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Civil War Resources

Title: Pocket Diary of Charles F. Himes

Date: 1863

Location: MC 2000.1, B16, F2

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Tuesday June 23, 1863

Drove over to Carlisle. Got there about 3 p.m. Great excitement. Rebels at Shippensburg. Presided at alumni meeting at 4 p.m. In evening at Belles Lettres exhibition in Rheems Hall. up on the stage. Called at Raines and also down to see my horse. Excitement increasing Ed McPherson.

Wednesday June 24

Rev. Mr. Carson slept with me last night. Ed McPherson and wife also stayed at Prof. W's. Walked down to hall with Annie and Mrs. McP - Ed's address quite good but common place. Judge H dined at Wilson's. In afternoon called at Bank and got \$10,000 U.S. 5-20 bonds. Beeterm was packing up Bank effects. Took tea at Jo. Wilson's (?) Col Wright there. Started later to hear Snively's address before the alumni when half way down the procession was arrested by the announcement that the Rebs were within 8 miles and advancing. Saw Mr. Rheem, Minister Clair, Lawyer Miller and others with muskets on their shoulders. Went back to Johnson and helped to seal diplomas with Lutie and Clark. Sat under crab apple tree in Wilson's yard with Annie and Lutie in afternoon.

Thursday June 25

At Degrees were conferred and diplomas handed down. My horse was looked at by the Union troops but not impressed because blind of an eye. Walked out to the fortifications with Wilson and Clark. Met citizen companies marching out. Dined at Johnson's. Dispatch came that the rebs were within 4 miles. Did not know what to do. Lan and I started home when they were in sight of the earth works and the cavalry belonging to the barracks were posted in the street and pocketted out the streets. Got home at 10½ p.m. Stopped on the way everywhere to tell the news. Prof. Wilson bid me good bye and took a musket and ran out towards the entrenchments.

Friday June 26

In evening city troop come down and

Rebs in G. and this side and no mistake. Horses taken from Oxford, Pa secreted papers. Everybody expectant.

Saturday June 27, 1863

(New Oxford)

Looking for Rebs. Was fixing my telescope when the cry here they come and I heard a man riding the street crying Halt! They put guards at the stores etc. About an hour afterward about 3,000 infantry Gordon's brigade, Early's Div. Ewell's Corps passed through, they fired the R.R. Bridge, burned Gulden's warehouse and cut the telegraph poles but were otherwise very civil and even an officer consoled Helen Brown very kindly when she cried because she couldn't see her mother. The men were ragged and dirty but still men and I could not have it in my heart to shoot one of them. We had long chats with Capt. Gordon of VA and Ajt. Johnson of a Georgia Regt. 16th, I think.

Sunday June 28

A little excitement but no news. Assisted a stragler. Dr. Hall treated him very harshly. Two Union Scouts came in.

Monday June 29

Took shoes to shoemaker to be prepared for an emergency.

Tuesday June 30

About 10 o'clock heard cannonading din in direction of Hanover. I contended it was near H. but the most said Westminster. Went on the Red Hill saw the smoke of the battery attack with a , went into H. stayed at Uncle Culbertson's and called at . People had been living in the cellars and were glad to get out.

July 1 Wednesday

Saw one of Kilpatrick's aids he said the Gen. wanted to see me. I informed him of unloyal men and said current rumor painted to Jno Lilly and Strausbaugh of McSherrystown. He had them arrested. Walked home and saw Lay and I went towards Gettysburg, cannonading quite heavy. Got up to Pinchard's, the reb pickets being kind, took us as far as Nickles(?) Hill to ask Col. White if we might go further. He said not. Saw their ambulances carrying off the dead and wounded from the battle field. Rebs jubilant whipped us bad, killed many ~~act.~~ c. Thought this battle could end the war ~~etc.~~ but kind and respectful. Stayed at Mrs. Lates 3 miles from G. with a Mr. Shick as she was alone and feared the Rebs. I was hopeful felt assured the Rebs would be driven out.

Thursday July 2

Started towards G. was met by pickets kind as ever. Met by an officer advised me to turn back.

Friday July 3

Awakened by heavy firing. Paid Mrs. Carl 25 apiece ~~though~~ she refused. Went to Bo and then drove up toward our line and left under fear of a flank movement.