

Charles Benedict's Civil War Diary and Letters

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ORIGINAL DIARY AND LETTERS ARE IN THE YAMHILL COUNTY [OREGON]
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM.
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Charles Benedict was born in Ohio, 10 December 1842. When the Civil War began, the eighteen-year-old Charles enlisted on 23 September 1861 in Company "G," 19th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry at Braceville, Trumbull County, Ohio. He served in the company of Captain F. E. Stowe. He was sworn into the army on October 5. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Stone River, and Chickamauga. He served for three years, spending considerable time as a prisoner of war at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, and as an unexchanged paroled prisoner. He was wounded at Chickamauga, losing part of his right hand, and spent many months in military hospitals. In 1864 he received an honorable discharge.

In 1884 he moved to Oregon and married Rose Brooks in Portland in 1886 when he was forty-four. Rose's brothers operated a nursery in Carlton, Yamhill County, Oregon, and perhaps this is what lured Charles to that place. He died there on 25 November 1908 at the age of sixty-five and was buried at the cemetery in nearby North Yamhill. He was survived by his wife and five children.

[Source: diary, obituary, and letters housed in the Yamhill County Historical Society Museum]

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Covington, Ky

March 27, 1862

Dear sister Irena, I have landed here safe & on the right side with care, but a little under the weather, that is to say I am not exactly well, but a day or two will work that off. I don't know whether I [swalowed?] Jonah or not but ass he came this morning about four, this news will have a tendency to make you think that I drank much beer, but no Dear Sister I have sworn off drinking it and all other drinks for time to come.

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I got into Cleveland right side up, had my baggage checked at the Weddell House. I raced around through town all evening, I could have left at two twenty, but the Agent of the road said that I could get through as quickly by taking the evening train so I done so. I took supper at the Soldiers Home at the Union Depot & took passage to Columbus on the "7:57" train in the eve & arrived there at half past two in the morn, waited there an hour & then was propelled on towards our destination which point Ive made at Eleven A M, the train was due there at six thirty but was detained by an obstruction on the road as

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it being a Freight Train which had run off the track at Morrow fifty-five miles from Columbus. I reported at [Dr Heas?] about five no questions were asked but was glad to be thru so prompt. The N.W. Boys that were questioned at the time I was were here to receive me, some of my old chums have been sent away & others in their places but still there is a good memory of them here yet. There has been two deaths since I left, but there has been no more cases of the small pox which I am glad to hear. Some of the Boys

that were well are now sick & those that were sick are nearly well, but [with?] myself all is progressing

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onward or if no Kentucky turn I shall be a gay bird of the flock yet. Weather cold but pleasant, no snow on the ground, with these few words & much miserable writing, I will abscond for the present, trusting good fortune I will try & do better in my next, Wish all Love & respect to you all I still remain your Soldier Brother

Charles

Burn this after you read it for I am ashamed of it.

To my dear sister

Irena

From Charley

Murfreesboro [TN], July 3, 1862

Dear Brothers & Sisters it is pleasure that I set myself down to pass the time in writing you a few lines hoping you will return the same compliment, as We, on the swift wings of time every day bring some new & sad event to our hearing. We may be one day enjoying the pleasures & enjoyments of life, as time wears on We know what will happen in a short space of time. We may be deprived of all the enjoyments suffering the fatigues & turmoils [of] life or it may bring the sad news to our friends, the death of our friend or Brother, who has departed from our midst or gone forth into the World, to gain a fortune for future life: or as in this Nation

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of troubles, He has gone forth with a willing heart to do Battle for his Country in putting down this wicked & damnable Rebellion. It may be months & it may be years before We meet with success, but We trust that God is on our side, that we will come out Victorious in the end. I wrote you a few lines before leaving Columbus, stating that I was about to leave for Dixie, We left there & arrived at Cincinnati [Cincinnati] about ten that night. We were marched to the Barracks on main street & staid there two nights & one day & then were put on the Prison Boat that was at ancho [anchor] in the middle of the Ohio, We staid there three or four days, I wrote a letter to Leyander B. while there I suppose you have learned the contents before this. We came on the Boat Major Anderson down

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to Louisville [The boat was named for the Union hero who commanded the Union troops at the bombardment of Fort Sumpter]. We were detained there one day. We then took the cars for Nashville which place We arrived at about dusk We were marched to the Barracks ate our supper which was ready for us at seven o'clock We were notified of [word omitted?] all who chose were permitted to go to the Theater of course we were all in for that, it was a storming scene, The principle scene was of the French spy appertaining to the War of 1812, We left Nashville this morning I looked for Charlie Stevens but did not see him I droped a line at a bridge about seven miles this side of N. [Nashville] where there was some troops stationed. I am here in Convalescent Camp our Divission & Regmt has left here for the front, they left Sunday I saw Russ [Aviatt?] only just to speak to him I shall see him on the morrow. [The following line was written

across the bottom of both Page 2 and Page 3] *There is some of our Boys belonging to our Co. here but they are drafted men I am not acquainted with any of them*

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I am in Co. C. 4th Battalion Convalescent Camp, at Liberty to go where I am a mind to, all Men before leaving here for their Regmts are examined by the Dr Those able for field services are sent to their Regmts & those that are able to do duty but not in the field are put in the forts here another class of men unfit for field services are sent north to do private duty in towns & guard RR & so forth, another class of men utterly disabled for the duty for a certain length of time are discharged & sent home. I shall remain here untill I am sent away it may be my luck to be left here, As near as I can learn the Boys left in Good spirits & in good health. I hope you have received that money I expected home I will close for the present Write your finest to Co. C. 4th Battallion Convalescent Camp Murfreesboro Ten You all have my love and best respects

From Your Brother

Charle Benedict

I hope you will excuse bad writing & spelling errors C.B.

[On the right side of Page 4 is written vertically the following:] *I wish you all success Good By all C.B.*

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Also with the Charles Benedict papers at the museum is the obituary of Myron F. Burney, born January 28, 1840, who was married to Charles's sister, Louisa Benedict, in 1867. She had predeceased Burney by six years. He left two children and five grandchildren. He was also a Civil War veteran from Ohio.

.....
Camp Chase

June 4th 1863

Brothers & Sisters I suppose you have received my letter of the 1st stating We had started for Dixie I am sorry to say that my Rgmt & Myself & several others were left on account of not getting down there on time, We came back a & as I did not feel verry well Louis and I reported to the Dr's He examined us both, I got a certificate of disabilit but Louis did not The reason I went to the Dr's was that he toled me to reporte there befor I was ordered away to my Rgt He said I was not able for field service at present I shall go to my Regt as soon as he thinks I am able for it

[Page 2]

There is no telling how soon that may be Louis reported to head quarters of the Camp & they have got so d....d nice that they put all that reporte themselves thre in to the Bull Pen. There is two or three of our Boys in there with him. I saw him yesterday he is well pleased with the place & says that they have better quarters than We do they say they had just as soon stay there as to go to the Regt [regiment] I say it is a d....d shame that when a man trys to do right they put him in such a place as that. for offence. Whatever, I say he is a good man. It is on account trundle-bed Officers They have never been into the field & so We dont expect anything better of them I sup0pose they will stay here untill they get enough for a squad

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& then send them to their Regts.

You must excuse me for expressing myself in the language I have but when I get to thinking of it I cant help it I suppose the Boys to the Regt will think I have plaid off to get rid of going when they see I am not with them that has gone. The Boys are coming in from home every day They have got so that they wont grant any more furloughs [Surprisingly he spelled furloughs correctly. All through the diary he spells it furlows] & if a man is not in Camp by five days from yesterday according to the lates orders that have been circulated He is considered as a deserter Paroled men & all have helped white-wash our shantee with lime this fore-noon There has been a General review of the Camp & the Troops in it this after-noon. There waw also a couple shorte speeches delivered to the Soldiers of the Camp By Governor Dennison & also by Governor Tod [Governor of Ohio]

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*it lasted about two hours it was quite interesting the Governor said He would do all He could for the Ohio Soldiers for their benefit, happiness, & prosperity & hoping that they might come back with success crowning their efforts & with a true & honest character. if they died or was killed on the Battle field that they might leave good reputation for their children & Parrents to boast of, showing that he died in a glorious cause to restore his Country back to its former place again I feel assured that We are engaged in a noble & just cause & think that Gods success will be with us in the end I have written enough for the present hoping this will find you all in good health & enjoying yourselves [illegible] I suppose you are linked with annother in the holy Bonds of matrimony hoping that success & happiness will crown your efforts that you both as one will except [accept] my Love and sincere thanks with these few words I will Close for the present Direct to Co. B 1st Parole Inft., Camp Chase [near Cleveland, Ohio] Write Soon
My Love to you all moste respectfully yours
Chas Benedict*

The Diary

The diary is 3" x 6" in black leather, pocket-sized. It has embossed on it "DIARY 1863." On the flyleaf is written "Memoranda of Charles Benedict, Co. G, 19th Regmt O.V.I. [Ohio Volunteer Infantry], Enlisted under Captain F. E. Stowe, at Braceville, Trumbull Co. Ohio on the twenty-third day of Sept. 1861 & sworn into the service on the fifth day of Oct. of the same year."

On the back of the flyleaf page is this

Charlie Benedict

If I should die in a hospital or get killed on the Battle field for humanitys sake acquaint my friends of the fact Mr. Hiram Benedict at Braceville, Trumbull County, Ohio "

Separated by a line on the same page is another entry, more faded than the top of the page: *"The Battle of Shiloh was the first Battle our company was ever in. It was fought on the sixth and seventh of April 1862 [Lester?] Oviatt was mortally wounded, & died at the Landing the next day. George Gordon was wounde through the right ancle. He was discharged on account of his wound Buel's [Union Gen. Don Carlos Buell] army arrived on the Battle field Sunday evening He landed about midnight the rain was coming down in torrents We were in the fight only the last day We came out Victorious I was grased [grazed] by three balls but they only drew blood"*

[Only the pages which have writing are numbered; many pages do not have writing]

Thursday, January 1, 1863 [printed in the diary by the printers, not handwritten] As if an afterthought, Benedict scrawled above the date "*Battle of Stone River*" The entry follows:

Tuesday morning our Brigade composed of the 19th o.v.i. [Ohio Volunteer Infantry] 9th Ky, the 19th Inda. [Indiana] 18th Ky 13th o.v.i. was ordered from the left flank to the right flank of the Army to drive the Rebs back that were breaking through our lines, our Rgt taking the advance We drove them about a quarter of a mile My Cousin was wounded through the right breast in the first of the engagement I escaped without being touched Thursday we did not have much to do We were ordered to the left again

Friday 2 [January 2, 1863; the diary doesn't give the full date each day; Benedict wrote the year 1863 next to the printed diary date.] *Taken Prisoner on this day at the Battle of Stone River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. By the Confederates under Command of General Bragg of the Confederate Army. I was marched to Murfreesboro I was made to take an Oath not to aid the Union Army in any respect untill legaly exchanged. & put into Jail over night*

Saturday 3 [January 3, 1863] *We were let out of the Jail and marched down to the Depot about five oclock in the morning where We took the cars for Chattanooga. They were flat cars without any seats on them. The rain pored down in torrents the whole day long. There was about seven hundred of us aboard the train I was lucky enough to have a blanket which I picked up on the field as I was going to the rear*

Sunday, January 4, 1863 [Page 2 of diary] *We arrived in Chattanooga this morning about two oclock after a ride of One hundred & thirty miles on the cars. We were marched to a Camp where there were a few raged [ragged] tents. We got some rations of cornmeal without anything to cook it in. it had to last us two days. We staid here untill the next day about eigh [sic] oclock.*

Monday 5 *We left Chattanooga this morning for Atlanta Georgia a distance of one hundred & forty miles. We were put into freight cars which the Rebs used to ship cattle & horses in from fifty to sixty of us in a car. Nothing happened this day more than the Locomotive runing off from the track*

Tuesday 6 *We arrived in Atlanta this fore noon about [?] oclock We were marched to the East side of the town on to an open space of ground where We received ten ounces of bread & some raw bacon. We staid here untill about four oclock in the afternoon We were then marched to the depot & took the cars for West Point Georgia [a town on the east side of the Chattahoochee River, the border between Georgia and Alabama].*

Wednesday, January 7 [Page 3 of diary] *We arrived at West Point to day about noon after a ride of some eighty-seven miles. We were ordered to dismount from the cars. We were formed in line & marched a little ways from the depot where We got three crackers*

7 a small piece of bacon for the days rations. We exercise our opinion of the War in a free discussion with the Rebs

Thursday 8 *We passed the night without any disturbances sleeping on the bare ground The Rebs are in high glee to think that they gained such a glorious Victory in the Battles {when they had to retreat from the field} We left West Point this after-noon about three oclock, taking the pleasure we had in riding in fraigh [freight] cars We arrived in Montgomery about day break the next morning, distance about 83 miles.*

Friday 9 *We are now at Montgomery [Alabama]. Arrived here at day brake this morning. We started to pass through the line at Vicksburg [Mississippi] but we have to turn turn [sic] back & go to Richmond [Virginia], on account of their fighting at Vicksburg. We have received three crackers & a piece of rotten bacon for the days rations. Flower is fifty dollars a barrel, & salt twenty dollars a hundred, & sugar a dollar a pound, Tea \$7.50 & Cofee 4.50 per pound*

Saturday, January 10, 1863 [Page 4 of diary] *We are here yet suffering the abuses of starvation & curses from the Rebels, but we give them as good as they send. We claim to be the advance of Rosincreance [Union Gen. William Rosencrans, Commander of the Army of the Cumberland] Army but they say he will hang on the gallows before forty eight hours & they will will [sic] have to take his [Henry?] to do it We will leave here for Atlanta tomorrow Six crackers & a piece of bacon for two days rations*

Sunday 11 *Hurra Boys & we are off on our back track again for Atlanta Georgia, passed the whole day & night on the cars. The Boys sell their clothes & trinkets what they have to by something to eat. We go about the rate of ten miles an hour. There is not many guards with us. I have not seen any Camps on our rout yet. Night has come.*

Monday 12 *With a longe & tiresome ride We have finily got to Atlanta bout thirty six hours on the way here. We were marched about half a mile east of the town where we got some corn meal for to last two days We had [illegible] and skillets to cook it in. We left Camp & started back for the cars. There was some fresh beef come into Camp just as started off. We did not stop for that*

Tuesday, January 13, 1863 [Page 5 of diary] *This finds us at Dalton, Tenn. Within thirty miles of Chattanooga at the junction of the East Ten & Chattanooga & Atlanta roads. The Boys begin to get poor & hungry & sick riding in the stinking cars. We are on the North east side of the Town waiting for grub & tomorrow we will start for Knoxville a distance of two hundred & ten miles. The weather is warm & pleasant in the day time*

Wednesday 14 *This morning we left Dalton taking the East Tenn. R.R. for Knoxville. We have passed another tedious day on the cars I rode on top of the cars most of the day, some of the Boys lost their hat in going through the windings in the hills. The cars are so full that some of the Boys have to ride on top of the cars both day & night. We meet with some Union people almost every town We pass through*

Thursday 15 *We arrived at Knoxville about two o'clock to day. We were marched up on to a hill on the North side of the Town. The citizens come in amongst us & sell pies, from a quarter a half dollar a pie. Some of the Boys are pretty light fingered & they surround them and take them of their own accord. They are hungry enough to do such things. Boots sell from twenty to twenty-five dollars a pair shoes from twelve to fifteen a pair*

Friday, January 16, 1863 [Page 6 of diary] *This morning we got some grub four or five crackers & a piece of bacon to each man. & were put aboard of the cars & started for Bristol a town on the Tenn. & Va. Line a distance of about two hundred miles. We got in there about twelve o'clock that night it was raining as hard as it could pour down. I got out of the cars & went into the round house where they kept their engines*

Saturday 17 *The Boys were permitted to build fires for it was cold and chilly We hitched up with the first train there & they left that night. We were expecting to go early in the morning but owing to some bad luck We did not leave until after noon. The next point is Lynchburg [Lynchburg, Virginia], which we arrived at just break of day, after riding a distance of one hundred & fifty miles.*

Sunday 18 *After we got into Lynchburg, We were formed into line & marched over across the James River. There were some bread peddlers there We halted & got what bread we wanted & then marched on to the depot We mounted the cars & a little while were on the move towards Richmond We arrived at the junction about twelve that night about seventy five miles from L. [Lynchburg] We exchanged there & started for R'm'd [Richmond]*

Monday, January 19, 1863 [Page 7 of diary] *Our train left the junction last night about three o'clock, all of us were ordered to keep on the inside of the cars, to day going up some up-hill grades the train got stalled. They had to back down two or three times before We got to the top of it. We arrived in Richmond about four this after-noon. One of our men died just as We got here to day He fell off the train between L & R [Lynchburg and Richmond].*

Tuesday 20 *We were put into the tobacco house yesterday & staid there until about ten o'clock today & then were march up to the Libby Prison & were put into a room on the second story two hundred of us in the room the room is fifty feet square by seventy feet in length there is six windows in the room three in each end of the room*

Wednesday 21 *We got breakfast this morning about ten o'clock it was composed of half a loaf of spring bread weighing about five ounces & a piece of boiled beef about as big as a walnut We had roll call twice in the day time We was counted instead of calling our names. We had supper about eight in the evening*

Thursday, January 22, 1863 [Page 8 of diary] *We got our breakfast about ten this morning. Any man that is caught taking more than his share is punished by marking time six hours. There was a fight in this room to day we too herd on to see it out. I heard*

that some of our Boys had taken the oath of alegiants [allegiance to the Confederacy] to day

Friday 23 *We have got our regular rations of sloss [sliced?] beef & bread to day. Some of the Boys complain of starving, but as for myself I get enough for now but it will tell in time. the reports is that we will be kept during the war*

Saturday 24 *To day we were all paroled in this room We did not get our separate parole as was expected We were all Paroled on one paper & they kept it We had two meals to day if one of us is cought off from the floor he was put upon at first has to make time four hours*

Sunday, January 25, 1863 [Page 9 of diary] *There has nothing happened to day, no more than the Boys are as common butchering the graybacks [lice] which kept them in perpetual motion There was one of our men died in our room this morning.*

Monday 26 *This morning we left Libby Prison about five oclock. We were searched all of our blankets cups canteens knives & forks were taken away from us We were marched to the depot to put aboard [one] of the cars We changed cars at Petersburg & landed a [sic] Citty Point about thirty miles from R'd [Richmond]*

Tuesday 27 *We were put aboard of our Boat New York last night & anchored out in the River over night There was annother train loaded with prisners came this morning & they were put on board the Boats Exchange and Matamora. We left Citty Point to day about noon There is about nine hundred on the [boat] I am on [,] the cramed New York*

Wednesday, January 28, 1863 [Page 10 of diary] *We came down the James R [River] & passed Fortress Monroe which is at its mouth about eight in the evening The Bay is rough & some of the Boys get sea sick We once more have our opportunity of living upon Uncle Sam again. We will land at Anapolis about midnight*

Thursday 29 *This morning we landed at the Wharf & were marched up through the town out to Parole Camp Anapolis, some two miles & a half from Town. We have tents for Barracks. We were formed in Companies of one hundred men each. There is four Co. [companies] of us camped on the out side of the main camp*

Friday 30 *There is a considerable snow on the ground or rather could [today. We have tents about half burnt upp & have boards laid on the ground to sleep upon, with a stove in the center of the tent & about sixteen average to a tent. We are rather a sorry looking set of humane beings just now*

Saturday, January 31, 1863 [Page 11 of diary] *All we have done since our arrival here at Anapolis is principaly to eat, as the moste of us are pretty lank for want of grub at R'd [Richmond] & now are makeing it up off from Uncle Sam Our nearness neighbors at R'd, the gray-backs still keep us company, especially nights*

Sunday, February 1 *We present a spectacl like a pack of hungry wolves. We dont wait for meal time but eat to appease our hunger. We eat about double rations now. when we get out we go to the main Camp & get more of [from] those that have been nice a while, as they draw more [food] than they want.*

Monday 2 *We have had more snow to day it about three inches deep. This after noon We drew a new suit of cloths all except a dress coat, free of charge, intended for the suit we lost on the Battlefield. We have abandoned our olde cloths & dress up in new. I was taken prisner just one month ago to day*

[No entries from February 3, 1863 through February 20, 1863; some blank pages apparently cut out. Enumeration hereafter will reflect the number of the page with writing.]

Saturday, February 21, 1863 [Page 12 of diary] *There is no prospects of getting to Ohio. The Boys are taking French furlows [going A.W.O.L.]. There was five other fellows including myself, which makes six, started for Ohio about six oclock this evening We made about six miles got off from the direction we started and had to camp in the woods over night. When we waked up in the morning we found about six inches of snow on us and the wind blowing like sixty*

Sunday 22 *We waked up this morning & to our surpprise, found about six inches of snow on us & the wind blowing like the d---l. We consulted with others and finilly concluded to move on. The snow was so deep & wind blew so hard that we were even [illegible] to stop. We came to an old house & put upp for the day to keep a fire we had to burn the ceiling*

Monday 23 *This morning is could & windy as ever. We have to draw on our haversacks for morning meal. We started with four days rations & a blanket & an extra pair of shoes. The snow thawed a considerable this after-noon, although we conclude not to start till the next morning. We all bunked down together, with our feet to the fire.*

Tuesday, February 24, 1863 [Page 13 of diary] *When we woke upp this morning we found the weather moderated down considerably. We made cofee & ate our breakfast & planned to execute our expedition. We made up our minds to start, packed up our duds & started. We took the road, the snow being hous-top deep. It was almoste impossible to get along. We made seventeen miles & camped for one night*

Wednesday 25 *We are camped half a mile from the road in an old building. We were piloted here by a sitizen who promised to pilot us across the B & [Ill?] R.R., if we would pay him something. I was not in for it, but as the rest were [partle?] for it I consented. Yesterday passing a grocry [grocery] we stoped in & got something to rouse ourselves & strengthen us as we were prety tired*

Thursday 26 *The weather is plesant & the snow keeps a thawing. We concluded not to start untill six this evening. I have no faith in our pilot, but the rest do. He was a*

suspicious looking man. The time arrived & we started. We took our course through the fields & finally came upon a road. Here the P. had a horse & a basket of eggs. We went some five miles & our P. stopped at a grocery. & said [illegible]

Friday, February 27, 1863 [Page 14 of diary] We saw the last of our Pilot when he stopped at the Grocery, for we went back & he was gone, so we traveled on & crossed the A. & B. R.R. about midnight. In the morning we found ourselves at a farmers dwelling. Ate our breakfast & started on. Crossed the B. & [illegible] R.R. a woman seen us alarmed the guard & they put after us. They chased us about five m. took us.

Saturday 28 This morning we are in the guards quarters after sleeping with them over night. We have to go to Baltimore. We bid farewell to our gentleman guards & was put aboard of the cars under one escorte & started for B. When there we were put into the lock-up over night. bedbugs a plenty

Sunday, March 1 This afternoon we were taken over to forte Mchenery [Fort McHenry] about three quarters of a mile from B. & lodged [lodged] in an old horse stable, used as Barracks for Prisners. There is about one hundred of us, some for deserting & some there in imprisonment for deeds they done & some just like ourselves, runaways making for home

Monday, March 2, 1863 [Page 15 of diary] We still remain in Prison at fort Mchenery. there is working parties go out every two hours. they was principally deserters & men imprisoned here. We have cofee & bread three times a day & an occasional piece of meat. We have no occasion to regret of anything to do, for there is gray backs, bedbugs & fleas a plenty

Tuesday 3 I still [illegible] at the forte. We raise hell in general of nights & are not allowed to go out of the room unless under guard. Good news the paroled men are a going to leave for Anapolis in the morning. The weather is aggreable pleasant to day.

Wednesday 4 The [lite?] of day has rose shining in the east. everything looks cheerfull out, but this being in prison is what I hate. I am called on to leave. good by old Forte. There is about fifteen of us. We were put aboard of the cars & started for A. we changed cars at Annapolis. finishing this, arrived at Camp.

Thursday, March 5, 1863 [Page 16 of diary] Last night our [partie?] arrived in Camp. We were turned loose again. the boys met us with with [sic] a cheer, for the absence we all had to relate our story to the boys. To tell the truth we did not make at it, for I was a little the wiser for wear. I am now content to wait untill they take me.

Friday 6 Last night we made our beds down in our old quarters again. I had a sound sleep over our late adventure. The day is plesant & every thing looks natural once more. We have orders to move our Camp over on the inside of the guard line. some are doing it to night

Saturday 7 *Today the weather is cool. There is six of us in the tent I'm in today. We have been busy moving our house or tent you might say over on the inside of the guard line. to night we are comfortably fixed again.*

Sunday, March 8, 1863 [Page 17 of diary] *To day is plesant. I have to fill out my diary whenever I get an opportunity to write, so I shall write it as I pass alonge through this [god dirn?] life as if I were a writing at the time.*

Monday 9 *We got orders to be ready to leave Camp at any moment this morning. We left Camp Anapolis this afternoon & marched down to Town. an officer [halted?] us & said There was no Boats for us & We [should?] have to go back to Camp We started back We had not got far when an Officer up to us & the Boats was ready for us & we started back again*

Tuesday 10 *We were put on board the Boat last night. We left Anapolis this morning & arrived at Baltimore about eleven but did not land untill near evening there were some four Companies guarded us through the Town [because Baltimore was strongly pro-Southern and unarmed troops would likely be harassed] We marched to the depot & got on board the cars We left there about five oclock*

Wednesday, March 11, 1863 [Page 18 of diary] *We passed through Harrisburg [Pennsylvania] last night sometime We have rode all the day on the cars. We arrived in Pittsburgh about ten to night We were marched up to the Soldiers home & got a splended supper for us after it was over We were took to annothe [another] station & got aboard the train*

Thursday 12 *We left Pittsburgh about twelve last night for Camp Chase Ohio at Columbus The Boys have kept getting off all the way from Baltimore We passed through Alliance about eight this morning I staped off from the cars there & started for home I went within three miles of Newton Falls & staid over night*

Friday 13 *I staid at a place the mans name was Grenels last night I left there early in the morning & did not get home untill about four in the evening although it was only seven miles travel Every one that new me salted me & wondered how I came there it was a simple thing to tell*

[There are no entries from March 14, 1863 through March 30, 1863]

[At the bottom of Page 19 of the diary is this entry:]

Tuesday 31 *I left home to day to report myself in person at Camp Chase, as the President has issued a Proclamation calling in all deserter & absentees it has no claim on me as I am a paroled Prisner although my friends think I had better return to Camp I took the express a [sic] Bracevill & got into Cleveland about eleven*

Wednesday, April 1, 1863 [Page 20 of diary] *I left Cleveland on the seven o'clock train & got into Columbus about mid night. I got transportation from Bracevill Station to Columbus free of charge I arrived in Camp Chase this fore noon about ten o'clock, for the first time A fellow named Rus accompanied me through*

[There are no entries from April 2, 1863 through April 9, 1863]

Friday, April 10, 1863 [Page 21 of diary] *The day is pleasant. We signed the payrolls & was paid off this forenoon. The Boys are making a break for home. some are taking across the fields & others are getting sitizen suit & going in a more bold maner. The Officers think a little hard about it but the Boys are not exchanged & they cant hurt them for it. They bid Camp Chase good by for a while*

Saturday 11 *The Boys still keep lighting out for home. the Camp begins to look prety slim. I received six months pay yesterday Our Company [H?] has dwindled down to eleven men. There was eighty five when they come into Camp although I was not in it then It is getting to be a loansome place the Camp is all commotion now*

Sunday 12 *To day it was so loansome that I could not content myself & so I made a break for home I made a circuit around Columbus & struck for the nearest station on the C & C Railroad, which cost me about fourteen miles travel. I took passage in a Caboose car on a freight train There was several soldiers on the train with myself I arrived in Cleveland about five o'clock*

Monday, April 13, 1863 [Page 22 of diary] *I walked down as far as Newburg & staid in a private dweling house over night. I was aroused about midnight by a couple of fellows comming into my room & saying they were ketching up such fellows as I. they said they would tend to my care in the morning. I arose in the morning & got my breakfast, went to the Station & got aboard of the train when it come & landed safe at home*

Tuesday 14 *My second arrival at home while a Paroled Prisner I finde all my friends & relations well. I have passed the day at home My Niece Mary B. Benedict is a going to start for the West to teach school to morrow morning. Miss Nettie Neall is here*

Wednesday 15 *I took Mary up to the station this morning at the C & [N?] R.R. Nettie went with us I have kept myself at home to day & the farmers have quit shugar making. how lonesome it is for a Soldier to get away from the crowds of men he has been use to. At Home where nothing but family is there*

[There are no entries from April 16, 1863 through May 19, 1863]

Wednesday, [May] 20 [Page 23 of diary] *To day I left home bidding farewell to my friends, Brothers & Sisters & home that was so dear to one perhapse never to see them no more My two youngest Sisters accompanied me as far as Cleveland. I staid there in*