

Sergeant John Valentine Artlip's Diary
of Roscoe Illinois and the...
RED RIVER CAMPAIGN (March 10-May 22 1864)
COMPANY M 12TH ILLINOIS CAVALRY

Note: All words in this color have been added by transcriber of narrative for reader's information. August 2015 Ken Artlip

The Beginning ...

March 15 1864 Camp Gamble, St. Louis, Mo.

I am sergeant of the guard. To day sergeant of 3rd relief. We have been paid to day. My bounty pay and all amounted to \$92 & 5 cts. We have marching orders. 4 companies have gone. They left to day. Our destination is New Orleans so it is reported.

Names of guard on 3rd relief

Serg. Davis, <i>I.</i>	CO A	Wilson, <i>Matthew</i>	CO M
Serg. Davis, <i>Oliver</i>	CO A	Belts, <i>George</i>	CO M
Cor. Welch, <i>Ted</i>	CO I	Coonrad, <i>D.</i>	CO F
Wyman, <i>Horace</i>	CO G	Cameron, <i>James</i>	CO F
Whalon, <i>Thomas</i>	CO G	Byxbe, <i>William</i>	CO F
Bennett, <i>Mandeville</i>	CO M	Goodpaster, <i>John</i>	CO F
Beck, <i>James</i>	CO M	Hand, <i>William</i>	CO F
Adams, <i>David</i>	CO M	Davis, <i>Jesse</i>	CO F
Gillum, <i>Ambrose</i>	CO M	Goodwin, <i>Wilber</i>	CO F
Brown, <i>John</i>	CO M	Walters, <i>Peter</i>	CO F
Walton, <i>James</i>	CO M	Goodpaster, <i>Jesse</i>	CO F
Worcester, <i>Theorn</i>	CO M	Thompson, <i>Tom</i>	CO G

March 16 Camp Gamble, St. Louis, Mo

I got a pass to go to the city and return at 8 o clock pm. I expressed by American Express \$ 40 to my wife to day. Our company presented a saber to our capt to day. The cost of it \$45.50. It is a nice one for the price. We had no speeches on the occasion. The capt remarked that he was thankful for it and it never should be disgraced by him.

March 17 Camp Gamble

I have written home to day. Done some sewing buttons on my shirts and pants. Cut a part of my coat collar and bound it. Co B left camp to day. They go to New orleans. Co A leaves tomorrow.

March 18 Camp Gamble

I went to the city to day in company with J. Blackinton for the purpose of ___ my own sutstison money. Was in the museum. Saw the sea lion. I wrote a letter to my wife and mailed a record of the Co. to her also. Co A did not leave to day but will leave tomorrow it is so reported.

March 19 Camp Gamble

I have been to the city to day in company with J. Blackinton. Was at the Lawson Hospital (*Benton Barracks*) saw P.M. Welsh He accompanied us to the commissary department where all three of us drew \$1.90 for subsistence, due us for rations while on furlough. L. B. left in advance of me for camp pm. & I saw the sea lion. I got a letter from home News bad my girl was dead. Co A left to day. Vaughn is dead drunk.

March 20 Camp Gamble

Wrote a letter to my wife and to Emma Mead. Attended a meeting in camp. Was presented with a soldiers' hymn book. Co A & G left for the south to day.

March 21 Camp Gamble

I received a letter from Hattie Robbins in which she sent me her photograph. I wrote a letter in answer to Hattie's I wrote one to my wife also, it is reported that we leave here on Wednesday morning. We get our horses in the morning.

March 22 Camp Gamble

To day has been a busy day with getting ready to leave for Neworleans. Co M & Co D leave in the morning. We have got our horses a fine lot too. I was at rock spring to day for the first time It is a little place with a tran two or three grocerys as many saloons and a large tannery Just one mile from this camp southwest. Got a letter from wife and wrote one to her.

March 23 Aboard Steamer Continental

Five miles belo St. Louis We packed our clothes struck our tents and boarded the Continental at 6 oc pm. At half past 7 we left St. Louis. Went 5 miles grounded and it is reported that she must stay here till morning on account of low water. Got a letter from my wife & answered it to day I have been sergt of patrol to day.

March 24 Aboard Continental

We swung loose this morning and started down the river passed Jefferson barracks at 7 oc It is now 6 oc evening just passed Cape Girardeau 40 miles above Cairo. Wrote a letter to wife to put in first office I come too stopped to woods on mo side ran down ___ mile to stay for the night low water.

March 25 aboard continental

There has been no obstruction to our progress to day. it has rained most all day Arrived at Cairo 8 oc am. Went ashore & put a letter in the office for my wife that I had written yesterday Passed Island #10 9 oc pm. 50 miles below Cairo. Vaughn, Richardson, Rice was left at Cairo.

March 26 aboard Continental

Nothing worthy of mention has transpired to day. We landed at Memphis about noon Stayed 2 or 3 hours Passed Ft Pillow about sunrise this morning on Tenn. side

March 27 aboard Continental

New orleans bound passed White River Sta 10 oc am. 3 gun boats moored at the station. Negro prayer meeting on shore, 2 oc pm. passed Napoleon looked desolate was burned by our troops 1 year since for firing into our transports, Napoleon is on Arkansas shore, heavy wind this eve & rain, wrote a letter to wife intend to put it in office at Vicksburg

March 28 *Aboard Continental*

Fast on a bar 25 mi above Vicksburg. We grounded at 9 oc am. towed off by the steamer Sultan. She was upward bound went ashore to wood on Paleo Island on Mississippi side. There is 400 Negroes about this island. contraband chopping, plowing is their occupation they are employed by the U.S. authorities they raise cotton on this island. The wind is blowing hard.

March 29 *Aboard Continental*

We landed at Natchez this morning. Took on some passengers & soldiers belonging to 29th Wisconsin inf. (*29th saw action in Battle Sabin Crossroads on April 8*) We pass Washington, Meadville on Miss side & Union Point Ark side. The wind has blown so hard to day it has been difficult getting aboard. Co D boys broke open a trunk at Wood landing. Took 40 do (dollars) belonging to wood chopper. They are tied now up for the offense.

March 30 *Aboard Continental*

This has been a beautiful warm day. Everything green on eather bank Louisiana on both sides. The soldiers that stole the money yesterday are still tied to the guy chains of smoke stack. P. M. Welsh is quite sick to day with a bilious attac(k) I am not well myself lungs are badly affected. We get to our destination at 10 oc this evening.

March 31 *Neworleans*

Landed at the port at 1 oc this morning. at 7 oc landed Marched 3 mi west & in camped 80 rods north of the river. Camp Yates name of camp. P.M. Welsh is better & is cooking for squad. I am better today.

April 1

Busy all day making things comfortable in camp, we hav Marching orders. We hav to go to Camp Parapet (*Camp Parapet is one mile upriver from New Orleans*) leave here in the morning. My squad J. B. Blackington, J. Phelps, H. Stump, J. Matlock, N. Cheney, Wilson, Welsh, Worchester, Thompson, Pagitt & Potter, McMellan, Smiddy, Warrington.

April 2 *Camp Parapet*

Arived at Camp Parapet at noon. Pitched tents and rested horses. This camp is 6 miles south of Lake Pontchartrain on the river. 12th Maine Inf are in camped here. I am not well to day.

April 3 *Camp Parapet*

This has been a fine day. Went to the river took a bath. Everything green grass knee high. Plums large as robins eggs. Roses in full bloom. Potatoes 1 foot high. Cabbage large enough to eat. Orange trees in bloom. I visited soldier burying ground. 1500 soldiers buried here in the last 2 years mostly Maine New Hampshire soldiers.

April 4 *Camp Parapet*

Very warm & sultry. I took 25 of the company to the doc this morning for precriptions. They are all ailing. Has been very warm all day. I got some medicin for myself to day. Drill on horse to day. Had charge of a squad of men.

April 5 *Camp Parapet*

I have been quite unwell to day. Medicin does not appear to do me any good. Received letter from wife & wrote a letter to wife. Very warm. Read in the Testament 1 Chap St Matthew. Am about retiring to bed.

April 6 *Camp Parapet*

Hav felt better all day. Went to the Doctor with the sick. Wrote letter to wife. Kept in tent most of the time. Very warm, uncomfortable. Hav read 2nd chap St Matthew. About to retire this night.

April 7 *Camp Parapet*

Not so well to day. Co G arrived to day. Sergeant Black of their co was drowned 25 miles below St Louis. (*Sergeant William Black drowned near Cardoneley, Mo. March, 1964*) Co I is expected to morrow. Our reg will all be to gether when they come. More pleasant today not so warm. Looks like rain. Read 3rd & 4 ch Matthew.

April 8 *Camp Parapet* (*Battle of Mansfield aka Sabine crossroads*)

We had a heavy thunderstorm last eve. Came near drowning us out. It is low ground here. We hav no floors in our tent. We are all very wet & muddy. Got a letter from wife to day. Read 5 chap St Mathew. About retiring to wet bed. I do not feel so well tonight.

April 9 *Camp Parapet* (*Battle of Pleasant Hill*)

Rested bad last night. Cough all night. It has been clear and warm to day. Mud dried up considerable. Got lumber for floors & hav put them in. More comfortable to night. Took the sick to doct to day. Got some medicin for myself. Read 6th & 7th chap Mathew PM. Welsh read chap ditto.

April 10 *Camp Parapet*

This has been very pleasant day. Took sick to Doct went to river took bath. Stopped at porte on way back saw an aligator that was caught in the swamp 2 miles north of here. First I ever saw. Feel better to day read 23rd chap of the Acts.

April 11 *Camp Parapet*

Been very warm. Kept in tent most of day. Took charge of sick to day. McMellan left at hospital. He has consumption. Have not been so well to day. Cough hard. Read 1st chap St Luke. Wrote letter to wife.

April 12 *Camp Parapet*

Took sick to hospital for precriptions. Left sergeant Spawn at hospital. Received 5 letters from home. One from P. Walton 3 from wife, 1 from Emma Wrote one to P. Walton. Read 9th chap St Matthew. Not well to day. Been fine day.

April 13 *Camp Parapet*

Been a fine day. I have felt better to day. Took sick to hospital. Saw Sergeant Spawn. He is better to day. I wrote a letter to wife & Emma. Received a letter from Susan Black of DeKalb Co. Ill I do not think much of it. Read 10th chap St Matthew.

April 14 Camp Parapet

It has rained to day and quite cool. I had charge of sick to day. Been unwell myself. Spawn at hospital. About same as yesterday. We have orders to march at 5 oc in the morning. Very muddy and wet and cool. Read 11th chap St Matthew. Wrote a letter to wife.

April 15 Camp Parapet

We packed early this morning and have waited all day expecting every minute to get orders to march. But the order has been countermanded till tomorrow at 8 oc am. I had charge of sick to day. Took A. Cross to hospital. Saw Spawn. He is better to day. Saw McMellan also. He is no better. Wrote a few lines to wife. Sent with newspaper __ Read 12th chap Matthew.

April 16 Camp Parapet

This a fine day. Cool tonight. Orders have not been given to march yet. My health continues poor. Not able for duty. Got my horse shod to day and saber and cribene. Spawn is better to day. Walked down to camp and back to hospital. To day I have not heard from McMellan. To day read 13th chap St Matthew.

April 17 Camp Parapet

Very warm all day. Had charge of sick. Wrote letter to wife and one for George Belts the First Rhode island colored regiment arrived was out to see them on parade they made a fine appearance. We hav orders to march in the morning. Was out & --- gley sores- sent some home in a letter. Read 14th chap St Mathew.

April 18 on borde Ohio Bell

Co M & 40 of Co D packed early and were ready for march but did not leave camp till 2 oc pm. Waited for steamer till 6 oc pm. Borded at 8 oc and at 9 oc she left the landing and We are on our way up the Red River. Alexandria is our destination. We are to renforce Banks. The balance of the reg is expected soon. Spawn & myself hav made a bed for our selves & flater our selves that we hav a good nights rest. Red 15 chap St Mat.

April 19 aborde the Ohio Bell

Upward bound. Rested well last night. Run all night. One of the boat men was wounded last night. He lived at Cincinnati. Has wife and children there. Landed at Baton Rouge at 2 oc. Landed Port Henderson (*Port Vincent today*) at 4 pm. Read 16 chpt Matthew. Unwell all day.

April 20 on borde Ohio Bell

We entered red river 3 oc this morning at sunrise all got call & loaded carbines. On the look out for rebs they are plenty on this stream & scarcely a boat passes but gets fired at gun Boat No. 8 stern wheel accompanys us 9oc. Passed S__ills drove in river ½ way cross to keep us from coming up. See no rebs to day at Alexandria camp on the ground pitching tents dark when landed.

April 21 Alexandria Louisiana

Pitched our tents to day made racks for saber and carbine and hav comfortable quarters a couple of rebs wer hung in this place to day 1 was a white man & the other black they were hung for killing lieut __ They hung him up by the arms and cut his intrals out while he was yet alive, they were not hung publicly 40 of our CO & 20 of CO D go out on a scout in the morning T.V. Worcester and __ are of this No. My health will not admit of my going with them.

April 22 Alexandria Louisiana

Co M & Co D have just returned. They had fine times. Fetched in about 200 lb of sugar & chickens a plenty 1 sheep 1 horse. The steam boat Superior just arrived from the Mississippi. She was fired in too by the rebs on the Mississippi and again on the river 25 miles below here. Killing 2, & Wounding 17, 2 mortaly, of the 3rd Rhode Island cav. They landed by orders of Col & burned every plantation for 3 miles on either side of River & killed all white men in sight. The Rebs hav 2 pieces of artery. Am not very well to day. Am detailed as sergt of picket tomor. Red 20th St Mathew. No. of carbine 18382.

Part II ...

the Superior steamer arrived at this place to day from New orleans she had on bord a part of the 3rd Rhode island cav the rebs fired on the boat at some point on the Miss river doeing no damage & a 2nd time on Red River 25 miles below this place doing considerable damage to the boat & killing 2 soldiers & wounding 17, 2 mortaly, the rebs had planted a piece of light artilery and a howitzer on the river bank & had a force of cav 2 or 3 hundred strong, the gun boat No. 8 came in time to assist the Superior the rebs were routed & fled to the bush every plantation for 4 miles on eather side of the river was burned & every white male killed by the Rhod islanders.

April 23 Alexandria Louisiana

On pickett & have had a quiet time so far. No apearence of rebs as yet but they are within 1 ½ mile of us. They camped one mile from here last evening & have fired a no. of Plantation Buildings. Read by camp fire 21st chpt St Mathew, Quite chilly.

April 24 Alexandria Lousiana

We were awoke this morning by firing on the opisit side River. The rebs drove in our pickett but a few shot from gun boat drove the rebs back wounding 8 & killing 5. No causalitys on our side. We were relived from pickett at 9 oc am. Struck our tents. To day moved camp 2 miles up River. Read 22nd chpt St Mathew.

Part II...

We had a skirmish at this point this morning by the pickets. Our pickets were driven in by the rebs they advanced to the river & fired a voley at our transports on the opisit side of the River here the gun boats fired and sent a few shells in their ranks killing 5 and wounding 8 causing them to scatter and flee for shelter no casualitys on our side, a shell from the gun boat struck a house on the bank of the River entering at the eaves and exploded in the upper front room no one hurt. Heavy firing at the front all day & Banks is retreating back to this place A. J. Smith is in command of the rear in person. Banks ___ in town covers the front.

April 25 Alexandria

The troops are all arriving to day. 19 army corps & (*Gen Nathaniel*) Banks in town. 16 army corps with (*General*) A. (*Andrew*) J. (*Jackson*) Smith cover Retreat expected in tomorrow. Heavy firing at intervells all day in rear. Pickets fired upon opisit side River 4 oc pm. rebs scatterd again by gun boat. Not well to day. Read 23 ch St Mathew. Rote letter to wife.

April 26

Smith & staff arrived to day with 16th Army Corps heard fighting all day. Captured a no. of reb prisoners, do not know the no. Prepareing for battle this point, was in town to day saw 2000 contrabands fetched in by Banks. Read 24th chap St Mathew.

April 27 Alexandria La

All busy preparing for battle to day. all Quite on other side of the River. Heard one of our gun boats (*USS Eastport struck a mine on Red River April 15 destroyed April 26th*) was deserted & blown up by its commander. It was a ground and could not be got off. It was 15 miles up River. I am not well to day. Wrote letter to wife. Read 25th chap St. Mathew.

April 28

Skirmishing in front, battle expected soon, our regiment is orderd out tomorrow. I shall go with them altho I am not well. Read 26th chap St Mathew. All busy preparing for battle to morrow.

April 29 camp Alexandria

5 oc packed & made ready with 1 days rations for march at ½ past 9 am. on the move crossed the river on Ohio Bell, went back 15 miles saw some rebs, captured 3 one a Lieut. McGrudy the object of the scout returned ½ 12 night. Balance of day engaged in battle on this side 2 killed 22 wounded. Colonel among wounded slightly 5 horses killed & wounded.

Part II ...

Co M & D went to reconoter and find position of the reb gen McCurdy found him 15 miles up river he has 1500 men & 6 pieces artilry took 3 prisoners 1 lieut, on way back found union man dead in woods had been killed by rebs while on his way from lines to his home Saw his wife going out after his body with cart & mule balance of regiment was in fight 2 killed a number wounded Colonel slightly.

April 30 Alexandria

Co M are at the front to day. I am in camp am not well, heavy firing at front all day. Engeniens comence dam (*Bailey's Dam*) across River to day for raising water to get gun boats down over falls. Our Co has not returned yet I heare they hav not been in fight yet. They are on reserve brigaded with 1st brigade. Washed some clothes & wrote letter to wife.

May 1 Alexandria

Had orders to pack for march 4 oc pm. On move 5 pm. marched 6 miles down river, halted at 8 oc pm. camped on sugar plantation 4 miles below Alexandria, No feed for horse or man, Reported go to Natchez on Miss rather rough ground to ly on but soldiers must expect hard fare.

May 2 4 miles below Alexandria in Camp on sugar plantation

Packed and moved about 80 rods & pitched tents, the boys were soon busy tearing down coton gins sugar houses and negro huts & converting the lumber into tent floors saddle racks bylar table. Today the - Lousiana reg fired into 16th Indiana while - picket - rear ---wounding many and killing - - the -- hard tack & coffee

May 3

Very warm to day cleaned up in and about tent took sick to doctor & nursed Gideon Thompson he is very sick (*died New Orleans, June 18, 1864*). Nothing from the front pm. Not well to day. T.V. Worcester sore throat. Jesse broke his needle while sewing botton on coat.

May 4 camp near Alexandria

The boys shot a large alligator in river to day. Been very warm to day took charge sick to day put G. Thompson in hospital. Wrote letter to wife. There has been heavy firing on our left to day. A battle is going on at that point. Reported that a steamer was burned 2 or 3 hundred of our men killed, wounded and drowned. Need confirmation. the above is confirmed.

May 5 camp near Alexandria

Very warm all day. I was at town to day went for washing & at post office put letter in office to wife. Saw grey bill of 54 (58) reg Ill. The boys was in battle Co M in company with balance of reg are out to day. I heard from them this evening they are in line of battle 8 miles from camp it is expected they will have hot times in the morning. The Colonel of 2nd Illinois cavalry was killed yesterday in skirmish (*Colonel John Mudd killed May 3 1864*) had black berrys for super they are ripe and plenty of them

May 6 in camp 12 miles south of Alexandria

Stayed in camp to day took charge of sick. At 8 oc eve started in company with ___ for the front. we had rations for our company M. They have been out 2 days. Had a battle this afternoon drove the rebs 8 miles killing and wounding some. Captain Luff (*William*) of Co. A wounded. Ball entered mouth came out under right ear. We have gone as far as can & shall camp here to night & find Co M in morning.

May 7 camp near alexan

Started in persuit of reg. found them after traveling 2 miles all in good spirits no one hurt in yesterdays battle of our Co. Battle comenced 8 oc & while I was thear. Left soon after came left them hotley engaged heard from Co. D. 2 men killed Co. D 1 horse. Sergt. Langly privet Hogan, We got back in camp 9 oc pm.

May 8 in camp near alexandria

I have been very unwell to day. Heard from front this evening our forces fell back 8 miles yesterday afternoon. Advanced this morning were engaged in battle and still driving the enemy no casualties in Co M yet or reg to day. sergeant Richardson returned to camp this evening. Sergeant Spawn Worcester & Blackington left camp for front with rations. they return tomorrow.

Part II in camp near Alexandria

The 12th Ill cav were hotley engaged yesterday. They were acting as skirmishers all day. The 16th & a part of the 17th army corps with artillery commanded by A. J. Smith with 1st brig cav are engaged. We lost but a few men. 2 in 12th Ill cav of Co D. They were private Hogan & Sergeant Langly was killed while bravely charging the enemy and cheering the boys. Balls entered his breast mortally killing him. His horse was killed also, Captain Luff of Co A was badly wounded on the 6th 1st daz battle. Ball entering his mouth & coming out back of his ear. He is badly wounded. Our forces fell back 8 miles yesterday afternoon. Advanced this morning. Last acont driving enemy no casualties in Co M yet. It is reported that the enemy have blockaded the river near fort geruria. Quite a force of rebs in and about that place. They fired one of our transports The 4 killed & took 40 prisoners that was aboard, 3 cols, 1 Colonel Mudd of 2nd Ill cav was killed. Have not found out the names of the other 2 col, or name of transport. The dam is nearly finished across the river at this place & 1 or 2 of the smaller gun boats have come below. We expect to leave this place soon.

May 9 in camp near Alexandria

Firing & scrimmaging at front all day. 12th came in 4 oc PM. We are packed & ready for march early in morning. Reported that the whole army leave this place this week. Infantry in advance Calvary cover rear. It is reported that we go to Natchez. Our sick were all transferred to hospital boats this pm. Wilson, Willard, Sellars, Banta, Nelson, Cheney, Thompson, Linderman of Co M were sent to hospital boat.

May 10 camp near Alexandria

Ben busy packing cooking rations & preparing to move. Report says our forces hold fort gerusia. Leiut. Co G & 20 men arrived to day from below, they cut their way thru the Reb ranks to get here. We had an alarm 7 oc pm. Cause by Rebs firing on and driving in our picketts. We were all saddled & ready for action in short time. Orders contramanded at 9 pm.

May 11 near Alexandria

Have been packed & ready expecting orders to march every moment but they have not come yet. 2 brigades of the 16 army corps infantry left for the Mississippi River this am. Our forage has given out & we have to let our horses graze clover of which the country is plenty here.

May 12 in camp near Alexandria

We have waited in expectation of orders to march but they have not been given yet. Preparations are being made to leave soon. I have been grazing, read a few chap in testament took charge of sick. Hunted for graybacks found 3 & some nits (*lice*) took some sleep played a few games of hearts. 8 pm. had orders to pack & have obeyed and we expect to move at 12 oc. Ricker, Rice & Worcester, went aborde hospital boat this evening. We are reduced to ½ rations.

Part II

6 of the infantry soldiers were captured at this place to day & 2 killed while in the River bathing. They swam to the opisit side of the river & were captured, a force of cav persued the rebs retook our boys & captured 15 of the rebs, we are reduced to half rations & and no forage for horses.

May 13 camp on bank of Red River 20 miles below Alexandria 11 am

Left camp sunrise am. Marched 10 miles stopped to graze horses & eat our dinner. rebs in the vicinity. Keep sharp look out took line of march 2 oc pm. 2 miles from last halting place. Our skrimishers hotly engaged with rebs. we expect to go in every moment, 7 pm. Firing has not ceased yet but guess it will soon on account of darkness.

Part II 11 oc am.

The army made an advance this morning for the Miss river marched 10 miles. Stopped to graze horses & eat dinner. We are in 1st cav brigade and ___ heavy firing at our rear. do not know ___ meny rebs all around us expect ambrush. We get slower. On half rations. horses have nothing but what they graze. Sun very hot & uncomfortable. Corn 2 feet high.

May 14

Comenced line of march 6 oc am. Skirmish comenced 7 oc. we are in rear to day. 10 AM advanced 4 miles driving rebs as we go 11 ½ am. stoped and fed our selves & horses. Found plenty corn for horses and ham & corn meal & chickens and live horse for our selves. Some tobacco & sugar on plantation can see smoke of gun boat up river comeing to our aid, 2 pm. halted again to rest & water horses of our forces hurt in engagement yesterday. 3 horses wounded all the

damage done to us rebs sufferd badly, No casualties heard of yet to day 4oc passing a no. of dead rebs, passed the reb forts no guns they had skidadled recks of steam boats in river 2 transports, gun boats, their recks blockade the river that our gun boats accompanying reg -- could not get down any farther till the recks are cleared out. I am sergt of a detail for pickett to night. I hav reported on relif orders to mount.

May 15 *(Battle of Marksville Prairie)*
in camp at place our boats wer fired on bank Red River 8oc am

Move camp bout 80 rod up riv halted, some firing on pickets, still at it this morning, 2 wrecks in river here a no of graves only one marked that of Colonel Mudd 2nd Illinois Cav, old building with clothes belong to US soldiers, gored with blood & pierced with bulletts. Gun boats down, worked through wreck last night March 8 miles fought all way Killed some rebs. Dead left on field buried by our forces. In camp & under heavy cannonading.

Part II

Camped last night on the bank of the river, & wheare some of the boats were burned. Transports & gun boats 8 in number that wer fired into and captured & burned by the rebs. On 1 was a number of our soldiers a part of a reg. The most of them were killed or drownd 3 colnols were shot here one of them Col Mudd 2 Illinois Cav I sit by the side of his grave as I write theare is a number of graves here, but his is the only one that is marked a bord at each end, on one borde is inscribed his name, back from the river is a house. It has the medications of being a hospital used by the rebs at the time of the capture of the boats, all around the house is clothes such as shirts drawers pants & vest coverd with the poore fellows blood & full of bullet holes, Sad sight. I was Seargeant of pickett guard last night Some firing last night, & still at it this morning gun boats down.> Since the above was written Col Mudds remains hav been reentered & will be sent to his place of residence.

May 16 *(Battle of Mansura)*
in reare giv out on march 1, wounded in Co A confirm 3 horses killed in last evening engagement. Heavy firing in front. plantation buildings on fire in every direction sugar mills cotton gins Negro huts & all in flames, & Inhabitants & reb Soldiers on Skidadal.

May 17 Simmes Porte

After travling all night in Co with Wag train got up to reg. Fleet all down, sick of Co M doing well, Sergt Langly Co D buried to day. Died bord hos Boat, 15th. got let from wife & that had to day date. apr 9 mail for our reg burnt on red Riv. On way to -- camp in woods on Bayo Chateau.

May 18 Simmes Porte *(Battle of Yellow Bayou - the final action of the campaign)*

I am not well to day hav to go on borde Hospital Boat in morning heard fought battle to day all day report 5 Brigade all cut pieces 58 Ill Infantry badley cut up CoL Lynch legg shot off, took 800 prisinors. loss heaevy on both sides. Just had orders for march 3 oc in morning. 2 Ill Cav reported to all be killed & taken prisoners levy coverd with killed & Wounded & more comeing aborde Millie Stevens *(side wheel steam boat)*

May 19 Simmes Porte

All that were able to march were packed & ready for orders at 3am those that were not able to march were put aboard his Boat, I am one of them that was not able to march, troops are crossing over the Bayou, on Bridge made by transports & timbers, from one boat to another of the Boats. about 300 sick & wounded on this boat.

May 20 on board millie stevens

Troops still crossing saw a good many Wounded to day left landing 4oc this pm. on Way to Miss R. good many troops on either side of Bayou Bound for different points on the Miss River I do not know where the destination of this Boat is

May 21 aboard Millie Stevens

I awoke this morning found that We had run in too the miss river during the night, We lay at the mouth of red river till sun set this eve then started down river report We go to Neworleans some of our Boats in advance were fired in too lost did not learn amount of damage or name of Boats, 100 colored troops sick & wounded on this Boat they get better care than White first attended too.

May 22 Baton Rouge General Hospital

We arrived at and was land at this place 5oc this morning 150 of Sick & wounded put off at this place, contrary to my expectation, I am here, fine healthy, place, hospital deaf & dumb asylum, 400 sick & wounded in this place, every thing clean & neat plenty such as we have to eat Bread molasses & coffee for Breakfast, Soup & bread for Dinner, apple sauce, bread tea for supper.

May 23 Baton Rouge

by consent of the surgeon in charge of Hospital, In company with 12 others got permit to go to our regts at Neworleans We got 2 days rations of Bread & meat, left the Hospital, went to the levee, at 7oc pm Boarded the steamer Ida may bound for Neworleans, the Ida may is loaded with troops from red River going to Neworleans, rumor that rebels had sent flag of truce ordering surrender of this place.

May 24 Neworleans

I found the regiment at Carlton (*Carrollton La*) reported and found quarters in Co I, with sick & convalescent of Different Corps, 50 in number, Foster (*Charles*) Howe, (*Isaac*) Banta, (*John*), Williams, (*George*) Wilcox, (*Wilbur*) Cheney, (*Nathan*) Thompson, (*Gideon*) of Co M, are quartered here, Sellars, (*Frank*) Nelson, (*John*) Sergt Ricker, (*Algernon*) Corp. Bickford, (*Franklin*) & Thompson, (*Julius*) Worcester (*Theron*) Wilson (*Matthew*) Rice (*Elisha*) Van Horn, (*Joseph*) in hospital Balance of Co & reg Expected down the river Every Day reported fighting.
(note: I have filled in first names from Regimental roster)

May 25 (Newspaper Ad)

"Wanted Disabled Officers & Discharged Soldiers who are in Want of honorable & profitable Employment. peculiarly adapted to this condition. Address (address Replies) PO Drawer 6614 Chicago IL giving date of discharge Co & regiment Discharged from.

May 26

Dearbon House Cor State & Harison, Ira Gray, Rooms & 10

Sept 1

Discharged at Napoleonville, Bayou La Fourche, Parish of Assumption, Louisiana.

...."said soldier has been unfit for duty 60 days. This soldier has been for months suffering from diseased lungs and will in my opinion never be able to do duty as a cavalry man again.

I certify that I have carefully examined the said Sergeant John V Artlip of Captain Oliver Grosvenor M Company and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of Haemoptysis (tuberculosis) and phthisis (tuberculosis / consumption) in the first stage which have so seriously impaired his general health as to leave no doubt of the man's incapacity for military service. He is not fit for invalid corps. Disability did not exist at time of enlistment.

Signed John McCarthy Surgeon 12th Ill cavy in charge

01 September 1864 Napoleonville Louisiana

John is Twenty Six , Five feet Six inches high, Light complexion, Blue Eyes, Brown Hair and Farmer by occupation.

Sept 2

Took steamer Pilot No. 2 at Donaldsonville for Cario.

Sept 10

Arrived at Cairo & was payed there by the PM at this place at 2oc

Sept 11

Left for Chicago at 1oc pm.

Sept 12

Arived in Chicago 11oc am took train for Belvidere 4oc pm. Arived at Belvidere 9oc pm

Sept 13

Arived at home Roscoe Illinois 9oc

[What about John Valentine Artlip \(1837-1867\)](#)

John was the son of Edward Artlip.

Edward was the Grandson of Christian Ortlieb , Ortlip, Otleb, Artlip a Hessian soldier fighting for King George in New York in 1777 and Eva Ostrander of Kingston New York.

Edward was born in Livingston County NY in 1811. He moved his family to Rock County Wisconsin in 1848. Sometime between 1848 and 1860 he moved the family to Cortland Station, Pampas Township, DeKalb County Illinois.

Edward died in 1860 and John took over the family farm.

John joined Company G 58th Illinois Infantry in November 1861. He participated in action at Fort Donelson and Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing Tennessee. He was wounded at Shiloh and discharged in July 1862.

He joined Company M 12th Illinois Cavalry in December 1863 in Roscoe Illinois.

He was discharged due to lung disease in September 1864.

John died at Shirland Illinois in July 1867 of consumption and is buried in an unmarked and lost grave in old Roscoe Illinois Cemetery. He has a GAR marker in soldiers area of Oakwood Cemetery Beloit Wisconsin.

His wife was Mary Mead daughter of Andrew P. Mead of Fulton County New York and the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wisconsin