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## Civil War Resources

**Title:** Isaac Harris Diary, U.S. Sanitary Commission

**Date:** June 12 - July 18, 1863

**Location:** I-BaldwinC-1998-1

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## DIARY TRANSCRIPTION

Friday June 12th 63

The rumors of a move seem to be premature and we are again subsiding to a comparative degree of comfort, yet there is so much mystery visible at Head Quarters, and at the Commissary Dept. so much activity that we are compelled to believe something is on the tapis. The Rebs on the other side of the river show themselves in greater numbers than before and are not so friendly. Some picket firing is going on, and the usual mid-day exchange of tobacco and papers is prohibited. What is up? At noon the Pontoon train, two batteries of light 12's and one of 3 in. Rifled pieces passed down by the Lacey House and behind the "Seven Sisters" Bluff, shortly followed by the Vermont Brigade of the 6th Corps. At three o'clock the three batteries opened on the Rebel rifle pits opposite Franklin's Crossing maintaining a heavy fire, which was replied to feebly by some Whitworth guns, half way up Mary's Heights. At Six the Vermonters took to the boats and pulled across, our guns continuing their fire until the boats touched the bank - then a yell - a rush, a rattle of musketry and the fight is over, and the Rebs on the run towards the city the Sisters giving them some 32's to hurry them along. By seven the bridge is laid and the troops cross and spread over the plain as far as the house where Bufort was killed. The fight was witnessed by thousands seated on the bluff, whom the Whitworth shells disturbed a bit. At the "Sisters" were a number of ladies who stood the fire splendidly and applauded every good shot by shouts and waving of handkerchiefs. Just before dark Mac, Swalm & I rode over to see how things were with the boys and returning Mac's horse was crowded off the bridge, causing both to swim for it, one to the North and the other to the South bank of the river. They were soon together again and we returned to camp undecided as to the meaning of the movement. Our small pox patient left his tent this P.M. while we were absent, and frightened the other niggers away, so that we are our own chefs for supper. No word from Acquia or Washington.

>The diary begins with Isaac Harris on location near the Rappahanock River in the vicinity of Fredericksburg VA. The phrase "on the tapis" means "in the works", or literally "on the carpet". 'Swalm' is Dr. W.S. Swalm, USSC field inspector. 'Acquia' is Aquia Creek, where there was a water transportation link to Washington DC.

Saturday 13th

This morning at daylight, Swalm discovered that Washington - the small pox darkey - had died during the night. This caused much surprise as he was thought to be nearly well. It is probable that his leaving his tent yesterday, and the sudden change in the temperature during the night caused his sudden decease. His was the most revolting looking corpse I have ever [...] and everyone loathed to touch him, in fact, very few cared to approach his tent fearing the contagion, and the niggers, one and all, "vamoosed the ranche."

While Swalm started on horseback to bring back the boys to dig a grave, Green and I made a coffin and put poor Washington into it, while Fay marked and cut a head board to mark the grave. As soon as the grave was dug, the rascally niggers disappeared and we did not see them again until after the work was all done. Green conducted the funeral services and it was really affecting to watch the effect of his words upon the crowd of soldiers who, attracted by the novelty of seeing a "nigger buried", had gathered round. After dinner Swalm and I went over the river again to notice things. Obtained names of killed and wounded and forwarded list to Central Office. Everything very quiet, and no picket firing. The Rebs are in plain view along the "Sunken Road" and appear to be satisfied. Everyone is conscious of some great change about taking place, but what is it? Mac was informed at HdQrs. that nothing was going on, but we believe to the contrary. Our balloon has been up all day, and so has the Rebs' from which it is evident something is suspicious. In the evening Swalm, Fay and Bellows wrote to the friends of those killed and wounded yesterday, while Mac & I went out for information. About nine o'clock we found Capt Pitkin's men stripping the canvass roof from the forage shed, and P. informed us that Lee had started two days before for Maryland, and that yesterday's fight was for the purpose of bringing him back by threatening to advance on Richmond, but that he wouldn't come and so we were going after him. He promised us one car at one 'o'clock and we returned immediately to strike tents. How fortunate for Washington that he died this morning! Had he lived, we could not ~~have taken~~ him with us, and he would probably linger a few days until starvation or some Reb put an end to him.

> 'Central Office' refers to the headquarters of the USSC located at 244 'F' Street, 'Washington DC. 'Bellows' is probably the son of Rev. Henry Bellows, founder of the USSC.

Sunday June 14th

All night we tore down and packed up and by four o'clock had the car and all our wagons loaded. Then for a parting salute to Fredericksburg which we have watched for so long a time. All the debris of the camp was piled up, and the match applied and we sat around on the ground watching the fire - sipping coffee and munching hard-tack. At 5.30 A.M. we started for Acquia, but found the roads so blocked by trains that it was noon when we reached Potomac Creek. Here a broken down Sutler's wagon was encountered, loaded with all sorts of good things. In about two minutes our selection was made and transferred to our wagons and on we went, fording the Creek just below the bridge in three feet of water. We reached Acquia at sundown and found everything in confusion. Our steamer, the Lizzy, was nearly full, and here were fifty tons yet to go aboard. The army was away off to Hartwood Church, hurrying after Lee - and the Rebs from Fredericksburg had reached Potomac Creek and were picking up stragglers. By midnight we had everything on board the boat and were only waiting for a convoy to Washington as the Rebs are reported to have batteries on the river. I slept on the hurricane deck on a piece of sail for a bed from which some one rolled me during the night and was soundly kicked for his indiscretion. The idea of stealing a bed in the Army!!

> A sutler is a camp follower who peddles provisions to the soldiers.

### Monday 15th

All hands up at daylight, but we did not get under weigh until about 7 o'clock. The immense fleet as it steamed out from the mouth of the Creek into the river was a pretty sight indeed, but it was slow work as we had to run under one bell so as not to get away from our convoy. So tedious did it become at length that a vote was taken whether to run ahead "wide open" and take the chances, or be all day on a four hour trip. Only one negative vote, so off we went and down into the hold went the negative, merely for safety. Swalm was self appointed Master of ceremonies and kept all hands in roars of laughter until the boat touched 7th St. wharf. Then there was mounting in hot haste and off to the Central Office for instructions and clean clothes, then to Willards for a good dinner, then to the theatre and then to bed.

> 'Willards' was a well-known Washington DC Hotel.

### Tuesday 16th

A noisy anxious crowd reported for duty this morning at 8 o'clock. Noisy because they could not help it and anxious because they would not. The city is full of rumors from a battle on the Rapidan to the Rebs being in Maryland. Everything at odds and ends at HdQrs. so we are turned loose with orders to report at 2 P.M. As everyone is anxious to secure a good place in the coming operations each man is pulling his individual wire. I am promised my choice of positions and locations, and Swalm, Mac & I determine to hang together; but find there is too much to be done and that it is impossible. Mac is ordered to the front with the trains and Swalm & I elect to go to Harrisburg and meet Mac as soon as possible. Dined with Dr. and Mrs. Caldwell and left on 6.30 P.M. train with Swalm and Knapp. At Baltimore learn that the Rebs are on the Northern Central R.R. near York, which obliges us to go to Philada. arriving at 1 A.M. at the "Continental."

> 'Knapp' is Rev. F.N. Knapp, associate secretary USSC and superintendent, Special Relief. " Rebs .. near York .." - On June 3, 1863, Lee began moving his army northward; by the 28th, the entire Army of Northern Virginia was in Pennsylvania.

### Wednesday 17th

Left on 7.30 A.M. train and arrived at Harrisburg at 1 P.M. Went to Jones House - dinner, and then to pick up news. The city all excitement and anxiously expecting the N. Y. Militia to arrive and save them from the Rebs who are reported as being everywhere. In the evening went to Sanford's Opera House (?) where a two hundred pound woman sang ["] The Captain with the

Whiskers" and made faces at every bearded man in the room. At twelve o'clock went to the capitol, introduced to Gov. Curtin, made up a dispatch and telegraphed it to New York and Washington. Returned to the Hotel at 2 A.M. and went to bed with head-ache and well used up.

#### Thursday 18th

Not well this morning - head-ache and no appetite. Swalm says I have the "shakes" or will have them in a couple of hours. Collins from N.Y. reports for duty and is sent to Washington with dispatches. No reliable news from the Rebs, but plenty of rumors. Kept my room and bed nearly all day; but the arrival of the 8th and 71st N.Y. Regts was too much for me, so I got up and went out to their camp and met some old friends - Schenk among the number. Gen's Couch and Milroy arrived in the evening and were serenaded by the band of the 23rd Brooklyn Regt. which had also arrived. Went to the Capitol at 11 P.M. with Swalm to get the news and make up dispatches for N.Y. & Washington.

> 'Schenk' - Isaac Harris' mother's family name was Schenk.  
'Couch' - General Darius N. Couch, U.S. Corps Commander in Harrisburg area.

#### Friday 19th

Not at all well this morning, so after breakfast took possession of a sofa in the parlor and dozed until dinner. Swalm says Quinine is the only thing for me, and I am taking it, six grains three times a day - until my ears each have a hand-organ in full blast in them. Rode out to Camp Curtin to see the N.Y. Regts which are coming in rapidly, but had to return to my room and to bed, leaving Swalm to go to the Capitol to send off dispatches.

#### Saturday 20th

Felt quite well this morning. Collins returned from Washington last night and started for Philada. on first train. Rebs reported at Chambersbr'g and our boys ordered to meet them. Rec'd invitation to attach myself to Genl. Knipe's Staff, accepted, and left for Shippensburg at 4 P.M. with the Genl., Col Gowan and Dr. Rogers. Delightful ride, beautiful country and pretty girls who turn out en masse to see the soldiers. This Cumberland Valley would be just the place to tie up for a life time, but that everybody eats bread and apple butter and apparently nothing else. We found comfortable quarters at the "Black Boar Tavern" and had the monotony of the campaign broken by a passage at arms between Col. Gowan and the Quarter Master 71st N.Y.S.M. The Q.M. drew his sword on G. while we were at table, and G threw a well filled plate which the Q.M. dodged but before he could recover his guard, G. had closed with him, wrested his sword away and whipped him out of the dining room with it throwing it after him, the rest of us shaking with laughter. The Rebs are reported to have occupied Chambersburg eleven miles South of here. The Genl.

is anxious about his Militia, who have advanced no further than Carlisle. At ten P.M. the fever comes on again and occasions a spirited argument between Col G. and Dr. Rogers. G. insists that I have the small pox while the Dr. says it is only a "shake". They cannot agree except to leave the decision to a game of "Seven-up". As G. wins in a square game I suppose I must have the small pox, to which the Dr. assents and doses me with five grains of Quinine and Spiritus-frumenti ad lib

> 'Knipe' - General Joseph F. Knipe of Pennsylvania, divisional commander, XII Corps.

### Sunday 21st

The troops were marching South all the morning and at one P.M. we rec'd "boot and saddle". Rode for a couple of miles, but had to climb down and take to an ambulance. Met Thad Stevens on the road who reported the Rebs South of Chambersburg. The Genl. invited him to return to C. but Thad "guessed not". The road was thronged with niggers - white folks - cattle, sheep and horses and Dutch wagons, all on the skedaddle for Harrisburg. Reached C. at 5.30 about used up.

### Monday 22nd

Sick as usual. About two P.M. word came in that our cavalry were skirmishing at Smoketown, seven miles out, and lost 2 killed and 1 wounded and 7 horses injured, but were holding their own. This caused some excitement and the Militia who had arrived worn out, suddenly became very fresh to march -- back. The Genl. told me that if the enemy advanced his orders were to fall back slowly upon Carlisle and H'bg and that he should probably do so about dark as they were in considerable force and "sassy". About dusk, as I was lying in bed asleep, there was a terrible commotion in front of the house of running horses and men and some firing. Saw in one glance what was going on - the Rebs had made a dash, and in two seconds was dressed, out of the room, down stairs, out of the back door to my horse and off. Above the Court House met Gowan swearing at the Militia and trying to make them stand, but it was no go. They would stand, but not still. However, with the cavalry, we made a little show and charged through the square with about half a Squadron and started the Rebs on the back track. Secured my haversack at the Hotel and pistol belt which I had dropped in the stable, not having taken time to buckle it on when I mounted, and at 9 o'clock left on the train, being afraid to attempt the ride as I was weak and had a violent headache since the excitement of the skirmish had passed off. Found a man in the 71st who promised to have my horse at Carlisle by daylight. The train ran very slowly and reached Shippensburg by 12 o'clock. Took supper and started again at 1.30 A.M. Reported that left wing of 71st captured by mistaking the road. Carlisle by 4 o'clock and turned in at the Mansion House.

Tuesday 23rd

Up at 7.30 - tired and sleepy, but with the "shakes" completely shaken out of me. Nothing like a skedaddle to cure some complaints in the Army. Found my horse and turned him over to the Quarter Master. Orders to fall back to Harrisburg. No telegraph with Shippensburg and suspect the Rebs are there. All of our boys came in during the night and the 8th N.Y. left early for H'bg. Train started at 10 A.M. and arrived at H'bg at 11.30. Found large package of letters waiting for me. 13th Brooklyn arrived and stationed at Fort Couch across the River. Went over and met many an old friend. Took supper with Harrington and Varin and drank coffee with a dozen others, for want of something stronger if not better. Saw dress parade and returned just before the countersign was out. Went with Swalm to see Carncross and Dixey's Minstrels - Trash! Then up to the Capitol for news and to bed by 2.30.

Wednesday

Remained at the Hotel all the morning expecting Harrington and others over to dine with me. Bob Hood alone came and reported the other boys as unable to obtain passes as they had marching orders. Gave H. a square meal which he thought would last him for a month. During the afternoon wrote home and to several friends, and went over the river to find the 13th & 23rd on the march for Carlisle. Rebs reported advancing and living off the country. It must make those old Dutch down the Valley swear to have their apple butter carted off; but it serves them right. There is no fight in them; they are all, men women and children on the "make" and have no gratitude for those who are here to protect them. To charge a man twenty-five cents for a slice of bread smeared over with apple butter and thus expect him to fight for you is a mistaken idea - very! I have seen men sell water on the streets in this city today to soldiers in the ranks at five cents a cup-full. And I have also seen the same men have the contents of their buckets poured over them as soon as all the boys had had a drink. Did it serve them right? The usual trip to the Capitol.

Thursday June 25th

Met Col. Gowan early this morning and learned something about the movements down the valley. He thinks the Rebs are "ducking it" in order to keep our forces here from uniting with Meade who has succeeded Hooker in command of the Potomac Army. He estimates their strength at not over 5000 and has urged Couch and Knipe to drive them back which he claims can be done without a battle by advancing East of South Mountain when they will fall back or be captured and have the road open to Meade who is in Maryland. Saw Genl. Williams who does not agree with Gowan, but thinks it best to hold this point without risking an engagement which if disastrous would have the entire State open to Lee should he escape Meade. Genl. Crooke and staff arrived today and look greener than any of the boys in the Brigade. During the afternoon with Dr. Swalm began a regular course of inspection of various camps and Regts. of the Post, but found there was scarcely any need of it, as

most of the men have been on one or two campaigns and know how to care for themselves, and being just from home are well provided with money and necessities. Spent the evening with Lt. Bergen and others of Crookes staff. Home by 11 o'clock.

> 'Genl. Williams' - Brig. General A.S. Williams, divisional commander, XII Corps.

#### Friday 26th

A rainy day. Busy with my report to Washington - writing letters and making requisitions for stores which the Medical Director advises us to have on hand at this point as being convenient in case of an action in the Cumberland Valley. Thus far our duties have been very light in fact, we have had nothing to do but amuse ourselves and why we should be retained here is a mystery as we might be so much better employed in the Potomac Army and at much less expense. However, "obey orders and break owners"! Spent the evening with Adjt McKee and Col. Stube, and then made the usual trip to the Capitol.

#### Saturday 27th

Did nothing in the morning. Wrote letters in the afternoon. Excitement in town runs high. Rebs reported advancing and the Militia falling back. It is a sort of Fox and Geese game at best and nobody hurt. It appears certain however that the enemy have occupied Mechanicsburg between here and Carlisle. Troops are being hurried across the river and it is estimated there are 25000 over there now. Fort Couch is completed and manned by two Regts. It mounts two batteries of 10 pdr-Rodman and one four gun battery of light 12's. York is reported to have surrendered at 6.20 this evening, which if correct begins to look a little like war. Swalm is certain we shall have a fight near here and is on the rampage because we have no stores here, and has been telegraphing all over the country. No goods - no horses - no money - no letters from home - no nothing - so go to bed.

#### Sunday 28th

A quiet day! Wrote to Mrs. Briggs in the afternoon. After supper took a long walk East of town and amused myself talking to some country people. Wrote to O.G. in the evening. The bridge at ~~York~~ Columbia burned by the Rebs about 9 o'clock. Saw the light distinctly from the roof of the Hotel. Wounded Rebel Scout brought in this evening which makes the people fairly stand on their heads with excitement and fear. The wealthy citizens have been moving their goods all day and special and extra trains have been run East to accommodate them. Those who are unable to get away are very bitter in their denunciation of the fortunate ones and it is not difficult to see why. Rec'd Telegram from Philada. that stores were shipped yesterday. To the Capitol as usual and in bed

by two o'clock.

> 'O.G.' - O.G. Carter of New York was Isaac Harris' guardian. Columbia PA is on the northern bank of the Susquehanna River.

Monday 29th

All excitement this morning as usual. The citizens are beginning to organize home guards, and the veterans of 1812 are parading about the streets with fife and drum to gather recruits. It is a funny sight to see these old fellows and how determined they look, as if a good sized "Johnny" would be only half a mouthful for any one of them; and then the way they carry their muskets is enough to make a dog laugh. Mr. Lewis of Philada. arrived this evening to see about goods from Phila. Showed him about town, reported progress and sent him back to Phila. with dispatches at 3 A.M.

Tuesday June 30th

Spent the morning with Williams of G. Co-13th an old friend of last summer's campaign in the Dismal Swamp Va. Dined and saw him off at 1.15 P.M. for Marysville to rejoin his Regt. Col. Bob Clark and J.W. Hunter Jr. of Brooklyn arrived today, Bob to try a new field gun and Hunter to see his son in 13th -- Smith of Phila. reported at 10 P.M. having come up on the Express with a load of stores on the tender of the engine. Went to Depot to look after goods and to wait for balance to come by next train. No chance to store them to-night and Smith insists upon standing guard. The second lot arrived at 3 1/2 A.M. when I turned in, Smith happy in the discharge of his duty and ready for any sacrifice of comfort. Q: Would forty-eight hours cure him? Probably.

Wednesday July 1st, 63

Up early and relieved Smith while he could get his breakfast. Stored goods in Reading Depot in "Howard Express" room. Report on the street that McClellan has been reinstated and everybody feels easier knowing that he can get all the fighting out of the Potomac Army that there is in them. "Three cheers for little Mac"! is heard on all sides. Swalm, Smith, Sam Jones and I rode out to Sam's farm three miles up the river and luxuriated on raspberries and cherries, returning in time to start Smith off on 1.15 train for Philada. The Blue and Grey Reserves are at Carlisle and the N.Y. Regts this side. The Rebs are reported advancing and Genl. Knipe will give them a brush. Bolting a mouthful of dinner I just caught a special ammunition train of engine and one car and started for Carlisle or as far as might be. Succeeded in getting through and reported at once to Genl. Knipe - second in command "Baldy" Smith being the ranking Officer. Obtained a horse, a horrid old brute, and was happy. About 5.30 our pickets were driven in from towards South Mt. the Rebs following closely with a large cavalry force and one battery of rifled 10 pdrs.

They skirmished dismounted and did it very prettily coming down the long hill, and the Blue Reserves playing sharp on them like old soldiers, and there must have been some among them judging by the way they handled themselves. The Rebs kept up a lively fire but did no damage. About three quarters of a mile from town they turned to the right through the fields and crossed over to the Harrisburg pike which intersects the road they left at right angles in the center of the town. Here they ran their guns into position and unlimbered. Baldy had no artillery and only two Regts of Militia but he knew that he could hold the town against their cavalry, and also knew the N.Y. Regts would be coming down the road to take them in the rear shortly. Presently an Officer rode forward from their line with a white flag and was allowed to advance to the edge of town, and after a long delay, which was intentional in order to gain time for the New Yorkers to come up, Col Gowan rode forward to meet him. He came with a peremptory demand to surrender the place and troops to Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, C.S.A. Gowan then returned to Gen Smith who replied with his compliments to Gen. Lee and would see him d-d first and then he wouldn't. Then there was fun! The way the Johnnies tumbled the shells down the main street was animated to say the least. All the women and non-combatants took to the cellars and the troops were posted behind the houses on the street nearest the Rebs, ready to repel a charge should they make one. I found comfortable quarters under the lee of the jail wall with Gowan, Smith and others. The fire continued until nearly dusk, about an hour and a quarter and only one man, Holliday of the Greys, hurt. He attempted to run across the road, but a shell winged him in the right leg. Suddenly their fire ceased and they began moving hurriedly across to the road where they first appeared. They had scarcely time to limber up before we heard the N.Y. boys at them in the rear. Smith at once started his men to head them off before they should regain the road and all of us were on the run and jump with the New Yorkers "going" for them across lots, but they were too quick for us. They gained the road and running their guns in position, unlimbered and began to throw shells, but by this time it was too dark to get the range, and both sides quit even. Whatever loss they met with is not known as they carried them off. Poor Holliday died during the operation of amputating his leg. Reports from A. of P. that a fight is going on near Gettysburg and that we are getting the best of it but with heavy losses. Conclude to return to Harrisburg as train is about to start, and have Gowan's promise to telegraph me to return if anything is going on tomorrow. Reached H'bg at 1 A.M. and sent reports of the fight to Washington and N.Y. Went to Depot with Swalm and Whittemore of the N.Y. "Times" expecting goods on 2.45 A.M. train from Phila. None came, so returned to Hotel, had something to eat and was foolish enough to go to the river to swim. Day ends at 6.30 A.M.

> The great three-day Battle of Gettysburg began this day. The above-cited action at Carlisle involving the Confederate contingent led by Fitzhugh Lee was part of General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry campaign to the North of Lee's main force. 'Baldy Smith' - Brig. General William F. Smith.

Thursday July 2nd

No news from Gowan to-day but the city full of rumors from Gettysburg and

yesterday's battle. The reports are conflicting but Gen. Couch feels confident that we have held our own. Slept until dinner time when Smith returned from Phila. with a car load of stores. Swalm went to Carlisle with McClellan. Smith and I being both very tired turned in early to be turned out at 2 A.M. by Swalm who had returned from Carlisle with no news.

Friday July 3rd

Smith up by daylight and off to the Depot to look after his stores. It is difficult to understand the actions of people in Phila. They have already triplicated our original requisition, and more stores are to come. We do not need them here and probably never shall, and moreover when they are required as they will be, at Gettysburg they will have to return to Philada. as the R.R. between here and G. is broken. Rented a storehouse and spent the day in moving stores from Depot thither. Smith returned to Phila. on 4 P.M. train. In the evening wrote home, and bored for an hour by four gentlemen from Phila. who are looking for a wounded man. Had a call from Joe Legget. Rec'd sad news from Mac. The Rebs captured him and his train a day or two since [..] Somewhere near Frederic City Md. It will go hard with poor Mac if they hold him long. As for one of his men - Leonard, they are welcome to keep him for stealing the box of raisins I secured from the abandoned Sutler's wagon on the road from Falmouth to Acquia. Continued fighting at Gett[y]sburg reported but too much success on our side to believe all of it.

Saturday the "Fourth"

And a great nuisance it is! What a pity these patriotic fellows are not down at the "front" burning powder at Lee instead of keeping decent people awake all night! Ware, one of the "Press Gang", came in at daylight and must have a bottle of Congress Water as he had been very busy all night. Then a Mr. Shippen arrived from Pittsburg with a load of stores. Endeavored to get teams to haul them to Storehouse but could not. Leaving Shippen to watch - which he accepted with poor grace - I took 25 ¢ worth of personal appearance. Rained from 10 until 5 o'clock. Managed to get our team in the afternoon and hauled goods to Storehouse. Just as this was finished a Mr. Rulon of Phila. reported with 4 cases and 1 trunk for Co. "D" Grey Reserves. These people it seems, take us for Commission men and expect us to take charge of and look after any lot of old gingerbread which may come along, and not only expect it, but rather demand it. Mr. Rulon appeared somewhat dejected when he was informed that as he had hands and tongue he had better [use] both and take care of his goods himself. However, as he is a poor dolt I gave him a lift and had the goods placed in the Storehouse. Went to the Capitol. Bed by 1 o'clock.

> "Leaving Shippen to watch .. " - this is one of several entries that allude to the high value and pilferability of USSC stores. See inventory of USSC stores in the Appendix.

Sunday July 5th

Met Rod Rowland this morning and saw him off on train for Carlisle. Rulon went to Carlisle but did not take his goods. Reported this P.M. that Lee has been totally defeated in the battles of the 1st-4th and that Meade has captured 25000 prisoners and 118 guns. 2000 paroled prisoners, mostly of the 1st Corps passed through on their way East today, which would seem to indicate that Lee was so hard pressed as to be unable to hold them. Swalm and McClellan left for Gettysburg this P.M. at 4. Wrote to Mr. Knapp and sent bulletin to Washington & N.Y. in the evening.

Monday 6th

Two hospitals have finally been established in town, one in the old Cotton Factory and the other on East Walnut St. The C.F. under charge of Dr. Crane has 85 patients mostly foot sore Militia, and in East Walnut St. in charge of Dr. Steiler are 118 sick. None of the cases are serious and are well provided for by Govt. However, supplied them with some few necessaries, such as Farina and Jellies. Numbers of wounded and sick principally Rebels are reported to be at Shippensburg and Chambersburg, and sadly deficient in Hospital material. Rec'd message from Gov. Curtin to call on him and did so at once. Requested me to take supplies for 1000 patients to Carlisle. Made selection of stores at once and telegraphed to Philada. for some one to relieve me as I cannot leave the stores here alone during Swalm's absence. Wrote to Knapp and Douglass. Turned in at 12.30 with directions to be called at 4. Swalm returned at 2 A.M. and reported a great victory for our arms at Gettysburg, but with a terrible loss of killed and wounded, and no hospital accommodations. Reported my interview with the Gov. and rec'd instructions from S. to follow Gen Couch's command wherever they went and supply Hospitals in the towns and villages through which they passed, drawing on the stock at Harrisburg or any other San. Com. Depot or where this was impossible by purchase.

Tuesday July 7th

Had the goods hauled down to the Depot by 5 A.M. but could not obtain transportation. Leaving Rulon on guard, rushed up to Gov Curtin's and obtained peremptory order to carry stores on first train. The R.R. Supt. acknowledged the situation and speedily found room in the baggage car. In the same car were some delegates of the Christian Commission going to the front with supplies and Orange Judd of the American Agriculturist. The C.C.'s were in high spirits when they ascertained the San. Com. had no stores at Carlisle and hoped by their numbers to supply the Hospitals there before I could. The train came to a stand about one mile N. of the town on account of a broken bridge, where leaving Rulon in charge I left the train and walked into town through a drenching rain to the Hospital which was located in Dickinson College. Had a talk with Dr. Tomlinson, the Surgeon in charge, and with the lady nurses particularly Mrs. Tomlinson. Learned what they needed and started off to get a team, succeeded and returned to the car just as the C.C. brethren discovered the train was going no further. Loaded the wagon and

drove to the Hospital and was unloading when the C.C.'s again appeared and offered assistance which was refused by Dr. Palmer saying, the San. Com. had supplied every want of his patients. Gave Mrs. Tomlinson carte-blanche to purchase on S. C. a/c any tin ware and cooking utensils she might require for the Hospital. Obtained storeroom from Messrs. Brandt & Cameron, where I placed balance of stores not required by Hospital, and telegraphed to Swalm for blankets and reported progress by letter. Whit, Demming and Ware came down on 4 P.M. train. Slept with Whit.

> The United States Christian Commission grew out of a meeting of the New York Y.M.C.A. in 1861. While the Commission's objectives were similar to those of the USSC, there was some healthy competition, as well as cooperation between the two groups. Orange Judd [1822-1892], a graduate of Wesleyan Univ., editor and publisher of the American Agriculturist, and agricultural editor of the New York Times, was with the Christian Commission up through the Gettysburg period. Later he worked with the USSC.

#### Wednesday July 8th

Rain! Rain! Rain! The Press Gang concluded not to go to the front on account of the rain and returned to Harrisburg. Went to Hospital and took inventory of goods and obtained receipts. Wrote to Swalm and dined with Graffin of the N.Y. Herald. Thought of going to Shippensburg by afternoon train, but met Geo. Hardy who offered me one of his horses, so concluded to wait until tomorrow. Smith came from Harrisburg with blankets which were turned over to Hospital. Called on Mrs. Rhiems. Letters from Clara and O.G.

#### Thursday July 9th

Up early, breakfasted and walked with Smith. Started for Shippensburg at 10 A.M. with Hardy and the Press Gang -- arriving at 1. Bread and Molasses for dinner. Returned to Carlisle on train with Hardy to ride a horse back for him. Left C. at 5.30 and reached Shippensburg 22 miles, at 9 P.M. Pleasant ride. Turned in at Black Boar Tavern and slept on the floor with a chair for a pillow and about twenty bed fellows.

#### Friday July 10th

Up at 5 o'clock after a hard night, but found some bird was earlier than I, and had found his worm in my spurs which he had taken off my boots while I was asleep. There being a number of lazy birds still on the floor, one of them must have had a good time looking for his spurs. Met Joe Leggit just in from his Regt. which he had left beyond Waynesboro on the march. Left at 7.30 and reached Chambersburg at 10 A.M. Hardy's horse lame, changed with him, and he pushed on to overtake his Regt. while I stopped for the day to rest the horse and visit the Hospitals. Found 70 Reb. patients under charge of Dr.(?) Hamilton

M. Gamble - 20th Va. Inf. (Reb) & nephew of Gov. Gamble of Mo. Hospital in horrible condition and without supplies of any kind, the patients lying on the bare floors, without covering of any kind, and even without dressing for their wounds, and the entire place infested with vermin. The sight was sickening, in fact, the most horrible I have yet met with. Telegraphed to Swalm to send complete outfit for the Hospital and then wrote particulars. Rec'd. answer to my dispatch that goods would be along on morning train. Informed Dr. Gamble who returned profuse thanks on behalf of his patients.

### Saturday July 11th

Saw Dr. G. at breakfast. He informed me that he had never regularly studied medicine, but after acting as Hospital Steward one year, he had been appointed Surgeon. When the Rebs evacuated Chambersburg he voluntarily remained with his patients. He is certainly a gentleman, whatever may be his professional failings. Gave him the last Atlantic Monthly and New York papers. Hardy's horse being quite fresh, started for Waynesboro at 7.30 A.M. It was a lonely ride, and I came near having an adventure -- I met a man on the road, who invited me to go to his house to have a "drink". I declined, for a certain something told me not to go, so pushing on reached Waynesboro at 1 o'clock, my horse completely used up. Joe Leggit came over the road two hours later, met the same man, started for his house with him but thinking it too far to go just for a drink, returned to the main road and was run for two miles by a squad of Johnnies. Joe's horse brought him through safe, but I cannot but think where my three-legged brute would have left me. Met Genl. Knipe in town and learned positions of the Regts. Rode on and overtook the 13th at 4 o'clock in camp. Returned the horse to Hardy and concluded to go afoot rather than be bothered with a useless horse. Making my mess arrangements with Harrington and Varin I was once more with the old 13th. Began to march at 6 P.M. the Rebs reported but a short distance in advance and retreating. Forded Antietam Creek the Rebs having set fire to the bridge which was still burning. Water waist deep but not cold. Marched to Sleifersburg and laid down on the ground to sleep about midnight.

### Sunday 12th

Reveille at 4 o'clock and started on the march at once without breakfast. Very warm and a great deal of straggling. At 10 A.M. we meet the pickets of the 6th Corps and are now with the Potomac Army. Reached Cavetown at 11 A.M. with not more than 75 men in the Regt. "A" Co. had Comdng. Officer and one private to whom an eloquent address was made on the duty of a soldier. Nothing to eat and most of the boys went into town to get food. A terrible thunder shower came up about noon. Lightning very heavy. Two men of Co. F 56th N.Y. killed and a number injured by the lightning. The men had collected under some large Maples to escape the rain, and one of these being struck the two men who were leaning against the tree were killed and everyone under the tree more or less affected by the shock. Of course there was a general stampede from the trees. Went into town with Harrington about 4 o'clock and managed to get a square meal. Raining hard. Towards night the Regt. moved on to high

ground into an orchard and camped for the night. Met Dr. Rogers and "smiled". Boys grumbling a great deal on account of having no rations. All we have eaten today is what we have picked up at the houses on the road and in town. Slept on the wet ground under a shelter tent with Harrington, Bob Copeland and Henry.

#### Monday July 13th/63

Went into town with Bob Copeland and had shortcake and coffee without milk or sugar for breakfast at St. Nicholas prices. Struck tents and on the march by 8.30 in a pouring rain, roads very muddy and marching very heavy. Went into camp at 11.30 in a lovely grove near Beaver Creek to wait for bread to be baked, which was done by 3 P.M. of which we received each half a slice, a hearty meal (?) - On the march again at 3.30, through Pleasant Town and struggled on through the mud and rain and darkness until ten o'clock, when we went into camp in a clover field about two miles from Boonsboro. No rations issued, but the men are so tired that they lie down in their tracks and so go to sleep. Harrington had some coffee, and finding some water in a ditch by the roadside we made some coffee. Then we tore down about 5 rods of rail fence and built a shelter and making a rousing fire we turned in on the wet ground.

#### Tuesday July 14th

Awoke before daylight and made H. crawl out. Every joint in my body out of joint and all my ribs broken by the sharp stones digging into them. Scraped the ashes from where the fire had been, and building a new fire, we laid down on the warm dry ground where the first fire had been and had a most refreshing sleep until daylight, notwithstanding our bed was rather hot. The morning broke cloudy, but the sun soon came out bright and warm. Blackberries very plenty and all hands going for them. At 10 o'clock the first full ration for a week is served out and produced a wonderful change in the appearance and conduct of the men. At 10.30 we are on the march again towards Williamsport where Lee is trying to cross the Potomac and there is every prospect of our being in for a big fight tomorrow. After marching a couple of miles the column halts and goes into camp again. Dr. Preigh informs me that the San Com has a station in Boonsboro and I at once make tracks for it. Found Tyler, Hoag, Paul and others. They were surprised to see me and had a hearty laugh at my appearance, being covered with mud and ashes from my last night's bed. Dined with the boys and met Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Harris. In the afternoon rode out to Camp with Tyler carrying a supply of socks for the Regt most of the men being without any and footsore. Bob Copeland returned with us and remained over night. Lee crossed the river last night.

#### Wednesday July 15th

Copeland and Tyler returned to camp carrying a quantity of shirts for the boys. The army on the march for Berlin where they will cross and go for Lee.

Reports of terrible riots in N.Y. and the Militia ordered home to suppress them. I am ordered to report to Dr. Steiner at Frederic City and leave at 4 P.M. on Olmstead's mare. Stopped twice to have shoes set and reach Frederic at 8 P.M. Took tea at Steiner's and met Clampitt for first time since leaving Acquia. Obtain leave of absence for ten days and then turn in with Clampitt on floor of storehouse.

> 'Steiner' - Dr Lewis H. Steiner, USSC Chief Inspector with the Army of the Potomac. 'Clampitt' - Charles S. Clampitt, Field Relief agent in charge of USSC depot established at Bealton VA. (For more information regarding Relief Corps see Appendix).

#### Thursday 16th

Breakfast at Steiner's and brushed up and started for Baltimore on 1.15 train with Mr. Richardson. Stopped at Monocacy Junction two hours where I met the Regt. again, waiting for transportation. Mr. Richardson left me at Relay House to go to Washington. Baltimore at 5.30. Went to Eutaw House and saw Hayward and Clark. Left for Phila. at 10.30 P.M. At Havre de Grace a Lieut. of the 2nd Del. who had delirium jumped from the train into the river and was drowned.

> 'Mr. Richardson' probably Rev. James Richardson [1817-1863] a clergyman who, in 1858, had recommended Isaac Harris to Horace Mann for admission to Antioch College. Richardson was in Washington to help with wartime relief efforts and died there in 1863.

#### Friday July 17th

Jersey City at 6 A.M. Terrible reports of the riots. Am advised not to go over to N.Y. as I have my uniform on. Try it however, and slip across town without trouble, but with my pistol cocked, in my coat pocket ready to have one shot at least. Over home by 8 o'clock in time for breakfast. Change my clothes and go to N.Y. to see what is going on. The trouble about over.

> The infamous and bloody New York draft/race riots had begun on July 13th.

#### Saturday July 18th

Called at Harrington's and Mead's. Went to O.G.'s office and had a talk with Mr. Lyle, LaRacque and Geo. Strange. Downtown in the evening with Kate.

> 'O.G. - O.G. Carter, Isaac Harris' guardian.