

Capt W^t P. Remond
Commanding Co. F

Diary of Capt

W^t Vermillion Co. T. 36th

1809 Reg't Four Col Inf't.

Feb. 24. We left Steelea about three
o'clock P.M. for Brown Lake.

Arrived there about sundown

(The Pass leaves the river about
eight miles from Steelea)

The Lake is about one mile

from the river. The River
where it is cut is about half way

We were ordered back for more
Commissary Stores by Gen. Ross
about ten o'clock P.M. Returned

To Steelea and remained till

Feb 25th evening Contentions came up.

between the Capt of Commissary & Feb 26
and Bob Droke as D^o should command.
The Capt started the Boat
back about half past nine o'clock.
Arr. The Lieut Col. Stopped it, and
landed, D to take on some forage.
Returned to Moon Lake about noon
the question undecided as who
D was commander undecided.

The Capt of Commissary was ordered
set D returned to Steelver and re-
maining which he did not saying
any thing D Bob Droke went
Learned during the day, the Con-
struction of Reduk was destroyed
by the Caravanserai soldiers.

Learned that the water-boats
were shelling Nickelus
but we don't know to what effect.
Learned also that the Queen
of the West had been captured
on Red River. Nine o'clock;
are now on our way back to
Moon lake. Wrote to Dolly
last night.

We remained in Moon Lake
but a few minutes, till our
little boat struck for the
Pass at the East side. Had
some difficulty in getting out.
The channel is very narrow
and crooked. Not any wider

if as wide as Chariton and full
as crooked. We go down without
any steam - occasionally putting
a little on to assist in steering
the boat. It seems as though
it will be impossible for us to
get through. The channel is so
narrow. If I were a guerrilla
I could take one hundred men
and cut timber in the stream
in one day till it would take
this expedition three or four to
get the stream clear.

We tied up at night in a
thick woods. In fact there is
nothing but woods here

Throughout our Pickets. Lieut
Wright must sleep with
the men, because he is detailled
to command a fatigue squad
tomorrow. I will go my-
self.

Feb 3rd Awoke at day light. Slept
cold in the outer part of the
rigid. The Pickets were called
in and the boat started im-
mediately. The whole Fleet lay
close together during the
night.

Ten o'clock. Have been lying
so far several hours. The bags
of several of the Companies

went ashore, and jag hawked a few chickens. Some of them broke into a house and got some clothing. The officer of the day arrested some of them, and the Lieutenant led some. They turned them loose again. Then Dooly went ashore. He is now under guard not because he went ashore here, but because he has been violating orders for sometime. He went ashore at Shelling the other day without leave, and came very near being left. I told him if he did it any more I would punish him. So I am keeping my word with him.

Three o'clock P.M. We are laying to again Night. We traveled but a very short distance during ^{the} ~~day~~ Not more than four or five miles. We are laying to, ~~to~~ night near Gen. Allecorn's farm. He has been in the Rebel army, but claims to be a Union now. It is only to save his property. Nothing more during the night I will sleep during the night on deck.

Feb. 28th. At day light I awoke, and found the boat in motion

It is well enough to start early, whether we go any distance or not.

Eight o'clock P.M. One mile and a half during the day hard traveling during too. There has been some kind of a farm on ahead. We have seen one or two fine farms. Large Negro quarters. Picketts all along.

Have learned to day that we have seven Gun Boats along. That is the report. Were mustered for pay this afternoon. As usual we got our posts but a pay short time before the Col. came to muster us.

We are all of the impression now that we are going to Chickasaw by the way of the Sallabatetie and, Oyagoo rivers. If that idea be correct, we will have plenty of fighting to do. It is noon bed time, and all is quiet.

(My Dollie, I am writing about things, but before I quit I must to you. Why do I care to write if I don't write to my Darling. Let me say to you as Bob Kittredge says that this is the greatest expedition that has ever been gotten up surely. The Cast off is a great place
Glorious

March 1st Nothing of importance

Day It is Sunday. We have traveled pretty well. Got a long letter than we did yesterday. Gen. Fisks boat has not been in sight all day.

March 2nd We have made Cold Water at last. Got here about three o'clock. The Gun Boats and transports have been coming in all the afternoon. One Mortar passed down this evening. They tell me we have seven Gun Boats along now. We expect to have fighting to do in a day or two. It will

have to come. I was a short this afternoon, for the first time we left Helena. It is the first time I was ever on the Mississippi sail - the sacred sail. The rebels would say I went down to Lt. Logan's Fort Pittrees. His men were all on land looking. This often noon we received a large Mail. I got four letters from Dolly. All good ones. Sent her one this evening. I hope she will get it in good time. Cold Water is rather a hard looking stream

The Carpenter and Watchman
of this boat - the Prairie
who were captured up at Mon-
suke, last Sunday night one
week ago, come in this evening.
The Rebels paroled them.

They say every citizen is a
southerner. They think our faces
too small for this expedition
March 9th Good evening Dolly. I don't
want to write unless I write to
you. We have traveled only
a very short distance. In fact
some of the boats have not
moved. We have moved up
to get our proper position

in the ~~Right~~ fleet.
Nothing has transpired of
importance. Received notice of
J. S. Duckworts discharge
this morning. Son & Clos-
ing about Mr Johnson's et al
pay. We can't get it till
next pay day.

We have all refused to
take the meat today, &
is too hard. Rather side
meat, all full of maggots
I went and got the Guata
Master to come over and look
at it. He said it was good
and we would have to take
it

We want to wait. It is too
bad. The men are becoming
desperate. It is opinion that
the fine Co. that are on this
boat will mutiny in less
than two days, if they get
nothing better. They have
now Coffee, Crackers & Ham-
ming, with a little Sugar.

It is not a common thing for
them to have so little to eat.

Generally they have plenty.
Some Reg't. went on shore
this afternoon & got several
goat beans. Was usual
got none. Such is the way the
gathering goes.

The Emma was so dam-
aged coming through the
Pass, that she is unfit for the
trip. She goes back tomorrow
I think if she does & will
send Dolly a letter.

Some other boat takes the
99th down in her place.

Lient Col. Drake got spur
key this evening, because I
said I believed the men
would mutiny if they did
not get something better
to eat. She said the Co. offi-
cers should not allow the
men to talk so. I told him

he could arrest me immediately
of he chooses to. That the men
ought and should have some-
thing better to eat. They may
pitch in if they want to.
I will do all I can to prevent it.
but if they arrest the Co. I am
determined to go with them.

4th, We have moved along pretty well
to day. The level road is better
than I anticipated. It is very
crooked, but the crooks are long.
The boats are very much scatter-
ed. Some - they tell me are
ten or fifteen miles ahead.
They may find it not very
comfortable down there.

Nothing has occurred today
except, that we have taken
in plenty of fresh beef. It
was the best reception I have had
since I left home. For the
last eight days the men have
had nothing in the meat line
but the hardest kind of sides
old & full of bugs and worms.
Yesterday morning I refused
to take. The men did not want
it. They said they would do
without entirely before they
would eat it. I saw the
A. M. He said it was good and
he would not give us any better till
that was gone.

The Col said it was good I said
it was not. We did not take
any, the opinion of Col. Cuttledge
not with standing.

We with all the boats in sight
landed this morning about nine
o'clock A.M. ^{Copy}. The ^{Col.} told the Com-
pany Commanders to take their
Companies out and drill them a
while. They all went out but the
most; every Company but mine
went to killing bears. I told
Lieut. Wright to take five or six
men and go out and get a bear, but
he was afraid. I told him to keep
the Co. together & we would go.

Five or six of the bays went
out with me, and we went to hunt-
ing. It was hard to find any
others had been out before us
and either scared them off
or killed them at last we
came across some young cattle
and of all the shooting I ever
saw or heard, the bays beat
all. They shot in every
direction. One had dodged
keep out of the way of the
bullets. He all failed to kill
anything. At last I got a
shot with my revolver and
killed one the bays soon

dressed it, took it in, and made
it all right. I went in first.
When I met Col Oroke, he asked
me if my men were on board, I
told him I did not know, that,
I had been out after beef. Not that
you been out after beef. Of
course I have sir. Didn't I tell
you to take care of your Company?
We of course he had but I am
told something & I was going to have
it. We finally all came on board.
This evening the Col has induced
a very lengthy address to the
Gays. He says the meat we eat is
the best ever good.

I wish had not got plenty of gas
before this morning I do believe
the left wing would have
mutinied. But they are all
quiet now,

I have a long talk with
Capt. Gay & Lieut. Sawyer
They think our Regt. is about
gone up - demoralized. We
will last it very much. The
Col is drunk nearly all of the
time. So is the Dr. Mr. et
Cant last always. We will
not stand it.

The Brained, as well as all
of the fleet, has made a good

run. The river is straited
and wider. It looks much
larger here than it did up
higher. We come a good
long ways, though I have
no way of telling the
distance. Nothing strange
in regard to our travel.

Passed but few farms.
I am not certain we have
passed any. The country
on each side of the river is
very low and all over flown.
The water is six or eight
feet deep on the bottoms.
The cane is thick and

green nearly all over the
bottom. In various
places I noticed some of
the finest green trees I ever
saw in my life. They were
from five to thirty feet
high, with beautiful
tops. In fact they were some
of them perfect cones.
Some one has just told
me it is the balsaly tree.
I wish I had some at
home for my Dallie.
We have had nothing
exciting to day. Some little
talk, that col. Pittselye

thinks he had better resign
I do not know whether
there is any truth in it
or not. Some say he is
drinking very hard a
portion of the time unfit
for duty. It is a pity
The Deacon Master is
drinking very hard. Col
Orake said the other day
that he was so drunk he
had to be carried on board
the Prairie. There are
petitions circulating to
day, asking him to resign
nearly all the days

are signing them. Probably
it will do no good. He can
run over us at any rate.
(Very good Dolly I wish I could
see and talk with you
this evening. There are many
things I would like to talk
to you about. Many things
^{would} I would like to say and many
things I would like to
hear you say, but we
must wait. The war will
be over after a while. Guelph
6th Started early this morning
Slept on quietly till some
nine or ten o'clock A.M.

when we began to pass some very large rice farms. Some were very nice, only there were no fine houses, no orchards and no slaves. Just an abundance of Negroes. On one farm some of the bays say they counted thirty chil- dren, all they think under twelve years of age. I think more than likely their estimate is low enough. Many of the old and young jumped up, ran, and clapped their hands together with joy. Poor things they are hardly

disappointed if they think the soldiers of this expedition are going to do any thing to give them their freedom.

About noon we came to a halt and Col. Drake gave the Commandants of Co. the privilege of sending two men each from each Co. to cook. We did it. The orders were strict that no others should go a shore, except the fatigue parties. The commandants of the fatigue parties left their men which caused some trouble. Col. Hitt's dredge boat was lying close to ours

He and Col. Drake said they tried to get permit to forage. They reported they could not get it. The men in Col. Hittings boat - the Lorraine Logans had a lot of very fine hens above us ready to butcher. The Col. said not kill them. They shot eight or nine down right before him, contrary to orders. What the result will be I am unable to say. But there is one thing sure pure, the Regt must & will have fresh meat.

Here at the same landing in a rebels field, the 88th Mo

buried one of their boys, out in the fence corner. There he must lay and rest, while Rebels plan over him. Blockade here, but such is a soldiers life. About one or two o'clock we passed on. The wind was against us, which caused us some trouble. Some fifteen or twenty Negroes crowded along the banks and tried to get on the boat. Lieut Pearson was going to take one on board for his own use, but the boat hands prevented him. It came very near causing trouble. The boat were loaded.

In a short distance we came
on the boats, that were ahead
of us. They were stopped in
the woods, taking on cotton.
On the Left Bank, this morn-
ing were found some three
hundred holes. Other boats
had taken a great deal of it
for protection. When we got
up there were only ten holes
left which we got. We are
lying at the same landing
to night. We have Pickets up
on the North side. We expect
to have to fight in a very few
days at furthest. It will have
to come.

Friday the 11th We have traveled tolerably
well to day. I can't tell how far
Nothing very stirring to day
I have slept too much to feel
very well, or to have run much.
We passed on peace. I am
told where the rebels have
commenced fortifying. The
high water had driven them
out. We came into the Tol-
atachee this forenoon. Last
night we were some two
hundred miles from the
Agar City.

At last Col. Ogle has
concluded to let us put

up some rails to protect us from the guerrillas. We can protect ourselves pretty well. The staff officer of Gen. Grant who is commanding or who is along came on board & sized him up a little.

No more this night Volki
It is already twelve o'clock
Henry Swallow is quite sick I am uneasy about him. He may be better tomorrow.

8th Supt. Swallow is no better to day. He is going to see

sick for several days. I am very sorry for him.
We have traveled some twenty miles to day. Not any more the distance from Helena through the Pass to Cold water is some seventeen miles. From the mouth of the Pass to the Yalabatish is forty miles. From the mouth of Cold water to the Yalao, is called fifty miles, from there to Yalao City one hundred and sixty.
We have passed but one

small farm to stay. The woods have been thick on each side of the river, which looks here much like Skunk river in Iowa.

W^r. J. Dooly of my Company is under arrest to stay for sleeping on his post last night, while on guard.

I have been informed by several to stay of the strength of our expedition. There are two regular Ironclads, two Rams, one Mortar and five of Mosquetae Gun Boats. There are about eleven

Transports, and somewhere between four & five thousand troops. Whether we are sufficient for the undertaking is a question to be decided.

They are singing in the other end of the Cabin.

Be it remembered we have never seen any enemy since starting out. Every day we injure our boats more or less.

1st
15

This has been a day of more excitement than usual. We have passed some of the finest farms I have seen

since I left the North we
have passed some four jins
of them. We stopped at one
& got some Cotton. The boat
hands got some sickness.
There has been some
protection put up for the
snow delay, but the boat
rowing against the tinders
along the banks keep it pretty
well nuclear down.

This morning early the mate
and one of the sugar cooks got
into a fuss, and the negro cut
the mates hand some, with a
large butcher knife.

The boatmen were very anxious
against the negro. The soldiers
all took the negro's part. Nothing
has occurred of it as yet.
This evening since dark the
boys were going out on Picket
by order of Col. Drury, when
they up set the life boat
with six or seven men in it.
Happily they were all saved.
Wm. Worthington & John
Yeater were both in it.
They got a little wet.
The County through which
we have passed today, has
been something like what

I all ways supposed the
South to be Large farms, large
houses, & large negro quarters.
We have passed farms to day
that I said I should one hundred
or one hundred & fifty negroes.
Probably more than that.
To night we may be attacked
by guerrillas.

10th Evening overtake P.M. Slave
travelled pretty well to day.
No cotton has been taken or
board delayed - I believe. We
have seen probably f
millions of Dollars worth burn-
ing. The authorities of the

state are closing it. This even-
ing late we came upon
the hull of a large steamer
burning. It had been heavily
loaded with Cotton above. We
had heard of it for several days
& were expecting to capture it
but we did not get it.
They were making down the
river as fast as they could
but this afternoon the steamer
we came alongside and the
rebels fired her, Cotton and
all. When we passed the
cotton was burning for miles
down the river.

It was the greatest sight I have seen
for a long time. One boat after another
would come floating down
stream some lodging against the
bank, some against the trees and
fences where the bottoms were over-
flowed. We had to watch the boats
to prevent them from being
set on fire.

This evening Capt. Jay, Mrs.
self & others went ashore to Mrs.
Terry's. She met us on the steps
and invited us in. She let me as
to be a Physician. She has been practice-
ing Medicine. Henry Ladd is very
well this evening. I am afraid he will
die. Poor fellow. If he does it will be
in a day or two.

on the Sevinia Sagan - the
boat the right of our Regt is
on, was fired into to day.
One man was wounded in the
head.

