

Jedediah Darling Boutwell

Civil War Diary 1863

This third rendition is now defined.
Spelling, punctuation & grammar is considered corrected.
Images included as text enhancement.
We shall consider this the completed work,
Albeit, some words may be untranslatable,
they will be enclosed with brackets [].
All dates are now in chronological order.
Notes by the interpreters inserted.

Transcribed by

Lillian Fiske - President
Dr. Mary Melonis - Archivist
Ed Gregory - Historian

Montague Historical Society

J. D. Boutwell Diary, 1863, Civil War

Diary Structure: pp 1 thru 9



1. Front pastedown: Oh bless the Lord for his goodness & mercy endureth forever

2. Front free end paper-verso: Dec. 5
 " 16
 26
 Jan 4 1 1 x 28
 Book 2 x 9
 19
 25
 Chart 5



3. Front free end paper-recto: Colonel Greenleaf ____ ____ Commander with that Illinois Cavalry [Musquitas]

4. Front free end paper-verso: Second Brigade

2 our brigade is
 9 Conn. vols.
 41 Mass. attached
 52 Mass. 15 Conn.
 91 N.Y. Vol.
 24 com 119 N.Y. "
 Commanded by Brig. General Col.
 3 Brigade
 31 Mass. Vol.
 25 Conn. "
 26 Maine "
 139 N.Y. "



5. Front free end paper-recto: J. D. Boutwell, Montague, Mass.

J. D. Boutwell
 J. D. Boutwell in Co F., 52 Regiment
 Expedition in Banks
 Expedition
 from, Montague, Mass.

- 6. Title Page
- 7. Almanac
- 8. Interest
- 9. Rates of Postage

J.D. Boutwell Diary . . . his entries:

The next nine entry dates—on 3-pages in Boutwell's diary—are *hand-written* by him;



Dec 2, 1862

52 left New York. No. 20 left Greenfield, arrived in New Y.. Went to Camp Banks. 22 marched ten miles. Brigade 28 left Camp Banks went aboard Illinois steamship.

Dec 2 sailed under sealed orders.

Dec 5 Sail along the coast of Georgia, & Sunday pleasant . Florida is next coast.

Next page;

General Graves, Elijah E. [Bant.] Co. H 4th regt., Minn. Vols. Cairo, Ill.

General [Kimball] Brigades, General of the 52 regt.



Next page;



Dec 9 1862

Passed fort ? 12 o clock.

Dec 11 arrived 4 o clock Ship Island.

Dec 12 sent a letter to Mary.

Dec 13 left Elijah. Island destination on time.

Dec 14 arrival Fort Jackson 51 men there, 15 New Orleans.

Dec 17 arrived at Baton Rouge.

The diary proper follows:



Thursday Jan 1, 1863

A splendid day. I have written to Henry. Felt my dependence on God this day and seen the need of a savior more than ever before.

Friday 2

It is cloudy, looks like rain, tis very warm. I am not feeling well got the headache & diarrhea.

Saturday 3

Rains today in showers very warm. Had one of the fewer full showers I ever seen.

Sunday 4

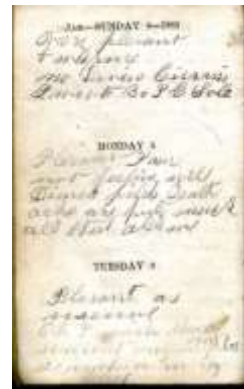
Very pleasant & warm. No divine services. I wrote to J.C. Gale.

Monday 5

Pleasant. I am not feeling well. Diarrhea piles, teeth aches are pretty much all that ails me.

Tuesday 6

Pleasant as usual. Oh I wish there wasn't any unpleasant separation in my heart.



Wednesday 7

Judge not the Lord. But feel some best trust him for his grace behind a frowning providence he hides a smiling face.

Thursday 8

We received mail for the first time. I got two. One the 5th and the 17th of Dec., from home.

Friday 9

Rained all day in showers upon the just and unjust.

**Saturday 10**

Away from home sad and dreary everywhere. I roam because I left my Mary and all I own in a strange land.

Sunday 11

Expected an order, but remains all quiet.

Monday 12

Wrote to mother, Mary, for I know they are waiting for me.

**Tuesday 13**

Had a letter from Mary & Henry, date 26 of Dec., 1862.

Wednesday 14

No. 7. Wrote to Henry & Mary. Rained today.

Thursday 15

Rained today. Had one of the coldest nights we have had.

Friday 16

Quite pleasant, but cool for this place.

Saturday 17

Cold day, frost last night some, but we shouldn't call it up north.

Sunday 18

Day 30 of Dec. Had a mail. Received one from George Boutwell. Been a lonely day.





Monday 19

Rained all night. Rains this morning. Cleared off, warm & pleasant. I have written to George today. I am feeling some better.

Tuesday 20

Pleasant today. Two men died in the hospital today. I wrote to Mary. No.8.

Wednesday 21

Orders are to move down by the [cemeteries.] I am going to stay along with Humphrey Leach.

Thursday 22

It is pleasant & I hurry to get a good place to stay now with Humphrey Leach.

Friday 23

Received mail today from Mary, mother, Roxana Eimmes. Later one paper from home containing sage papers.

Saturday 24

A black regiment came in today from New Orleans, as many as 12 white men in it. 2 men died last night.



Sunday 25

Wrote to mother. It was a very warm day, and have enjoyed my mind very well.

Monday 26

I have been writing to Emma. Warm & rains some. Sirus Rice is very sick, but more comfortable today. (Note: There was a Cyrus Rice from Leverett in his regt. 1.f.)

Tuesday 27

No. 9. Wrote to Roxy [Lota] Mary. Very cool today, has done raining.



Wednesday 28

Had a mail today. Got one from Levi, one from Mary & mother, date of 11 of Jan. I went to see Sirius today.

Thursday 29

No. 10. Wrote to mother & Mary. Been down to the State house today.

Friday 30

Been down on the levy along with Humphrey.

Saturday 31

I have been down to surgeon general for a discharge but the papers were not made out right, so come back. Chris Arnold died. Arnold buried.

(Note: Christopher Arnold died at Baton Rouge Jan. 31, 1863. l.f.)

Feb. Sunday 1, 1863

It rains today in showers.

Monday 2

It rains today, but quite warm.



Tuesday 3

I went down to the surgeon general to get my discharge but could not on account of getting better.

Wednesday 4

Wrote to Levi. Cold & rainy with strong wind. Wrote to Henry & sent him a paper. No.11.

Thursday 5

Very cold night. The coldest we have had since we came here.



**Friday 6**

Mail came to day. The first brigade goes out today down the river.

Saturday 7

Pay master came sure isn't any more quiet now.

Sunday 8

I went to the Roman Catholic Church & the Methodist but they had no preaching or devotion.

Monday 9

Very warm again. Our company have come back from down the river. Flag of truce came in.

Tuesday 10

I have written to Mother, Mary & Liz, No.12. Very warm.

Wednesday 11

Cloudy rained last night but very warm.

**Thursday 12**

Paid off the regiment today.

Friday 13

Got my pay, 47 dol. up to Jan. 1, 1862. Paid from Sept 11, 1863. I sent to Mary 35 dollars.

Saturday 14

No. 13. I wrote to mother Mary. Bought 14 plugs of tobacco 120 cts. 15 cts. worth of apples. 10 cts. worth of Pecan nuts.

**Sunday 15**

I went to its Methodist meeting. The rebel soldiers went to New Orleans to be exchanged. Rained all day in showers.

Monday 16

Rain. Wells Cheney Stone got his discharge.

Tuesday 17

Rain today & steamer came in last night no mail, brought prisoners.

Wednesday 18

Two masted boats came in and the 49th Mass. [regiment] cavalry. Pleasant today with plenty of mud. (Note. The Mass. 49th was infantry e.g.)

Thursday 19

I have been out to camp for the first time. There is some gunboats come in. The Mississippi & a masted boat. base.

Friday 20

Mail came in but none for me. Boat came in loaded with siege guns.

**Saturday 21**

Flag of truce came in to exchange prisoners. Came down the river in a steamer.

Sunday 22

Washington's birthday, fired salute in remembrance. Been to the Catholic Church. Methodist service today. There was a boat come in with cavalry.

Monday 23

No 14. I have been writing to the whole [gang] and to the W.H.D. Send home by Stone. Got one from Harry.

Tuesday 24

Wrote six sheets to send home by W.C. Stone, going to night. Boats came in from Mass.

Wednesday 25

I been down on the river bank, did not find anything new. Thunder showers and strong wind today.

Thursday 26

Mail came in. Some for our regiment. Some cavalry came.

**Friday 27**

Rain with a strong winds steady lightning.

Saturday 28

Rain this morning but cleared off. Pleasant & cool, very cold night with strong winds.

March - Sunday 1

Went to the Methodist meeting. Been quite cool. Some boats came in with cavalry.

Monday 2

Cool but very pleasant. Boats came in with wagons, 150 of them.

Tuesday 3

Very pleasant, cool night. Peach trees in blossom.

Wednesday 4

No. 15. Had a mail today. One from Mary & J. C. Gale. Wrote to them both today. Very pleasant, but cool.



**Thursday 5**

Been out to camp today. Very pleasant [horseback.]

Friday 6

Rains today. Wrote to Otis H. Boutwell, Co. E, 55 regt.

Saturday 7

The 53 has come & 5 other regiments.

**Sunday 8**

Been to meeting. Have come in, 12 regiments since Saturday.

Monday 9

No. 16. Written to Mary mother. Henry sent it off today. Our regiment has orders to march.

Tuesday 10

No move yet. Expecting to go today. Rain today.

Wednesday 11

Our regiment hasn't gone. There is a mail come in. I got one from Mary, mother, Henry & other Amos George today.

Thursday 12 & Friday 13

No. 17. Wrote to mother Mary & Henry. General inspection by General Banks of all the troops. Some have gone up the river and some gunboats. Banks three brigades gone, but I don't know where.



**Saturday 14**

Leut. has all on Vanzant's brigade units. Rains. Dudley's brigade have guns & loadings.

Sunday 15

Last night heavy cannonading up to Port Hudson. Mississippi blown up because she got a ground. I went up river, shot a cow and got 1/2 of it.

Monday 16

Went up the river got some chickens & barge full of corn, 20 bales of cotton & some hens.

Tuesday 17

I feel most sick to day on account of my transfer yesterday.

Wednesday 18

No. 18. Wrote to Mary, George & Sirius. Very warm. Dudley brigade gone up the river.

Thursday 19

Two steamers came in, no mail. Another regiment of blacks came in.

**Friday 20**

Troops all came in again. Capt. Stone stayed here last night. They had a very hard time on account of rain.

Saturday 21

Co. E, I been down to see Otis Boutwell of the 55. Mail came in to night. I got one from Mary, date 25 of Feb.

Sunday 22

Been taking care of Leach & Nobles today. Rains this afternoon.
(Note. Humphrey S. Leach lf.)

Monday 23

I wrote to Elijah. Rained very hard last night, & today in showers. Leach is better & ?. The mail came in.

Tuesday 24

No 19. I have written to Mary. There has a mail come in but none for me.

Wednesday 25

Pane brigade has gone out down the river some ships sailed to Berwick's Bay.

**Thursday 26**

The mail came in last night, none for me. Boats went down the river last night.

Friday 27

O. Boutwell came to see me today. Our regt. is under marching order.

Saturday 28

No 20. Our regiment went last night. I wrote to mother, Mary. Otis came here today, they are going off very soon.

Sunday 29

Last night it rained and cleared off. Cold with a strong wind & cold all day. One of the coldest nights we have for some time.

Monday 30

Been quite cool. Mail came but the 52 was left at Donaldsonville, where our regiment went.

Tuesday 31

51 & 52 have orders to go tomorrow & have gone.





April—Wednesday 1—1863

Got a mail today, one from Mary, No. 21. Wrote to Mary.

Thursday 2

The rest of the 53 came in nothing going on worthy of note.

Friday 3

I have written to Roxanne Boutwell. Panes brigade gone down the river today.

Saturday 4

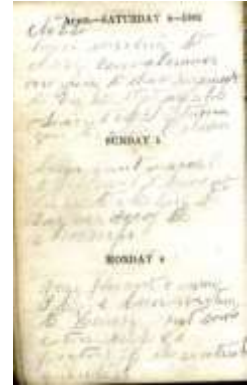
No 22. Been writing to Mary. Convalescents are going to their regiment today, all that are able. Leut. M.S. Stearns gone to New Orleans. (Note. See Co. F pg xxvii l.f.)

Sunday 5

Been quite warm and pleasant. I have not been to the meeting today on account of the cramps.

Monday 6

Very pleasant and warm. I have been writing to Mary. Sent some cotton seed and a picture of the construct quarters.



Tuesday 7

I have been to the state house, found Murdock patrols.

Wednesday 8

Last night the barn which the government kept their horses in got a fire & burnt down with some other buildings. 25 hoses burnt up.

Thursday 9

No. 24. Been down to the state house, very warm. I wrote to mother and Mary today.

Friday 10

Had a picture taken of the house or contraband office where I stay. Very warm today.

Saturday 11

I have been down the river. A large lot of black lads to unload a boat of coal for the government.

Sunday 12

Been to meeting at the college of Catholics and Methodist. Had some showers today but very warm.

**Monday 13**

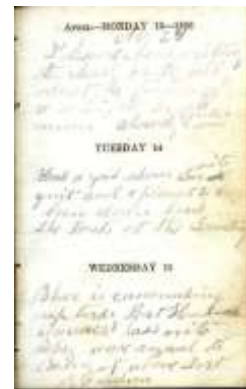
No. 25. I have been writing to Mary, as to all. Sent a picture of a whipped black man. Cloudy & some cooler.

Tuesday 14

Had a good shower last night. Quite cool and pleasant today. Been down [aboard] the boat at the landing.

Wednesday 15

There is cannonading up towards Port Hudson. Commenced last night. They must signal to Faragut about Port Hudson.

**Thursday 16**

We hear that Graves has had a fight at Berwick's Bay, & that the 52 was engaged in it. It is said they took a lot of prisoners.

Friday 17

Very pleasant but cool nights & warm days. Mail came in, some for JDB as usual. 4 months since we came here today.

Saturday 18

No. 26. I wrote to Mary and mother. Very warm. We here that Charleston is taken & that our army are meeting with General Dewey at [Byan] bluff.

**Sunday 19**

No. 27. Very hard showers last night & rains today. Cleared off, pleasant. I been to meeting. Two steamers come in. No mail, I wrote to Mary.

Monday 20

Boat came in today but no mail. I am feeling most sick today have head ache.

Tuesday 21

J.D.B. has [God] in my head and heart. There is no rest of the wicked sayeth the lord.

(Note: Should be rest but looks like peace. l.f.)

Wednesday 22

I am feeling some better today. Pain isn't as severe in my head. Mail boat came in but no mail.

Thursday 23

J. D. feels sick all over. [Night time] some better. [Have] some fever no more, but very warm.

Friday 24

Having a good deal fever. Am feeling very sick Oh that you my dear were here.

**Saturday 25**

Sick but not just down in despair, for my redeemer liveth, and is ever near the reach of the afflict.

Sunday 26

Sick, but there is a great [Puritan] who can heal all disease & administer a calm unto all that come unto him.

Monday 27

Sick & far away from home but going nearer that heavenly home where the weary soul is at rest.

Tuesday 28

Oh if I had mother to take care of me. I wouldn't have to lay all day without anything or my my wife, that is certain

Wednesday 29

Stayed abed all day as usual. Oh how I would love to hear from home or see it.

Thursday 30

It is first day, been very well [risen.] I have laid abed all day. All alone most of the time.

**May—Friday 1—1863**

Very pleasant today. I am feeling better, sat up some. F. Noble gone away, detailed as [compensary] of some hands that are on the levy.

Saturday 2

67 Ill. cavalry from Tenn. came in. 9 or 10 hundred. They took 150 pris. and brought in. a contraband, some quantity of horses. (Note: M.S. Stearns in charge of contraband. l.f.)

Sunday 3

Leut. M.S. Stearns has gone to New Orleans today.

Monday 4

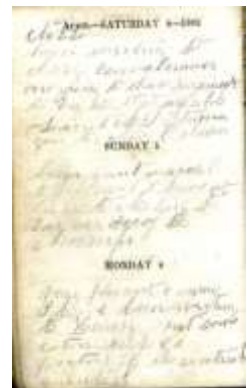
I remain about as usual. Have a good deal of fever. I think of home very much.

Tuesday 5

God is with me in all my afflictions. Oh may it do me good my pain is nothing compared to my interests for them at home.

Wednesday 6

Strong wind & quite cool. J.D.B. feels some better. Haven't so much fever today.





Thursday 7

No. 27. May 6, I wrote a few lines to mother, Mary & sent a hat. The boys and old Seally are having awful pains. The boys didn't get half their rations.

Friday 8

Received mail yest., & got one from Gale Emmes. Regina 1, Mary four. There was heavy cannonading up to Port Hudson after noon & in the night.

Saturday 9

I am feeling some better but cannot read my letters, only a few lines at a time then it all starts to together.

Sunday 10

God is everywhere, filling heaven earth with his presence. Oh may he ever fills my soul.

Monday 11

No. 28. I have written to Mary today. There seems to be a good deal going on in the army.

Tuesday 12

I am feeling some better every day, but don't gain very fast. There is nothing for me.



Wednesday 13

I have written to Emmes today. Feeling some better & haven't used any nurse today.

Thursday 14

There was cannonading up to Port Hudson last night, and we have had some rain, but it seems to be pretty much over with.

Friday 15

Cloudy & cool. Time flies rapidly away and wears heavy on to the judgment where justice will be done to all man.

**Saturday 16**

Going up to Port Hudson in the evening quiet. I commenced a letter to Mary. Firing up the river last night.

Sunday 17

No. 29. Finished my letter. Read in my testament some today. Oh that my heart should love Christ as he loved us, & ever lives to love all that come unto him.

Monday 18

They are picking up all the blacks that are in the city idle, and sending them to New Orleans to work on plantations.

Tuesday 19

I have been writing to wife. Leut. has gone to New Orleans. There is no noise today, very still.

Wednesday 20

No. 30. I sent a letter to Mary today. 165 New York reserves came in & the 8th cavalry.

Thursday 21

165 & N. Y. Cavalry have gone out near Port Hudson. Boat came in no news in papers.

**Friday 22**

No. 31. I have been writing to one that is ever dear and always ready to receive. 4 regiments came in last night, gone out this morning.

Saturday 23

I wrote to J.C. ?. There was 60 prisoners brought in last night. There was 40 wounded soldiers brought in, part of them confederates.

Sunday 24

They were firing up to Port Hudson last night. The chaplain has gone back to New Orleans all remains quiet.



Monday 25

I have written to Roxana Boutwell. Cannonading all night. The reports shook the windows and they rattled.

Tuesday 26

N. Leach came back to see some of the boys in the hospital, and they were all doing well.

Wednesday 27

There was some firing last night & a great deal this morning. I got a letter from Elijah Beck 18.

**Thursday 28**

No. 32. Sent a letter to Mary, Mother. Got a letter from Mary mother, may 6. Still a fighting at Port Hudson.

Friday 29

General come down from Port H. He says the army have not gained anything for two days past. Only ascertained their strength.

Saturday 30

The ? come in every boat ? No. 33. Sent a letter to mother. & our regiment have gone to Port H. We went this morning. Part stayed here last night.

**Sunday 31**

Had 4 letters come from Mary & Henry. W.C. Stone, Roxana, Elijah. Any quantity of contraband came in 3 steamers more or less.

June—Monday—1

There is no news, only rumors. Very warm weather. Some wounded came in today, none very badly wounded.

Tuesday 2

No news today. They have been sending off ? to the plantation & up to Port H. No news from home. Today & is very hot.

**Wednesday 3**

I have been writing to W.C. Stone. No news from Port Hudson in particular, only still a fighting when the circumstance is warrant.

Thursday 4

Some of our army went out to Clinton to start a force there, and we were driven back by a large force.

Friday 5

Very warm. No news from home of any note, but making preparations for sending. Mail came. I got to two from Mary & George Senn.

Saturday 6

No. 34. Our regiment went to Clinton yesterday with several others. I wrote to Mary & George Senn. No news from home.

Sunday 7

I got another letter from Mary dated 26th & paper. Have been reading & writing. I would go to meeting but it is very warm.

Monday 8

No. 35. I have finished up another letter to go home, and that wants me at home where I want to be.

**Tuesday 9**

I have been issuing clothing to the contraband today, up to the quarters. It is reported that our regiment has got back to Port Hudson.

Wednesday 10

Up to Port Hudson there was bombarding going on more or less all day & some in the night. Had a good shower that has made quite a change.

Thursday 11

I have been sick all day. I have no jaundice but am sad to be around. There has been showers all around to day.



**Friday 12**

I am feeling better. There has a good lot of contraband. Gone up this morning to Port H. from New Orleans.

Saturday 13

I have got no jaundice. Feel kind of miserable anyhow. The week has drawn to a close & Port Hudson remains the same. No news from there.

Sunday 14

Heavy cannonading last night up to Port Hudson. Written to mother to day. I have been to the meeting at the Methodist Church, seemed good but not like home.

Monday 15

Desperate fighting at Port H. 7 regts. inside of the entrenchment under ?. Two boats came down with the wounded & one boat in the evening. Showers.

Tuesday 16

Our regt. has been engaged. Had 6 killed, 18 wounded this afternoon. The report is 19 wounded and still a fighting.

Wednesday 17

No. 36. I wrote to Mary Luantha Hall, the wife of J.D. Boutwell. No news from Port. Very pleasant day after the showers.

**Thursday 18**

I went down on to the plantations along with Leut. Stearns. 4 miles below, some wounded came down.

Friday 19

Some guerillas have attacked our force at Donaldsonville & fired into transports. More wounded come down from Port H.

Saturday 20

Very warm & pleasant. There was some 50 of the 52 boys went to Springfield landing & sent back here. Came from New Orleans [convalescents].



**Sunday 21**

There was mail come in but none for me I didn't go to the meeting. We had a shower which has made it cool again Quite a lot of sick come down from Port H.

Monday 22

I have been writing to Emma. It is very pleasant after the showers & cool. No news from Port Hudson.

Tuesday 23

Port Hudson & it is more rumors than truth. I have 5 sick to take care of. None has jaundice.

**Wednesday 24, Thursday 25 & Friday 26**

No. 37. One more expression of my memories gone to my affectionate wife in return for these many tokens of love. I was pretty sure is like mind soon persist. By & large is hunting for its next great & God grant it. May be Port Hudson has fallen, which shall be borne a long on every man and may we go soon to share the glad tidings to our loved ones at home in peace.

(Note: These three date are considered a single entry. e.g.)

**Saturday 27**

Have received a letter from Mary. Day 7 of June. I was very thankful.

Sunday 28

No. 38. Wrote a letter to Mary. I have been to meeting. Had very interesting discourse.

Monday 29

Leut. S. and I have been down to river on the government plantation. Brought back some green corn, horse radish and green potatoes.

Tuesday 30

There was a transport went up to Port H. last night. I am now feeling pretty much down today. Got the diarrhea & headache. No news from P. H.

July—Wednesday—1

Military service deprives many a man from going home notwithstanding the emergencies as many anxious hearts that are waiting.

Thursday 2

Rebel cavalry attacked Springfield landing, burnt some houses. Attack killed one or two & we killed 2. Lieut. just sent a dozen prisoners there today.

**Friday 3**

There has been heavy cannonading up to Port Hudson all day and this evening, but no more from there. Very warm.

Saturday 4

Still at it at Port H. I have been running around to the state house here, but it is quiet [still] times. They fired some salutes today in the [barracks] thus the day is spent & gone, never again to return. Very warm.

Sunday 5

Another beautiful Sabath. I have been to church, had a good discourse from James, 5x20.

**Monday 6**

No. 51. Finished a letter to send to mother, Mary. The Rebs are making bad marks shelling Donaldsonville, and are in large numbers.

Tuesday 7

It is reported that our brigade is taken heavy cannonading up to Port Hudson. Had a good shower last night. Warm day.

Wednesday 8

Port Hudson surrendered 12 o'clock. It had 5,500 prisoners. Having a good shower. [Bascman] here today from Athol.

(Note: Pg. 189; prisoners taken 5,935 enlisted, 405 officers. l.f.)



**Thursday 9**

No. 40. I sent a letter to Mary, mother with news. Since it is confirmed that Port Hudson is taken & Vicksburg & rumored that Richmond is taken by soldiers.

Friday 10

Our regiment is at Port H. to more infantry. Regt. doing garrison duty. Lieut. Stearns & Ballou have gone to Port H.

Saturday 11

Stearns, Capt. Stone & Col. Greenleaf came. We are going up the river. Home as soon as Col. can get the baggage & the boys together. Some are at New Orleans.

Sunday 12

There came down from PH four batteries & the 55 on the way to Donaldsonville. It is raining and everything is commotion.

Monday 13 & Tuesday 14

The rebs attacked our army between Donaldsonville & Bilados. We were going back and lost men. Lieut. General Greenleaf sent Stearns to [and] went to New Orleans after our boys & baggage. No. 41. Sent a letter to George going out to Dr. Perkins plantation this afternoon.

(Note: These two date are considered a single entry. e.g.)

**Wednesday 15**

I have been down to a black man's plantation long with [6] of the boys. I got a good time. The report is that we have got 1,000 rebs at Donaldsonville.

Thursday 16

Very warm & muggy. Lieut. Stearns came back from New Orleans & most all the boys came & on their way to P.H.

Friday 17

7 months to day since we came here. We are relieved from me here today & going up to Port Hudson tomorrow if the column comes to night.

**Saturday 18**

Left Baton Rouge and arrived at Port Hudson 12 a.m. and found one of the roughest looking places I have seen for many a day.

Sunday 19

It is very warm & still. No divine services. Pleasant, seems much like Baton R. 52 are most all here, some very sick.

Monday 20

I have been down on the river bank to see the batteries and the place. Pay master came and we all expect to be paid off soon.

Tuesday 21

52 has orders to be ready to start for home. We got ready but no transport came to take us 7 months since we left Greenfield.

Wednesday 22

We have been waiting all day for transportation but none comes as yet. I have no doubt, but there is many waiting for us at home, ready to give us transportation.

Thursday 23

Good shower last night. We expect to go today as there is a transport come and we are all ready to go. Started 7 1/2 ?.

**Friday 24**

Arrived at Natchez 10 1/2 o'clock. Resembles P. Hudson with its ragged planks just [rotting.] D.M. lugs us on the same side of the river as P. Hudson.

Saturday 25

Arrived at Vicksburg 4 1/2 this morning. It is a splendid place. We have got to coal-up at Vick. It will take all day. Left Vicksburg 8 P. M.

Sunday 26

I have spent the day mostly caring for the sick. It doesn't seem like the Sabbath. There have been some very heavy showers today, as we had to stop the boat once.



Monday 27

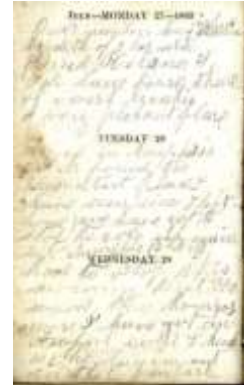
Our numbers have diminished by death of 3 last night. Passed Selma 4 p.m.. Large force there of our Yankees. A very pleasant place.

Tuesday 28

Arrived in Memphis 6 a.m.. Found the pleasantest place I have seen since I left home. We got to stop to coal-up again. Left Memphis 12 a.m..

Wednesday 29

Had to stop this morning two hours or more. I have got an awful cold and headache. Lying out in the open air.

**Thursday 30**

Arrived in Cairo just about sunrise. We had to wood-up last night. [Bilmandos] we passed in the night. Left Cairo 12 o'clock in the night.

Friday 31

Arrived at ? 8 o'clock. Arrived in ? ? a nice place. Centralia is its name [Bilmandos] ? ? ?

Aug.—Saturday—1

Arrived in Indianapolis & changed cars 2 1/2 o' clock in the night. Stopped at Munson in [morning.] Winchester stopped and got some rations at Munson.

**Sunday 2**

Passed Cleveland sometime in the night. Arrived in Erie, a splendid place looks like our ? ? ? a large place on the lake.

Monday 3

I arrived home, the place of all my joys and dreams, & wife was there & Roxana some from Athol.

Tuesday 4

NO ENTRY

**Wednesday 5**

Henry talks of Nelly. Levi gone to uncle Henry's & Cephas Porters.

Thursday 6

I have stayed at home all day. Saw Mary 5 times at breakfast, dinner, supper & at night. I could hear her away in the north east corner of the [yard.]

Friday 7

Mary & Jed have been to No. Leverett on the great thorough fare from Shutesbury to Wendell.

Saturday 8

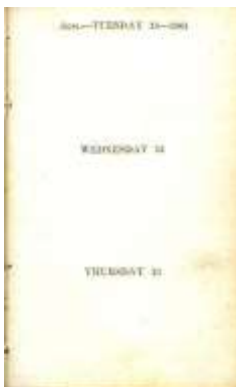
NO ENTRY

Sunday 9

NO ENTRY

Monday 10

I have been to Deerfield to carry Levi & wife to take the cars. Got the horse shod. Mother got some sweet corn for the first time.

**Tuesday 11 thru 13**

NO ENTRY

Entries beyond this date have relevance to the Civil War or Boutwell's return home. However, Jedediah made notes in the **Memoranda** portion of his diary . . . he penciled-in the dates . . . these and others follow.

June 1 Memoranda 1863

Our regiment is under ??

*June 13 Memoranda 1863*

Leach heard that Webster and Alonzo Watson now dead. Dated 26 of May, both Diphtheria.

Vicksburg taken by Grant, 4 of July. 25 thousand prisoners.

July 8 1863

Port Hudson surrendered with five thousand, five hundred prisoners. They paroled all but the officers.

Who so findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtain the ?? of the lord. A prudent wife is from the lord.

*July 23 1863*

Orders to go aboard the steamer Harry Chouteau at 4 p.m. to start for Cairo, Illinois.

First regiment to be sent home.

Natchez, Vicksburg, Memphis and Island 10 were passed.

July 24 1863

Passed Gaudys Gulf in the Night.

July 28 1863

Stopped to bury three dead that died on the way and to get some wood. The chaplain gave a prayer at the grave. It seemed solemn to hear prayers and to leave his comrades in their lonely graves and final resting place, but such is life.

In life we are among the dead, not withstanding the anxious ones who waiting our return to their embrace.

We stopped on Island. No. 37 to ?? and bury the dead. Stopped 1 hour.

July 29

Arrived at Island No.10. It is a fine looking place, 10 miles from New. I heard there is quite a lot of troops on it and the sun has just set.

July 30 1863

On 30th of July we entered Cairo. General Bradford in Command.

Same day transferred to Illinois Central to Mass. (18 men left in hospital at Mound City, Illinois near Cairo.) John Bascomb & George Wait of Montague.

Route took us to Mattoon, Ill., then to Indianapolis, Ind. Thence to Marion, Ohio, thence to Cleveland, thence to Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, and Albany, N.Y., thence to Massachusetts.

July 31

Arrived at [Niagara.] Changed roads at Mattoon (Ill.) on the ?. The finest place we come to was [Suloston] and they were having a picknick and a easy time at ?.

[Tarout] is a splendid place.

1 day of August stayed at [Ball] Mount. The people turned out and gave us all we wanted to eat and at ? we had another entertainment.

1 August, 1863

Arrived in [Suldine.] It rained in [Galium.] Changed cars. We have got some good now. We have rode all the way from Cairo in freight cars. It is Saturday night and Aug. 2, we expect to be home. Arrived in Buffalo just about 12 o'clock and we had a fine dinner and changed cars and left at 2 a.m..

August 2, 1863

At Batavia, a large place and splendid buildings. Arrived in Rochester, found on of the pleasantest places I've seen. 6 o'clock.

Aug. 2 Reached Buffalo.

Aug. 3 Home again.

- rear end paper:
scribbling/jibberish

- rear pastedown:
J. D. Boutwell
Co. F 52 Regiment
Banks expedition
From Montague
Mass.
[Choteau]
[HChoteau]
Of [choteau]

Lillian Fiske, President of the Montague Historical Society, and curator for the diary, has compiled a plethora of applicable research pertaining to J.D. Boutwell. Additionally, Lil has translated a sizeable portion of Jed's diary. She is particularly adept at transforming somewhat illegible, hand-written cursive penmanship into legible text.

Her generosity and commitment to preserve the past via allowing me to digitize the diary is greatly appreciated by me and optimistically by future generations so interested in this work. e.g.

. . . Lil's analytical endeavor follows:

Source 1:

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in The Civil War; Vol. IV, Page 603

Company F, Fifty-Second Regiment, Massachusetts Voluntary Infantry
 Boutwell, Jedediah D., 31; Pvt. - Residence, Montague, Mass. - Farmer
 Enlisted, September 11, 1862; Mustered in, October 11, 1862; Mustered out, August 14, 1863

Source 2:

History of 52nd Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers - J. F. Moors, Chaplin
 Ref, 973.7 M00

Company F

Jedediah D. Boutwell	Place of Birth;	Leverett, Massachusetts
	Date of Birth;	1831
	Place of Enlistment;	Montague, Massachusetts
	Date of Enlistment;	August, 1862
	Rank;	Private
	Occupation(civilian)	Farmer
	Residence;	& Montague, May 13, 1882

Source 3:

Town of Montague Town Clerk office, January 26, 2012

Jedediah Boutwell

Born;	Leverett
Father;	Charles Boutwell, born Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire
Mother;	Mary_____, born, Milbury, Massachusetts
Died;	May 13, 1882 in Montague. Age 51 years, 7 months.
Occupation;	Farmer
Residence;	Leverett, Massachusetts
Cause of Death;	Congestion of the brain.

Ed Gregory's research provides this . . .

Source 4:

Internet, January 26, 2012

JEDEDIAH DARLING BOUTWELL

Death: May 13, 1882 Montague, Franklin County, Massachusetts, USA

Son of Charles Boutwell & Mary L. (Stone) Boutwell married Luantha Mary Hall on Jan. 11 1859

Children:

Emory Seaver Boutwell (1859 - 1939)

Clarence Hall Boutwell (1861 - 1951)

Charles H. Boutwell (1866 - 1875)

Jedediah D. Boutwell (1869 - 1946)

Leslie Leroy Boutwell (1874 - 1931)

Lester Leroy Boutwell (1875 - 1931)

George Ashton Boutwell (1876 - 1950)

Orville Adelbert Boutwell (1879 - 1944)

Family :

Parents:

Charles Boutwell (1797 - 1857)

Mary Lawrence *Stone* Boutwell (1802 - 1889)

Spouse: Luantha Mary *Hall* Boutwell (1835 - 1903)

children (at least):

Emory Seaver b. 2 Nov. 1859 d. 23 Sep. 1939 m. Effie Newton Ware

Clarence Hall b. 2 Aug. 1861 d. 2 May 1951 m. Rena S Knowlton

Charles Herbert b. 27 Mar. 1866 d. 6 Nov. 1875

Jedediah Darling b. 30 Aug. 1869 d. 8 Apr. 1940 m. E. Blanche Hyde

Lester (Leslie) Leroy b. 11 Feb. 1874 d. 29 Dec. 1931 m. Cora Merriam

George Ashton b. 25 Jan. 1876 d. 20 Jan. 1950 m. Blanche E. Goldthwaithe

Orville Adelbert b. 17 Oct. 1879 d. 15 Sep. 1944

Burial:

Mount Hope Cemetery Leverett, Franklin County, Massachusetts, USA

Inscription: C H B

died Nov. 6 1875 age 9 yrs

J. D. Boutwell died May 13 1882 age 51 yrs

Member of Co. F 52nd Regt Mass. Vol.

Luantha M. his wife died May 23 1903 age 68 yrs

52nd Regiment Infantry

Organized at Greenfield October, 1862. Ordered to New York November 19, thence moved to New Orleans and Baton Rouge, La., and duty there until March, 1863. Attached to 2nd Brigade, 4th Division, 19th Army Corps, Dept. of the Gulf, to July, 1863.



52 Regiment encampment at Petty Plain, (camp Miller) the site of the Franklin County Fairgrounds.
 Photograph taken October 2, 1862. Ed Gregory archive

SERVICE.--Reconnaissance to Port Hudson, La., March 13-20. Moved to Donaldsonville March 27. Operations in Western Louisiana April 9-May 14. Teche Campaign April 11-20. Irish Bend April 14. Bayou Vermillion April 17. March to Opelousas April 19-20, thence to Barre Landing April 26, and duty there until May 21. Companies "A," "E," "F" and "G" on provost duty at New Iberia April 17-May 19. Expedition toward Berwick City May 21-26. Moved to Algiers, thence to Port Hudson May 26-30. Siege of Port Hudson May 30-July 9. Assault on Port Hudson June 14. Jackson Cross Roads June 20 (Detachment). Surrender of Port Hudson July 9, and duty there until July 23. Moved to Massachusetts July 23-August 3. Mustered out August 14, 1863.

Regiment lost during service 1 Officer and 10 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 101 Enlisted men by disease. Total 112.

Regimental history taken from "The Union Army" by Federal Publishing Company, 1908 - Volume 1

Fifty-second Infantry. — Col., Halbert S. Greenleaf; Lieut.-Col., Samuel J. Storrs; Maj., Henry Winn. This regiment was recruited from the counties of Franklin and Hampshire, and was organized at Camp Miller, Greenfield. Two companies were mustered into the U. S. service on Oct. 2, 1862, for nine months, and the remaining eight on the 11th, while the field and staff officers were mustered in Nov. 19. It left the state on Nov. 20, for New York to take part in the Banks expedition. On Dec. 2 it embarked for Louisiana, arrived at Baton Rouge Dec. 17, and was attached to the 2nd brigade, 4th division, 19th corps. It saw no active service during the winter, remaining encamped at Baton Rouge until March 13, 1863, when it joined in the reconnaissance in the rear of Port Hudson to assist the Union fleet under Adm. Farragut in its attempt to run the Confederate batteries. On March 27 it embarked for Donaldsonville, La., and on the 31st, as a part of Grover's division, it shared in the Bayou Teche expedition, forming part of the reserve at the battle of Indian ridge on April 14. Four companies were detached at New Iberia as provost guard, and the others proceeded to Opelousas and Barre's landing. The six companies and Nims' battery remained at this point engaged in various duties until May 21, when, having been joined by the four companies left at New Iberia, the regiment started on the long return march and finally

rejoined its brigade before Port Hudson. It formed part of Gen. Paine's column in the march toward Clinton on June 5, returning on the 8th without having met the enemy. On June 14 it was deployed as skirmishers on the right of Gen. Weitzel's attacking column during the assault of that day, and suffered a loss of 3 killed and 7 wounded. During the remainder of the siege of Port Hudson, it occupied an advanced position in the trenches, and lost a number in killed and wounded by the fire of the sharpshooters. Soon after the surrender of Port Hudson, its term of service expired. It had the distinction of being the first regiment to return home by way of the Mississippi river, reaching Greenfield on Aug. 3, and on the 14th it was mustered out. During its term of service it had lost 1 officer and 10 enlisted men killed in action and 99 by accident and disease. Its loss by desertion was only 3.

Source: Internet

From:

History of Greenfield

Shire Town of

Franklin County

Massachusetts

Vol. I

Francis M. Thompson

Pgs. 346-350

FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT

"The heroes of the blue who marched
With Sherman to the sea
Clasp hands with veterans of the gray
Who rode with Robert Lee."

The 52d regiment went into camp at Greenfield, on Petty's Plain about where the Fair grounds are now located, September 30, 1862, and were mustered into the service October 2, and left for New York, November 20. They sailed from that port December 4, on the steamer Illinois, becoming a portion of Banks' expedition. After an uncommonly hard voyage they reached Baton Rouge, December 17, and became attached to General Grover's division, remaining in camp until March 12th, when they made a feint on Port Hudson, making a long and weary march. On the 2yth of that month they joined Banks' expedition to western Louisiana, escorting into Brashear City a train consisting of negroes and mules, estimated to be from five to ten miles in length, and containing every species of booty. From this point they marched to Algiers, about one hundred miles, and from Algiers another hundred miles to Port Hudson, where they arrived May 20, 1863. Here they joined in the battle of June 14th, and after that time during the siege were deployed as skirmishers within a few rods of the enemy's entrenchments. On the 9th of July, with the other regiments on duty they took possession of the fallen city.

After the fall of Port Hudson, General Banks announced that the nine months' regiment that had most willingly done its duty in remaining beyond its term of enlistment, should have the honor of being the first regiment to ascend the Mississippi, and the 52d was accorded that honor. They left Port Hudson, July 23d, on the steamer Henry Choteau and arrived at Cairo, July 30th, being the first regiment to come up the river. Here they took the Illinois Central Railroad arriving at Buffalo Sunday afternoon, July 3d, where they were most royally entertained by the people of

the Reverend G. W. Hosmer's society, Mr. Hosmer having been informed of their approach by his son, J. K., who was the color bearer of the regiment.

At its departure the regiment had 939 men and returned with 773; 85 had died of disease, 11 were killed or died of wounds; 16 sick and convalescents were left at Mound City and 2 officers, and 34 men were unable to leave New Orleans. The 52d lost in about one year's service, ten and two fifths per cent, a greater proportionate loss than any other Massachusetts Regiment.

The Montague, Colrain, Shelburne Falls and Greenfield companies of the 52d regiment arrived at the temporary depot of the Connecticut River Railroad, at the south end of the Cheapside bridge about ten o'clock, Monday evening, August 3, 1863. Here the soldiers were met by a large concourse of people accompanied by Engine Company No. 2 of Greenfield, with torches, and the band.

When the train came to a stop the band struck up "Sweet Home," and the weary men were greeted with loud cheers. Carriages were provided for the sick soldiers, and twenty-two of them were conveyed to Franklin Hall where they passed the night. The sick ones who were able to be moved so far, were taken home by their friends, but comfortable beds had been arranged for those who could endure no more fatigue, and several were carried to their homes on beds the following day. Those who were not on the sick list were taken to Washington Hall, where the ladies had set tables prepared with refreshments of all kinds, to which the hungry men did ample justice.

The hall was filled with the friends of the returning soldiers, both from Greenfield and the surrounding towns. In the midst of all the gladness there were some hearts sad indeed, for one father sobbed out, "I came here expecting to welcome my son alive and well, but he is dead. He died the day he was to start for home." Another who hoped to meet his son was informed that he was left behind too low to travel with his companions. Some learned that the husband, son or brother they had hoped to greet, had died, or had been too sick to undertake the homeward journey. Of the Greenfield company who reached home. Sergeant George Nims died August 6th, and Byron C. Wright, private, died the 13th of that month. At a town meeting held in 1870, a committee was appointed, of which Reverend J. F. Moors was chairman, whose duties were to collect reliable information in regard to men who had deceased who had served in the war of the rebellion.

In 1872 Mr. Moors delivered an address on Memorial Day, and in his discourse he incorporated the report of this committee.

I take from the Centennial Gazette a portion of this report.

Friends, the names, the memories of these men should not perish; they call upon us to give them a place in the history of the town in which they belonged. It is due to them for the sacrifice they made. They were young men; life's career was just opening before them; life was dear to them, but they gave it that we might live. Of the forty or more Greenfield men who lost their lives in the war, the remains of but fourteen are buried among their friends and amid the familiar scenes of home. To-day we cover their graves with flowers, tokens of our love and respect. We esteem these fourteen fortunate in the circumstance that they could receive Christian burial among friends. Seven died at home after their return; the remains of seven were brought here for burial. It is a natural instinct to desire, when death comes to us, to have our mortal remains repose among kindred. It adds not a little to the sadness and even bitterness with which even strong men meet death to know that they are to be buried among strangers, where no foot of kindred will ever tread, where no tear of affection will ever be dropped. In our touching memorial to-day, while we remember the fourteen that are buried here, let us not forget the twenty-six equally deserving who have here no burial place, but for the most part rest where they fell. In death let them again be equal as when in battle.

"They left no blot on their names,
But were true to the last of their blood and their breath,
And like reapers descended to the harvest of death."

Today, we recall them, one and all—the young, the strong, the hopeful, the ambitious, to whom life was as dear as to any of us, who had as much to live for as any of us—the devoted husband, the faithful father, "the only son of his mother and she a widow," the beloved brother. They come not back, but we will not let them be forgotten. They shall live not only in the hearts of kindred and in the memories of those who were personally bereaved in their death, but in the history of the town of which they were citizens.

Two years ago, the town appointed a committee to collect all the facts in relation to our deceased soldiers and report the same to the town. These facts have as far as possible been collected concerning men who were natives or citizens of Greenfield and who died while in the service, or in consequence of march or exposure. I know the record is imperfect. Of a few men credited to Greenfield, I could get no information whatever. They probably came here and enlisted and had no other association with Greenfield. Of the forty-four men whose record I have made out, I have not been able to add all the facts I should have been glad to, for it would prolong this address beyond reasonable bounds. I have tried to treat all impartially, and if I have said more of some than of others, it has been because the friends of some have given me more details than the friends of others. If errors are detected, I hope they will be rectified. It has been a pleasant labor for me to gather and put in order this brief record. The record of each one is brief, but they all include essentially the same story of hardship and privation, of lingering disease in army hospitals, or of death in the noise and excitement of battle. Twenty-eight were killed or died of wounds received in battle, Eighteen died of disease brought on by camp life, two died in rebel prisons.

Port Hudson

Other Names: None

Location: East Baton Rouge Parish and East Feliciana Parish

Campaign: Siege of Port Hudson (1863)

Date(s): May 21-July 9, 1863

Principal Commanders: Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks [US]; Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner [CS]

Forces Engaged: XIX Army Corps, Army of the Gulf [US]; Confederate forces, 3rd District,

Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, Port Hudson [CS]

Estimated Casualties: 12,208 total (US 5,000; CS 7,208)

Description: In cooperation with Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's offensive against Vicksburg, Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks' army moved against the Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson on the Mississippi River. On May 27, after their frontal assaults were repulsed, the Federals settled into a siege which lasted for 48 days. Banks renewed his assaults on June 14 but the defenders successfully repelled them. On July 9, 1863, after hearing of the fall of Vicksburg, the Confederate garrison of Port Hudson surrendered, opening the Mississippi River to Union navigation from its source to New Orleans.

Result(s): Union victory

From: History of the 52 Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers

Page 221: Roster of the 52 Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers

Sub page xxviii

Source: Internet

Company F (continued).

Full Name	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Place of Enlistment	Date of Enlistment	Rank	Occupation	Residence	Remarks
Traman Bowman	Deerfield	Oct. 26, '32	Montague	Aug. 13, '62	Private	Farmer	Ashfield	
Jedediah D. Boutwell	Leverett	'34	"	Aug. '62	"	—	—	d. Montague, May 13, '82
Charles C. Brewer	Montague	Apr. 8, '46	"	Nov. '62	"	—	—	d. Denver, Col., Feb. 3, '89
Erastas B. Burnham	Montague	May 31, '40	"	Aug. 23, '62	"	Farmer	Montague	
McKanza B. Britt	Northfield	'39	Northfield	Aug. 28, '62	"	—	—	d. New Orleans
Elijah W. Chamberlain	Newport	Jan. 21, '31	Northfield	Aug. 31, '62	"	Blacksmith	Findlay, Ohio	
Ebenezer Cheney	Orange	Sept. 18, '28	Orange	Aug. '62	Corporal	Trader	St. Joseph, Mo.	
Charles H. Cleveland	New Salem	'36	Erving	Aug. '62	Corporal	—	Worcester	
Rollin N. Clapp	Montague	Aug. 18, '43	Deerfield	Sept. 5, '62	Private	Mechanic	Worcester	
Emory B. Cobb	Orange	'41	Orange	Aug. 29, '62	"	—	—	d. Orange, Dec. 25, '63
Mitchell Cummings	Erving	'39	Erving	Oct. 11, '62	"	Unknown	Unknown	
Mathias Coad	Eastport, Me.	'35	Shutesbury	'62	"	Physician	Williamstown, Mich.	Discharged July, '63; re-enlisted July, '63, in 76 Colored Troops as Assistant Surgeon; discharged Dec. 31, '65
Henry J. Day	Montague	Jan. 8, '43	Montague	Aug. 23, '62	"	Farmer	Montague	
George G. Felton	Winchendon	May 21, '45	Northfield	Sept. 11, '62	"	Real Estate	Canden, N.Y.	
Ansel Field	Northfield	June 26, '39	"	Sept. 11, '62	"	—	Northfield	Discharged for disability June 27, '63
Frank S. Field ¹	Montague	Aug. 18, '44	"	Sept. 1, '62	"	Mechanic	Melrose	
Horace W. Field ²	Hatfield	Jan. 24, '26	Leverett	Aug. '62	"	Farmer	Leverett	
James H. Foskett	Orange	Dec. 3, '38	Orange	Aug. '62	"	Unknown	—	
James J. Foster	Shelburne Falls	Oct. 11, '44	Wendell	Aug. 25, '62	"	—	—	} Killed Fort Hudson June 16, '63 d. on board transport "Metagan," July 29, '63, on his way home
Luke Furbush	Orange	Mar. 18, '47	Orange	Sept. 10, '62	"	—	—	
Dennis Goddard	Orange	Sept. 14, '32	Orange	Sept. 11, '62	"	Mechanic	Athol	

[1145X]

