

1: The Gettysburg Diary | Civil War Diary

Both diaries are previously unpublished, and both soldiers fought near each other on the second day of the battle, providing a novel (no pun intended) perspective on the battle of Gettysburg. The diary entries are relatively short, and provide only a fraction of the book, which I was not suspecting.

The unifying oration has been engraved onto monuments, memorized by countless schoolchildren, and painstakingly dissected by every Civil War historian under the sun. Across the Atlantic, language from the speech was woven into the current constitution of France. His immortal words were merely the follow-up to another speech—one that was meticulously researched and, at least by some accounts, brilliantly delivered. It was a professional triumph for a scholar and statesman named Edward Everett who had been hailed as the finest orator in America. Yet history has all but forgotten it. The son of a minister, Everett was admitted to Harvard University at 13 and graduated at 17. When he returned from Europe, Everett took up his post at Harvard. But after Everett started teaching in 1825, he quickly found himself longing for a career change. In 1828, he ran for a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives. Elected as a conservative Whig, he served for a full decade before setting his sights on state politics. In 1830, Everett won the first of four one-year terms as the governor of Massachusetts. Like most politicians, Everett suffered his fair share of defeats. But he soon got another shot at public service: In 1835, the John Tyler administration appointed Everett as the U. S. Minister to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Academia beckoned once again in 1836, when Everett—after some coaxing—agreed to become the president of Harvard. Everett subsequently bolstered his political resume with a one-year tenure in the U. S. Senate, resigning in 1841 after failing health caused him to miss a vote on the Kansas-Nebraska Act. In the election of 1844, Everett found himself pitted against future president Abraham Lincoln. The ex-Governor reluctantly accepted the nomination, believing that doing otherwise would cause too much damage to the ticket—but he flatly refused to campaign. Once the war broke out, he started touring the northern states, making pro-Union speeches wherever he went. Everett received their official invite on September 1, 1863. The request was granted, and Everett got to work. He began by going over every available account of the battle. From Union general George G. Meade's report to the Richmond Inquirer, Everett went through it with a fine-toothed comb. Everett traveled to Gettysburg on November 16, still constantly revising his notes. Since a large chunk of his speech would be dedicated to recounting the historic battle, he decided to familiarize himself with the terrain on which it was fought. Professor Michael Jacobs of Gettysburg College, an eyewitness to the battle, guided Everett through the hills and fields that surround the Pennsylvania town. The whole town was polluted with their stench. Lincoln arrived one night before he was to deliver his speech; both the president and Mr. Everett were given lodging at the home of event organizer David Wills. The next morning, the honored guests made their way towards the cemetery. Stockton C. Freeman, a prominent anti-slavery cleric, delivered with trademark zeal. And then, Everett—his speech memorized in full—took the stage. Because the New Englander had weak kidneys, a tent had been placed behind the podium so that he might take a break and relieve himself during the speech if necessary. His speech was loaded with historical references: As the address unfolded, Everett mentioned everything from the War of Roses to the fall of ancient Rome. He also quoted such great thinkers as Pericles and David Hume. He provided a detailed, point-by-point retelling of the battle at Gettysburg, denouncing the Confederacy, condemning the continued practice of slavery, and urging the north to strengthen its resolve. Still, Everett held firm to the belief that reconciliation between the two sides might still be possible. The heart of the people, north and south, is for the Union. Everett was listened to with breathless silence by all that immense crowd, and he had his audience in tears many times during his masterly effort. And then, the president rose. Had not Lincoln turned and moved towards his chair, the audience would very likely have remained voiceless for several moments more. Finally, there came applause. One day after the consecration, he wrote to the president and asked for a copy of the little address. Everett would not fail.

2: Gettysburg Diaries: Georgeanna Woolsey's "Friendly Enemies" | www.enganchecubano.com

To ask other readers questions about The Gettysburg Diaries, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about The Gettysburg Diaries A great book that provides powerful insight and commentary into the lives of two common soldiers, one North and one South. My only complaint about the book was.

For three days, war would rage in fields and orchards, with farmers and townspeople alike caught in the crosshairs. The following is excerpted from my nonfiction book, *Stories of Faith and Courage from the Home Front*: There they remained huddled together all day, only emerging when the firing ceased. She recorded in her diary at the end of July 1: How changed the town looked when we came to the light. The street was strewn over with clothes, blankets, knapsacks, cartridge-boxes, dead horses, and the bodies of a few men, but not so many of these last as I expected to see. We started home, and found things all right. As I write all is quiet, but O! The next two days of battle, the Broadheads stayed together in their own cellar. Staying in the dark for hours at a time while the battle raged, the suspense was nearly unbearable. On July 3, Sarah wrote: Nearly all the afternoon it seemed as if the heavens and earth were crashing together. The time that we sat in the cellar seemed long, listening to the terrific sound of strife; more terrible never greeted human ears. We knew that with every explosion, and the scream of each shell, human beings were hurried, through excruciating pain, into another world, and that many more were torn, and mangled, and lying in torment worse than death, and no one able to extend relief. Who is victorious, or with whom the advantage rests, no one here can tell. It would ease the horror if we knew our arms were successful. As Christians, we are in spiritual battles of our own, and we see the physical evidence of sin in every corner of the globe. Jesus had victory on the cross, and He is victorious in the end. When you feel attacked, remember that you are fighting on the winning side! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Her diary of the weeks during and after the battle has proven to be one of our most valuable eyewitness accounts of the civilian experience.

3: Gettysburg National Military Park (U.S. National Park Service)

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Diaries included in the drop down menu to the left, or highlighted in the list below, are accessible online as images and textual transcriptions. Thomas Benton Alexander was a native of Henry County, Tennessee, and was working as a farm laborer in Maury County when, in October, he was mustered in to Confederate service. Alexander was captured and paroled three times, having been present at the surrenders of Fort Donelson, Tennessee; Port Hudson, Louisiana; and Fort Morgan, Alabama. The diary includes dated entries ranging from June to May; undated entries probably extend back to A diary kept by David B. I, 20th Wisconsin Infantry. Arthur was a lead miner, from Beetown, Grant County, Wisconsin. He was mustered in to the 20th Wisconsin in August and served in that unit for the duration of the war, ultimately rising to 1st lieutenant. The diary includes dated entries ranging from 20 October to 12 June; during this time the regiment was attached to the Army of the Frontier, serving in Missouri and Arkansas. Though the author of this Confederate diary never identifies himself by name, the manuscript can be attributed to Thomas Jacob Barb, of Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas. Entries extend from 18 June to 11 September, and provide accounts of several key engagements in Arkansas, including the attack on Helena and the defense of Little Rock. A diary of Pvt. H, 13th Maine Infantry, containing six pages of dated wartime entries 19 September to 1 October and a few pages of wartime accounts. Most of the volume consists of post-war accounts. His diary contains daily entries ranging from 1 January to 31 December; entries for 16 days are lacking. Included are descriptions of the siege of Vicksburg. From August through December Boardman was away from the regiment, convalescing from an illness contracted at Vicksburg. The military diary of Pvt. H, 32nd Maine Infantry. The volume has sporadic daily entries, some reaching 50 words or more; entries are most frequent in May-June and September-December. During the war Cartmell served the Confederacy in a number of administrative, military, and intelligence capacities. An initial section 14 November to 10 February contains diary entries that, by subsequent standards, are short and sporadic. A second section 2 April to 9 July contains prose meditations on war, home, and youth. The third and most important section contains regular and often extended entries running from 1 March to 11 October. There is also commentary of a political nature, especially as the narrative proceeds and Cartmell makes his antipathy to "Radical" elements plain. Notable, too, are several long entries from early June, describing the reburial of a "patriot cousin" in the family graveyard, and a ceremonial procession in Winchester honoring the Confederate dead. He was captured at Second Bull Run 30 August and did not rejoin his regiment until April, spending much of the intervening time at home. He transferred back to the 73rd Ohio in March and mustered out on 31 December. The Cline manuscript includes two distinct narrative segments. The first is a page memoir, perhaps derived from an earlier diary, in which Cline describes his service to August, including an extended account of the Gettysburg campaign. This memoir was most likely written in July-August. The better part of the volume consists of pages of dated diary entries running from 20 August to 5 October; for most of this time the 73rd Ohio was attached to the Army of the Cumberland. Typical entries range from 20 to 75 words, and describe several major engagements as well as the entirety of the Atlanta campaign. Also included in the volume are 26 pages of non-narrative material, including accounts, song lyrics, and a copy of a tombstone inscription. The diary at hand contains daily entries running from 29 June to 23 February; most are one full page roughly words in length. There is much on camp life, socializing in Richmond and Petersburg and other recreational activities, and news of the broader war. William Hutchinson was born ca. During the war he served for three years in the 1st Battery Massachusetts Light Artillery, mustering out a private in August. Individual entries from May to August are more substantial than those made in winter camp, but do not typically exceed 50 words. The diary also includes assorted memoranda and three drawings. Grief Lamkin was a lawyer residing in Irisburg, Henry County, Virginia when he enlisted in the Confederate service April. He served in Co. The diary at hand contains regular entries running from 6 March to 7 October, covering the period when Lamkin returned to the field and received his "long looked for" transfer. The total text runs to perhaps 12, words. Lamkin then served in the lines at

Petersburg until removing to the Shenandoah Valley with the 5th Cavalry. The diary includes a substantial entries on the third battle of Winchester and subsequent actions, before ending with the entry for 7 October While Langfitt occasionally adds editorial commentary, most of the entries appear to have been copied more or less as written. Entries appear for almost every day from 26 January to 8 September , with the notable exception of a day period after Spotsylvania. Individual entries seldom exceed 50 words, and are often significantly shorter. The manuscript cannot be dated with precision, though it appears to have been compiled over a number of years, probably in the two decades after the war. Her diary contains substantial entries running from August to May , totaling more than 25, words. Much of the content is war related, including accounts of the movement of Union troops through the area during the Red River campaign of A pocket diary of the daily calendar type, kept by Lt. Alfred Moore during his service in Co. I, 11th Virginia Cavalry. Despite several missing leaves, entries have survived for most days between 12 September and 11 February The typical entry is around 50 words; a few, written in an extremely fine hand, are substantially longer. But within weeks the brigade was ordered to the Valley District, to confront Sheridan; it would remain in the area of the Shenandoah until March The diary itself was originally the property of an unidentified member of the 1st D. Cavalry US ; Moore must have acquired it on the September cattle raid. The original owner was responsible for a few brief entries, mostly dating to July and August His diary contains daily entries written between 1 March and 13 April , when Murphy was serving in the Shenandoah Valley as a lieutenant in Co. Even as Murphy was leaving his home in Woodstock, Shenandoah County, to rejoin the army after winter furlough, Early was routed at the battle of Waynesboro and effectively eliminated as a fighting force 2 March From to he served as private in Co. The volume contains at least two discrete sequences of diary entries written by Nash. The first runs from 12 February to 3 October , and mentions the battles of Elkhorn Tavern, Iuka, and Corinth where Nash was captured by the Federals. The second runs from 13 April to 15 May , and discusses actions at Grand Gulf and Port Gibson, Mississippi during the Vicksburg campaign in considerable detail. During the Civil War he served as corporal in Co. Twenty-four of these letters date from his time with the 13th New Hampshire; 80 date from his subsequent service with the 7th USCT. The latter regiment spent the winter of in camp at Benedict, Maryland, before being shipped south for service around Jacksonville, Florida March to July ; Hilton Head, South Carolina July ; and Jacksonville again July to August On 16 March Captain Prime was appointed provost marshall of the division now 2nd Division, XXV Corps , in which capacity he served for the duration of his service. Rhodes was a native of Warwick, Kent County, Rhode Island; prior to the war he was engaged in the jewelry manufactory business. The volume in question bears the inscription "Book No 15 of a private journal kept by Wm B. The "domestic journal" for of the lawyer and landholder Samuel M. Semmes , of Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland. His brother Raphael Semmes was captain of the Confederate raider Alabama, and Samuel himself was a slaveholder and Southern sympathizer. Entries range from 30 June to 9 October Until October these are regular and often substantial; thereafter they are more occasional, though typically of good length. The entire text runs to perhaps 35, words. A journal kept by Miss Minnie E. Streeter of Fowler, St. Charles Teasdale after was a Yorkshire native who emigrated to the United States in In May he mustered in to Co. It is written in three school copybooks numbered 4, 5, and 6; volumes 1, 2, and 3 are not present. The exact status of the text is unclear. It may be a transcription of a wartime field diary, or it may, as seems likely, contain elements of memoir. During the period covered by the manuscript Teasdale was typically present for duty with the regiment; he saw very significant action at both Antietam and Gettysburg. His prose is literate and quite unsparing in its treatment of the horrors of combat. Accounts of major actions are typically extended; the entries for the three days of Gettysburg, for example, run to more than words. A field diary kept by Pvt. A manuscript diary maintained by Confederate States Pvt. H, 25th Massachusetts Infantry, rising to 1st lieutenant. The collection consists of wartime papers, photographs and realia preserved by Woodworth. The volumes are illustrated with more than 25 carefully rendered maps, plans and other drawings. Also present is a photo album containing gem-size wartime tintype portraits of 67 different members of Co. H, 25th Massachusetts Infantry. A pocket diary kept by Pvt. Franklin Yike during his Civil War service in Co. C, 87th Indiana Infantry.

4: Gettysburg Diaries: Sarah Broadhead's Suspense in the Cellar | www.enganchecubano.com

Diaries are a rich source of information on the daily life of a soldier. While their brevity is a shortcoming, their unvarnished first-hand impressions of the author's personal experiences over an extended period of time are priceless. They often prove valuable to our understanding of a particular.

July of proved to be a pivotal day in the history of the American colonies. On July 2nd, the 2nd Continental Congress, representing all thirteen colonies, unanimously declared independence from Great Britain. With this action, July 4th would officially be considered Independence Day, as the day that the colonists officially threw off the chains of Great Britain, and created what officially became the United States of America. At its heart lay not only the existence of the United States as a whole, but the idea of freedom as well. In September of , following the Battle of Antietam, Union President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring freedom to all of those slaves in the states still in rebellion. But Lincoln knew that, for it to truly work, the Union would have to win the war. And by the end of June, , it looked as though the war was turning against the Union yet again. Not only were troops in the west bogged down in an endless siege around Vicksburg, Mississippi, but Confederate troops were again moving north, this time into Pennsylvania. IT seemed that, at this moment, the fate of the nation truly hang in the balance. However, on July 4th, , 87 years to the day of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, the tide of war changed in favor of the United States. The first of these changes, and the one which has been the subject of this series of articles, was the culmination of the Battle of Gettysburg. Union casualties numbered nearly 23, On July 4th, Lee finally acknowledged defeat, and began his retreat back to Virginia. Meade and his troops failed to take the initiative and pursue Lee. By the time they finally moved, Confederates were across the Potomac, and back in Virginia. Lee would never again attempt such an audacious invasion again, and was forced to fight a defensive war that would eventually lead to their ultimate defeat two years later. On the same day that Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia began the retreat from Gettysburg, Union troops in the western theater achieved an equally important victory. For several weeks, the forces of Major General Ulysses S. Grant had laid siege to the Confederate city of Vicksburg, a vital city along the Mississippi River. At last, with food supplies spent, and the troops no longer able to hold out against the continual assault, the Confederates finally surrendered on July 4th. With Vicksburg gone, control of the Mississippi lay almost entirely in the hands of the Union armies. With further success at Chattanooga in November, Lincoln knew that Grant was the man who could win the war for him. In March of , Grant was called to Washington, where he was promoted to Lieutenant General, and placed in command of all Union forces in the field. And now, he would face Lee on the fields of Virginia, and one of the greatest contests in military history would soon begin. With the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the Confederate momentum was officially rocked to its core. In less than two years, the war would successfully be won, and the United States restored.

5: Diaries and Journals of the American Civil War

James Jackson Purman was born in Pennsylvania in At the time of Gettysburg, he was serving as a Lieutenant in Company A of the th Pennsylvania. On July 2 nd, , his company was involved in the fighting in the Wheatfield on the Union left flank.

July 19th, Dear Wife, Not having heard from you in a great while, I did not know but what you would like to hear whether I am dead or alive. I am enjoying good health at present. We have had an awful march and a terrible battle. A great may of our boys were killed or wounded but I escaped without a scratch. It is a miracle that we were not all killed or wounded. Stephen Hunt € was wounded in the hip. I have not seen him since he fell € Stephen was a good soldier full of his fun. This has been the hardest campaign the army of the Potomac ever had € The 2d in the afternoon was the bloodiest part of the battle. We lay flat on our faces for 2 hours. The air was filled with shell bursting in every direction. The battery that lay in front of us had 55 horses and 80 men killed € That night and the next day [the Rebels] retreated leaving their dead and wounded on the field. I went over the field. Such a sight I never wish to see again. Every conceivable wound that can be thought of was there. There was so many wounded that it was impossible to attend to all of them. Some of them laying 48 hours in a drenching rain. It is beyond the power of me to describe a battle field € Inglis, John b. Sergeant, 9th New York Cavalry, Co. € New York State Library call number: John Inglis was a Scottish-born Canadian citizen born, ; emigrated to Canada at age Two pocket diaries supplement the letters.

6: Civil War Soldiers Letters and Diaries Archive

PA Civil War Volunteer Soldiers' Diaries Gettysburg Civil War Diary by Henry Keiser Private Henry Keiser a member of Company G from Lykens, Dauphin County kept a diary throughout the war and kept a descriptive look at what the 96th Regiment did during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Voices of the Wounded: The Battle of Gettysburg Posted on: Utilizing diaries, letters, memoirs, and other primary sources, these posts will explore the feelings, thoughts, and actions of those wounded in action during the American Civil War. These words reveal the pain and suffering that are too often simplified to mere statistics. The following accounts are a tiny sampling of the battlefield experiences of the wounded on three hellish July days: More than 33,000 soldiers fell wounded at Gettysburg in the summer of 1863. In the weeks that followed, hundreds succumbed to their injuries. Others, with the assistance of military doctors and civilian volunteers, began the long road to recovery. Some returned to serve with their units for the remainder of the war. Still more journeyed home as disabled veterans with empty sleeves to mark forever their service in the American Civil War. These are their first-person accounts. Hobert, of my regiment, made a detail with himself to take me off the field. The letter was written in to a North Carolinian who found Callis on the battlefield. The dead awaiting burial on the field at Gettysburg. My regiment passed on and left me, and the rebel line of battle passed over and while lying on the ground in rear of the rebels I received a shot in the right side. In ascending to the right, I passed Col. Jack Jones, of my regiment, lying on his back with about half of his head shot off. I then passed one of Company K, of my regiment, lying flat on the ground, and he said to me: I felt as if lightning had struck me. My gun fell, and I hobbled down the hill. Reaching the timber in the rear, I saw a Yankee sergeant running out in the same direction, being inside our lines. I called to him for help. Coming up, he said: Hurry up; this is a dangerous place. As we charged into the wheatfield a shell exploded and shattered my right leg and killed two of my comrades. When I was shot in the arm, the feeling was the same as though I had been struck on the elbow — a feeling of numbness came into the arm — and I turned to the comrade by my side and asked him why he had hit me. Shortly after I was injured, as I have mentioned, by the shell. In an engagement Friday afternoon near Gettysburg, about 3 P. I received a wound in my left arm. It was broken by a musket ball above the elbow. Landford of my company was near me when I was wounded he having been taken prisoner after the battle was about over assisted me from the field I lay out that night but was furnished with blankets and otherwise very kindly treated by the enemy — I reached this place a Federal Hospital about 2 miles from town Saturday the 4th, and my arm was [amputated] that afternoon by surgeons with whom I had all confidence. It was taken off at the middle third and of course does not leave much — save for 6 inches. I had no knowledge of the going on of the operation — as I was under the influence of chloroform, but it was pretty painful afterwards — but is I think getting on very well. Little was wounded during the infamous Confederate charge on Union lines on July 3. Wounded soldiers recovering in hospital after Gettysburg. He also writes independently at the Wynning History blog.

7: Confederate Diaries from the Gettysburg Campaign | American Civil War Forums

July 2, Last evening while the enemy was being driven back, my fellow Union troops on Little Round Top cheered for joy, the rebels however cut it short by giving them artillery fire.

Overview map of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1, Herr Ridge, McPherson Ridge and Seminary Ridge Anticipating that the Confederates would march on Gettysburg from the west on the morning of July 1, Buford laid out his defenses on three ridges west of the town: Archer and Joseph R. They proceeded easterly in columns along the Chambersburg Pike. According to lore, the Union soldier to fire the first shot of the battle was Lt. Jones returned to Gettysburg to mark the spot where he fired the first shot with a monument. Iron Brigade under Brig. Solomon Meredith enjoyed initial success against Archer, capturing several hundred men, including Archer himself. Shelby Foote wrote that the Union cause lost a man considered by many to be "the best general in the army. Abner Doubleday assumed command. Fighting in the Chambersburg Pike area lasted until about 2:00. It resumed around 2:00. By the end of the three-day battle, they had about 30,000 men standing, the highest casualty percentage for one battle of any regiment, North or South. Howard raced north on the Baltimore Pike and Taneytown Road. By early afternoon, the U. S. Army's XI Corps was unable to deploy in time to strengthen the line, so Doubleday was forced to throw in reserve brigades to salvage his line. The Confederate brigades of Col. Alfred Iverson suffered severe losses assaulting the I Corps division of Brig. Robinson south of Oak Hill. Barlow was wounded and captured in the attack. Howard ordered a retreat to the high ground south of town at Cemetery Hill, where he had left the division of Brig. Adolph von Steinwehr in reserve. Hancock assumed command of the battlefield, sent by Meade when he heard that Reynolds had been killed. He sent orders to Ewell that Cemetery Hill be taken "if practicable. Law had begun the march from Guilford. Both arrived late in the morning. The shape of the Union line is popularly described as a "fishhook" formation. The attack sequence was to begin with Maj. Lafayette McLaws, advanced, they unexpectedly found Maj. Sickles had been dissatisfied with the position assigned him on the southern end of Cemetery Ridge. This created an untenable salient at the Peach Orchard; Brig. Chamberlain's brigade of four relatively small regiments was able to resist repeated assaults by Brig. Chamberlain but possibly led by Lt. Melcher, was one of the most fabled episodes in the Civil War and propelled Col. Chamberlain into prominence after the war. It now had a full mile to advance and Rock Creek had to be crossed. This could only be done at few places and involved much delay. Greene behind strong, newly constructed defensive works. Once started, fighting was fierce: Harris of the Union 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, came under a withering attack, losing half his men. Avery was wounded early on, but the Confederates reached the crest of the hill and entered the Union breastworks, capturing one or two batteries. Seeing he was not supported on his right, Hays withdrew. His right was to be supported by Robert E. Longstreet would attack the U. S. Army's XI Corps judged that, after some seven hours of bitter combat, "the Union line was intact and held more strongly than before. Prior to the attack, all the artillery the Confederacy could bring to bear on the U. S. Army. In his memoirs, Longstreet described their discussion as follows:

8: "Delving Into Diaries of the Past" by John M. Rudy

The Library's Manuscripts and Special Collections Unit has many collections related to the Civil War. In , in commemoration of the th anniversary of two major Civil War Battles, Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the Library digitized the letters below, which contain some descriptions of the battles.

This diary was written during the Gettysburg Campaign. The diary gives a good look at the route of march taken by the 96th and 6th Corps during the Gettysburg campaign. It also gives a good look at the daily life of a company grade officer while in the field. This diary was transcribed by James F. Captain Haas was well known for his being mistaken for John Wilkes Booth. Major General Joseph Hooker was still in command. The union Army had just undergone one of the worst defeats it ever suffered at the hands of General Robert E. On the south bank of the Rappahannock. On June 13, the 96th saw continuous skirmishing and picket duty. On the 13th the regiment moved out with the rest of the famed 6th Corps and started on the memorable march to Gettysburg. In command of Company G, 96th P. Everything listed is what he wrote in his diary. June 1, Monday, Today is fine day, but very dusty. I worked on my ordnance returns, and received invoices from major Lessig. I then gave him my receipts. I was also at a court martial, it has adjourned for 3 days. Today I felt unwell, and then wrote my wife. June 2, Tuesday, Another fine day, I drilled the company today and worked on my vouchers. I then wrote a letter to Ed, Hanna. In the evening we had a Dress parade, later I made out requisitions for clothing. All is quiet; I am going to bed early. June 3, Wednesday, Another fine day, Mr. Schweers came to camp and brought me a letter and some tobacco, the letter was from my wife. I then wrote her a letter. I also arranged all of my papers. There are rumors of a big move today, although I just loafed around. I played some poker tonight first since being at Harrison's Landing. I had a bad pain in my side. This evening I spent a pleasant time at Schweers tent, had some lemonade. Went back home to my tent at 2 a. We received orders to have the men stand to arms at daybreak, looks like we are moving to prevent an attack. June 4, Thursday, I rose at 4 a. There were fears of a raid on our lines today. Nothing happened so I went back to bed again and slept to 8 a. My feet are bad and sore. The sutler was open also. The First Corps moved out today, they say top White Plains. I think we will move also, maybe tomorrow. During the day it was very warm, and I cleaned my clothes of grease and pitch spots. I got a hat from Cranberry. I had meat boiled and sent to the men out on picket duty. All is quiet, it is now 2 p. I understand that we are ready to move; I will regret parting with this camp. I just slept and worried the whole day through, and went to bed early. The Fifth Corps came back and pitched their tents. June 5, Friday, Awoke to another fine day, I fixed up my pass book, received some clothing and had them issued. I also drew rounds of ammunition and it issued to the men. We received orders to be ready to move on short notice; we also drew 8 days rations. I had more meat cooked and sent to the men on picket duty. There are all kinds of rumors coming in. For the benefit of my wife, I have only to say that all I owe in the world is for my hat, and no one owes me. If we go into action I will give my pocket book to Dr. I wrote a letter to my wife. I hear heavy cannonading and musketry, Today Charley Crosland came to camp. I went to bed about 10 p. I did not sleep well, I kept dreaming of battling. June 6, Saturday, Today starts out as a fine day, Packed up my belongings and got ready to move. We loaded up our baggage. I can hear cannonading and musketry at intervals. We stopped and rested until the evening. The 2nd Division is across, they said they lost 26 men getting across. William Miller was sent to the hospital. We had a thunder storm in the evening, we then moved back on the bluffs and went into camp for the night. I again slept badly, although I had a dream of a big dinner at Kopitch's restaurant. I awoke at 5 a. I washed out my canteen, had breakfast and got a drink of whiskey. I felt better today, but just laid quiet all day. Our batteries were shelling during the day, I got a letter from Tom Foster. We then filed out and laid in line of battle near Bernard House. Half of the company stayed awake until 12 midnight, then were relieved by the other half, the night was very cold. The third division dug a rifle pit along our bank. June 8, Monday, I rose up at 3 a. I got the men under arms, and stood to until 5 a. Then I had breakfast. Seems the Rebels are thick, the rifle pit is a full mile long. I had time to write my wife a letter. There are still working parties at the rifle pit. The 95th Penna, Vols and the 1st New York are on picket duty. I made out a report for the tri monthly returns. The siege guns on the other

side shifted positions, the whole movement looks very curious to me. It is a remarkable fact that the closer we get to danger, the more lovely the distant hills are. I received a letter from my wife. My impression is that an assault will be made tomorrow. Our boys are still working on the rifle pit, we pitched our tents and went to sleep. The Second Division was working on the earthworks all night. Officers of the 96th P. June 9, Tuesday, We were aroused and stood to arms at 4 a. I ate breakfast, packed up and moved forward to the right of the ravine and picketed the ravine from the river. I was much annoyed by sharpshooters, our pickets were firing all day, at times I felt very heavy and weary. Today the heat was intense. And there are plenty of rebs to be seen. Berdan Sharpshooters gave them hell. I was relieved at 7 p. Rebs shelled us with their heavy guns in the heights, the night was very cold, and I slept very badly. June 9th 1 p. We marched from camp on Saturday at 12 , and arrived at our old crossing place near Bernfills House at 5 p. Yesterday we laid quiet all day. Last night we worked at the earthworks and this morning we were sent to the front to picket, and I can tell you now that it is very nasty.

9: The Gettysburg Diaries: War Journals of Two American Adversaries by Mark Nesbitt

The greatest speech in American history had a tough act to follow. On November 19, , Abraham Lincoln delivered an address at the dedication of a new National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

Although only a fairly small number of diaries kept by the participants have been preserved and made available to the public, perhaps others that are still in private hands will eventually come to light. Typically diaries document unique insights on a variety of topics, including: Over the years I have compiled the following list of diaries and similar concise daily journals covering the campaign, and I am hoping that others will add to it. Original or subsequent owners are noted, because soldiers occasionally secured diaries from the enemy, comrades, or even a family member in the service. Fremantle, British Army observer. Brake Collection, Archives, U. A Life for the Confederacy, ed. The diary begins on July 3, when Purvis was captured. Supplement to the Official Reports, vol. Warren Jackson letter that apparently draws heavily from a diary. Reed, Pennsylvania History, vol. XXX, April, , no. Warren Jackson to R. Stark Jackson, David F. Hodnett departed the regiment on June 24 for duty in Richmond. Diaries and Letters from Confederate Soldiers, , vol. On file at Gettysburg National Military Park. Ward Hubbs, Athens, GA: Southern Historical Society Papers, vol. Sawyer, 1st Vermont Cavalry on July 6 from a captured wagon. Clemens, Maryland Historical Magazine, vol. Four Years in the Confederate Artillery, ed. Funge, Chapel Hill, NC: The Ashantilly Press, ; found at the Library of Congress. Mississippi at Gettysburg, William A. Love, Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, ed. Printed for the Society, , pp. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, [http:](http://) Printed for the Society, , p. The Gettysburg Magazine, issue 8, January , pp. Giambrone, Mississippi River Routes, vol. The Diary of a Donaldsonville Cannoneer, ed. Mississippi Department of Archives and History W. Library of Virginia, Richmond Other: Maryland Historical Magazine, vol. Published by Maryland Historical Society, , pp.

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