincoln.

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April 12 - 63

we fell in for Regimental inspection but the order countermanded and we had a Brigade Review and was Reviewed by a Swedish General.

April 14-63

pleasant and warm. Alvin not very well. orders came to move with 8 days Rations packed in Knapsacks, packed up our extra things in a box to be sent to Georgetown.

April 15-63

Rainy last night and to day the Cavalry moved last night. went to their camp ground and found a Pistol

April 17- 63

I started this morning at 7 o'clock for peaket. the regiment is to go on a Grand Review to day. just before dark heard that the Marquis were packed

April 25-63

two years ago to day we signed Papers to serve the Government three months and to day 60 of us claimed our discharge

¹ Meade was placed in charge of the V Corps after the Battle of Fredericksburg.

on the strength of that, ad we carred our guns and equipments in and denied further duty. we was put under arest and marched to our Brigadears Generals Head Quarter he came out with his arms full of Law Books, and read the Law to us for about one hour. showing us what the penilty was for dening duty. after all this preamble he went to the right of the 60 and asked each one as he came down the line if he still persisted in denying duty if he did to step two paces in front. every one stept in front but one. the Gen then turned to the officer of the Guard and told him to march us back to our Quarters, and keep a guard over us. in the afternoon the Colonel sent for us, and told us that he had been to see Gen. Meade and that Meade said that we should certainly be on our way home by the 20 of May. then the Colonel coxed us to come back in the ranks giving his word and honor that we should go home by that time. we held a counsel and agreed to go back in the ranks untill that time.

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April 27 –63

fine weather we started this aforenoon on the march with 8 days raitions at sundown, got to one of our old camp grounds stopt all night.

April 28–63

some Rain. we started again at noon and marched untill 10 in the evening most of the boys in the rear. we have had a very hard march.

April 29 – 63

we started at 8 this morn. crossed the Rapihannoc and Rapidan Rivers. I am in the rear. I concluded not to swim the Rapidan but followed the shore along untill I found a Punt, and crossed in her. where the Regiment crossed the water was over three feet deap and run very swift. heavy chearing in front.

Mechanicksvill May 1st–63

got up with the Regiment last night we have found the Rebels here in force, here, and, we have been advancing slowly up to them. the Army is getting

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in position and there is a considble firing on both sides. but towards night about the whole Army was engaged and we had Quite a battle. no great advantage gained on either side, but we fell back a few rods, and comenced throwing up brest works. as we had no shovels we used tin plates beyenots enything that we could get aholt of. the dead and wounded are ling between the two lines of battle and the wood got a fire burning some of them up.

Mechanicksvill May 3–63

pleasant and warm. there has been considble sharp firing all along the line to day. and we have been expecting that the Rebs would advance on us all day. there is a pile of Knapsacks in front of us, and Alvin went out to the pile and got two, and coming back the rebels fired at him three or four times. in one of the Knapsacks was a Pistol. (I have that Pistol now)

Mechanicksvill May 4–63

a fine day. we have expected that the Rebels were agoing to advance on us.

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all day. but they have don nothing but keep up a sharp firing. we felt of them just before dark. we don some work on our brestworks through the night

Mechanicksvill May 6–63

Rained very hard all last night. we are still behind our rude Brestworks, we passed a very disagreeable night. we have been here since the third, on the most exposed part of our line, and our Brest works not being a sefishent protection we have been under the Rebel fire night and day. it has not cleared off yet the Army has been Falling back all night acrost the Rapidan River. and this morning at daylight our regiment was the only one in the works. we being left as rear guard/ and before the sunrise we left for the rear the Rebels found it out as soon as we moved. we had about two miles to go to get to the River. we fell back in good order making one stand when we had gon half the distince, after crossing the River on a Pontoon Bridge we stacked Arms, and assisted the Pontoon men in taking up

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the Bridge it is surprising how Quick one of those Bridges can be taken up. it was onely a few moments and it was all on the Trains and on its way to the rear. the Rebels advanced on us While we were taking the Bridge up, but a few shots from a battery we had on a hill above us caused them to fall back for awhile. there was a Rebel soldier ling where we took the Bridge up. he was wounded in the Hip he beged very hard for some one to take him up and carry him to a house clost by. after the Bridge was taken care of some of the boys picked him up and careed him to the house. he was pleased as a little boy for he was very cold. he had been out in the cold rain so long that he was chiled through he did not look to be over 15 years old. we then fill back about three miles and at dark the Regiment got into a barn for a nights lodging and so ended the Battle of Mecanicksvill and the 2nd time the Army has been defeted under Genral Burnside. (Mistake I think Hooker instead of Burnside)² [author's note]

² Rufus is mistaken in the name/place of the battle. May 1- May 3, 1863 was the Battle of Chancellorsville –near Fredericksburg. Mechanicsville (north of Richmond) was in June of 1862. The 2nd ME was engaged at Gaines Mill as part of that 1862 battle. His correction to Hooker is accurate. Chancellorsville was Hooker's loss.

Falmouth May 9–63

we got a good nights rest in the Barn and started early in the morning for our old camp ground where we arived at three in afternoon and have got marching orders.

Falmouth May 18–63

since May 7 we have remained here but have had marching orders most every day. been on drills and Reviews. Inspections camp guard and Peaket, and to day we have been on a Riview. the 5th Corps has been reveiwed. when we got back to camp we hered that our Quartermaster was turning in our things now it looks as if we was agoing home, and on Dress prade we felt more shore of it for we was told to be redy to start for home early in the morning. the Recruits to be put in the 20th Maine³.

Falmouth May 20–63

we have had a fine day. we fill in line at 6 oclock and was escorted to the Depot by the 18th Mass Regiment who requested the privelage. there we got on the cars and went to Acqua

Creek. went on board of the Steamer Expounder, and arived at Washington at three in afternoon.

May 21 – 63

pleasent this morning we droped down to Alexandria took in Coal and started on our way home. yesterday and to day has been the two hapiest days of my life. John R Veazie who was wounded at the 2nd Bull Run and has been in the Hospitle ever since joined us here. he was wounded in the ancle and is lame yet.

May 22 –63

we ancored through the night but steamed up early this morning passed Cape Henry in afternoon

May 23–63

pleasent but windy. we have been plowing our way onward but the boys think we are slow. I think so myself

May 24–63

windy and overcast went into New Port R.I. Coaled up and then started again

³ He is referring to the 3 year recruits, Rufus was part of the original Company that signed for two years.

and got to Hames Hold at sundown where we stopt all night.

May 25–63

overcast and windy. left Homeshold at sunrise.

May 26–63

we arived at Buxport at 5 oclock. there we was met by a delegation from the commitee of arangements, and our old comander Colonel Roberts, who had in charge the old Flags of the regiment. at 10 we arived at Bangor. the Booming of cannon told the inhabitence that the 2nd Maine was here. they had to put a gard on the wharf to keep the crowd back. we formed our lines on the wharf and was escorted by Militia and engines Company with bands of music marched to Broadway where an immence throng had assembled. filling the Square in the prosesion was the Adjutant General of the State with other dignitaries and a Company of discharged Soldiers of the Regiment. all along the line the buildings were dicatorated. Flags flying and the Shiprey

had put on their best suit. we marched by a Stager where there were 32 Girls dressed in white who sang the song Welcome To The 2nd Maine. there we had speaches of welcome, by Adjutant General Hudson, Ex Governor Washburn Vice President Hamlin, Lewis Barker Esq. Hon F A Pike, Profesor Harris and Col. Roberts. We was marched to Norumbega Hall which was splendidly decorated with Flags and bunting and the names of the Battles in which the Regiment was in. after the execises was over we was dismissed to go where we pleased. but to report in a few days to be discharged in Norumbega Hall we was fed a=n the fat of the Land. I see Mother while marching through the street.

Welcome to the 2nd Maine

They are coming friends and Countrymen
 Five Hunderd Heroes. less
 Then marched benneath that Story Flag
 our perrild Land to Bless.
 Theyve withered neath the Southern suns
 Theyve fainted in the Camps
 Theyve frozen in the sleety storms Theyve

Fainted in the swamps,
 Theyve left their honest prilgram Blood
 on fields with carnage wet.
 That we might keep our Nations name
 A name of Glory yet.

All hearts are swelling proudly as
we greet the handful Left.
All eyes are dim with sorrow o'er
The homes they find bereft

They left their hearths. They left their
Loves. They jeopardized their all.
They gave themselves with Noble trust
At Sumter's thrilling call.
And now they come with Hissing haste
As panting in his speed.
To fetch our heroes laurel wreaths
Press on the Iron Steed
our hearts beat fast in vain we try
The blinding tears to hide.
For floats aloft our spangled Flag
In Glory and in Pride.
Oh not the one of silken wech we
Gave them when they went.
We've laid that up in Glorious rest
All Pierced and grimed and rent.

Thrice welcome be those broken ranks

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strew flowers beneath their tread
Not men at arms but Knights are they
The Gallant Hooker send,
So nobly have they suffered and so
High a Honor sought.
This rarest praise from heroes' lips their
Faithful lives have bought.
Thank God the souls, he gave our Boys
Were souls so strong and true
And not a single stain has marred that
Starry field of blue.
Our hearts are swelling proudly for
The Vellent sons of Maine
Our tears that all unbidden start are
Not the tears of pain.
Well done ye brave and faithful men
Ye've earned your welcome home.
From fields of stately valor back your
Furrowed remnants come.
We thank you for the lustre shed on us

By deads like yours.
For tales we'll tell our children to in
Future sunbright hours.
When rebel chiefs are lifted up and
Treasons fires are down
When old Columbia sparkels forth in
Freedoms proud new crown.
We'll shed those tears as now we do which

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Are no tears of pain
And tell our Childrens listening ears
Of the Grand Old Second Maine

After giving up our guns and equipments we scattered each one went as he pleased. the
Castine boys went on board a vessel that our folks had come up in and started down
River and arived at Castine the next morning at sunrise.

Bangor May 28-63

we came here yesterday with the expation of being discharged. most of the Regiment is
here and the State has provided a Hotell for them to stop in but as a cuple beside myself
choose to seprate from the boys we stop at the Hatch House. This afternoon the Regiment
was out drilling. I sepose they had two reasons for doing so one was to gratify the
inhabitence and the other was to show them selves. they drilled in front of the Hatch
House so I could sit in my chair and see them. they looked well and ought to be a pride to
the Nation

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Bangor May 30-63

waited most all day, in hopes of geting discharged. but just before sundown my chum and
[I] took our team and started for Castine.

Bangor June 1st-63

left home this morning and when we got here hered that those that went forward at
Willards Point N.Y. agreeing to go for three years were to be sent back to serve another
year. that tuches a tender spot with those that did and those that did not step forward. and
the boys say if they are obliged to go back they will burn Bangor flat before they leave.

Bangor June 2nd-63

Company B started in stages early this morning for Castine, and when we got to
Windmill Hill we got off formed in line to march into the town. when we got up to Fort
St George, the town was notified by the firing of a big gun. from there we marched down
Main street and

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was escorted into Armery Hall where the tables was spread. and after being welcomed by the City Fathers we was told to hoe in. that we enjoyed better than their speaches, in the evening they honored us by a Ball.

Bangor June 6 –63

I came here on the 4th and was discharged from United States servis last night at about 12 oclock, recieving a Bounty of \$100. and once more was a free man, the Colonel had to go on to Washington to explain maters in order to get those cleare that signed for the extry year So ends my life as Soldir.

After I had Lofed a while I enlisted on board of the Schooner Isaac Tansey a Revenier Cutter stationed at Castine and crused from there to Eastport I enlisted for one year at \$30 per month. but when I had served 21 days I run away from her. I could not beare to be tied up so soon after getting home. about this time I had comenced to go with Miss

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Sarah Francis Patcher of West Brooksvill she was living in Castine and working in a taylors Shop and bording with her Grandmother. the first time that I see her, was the night of the Ball. that was got up for Company B, just before dark I went after my Pardner and as it was early we went on a walk and when we got to the Fort St George I met Miss Patcher. but there was nothing in the atmosphire or in my hart that told me she was soon to my wife after leaving the Cutter Alvin went on board. while he was in the Army Mother bought a house that stood clost to Uncle Benjamin Coombs house at the South End of the Town, and after we got home we bought a Quarter of acker of land a few rods to the Eastard of where it was standing and moved it buildings a saller the bigness of the house. after that I went to work for Government on a five gun Battery that was being built at the South End just bellow where I lived.

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on the 15 of December 1863, John Veazie and I with our Girls concluded to get married, and at 7 oclock that eve we met on the shore just below where I lived where there was a Boat halled up and turned over there was lots of snow on the ground and it was very cold. we shoved the boat into the water and started for Brooksvill, intending to be Married at Decators Grays, then no one in Castine would know of it for Quite a while. it was custemery there to serenade and taking this corse we should beet the Boys. the River is out mile wide where we had to cross, and before we got half the distince the Boat comenced to leak and we had no bailing dish. when we got acrost to Bridghams Island the boat was half full of water, we landed on the bar that conects the island to the Main land turned the water out and halled her over with the help of the Girls. we then rowed to the bar that conects Moors Island

to the main land and halled over that then we was clost to Grays but did not know it. I told John he would have to go Pilot as I did not know where Gray lived he said that he did. after rowing up Smiths cove about half a mile we went ashore and while the Girls run the Beach down to keep warm John and I waded over the surrounding Country the snow knee deep in surch of Decators Grays, finding no house we would go back to the boat get in and go a peace farther and then trye again. after trying a number of times we concluded that we must have gone bye it we then went back and when we got clost to the last bar we had crossed we found Grays we went to the door and knocked and soon the bed room window was lifted and Gray asked who was there. we told him who we was and our business. well gentlemen I am sorry that it is so but my lisencc run out two days ago and I have not had it

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renewed, although this was very sad news it was very amusing. we went back to the boars and told the Girls the news and started for home intending t row around the Island but we had hardly got started when it comence to snow and was so thick we could not see nut a short distence and we lost sight of the land, and about this time we here a serinading party ad we thought it was in Castine so we followed the sound untill we got into shole water. there we see we was mistaken for we was acrost Smiths cove and was in West Brooksvill. then we turned and started for Moors Island when we arived the boat so full of water that we could hardly manage her. we haled the boat up and turned her over expecting that we should be obliged to stop there all night and as there was no one living there it was not a very encureging thought. but in a few minutes it stopt snowing and we see lights

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in Castine and we took to the boat again. when I got my girl to her Grandmothers the old lady thought she knew that we was married and she busied herself in getting the best room redy. she thought we was bashful. we rested untill the 17 of December and then we four went to the Methodist Ministers and was married and I took my wife home. a few evenings from that some one come to our door and knocked and when I got there there was no one there but there was a box about one foot squre which I carred in and examed in it was a stock of provisions and some household furniture. a sample of every thing that was neaded to eat and accompenied by a letter as coming from parents to their children naming the articles in the box and their uses and caushend to be very saving through our lives and lie up something for a rainy day.

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Sarah Francis Pitcher who became my wife was the Daughter of Robert Pitcher of Castine Maine. He was the son of David of Castine. David and his Brother Wheeler came

from Scotland David settled in Castine Wheeler left there and they never knew what became of him. David married Sarah Jane Drugless and had three children. David Thorp, Robert and a daughter she died young. David Throop settled in Castine and raised up a large family. Robert run away from home when he was 9 years old and went in the Navie where he served untill he was 24 years old. he then came home and married Alice Snowman and lived during his life in Castine and West Brooksville they had six Children. Sara Francis, James, Elizabeth, Annie, David Thorp and Mary. she died when a year old. James was drowned off the wharf on Nautilus Island, when he was four years old. in 1862 Robert Pitcher died with a favor on bord of the Brig Abinas

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Taylor on the pasage from the West Indies to Philadelphia, and was buried at sea his wife was living in West Brooksvill at the time and in 1864 Married Juel Varnum of the same place and has raised up another family

In the Spring of 1864 I shiped on board of the Schooner Cabnet bound to the Grand Banks. we got a good fair of Fish and got back August 19. two days after Virginia Etter was born, I then went on this shore one trip a Mackerling in the Eler Rose, gon about six weeks and did not do much. a short time after I got back the Town was thurly excited over a seposed attack on the Fort at the South end of the Town. there was 12 Soldirs spationd [stationed?] there under Sergeant as a guard to the Harbor and Town. their orders were to keep one of the big Guns loaded and to discharge it in case of an attack to allarm the Malita and one night the Big Gun was fired. accompanied with small guns and the whole Town was allarmed seposing that the Fort had been

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Attacked by armed men, that marched from back of the Head. the next morning wen we went down to the Fort, we was showed where a number of Balls had struk the Flag Starf and one had went through the Corpels Cap. and a number of Balls has struk the corner of the Bareks where the Sergeant said he was standing. there was none of the Soldirs up excepting the Sergeant Corprel and one Private that was on post at the time so these three were all that was engaged, they showed us where the fence was knocked down in back of the Fort and there was blood on the rails. the Sergeant said they fired on the enemy and seposed that they wounded some as they hered groning. there was a few experts called among them was Lieut Collins he pronounced it human blood. That night there was a Town meeting called and the Hall was packed. and a good many expressed their opinion, and all thought that

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there was denger of the Town being burned and the inhabetince put to the sword. there was only one exception Dr Bridgham who said he thought some ones Goose suffrid for that blood. he was what they called Copperhead and there was a good meny there that

would have liked to ride the Dr on a Rail⁴. the Sergeant Corprel and Private was there and each one was examined. and of corse all told the same story. after the thing had been talked up the Fathers of the Town said that we must have a guard to walk the street nights as we should be murdered in our beads. there was 4 appointed I being one of the number. our orders were to go armed and equiped redy for any emurgency. I was on about 15 nights and then there began to be doubts expressed whither the Fort had been attacked or not. and soon after that the three got into a Quarel and exposed the game. the Blood on the rails was from a hen that they killed for the parpos.

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In November I went to Bangor and Shiped in a Topsail Schooner Mary E Purce of Bangor Loaded with Lumbr and bound to New York. And on the 15 of December and at noon we was 20 miles off old Cape Cod Light and the vessel got a fire, we had a deck load of ceader shingles with heavy timbr piled over it, and the night before we had rain turning off cold freezing the timbr together, it was blowing very hard at the time, we cut away the Lee stanchels and shoved the timbr overboard but when we got to the shingles they had burned a part so it was hard to handle them and by that time the deck was all ablaze soon catching the sails and rigen. we fought it as long as we could and then took to the Boat. leaving every thing. I lost all my cloths about one month pay \$30. the Brig Abner Tyler see us on fire and boar dow[n] to us and picked us up. I stopt on deck to help take care of the boat and then went into the cabin my Captain and his mate were siting by the fire, when I came in the Captain got

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offered me his seat and interduced me to the Captain of the Brig saying if they had all been like him I should have saved my vessel. this was the same vessel that Robert Patcher died aboard of. she landed us at Newport and the mate and I went on to New York and went to a bording house 16 Monroe Street I slept there one week chances to ship were very scarce. I then shiped on the James Crow of Truo Novascotia and on the 22 of December a very cold day we left New York harbor bound for Mexico. we had a strong Norther which lasted three days and carred us into warmer weather. we had a good passage and arived at the mouth of Rio Gran River when we had to ancor out side on account of a Bar that extends acrost the mouth with only three or four feet of water. we was discharged by Lighters⁵—we had a general cargo in the hold and wagons on deck just such as our Government used, and we had a great many boxes of harnesses this stuf went to

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⁴ A “copperhead” was a derogatory name for Northern Democrats that were against the Civil War.

⁵ Smaller than a barge, steered by oars.

Mattimorus and there is no doubt in my mind but what it crossed the River there and went into the Rebel lines. After stoping there about one month we left in balles for Harvanes Quby, where we charterd and went up to the Island to Armedus and took in a load of Mollases in taking this Mollases in it was brought along side in lighters. we stowed empty Hogsheads in the hole. we had a cuple of scids estending from one rail to the other over the main hatch we would hoist a hogshead up and turn it bung down over the hatch where we had a tub with a strainer in it and hose leading from the tub to a Hogshead in the hold. every once and a while we would be obliged to empty the strainer and each time we would have a Pick of rats mice big beas and lizerds. they say Mollases purifys itself I should hot it did. after getting loaded we started for Portland where we arived the 11 of May. I had a good time on

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bord of the Brig if I was the only Yankee in her. the officers were all in simpathy with the Southerners and I had some perty warm times with them. in the Forkisal there was myself and one Englishman and two Sweeds. I had \$30 per month I got home the 13 of May, and found the family well. Uncle Jessie Coombs was about to leave Nautilus Island where he had been 10 years. he recomendit me to the Agent William Witherle and I took the place on the same lay that Uncle had it which was $\frac{3}{5}$ of every 18th Quintile. expenses all bore by the company excepting the hired help. the Island had about 60 akers in it and about one half was under cultivation, and I was to have $\frac{3}{5}$ of the income of the farm. stock furnshed. I went and bought a yock of catel and moved on the 24 of May and went to planting. in July I made the fish of one small bankes and in the fall made the fish of two Grand Bankes about 1600 Quintiles. the small vessel had 2,50, Qu

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after the Fish were made. I sold the oxen, keeping two cows and a heffer

In 1866 I don considble planting and cut about 14 Tuns of hay and made the fish of a cuple of small vessels, through the summer. August 30 the day my wife was 20 years old she give birth to a son which died about as soon as born. she was very sick we did not expet her to live for three days. May 17 I joyned the Free Masons in Hancock Lodg No 4 Castine in September two Bankers got in with 1,600 Quintile all I had for the year.

1867

in the spring I bought out a Pogie stand of a man in Castine and sit it up back of the Island hired a man all summer and farmed and Pogied untill the Bankers got in which was the first of September. I then hired another man and comenced making the fish of 4 Bankers which brought in 3200 Quartles

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after the fish were made I sold the oxen for \$250 which I had paid \$200 for For the good trade William Witherle gave me a Gun that was picked up on Bull Run Battle Field by the Fifer in Company I was in he sent it home and when he got home he sold it to Witherly for \$10. it is not of any real value excepting it being a Rebel gun and picked up on the Battle Field, the first Battle of the Rebellion November 8–1867 Flory Maud was Born.

1868

I did not start my Pogie works this summer as there was a doubt whether there would be any Pogies in they Bays. last season was all most a failure I just cleared myself. I don my farming and did not have any help until the last week in August as I expected the 4 Bankers would commenced coming in by the first of September I had two men hired by the month and made the same amount of fish

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that I made in 1867. I was two months in making the fish and then I had nothing to do until spring as the wood was all up and cut.

1869

this spring I accomplished what I have been trying for ever since I came on the Island. That was to have a Horse instead of oxen my Idea was that I could do my work cheaper and faster with a horse than oxen this Island has been run as a fish yard for 30 years. (it was run first by Uncle Benjamin Coombs) and they have always hauled the fish out on a drag and wheeled them in, Witherle would say we have always used oxen and I do not think a horse would do, but this spring he told me to do as I chose I then went and bought a horse and sent over to Belfast and had a cart made to order. I could drive the horse into the wet fish house back up to the fish

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and take a larger load and do it Quicker and when the fish were made I had an extra pair of sideboards to put on the cart so I could take about 12 Quintile drive in the drye fish houses back up and dump. one man could haul in as fast as I could Yufle. when I could keep three men a wheeling I made 3700 Quintiles had one man hired by the month and paid 9 dollars out besides. so I had made a big saving and Witherle acknowledged that it was a good improvement. July 25 1869 Alvin Guines was born

1870

Last years fish were sold during the winter to good advantage. and my years work as \$730. the only good year I have had on the Island. fish have been low every year excepting the first year, then the Agent was offered a good price for the fish as Quick as I got them made which if he had excepted I should have made about \$800. but he thought they would go higher and so did the

rest of the owners. and I was wiling to run the risk myself. we kept them all winger and sold at a very low price. this year they have concluded not to rent but two Bankers, and during the winter I made up my mind that I had better leave the Island, for my Children were geting large enough to go to school, and I reviewed a numbr of places over in my mind and concluded to go and see Camden. and see what there was there for me. so I took my row boat in March and rowed to Long Island and halled acrost what they call the carry and arived in Camden less than 5 hours from the time I started after stoping in Camden a few days I concluded to move there and as the weather was bad when I got redy to go I left the boat with a man to sell went to Belfast took the packet for home, and the 9 day of April I charterd a vessel halled into the wharf in Castine took mothrs things in then halled

over to the Island and took in my things. one Cow one years wood and lots of stuf that I had raised, and at 6 oclock on the morning of the 11 we left the Island the whole of the family inlcuding Muthr and my wifes sister Lizie Patcher, and at 6 oclock that afternoon we got into the wharf at Camden, and that night stopt at Uncle Robert Husson. I had employed Uncle to hire a house and he had engaged the first house on the left had side net to the Bay View Hotell facing to the west on Elm Street the next day i went to the house but as it was a very rainy day we did not do much unpacking. but made a begining and finished the next day. during the sumer up to the 17 of August I worked in Turnals and Mullins fish yard, then I went to work in Knolwtons & Co Brass shop. worked there a cuple of months and don some Moulding then I was put in the Iron Foundry given a flum and went to work in Iron.