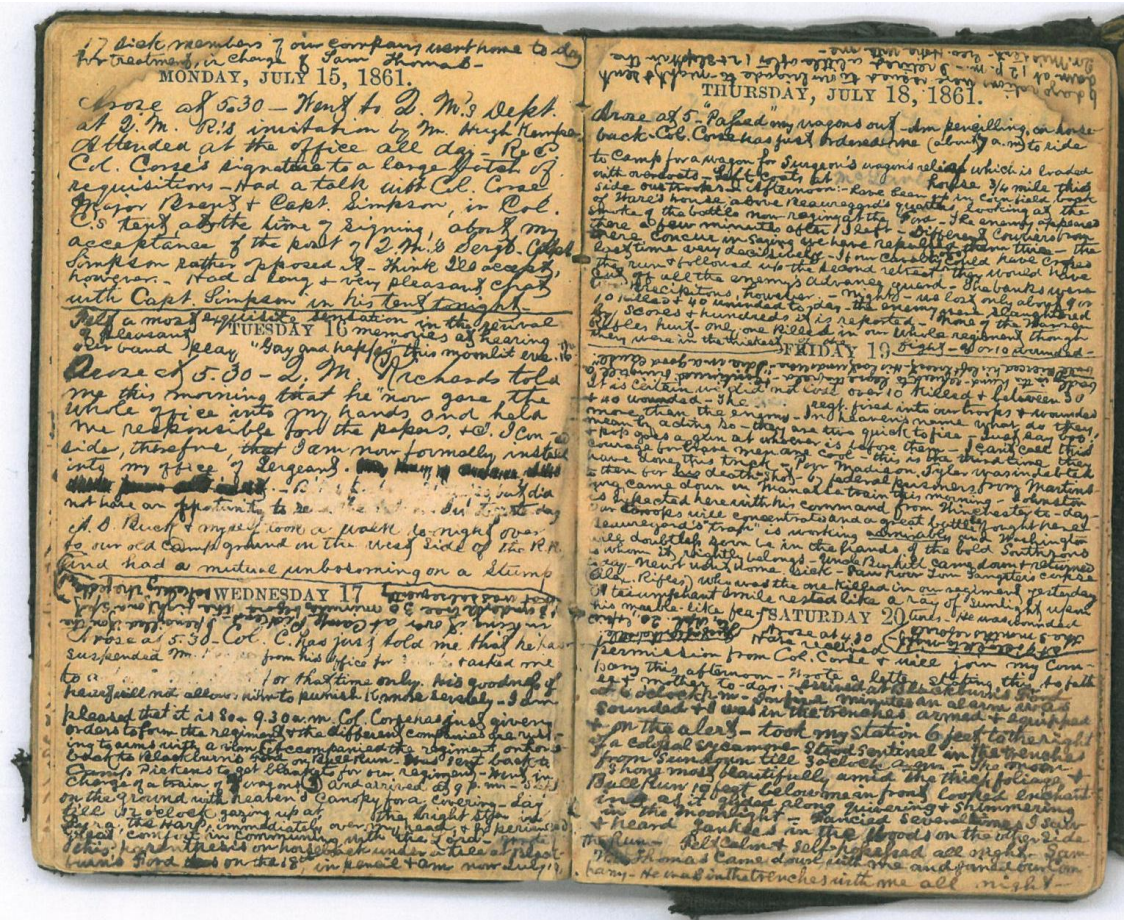


MONDAY, JULY 15, 1861.

Arose at 5.30 – Went to Q. M.'s Dept. at 9 A. M. R.'s invitation to Mr. Hugh Kempe. Attended at the Office all day – Rec'd Col. Cooke's signature to a large batch of requisitions – Had a talk with Col. Cooke, Major Brent & Capt. Simpson, in Col. C.'s tent, about the time of signing about my acceptance of the post of Q. M.'s Serg.t. Col. Simpson rather opposed it – think he deceived however. Had a long & very pleasant chat with Capt. Simpson in his tent tonight. Felt a most agreeable sensation in the perusal of several "Gay and happy" this moonlit eve.

TUESDAY 16

Arose at 5.30 – Q. M. Richards told me this morning that he now gave the whole office into my hands, and held me responsible for the papers, &c. I consider, therefore, that I am now formally installed into my office of Sergeant. [redacted] did not have an opportunity to see the [redacted] but [redacted] A. S. Buck & myself took a walk tonight over to our old Camp ground on the West Side of the R.R. and had a mutual unbosoming on a stump

WEDNESDAY 17

Arose at 5.30 – Col. C. has just told me that he has suspended Mr. [redacted] from his office for [redacted] tacked me to a [redacted] for that time only. His goodness of heart will not allow him to punish [redacted] severely. I am pleased that it is so. 9.30 a.m. Col. Corcoran just given orders to form the regiment & the different companies are falling to and with a slow step accompanied the regiment on to the Bladensburg road – Halted on the road – Sent back for Canteens, Pickaxes to get Water from a Spring – Went in Charge of a train of wagons & arrived at 9 P.M. – Slept on the ground with heaven's Canopy for a Covering – Last till 12 o'clock gazing up at the bright stars – the harp immediately over my head – It seemed a great comfort in Communing with the Lord – Most [redacted] Christ's hope to rest under the tree of life [redacted] Lord [redacted] on the 18th in pencil & am now duly

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1861.

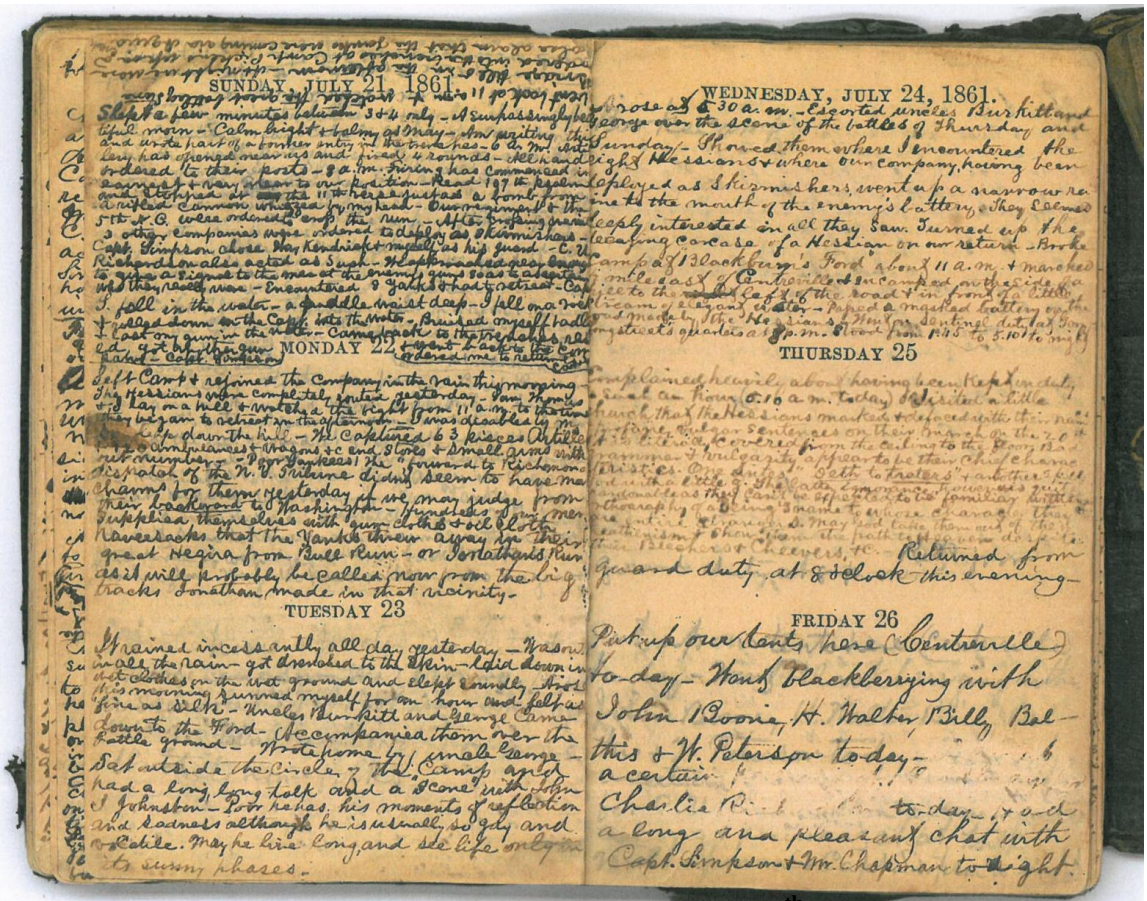
Arose at 5 – Packed my wagons out – Am pencilling on horseback – Col. Cooke has just ordered me (about 9 A.M.) to ride to Camp for a wagon for Surgeon's wagon, which is loaded with overcoats – Left at 1 P.M. – Rode 3/4 mile third side out to take dinner – Afternoon – Have been in close proximity to the battle now raging at the Ford – The enemy's cannon there a few minutes after I left – Different Columns from here Concur in saying we have repulsed them three times – the last time very decidedly – If our Cavalry could have crossed the run & followed into the Second retreat they would have put all the enemy's advance guard – The banks were [redacted] lacerations, however – Night – We lost only about 9 or 10 killed & 40 wounded today – the enemy [redacted] 40 killed & 40 wounded to-day – the enemy [redacted] 10 killed & 40 wounded – Scores & hundreds of it is reported – Many of the [redacted] Rifles, hurt only one killed in our Whole regiment though they were in the thickest

FRIDAY 19 [redacted] 9 or 10 wounded –

[redacted] It is certain we killed and lost over 10 killed & between 30 & 40 wounded – The [redacted] fired into our ranks & wounded more than the enemy – In heaven's name what do they mean? A thing so – they are too quick to fire – [redacted] Each [redacted] has gone a gun at whoever is before them – I can't see [redacted] have done this tonight – For Madison Tyler was instantly killed – came down on Manassas Junction from Martinsburg – Located here with his command from this date to-day – Our troops will concentrate and no doubt [redacted] Leesburg & Evansport" is working admirably – Gen. Burbridge will doubtless soon be in the hands of the Lord Southrons – whom the battle belongs – Uncle Randall came down to-day – Heard what I done Sick – Saw Ruben Lewis (Sixteenth Miss. Rifles) who was the one killed in our regiment yesterday – [redacted] triumphant smile rested like a ray of sunlight upon [redacted] this marble-like face

SATURDAY 20

Arose at 4.30 – [redacted] permission from Col. Cooke & visit [redacted] to-day this afternoon – Wrote a letter [redacted] mother to-day – Received a letter [redacted] Col. Cooke & his – Just [redacted] minutes an alarm was sounded & I was in the trenches armed & equipped on the alert – took my Station 6 feet to the right of a Colonel's Company – Good Sentinel on the trenches – Long night beautifully and the thick foliage – Bull Run 12 feet below me from [redacted] Cooked & reheated in the as it [redacted] along quivering & shimmering in the moonlight – Danced Several times – I Saw & heard Yankees in the woods on the other side Run – Fell Calm & Self-possessed all night – Saw Thomas Came down with me and [redacted] Camp – He and I [redacted] all night –



SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1861

Slept a few minutes between 3 & 4 only – A sunpassingly beautiful morn – Calm bright & balmy as May – Am writing this and [redacted] hasn't a [redacted] entry in the trenches – 6 A.M. visit Every has opened heavy and [redacted] cannonade – All hands ordered to their posts – 9 A.M. Firing has Commenced in earnest – Heavy cannonade on our position – Read – 12 M. Regiment ordered to the [redacted] – 1 P.M. Here we just as a front [redacted] a rifled Cannon whizzed by my head – Our regiment & the 5th N.C. were ordered [redacted] the run – After [redacted] 3 other companies were ordered to deploy as Skirmishers – Capt. Simpson chose Ray Kendrick – myself as his guard – C. U. Richardson also acted as Such – We [redacted] to give a Signal to the men at the enemy guns so as to [redacted] when they recall were – Encountered 9 Yanks & their retreat – Ca[redacted] I fell in the water – a saddle waist deep – I fell on a rock & rolled down on the Cake into the water – Bruised myself badly – Lost my gun in the water – Came back to the trenches [redacted] Col. got his other gun – MONDAY 22 [redacted] ordered me to return [redacted]

Left Camp & retained the Company in the rain this morning – This Secession [redacted] Complete [redacted] yesterday – Sam Thomas & I lay on a hill & watched a [redacted] right from 11 A.M. to the time they began to retreat in the afternoon – Guns deadly [redacted] – Saw down the hill – 81 Captives, 6 3 pieces Artillery [redacted] Carriages & Wagons &c and Stores & Small arms with [redacted] numbers – Dispatches I [redacted] forward to Richmond – Dispatch of the N. Y. Tribune didn't seem to have many charms for them yesterday as we may judge from their [redacted] to Washington – Hundreds [redacted] men – Supposing themselves with gun cloths & oil cloth Haversacks that the Yanks threw away in their great Negira from Bull Run – or Tordathens Run as it will probably be called now from the big tracks Jonathan made in that vicinity –

TUESDAY 23

Rained incessantly all day yesterday – Was on guard all the rain – got drenched to the skin – laid down in wet clothes on the wet ground and slept soundly – Rose this morning sunned myself for an hour and felt as fine as Silk – Uncles Randolph and George Came down to the Ford – Accompanied them over the battle ground – Wrote home by [redacted] Sat outside the Circle & the Camp and had a long, long talk and a Scene with John Johnson – Poor [redacted] his moments of reflection and sadness although he is [redacted] so jolly and [redacted] Cable. May he live long and see life only in its sunny phases –

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1861.

Arose at 5.30 a.m. – Escorted uncles Burkitt and George over the Scene of the battles of Thursday and Sunday – Showed them where I encountered the Secessions & where our company, having been deployed as Skirmishers, went up a narrow road to the mouth of the enemy's battery, they [redacted] deeply interested in all they saw. Turned up the Leaving Carcase of a Hessian on our return – Broke camp at 1 Blackburn's Ford about 11 A.M. & marched [redacted] mile east of Centreville & encamped on the side of the road & in front of a little [redacted] Pitched a marked battery on the [redacted] Secessions – Mounted Sentinel at 8 P.M. – Slept from 1.45 to 5.10 (4 hrs)

THURSDAY 25

[redacted] complained heavily about having been kept [redacted] Reveille at Four o'clock A.M. today – Heard a little [redacted] that the Secessions marked & fenced with the [redacted] Sentences on their [redacted] – Covered from the Calm to the Storm [redacted] Cannon – Trial Gaity appears to be their Chief characteristic – One dollar "Debt to traitors" – and three [redacted] Little Gold Coins announce [redacted] are [redacted] familiar little [redacted] Secessionists [redacted] Returned from guard duty at 8 o'clock this evening –

FRIDAY 26

Put up our tents here (Centreville) to-day – Went blackberrying with John Boone, H. Walker, Billy Bel- this & W. Peterson to-day – a certain [redacted] Charlie [redacted] to-day – Took a long and pleasant chat with Capt. Simpson & Mr. Chapman to-night.

Excerpts from the Pocket Diary of James T. Petty, Private 17th Virginia Infantry Co. B

(*Images are 1.5 times the original size*); 18-22nd July, 1861

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