Transcribed by Jack Phend in late 2020.

**DIARY OF A CIVIL WAR VETERAN**

THE LATE O.P. BENSON, A MEMBER OF THE 92ND REGIMENT

 The Massena Observer is printing excerpts from the dairy (sic diary) of the late O.P. Benson of that village, father of O.P. Benson of Potsdam. Mr. Benson enlisted here in the 92nd Regiment, (“)The Excelsior Rifles” which was organized here in 1861 by Colonel Jonah Sanford of Hopkinton. The regiment was organized and went into camp on the ground to the north of Cottage street between Leroy and Market. The first installment of the diary follows:

 October 10th, 1861—Start from Massena for Potsdam. Arrived there at 1:00 o’clock. Examined by Dr. Hewitt and then returned to our camp for dinner at 4:00.

 11th—Rainy. Chose three commissioned officers. Hiram Anderson for captain, R.F. Cleary for first lieutenant, E.L. Hobbs for second lieutenant.

 12th—March to the engine house. Drill two hours.

 13th—Sunday. Go to church in the forenoon to the Methodist house. Sermon by Rev. King. In the afternoon, Rev. Plumb preached at the barracks.

 14th—Common drill.

 15th—Second election of our three commissioned officers, this before the colonel. In the evening watch with Andrew at the residence of Mr. Fisher.

 17th—Receive orders to go to Massena recruiting. Start from Potsdam at 11:00 o’clock, get in Massena at 5:00. Enlist one man.

 18th—Morning at home. Afternoon, get one man.

 19th—Get two men.

 20th—Reman at home.

 21st—Get two men.

 22nd—Start from Massena to Potsdam with four men.

 23rd—Go back to Massena recruiting.

 24th—Get one man.

 25th--Get one man.

 26th—Start from Massena to Potsdam with three vounteers. (sic volunteers)

 27th—Go to church in the forenoon. Afternoon preaching at the barracks.

 29th—Sworn in the United States service.

 3rd—Sunday. The whole regiment march to the Catholic church. Andrew dies at 7:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m. start for Massena to prepare for funeral.

 4th—Drive from Massena to Potsdam. Andrew buried.

 5th—Drill four hours.

 6th—Common drill.

 7th—Common drill.

 8th—Common drill. Clothing comes to the station.

 9th—Go to the station and dress.

 10th—Sunday. Morning, go to Baptist church. Afternoon to Catholic.

 11th—Rainy (.) Lieut. Hopkins leaves Potsdam for the 16th Regiment. Set up with the sick.

 12th—Common drill.

 13th—Elect officers, second lieutenant, five sergeants and eight corporals.

 14th—Commence to organize the company.

 15th—Whole regiment drill together.

 16th—Arise at 6:00 o’clock. The whole regiment march down to the village. Two colonels come to see the men from Virginia.

 17th—Regiment march down town to Presbyterian church.

 18th—Practice in forming the battalion into line. Quickest time three minutes.

 19th—Battalion drill.

 20th—Leave Potsdam for Massena.

 21st—At home.

 22nd—At home.

 23rd—At home.

 24th—Sunday. At home.

 25th—At home.

 26th—At home. E. Allen store burned.

 27th—Flag presentation by the ladies, 38 of the men present.

 28th—At home.

 29th—Start from Massena to Potsdam.

 30th—Common drill.

 December 1st—Sunday. Called on corporal of the guard. Preaching in the baracks. (sic barracks)

 2nd—Battalion drill.

 3rd—Common drill.

 4th—Battalion drill.

 5th—Friends from Massena.

 6th—Called on corporal of the guard.

 7th—Battalion drill. Father and the girls to Potsdam to see us.

 8th—Sunday. Preaching in the barracks. Go to prayer meeting in the evening.

 9th—Battailon (sic Battalion) drill. Secessionist on the ground by the name of Pride. Narrowly escape (sic) with a ride on a rail.

 10th—Battalion march down to Clarkson’s. Distance of 1½ miles.

 11th—Dress parade.

 12th—Dress parade. Death of young Wilkinson of Company F. Sick but 12 hours.

 13th—Called on corporal of the guard. Take five prisoners.

 14th—Dress parade.

 15th—Sunday. Preaching in the dining hall by Elder Gorrie.

 16th—Receive one hundred stand of guns to practice by companies

 17th—Practice with our guns. March down to the village.

 18th—Dress parade. Grand display. Many spectators.

 20th—Very cold. Drill but little.

 21st—Extremely cold.

 22nd—Sunday. No preaching.

 23rd—No drill. Cold.

 24th—Very cold.

 25th—Christmas. March to the village, where ladies of Potsdam treat us to a dinner.

 26th—Lieut. Col. Bingham makes his appearance.

 27th—Common drill.

 28th—Birthday. Common drill.

 29th—Attend church twice. Mutiny in Company A.

 30th—Non-commissioned officers drill.

 31st—March to the village.

 January 1, 1862—Called on corporal of the guard. Ladies from Massena give us dinner and supper.

 2nd—Dress parade.

 3rd—Non-commissioned officers drill.

 4th—Non-commissioned officers drill.

 5th—Sunday. Preaching in the hall by chaplain.

 6th—Snow. Common drill.

 7th—Non-commissioned officers drill.

 8th—Receive orders to leave Potsdam.

 9th—Lieutenant-colonel shows the regiment a 15 shooter, promising to give it to the best soldier between now and April.

 10th—Friends from Stockholm present a flag to Captain Newton, Company F. Weather rainy.

 11th—Father and mother up from Massena.

 12th—Sunday. Preaching in the hall by Universalist.

 13th—Rather cold. Bought a pair of boots of supply company, $4.50.

 14th—An immense crowd. Sword presented to Capt. Knowles also one to Lieut. Whitney, both of Company D. Flag presented to Company K. One to the regiment by Mr. Clarkson in behalf of his daughters.

 16th—Capt. Anderson receives from the ladies of Massena articles for the hospital.

 17th—Hudson Clark dies at half past 8:00 a.m. Escort goes to Massena with the remains. Sign 50 cents for the expenses of the funeral. Pay master comes.

 18th—Regiment receives its pay. Drew from the government $25.

 19th—Sunday. No preaching.

 20th—Sent home $20.

 21st—Dress parade.

 22nd—Regiment march down and heard Mrs. Little from Boston sing.

 23rd—Very pleasant.

 24th—March down town. Company A drilled by lieutenant-colonel.

 25th—Very snowy. Called on corporal of the guard.

 26th—Sunday. No preaching.

 2(7)th—Lieutenant colonel has splendid horse presented him by the citizens of Potsdam.

 28th—Sign allotment roll to send to G.B. Andrews, of Massena, $12 per month of my wages.

 29th—Fire in the village. Company A marches down to help.

 30th-Start for home.

 31st—At home.

(To be Continued.)

**92ND REACHES FIELD OF BATTLE**

SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE DIARY OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN

 The following is the second installment of a diary of the late O.P. Benson, a member of the 92nd Regiment in the civil war, which was organized in Potsdam:

 February 1st 1862—Around home.

 2nd—The American Tract Society present to each soldier a pocket bible.

 3rd—Go from Massena to Potsdam with three recruits. Edward Beals of Company A, dies with the measles, aged 20 years.

 4th—Remains of Edward Beals sent to Massena.

 5th—Seventeen of Company A, boys in the hospital with the measles.

 6th—Lengthy drill by major.

 7th—Death of Thomas McFerran Company H, aged 19 Died with the measles.

 8th—Called on corporal of the guard. Dentist fixed a tooth. Twenty-five cents**.**

 **9TH—**Sunday. Short discourse by chaplain. **(FROM MASSENA OBSERVER 12/18/1924, P. 4, COL. 1)**

 10th—Death of Hiram Service, Company I, aged 19. Measles.

 11th—Organize a debating club also a writing school Death of Stephen Service, Company I, aged 20. Measles. Death of George Merritt Company G, aged 19. Measles.

 12th—Receive orders to leave for Dixie.

 13th—Death of Homer R. Lyon Company A, aged 19. Measles. Death of John Wallace Company K, aged 19. Mea(s)les.

 14th—At the Hospital all day.

 15th—Pleasant.

 16th—Death of Sergt. John Wilson, Company G. Died in a fit, aged 40.

 17th—Called on Corporal of the guard. First meeting of our debating school.

 18th—March down to celebrate the taking of Fort Donelson.

 19th—Pleasant. Drill.

 20th—Stormy. Death of Orromer Waist, Company C, of fever aged 24 years.

 21st—Death of Garrie Eager, Company A, of measles aged 17 years. Malone, of 98th Regiment, leave for Albany.

 22nd—Death of George McEwen Company A, aged 17 years, mea(s)les. Death of William Cole, Company I, Measles. Regiment celebrate the birthday of Washington.

 23rd—Sunday. Preaching by chaplain. Eager’s remains deposited without a friend to mourn his loss.

 24th—Stormy. Receive orders to leave on the day following without fail. This is the third time.

 25th—Receive orders to leave the 27th. Sit up with Rovel. Slanderous report about Colonel Bingham.

 26th—Regiment to have their likeness taken three times.

 27th--Snowy. Leave Potsdam for New York at 3:00 p.m.

 28th—Al(l) day on the cars. Pass through Albany at 4:00 o’clock.

 March 1st, 1862—Arrive in New York City at 3:00 a.m. March to park barracks.

 2nd—Sunday. Go to Brooklyn and hear Henry Ward Beecher.

 3rd—Rainy. Go to Barnum’s Museum and see the wonders of the world. Receive our knives and forks.

 4th—Go down on the docks and see the ships.

 5th—Receive our guns, cups and plates. Leave New York for Washington at 6:00 a.m.

 6th—Eat breakfast in Philadelphia at 6:00 a.m. and supper at Baltimore at 8:00 p.m.

 7th—Arrive in Washington at 6:00 a.m. Go and see the capitol. Then move to Callarama.

 8th—Receive our belts, sabres, cartridges and cap boxes. Been into the cemetery.

 9th—Sunday. No preaching.

 10th—Rainy. Called on corporal of the guard.

 11th—Move tents.

 12th—Dress parade.

 13th—Dress parade. Go to Washington and get boots fixed.

 14th—Scandalous drill by major.

 15th—All day rainy.

 16th—Cold and damp. Preaching by Rev. Lieut(.) Wood, of the 91st Regiment, New York State Volunteers.

 17th—Common drill. Several regiments move down the Potomac.

 18th—Rather unwell. Excused from drill. Sick boys come from Potsdam. Ninety third Regiment encamp close by.

 19th—Still unwell. Receive orders to move to Alexandria. Hear Miss Kate Dean sing some of her celebrated songs. Rather a sham. Death of Stephen Cannada, Company D. Congestion of the lungs. Aged 21 years.

 20th—Rainy. Orders countermanded. Death of William Hubbard Company B. Consumption. Aged 17 years.

 21st—Quite unwell. Cold chills. Brigader (sic Brigadier) in General Casey’s division.

 22nd—Still unwell.

 23rd—Some better. Preaching by chaplain.

 24th—Review of General Casey’s division.

 25th—Placed under marching orders.

 26th—Third brigade drilled by Colonel Dutton of the 98th Regiment New York State Volunteers.

 27th—In consequence of a mistake we are again sworn into the United States service. Some of each company that refuse to be sworn.

 28th—Leave Calarama Heights at 6:00 p.m. and arrive in Alexandria at 9:00 a.m. on 29th.

 29th—Very snowy. Leave the village and go one mile into the woods.

 30th—Snowy. No preaching. Leave the woods at 3:00 p.m. March to the dock and get aboard of the John Brooks and there sleep all night.

 31st—All day on the water. Very pleasant.

 April 1st-Arrive at Fort Monroe at 6:00 a.m. Go ashore at 6:00 p.m. march eight miles and camp in the woods at 12:00 o’clock.

 2nd—Leave the woods and go on two miles and stop.

 3rd—Very pleasant. Quite hot. Some drill.

 4th—Troops continue by moving on toward Richmond and leave behind large quantities of commissary stores.

 5th—Rambling.

 6th—Sunday. No preaching. Move one mile on the banks of James River.

 7th—Receive orders to march toward Yorktown. Very rainy.

 8th--Rainy. Orders countermanded.

 9th-- Rainy. Again receive orders to move on. **(MASSENA OBSERVER, 12/18/24 P.4, COL. 3.)**

 10th—Rather unwell.

 11th—Death of Peter Broad, Company D. Died with the rheumatism aged 40 years. Great excitement. The Merrimac in the river. Three foreign vessels lying at anchor on the Maryland side.

 12th—Very pleasant. Captain Anderson acts as lieutenant colonel.

13th—Sunday. Preaching by chaplain.

 14th—Brigade drill by Colonel Dutton of the 98th.

 15th—Inspection of the division. Generals Casey and Mansfield present. Receive orders to leave the 16 at 8:00 a.m.

 16th—Leave the pleasant banks of the James at 11:00 a.m. Travel all day and at night camp on the ground at Young’s Mills.

 17th—Move on two miles and camp at Warwick Court House.

 18th—Very pleasant. Vermont Third and sixth cut up by the rebels in Lees Creek.

 19th—All night very rainy. Professor Lowe’s balloon ascends to view Yorktown.

 20th—Sunday. No preaching. Very rainy. At night sharp firing.

 21st—Very rainy. Sleep in the water and on brush.

 22nd—Leave Warwick Court House and advance seven miles toward Yorktown. See two wounded pickets, one in the leg and other in the ankle. Camp in woods.

 23rd—Continual firing by the batteries.

 24th—Lieutenant Clery and Captain shot at behind the rifle pits.

 25th—Continual firing. Sent in charge of 15 men to block up the road. Captain Anderson receives his commission at lieutenant colonel.

 26th—Very rainy.

 27th—Sunday. No preaching. Occasional firing.

 28th—Pleasant. Dress parade.

 29th—Called on corporal of the guard. Awoke between the hours of 3:00 and 4:00 a.m. and prepared for an attack. At night General Palmer orders his whole brigade out to reconnoiter.

 30th—Inspection for pay. Receive small tents.

 May 1st—Pleasant. Company drill.

 2nd—Our right wing goes out on picket. One of Company E accidentally shot himself through the hand. Killed a black snake which measured five feet two and one-half inches.

 3rd—Dr. Sherman franks the boys envelopes. Heavy firing at night.

 4th—Leave our old encampment and chase up the rebels. Troops moving without number. March six miles.

 5th—Cold and rainy. Start early and march till 4:00 p.m., then drawn up in line of battle to support those in the fight. At dark move on to the adavnce (sic advance) and stand in line of battle. Nearly froze and not a dry thread tour backs all night.

 6th—In the morning found the rebels missing. Get breakfast and start again. Trevel (sic travel) about six miles and camp. See plenty of prisoners, dead and wounded.

 7th—Rest all day. Kill beef.

 8th—Pleasant. Company drill.

 9th. Leave our camp at 7:00 a.m. March all day in a northwest direction and camp at sunset on a large cornfield. Corn up three inches.

 10th—March all day and camp at dark within a few rods of General McCellan’s (sic McClellan’s) headquarters.

 11th—Sunday. No preaching. Pleasant. Rest all day.

 12th—On picket two miles from camp.

 13th—March after lying about in the sand six or eight hours to New Kent Court House. Pitch tents at 2:00 a.m. the next morning.

 14th—Rest. Quite rainy.

 15th—Still rainy. Go back two miles to find and care for the sick who fell behind. Find them in an old house and but a few feet from General Summer’s headquarters.

 16th—Pleasant. Dress parade.Sick moved of (sic off) to New York.

 17th—March at dark and camp at 2:00 a.m. near Tyler’s house son of the president.

 18th—Sunday. No preaching. Rest.

 19th—Rainy. March eight miles and camp on a large and beautiful field.

 20th—Companies A and F out on picket half mile from camp.

 21st—March about three miles and camp on a large meadow. A vast number of troops.

 22nd--Rest. A smart shower of rain and hail. Never saw it rain harder.

 23rd—March two miles and at dark form in line of battle in the edge of a wood. Companies A and F again on picket.

 24th—Rainy. Stay in Bear Swamp church. Skirmish with the rebels one mile ahead. Enemy put to flight. Hotly pursued. Our loss slight. Theirs about 63. March and camp on the battle field.

 25th—Sunday. No preaching. March about one mile and camp in the edge of a large wood. Infantry and artillery arranged with great care for an attack. Colonel Hunt takes command of the regiment.

 26th—March without knapsacks ready for atack (sic attack) but after going one mile turned back and stay till 3:00 p.m. March one and a half miles and camp in the edge of the woods. Colonel Hunt gives order not to fry any more meat for bread. He begins to turn over a new leaf with the regiment.

 27th—Rainy. Two companies from each regiment in the division on fatigue duty digging rifle pits. At night the remainder of the regiment on picket.

 28th—Quite muddy. Our pickets bring in four prisoners.

 29th—Early in the morning our pickets have a skirmish with 300 of the enemy. Major and private of the 9th New York killed. The major’s name is Kelley.

 30th—Companies A and F on picket in the morning. The rebels attempt to drive us back and cut our line in two but were driven with our loss but slight. Thunder shower at 3:00 p.m. Rains all night.

 31st—All quite (sic quiet) in camp till M., when the rebels surprised us with great force. Casey’s division suffers severely. 92nd badly cut up, 16 of Company A killed, wounded and missing. The scene beyond description. Fight for three long hours and retreat two miles. At night rest in the mud on our arms without rations or blankets. Untold suffering. Heavy loss on both sides.

(To be Continued.)

**THE 92ND NOW IN VIRGINIA**

THIRD INSTALLMENT OF DIARY OF ONE OF IT’S (sic) MEMBERS.

 The following is the third installment of the diary of the late O.P. Denson of Massena, a veteran of the 92nd Regiment organized here in the civil war.

 June 1st, 1862—Rest till 3:00 p.m. and go reconnoitering.

 2nd—Rest. A regular stampede about 3:00 a.m. caused by some horses getting away.

 3rd—Remain by the battery all day. At night commences a terrible rain. Rains horribly all night.

 4th—Rise early in the morning cold, stiff, lame and wet. Still it rains in torrents. Move early with no rations. Wade mud to the knees and brooks to the neck. Two men drowned in crossing the stream by Bear Swamp Church. Travel but seven miles.

5th--Appointed by colonel as acting sergeant-major. Commence to act immediately. **(MESSENA OBSERVER, 12/25/24 P.7, COL. 1.)**

6th—All quiet in camp but from fatigue and exposure many are half sick. Many sorry faces.

7th—Rather unwell.

8th—Still unwell. Our brigade broken and thrown into the First and Second.

9th—Pleasant. Many sick without the least medical care.

10th—Rainy.

11th—Pleasant. Sick list still increases.

12th—Preparations for an attack.

13th—Very hot. The regiment in rather a distracted state. From 212 present, 103 sick and unfit for duty.

14th—Very hot; 110 sick.

15th—Sunday. Very hot. Towards night rainy. Rains all night.

16th—Cold and pleasant.

17th—Quite unwell

18th—Quite sick but still doing duty. About 10:00 a.m. taken with a very severe pain in the stomach. Cramped five times nearly double.

19th—Very hot. Sharp pains, severe headache. Weak and no appetite. S.S. Miller and Stowell come from Newport News to the regiment. Draw rations of dried apples.

20th—A little better. Fever and headache left me. No appetite.

21st—Not much better. Very severe pain in the side. Sore throat. At night sharp firing among the pickets.

22nd—Some better.

23rd—Not much better. Rainy. Clothing comes.

24th—But little better.

25th—Some better. Heavy and continued firing on the front and right.

26th—Some firing. Some better. Great preparations being made to resist attack by our division under the command of General Peck.

27th--Still gaining. Considerable firing.

28th—Commence our march towards the James. Our sick in charge of Captain Burnham.

29th—Whole army of the Potomac on the move and all in perfect order. A grand and beautiful sight. Very hot.

30th—Still on slow march towards the river. About 3:00 p.m. heavy and brisk cannonading commences by General Hintzelman peppering the rebels (in?) White Oak swamp.

July 1st—Move about one-half mile. Heavy cannonading.

2nd—Rise at 2:00 a.m. and take our position, a division rear guard. Cold and rainy. Mud knee deep in places. In rather a critical position on picket. In constant expectations of an attack as all our baggage wagons are in one large field in mud half way to the hubs.

3rd—Dark, cold and cloudy. Remain in the woods till dark then march quietly out, leaving the enemy to find it out. March one mile through the worst mud I ever saw. Many lost their shoes while others had to be helped. While on picket rebel cavalry pickets were close by on a hill, where they could be almost reached by rifle shot. A few shells from our gunboats caused them to leave.

4th—Pleasant. General McLellan (sic) and staff rides twice by our lines to inspect our position. Considerable firing of the gunboats to celebrate the great day of independence.

5th—Relieved from pickets. Commence to act again on duty. Easier times. Move back again into the woods.

6th—Pleasant.

7th—All quiet.

8th—Go to the river and swim.

9th—Hot and sultry. All quiet.

10th—Commences to rain about 2:00 p.m. quite hard. An artist comes to our regiment to inquire the particulars of the battle of Fair Oaks. **(MASSENA OBSERVER, 12/25/1924, P. 7, COL. 1.)**

11th—Dark, wet and cloudy. Distribute 3,450 cartridges.

12th—Pleasant and beautiful. Lieutenant Fox dies 3:00 p.m., with the fever. Busy making wooden pipes.

13th—Sunday. Quiet and pleasant.

14th—Six men of the regiment volunteer to join the reserve artillery. To be reported on detached service.

15th—Commences to rain hard at dark and rains all night.

17th—Receive six months pay of government. I receive $12, $66 at lotted (sic allotted). Again commences to rain at dark.

18th—General inspection by General Keyes and General Wessells. Thirty-five of our boys left behind at Potsdam and on sick furlough return to the regiment.

19th—Company drill both in the morning and afternoon.

20th—Sunday. The first Sunday to me in Virginia.

21st—Pleasant.

22nd—Quite hot.

23rd—Quite hot.

24th--Brigade inspection.

25th--Brigade drill. Sam, the nigger, dies of fever.

26th---Receive clothing. Draw cap, blouse and one pair of socks.

27th--Sunday. Hear an excellent sermon by chaplain of the 62nd Ohio.

28th--Battalion drill.

29th--Brigade drill. Our regiment goes to support the picket.

30th--Return to camp at 5:00 p.m.

31st--Rainy. At 12:00 o’clock at night the rebels open their batteries upon our transports, doing but little damage. Firing about one hour.

August 1st--All quiet.

2nd--Brigade drill.

3rd--Sunday.

4th--Division drill.

5th—Melvin (sic Malvern) Hill captured by our troops. Very sultry.

6th--Very hot. Draw soft bread.

7th--Still sultry.

8th--Our regiment go to support the pickets about one mile.

9th--Recruiting papers come and also papers to send recruiting officers home. Regiment cokes in at 6:00 p.m.

10th--Afternoon rainy. Sanitary committee send us cheese, herring and potatoes.

11th--Camp routed at 1:00 a.m. Knapsack and all traps except arm equipments, blankets and tents sent to the landing and put abroad of boat.

12th--Still expect hourly to move. Our baggage all of four feet under water.

13th--Still waiting orders. Drill

14th--Continue to wait. Drill. Things begin to look lonesome.

15th--Wait for orders till 4:00 a.m. March about one-half mile when we turn back and camp in our old camps. Rather desolate.

16th--March at 3:00 a.m. Weather very favorable. Quite cool and dry. Pleasant march. Go about ten miles. Camp at dark.

17th--Start at 4:00 a.m. and march very swiftly till 5:00 p.m. then camp in a beautiful field in front of a splendid house belonging to two brothers named Ward. Both Union men and in New Jersey. Cross the Chickahomony (sic Chickahominy) on pontoon bridge at 2:00 p.m. and camp.

18th—Start before daybreak and march along smartly till 3:00 p.m. and camp. Troops footsore. Pass through Williamsburg at 8:00 a.m. Things look perfectly natural.

19th—Rest all day. Troops continually passing. Men feast upon green corn, fresh meat and new potatoes…. (two lines illegible)

20th—Cool and pleasant (illegible word) at daybreak and march about four miles beyond Yorktown.

21st—Our regiment on picket about two miles toward Yorktown. Lose my blanket.

22nd—Rainy by spells. Relieved at 4:00 p.m. Quartermaster-Lieutenants Whittney and Church, also Assistant Surgeon Mansfield come to the regiment.

23rd—Drill two hours. Arrange our camps. Receive orders to march the next morning at daybreak.

24th—Start at daybreak. Rained all night. Quite muddy and misty. March to Hampton in eight hours. Our regiment rear guard of the wagons.

25th—Pleasant.

26th—Prospects of staying some time.

27th—Commence to rain at dark.

28th—Pleasant.

29th—Pleasant.

30th—About 200 soldiers return to our brigade; 22 to our regiment, among them the old sergeant major and E. Hilliard and William LaGrave of our company.

31st—General inspection and muster for pay by Colonel Howell.

September 1st—One of the most terrible storms of rain, wind and hail that I have ever seen in Virginia.

2nd—Quite cold. Move our camp across the road.

3rd—Our brigade somewhat excited about affairs before Washington, Kearney’s death, etc.

4th—Our brigade for the first time furnish grand guard; 18 from our regiment.

5th—Receive 18 large, round tents for the regiment.

6th—Receive a new sword and belt, also a wedge tent.

7th—Sunday. Take a ramble through Chesapeake hospital. Hear part of a sermon.

8th—Showery.

9th—Fifth Maryland leave for Washington.

10th--Rainy and windy. Receive the awful news of Emeline’s death.

11th--Showery. Lonely.

12th--Receive clothing. Draw one pair of socks and one shirt.

13th--Receive from home the full account of Emeline’s death.

14th--Sunday. Preaching by a stranger. Nothing extra. Lieutenant Colonel Anderson appears for the first time in his full uniform. Colonel Hunt resumes command of the regiment.

15th—As usual after dress parade go in swimming.

16th—Cheering news. The rebels turned. General McLellan (sic McClellan) gains a great victory. Salute by the gunboats.

17th—Receive the number of regiment.

18th—March for Suffolk on short notice. Leave the fort by boat at 1:00 p.m. Reach Portsmouth about 4:00 p.m. Take the cars and reach Suffolk at 6:00 p.m. Camp out.

19th—Remain on the same ground. Boys feast on sweet potatoes, etc.

20th—Move across the railroad. Very rainy. disagreeable.

22nd—Heavy details. After dress parade go to a dam and have good wash.

23rd—Railroad bridge torn up by our men. A man shot by one of his own comrades I the 85th Pennsylvania, accidentally. Go out about one mile to Mr. Smith’s and get some sweet potatoes. Four cavalrymen, horses and all, drop into a covered well. One drowned.

24th—Colonel Hunt commands the regiment in person. Begins to arrange things.

25th—Move back across the rail--ready for action. Active measures being taken to resist an attack.

26th—Dress parade. Draw a new blanket.

27th—Make a requisition for a suit of clothes.

28th—Sunday. Misty. One gun mounted on the ramparts of the redoubt at our right.

29th—Dress parade.

30th—Receive full appointment of sergeant-major by Colonel Hunt. Artillery practice.

(To be continued.)

**92ND IN BATTLE OF KINSTON, N.C.**

DEFEAT THE REBELS AND GO INTO CAMP AT NEW BERNE

 The following is another installment of the diary of the late O.P. Benson of Massena who was a member of the 92nd Regiment organized here in civil war.

October 1st, 1862—Orders read on dress parade making the following changes in the regiment; Sergeant Major F.W. Hall second Lieutenant of Company F; First Lieut. G. Ward of Company K, adjutant; C.P. Boswell, first lieutenant of Company K; and my appointment as sergeant major.

2nd—The adjutant sergeant majors and two sergeants from each regiment in the division meet at division headquareres (sic headquarters) Receive instructions concerning signalizing.

3rd—Purchasig (sic Purchasing) a coat of Benjamin Webster on credit. Receive orders to make a reconnaissance. Leave camp at 2:00 p.m. on very short notice. March about 12 miles and camp about 8:00 p.m. in the dooryard of a wealthy grass widow whose husband is doubtless in the war. Rather bitter. Sleep on piazza.

4th—Remain on the alert in the woods till about 4 p.m. when we again start for our camp. Arrive there at 8:00 p.m. Pretty snug march.

5th—Preaching during the evening by Private Messmure, of Company B.

6th—For the first tme (sic time) go into the office to do business. Arrival of new troops a (sic at) Suffolk.

8th—Sergeant Rhodan, Company I, promoted to first sergeant.

9th—Move my tent.

10th—Adjutant buys a horse and absent from dress parade.

11th—Very rainy. Water six inches deep in my tent.

12th—Cold rain. Sunday.

13th—Dreary.

14th—Clear. Captain Miller and 12 recruits join the regiment. Receive from home a pair of new boots and other trinkets.

15th—Receive orders to be ready to move at a moments (sic) notice.

16th—Move my tent across the street. A.M. Stevens and C.P. Grew are my bunk mates.

17th—Drill. Receive $3 from home.

18th—Fourteen recruits come to the regiment.

19th—Sunday. Inspection. Go down town to church. Hear the Reverend of the place. In the evening listen to Priviate (sic Private) Messmure. Also the 101st Pennsylvania 96th New York and 92nd New York turn out to fight in the slash.

20th—Practice passing in review.

21st—Brigade review.

22nd—Division review. Surgeon Edmeston joins the regiment and commences his duties.

23rd—Cut logs for a tent.

24th—Brigade drill. Have a hard cold.

25th—Commence to build up for winter quarters.

26th—Sunday. Rainy. A number of recuits (sic recruits) join the regiment, among them some of the recruiting sergeants.

27th—Damp.

28th—Preparing for winter.

29th—Preparing for winter.

30th—Our brigade and General Ferry’s receive orders to make a reconnaissance. Leave at 2:00 p.m.

31st—Continue marching till 4:00 p.m. After enjoying a short drowse upon the frosty cottom (sic cotton) stalks of about one hour we were routed by our troops sending a few shells across Blackwater into Franklin. Start back for camp at 6:00 a.m. and march till 12:00 that night. Completely exhausted and footsore, making about 44 miles in 30 hours.

November 1st—Mustered for pay by Colone (sic Colonel) Howell of the 85th Pennsylvania. Colonel Hunt musters 103rd Pennsylvania.

2nd—Sunday. Go down town to Episcopal Church.

3rd—Brigade drill.

4th—Brigade drill. A regimental court martial organized of which Lieutenant Colonel Anderson is president.

5th—Brigade drill.

6th—Misty. Work at my shanty.

7th—First snow falls at Suffolk.

8th—Quite cold.

9th-Sunday. Remain in camp and write a letter home. Also as a reward for chopping on Sunday and after dark, I cut cut (sic) my foot badly

10th—Confined to my bed. Foot quite painful.

11th—Still painful.

12th—Still obliged to remain quiet. All troops at this post reviewed by General Dix.

13th—Draw blanket. Brigade Hobble over to headquarters on one leg.

14th—On the gain. Twenty six prisoners drawn up in line at dress parade to receive their sentences imposed by the regimental court martial.

15th—Gaining.

16th—Sunday.

17th—Brigade with Colonel Foster’s brigade ordered to make a reconnaissance. Leave camp at 1:00 p.m. This the first that I have ever been left behind.

18th—Firing toward Franklin or Blackwater.

19th—The reconnoitering part returns to camp about 3:00 p.m., making about 60 miles in 48 hours. Some picket firing and shelling but none of our men hurt. General Wessell proves himself a brave general.

20th—Rainy.

21st—Arrange the bunks in my tent.

22nd—Report for duty and com add 92nd regiment… etc. (sic Report for duty and commence the same. Limp but little. Add several promotions and reductions read on dress parade.)

23rd—Sunday. Inspection.

24th—Brigade drill

25th—Brigade drill.

26th—Brigade drill.

27th—Thanksgiving day and a jolly one to many. Dr. Mansfield gives a supper and plenty of liquor to all the company officers. Hospital steward gave the non-commissioned staff a supper.

28th—Brigade drill.

29th—Adjutant absent from dress parade.

30th—Sunday. Remain in camp and write letters.

December 1st—Pleasant.

2nd—Pleasant.

3rd—Receive a box from home.

4th—Receive orders to march.

5th—Start before daybreak on the Summerton road. Our Brigade only. Very rainy and muddy. Go 23 miles. Have severe toothache.

6th—Start before daybreak and about 10:00 a.m. pass through Gatesville. Camp just through the town. Very cold.

7th—About 3:00 p.m. take transports on the Chowan river, where for we know not.

8th—Awake to find ourselves on the Albemarle Sound.

9th—Very pleasant. Pass through Pamlico Sound. Run aground at the mouth of the Neuse at just dark. Arrive at New Berne.

10th—Go ashore and march through town. Camp two miles beyond.

11th—Our brigade and all the troops under the command of General Foster take up the line of march with the exception of the Eighth Massachusetts who say (sic stay) to guard the place. Have 60 pieces of artillery. Camp three miles from Trenton. Here we find the road blockaded.

12th—Start before day and camp eight miles from Kinston. Take a circuitous route. Capture eight prisoners and kill several etc.

13th-Start before day. Capture several prisoners and one piece of artillery. Have some difficulty in crossing a stream.

14th—Sunday. Fight the battle of Kinston and capture the town. The events of this day are easier remembered than written.

15th—Destroy the railroad and telegraph and then recross the river and on towards White Hall. Our brigade baggage guard.

16th—Remain baggage guard until 2:00 p.m. when we were ordered to the front but not till after the battle. We went in chase.

17th—In hot pursuit of the enemy. Engage (sic) them at the railroad near Ripley’s run. Destroy the road and bridge and then turn back. After going about two miles hear musketry in our rear and turn back to quiet them. Camp about midnight on the same ground.

18th—Pass White Hall.

19th—Pass Kinston.

20th—March within 12 miles of New Berne.

21st—Reach New Berne about 2:00 p.m. and camp on the ground we left.

22nd—Remain quiet. Several boys of Company A got into trouble which results by William Loucks getting shot through the left lung by Lieutenatnt (sic Lieutenant) Adams of the 35th New York, who was on duty.

23rd--No signs of returning to Suffolk.

24th—Receive the sad news of Burns’ (sic Burnside’s) army. Receive clothing.

25th—Rather a drunken day for New Berne.

26th--Cloudy and some prospects of rain.

27th—Rainy.

28th—Sunday. Go to a negro meeting. My birthday.

29th—Battalion Drill.

30th—Colonel Hunt takes command of General Wessells brigade. General Wessell takes command of General Stephen’s brigade.

31st—Rather unpleasant night.

January 1st, 1863—Great day for 92nd. Our officers give us a good supper. Very good selection except the liquor. Move our camp across the Trent.

2nd—Receive (stores.) Battalion drill.

3rd—Go to town. Our baggage and ail arrives on old barges. The mail distributed but not the baggage. Several commissions come—Howard etc.

4th—Baggage distributed. Rather shameful management with our knick knacks. All eaten before they started.

5th—Several promotions and reductions in the non commissioned line. Bowhall reduced and James Richards promoted to corporal, etc.

6th—Rainy.

7th—Brigade review. Dr. Edmeston appointed to act as brigade surgeon.

8th—Brigade review. Go to town.

9th—Skirmish drill.

10th—Prospects of rain.

11th—Officers vote for major and other promotions.

12th—Our division reviewed by General Foster.

13th—Receive orders to move at 12 hours (sic) notice on the great southern expedition. Some dissatisfaction about pay.

14th—Receive clothing. Draw one pair pants and one haversack.

15th—Windy and showery. Noncommissioned drill by adjutant.

16th—Cold and windy. Toothache.

17th—Cold and windy. Toothache. At last have tormentor drawn. One prong broken.

18th—Sunday. Very cold. Remain in camp.

19th--Regimental inspection.

20th—Non-commissioned skirmish by adjutant. Night sets in rainy.

21st—Rather unwell. The adjoining tooth jumps terribly.

add 92nd regiment (sic)

22nd—Captain Sprague, of the 101st Penn., dismissed (sic) the service for shirking from duty. Isaac Hall, Company I, dies of wounds received at Kinston. He was a noble boy.

23rd—Bought pair of boots of Lieut. E.G. Stowell for $3.33. They formerly were I. Hall’s.

24th—Orders of several courts martial read on dress parade.

25th—Brigade inspection. Receive notice that we are not to go on the expedition. Hear chaplain of the 96th. Too late to get the text.

26th—Move our camp across the Neuse for the purpose of building a small fort. Cross in an old scow. Company A go on picket. Sleep as unconcernedly as though we were surrounded with troops.

27th—Commence the fort. One wing works at a time. Our standing picket detail three sergeants, five corporals and 33 men. Showery.

28th—Very windy

29th—Pleasant.

30th—Draw ten days’ rations.

31st—Go sailing. Thus endeth the month.

(To be Continued)

**92ND REPULSES ATTACK ON FORT**

BEAT BACK REBEL FORCE SENT AGAINST FORT ANDERSON

 The following is another installment of the war time diary of the late O.P. Benson of Massena, veteran of the Nintey (sic Ninety) second New York Volunteers, organized here in the civil war:

 February 1st, 1863—Adjutant Ward receives a furlough of 20 days. Appointed acting adjutant in his stead. Find business rather loose. Enter upon my duties with the smiles of some and frowns of others. Feel a want of confidence but am assured that perseverance will conquer. Take charge of dress parade for the first time. Read eight orders one of which reduces James Richards.

 2nd—Do my first day’s duties as adjutant. A.M. Stevens acts sergeant major. He is a noble boy and is of great assistance to me I could not get along without him.

 3rd—Awake to find two inches of snow on the ground.

 4th—Very cold. Snow still remains.

 5th—Reserve pickets fired upon by guerrillas. Three men wounded with buck shot which tend to enrage the boys. Major Hall, Captain Boswell, Sergeant Nichols, Scott and and (sic) Hall join the regiment from recruiting service. Rainy. Lieutenant Cole conducts himself shamfully (sic shamefully) when our brave boys were fired upon. He thought it very important that the gunboats should be signaled and without orders went to do the task and returned only when all

was quiet.

 6th—Rainy. Bought a pair of high topped boots of Private Lalone Company A, for $6.50, and give partly in lieu my ones for $3.33.

 7th—Two contrabands come into our lines. They are brother and sister. Fortune has at last turned for them. They have gained their own freedom. They are their own masters. Sent to New Berne.

 8th—Sunday. Regiment inspection. Major takes charge of dress parade. Read no orders.

 9th—Pleasant. Busy.

 10th—Pleasant. Busy. Send in to brigade headquarters a tri monthly report.

 11th—Receive clothing. Draw one pair pants, two pair drawers, four pair socks. A band of guerrillas discovered by quartermaster and foiled in their plans which were to capture our teams.

 12th—Pleasant.

 13th—Discover more guerillas (sic). Our boys begin to sleep with their eyes open.

 14th—Guerillas (sic) still about our pickets. Make out and get filled a requisition for accountrements. (sic accoutrements)

 15th—Sunday. Rainy. Regimental inspection. Dress parade and have a large number of orders to read which are wet through before finished.

 16th—Receive pay from Major Staples for six months. Amount of clothing for the year deducted. Small allowances for some, whose clothing bill was large. Some had not a cent coming. Draw $78.25. Clothing acount (sic account) $23.87. This owing to clothing lost.

 17th—Finish duplicate monthly returns for December and January. Pickets fired into by guerrillas at 10:00 p.m. from behind a shed. None of our boys hurt. Dark as tar. Captain Smith officer of day marches out his company and searches about and discovers them in Old Gaskin’s yard. Fires into them but do not know as he hit anything except Gaskin’s steer although there were a few scared fellows made their escape over the high fence.

 18th—Quiet.

 19th—Make out tri monthly.

 20th—Firing on pickets.

 21st—All quiet.

 22nd—Sunday and rainy. Heavy artillery firing from a hundred iron throats to celebrate birthday of Washinton (sic Washington).

 23rd—Finish an annual return of casualties for adjutant general of New York. Captain

Cleary and Lietenant (sic Lieutenant) Lee placed under arrest for being over to town without permission and what was worse they were intoxicated.

 24th—Lieutenant Mintarn placed under arrest in quarters for the same offense.

 25th—The three officers released from arrest.

 26th—Rainy. Flag raised in front of General Foster’s headquarters. Great saluting.

 27th—Make out field and staff muster rolls.

 28th—Rainy. Mustered Sergeant O’Neil placed under arrest for violation of orders.

 March 1st—A pleasant Sunday. Remain in camp. Have inspection and dress parade.

 2nd—Go to town and have a picture taken. Weather very pleasant.

 3rd—Weather very pleasant.

 4th—Windy.

 5th—Take a splendid sail. Signal party of six men and first lieutenant comes to join us.

 6th—Go sailing Very windy.

 7th—Very pleasant.

 8th—Sunday. Inspection and dress parade. Take a ride with officer of day around the lines.

 9th—Go sailing. Express home $40. Charges 50 cents.

 10th—Rainy.

 11th—Adjutant returns.

 12th--Not yet relieved.

 13th—Not yet relieved. Major Hall takes 50 of our best men and makes a reconnaissance but meets the enemy but few rods beyond our lines. Drive them back with the loss of Levi Barlow, Company F. He seems to have a forewarning and said as he left the camp that he never should return. Poor fellow, he was shot with a minie ball through the head. He has laid down his life for his country and may history do justice to his memory.

 14th—Fort Anderson attacked by a very superior force with 18 pieces of artillery. Pickets driven in before reveille. Lieutenant Stowell officer of picket and brought them in in good shape blazing all the while at their column. A flag of truce sent in four times demanding our surrender but Colonel Anderson, although not the man that defended Fort Sumpter yet every whit as brave and could see no surrender. Upon him rested the destiny of the regiment. We owe all to him for his has certainly saved us a long tramp to Richmond. The day was one that will not soon be forgotten by any of those that listened to the musical strain of the enemy’s shot and shell. We have reason to believe that their loss was quite heavy as our gun boats did nobly although they came at the eleventh hour. We had two men wounded in the fort and one coming in from picket. All hail to the old 92nd is the language of every soldier in New Berne.

 15th—Reconnoiter and find their force moved off only a rear guard remaining. Three gunboats make a trip up the river.

 16th—Eighty-fifth again come over and make a reconnaissance. Bring in one guerrilla.

 17th—Eighty-fifth again go out.

18th—Eight-fifth return. See nothing.

19th—Showery Eighty-fifth cross the river.

20th—Rainy.

21st—Rainy.

22nd--Sunday fair.

 23rd—Pleasant. Draw one blouse.

24th—Eighty-fifth and 96th come to reinforce us.

25th—Pleasant.

26th—Citizens thick as bees.

27th—Land for the fort two 32 pound guns. Smooth bore.

28th—Windy and rainy. Camp full of rumors of an attack in the morning.

29th—Sunday. Rainy.

30th—Pleasant.

31st—Pleasant. Thus endeth the month of March in the 92nd camp. My dear old friend thou hast been a faithful patriot for the unceasing efforts thou has put forth in the cause of thy country I hereby declare thee to be discharged from the service of the United States with some of the brightest and also some of the most disastrous events of the war recorded up on your worn out pages. I now bid you good-bye and may your past companion again meet you around the quiet hearth of his beloved friends to enjoy the peace and liberty for which we have so long toiled together.

(Editors note—Sergeant Benson here finished the last page in his first war diary and had to continue his entries in another book.)

April 1st—Heavy cannonading at Little Washington. Report that the town is surrounded and that the (Scrambled text) rebels are laying siege to the place. General Foster there in person.

2nd—Rumors of an expected attack upon New Berne. It gains some credit in camp. Some cannonading at Little Washington.

3rd—News from Washington rather discouraging. The river reported to be effectually blockaded. A private of the Third New York Cavaly (sic Cavalry) committed suicide by shooting himself.

4th—Cannonading at Little Washington. Guerrillas nicely sold by fring (sic firing) into one of our picket posts as they supposed but which had been removed some two hours previous.

5th—Troops landing all night. Two companies of cavalry over before dark. Probably an effort is to be put forth to loosen the grasp that holds General Foster.

6th—Cavalry makes reconnaissance and returns at night bringing in one guerilla (sic). Six commissions come for the regiment. Mine did not come but I can stand it as I am.

7th—An expedition commenced all night.

8th—Three steamers busy all day landing troops. Expedition starts about noon under command of General Spinola with five companies of cavalry; six pieces of artillery and 5,000 infantry.

9th—Steamers busy all day landing horses and wagons. One or two horses drowned. Stragglers begin to come back but meet with a cold reception. Colonel sets them to work.

10th—Continue to land horses and wagons. Can hear some distant cannonading. Probably Spinola has found a nest of guerrillas. Lasts but a short time. Begin to come back.

11th—Expedition returns men all cursing General Spnola (sic Spinola). General Wessells returns from Washngton (sic Washington) and comes over amid tremendous cheers. Appears to be much displeased with the movement.

12th—Last of the expedition crosses back to town. Sixteen horses and one man drowned by the filling of a float.

13th—Muster for conscrpts (sic conscripts). Several promotons (sic promotions) among the non commissioned officers, especially in Company E.

14th—Various rumors in camp. Troops commence to land and continue all night. Again a small expedition starts under General Spinola. Nothing big.

15th—Rumors encouraging from Charleston.

16th—Showery. General Spinola and staff return from their expedition about 7:00 p.m. and as usual make tracks for town, leaving his troops to take care of themselves. General Negle comes.

17th—Troops on ths (sic this) side do not appear to go back. Doubtless another expedition is on foot.

18th—Troops landing all day. Form a mess consisting of Clark, Hall, Alick and myself. Do not exactly like the step. Colonel is rather against it. Raise our tent.

19th—Get a floor in tent and move. Have the pleasantest tent in camp. Expedition starts under General Wessels (sic). About 200 officers and men of Spinola’s brigade come back and are placed under guard. Receive pay.

20th—Very hot. Stragglers sent to town. Rainy. Just dark go fishing and catch one eel and one bull pout. Express home $36.

21st—Expedtion (sic Expedition) crosses river. Weather much cooler.

22nd—Two companies of cavalry and one howitzer land and immediately start towards Little Washington.

23rd—Showery. Great number of contraband come to town. Also whites to prevent starving to death.

24th—Windy. By colonel’s order all non commissioned officers not on duty to go on drill two hours each day with the cannon. First sergeants are not excluded.

25th—Pleasant. Receive a letter from home. My first for some time. Captain Arnold returns from furlough bringing with him a beautiful flag from the ladies of Potsdam. May we defend it to the last.

26th—Pleasant. Have regimental inspection with our new flag floating by the side of our old ones. Rumor of moving to Plymouth. Our brigade ordered there.

27th—Our fears as to moving are now quieted. Citizens ordered out of town. General Hunt makes us a visit. Seems well pleased with our improvements on the fort.

28th—Showery with a steady wind. Have two splendid boat rides. Fire in town last night. Seven negro groceries burned to the ground.

29th—Cloudy. Have several sails.

30th—Usual muster by Colone (sic Colonel)l Anderson. Regiment appear in fine condition. Rumor of a consolidation into less companies causes a considerable talk among the men.

May 1st—Three horses belonging to signal officers and Dr. Edmeston together with a large amount of forage is landed on the wharf.

2nd—General Wessells with his command leave for Plymouth, N.C. We are now detached from the brigade. Clothing issued to the companies. Draw one pair socks.

3rd—Take a pleasant ramble with C.P. Gray. Go up to Gaskins and gather a bouquet. Weather very hot.

4hth—Cheering news from Banks, Grant, Hooker and others. We hardly believed it for fear of being disappointed.

5th—After going to bed and befor (sic before) extinguishing lights discover a water moccasin snake coiling himself as if scared by the luight (sic light). We soon dispatch him.

6th—Considerable excitement. General Foster, Prince and another general come over to witness the shooting of the guns. Fire about 600 rounds. Make some splendid shots.

7th—Finish my tent and move in. Think it much better to be alone than where the most common conversation is polluted with oaths of the deepest dye.

8th—Officers organize a meeting for mutual improvement. I hope they will take an interest and profit by it. It is a good idea.

9th—Purchase of George Lewis a broadcloth fatigue jacket for $5. With help commence a tent for the adjutant.

10th—News from Hooker very exciting. Two salutes fired.

11th—Move the office and assist in putting up a tent for adjutant. News of Hookers (sic Hooker’s) defeat. It saddens the hearts of the boys wonderful.

12th—After first sergeants call go out with Corp. S. Brigsby and gather a beautiful bouquet. Also go to town.

13th—Drill for the first time of the siege guns. Guess I shall learn the drill easily. Commissioned officers drill in morning and non-commissioned in after noon.

14th—Cheering news again from Hooker. Take a pleasant sail with Sergt. William Clark.

15th—Madame Rumor has it that Richmond is taken. Dudley Buck reported to be aground on the sound. We all look anxiously for papers.

16th—Good news from Hooker are not so very good reported. I fear he has been defeated. If so it does seem as though our progress in this war is slow. Left N.K. C H one year ago.

17th—Gather a bouquet with George Lewis. Discover winter greens. The first I have seen since leaving home. Inspection at 5:00 p.m. march and form in field in front of Hooker’s house.

18th—Mail arives (sic arrives). Have artillery practice. News from Hooker are to the soldiers like a dead letter.

19th—Very pleasant weather of late. Progressing finely with our fort. Noncommissioned drill on small guns.

20th—Non commissioned drill. Think I shall like artillery well. Weather scorching.

21st—Pleasant. Go with Gotham Hall after first sergeants call to look for whortle berries. Find none and return with a bouquet.

22nd—Receive a nupply (sic supply) of ordnance and ordnance stones. Go with George Lewis about one half mile down the river and gather green whortle berries which we have for supper. Two hundred prsoners (sic prisoners) captured at Kinston.

23rd—Take a boat ride with Whipple. Rumor of an attack. Some precaution taken.

(To be Continued)

**THE 92ND IN NORTH CAROLINA**

SOME EVENTFUL MONTHS IN QUARTERS NEAR NEW BERNE

 The following is an additional installment of the diary of the late O.P. Benson, veteran of the 92nd Regiment:

June 1st, 1863—The whole cry in camp is “Grant, Grant!” Vicksburg the second Gibraltar has fallen. Papers in town of the 28th. General Foster’s adjutant general (Colonel Hoffman) over to take a view of our fort.

2nd—Go to town. General Foster together with Generals Potter and (sic)--give us a call to witness the effects of our shot from the heavy guns. Captain Bice returns from furlough.

3rd—Showery. We are all looking anxiously for Colonel Anderson. All seem to think that his return is to decide their fate—go or stay.

4th—Colonel returns but reveals not a breathe (sic) to officer nor private about consolidation. All over anxius (sic anxious) to know the result Lieutenant Foote comes with him.

5th—Sergt. M.C. Goodell stays with me over night. Weather quite sultry.

6th—Alick spends the evening with me and makes out our warrants. The great consolidation secret begins to break. It becomes known who are to go to (sic) and who are to stay. Captain M—blue as a whetstone.

7th—Go with Alick to Presbyterian church. Hear the 27th chaplain: Text John 1:29.

8th—Receive pay for two months of Major Staples. Colonel quite unwell.

9th—Go to town to get a supply of ordnance stores and forage.

10th—The so-called fortunae (sic fortunate?) officers and sergeants go to town to be mustered out of service. Boys assemble at my tent for an evening sing. Have a pleasant time.

12th—Rainy. The fortunate get mustered out. Colonel getting better. Borrow $5 of F. Courrier, Company A.

14th—Go to church and hear chaplain of 27th, Preaches an excellent sermon. Two rebels soldiers of the Seventh regular cavalry come into our lines.

19th—Adjutant takes a squal (sic squad) of men to make a short reconnaissance. Discovers nothing. Alick spends the evening with me. Have a few games of chess. Weather showery.

20th—Again the rumor comes that Vicksburg is taken but I dan (sic can) give it no credit. Stowell and McChesney spend the evening with me.

21st—Go to Episcopal church with George Lewis. Hear an excellent sermon.

22nd—Make out three furloughs for men in Captain Arnold’s Company A. Alick and I are once more going to try to live together. We would find no trouble were it not for swearing.

23rd—Firing on picket line. Five shots exchanged by the graveyard. Go berrying and get two quarts of blackberries and make five pies.

24th—Richards, Kirkham, etc. off on furlough. Lieutenant Whitney in charge of 40 men go out to lie in ambush for a cavalry dash.

25th—Rainy. Alick and I go to town and purchase each of us a pair of shoes at $2.50 per pair.

26th—Showery. Dr. Mansfield returns from furlough. Gray and yellow winged flies made their appearance. They are a horrible pest.

27th—Showery. Raise the liberty pole. Rearrange the officers tents, also move my own.

29th—Rainy. Commence to make out Captain Arnold’s muster rolls. Companies have to be reorganized into ten companies. Five of these companies have only five men in each.

30th—Rainy. Work all day on Captain Arnold’s rolls mustered by Captain Judson, AAG. for General Palmer. Inspection very minute.

July 1st—Showery. Fnish (sic Finish) Captain Arnold’s rolls. Captain Judson finds much fault with the rolls of the regiment.

2nd—Very hot. A few shots exchanged on picket.

4th—The great day of our national independence has again arrived. The regiment formed at 7:00 a.m. to hear the Declaration of Independence read by adjutant. Parade at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks displayed on the gunboats in the evening.

6th—Our library has arrived. Payrolls returned for more minute remarks. Alter Captain Arnold’s.

8th—Rearrange my tent. Receive the appointment of regimental librarian. Books to commence circulation tomorrow.

9th—Arrange the library. Books distributed to the men. Take for myself. Thiers French Revolution. Sergt. R.J. Hall returns from furlough.

10th—All anxious to get late papers. News reach us about 11:00 p.m. that Lee is entirely cut up and lost 28,000 men. Also that Vicksburg is taken.

11th—Fnd (sic find) that the same news have remained in the same paper over night and hope that they may be confirmed in others.

12th—Pickets attacked about 9:00 a.m. The rebs succeed in capturing a post, one sergeant one corporal and five men. Give the rebs a dose of eight 32-pound shells.

16th—About 40 of the enemy said to be bivouacked out about two miles from here. Get a third 32 pound gun mounted and ready for action.

17th—An expedition on foot. Troops begin to land at our wharf about 3:00 p.m. Three regiments of infantry, one company of cavalry and two pieces of artillery. Flag of truce comes to our lines to exchange letters.

18th—More troops land. Purchase me a cap, price $2.50. Captain Fay, Lieutenants Thompson and McChesney return from furlough. Thompson got married while home. Thought his chance better than ever again.

20th—Part of the expedition returns. Cavalary (sic Cavalry) reported to have gone on up the country for the purpose of making a raid and cutting some railroad.

21st—Richards, Kirkham and the rest of the furlough boys return. Hawkins brings me my chevrons and colors.

22nd—Received my things from home by James. Our cavalry reported to be surrounded up by Swett Creek. Cannonading up in that direction.

23rd—Four of us go up the river to an old plantation. Get some cucumbers and squash. See some beans up four inches high from seed that has been raised this year.

24th—Very warm. Yellow tailed flies come about. They much resemble a yellow fly we have up north. They are terrible to bite.

26th—Windy. A signal gun and lights in the evening from the flagship. Receive a letter from home with names of men drafted.

28th—Colonel, quartermaster, Lieutenant Whitney and six sergeants leave for conscripts. Captain Merriman takes command. Colonel Anderson quite a comical sight being carried to the boat on a stretcher.

29th—I am now reading McCaulay’s English History.

30th—Post my diary by the light of the moon. Very heavy showers during the day. Some reminds me of last summer.

31st-Have a very bad boil on my right hip. Have a pleasant sing with the boys in the evening at my quarters.

August 1st—Dr. Edmeston returns from furlough and fetches 68 pew books for our library. Busy all the afternoon covering and numbering books.

2nd—Have a slight headache. No appetite and fear I am threatened with fever. Also have one of Job’s Comforters.

3rd—Help Captain Arnold about quarters. Return of ordnance and ordance (sic ordnance) stores. Weather extremely warm.

4th—Furloughs have reduced our number to necessitate sending sergeants to act as officers of the guard. Go to town and purchase lumber for library. $300 per hundred.

5th—Receive pay. Draw $42. Boys get off on furlough. Adjutant leaves for duty on General Palmer’s staff. Lieutenant Minturn acts as adjutant.

6th—Thermometer 100 degrees in the shade. Captain Judson and adjutant over on a call. Corporals Rockwell and Sheridan to be court-martialed.

7th—I am now writing in the Ocean Hotel, Beaufort, N.C. Find it a lonesome place. Express home $34.

8th—Take a pleasant jaunt down Shaklefords Banks. Wash in the surf. Gather shells on the beach and return before a strong wind to Morehead City by 3:00 p.m. Pay $2.

9th—Arrive in New Berne the night before and sleep in the shed on the hay and take passage early in the morning for the fort. Rest all day. John Gray detailed.

10th—Take in several dollars for library. Too hot for fatigue to work.

11th—Discover four young boils which bid fair to make something in the world. Feel unwell generally. Thermometer at 105 degrees in the shade. Major Whitford with truce.

12tth—(sic 12th) Cooler. Adjutant Minturn quite sick. Alick learns Tennyson’s poem of the Gallant Six Hundred.

13th—Rather unwell. Draw hand grenades for the fort. Another signal corps stationed here.

14th—Finish first volume of McCaulay’s History of England. Signal corps flashes in the pan. General Peck takes command of the department. Feel a little better.

15th—Alick continues to make use of profane language. I find his promise of no avail whatever.

16th—Do not go to church. Lieutenant O’Neil returns from furlough. Have a splendid plum pudding for dinner.

17th—Showery. Nothing worthy of note occurs.

18th—Steady north wind. Weather very cool and agreeable. Tide very high. Floods our walk to the messes.

19th—Adjutant Minturn makes an attemt (sic attempt) to go home but fails.

20th—Got to town and purchase a pair of shoes for $2.75. Alick kills a water snake who unluckily makes lair opposite our tent.

21st—Captain Rolstein inspects the regiment and records. A small expedition puts on foot for tomorrow. Receive notice of ex-Major Hall’s promotioin (sic promotion) to colonel. Takes bad among some of the officers.

22nd—Two companies of cavalry and Company H make a reconnaissance. Find no enemy but after some foraging return about noon.

23rd—Company inspection and dress parade. None of us go to church on account of boats being just painted. Very windy.

24th—Very windy. Pity Poor Jack at sea. Alick attacked with fever. Calll (sic Call) in surgeon.

25th—Very windy and rainy. Alick pretty sick. A lieutenant Scott a great prize fighter, of Brooklyn, and three men come in a small boat to our camp. They were greatly intoxicated and made sport for our men.

26th—Receive notice late in the evening that General Peck will inspect the regiment tomorrow. The men make great preparations. Alick some better.

27th—Cold, drizzling rain from the north. Tide very high. Inspection postponed. News quite exciting from Charleston.

28th—Weather quite cold. Sleep under four blankets. General Peck visits the command and appears well pleased. Everything in good condition.

29th—Commerce (sic Commence) an additional angle to the fort. Mail arrives. Never more welcomed. Lieutenant Ward, Welsh and Wheaton remain in camp over night.

30th—Oversleep myself until 9:00. Miss guard mount.

31st—Mustered for pay by Lieutenant-Colonel Fellows, of the 17th Massachusetts Volunteers. Captain Merriman musters his regiment. Weather still cold and fall-like. Try to write home but fail.

September 1st—Company of cavalry land and make short reconnaissance but meet nothing. Minturn Leaves on furlough. I take his place.

2nd—Busy making returns for headquarters. I send off one monthly and a roster of officers, also finish the monthly return of deserters.

3rd—Tri-monthly sent back for correction. Make out requisition for drums also make a report of our heavy guns. Weather showery.

4th—Weather cool. Alick spends the day fishing. Return of deserters sent back for correction but there was no error.

5th—General Palmer makes us a call. Gives strict order to be well on the alert as an attack is expected.

6th—Have a dress parade. Find it it (sic) very tiresome reading a long string of orders.

7th—Port Royal goes up the river with flag of truce to take several women outside the lines. Captain Bice officer of the day gets intoxicated.

8th—Lieutenant King of Engineer Corps, takes diminsions (sic dimensions) of our fort. Get 15 of our men and ten darkies down to the mouth of Duck Creek for the purpose of building a small fort.

9th—Boat gets around (sic aground) at Duck Creek and our boys have to remain all night without supper.

10th—A hard shower about 2:00 p.m. Send off a tri-monthly, also discharge papers of H. Ober of Headquarters company. General Peck issues an order announcing the capture of the whole of Morris Island.

11th—News of Fort Moultrie’s being blown up by the rebels. Commerce (sic Commence) to make out ordnance return for August, 1863. Find it difficult.

12th—Major Whitford comes down the river with flag of truce. Our boat goes to meet them.

13th—Very rainy in the afternoon. Lieutenants Stowell and Cole return from furlough. Sergeant Willey reduced to the ranks.

14th—Showery. Form regiment at 5:30 p.m. for reading of orders. Feel rather unwell in the evening.

15th—Not any better. Weather showery.

16th—Pretty sick. Receive orders to leave the fort. Relieved by two companies of the Second Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. We move tomorrow to take their barracks at New Berne.

17th—Finally pull up stakes to leave the fort of our own make. Have but little regularity in the arrangement. Officers act ridiculously. Hard feeling between the boys. Comes up a terrible shower at noon. Reach camp about 5:00 p.m.

18th—Repair barracks. Companies move in. We are all quite comfortable. Feel some better but still very haggard.

19th—Rainy. Feel some better. Cannot rest nights. Get up the colonel’s stove in my room. Have quite a parlor. Have our first dress parade this side of river. It is quite interesting.

20th—Cold but fair.

21st—Fair. Have dress parade, etc. Drill in the morning. First company drill we have had in nearly a year. Very cold nights. Almost a frost.

22nd—Move back into Fort Anderson. Boys all claim it as all right.

(To be Continued)

**ON THE LINES IN NORTH CAROLINA**

SERGT. BENSON RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT TO WEST POINT

 The Courier and Freeman this week presents the seventh installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson of Massena when he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment when 19 years of age and was sent to the training camp at Potsdam in October 1861, leaving here in February for the front. He was made a corporal in the 92nd, later being promoted to sergeant. In this installment he tells of the monotony of camp life, which he varies as much as possible by reading and busying himself about his quarters. Due to his military ability he is recommended for West Point.

October 1st, 1863—Get off one copy of monthly return to Judson. Chill commences about 1:00 p.m. Lasts untl (sic until) 5:00 p.m. Regiment draws nine barrels of flour in lieu of hard bread.

2nd—Regiment paid off by Major Simpson. Draw $50.65.

6th—Send off all returns for the quarter except ordnance. Clerk taken sick. Am obliged to get out invoices and receipts of ordnance.

7th—Express home $69. Borrow $29 of Alick.

8th—Sind Sergeant Bugbee, Corporal Willard and ten men to Palmer’s headquarters to start on an expedition to be gone a week or more. Practice firing with the heavy guns.

9th—Dr. Mansfield gives an oyster supper to the soldiers have a great time over it. Got by a sham court martial. Officers from town present.

10th—Lieutenant Minturn returns from leave of absence, having been gone 20 days over time. Second anniversary of our arrival in Potsdam as soldiers. Two years quickly flown.

11th—Write a long letter home. Alick taken with chills. John the negro taken with smallpox and instantly removed to town and all his things burned. Creates quite an excitement.

12th—Spend the day very pleasantly.

13th—Troubled with the toothache. Citizens plenty. Tide high. Have oysters for supper. Have a great appetite nowadays. Several regiments ordered from New Berne to Fort Monroe.

17th—Rather windy. Citizens come in in greater numbers. Ten soldiers desert and come to New Berne. Some rather suspicious looking characters come in but go unquestioned.

18th—Sermon by Messmore and prayer meeting in the evening.

19th—Feel a little out of kilter. Ladies in from the country by scores. Two of our men, Rooke and Wilson, who have been dropped as deserters, return to the regiment.

20th—Have an oyster supper in the evening. Have chill in the afternoon. Feel quite unwell. Captain Judson comes over to take part in the sham court martial of Boswell.

22nd—Officers having a great time out of Captain Boswell’s sentence. Boys prepare to stand up for their rights as well as have a little fun out of scrape.

23rd—Boys return from furlough, Welch, Ripley, Lagrow, Boardwell, etc. Colonel said to be in New York city awaiting transportation. Hope he will hurry along.

24th—Troops leaving New Berne.

25th—Preaching by Messmore but not able to attend. Lieutenant Minturn appears at dress parade drunk. Shame to him who is a slave to his appetite. Captain comes.

28th—Weather cool. Feel a little better. Officers are now having a great spree. I expect another Indian powwow. The men will certainly take it in hand if they are not careful.

29th--Alick getting to be a perpetual swearer. Windy. Make apple pies. Captain Bice, 20 men and one sergeant and corporal to take possession of Fort Chase, that being connected with this.

30th—Go to town in the morning. Minturn over there last night and also all day on a spree. Shameful conduct for one of his position. Alick mad and sick.

31st—Have a slight chill in the afternoon. Colonel Anderson and quartermaster return, also Turner. George Lard, of D company, dies. Taken to hospital this morning. Thus one hearth has lost a father and son for our country.

November 1st—Lard buried. Have dress parade. Colonel present. Seems natural to hear his command.

2nd—Learn that my name has been sent for admission to West Point. Touched with a slight chill.

3rd—Ward’s expedition returns. Accomplished but little. Minturn has charges preferred against him for absence. Have a chicken stew for supper.

6th—News reaches us of General Foster’s removal and General Butler’s assignment to this department.

7th—News reaches us of our great political victory in New York. Great rejoicing among the troops.

9th—Very windy. Go with several of the boys and get persimmons on the river. Have both eyes out for hogs but see only three which we lose. Commence to work our deserters.

10th—Large mail arrives in the evening. Feel rather unwell in the afternoon. Lieutenant Minturn gives a great supper. Invites several officers from town. Hopes to become popular.

11th—Weather quite cool. Continue to feel better. Lieutenant Thompson to report for duty in Battery Chase in the morning. Minturn’s great supper came off last evening.

12th—Several of the furlough boys return.

14th—An artist takes a picture of the fort.

15th—Weather very pleasant. Regimental inspection. Attend prayer meeting in the evening. Was surprised to see the interest manifested. About a dozen took part.

16th—Several of the boys return from town intoxicated.

17th—General Peck relieved and General Palmer assigned.

18th—Twenty-one men, one sergeant and six corporals sent to Battery Chase. Picket and garrison detail lessened.

19th—Practice firing. Several officers over from town. General Parker does not come as expected.

20th—General Butler arrives in town. General’s salute fired. A great rush of citizens. Dr. Mansfield is detached in Morehead hospital.

22nd—A deserter from the Second North Carolina enters our lines. He is a German and looks quite smart.

23rd—North wind and high tide. Rather cold. Keep a fire all day. Am looking anxiously for Davis and my trunk.

24th—Mail. Davis arrives with my trunk. Boots and vest fit well. Weather rather damp, Threatens rain.

25th—Richards receives his great box and immediately sets up a dry goods store. Take a pair of suspenders. Turpentine trade running brisk.

26th—Thanksgiving. Regiment formed at 10:00 a.m. to listen to the presdent’s (sic president’s) proclamation. Colonel gives the officers of the regiment a supper without liquor. Glad to see his example.

27th—Weather pleasant. Have practice firing. General Palmer with his staff, wife and child are over to witness the effects of the shots which were very poor.

29th—Receive pay by Major Simpson. Draw $70. Can hardly see why this should be our pay day. Pay Alick $29. Weather very rainy.

30th—Express home $30. Freight unpaid. Buy one bushel of apples and pay $2.50. Alick sends 40. Weather cold but pleasant.

December 1st—Great news from Grant. Get a paper of the 29th. Things progressing finely for a speedy close of the rebellion.

2nd—Ferry arrives and fetches a mail. Get one letter. Whitewash my tent inside and out. Minturn and McChesney away all night on a bender.

3rd—Practice firing rather poor. Surpised (sic Surprised) this morning by cavalry but find it to be our own who had been cut off while on a raid from Little Washington. Cross to town.

7th—Cold and windy. Cut quite a wood pile. Relistment (sic Reenlistment) fever is getting among the men.

9th—Alick and I draw up and sign a subscription list for the purpose of presenting Dr. Edmeston a sword and sash. Think there is no trouble but it will easily succeed.

11th—Alick has a chill. Johnny enlists in the cavalry and leaves us to do our own cooking. Monthly inspection by Captain Parkinson. Inspects very minutesly (sic minutely).

12th—Go to town for a cook but fail to find anyone. Captain Church leaves for the north on furlough. Alick has a chill. Major Merriman commences to reenlist men.

13th—Several boys reenlst (sic reenlist). Have regimental Inspection. Last night it rained and blew a perfect hurricane.

15th—Rumor of a rebel ram soon to come down the rver (sic river). Spy reported to have been seen in the top of a tall tree about 8:00 a.m.

16th—Send a raft of logs to town to be sawed for cook shanties.

17th—Windy. A meeting of sergeants convenes at my quarters to determine upon a plan of presentation of a sword and sash to Dr. Edmeston.

18th—Purchase sword, sash, belt, spurs and straps as a present to the doctor.

19th—Pleasant. Captain Judson inspects our company books and prys (sic pries) into the company savings. Demands to know the use made of the money to satisfaction of the boys.

20th—Weather cold. Have a company inspection. Colonel marches the regiment in review. Manning, our sutler, married.

22nd—Spent the day in chopping wood. Feel pretty tired. Receive a good letter from home, also a Potsdam paper.

24th—Christmas eve. Play our first game of double handed chess. I can but recall to mind the different scenes of mirth and gaiety the many little dreamers who fall asleep waiting for old Santa Claus.

25th—A Merry Chrstmas (sic Christmas) indeed.Doctor treats the regiment to hot punch. Colonel pays the stakes for games, namely, wheelbarrow races, foot races in sacks, foot races without, etc. Minturn and Cole grease a pig, etc.

26th—Pleasant. In the evening play with Lieutenants Cole and Mnturn (sic Minturn) at double handed chess. Preparatons (sic Preparations) for the reception of troops, etc.

27th—Inspection proceeded by review. Minturn appointed adjutant. Ward assigned to F company. Weather very mild. Write a short letter home.

28th—The kingdom of my existence has now stored 21 years. Who can tell what a fraction to my life time? Perhaps a whole, a third, a quarter, but be as it may, time is precious and it must be used well.

29th—Rumore (sic Rumor) that Roke is to be shot. He and O’Neil were sent to jail this morning. The regiment is deeply depressed. Discipline must be maintained. Never have I had such a feeling pass over me as when I learned the fact.

30th—General Peck makes a hurried inspection. Two women come running into the lines and report that there is a large force about to attack us.

31st—Very heavy rains with tremendous wind. No rebels seen as yet probably all a sham.

(To be continued)

**IN CAMP WITH THE NINETY-SECOND**

ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF THE DIARY OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN

The Courier and Freeman this week presents the eighth installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment when 19 years of age and was sent to the training camp at Potsdam in October, 1861. Leaving here in February for the front. He was made a corporal in the 92nd later being promoted to sergeant. In this installment he tells of his discharge and immediate reenlistment. He is appointed teacher of the non commissioned officers’ school. The confederates come near and then go away without coming into contact with the 92nd.

 January 1st, 1864—Very windy. River low. Turns cold. Spend part of day in drawing up a constitution for our non-commissioned military school.

 2nd—Very clear and cold. The boys at last have the satisfaction of seeing the doctors reply in answer to our presentation letter in the North Carolina Times. Joseph Lonkey dies of disease on the brain. The boys of his company miss him greatly. He was always cheerful.

 3rd—Inspection preceded by a review. No dress parade.

 4th—Damp and cloudy. Our military school meets for the first time. Finish organizing. Adopt the constitution with one amendment. Get 16 members. Small pox breaks out in the regiment. Benjamin Drown, of Company B, taken down and sent to town.

 5th—Reenlisting brisk. Accept the bait and become a veteran. Eighty have already gone in.

 6th—Cold and rainy. Hails in the evening. Quite blustering. Clothing issued. Draw one dress coat and one pair pants. Receive a welcome letter from home entreating me not to reenlist. I did wrong not to wait.

 7th—The ground covered with ice. The trees loaded. Many limbs break off. Such a thing has not happened before for years. The streets in New Berne are filled with brush. Weather very cold and disagreeable.

 8th—Cold and icy. Go to town and purchase chevrons for myself and Alick. Three dollars. Get broadcloth stripes for pants. One dollar. Have our first school for instruction. Get several members. All seem to take hold with an interest. Hope it may succeed.

 99th (sic 9th)—Am discharged. Take over to town a squad of veterans and all swear into service anew. Weather cold towards night. Thaws through the day. Captain Fay returns from furlough.

 10th—Reenlisting revives. Captain Fay trying to get his company home. Colonel’s policy just gets through my hair. Rather cunning. Some hopes of getting the regiment home. Captain Church returns from furlough. Go to Episcopal church.

 11th—Have another school which was very intereting (sic interesting). Sergeant Babcock in charge. Colonel present. Weather pleasant. Get our lumber from the mill. About 8,000 feet.

 12th—Weather pleasant. Prospects rather dull for getting home as a regiment. Company A, hang behind. Hardly expected such a course of conduct from them. The sentiments of Captain Arnold are enough to discourage enlistment of any kind. He has no mind nor principle.

 13th—Commences to rain towards evening. Many citizens in to trade. A new and stronger oath is now required to be taken before they can trade. They all take it readily. I would give but little for its validity among some. Their chief object is to trade.

 14th—Another school. Am appointed next teacher. Flag of truce comes to our lines. The colonel and other officers go out to have what they call “a time” with the escort. All get topheavy. What a shame. Certainly a bad example to follow.

 15th—Pleasant. Read some in Byron. Navy officers sound the river. Boys spend the opening of the evening in performing gymnastics . All are in excellent spirits. We are hardly realizing the horrors of war.

 16th—Benjamin Drown of B company, died yesterday of smallpox. It is kept very quiet. Get from adjutant a full set of Casey’s Infantry Tactics. Find that Bliss has let the library run rather loose. Must gather in the books and start anew.

 17th—Have an inspection preceded by a review. March out to where the old Hooker stood. Write to Emma.

 18th—Have a very good school in the evening. Officiate as instructor. Very rainy in the morning. Am obiged (sic obliged) to turn off the guard without inspection. Very heavy fog. Have to make use of a compass in crossing the river.

 19th—A terrible wind from the southwest. River very low. Night very cold but clear.

 21st—Sixth meeting of our military school. Alick in the chair. Colonel present. Artllery (sic Artillery) practice. Spend all day in overhauling the library.

 22nd—Practicing I firing blank cartridges. Make rather poor work. Officers especially need instruction. Clean house. Make and drink some herb tea. General Palmer and staff with their ladies make us a visit.

 23rd—Another mail. Any quantity of visitors from town. Go with the doctor to Battery Chase. Issue books.

 24th—Inspection and dress parade. Aricles (sic Articles) of War read by adjutant to regiment. Mail. Alick gets a letter from home.

 25th—Another school. Colonel issues an order compelling all non-commissioned officers in the regiment to attend regularly. I am to take charge of the whole. Five deserters come in on the Trent road. Dr. Gray and lady made a visit.

 26th—Receive pay. Draw 42. Two little mulatto girls about 15 years old come to our lines. They have escaped from slavery. I could pity them.

 28th—Very pleasant. Thieving going on in the regimnt (sic regiment). It should meet with its reward. Our school meets in the new cook hall. All the non coms present. Drill partly in the manual.

 29th—Have all the men out on fatigue. Burn the marsh and clear off the brush. W. Davis and several others punished for going to town by knapsack drill and standing on a barrel head.

 30th—Mail arrives. Get two papers. One from an unknown source. Imagine it is from “X”. Work progressing finely. Have prisoners burning the marsh. Two guns fired across the river. Am vaccinated.

 31st—Go to Methodist church. Have dress parade. Adjutant reads his own court martial, which certainly argues anything but justice.

 February 1st—Enemy attack on the Nuse (sic Neuse) road at Bachelors Creek about 2:00 a.m. By noon are within sight of Fort Totton. A good many killed. They act determined. No demonstration made on this side as yet. The 12th New York Cavalry disgrace themselves.

 2nd—At 2:30 a.m. an assault in small boats made on the Underwriter. Her crew mostly taken and she is left on fire. Rebels seem to be trying to get to the river in our rear. But little firing. Expect to have our nerves tried soon. Go to town with doctor.

 3rd—Hear the rebels band. Ours replies with national airs. Can see their camp fires up the river. Tonight their fires shine up on this side in our front. But little fighting. Very windy. River low. Enemy working around to the river. Retreated in front of Fort Totton. Have a tooth pulled.

 4th—Report that the Ninth Vermont are taken. Three deserters come into our lines. Enemy retreat. Gakin comes in. The affair has been handled rather clumsily on our side. Fear someone will get censured. Weather milder than yeterday (sic yesterday).

 5th—Pleasant. North Carolina Times out as usual. Great rush for the news. Nothing more heard from the enemy. Probably they are on their way to Kingston. Report quite current that they are again advancing. Guess it is but a camp rumor.

 6th—Take a boat and get wood. Boys see a deer. Receive a letter from Emma. Write home. Citizens begin to come home again. All tell about hearing “the greatest gun they ever hean (or sic hear) tell on”. It is quite laughable to hear them talk about it meaning the magazine.

 7th—Very pleasant. Go to church. Presbyterian. Hear Rev. Sague, a member of the Christian commission. Text: Phil. 3:3. Russell and several boys return from furlough. Fetch a bass drum for the regiment.

 8th—Spend the day in reading and chopping. Think that a little more exercise will do me good. What a splendid time we are now having for study and yet how many of our regiment are carelessly throwing it away.

 9th—Clothing issued. Colonel goes over town to a party in the evening. An Irishman from the rebel coal mines in North Carolina comes into our lines. He is done with Confederate notes. Get $16 a day and could only board himself without clothes.

 10th—Have a school. Colonel and adjutant present. Spend the remainder of the evening in telling ghost stories. How easily the imagination can be aroused. Cut up my wood pile. Alick issues rations.

(To be continued.)

**92D BEFORE CITY OF PETERSBURG**

ARE ORDERED BACK AND MOVE DOWN JAMES AND UP YORK

 The Courier and Freeman this week presents the ninth installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment when 19 years of age and was sent to the training camp at Potsdam in October, 1861, leaving here in February for the front. He was was (sic) made a coporal (sic corporal) in the 92nd, later being promoted to sergeant. In this installment he tells of his discharge and the regiment leaving Fort Anderson by boat for Yorktown, Va. From there they move up the James river and advance toward Petersburg everything indicating a rapid move toward Richmond, the rebel capitol. After skirmishes, they gain board a transport and move down the James and up the York river to the White House.

 16th—Commence our palisade Cold and windy. Low water. All the regiment on fatigue. Make a few improvements in our ornamental rooms. Receive a letter from Silas accompanied by a few lines from mother.

 17th—Quite cold. Work gets along finely. Palisade nearly half finished. Write to Silas, also send him a paper, the North Carolina Times. Spend nearly all day indoors.

 18th—Receive our bounties. Draw $185.70. Purchase a coat of lieutenant O’Neil for $10. Get a little shaved. Weather cold. All the men and non-commissioned officers on fatigue. Work goes along finely. All the fort that can flag up the river practice.

 19th—Go to town in the adjutant’s race boat. Get a 64 pounder rifle in place of our left 32 pounder. Row up to blockade. Alick tells a strange story. McFerran is much pleased. About four inches of snow fell last night. Our first.

 20th—Very late. Have just finished the History of Napoleon by J.S.C. Abbott. One can but cherish his memory regardless of prejudice. Alice has a chill. Weather very pleasant. Am quite anxious to go home for the first time.

 21st—Inspection by Captain Parkerson. Have a dress parade. Weather very pleasant. Aick (sic Alick) has another chill. Read a sketch of the life of Andrew Jackson. One experiences a peculiar train of thought in reading of the wise and great of our own nation.

 22nd—One hundred and thirty three years ago today the great father of American nationality was born. The day has been well observed. Flag of truce comes to our lines. Colonel Whitford in person. Write a short letter home. Ward and Wheaton over. Weather very pleasant.

 23rd—Go to town twice and to Battery Chase. Have a non-commissioned officers’ school. Many of the officers present. Did my best to make it as interesting as possible. Report Sergeant Dore and others for being absent. Weather splendid.

 24th—Several citizens in from Raleigh. Two deserters come in early in the morning. Take a boat ride with Alick and McFerran. Weather very pleasant. Quite warm.

 25th—Have another very interesting school. A good many officers present. Go to town with the colonel and from there to Battery Chase. Practice firing. Hard ones. Express home $195. Freight charges $1.75.

 26th—Commence the abutments in the river to protect the palisade. Alick expressed home $130 out of $172. Weather superb. Northwest wind. Spend the evening in reading of the horrors of Spanish war. What a rotten thing must be the Court of Spain.

 27th—Go to town with colonel in Adjutant’s boat. Criminals march about town with “THIEF” printed on their back. A good example to many. Colonel sees General Peck about our going home. Cannot go for fear of an attack.

 28th—Go to church in the afternoon. Hear Chaplain James who has charge of all negros (sic negroes) in North Carolina and tends to colonizing them on Roanoke Island. Text: Romans 12:1-21. Connecticut Volunteers leave on the Thomas Collier for Little Washington.

 29th—Have a school. Colonel and major present. One of the crew of the Underwriter washed up and was discovered by our boat. He was a negro with marine clothes on. Rumor of an attack quite current in camp. Captain Smith returns from furlough. Looks well.

 March 1st—Very windy and blustering toward evening. Have a slight difficulty with Sergeant Fuller. Do not consider him worthy of attention. Many citizens in. L. H.’s G., Ella May and Allison up around the blockade until night. Get aground going back and lay in the river all night opposite us.

 2nd—All non-commissioned officers shouldered axes and started for the woods about 8:00 this morning. Was detained by guard mount until about 10:00. General Peck is still rushing along the blockade. Every man that can lift an axe or spade is kept busy. Weather splendid. Rumor of scouts seen.

 3rd—Weather splendid. Take a row up to the blockade. Non-commissioned officers all at work. Lieutenant O’Neil went out with a few men to look for a fire in the country but returned without finding it. Report that Keckman’s brigade is at Beaufort.

 4th—Take another trip up to the blockade. Have occasion to report Corporal Leonard. But few citizens in. Rumor that our mail boat is captured. Weather splendid.

 5th—Send up the signal rocket fom (sic from) each etation (sic station) for practice. Air very clear. Band in town sounds splendid.

 6th—Go to Episcopal church. Have preaching in our eating hall at 2:30 p.m. by minister belonging to the Sanitary Commission. Every man in the regiment attended. The colonel for once is entitled to credit for not throwing his influence against religion.

 7th—Go with Alick and McFerran and cut wood enough to last all the spring.

 8th—Go to church with Steward and Mike in Hawkin’s sail boat. Have a very dangerous voyage. ould (sic could?) get frightened out and dare not come back. Have considerable sport. Weather pleasant but windy.

 9th—Get Old Jimmy to tap and heel my boots--$1.50. The Fairwind gets afloat this afternoon. She has been aground two days. Get a lage (sic large) mail for the regiment but none for me. Can it be that I am entirely forgotten? Eleven recruits come from Lawrenceville, N.Y. Large fire in town about 11:00 p.m.

 10th—Very rainy until about 4:00 p.m. Strong wind. Water very high. Washed away the dirt from our palisade.

 11th—Showery. Have out all our fatigue force in the afternoon. Mrs. Mansfield and sister come to camp. They are now to stay with the doctor. Commence to read or rather to finish the History of England by B. Macaulay.

 12th—Weather very pleasant. Alick and I take a boat ride up the river creek. Fuller the drummer, on a barrel. Read history but little. Am now reading about the stormy scenes in M. of A.’s reign in its commencement.

 13 (sic 13th)—Attended Presbyterian church this morning and listened to an excellent discourse by a member of the Christian Commission. Weather right pert.

 14th—Anniversary of the bombardment of Fort Anderson. One year ago tonight we were all at work with desperation. It has indeed been a short year. The boys have punch (,) cigars and a dance. This seems to be the only way in which they can celebrate.

 15th—Get to letters from home. Jacob LaCroix, a deserter from Company E is brought back to the regiment under guard, he having been gone nearly one year.

 16th--Awake to find the ground partially covered with snow. Are to have our regular monthly inspection tomorrow by Colonel Wardrop. Adjutant pretty busy. He is already ruined. He is a slave.

 17th—Inpection (sic Inspection) by Colonel Wardrop. He is a thorough-going, wide awake officer. He has been in the British service and served in the East Indies. He has been wounded eleven times. He tells some interesting stories of warfare.

 18th—Chop in the morning and row in the afternoon. Read but little. Alick gets a copy of General McCellan’s (sic McClellan’s) report, price 50 cents.

 March 19 1864—Furnish ten men and one sergeant to guard men at work on blockade. Quartermaster intoxicated. Take a row. Captain B. still on court martial. Weather beautiful Receive a letter from C.P. Gray.

 20th—Go to Presbyterian church. Have dress parade. Have Hill, Hayes and Bowhall drawn up in front of regiment to listen to their sentence by court-martial. Another example for the regiment Corporal Thurston faints on parade.

 21st—Sixteenth Connecticut Volunteers start for Little Washington. Rumor of an expedition out. Weather heavy and dull. An occasional sprinkle. Quite cold.

 22nd—Another inundation. Water four feet above high water mark. Highest ever known. Go with a boat into our mess tent and eat our dinner. Terible (sic Terrible) wind. Turns into snow. Hens and chickens drowned. Very cold and no wood.

 23rd—Pleasant. Water down. Captain Parkinson over to inspect all unserviceable ordinance (sic) camp and garrison equipage.

 24th—Weather fine. Officers have a drunk by taking advantage of the colonel’s absence while in town to a party. Mules and horses begin to come to New Berne. Rumor that Burnside is coming here.

 25th—Commence a flower bed. A violent wind arises. High water. Captain Judson over. See one of our soldiers do one of the meanest acts that a soldier is capable of doing—stealing six dozen eggs from a poor white woman.

28th—Finish the fence to my garden. All done but sowing. Get information that Saturday a party of about 200 rebels lay in ambush for our fatigue guard. They burn a scow but get no men as none went up.

 29th—Sow my seeds. Weather terrible. Never saw it rain much harder. Officers intending to have the Massachusetts band over to aid in a terrible spree. The rain came very importunely. Rumors of rebels outside. See nor hear none.

 30th—Have another chill. The Second Massachusets (sic Massachusetts) Heavy Artillery band come over to play at a party given by our officers to officers in town. They are out on a terrible time. They open by having a stag dance.

 31st—Take a sail to Fort Chase and from there to Fort Spinola. Ward comes over early in the morning. Major ventures to go to town in the afternoon.

 April 1st—Lieutenant Barstow over. River very high. Rumor that the veterans can go home as soon as the colonel is willing to let them.

 2nd—Damp. Judson and Barstow over to see the major. Doubtless arranging for the duel. Hope they may all get dismissed. Clothing issued o (sic to) the regiment. Get a blouse from McFerran. Take exercise chopping.

 6th—Write to Silas. High water. Get sight of one of the most atrocious outrageous pamphlets the world has ever seen. I would gladly shoot the man who wrote it.

 7th—Very pleasant. An artist over to take a picture of the fort but after taking the colonel’s house and the guards puts it off until another day. Several ladies over from town. Have practice firing. Water very high.

 8th—Take a trip into the country with Company A boys to get a roof. See an old antique looking grave yard.

 9th—Very disagreeable weather. Manning, the sutler, taken into custody. His shop closed by the provost marshall (sic marshal) from town. His wife goes with him. It has been expected.

 10th—Attend Methodist church. Sentence pronounced by regimental court martial upon Privates Hall, Merrit, McKinney and Fuller read it (sic at) dress parade. Weather very unsteady.

 11th—Am directed by General Order No. 15 to drill recruits. Commence tomorrow. Manning returns. Mike and Miller spend the evening with me.

 12th—Drill recruits in a squad often. Take them through the first part of S.S. Learn easy. Receive a letter from home. Sergeants Dore and Johnson while out after lumber run across five rebels. Several shots exchanged but no one hurt.

 13th—Recruits learn fast. Take them through the loadings. The rebel scout seen yesterday turn out to be our own boys. A great joke on Johnson and Dore. Weather superb. Quartermaster goes to Beaufort.

 14th—Recruits learn rapidly. Our chaplain arrives. His first impression upon the boys is good. His figure is manly and his manner gentile which together with dignified air can but command respect.

 16th—Weather hazy. Put the recruits through the flank marchings they learn very rapidly. I fear we shall be obliged to put them on duty before they are sufficiently drilled.

 17th—Regimental inspection. Our new chaplain preaches an excellent sermon in the dining hall.

 18th—Regiment inspected by Captain Parkinson. I never saw them in better condition. The men’s guns and equipment were such as would do honor to a regular soldier. Soldierly pride is on the rise.

 20th—Fighing (sic Fighting) at Plymouth. Report that rebel ram has sunk two of our gunboats. Are looking sharp for them here. Turn over my squad of recruits for duty. Take another tomorrow. Chaplain gets into his new tent.

 21st—Captain Flusser, ‘The Brave’ is no more. The Southfield sank. Rumor that Plymouth has fallen after a gallant resistance.

 22nd—News of General Wessells capture confirmed by an order from Geneal (sic General) Peck. All feel bad for General Billy. Send up a gun boat to do picket duty. War has its reverses as well as its victories.

 23rd—Have a chill. Signal over from town that Killpatrick is in Picketts rear. Rumor that Banks is defeated. Hear nothing more from Plymouth. All quiet about New Berne.

 24th—One company of the 12th New York Cavalry lands at our dock and strikes off into the country.

 25th—Cavalry return as we all expected. They were bound for Little Washington but saw a few pickets and heard some one whistle so they skedaddled back without firing a shot. A new general name not yet known comes to take command.

 26th—Receive orders to leave the fort about 4:00 p.m. Never had orders come so unexpected. In two hours the boys are all ready boot and baggage. Where we are to go is a mystery. Officers nearly all drunk as usual an (sic on) such occasions. Troops nearly all leaving.

 27th—Leave Fort Anderson at sunrise. Get aboard of the Patuxen and leave New Berne at 5:45 a.m. Reach Hatteras at 7:00 p.m. Cast anchor for the night. Weather very fine. Boys in good spirits.

 28th—Lay all day at Fort Hatteras but dare not put out on account of wind.
 29th—Stilling lying at anchor. Very lovely. Go ashore and get some shells. Weather very fine. ore (sic More) troops arrive and cast anchor for Little Washington. Rumor that the place aive (sic alive) and cast anchor from Little is evaculated (sic evacuated). Expect to start tomorrow. Pass away time reading.

 30th—Leave Hatteras at last. Weather very fine. Round Cape Hatteras about 7:00 p.m. Boat pitches considerable. Many seasick. Sleep on the top deck. Feel rather seasick but not enough to cause trouble.

 May 1st—Get near to Fortress Monroe about 7:00 a.m. Wait an hour and move on to Yorktown where we land about 4:00 p.m. Draw shelter tents and camp out. Seems odd. Baggage sent back to the fort. Men nearly all right.

 2nd--Again in camp for earnest. Just dark a terrible thunder storm comes up without apparently a moments (sic) notice. Quartermaster Hubbell appointed acting brigade commander. Lieutenant McChesney appointed acting regimental quartermaster. Boys all in good spirits.

3rd—Everything hurly-burly in camp. Expect to move in the morning. Baggage gone tonight. Colonel and quartermaster get back from Fortress Monroe each with a horse. Report that horse for sale are very scarce. Chaplain terribly insulted by Captain Bice.

4th—Leave camp about 4:00 p.m. and get aboard of the Charles Thomas, a splendid transport. She takes our regiment and the 58th Pennsylvania. Cast anchor in Hampton Roads just dark. An immense fleet gathered here. All ignorant of our destination.

5th—Weigh anchor at daylight and move immediately up the James river. The whole fleet presents a beautiful appearance. Beautiful country. Everything works with the greatest regularity. Land at Bermuda Hundred about 5:00 p.m. and camp for the night.

6th—March about 7:00 a.m. some five or six miles and camp in the woods. Considerable lightning towards night. Heckman’s brigade engaged and lose quite heavily. Our camp near the Appomatox (sic Appomattox) and not a great way from the James. We are but few miles from Fort Darling and in sight of the steeples of Petersburg.

7th—Lie all day upon arms. Quite sharp fighting in front. Our men get ta(sic at?) branch of the main railroad. All things go off smoothly. All have unbounded confidence in Generals Smith and Butler. We are just breaking into the hardships of Camp. We have been fancy soldiers long enough.

8th—Remain quiet all day in our humble retreat. Some cannonading on our left. The rebels undertake to plant a battery to sell (sic shell) our shipping. One of our gunboats soon drives then away. Wash in the Appomatox (sic).

9th—Leave camp with only haversacks and canteens about 6:00 a.m. Advance towards Petersburg in three columns. Gillmore on the right, Brooks in the center and Martindale with our brigade on the left. Very heavy picket firing all night.

10th—Last night the rebels madly tried to capture from us Hunt’s battery. Charge three times but are roughly repulsed each time. At daybreak move on to the main railroad between Petersburg and Richmond and tear up several miles. Ordered away to reenforce (sic reinforce) Gillmore. Rebels licked when we get there. Reach camp about 5:00 p.m. Would back.

11th—Weather very warm. Move camp about a quarter of a mile to the front about 5:00 p.m. Commences to rain just dark. Great news from General Grant.

12th—The whole army again put under motion in light marching order. Everything seems to indicate a rapid move on Richmond. Perhaps Fort Darling is their object. Our regiment and the 58th Pennsylvania left behind to do picket duty probably on account of our being veterans without furloughs. Very rainy.

13th—Still rainy. Camp on a little hill to support the pickets. Our regiment divided for different duties. Hear but little from the front. But few stragglers as yet. Saw Lieutenent (sic Lieutenant) Partridge. Looks as natural as ever. Large mail but get no letter. Rumor that Elwell’s corps is captured.

14th—Showery. Papers of the 12th in. Wounded and a few skedaddlers begin to come in. Our brigade the 19th and 188th engaged. Good news everywhere. The spirits of all are high. Weather showery. Hear some cannonading in front. Rations go out to the army.

15th—Still rainy. Our regiment gathers up the skedaddlers and send them to the front. Saw 16 rebel prisoners and nine negroes. Brigade commissaries going to the front. Will not issue to us for three days. Draw potatoes. Can see the rebels build a fort.

 16th—Showery. Heavy firing at daylight. Fighting everywhere through the whole army. Heavy loss on our side. Results not known. Our army falling back. Have along (sic a long) talk with rebel prisoners. This has been an eventful day.

 17th—Weather fair. Our army all in. See Corporal Shelldin of the 142nd New York. Some heavy cannonading on our right. Looks much like a shower at dark. The men all in good spirits.

 18th—Steady skirmishing all day in our front. Have not heard the results. Our forces work all night fortifying. Colonels (sic) Sanders relieved from the command of the brigade and Colonel Dutton put in his stead. Dr. Edmeston apointed (sic appointed) brigade surgeon.

 19th—Some skirmishing in the morning. The enemy fall back. Weather showery. Rearrange my tent. Our regiment relieved from picketing by the Tenth New Hampshire Volunteers.

 20th—Enemy charge our outwork but are handsomely repulsed. Sharp cannonading at just dark. Two companies of our regiment ordered out to work during the night. Captain Foster over. Whole (sic) regiment ordered out. Ordered (sic) countermanded.

 21st—Rebels unusually quiet. Weather splendid. Some of our sick join the regiment. Draw clothing. Furnish 50 men for fatigue. About 11:00 p.m. sharp firing in front. Our brigade turns out to the breastworks. Firing lasts about one hour when we all retire to our quarters.

22nd—Move camp about 10:00 a.m. to the right about one mile. Go to the front with Alick where our men are fortifying. Our men shell the enemy almost continually. Enemy throw shells while we are there. See General Gillmore and staff.

23rd—Pickets along the whole line unusually quiet. Regiment paid for months. Draw no pay on account of the colonel’s leavng (sic leaving) the field and staff rolls at Fortress Monroe.

24th—Weather very warm. All work of the fortifications pressed with vigor. Two new forts commenced. Our regiment funish (sic furnish) 150 men to chop in the afternoon. Adjutant buys a horse jet black. Colonel Anderson getting popular for his promptness.

25th—Very warm until 4:00 p.m. when it commences to rain. Our regiment slash in the morning and go on picket in the afternoon. See Captain Garvin. Looks as natural as ever. Full of energy. Alick has a chill. He will take no medicine so of course he must expect chills.

26th—Join the regiment on picket in the morning with all the convalescents in camp. Rains violently. Our brigade except our regiment cross the ravine on a reconnaissance. Soon return. Colonel Dutton wounded through the throat and jaw. It is feared it is mortal.

27th—Our regiment relieved by General Kantz’s dismounted cavalry. (First District Columbia with 16 shooters.) The 18th Army Corps ordered to move. We sart (sic start) about 2:00 p.m. Our colonel temporarily in command of bridgade (sic brigade). Move about three miles and camp. General Devens assigned to command of our brigade. Howard joins the regiment.

28th—Showery. Take up the line of march about 4:00 p.m. and camp at Bermuda Hundred about 10:00 p.m. Lie out on the ground with covering a.m. Blankets are all in the wagons. Troops taking transportations as fast as possible. Send guard to brigade headquarters.

29th—At writing am just going to bed aboard the Mary Washington. Where we got aboard about 8:00 a.m. Move down the river about 7:00 p.m. Our regiment and the 188th Pennsylvania aboard. Terribly tottlish (sic) boat. Anchor off Jamestown for the night.

30th—Get under way about 8:00 a.m. and arrive at Fortress Monroe about 11:00 a.m. Water up and move across the bay and up the York river. Anchor about 6:00 p.m. off Yorktown for the night. We are all bewildered. Rumor that we are to join Grant.

31st—Get an early start. Reach the White House landing about 11:00 a.m. Land draw rations and get under way in line of march about 4:00 p.m. March until midnight and camp. The men are very tired. Twenty-first Connecticut regiment taken out and 40th Massachusetts put into the brigade. Col. Henry Moss commanding our brigade.

(To be continued)

**BACK AT HOME AFTER THREE YEARS**

SERGT BENSON OF THE 92ND TAKES WELL EARNED REST

The Courier and Freeman this week presents another installment of the civil war diary of Sergt. O.P. Benson of the 92nd N.Y. Vols raised here. Sergt. Benson is left in this installment for home on a furlough.

June 1st, 1864—Take up the line of march about 6:00 a.m. Weather hot and roads very dusty. Have a forced march only halting once for a little supper. About 4:00 p.m. come up to the enemy. Form line of battle at once. Our regiment sent out as skirmishers. Our corps charges and fights until after dark. Our regiment charges across a large field. Colonel Anderson killed. Shot through the head. Bravest of the brave. Capture the enemy’s out works and hold them. Men fortify cups and bayonets. Fourteen killed and three wounded.

2nd—Lie in the woods all day but a few rods from the enemy. Men strengthen their work with cups. Several killed by one of our shot. We have several men wounded. Continual firing on both sides but no general engagement takes place. Feel very unwell but dare not complain. See mortality on every side. After dark send out in front and bury the dead. But little firing during the night. Colonel Anderson’s death I fear is the death blow of the regiment. The men feel terribly. We have no confidence in the major. All admit that he is a perfect coward.

3rd—At daylight all troops massed with great care in the woods and make a terrible charge. The assault was almost unresistable. We take the enemy’s first line of rifle pits and advance upon the second but no living column could meet the terrible fire. Our brigade acted as reserve but were all the while under a most galling fire. Never saw such bravery before. Lose several men, including H. Lyon, Company A. Have a terrible chill and go to the hospital. Rains nearly all day. Men now four days without coffee. Three killed and ten wounded.

4th—Very sick all night. Get some pickles. Appetite begins to revive. Have two men wounded. Join the regiment abut (sic about) 12:00 m. very sick. Sleep all night with no covering amid a drenching rain. Trenches terribl (sic terribly) muddy. Catch but little cold. Balls fly pretty lively. All half sick.

5th—Weather pleasant. See Charles Talcott, Second Connecticut Heavy Arrtillery (sic Artillery). Charles W. Parmeter Company B shot through the heart while writing a letter home. Dennis Maher, Company G, shot through head while eating breakfast. Both die almost instantly. Crawl out and relieve the entrenched outposts. Flag of truce sent out. Both armies mount their works, advance and converse freely. Strange to see deadly enemies so jovial.

6—Lie close in our entrenchments until about 1:00 p.m. Flag of truce sent out. Rebs and Yanks mingle together and converse freely. The above is wrong. It was the 6th instead of the 5th that the flag of truce was sent out. Many exchange papers and bid one another good-bye, saying, “Take good care of yourselves for we know not where nor when we shall meet again.” Relieved after dark by the Tenth New Hampshire. I have today had the best sight of untamed Rebs that I ever had. They appear to be very friendly. Several run in and give themselves up to the Sixth Corps.

7th—Considerable artillery firing. Flag of truce sent out. Yanks and Rebs have another chance of having a short friendly conversation. Weather very pleasant. Our army seems to be swinging around to the left. The position of our troops seems to be in the shape of a wedge. Men all in good spirits, ree (sic see?) a newspaper correspondent rode in front and one in rear upon which were marked, “Libel Through the Press.”

8th—Weather pleasant. Were it not I do not know what we should do. Another bridgade (sic brigade) of two heavy artillery regiments assigned to our division. Said to number 3,700 men. Galbreath, Company H shot through the leg at roll call. Our brigade goes on picket after dark and find the line advanced. Quiet all night.

9th—Weather pleasant. The line quiet. Our videttes (sentinels) through the night are within ten yards of one another. One officer in a New Hampshire regiment shot through the head by a sharpshooter in a tree. Behan and Pierce do good execution silencing sharpshooters. Eighth Maine on our right. 25th Massachusetts on their right. Relieved by Second brigade after dark.

10th—Sorry to hear that Alick is hurt by a fall from a horse. Pleasant. Several men wounded. One man in a buggy shot through the heart and killed instantly in front of my tent. One of Colonel Henry’s order lies wounded through the leg. Get a chance to buy his cans of preserved blackberries. Tout with Bugbee and Howard.

11th—Pleasant. Major makes application for veteran furloughs. Feel very unwell. Our brigade again moves out and takes the outer trenches. Our regiment and the 40th Massachusetts take the second line. Some cannonading in front. The men in good spirits considering the circumstances.

12th—Relieved about 8:30 p.m. by Second Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. Rebels shell us occasionally. Our brigade under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Bowen of the 188th march all night without a moment’s sleep. Haul up at White House Landing about 6:00 a.m. of the 13th. Men all very tired and shook up as the roads were very dusty.

13—Go aboard of transport about 12:00 m. Our regiment and the 21st Connecticut take the Helen Getty a very good boat. Get under way about 1:00 p.m. Anchor sometime during the night off Newport News. No accomodations (sic accommodations) whatever aboard. Hot water ten cents a pint. Rather dear.

14th—Get an early start and reach Bermuda Hundred about 11:30 a.m. We are then ordered back and to Appomatox (sic Appomattox). Land at Point of Rocks about 1:00 p.m. Lie in two hours to make coffee and then move about one mile and camp on the same ground that we did once before.

15th—Routed about 1:00 a.m. March about six miles and at 11:00 a.m. haul up in front of the fortifications of Petersburg. Lie two hours in the woods under fire when our regiment is sent to strengthen General Burham’s skirmish line. At 5:30 p.m. charge and capture the enemy first line of works. Am in command of Company A. We all do well. Take five pieces of artillery and a few hundred prisoners, one stand of colors, camp and garrison equipage.

16th—Dig all night and move about 8:00 a.m. to the rear, where we first formed. Twenty first Connecticut charge on a fort and lose 40 men in ten minutes. Lie in the wods (sic woods) until 7:00 p.m., when terrible fighting begins and we are ordered out to support the line. Lie on our arms all night. Adjutant left behind sick. Act as adjutant. Also in command of Company B.

17—At daylight without breakfast move about one half mile to the front and lie over a ravine for two hours when we move back and remain for the day in the hot sun. A solid shot goes across passing through tents breaking several guns and killing a first sergeant in the 40th Massachusets (sic Massachusetts). Take up the line of march about 7:00 p.m. and reach Point of Rocks and camp about midnight.

18th—Arrange camp and once more enjoy a quiet wash and a sound sleep. Many of our sick join the regiment. Hear heavy firing in the direction of Petersburg. Rumor that the place is captured. Alick quite sick. Another application sent in with names of veterans.

19th—Another day of rest and quite (sic quiet). Have preaching by chaplain. The former adjutant of the 188th drummed out of service. A terrible warning for cowards. The fate of a coward in the hands of General Butler is worse than that of death.

20th—Still another day of quiet. The boys begin to fix up and some of the tents already present quite a neat and tidy appearance. Quite a joyful excitement about veterans furloughs. Received a letter from William Clark. Have dress parade.

21st—Routed at 3:00 a.m. Make coffee and take up the line of march at day break. Instead of taking boats for home we move up to Petersburg where we halt about 8:00 a.m. and wait until night when we crawl into the second line of trenches in front of the town.

22nd—Lie quietly in our holes all day. The enemy shell us considerably. Several shells burst among the caissons but do no damage except to scare the horses. Draw rations. Fill up the holes in front of the main pits. Heavy firing.

23rd—Move at daybreak a little to the left. Weather very warm. One man in the Fifth Maryland just on our left killed by a shell bursting in his pit. Move at dark and take the front line. We have already lain so long in the trenches that our limbs are numb.

24th—Weather still very warm. Rebels charge upon our works about 10:00 a.m., but get repulsed. Take about 164 prisoners and kill a good many. Our loss not a man. Only one man wounded. Davis S. Billings, Company B, killed by a sharpshooter. Hit through the neck. Sprague, Company A, wounded in the wrist.

25th—Sharp cannonading from 3:00 p.m. until dark. William McKinney, Company D, killed by a sharpshooter while on picket. Hit through the neck. Rather unwell in the afternoon. Relieved by the 21st Connecticut at dark. March back 1½ miles and camp. A great relief to once more stretch our limbs.

26th--Weather extremely warm. But little shelling during the day. Lively expectations of soon going home. Expect our furloughs every hour. How will it seem to once more sit beneath the old paternal roof? A rich thought for the soldier.

27th—Some sharp firing last night but guess it amounted to nothing. Weather still extremely warm. Thermometer must stand about 110. Officers all drunk as fools as usual when the poison can be had. All our bright visions of home and good night’s rest broken by an order to move to the front. Reach the front line about 10:00 p.m.

28th—Weather a little cooler. But little firing during the day. Hitsmond, the drummer killed by a sharpshooter. Hit through the neck. Poor fellow. Heavy guns coming up. Everything seems to indicate a siege.

29th—The warm weather tells upon us terribly. Considerable cannonading. Major Merriman wounded by a piece of shell. Arm shattered. Edmeston, Company A, wounded also Hammond. Relieved at dark by the 21st Connecticut.

30th—Mustered. Weather cool and nice. Ordered to the front about 3:00 p.m. Expect to charge but do not. Never was under a severer nor more peculiar cannonade than for about two hours. Lie in the second line all night. No one hurt. Our men charge on the left. Do not know the result.

July 1st—Lie in torturing sun all day. But little firing. None hurt in our regiment. Four killed in the 188th and several wounded. Relieved at dark by the First brigade. March back to the old camp. Expect furlough this time sure.

2nd—Lie in camp. Get a chance to wash and cook, etc. Orders come that the veterans go no more to the front until after they have received our furloughs. Captain Church to go to Norfolk to make out the papers. Our brigade goes to the front about dark.

3rd—Weather warm. Lie all day in camp. Captain Church receives his permission to go to Norfolk, Va. But little firing in front. The days pass off drearily. The hours drag.

4th—Oh Another Fourth of July. This is the third I have spent in the service. Weather beautiful and pleasant. All hail the birthday of our independence. Orders come to go home.

5th—Start for home about 6:00 a.m., a set of glad boys, indeed. Reach City Point about 9:00 a.m. Miss the 10:00 o’clock boat and lie over night. Some of the men intoxicated. Purchase from a private in the Ninth Vermont a little flag for Freddie. Price $3.

6th—Take transportations aboard the U.S.N. boat Key Port and reach Fortress Monroe about 4:00 p.m. Get aboard of the John A. Warner for Norfolk and reach there about 6:00 p.m. Stop all night in an old church.

7th—Leave Norfolk at 11:00 a.m. on the John A. Warner and reach Fortress Monroe at 12:00 m. Take transportation for Baltimore on board the Georgia Ann. Reach Baltimore next day probably. Very unwell.

8th—Reach Baltimore at 6:00 a.m. Take cars for Phildelphia (sic Philadelphia), Pa., and reach there bout 12:30 p.m. Stop and get dinner at the Volunteer Union refreshment saloon. Then cross over to Camden and take the cars. Get under way about 8:00 p.m. Reach Amboy at 11:00 p.m. and take boat for New York.

9th—Get under way for New York city at 2:00 a.m. and reach New York at 6:00 a.m. March up to the Soldiers Home, Nos. 50 and 52 Howard street and take up lodgings. This is a splendid establishment and is an honor to the state of New York.

10th—Do not go to church as I expected. Get considerable rest. Take boat at 6:00 p.m. for Albany. Many of our men drunk. Sleep below on the carpet. Have splendid lodgings. Beautiful scenery along the Hudson.

11th—Reach Albany at 5:00 a.m. Lie over all day. Get no bounties as we expected. Get furloughs and start on the night Lightning Express train at 10:45 p.m. Reach Rome at 3:15 a.m. on the 12th.

12th—Change car and leave Rome at 4:00 a.m. Change again at Deklb (sic Dekalb) Junction about 12:00 m. Reach Potsdam about 1:00 p.m. Get dinner at Nightengale’s and take the stage for home. Reach Massena at 5:00 p.m. and go home at once.

13th—Help some in the hay field. Find that it does not exactly agree with my conscience and that my hands especially rebel. Makes two blisters which of course are honorable. Drive to town at dark. Enjoy myself quite well.

**BACK UPON FIRING LINE**

SERGT. BENSON RESUMES HIS SERVICE WITH THE 92ND.

 The Courier and Freeman this week presents another installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the civil war. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment and when 19 years of age. In this installment he tells of his return to the front after his furlough in Massena. During shelling a bullet penetrated his haversack, he escaping unharmed.

August 8th, 1864,--Take Emma to her school. Bid her for ought I know an eternal good-bye. Again I am leaving home but if it be even to return no more I feel that I am doing my duty.

9th--At last that terrible and trying moment and thank God it is over for it took all my courage to bid good-bye. Reach Potsdam about 11:00 a.m. Leave Potsdam at 3:00 p.m. and ride all night and reach Albany about 6:00 a.m. of the 10th. Find that about 20 of our men have deserted. Shame to them.

10th—Reach Albany about 6:00 a.m. Take warm breakfast at a restaurant. Go into barracks about 1:00 p.m. Of all the days I have ever seen this has certainly been the longest. Fare rather hard. A few companies of the invalid corps (or veteran reserve corps) are here detailed to act as provost guard all over the state. Some are now in Malone etc.

11th—Leave Albany barracks about dark. At 8:00 p.m. get under way aboard of the St. John, the nicest American steamer ever built. She ranks only second to the Great Eastern. She belongs to the People’s Line with the Henry Hudson. Her length is 483 feet. She is a perfect palace throughout. Have some trouble among the men caused by whiskey.

12th—Reach New York city at 6:30 a.m. March up to the Soldiers Home and get tickets for three meals. Call upon Dr. Perry Irish and have quite a visit. He takes me to Taylor’s saloon and calls on an excellent supper. He then goes with me to the armory of the Seventh New York Militia and shows me through. He also goes with me to the Soldiers Home. Leave New York at 7:30 p.m. Take boat for Jersey City and then the cars for Baltimore.

13th—Reach Baltimore at 6:00 a.m. March down to the Soldiers Rest to wait transportation. The fare here is rather hard. Not nearly as good as that of the Soldiers Home. This institution is wholly carried on by the government. All darky cooks. Leave for Fortress Monroe at 5:00 p.m. on the Adelaide. Ride all night. She has about 300 substituutes (sic substitutes) aboard. I never saw so much thieving in my life.

14th—Reach Oak Point about 5:00 p.m. Take the cars to the front at once. Reach the regiment tired and worn out about 8:00 p.m. Find them in good spirits but in rather a bad condition. All glad to see us. For a joke they call us their recruits.

15th—Spend a pleasant day with the boys. Am going to tent with C.P. Gray and Alick. Have a terrible shower in the afternoon. Rains a perfect torrent. The ravine becomes a river, carrying before it tents, sutlers and soldiers, also a couple of piers of the railroad bridge above. Some 16 men lose their lives.

16th—Sixteen dead bodies have already been taken from the ravine. Rains a little in the afternoon. Veterans go to the front. Enter upon duty. Once more hear the hum of leaden bees. Boys are all in good spirits. Pits are quite muddy.

17th—Another rain this afternoon, also some shelling. Cannedy Company B, killed. Shot through the head. Have a bullet put through my haversack. Find it a little difficult to eat government rations. Throw up a traverse to prevent a cross fire. The spirits of the boys rather down.

19th—Rains continually. Things look rather dubious. The men are however in spite of the mud cheerful. At night discharge all our guns at the Johnnies.

2th (sic 20th)—Rainy. Receive orders to move to the left but they are countermanded. Corp. L.W. Arms, Company B, slightly woundetd (sic wounded) by a spent ball in shoulder. Pits still very muddy. It is quite laughable to see the boys practice their tricks and crack joke upon one another.

21st—This is the first day this week that it has not rained. Open a furious and sudden fire upon the enemy merely to divert their attentions. Hentz, Company H, killed. He was shot through the head. Dore, Chenette and Revier wounded.

22nd—Feel quite unwell. Have a gathering in my head. Rain just dark (at) as the pickets go out. Rumor that we shall be attacked in the morning. Commence to register in prisoners camp at Salisbury.

23rd—Gatherings in my head became quite painful. Sleep but little in consequence. Weather quite cool after the rain. Line very quiet.

24th—Captain Church joins the regiment. Captain Fay returns from camp and takes command.

25th--Weather very warm until dark, when it rains. Feel anything but well. Expect an attack. Rumor move guns from the redoubt on our right. No attack.

26th—Enemy opens at daylight a furious cannonade, wounding so far as I know of but two. Rumors that we are to be relieved. And so we are about 9:00 p.m. by negro brigade of the Tenth A.C. March all night through mud and darkness.

27th—Reach Butler’s front at daylight. Have not slept a moment all night. See Captain Garvin. We are all well pleased with our change.

28th—Move a few rods to the left. We are going to arrange camp tomorrow. The boys all in the best of spirits. How different here from Petersburg.

29th—Arrange a splendid camp. Fix up a nice little house and feel quite at home. Feel somewhat unwell.

30th—Feel tip-top. Am now enjoying some of the sunny side of a soldier’s life. Company good, pleasant weather and plenty to eat.

31st—Mustered by Captain Elder, a A.I.G., Help endorse the boys furloughs for ration money. Have our first dress parade since leaving New Berne.

September 1st—We are now having splendid weather. Alick sells his check to McChesney and buys old white horse at $40. Eat a piece of a very large watermelon just before going to bed.

2nd—Glorious news. The joy of the soldiers knows no bounds. Atlanta has fallen. Bully for Sherman. Truly there are a few bright spots even in the life of a soldier.

3rd—Nothing further from Atlanta. Capture of Fort Morgan confirmed. Heavy and continual cannonading in the direction of Petersburg.

4th—Have a chill in the afternoon. Generals Grant, Meade and several other officers of distinction pass around our lines. General Grant was very plainly dressed.

5th—Feel as usual after drill. Have dress parade every evening. The whole division turns out to clear a review ground for tomorrow.

6th—Generals Grant, Meade and Gibbons pass around the lines. Rains a little.

7th—Corps reviewed by divisions by General Gibbons. It was a splendid affair. Feel a slight touch of a chill in the afternoon.

8th—Weather cool and delightful. Feel quite unwell. Rains in the afternoon. Read Seward’s speech in Auburn. Sound every word of it.

9th—Spend all day aside from brigade drill in repairing my tent. Make the walls of logs set endwise. Captain Fay and squad get back with baggage.

10th—Lay floor for tent. Suffer from heat. Baggage reaching the regiment in rather bad state.

11th—No preaching on account of brigade dress parade at 4:00 p.m.

12th—Very windy. Write to mother. C.P. rather unwell. Lieutenant Thompson, Captain Davis, Sergeant C.A. Mosher and others come in to sing. Have a very pleasant time.

14th—Fix the front of my tent with logs. Heavy cannonading on the left. Rebels throw a few shells at our signal station.

15th—Draw clothing for the regiment. Draw for myself one cap and sash. Sergeant McFerran returns to the regiment from hospital at Fortress Monroe.

16th—Have our general monthly inspection by Captain Elder. Sergeant Fuller, Corporals Selick and Osgood reduced to the rank Corporal. Hamlin promoted to sergeant. Privates Foote and Gadbou promoted to corporals.

18th—Preaching by chaplain. Text—Proverbs 23:23. Rains a little in the afternoon. Have headache, etc, I need mother now.

19th—C.P. Gray detailed at brigade headquarter as clerk. One Babcock a recruit, joins the regiment. Glorious news reaches us from Sheridan. Tremendous cheering among the troops.

20th—Our good news from the valley fully confirmed. Where now the cowardly peace faction?

21st—Weather very pleasant. Write to Perry Reid.

22nd—Received letters one from Uncle Mike and other from ------ Weather cloudy.

23rd--(No entry)

24th—Captain Fay gives a farewell supper to the officers. Colonel Roberts present and Lieut. Partridge. Ride with Alick to Point of Rocks hospital.

25th—Preaching by chaplain from John 5:39. Get our new mess to running beautifully. Have brigade dress parade. Have conversation with Captain Davis with reference to transfer.

26th—Receive letter from Capt. S.J. Arnold requesting me to send him his official papers. Read a stirring speech delivered by a Mr. Arnold of Illinois.

27th—Rumors that the enemy are evacuating Petersburg. It is rumored that we have several corps off on the left on an expedition.

28th—Go to the James river and wash with Alick. Receive orders to move. Are now at this writing waiting orders to start. Have two days rations. No one of us knows where we are to go. Take up the line of march about 8:00 p.m., march all night.

29th—Cross the pontoon bridge. About 10:00 a.m. storm a strong redoubt on Chapin’s farm called Battery Harrison. Capture some 26 guns. Our brigade attacked and driven from redoubt on the left with heavy loss. Our little regiment loses about 30 men in killed or wounded or captured.

30—Throw up entrenchments during the night. Hardly have them done before the enemy charges us twice most desperately. We repulsed them most easily, killing, wounding or capturing nearly every man who charged. Sixteen prisoners come into our regiment. Capture on our brigade four stand of colors. Joseph Minor of our regiment killed.

(To be Continued)

**BENSON CAPTIVE IN REBEL PRISON**

DESCRIBES THE HORRORS OF THE PEN AT ANDERSONVILLE

The Courier and Freeman this week presents the 12th installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. In this installment he tells of the falling to pieces of the old 92nd by men being mustered out. General Butler allows the colors to be kept, however. An attack is made upon the rebel works at Fair Oakes and nearly all the Union soldiers are killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Sergeant Benson, with many others, is taken to Pemberton prison at Richmond, Va., later being transferred to Salisbury prison, Salisbury, N.C. He describes the terrible life in prison.

October 1st, 1864—Go to fortifying amid cold and drenching rain. Terrible muddy. Have two men wounded. Bring in wounded and bury dead. Build a bombproof.

2nd—Clears off somewhat. We are still fortifying. Have a terrible cramp after dark. It lasts about two hours. The same as I had once before at White Oak swamp.

3rd—Rains in the afternoon. Captain Bice joins the regiment. Feel rather unwell. Our prisoners bury the rebel dead. Pits ankle deep with mud. Get fresh supply of rations for my own use in the shape of biscuits and cheese through Alick’s kindness.

4th—All quiet. We are very busily engaged in fortifying. Men work both day and night. Weather fair.

5th—Weather still fair. Our troops all in the best of spirits. God only knows how soon we shall be called to see more blood shed. I am sick of it and long for peace.

6th—All still quiet. Captain Bice and Lieutenant Thompson go to camp and return. Send in to headquarters a complete list of casualties since the 29th inst. Total loss in the regiment in killed and wounded 34.

7th—After dark all hands turn out and level down the works in front of Fort Harrison. Move off to the right about twelve miles and camp for the night near the First Pennsylvania Battery. Enemy shell us with four mortars in the morning, doing but little damage. Peter Morrison, Company A, killed.

8th—Weather cool and chilly. Lines very quiet. Busily engaged in building abutments and strengthening the works. Alick sends up some codfish balls.

9th—Lines very quiet. Weather quite cool. See frost for the first time this year Get a letter from Emma. General Marstin (sic) relieves General Carr in command of the division. Lieut.-Col. Thmas (sic Thomas) E. Barker, of the Second New Hampshire Volunteers, takes command of the brigade. He is a splendid man and is rising rapidly.

10th—Three years ago tonight spent my first night in old Camp Union as a soldier. What changes since then. Dangers have surrounded me on all sides since then but still God has spared me to experience new scenes and dangers. See Captain Garvin. C.P. Gray and I over to the 142nd New York.

11th—Promotions in the regiment numerous. Colonel Curtis comes over to see about getting us veterans into his regiment. Some are in favor of going while some choose light artillery. Captain Fay sees General Butler’s adjutant-general but gets no information as to when, where or how the regiment is to be mustered out.

12th—Receive orders about 3:00 p.m. to get ready to march. Start at once. Move off to the right and relieve the Tenth corps to make a demonstration on the left. They meet a flag of truce and turn back to wait for morning. Commences to rain about sundown. Spend a cold night.

13th—Early in the morning the Tenth Corps moves out and soon the sharp rattle of musketry is heard. Fighting more or less going on all day. At dark all the troops begin to return. Nothing more or less than a reconnaissance in force. Little loss on our side.

14th—Move back to our old ground in the line. See Captain Garvin and show him Fort Harrison. Alick comes up and stays all night with Frank and me.

15tth—(sic) Very pleasant. Colonel Curtis comes over in the evening with his brigade band to serenade us, doubtless with the object of gaining our good graces. No sign of being relieved. Muster out papers will to be made out on the field. Rather difficult.

16th—Weather very pleasant. Prisoners come in daily. Lines very quiet. The boys are all in good spirits.

17th—Captain Fay goes to depot headquarters and learns that there is no chance of our retaining our organization. We all hope we may. Draw clothing, two pair of pants and one shirt.

18th—Dr. Mansfield gives us some Union votes. Had we got them sooner we could have carried the regiment unanimously for old Father Abe. General Butler and family visit the front. The band plays “Hail to the Chief.” Some hopes now of the regiment being kept up.

20th—Prospects still for the regiment to be kept up. Glorious news from Sheridan in the valley. Have a saulte (sic salute) fired along the entire lines. Rebels dare not reply. The joy of the troops knows no bound. Our corps reviewed by regiments. Dare not spare more than one regiment at a time from the breastworks.

21st—Go with Sergeant Hawley and visit Butler’s canal. Get some choice relics of petrified wood and clay of a peculiar kind. It is well worth one’s trouble. Additional news from Sheridan. Troops being reviewed throughout the army.

22nd—Our troops reviewed by brigades. Weather cold and showery. General Marstin reviews the division. General Grant and staff pass along the lines. Hear him speak. Looks much better than when I saw him last. There was an old man along with him which I think must have been his father.

23rd—Service by chaplain. He comments upon the parable in the 13th chapter of Matthew. Captain Fay returns to camp. Sergeant Hawley receives appointment as sesond (sic second) Lieutenant from General Butler in the Fifth United States colored regiment.

24th—Move to the left and occupy the ground vacated by the Eighth Connecticut in the Second brigade. New light thrown at last upon the regiment’s being mustered out. They are to leave tomorrow.

25th—Forty-three of our brave comrades start for home. We are now left without an officer. Lieutenant Dickinson, of the 118th New York Volunteers, assigned to the command of the detachment temporarily. We still hold the colors and our organization. We all find it hard to part with our old chums.

26th—March at 6:00 a.m. about two miles to the rear and cook rations. Know nothing of what we are to do. Colonel Cullins tries to take our colors from us. Sergeant Pierce takes them to General Butler, who tells us that we can keep them at present. Hear bad news from Alick. Drunkeness.

27th—Take up the line of march at 4:30 a.m. and about 3:00 p.m. form a line of battle just through the woods of Fair Oakes and charge upon the rebel works under galling fire. The charge fails and we are nearly all killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Twenty-six of my regiment taken. March to Richmond at once. About 300 taken from our corps.

28th—Our names are taken on the upper floor of the Pemberton prison, where we are to be lodged for the present. Our greenbacks and canteens are also taken. Get rations at 10:00 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. They consist of a small piece of corn cake (or corn meal and water) and a very small piece of meat for breakfast, piece of brown and a half pint of bean soup for supper. Just about half enough to quench hunger.

29th—A few prisoners put into our building. Several squads are lodged in Libby during the day. Some of our keepers begin to show some of their fiendish Southern natures by kicking four innocent men and then drawing their revolvers on them for remonstrating.

30th—Take charge of the room and of distributing the rations. All quiet so far in our prison. Busy ourselves by looking down upon the almost desolate streets of Richmond. The sick are examined about 12:00 m. A call is made for shoemakers and mechanics of all kinds.

31st—Have 205 men on our floor. Things the same from day to day. All we can do is to walk the floor and form new acquaintances. Many of the men are coming down with the chills. Imprisonment is hard where one is shut up in a room like hogs in a pen.

November 1st—Feel rather unwell. Have a little hubbub about the rations. Adopt a more stringent rule about issuing. Have heard no grumbling since. The boys feel well generally and are in much better spirits than one could expect.

2nd—About 6:00 p.m. draw two days’ rations and lay down to rest as best we can to await the motion of our royal keepers. Anything for a change, although for the worse, is almost desirable. Most of the boys keep up excellent spirits. We expect to go south.

3rd—Routed about 2:00 a.m. and hustled out into the streets. March at once to the cars and pile in, 62 into a car. Crowded almost to suffocation. Get under way bout 4:00 a.m. and ride all day. Never saw such railroading before. Two guards at the door and some upon the top of the cars.

4th—Still aboard of these horrible cars. Run out of rations. The codfish makes us all very thirsty. Prices along the route tremendously high. It takes a basketful of money to get a pocketful of grub. Remain all night in an open field near Greenborough (sic). Suffer terribly for it is very cold. Very hungry.

5th—Take the cars early and resume our tedious journey. This is our second day without rations of any kind. Reach Salisbury about 5:00 p.m. and enter the pen at dark. Cold and rainy. Hear terrible stories of our new home. Robbing and plundering going on all night. Blankets and cups stolen.

6th—Organize the men into squads of 100 each. We are the Tenth division. I have charge. Sergeants of divisions have plenty to eat and were it not for the human suffering outside one might enjoy themselves hugely. Draw the first rations for four days.

7th—It is absolutely horrible to witness the dead cart with its load of dead piled up in tiers like wood. They are taken out and piled into a large hole. Thousands are already just upon the brink of the grave.

8th—It is dreadful to hear the coughing these cold, rainy nights. Only three men from a squad are allowed to go at once for wood, so the poor fellows suffer dreadfully for fires. Some have no shoes nor stockings, without cap or coat.

9th—No pen can write or tongue express the suffering in this camp. The men are actually starved to death. But little pains is taken to clean the camp, The tents are insufficient to accomodate (sic accommodate) all. Some make mud houses while others, too weak, crawl under houses.

10th—The men are being fed better now than previous. It is uncertain how long it will last. Saw one man whose head was literally covered with scabs and every hair standing on end covered completely with nits and lice.

11th—Our soup is made with rice and water without salt. There is but little nourishment in it. Draw rice once for my division, ten pints for a hundred men. If the men had salt they could make better soup than they draw.

(To Be Continued)

**LIFE IN A REBEL PRISON**

DESCRIBED BY SERGT. BENSON IN CIVIL WAR DAIRY (sic DIARY)

The Courier and Freeman presents another installment of the dairy (sic diary) kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil War. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment when 19 years of age and was sent to the training camp at Potsdam in October 1861, leaving here in February for the front. He was made a corporal in the 92nd later being promoted to sergeant. In this installment he tells of a pet dog being butchered and eaten by prisoners in Salisbury prison where he and many other Union soldiers are celebrates Christmas and his 22nd birthday in prison. Men die in an average of about 40 a day.

12th—There is great deal of gambling going on. One good thing about this camp there are no drunken men seen. Some pies and gingerbread are smuggled in and sold. Three cakes for $5 and pies $5 apiece. Salt $5 a pint.

13th—This is a strange Sunday indeed. It seems as though we might have preaching. Doubtless there are preachers among the crowd. There are citizens here that heve (sic have) been prisoners for three years.

14th—Very quiet. Twenty-five die during the night. Turn in with a new bunkmate by the name of William Summers, of the 27th Michigan Volunteers. He appears to be a fine fellow and has two blankets. Several sergeants take a parole of honor.

15th—Have one man go to hospital from my division. Rumors of an exchange soon. Get my socks washed. Weather begins to look bad. It looks as though it might rain tomorrow.

16th—Weather very pleasant. Sixteen dead bodies taken out in the dead cart this morning. It is horrible to see the manner in which the dead are handled. They are thrown into the dead wagon, drawn out and dumped into a hole all in a pile.

November 17,--Fights among the men occur, daily. A dreadful quarrel occurred today in which knives were used. Two sergeants in this room were wounded, one on the head and the other on the leg.

18th--Have a man die from my division. The boys are all in a turmoil about exchange. No wonder the poor fellows are anxious. They are nearly all starved.

19th—Rains nearly all day. Very cold. This day will be the last to many a poor fellow. The dead house will be full tomorrow morning. Terrible. Terrible.

20th—Sixteen men carried out in the dead cart. A very cold rain commences just dark. Many a poor man will number this night as his last. Draw nothing but soup and meal for my division. Men getting pretty hungry. One man tied up and whipped 50 (? Illegible) lashes.

21st—Eighteen men dead this morning. Rained hard all night and bids fair for a rainy day. It is dreadful to see the poor men wandering around in the mud with nothing to eat or to wear, and scarcely able to move. They jump at a crust like a dog for a bone. More men get away. Some few escape. One or two are shot.

22nd—Still cold and rainy. Thirty eight men died during the night. Have a sprinkle of snow. Men suffer beyond description. It seems impossible that a single man can live to get out of this hole. Mud half frozen ankle deep. Nothing warm but about two gills of poor soup. Major Moffit tries to buy greenbacks.

 23rd—Thirty seven men carried out. The men are dying of at (sic) a rapid rate. Have one man killed and two wounded by a shot from a guard inside. A man’s life here is of but little value. Weather a little more moderate but still very cold for the men with no food.

 24th—Thanksgiving once more. A strange one indeed. Weather cold and raw. Thirty five dead men. Mud thaws out during the day and freezes during the night. Orders for the 68th North Carolina regiment to leave for Wilmington. Have 629 men in my division. Strict orders about the wood.

 25th—Great excitement. The men undertake to break out but are repulsed. They kill four guards, take quite a number of guns. The camp is lined in ten minutes with old seeds. Thirteen of our men killed and 59 wounded. See a cowardly act by one of the guards by sticking his bayonet through a dead man’s head. Two shots fired from a cannon.

 26th—Fifty two dead in the dead house. A horrible sight for a father, mother, brother or sister. Curses will certainly rest upon this Confederacy. Guards all scared to death. A crowd gathers to get their mail. The fence is lined in an instant with guns leveled expecting a break. Boys getting desperate.

 27th—Commences to rain at 4:00 p.m. Mail not distributed yet. Half of the men the letters are for are dead. Thirty dead men. See a terrible sight in the morning. Two poor fellows with a few embers dead. Evidently they built a fire and as it died out so went their existence. Gone! Gone o (sic to) Eternity!

 28th—Twenty six men dead. Reduced to quarter rations. Men will starve in one month. It seems as though the major intended killing every man in camp. Doubtless this is for the purpose of getting men to enlist in their army. Nothing too bad for this cursed Confederacy.

 29th—Sure enough they go to recruiting. Three hundred and seventy five men go out to everlasting shame and ruin. Nothing but actual starvation causes the men to go out. Ten go from my division. Chimney in the big building falls down, killing several. It buries them in a mass of brick and timbers.

 30th—Weather very pleasant. This is good for the men. Get our half loaf of bread once more. The men are so reduced that they attmpt (sic attempt) to dig into the bakery. Doubtless the whole camp will suffer for the act. Justice is a stranger to Major Gee.

 December 1,--Down again to our one quarter of a loaf in consequence. Men fight among themselves fearfully. Broils occur momentarily. There are a set of “muggers” as we call them, that watch for those who have money. It costs some their lives. Murder is not infrequent.

 2nd—Forty two in the dead house. Rumors of an attack on this place by Kirlse. Guardsmen strict. Boys get a fiddle and have a stag dance in the evening. Those who danced seemed to enjoy it much. Have a few songs, six dozen apples and break up. Have three men captured in Tennesee (sic Tennessee) assigned to my division.

 3rd—Our pet little dog was last night butchered for food. He was fat and handsome and the men could resist the temptation no longer. The vice president of this great Confederacy passed through this place today. Did not see him.

 4th—Rumors that Gen. Bradley Johnson is coming here to take command of troops to be collected. Our little dog has certainly been eaten. Another historical item. Pass a law to stop all trading of bread in this house.

5th—The long looked for 5th has come but with it no exchange of the sick. Two thousand six-hundred and fifty prisoners died up to tonight since the 16th of September. This includes 25 shot and quite a number killed by the murderers. Horrible indeed.

6th—Have 294 men assigned to my division making me now 890. They are completely stripped. Recruiting going on again. Four hundred and six men go out to battle for this accursed Confederacy. Shame on the weakhearted who cannot endure hardships for their country’s sake.

7th—Rainy. Another hard time at hand for these poor men. Many will die before this storm is over. The 68th regiment goes to Weldon. No man allowed out of his tent after dark. Several shot. Human life is but of little value among these ruffians.

8th—Still rainy. No tents got for my new men. Rebel papers fearful of Sherman. They realize their danger and call for all citizens to go to the front.

9th—A terrible night for the men. It is now snowing. Snow three inches deep. God only knows the suffering in this camp. Looks like winter in earnest. Many a poor fellow will freeze tonight.

10th—Thirtyseven (six) dead. Snow still on. Thaws a little during the day and freezes at night. Some of the men freeze their toes and fingrs (sic fingers). Men suffer immensely. Thoughts of home and the dear ones there are frequent.

1th (sic) 11th—Strange Sabbath indeed. Thaws just enough to make it terribly muddy. Commences to freeze about 3:00 p.m. Snow still on. Very sloppy. Rumors that we are to be sent to Columbia.

12th—General Winder inspects the camp. Makes some inquires (sic inquiries) after the leaders of the break. Weather very tedious. It seems impossible that a single man could survive. In case of another break we are all to be shot. Heartless wretches.

13th—Thirty four dead. Yard very muddy. Weather middling. Recruiting still going on. Two hundred and seventy go out from my division. Two men sent to me were captured on Tuesday last from Warren’s command in North Carolina.

14th—Ice not yet entirely thawed out. Mud about two inches deep top of ice. Draw half rations of bread. One half pound of bread to last a man 24 hours. Small allowance indeed. Go to the railroad for our wood. Go down to the regiment and have a little chat with the boys.

15th—Camp very muddy. Men are dying off fast. We are now living high. That is we sergeant majors. It is quite interesting to see the toys manufactured by the boys. Our imprisonment seems to call out genius.

16th—Some are contemplating a plan to escape. Most that have attempted it have been brought back without punishment. Some are recaptured within but a few miles of our own camp. Doubly hard must seem the imprisonment of such.

17th—Weather growing warmer. Mud is drying up fast. The band serenades Major Gee close to the yard. This is the first music that has struck the ears of many in months. They play mostly rebel airs.

18th—Have a severe headache. Fear I am going to be sick. Sickness is bad enough at home with the tender care of a mother and sisters to nurse but what can it be here when the care is a kick with nothing but frozen mud for a bed.

19th—Still have a headache. Four make their escape together with the officer of the guard. They are Sergt. Charles Thurston, Messrs. Davis, Richardson and Brown. All through newspaper correspondence. I hope they will get through and let the North know of our sufferings.

20th—Weather turns cold. The death knell of many. Trade pants and get a very fine pair of dark blue ones for my old ones and $6 Confederate. Consolidation broken up. The prisoners here are soon to be sent to Columbia, S.C.

21st—Draw molasses, or sorghum as it is called here. Weather turning cold. Men dying off rapidly to the great satisfaction of the rebels. Old Captain and Mercer make their escape through cookhouse.

22nd—News of the capture of Savannah. Weather very cold. Men suffer dreadfully but die without a struggle. They die by inches. Their life seems to be entirely gone before their breath leaves them. They die like one sinking into a quiet slumber. No mortal can describe the suffering here.

23rd—Draw potatoes and turnips. Weather still very cold. Men dying at the rate of 40 per day. Some actually freeze to death. Humanity should veil her face and weep before the cruelty practiced here. Friends at home know nothing about it nor never can know.

24th—Have two men in Sixth squadron of my division actually freeze to death. Flinn, of the 98th New York Volunteers, dies of chills. Have 16 men from the 12th Kentucky cavalry assigned to my division. Have 16 men from the 12th Kentucky cavalry assigned to my division. Have dancing and singing in the evening. Have some as good singers as one needs to hear.

25th—Dull Christmas indeed for us poor unfortunate beings. No turkey nor fat suppers for us. All we can do is to think of the merry times they are having at home. We must be reconciled to our lot and hope for the future good times coming.

26th—Generals Johnson and York inspect the camp. Catholics are taken out. Some say they are to be put into a Louisianna (sic Louisiana) regiment. If so this is nothing more or less than forcing men into service through the influence of the church.

27th—Down again on half rations. Two months ago today since I was captured. Two months is quite enough to spend in this Confederacy. God only knows how much longer we may have to spend here. Joseph McBride, sergeant of the wood squad, makes his escape.

28th—This is my 22nd birthday. Eighteen birthdays at home three in the service and one a prisoner of war. May this be my last as a prisoner. It may be my last upon earth. None but the great God in heaven knows. Weather damp.

29th—Sixteen more Catholics taken out. All carpenters. We are now living on bread alone. No meat, potatoes nor sorghum comes into the cook house. I am making an effort to stop flanking. Do not know how I shall succeed.

30th—Commences to rain. Yard getting very muddy again. Thirty-seven dead men to be carted out. The old year is nearly gone. She met the most of us here in prosperity and health. She now leaves us in adversity and in the very mouth of death.

31st—The old year closes in a snow storm. Some 40 poor fellows are this morning numbered with the silent dead. They have gone just a few hours before the old year.

(To be continued)

**ARE RELEASED FROM PRISON**

DEATH SENTENCE IS IMPOSED ON ONE OF GANG OF “MUGGERS”

The Courier and Freeman this week presents another installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, while he was soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. In this installment he tells of the rumors of an exchange of prisoners. The muggers’ reign of terror is at last brought to an end. The happiest days of Sergeant Benson’s life arrive when he and others are paroled and start north.

January 1st, 1865—The old year has bid us adieu forever and still we are in this horrible pen. No pleasures of any kind for us. We can only think of our dear young ones at home and wish we were there. Do they ever think of us? Weather very cold. Mud freezes hard.

2nd—Weather very bad. Some portions of the yard are six inches deep of the worst kind of mud. Many of the men are having their feet amputated on account of their being frozen. It is horrible to see the flesh completely rotted off the bones.

3rd—Still very muddy with more rain. One man whose both feet were taken out in the cart yesterday was taken out in the dead cart yesterday was today taken out in the same wagon. Horrible.

4th—One year ago today I reenlisted. But for that I might have been at home now instead of here. But I must not regret it although the fortunes of war have gone against me. Weather fine but very muddy. We in here are having very pleasant times and but for the most vast amount of suffering outside might enjoy ourselves.

5th—Rains considerably. Yard very muddy. Frank from the cookhouse makes his escaped. Busy ourselves manufacturing bone trinkets. Commence an 18th corps badge. When not engaged in this way we play checkers and chess. Draw salt beef.

6th—Very rainy. Mud knee deep in places. Seven men from a squadron for wood. Men are dying off fast. Average about 30 per day. Sell my gold penholder for $30.

7th—Rumors of exchange. The men grasp at the slightest story and the most absurd lie and make it the general topic of conversation until some other rumor is started. Weather quite cold. Mud froze up. Trains pressed to go to Wilmington. Only four men allowed from a squadron for wood.

8th—Oh dear. I wish I was at home to attend church. Shall I ever be? I sonetimes (sic sometimes) think I shall never see home again. But I must keep up good spirits. I have seen enough and know all the effects of giving up in despair. Good pluck to the end. Weather very bad.

9th—Yard very muddy. Men do not seem to die as rapidly as usual. Probably the cause is the decrease in the number in the camp. The dead are most shamefully stripped of even their drawers and shirts.

10th—Very rainy. Clears off about 4:00 p.m. and turns cold. Rumors flying briskly of an exchange. News of Thomas’ capture of 50 piece of artillery from Hood. Manufacture a toothpick with my jackknife. Make two tools for the house. Enjoy ourselves very agreeably.

11th—All anxiously awaiting the news of the meeting of the two commissioners of exchange in Richmond, Va. Thirty-two dead. The men bother us to death flanking trying to draw double rations. My division has gone from 924 to 696, which is my number tonight.

12th—Very pleasant. Mud drying up fast. Purchase a gold pen for $10 Confederate money. Ross is on sergeant of the guard and is in here half of the time. Lays himself liable to court martial.

13th—Pleasant. Fire in town. Great loss to the government. Great excitement caused by the rumor that all us Yankees had got out and were burning the town. Citizens left the fire and rushed up to our prison with guns in their hands. Fire originated from a shoe shop.

14th—Men draw nothing but soup. As we all expected, they are in recruiting. Get about 90 Ninety-nine Catholics taken out and 100 men to work on the railroad. Butler, of my Fourth squadron, goes out with the Catholics. Account of fire. Loss to the government about $82,000. Seventy-six galvanized Yankees sent back from their ranks.

15th—Another Sunday in camp. As noisy as usual. Learn that all Catholics taken out are expected to go into the army. Worse than actual compulsion.

16th—Weather pleasant. Rumors that Fort Fisher, off Wilmington, is captured. The spirits of the men are good, considering. Enlisting about played out. Seventy-six men that enlisted sent back to pay the penalty of our law. Taken ten of them into my division.

17th—Weather still pleasant but cold. Have a general count. Fall off nine men. Draw but half rations of men for the division. Several Maryland doctors come to find acquaintances. Dr. McGill, chief surgeon at Richmond. He has a son chief surgeon in Lee’s army.

18th—Very pleasant. All who have sufficient strength and life are busy exercising by walking upon the square. The market is crowded with anything from a pin and a chew of tobacco to chickens at $10 apiece.

19th—The men are wild with excitement and joy over the news from Major Gee that we are all to be exchanged within a month. Glorious if true, for a prisoner. The rebels take a gloomy view of Wilmington. All seem to think it must fall.

20th—Pleasant. Sole topic of conversation throughout the yard is of exchange. And who can blame the poor fellows? Here they are guarded by guards who delight in shooting them and actually dying by inches. Big Bill’s tunnel opened but discovered.

21st—Morning dawns cold and rainy. The trees are covered with ice half an inch thick. Large limbs break off endangering the men. Old Riley and little Frank have a fight. No news from Wilmington.

22nd—Another Sabbath in the Confederacy. Weather cold and very disagreeable. Sleet on the trees nearly thawed off. Old Crazy Louis with us nearly all day. Read an excellent speech by Mr. Dick, senator of North Carolina, urging negotiations for peace. Men suffer much. My division numbers 651 men.

23rd—Very muddy. Leak takes report from the squadron sergeant thinking to get us into a trap, but fails beautifully. Has an increase of 50 men. Hear that the Catholics have all gone into the rebel army. Pay $10 for 16 sweet potatoes and two pounds of fresh beef.

24th—Cold and muddy. Rumors of an armistice for 90 days. Credit enough given it to set the boys on tiptoe. Have an onion soup for dinner. Hilby (?) and Lurchin eat with us.

25th—Have a very rigid general count with guards. One man fired at but missed. The bullet hit our house. For all their caution some 300 or 400 flank. Weather cold. Number falls to 109. My division loses 18. I now have 621 men. Guess the armistice is a hoax.

26th—A negro killed by one of the muggers. He was stabbed in the hospital in cold blood. I hope the doer of the deed will be brought to punishment. His name is Turner. This is not his first crime here.

27th—Weather pleasant but cold. Men very anxious about exchange. Have general count. Gain two men. The name of Sherman is a terror to the whole Southern Confederacy.

28th—A small mail comes for us prisoners. Men crazy to know if there is a letter for them. What a blessing is a frequent letter from home and dear ones left behind. Can get no word from home nor the regiment.

29th—Sabbath again, with unusual quietness. We can listen to the holy sound of church bells summoning the people to the house of God, but none for us. We can but think of home and friends there. Home! Home!

30th—No wood issued to the men. ‘Tis a bitter cold night and the men must suffer dreadfully. Exchange still the topic of conversation. Negroes to be taken out tomrrow (sic tomorrow).

31st—All able-bodied negroes are taken out, some say to work on fortifications and others, to be exchanged. It is thought they are to be sent to Columbia, S.C. Four men sent in from Wilmington from the Tenth corps. Learn from them that the Tenth and 18th corps are consolidated and called the 24th army corps. General Ames in command. Weather salubrious. Learn that the exchange of all prisoners is turned over to General Grant. The men have great hopes of getting out of this “hell upon earth” alive. But alas, many a poor fellow must fall, not in battle as all would prefer, but as dumb cattle far away from home and dear ones, shut out completely from the outer world.

February 1st—Muggers robbed a last night of some $700. Makes quite a stir in camp. By the sanction of Major Gee six of them are taken out. All hope they will be hung. This system of plundering and murdering is about done. They have ruled this camp quite long enough.

2nd—Weather dull and heavy. Boys start a game of baseball. Nothing doing as yet with our criminals. Have a meeting to appoint our officers for a court-martial. Are now awaiting the orders of Major Gee. Think one if not more will have to swing. Justice demands it.

3rd—A slight mist falls. Not enough to make it muddy but very slippery. Henry quite sick. Lose by death my Ninth squadron sergeant. Desmond very sick. Barker goes to hospital. He is quite sick.

4th—Two citizens buying greenbacks by rebel authority. Meet considerable opposition. Run up as high as $50 for one. Script as high as $15. All seem to be fast losing faith in the Confederacy. “Peace! Peace!” is all the talk. Nothing about the muggers.

5th—Sunday. Weather pleasant. Nothing of importance transpires. Ball playing going on although it is the Holy Sabbath so devoutly respected at home. This is wrong. Why cannot we keep it as sacred here as there?

6th—Call a court-martial for the trial of the muggers. It consists of 13 members. Howe, or “Faddy,” the first one brought before us. Pleads not guilty. Listen all day to evidence. Come to no final decision. Adjourn.

7th—Reassemble the court. Sentence the accused to be hanged by the neck until he is dead. Send the sentence to General Johnson for his consent to its being executed. Adjourn. Turner, the ring leader of the gang, makes his escape. Things still undecided. Justic (sic Justice) must be dealt in some shape.

8th—Nothing done further by the court. We now await the consent of the general commanding. All belonging to the band of muggers fill and act rather shake. The camp is very quiet. No fighting, stabbing or shrieks of murder are now to be heard. The weak as well as the strong can now walk about in safety.

9th—Nothing more done. Weather bad. Snow still on the ground. Rumores (sic rumors) of exchange quite brisk.

00th— (sic 10th--)Weather still pleasant. Nothing done yet with the muggers. Send a letter from the court to Major Gee. Mail comes. R.J. Walker. Rumor that clothing for the prisoners is on the road from Richmond. Officers from Danville sent to distribute them.

11th—The divisions to be consolidated. Appointments made outside,. There are to be five divisions of well men and one of sick. I am to take charge of the sick division. Weather pleasant. Fifty rebel prisoners arrive from Castle Thunder and two citizens. Walker gives me a few hints.

12th—Sunday. Awake to find Walker gone. He passed through the cook house in company with four others of my division. Money makes the mare go. Burnham has charge of the squad.

(To be Continued.)

**NEARING END OF THE WAR**

SERGT. BENSON NOW IN A PAROLE CAMP AFTER FURLOUGH

The Courier and Freeman this week presents another installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. In this installment he tells of the inauguration of President Lincoln. He receives two months pay and a furlough and starts for home. The strain of his prison experience over he is taken ill soon after arriving in Massena but finally recovers and returns to the parole camp after a visit with Vermont relatives.

February 13th 1865—Our officers come in to make arrangements for the distribution of our clothing. They make Major—-- Fourth N.Y.C.; Capt. B.F. Porter, 39th Massachusetts; Captain Stuart, ---- Court meets and appoints the 17th day of February for the execution.

14th—Blankets issued. Draw 310 for my division of 612. Issue them to the squads. The old guards gaze with wonderment. Tongue can never tell the joy of the men. They consider it a Godsend. Thanks to Uncle Sam.

15—Organize a viligance (sic vigilance) court consisting of 27 members for the trial of the four remaining prisoners. Try them as a party and find them guilty. Adjourn until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow before giving the sentence.

16th—Court meets and sentences the prisoners to be secured in chains and kept in a dungeon until exchanged, when they will be handed over to the proper authorities inside our lines. No clothing issued. Yard very muddy. Wood squad going out.

17th--Nothing more done about distributing the clothing. The men are now well equipped with blankets. Shirts, shoes, socks, pants and blouses are now very much needed. Exchange talk still lively. General Johnson visits the prisoners almost daily.

18th-Shirts, pants and blouses issued to the men. About one to eight men. The men feel bigger than kings with the new clothes. They are all very grateful to Uncle Sam.

19th—Sunday. Hear two sermons in the prison. One by the Rev.----, Methodist. Have not heard a better sermon for a long time. Exchange considered a sure thing.

20th—Busy as bees all day in taking names and getting ready to leave this God-forsaken hole. Sick to go tonight. Sick seem well, the lame leap for joy. All crazy with excitement. Two trains of prisoners pass.

21st—Eight-hundred sick passed out and paroled. Draw four days’ rations during the night. Expect to leave early in the morning. These are the happiest moments of our life.

22nd—Paroled about 10:00 a.m. And started on the Greensboro afoot. Do well for awhile. March about eight miles and camp about one mile north of the Yadkin river. Commences to rain and makes it very disagreeable. Feet get blistered. Feel very stiff. Many are about played.

23rd—Start on the march early through the rain and mud. Hundreds are obliged to fall out. I myself am among the number. Go as far as Lexington and wait for the train. Concluded it cheaper to liberty instead of walking.

24th—Spend a terrible night. Part of us pile aboard the first train. By getting on and off reach Greensboro at night and camp in the woods about a mile from town.

25th—About 4:00 p.m. the rest of the men come up. We take the cars for Goldsboro. Piled about three deep on open coal cars. Rains quite hard. Finally taken and put into box cars that leak.

26th—Sunday. Reach Raleigh about noon and Goldsboro about 7:00 p.m. Unload and march about one mile from town to camp. Our rations have now been out two days. Boys getting pretty hungry.

27th—We are all reparoled. Expect to leave tonight. Seven-hundred more prisoners come in. Assist in writing out paroles. Are now awaiting transportation.

28th—Ride all night on cars. About 10:00 a.m. are passed through the lines. We fairly jumped for joy. Cheer upon cheer rent the air from throats that have seen but little to swallow for months. Take the boats at once for Wilmington. Reach this place about 3:00 p.m., where we get rations. I fear some of the boys will eat to excess and hurt themselves. Have a good night’s sleep on straw. Three times three cheers for Uncle Sam. Was sadly disappointed in not finding my regiment here as I had expressed. All the sick are well cared for. They seem to try to kill us with kindness.

March 1st,--Draw rations again. Prisoners continuue (sic continue) to come in. We have free access to the city. Are quartered in empty houses. A happier set of men never walked than we. We hope soon to leave for Annapolis, where we shall have a change of clothing and a good bath.

2nd—These are truly the happiest days of my life. Rains a little. Rations issued daily. Try to get aboard of boat but fail.

3rd—Still in Wilmington. Commence to leave aboard of transports. Fail to get aboard. Driven out of our good quarters. Go down to the depot and sleep in an old box car.

4th—President Lincoln inaugurated today. We shall soon see his views. Still awaiting transports. Some get away in the morning. Beginning to get tired of this place. Want a wash and a clean suit of clothes.

5th—Sunday. Are not allowed to go to church. I and Quenell take a trip out into the country to find the 142nd New York. Return without finding them. Feel pretty tired. Go up to the Soldiers’ Home and take supper.

6th—Get aboard the Lady Lang and go to Fort Fisher, where we are transferred to the Charles C. Leary. There we must wait for water. A small boat is sent to Wilmington to get it. We are too much crowded.

7th—Get water and start out about 2:00 p.m. There are some 500 aboard. Our accomodations (sic accommodations) are very poor. We keep up good spirits looking for good times a coming. We get all we want to eat but have no chance of washing. Lice reign predominant.

8th—Out on the wide ocean far from land. Many of the boys are seasick, myself among the number. Sleep on deck. Rains and I get wringing wet. Weather cold and disagreeable.

9th—Round Capes Hatteras and Henry in the fog and wander about some four hours. Find ourselves in the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Beginning to get over my seasickness.

10th—Reach Annapolis about noon. Here everything is done for us possible. Draw rations cooked and sleep in barracks. Learn that we are to get commutation money, two months’ pay and a furlough of 30 days. Write to Alick. Men are washed and clothed.

11th—Draw clothing. Receive a full suit throughout and an extra change of underclothing. The boys never seemed to feel better. All are happy and gay as a lark. We feel like starved birds just loosened from our cage.

12th—Sunday. March to parole camp, a distance of about two and one-half miles, where we are mustered for our commutation money and assigned to neatly whitewashed barracks. Men could not be treated better.

13th—Mustered for our two months pay. Weather beautiful. All in high pirits (sic spirits). Purchase Verses to Paroled Prisoners from Salisbury by The Wandering Poet of New Hampshire. They are beautiful but not as bad as truth would permit.

14th—Weather beautiful. Receive $31 commutation money. Begin to get very anxious to get home. Purchase a valise at $4.25.

15th—Descriptive lists taken for furloughs. Sign pay rolls for our two months’ pay. Expect the money and furloughs tomorrow. Purchase a cap at $2. Remodel overcoat.

16th—Receive two months’ pay and furlough. Start for Baltimore about 4:00 p.m. Reach there at 6:00 p.m. Purchase soldier’s ticket to New York city at $4.15. Start on the 8:30 train.

17th—Reach Jersey City about 7:30 a.m. Cross ferry to New York city and go to the Soldiers’ Home, 50 Howard St. Purchase ticket to Albany at $2.97. Get aboard the 3:40 train. Am now rapidly gliding up the beautiful banks of the Hudson.

18th—Reach Castlelong Station and lay over until 9:00 a.m. on account of high water. Cross over to Schodack on the Harlem railroad, a distance of two miles. Reach Albany in a few moments.

19th—Sunday. Horrible indeed is this waiting for the cars. Put up at the Dunlop Hotel. Attend church twice. A train leaves at 11:00 p.m. I shall wait until tomorrow.

20th—Go to the provost marshal’s and get my furlough endorsed as to my detention. Take the 10:00 o’clock train and ride all night.

21st—Reach Potsdam Junction about 3:30 a.m. Go to bed, get breakfast and start afoot for home. Reach home about dark, tired and wet.

22nd—Spend the day at home. Feel quite lame after my tramp. Write three letters.

23rd—Weather very pleasant. Go to town and get my valise. Have quite a chat with some of the old cods about the village.

24th—Write to Gen. L.C. Hunt, New York city. Go with mother to Mr. Roswell Talcott’s on a visit.

April, 15th—Sad news for the whole nation. The assassination of our great and noble president is a severe blow. We all feel it as a personal calamity.

16th—Father takes me up to Potsdam depot. Stay up all night.

17th—Find no train leaves for the east until about noon. Take the 12:37 train.

25th—Uncle Amisa takes us up to Vergennes. Take the 2:32 train for New York. Fare to Rutland in full $1.90. Fare from Rutland to New York $4.90 (mil.). Ride all night.

26th—Reach New York city about 6:30 a.m. Buy ticket to Annapolis $5.65. Reach Baltimore about 7:30 p.m. Put up at the Lloyd House all night.

27th—Leave Baltimore about 9:00 a.m. and reach Camp Parole at 11:00 a.m. Find things about the same as when I left, but not as many men. Glad to see my old prison companions.

28th—Take charge of 28 barracks. Take Ed. Deevy from Albany to help me. Wind blows tremendously. One can hardly go across the camp on account of dust.

29th—Commences to rain about 3:00 p.m. Read an order from the War Department to reduce the armies. All paroled prisoners to be discharged. Hopes of soon being out of the service and at home.

30th—Sunday. Attend church in the evening. Hear excellent sermon by an officer. Chapel crowded. Rains in the afternoon. Witness a dress parade of the 213th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

(To be Continued)

**LAST OF CIVIL WAR DIARY**

KEPT BY LATE O.P. BENSON VETERAN OF THE 92ND

The Courier and Freeman this week present the last installment of the diary kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, while he was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. He enlisted in the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment when 19 years of age and was sent to the camp at Potsdam in October 1861 leaving here in February for the front. Sergeant Benson is promoted to first lieutenant. After various assignments he is placed on the staff of general Harris at Fredericksburg, Va., The diary ends abruptly with the entry of July 27th, 1865.

May 1st, 1865—Rains and makes the camp quite muddy. Begin to get tired of soldiering now that the war is done and anxious to get home and commence operations.

2nd—Leave Camp Parole for our regiment as we suppose. So many stories flying about our being discharged that we hold a faint hope that it may be so. Reach Washington about 2:00 p.m. Take boat and reach Alexandria about 4:00 p.m.

3rd—Remain in the Soldiers’ Rest all day and sleep on the floor with a crowded mass of jabbering Dutchmen.

4th—Leave Alexandria as we hope for our regiment. All that belong to the 24th and Fifth corps are sent aboard of the City Point. Ride all nigh (sic night).

5th—Reach city point about 2:00 p.m. Here we get aboard of the Red Jacket for Richmond, where we arrive about 5:00 p.m. Have a very pleasant trip full of interest and history. We are all lodged in dismal Libby Prison. The rebels never offered us a greater insult.

6th—Page and I make our escape and start for our regiment but by mishap take the wrong side of the river, travel seven miles get shipwrecked and return to Richmond to try again.

7th--Take an early start. March ten miles with our heavy valises in the hot sun and get tired out. Hire two horses of a Mr. Cortrel and reach the regiment about 1:00 p.m. Glad indeed are we to once more see the old boys. Some of them we cannot reach, but never mind.

8th—Fix my tent. Feel very well satisfied with my regiment. Some few of the officers have been introduced to me. They are all most very young and pretty wild.

9th—Enter upon duty. Take part in my first dress parade for seven months. Rains considerable.

10th—Pleasant. Have battalion drill.

11th—Rains quite hard just dark. Have a short conversation with Alick. I fear his promotion will ruin him but to speak to him would be of no use.

12th—Major goes to Richmond and back. Makes a set of chess.

13th—Have no drill on account of inspection. Have a game of baseball.

14th—Sunday. Inspection. Attend church in the afternoon.

15th—Weather very pleasant.

16th—Have a battalion drill.

17th—Have a man by the name of Turner desert off up the river.

18th—Staid last night with Lunt Cady at Huguenot Springs. It is about the most delightful spot I ever saw.

19th—Rains in the afternoon. Have a partial inspection by Captain Kelly of the Ninth Vermont Brigade inspecting officer.

20th—Sedden, the rebel secretary of war comes in and takes the oath of allegiance. How much suffering this man has caused our poor prisoners.

21st—Sunday. Attend church. Sermon by Mr. Smith, once a preacher in Richmond but now a retired citizen. Text: Luke 7-9.

22nd—Chaplain Wardner and wife also Mrs. Hinds and two children come to the regiment. The major is now happy. He has all his family with him. Thunders and rains by spells all day. Companies I and H cross over to Huguenot Springs. Expects to go tomorrow.

23rd—Cross the river with five companies. Companies A and B are left.

24th—Clean camp and establish ourselves in a beautiful little cottages (sic). This is a perfect paradise on a small scale.

25th—Major gets back from Richmond. Receive a letter from C.P. Gray.

26th—Rains hard and steady all way. Write to C.P. Gray and F.H. Hawley.

27th—Cold and still rainy. Need a fire all day. Spend the evening over to Company D’s quarters with First Sergeant By and Fanders of the drum corps.

28th—Sunday. Have regimental inspection. Preaching by chaplain in hall. Has a good attendance. Major and his wife present. Alick and Cady go to Richmond for a time.

29th—Colonel Donnehough and staff with their wives make the major a visit.

3th—(sic 30th--) Very pleasant. Have no drill expect (sic except?) company.

3st—(sic 31st--) Alick and Cady return all worn out. I am glad I have no desire to waste my earnings and health in such foolish and corrupt ways. Receive my appointment as first lieutenant. Lieut. M.C. Harris also receives his as captain.

June 1st—Weather warm. Issue guns and euipment (sic equipment) to the recruits.

2nd—Too warm for drill.

3rd—Captain Babcock makes his call in the evening.

4th—Sunday. Have inspection. Attend church in the afternoon. Weather very sultry.

5th—Company B ordered to the railroad but the major countermands the order. Forty teamsters detailed out of the regiment and sent to Richmond.

6th—Major goes to Richmond and returns. Officers came straggling into camp about 4:00 this morning from their spree.

7th—Captain Peck of the Ninth Vermont visits the major and his family. Receive commission.

8th—Placed in temporary command of Company D during the absence of Captain Orr. Trifler put in acting quartermaster. Caldwin returns to his company. Send application to be discharged by reason of promotion.

9th—Pleasant.

10th—On duty as officer of the guard.

11th—Sunday. Have company inspection.

12h (sic 12st--)Have lady visitors. Non-commissioned officers school in the evening.

13th—Take out muster rolls for men whose time expires before the first of October. Go to Richmond.

14th—Go before the board of examination and pass. Make a few purchases in clothing and return to the regiment in the boat.

15th—Men stone the major’s house and destroy his buggy. Strange how scandalous some men can act.

16th—Captain Orr returns from across the river and takes command of his company.

17th—Sunday. Go on guard.

18th—Have battalion drill in the morning at 7:00 a.m. Capture three deserters from our regiment.

19th—Lost.

29th— (sic 20th--) Battalion drill. My discharge comes from corps headquarters and am now ready to muster.

21st—Mustered with Colonel Hinds and Major Babcock by Lieutenant Horton.

22nd—Assigned to G company. Receipt for all company property. Receive orders to go to City Point.

23rd—Take canal boats to Richmond. Then take steamer to City Point and get here about 8:00 p.m.

24th—Detailed as assistant provost marshal.

25th—Receipt for property as provost marshal.

26th—One day behind time.

27th—Arrest five persons. Issue about 700 rations to the poor. Commence pay rolls of my company.

28th—Work on pay rolls. Make and send monthly return and description list of deserters.

29th—Very busy all day. Issue 700 rations. The 184th New York Volunteers tear down a sutler store.

30th—Complete my rolls. Have several claims for property made. Mustered by Captain Buckman.

July 1st—Draw horse and saddle.

2nd—Ride with Alick to Point of Rocks. Commence to make out new pay rolls. Have a terrible time.

3rd—Finish the hurry of my business. Alick again rooms with me.

4th—Ride out with Lieutenant Cady. Troops paraded to hear Declaration of Independence read by the adjutant.

5th—Gather up all my unemployed negroes and set them to cleaning up.

6th—Make out my quarterly return of ordinance. (sic) Have about 100 darkies sweeping.

7th—From what I hear, and I fear it is too true, Alick has been on a spree which cost him a great deal of money.

8th—Tremendous hot. Make five promotions in my company. Alick is pretty well intoxicated. What a pity that so smart a young man of his intellect should thus throw himself away.

9th—Sunday. Attend church. The 37th Illinois comes to relieve us very unexpectedly. Know not where we are to go.

10th—Turn over my provost marshal’s property to Captain Samuel Gilmore of the 39th.

11th—We are now fully relieved and waiting to start to Culpepper, Va.

12th—Go aboard and start for Richmond about 12:00. Take cars and ride all night. First train north on the O. and A. railroad since the war.

13th—Reach Culpepper about 5:00 p.m. Camp out. It seems old-fashioned.

14th—Quarter in buildings. Colonel goes to Fredericksburg to get instructions. Have some trouble with the cavalry. Go on as officer of the guard.

15th—Weather very cool and agreeable. Draw and issue clothing to my company.

16th—Sunday. Colonel gets back. Have parade. Receive an order from General Devans detaching all on the staff of General Harris at Fredericksburg.

17th—Take the 4:00 o’clock train for Alexandria. Reach there about 8:00 p.m. Far (sic fare) for myself and servant $6.

18th—Take the 7:00 a.m. boat for Bill Pains (sic). Fare $4. Take stage and reach Fredericksburg about 2:00 a.m. Put up at the Shakespeare House.

19th—Have nothing to do but look about.

20th—Begin to get a little acquainted.

21st—Very warm indeed.

22nd—Sunday. Attend the Baptist church with the general in the morning.

23rd—Go to Richmond on the 4:00 p.m. train. Put up at Judge Lafton’s with Lieutenant Trifler (sic?) and Captain Orr.

24th—Draw pay on final statements $364. Get an ambulance and ride with Captain Orr over the old battle ground of Fair Oaks.

25th—Take the 5:30 a.m. train and reach Fredericksburg about 9:00 a.m.

26th—Lost.

27th—Very warm with shower in the evening.

(The End)

Just why the diary ended so abruptly with the entry of July 27th Mr. Benson’s family cannot answer.

Possibly he thought it of no use to keep it longer inasmuch as the war was over and his release from the army only a few weeks away. So far as can be learned he never kept a diary after that.

Announcement of Diary’s publication in the Massena Observer, P.1, col. 3.

**OBSERVER WILL PUBLISH DIARIES**

CIVIL WAR RECORD OF LATE ORLANDO P. BENSON

Massena Man Spent Months in Rebel Prisons But Suffering Failed to Prevent Daily Entries in His Diary

 First-hand knowledge of the suffering endured by Union soldiers in Confederate prisons during the Civil war is revealed in diaries kept by the late Orlando P. Benson, of Massena, who kept an accurate account of his experiences from the time he left Massena for the camp of the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment at Potsdam on October 10, 1865. Through the kindness of Mr. Benson’s family these interesting books have been loaned the Observer and their contents will be published.

 The author of the diaries died at his farm home on the Town Line road November 4, aged 82 years. He was the first quartermaster of Col. Hiram Anderson Post, G.A.R., and active in its affairs as long as he was able. He was an interesting speaker and frequently was called upon to relate his experiences as a soldier. He was also an able writer and poet.

 Enlisting in Company A, 92nd New York Volunteers, at the age of 19, he went to the training camp at Potsdam. Company A was commanded by Capt. Hiram Anderson, after whom the Massena G.A.R. Post was named. Observer readers will recall a recent series of articles concerning the 92nd New York while it was in training during the winter of 1861-62. The diaries of Mr. Benson will reveal interesting sidelights on what happened that winter.

 The regiment left for the front early in the spring. By reading the diaries, Observer readers will be able to follow it closely and have disclosed to them war history never before published.

 Mr. Benson was a non-commissioned officer most of his army career, although commissioned when discharged. He was taken prisoner on October 27, 1864, and with other prisoners taken to Pemberton prison, Richmond, Va., from which place he was transferred a short time later to Salisbury prison, Salisbury, N.C. He was paroled on February 22, 1865. On March 10 he received a 30-day furlough. The railroad came no nearer than Potsdam Junction, now Norwood, in those days, but so eager was the young soldier to get home that he walked the entire distance. He was ill for several days and it was feared that typhoid fever would develop but he finally recovered without his illness developing into the then much-dreaded disease.

 Nearing the expiration of his furlough he started back for the south by way of Vermont, where he visited relatives, Vermont being the early home of his parents. Although Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomatox (sic) on April 9, 1865, Mr. Benson, after he reported back, was lodged in Libby prison. He and another soldier escaped from there May 6 and rejoined the Union army. His last entry in the 1865 diary was made July 27. Why he did not finish is unknown. Possibly he thought the record after that would be too tame.

 To many it may seem strange that prisoners of war were held after Lee’s surrender. The last fight of the war, however, did not occur until May 13, when General Slaughter, a Confederate commander, won a victory over Union forces under Colonel Barnett on the Rio Grande in Texas. The trans-Mississippi army of the Confederates, the last in the field, was surrendered by Kirby Smith on May 26.

 Many important events have been faithfully recorded in the diaries. Due mention is made of the inauguration of President Lincoln on March4, 1865, and his assassination on April 14. In the back of the 1865 diary is a tabulated record of the number of prisoners dying in Salisbury prison. That Mr. Benson wrote letters frequently is evidenced by a record he kept in the backs of the diaries, showing the persons to whom he wrote and the dates. There is also a list of addresses, many being those of acquaintances made while a prisoner at Salisbury. In the 1864 diary is a list of steamers, although the reason for keeping such a list is unknown, unless it was to while away the time while he was in Salisbury. Mr. Benson was a strong churchman and texts of sermons he had heard war to be found in the diaries.

 Under the heading, “Washing Acct. with Bub from May 10th, 1865,” are to be found the following entries: “May 10th, 5 pieces; May 30th, 3 pieces.” Possibly “Bub” was a negro boy or he may have been a fellow soldier, as the dates were after Mr. Benson rejoined the Union forces.

 With the exception of the time he was in prison the entries are made in ink. In prison he wrote with a pencil and the entries are somewhat illegible. Considering the circumstances under which the diaries were kept, however, the entries are fairly clear.

 The Observer takes pleasure in publishing the contents of these diaries and is sure its readers will be interested in reading them. The first of the series will be found in next week’s issue.

 Obituary of Orlando Benson, published in the Massena Observer, November 6, 1924, p.5, col.2.

Orlando P. Benson, well-known farmer and Civil war veteran, died Tuesday evening at 6:20 o’clock at his home on the Town Line road, aged 82 years. He has been in failing health for some time, death being due to old age.

 Mr. Benson was born December 28, 1842, in a log cabin, on the same farm where he died. His parents, Samuel A. and Cornelia Benson, came to Massena by ox team and sled from Shelburne, Vt., about 1837, and were numbered among the early settlers of this vicinity. They took up the farm owned by Mr. Benson at the time of his death. His early boyhood was spent on the farm.

 When 19 years of age, or in 1861, he joined the 92nd New York Volunteer Regiment and with many other Massena boys and men went to Potsdam, the training camp of the regiment for the front. He advanced rapidly and soon was made a sergeant. He participated in several of the most important battles of the war. Although never wounded, he was finally captured and spent months in Libby and Andersonville prisons, nearly dying from disease and hunger. He was at last released on an exchange of prisoners. His spirit undaunted, however, by his terrible experience, he joined the 198th Regiment and served with it until the close of the war, being discharged with the rank of first lieutenant.

 Instead of returning to Massena he took up a farm in Virginia and married Miss Susan Primmer there. The call of the homeland was strong; however, and in the spring of 1881 he returned to Massena and settled on the old farm, living in the house how occupied by his son, William H. Benson. Later he built another house on the farm and was living in that at the time of his death.

 Mr. Benson was the first quartermaster in Col. Hiram Anderson Post G.A.R. and at one time one of the most active members of that organization. Deafness in later years prevented him from taking any active part, however, although he was always on hand Decoration Day.

 Mrs. Benson died five years ago. Surviving are four daughters, Miss Cornelia E. Benson, of Saranac Lake, Miss Emma A. Benson, of Massena and Miss Martha Benson, school teacher in the Newark, N.J. schools, and Mrs. A.J. Dewey, of Massena; and five sons Samuel A. Benson, of New York, O.P. Benson, Jr., of Potsdam, S.J. Benson of Saranac Lake, A.R. Benson, of Watertown; and William H. Benson, of Massena; two sisters, Mrs. E.H. Hackett and Mrs. E.A. Horton, of Massena; and one brother, Fred W. Benson, of Alberta, Canada. There are also several grandchildren.