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**Civil War Diary, 1864 July 20 - 1865 Apr. 25,
of
John Kennedy Coleman (1847-1907)**

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Background:

Confederate soldier serving in Co. F, 6th S.C. Infantry; resident of Chester, S.C.; (brother of William Coleman, whose Civil War letters are held by Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas, as part of the Pearce Civil War Collection, and transcriptions of which are available in the South Caroliniana Library).

Accession Number: 14492

Summary:

Transcribed diary of Civil War experience, 20 July 1864 - 25 Apr. 1865, with notations on his journey by rail from Chester, S.C., to Petersburg, Va., via Weldon, N.C. Joined Co. F, 6th S.C. Infantry, along with his brother, was issued an Enfield rifle, and marked his eighteenth birthday on 6 Aug. 1864.

Noteworthy entries include: (20 Sept. 1864) reference to having witnessed a member of the 2nd Regiment shot for desertion; (28 Sept. 1864) reference to the school ship Patrick Henry, the first steamboat Coleman seen; (1 Oct. 1864) fight at Ft. Gilmer in which half the regiment was lost, Coleman was wounded, and only 6 out of 27 men in Co. F survived; (1 Dec. 1864) reference to frequent trips to Richmond, including visits to the theatre; (1 Jan. 1865) Christmas dinner, 3 turkeys, 2 ducks, 1 chicken, and about 90 loaves, for 350 soldiers; and (14 Mar. 1865) news from soldier returning from furlough that people in Chester had suffered during Sherman's march.

Later entries document that Coleman was at Appomattox at the time of surrender and that he arrived home in South Carolina by 25 Apr. 1865.

[Additional supporting documents relating to the Coleman family of Chester, S.C., available at South Caroliniana Library, including compiled Service Records for John Kennedy Coleman and brother William Coleman (National Archives); photocopies of family photographs, including Mag Woods Babcock, Catherine Coleman, George Washington Coleman, William Coleman, John and Catherine Evans Kennedy, Tom Kennedy, and home of George Washington and Mary Ann Kennedy Coleman; transcription of undated newspaper article from The Chester Standard, "Complimentary to the Ladies of Chester and York," thanking them for their kindnesses to the Confederate troops; and family story, "The White China Set," re a set of dishes sent to Mrs. George Coleman after the war in appreciation for her kindness in nursing a wounded Union soldier and his wife.]

Editorial Note:

This transcription was copied from the original and is representative of all spelling, punctuation and grammar as written by the creator, J.K. Coleman.

Notes on inscriptions in original diary volume: First page is extremely faded. The names "Mr. Dell" and "Mr Stringfellows" and some distances are recorded.

[Page 2]: Mobile Ala January 6th Sitting in the park [initials?]

Chester So Carolina
July, 1864

20th [July 1864]

Left home for Petersburg Virginia to-day at 12 O-Clock to join my Regt - the Sixth S.C.V Com F.

22^d [July, 1864]

In Weldon N.C. and had the misfort[hole in paper] to loose my trunk. found [it] again after a great deel of trouble, hid in a corn patch. Was very glad[indeed] as it contained [several] articles of considerable value, belonging to my self and friends.

Left Weldon for Petersburg in a box car containing corn for Gen Lee's Army It would have been very disagreeable had it not been for the presence of [several] (two) very attractive Ladies. I and [F. Innrel] enjoyed ourselves splendidly. We expect to see the Ladies to their houses, on our arrival in the city.

23^d. [July 1864]

Arrived in the city about dark. Was met at R.R. depot by My Brother. was [rejoiced] to see him, After seeing our baggage safely stowed away. We started for the Camp of the cooking detail. Saw several friends Every one has something to ask about friends at home, after supper we had a nice chat around the Camp fire in true soldier style Went to bed about twelve O Clock. We [can] hear very distinctly the booming of the heavy guns, and when the wind is favourable the rattling of the musketry which doesnt sound very well to my ears.

24th [July 1864]

Got up this morning very much refreshed after travailing three [days] without any sleep F.[Innrel] and I slept together on account of my Brother having Company we had to take it out [side] on the ground, with nothing above us except the blue arch of heaven. I have commenced already to feel [like] a soldier I had almost forgotten to say that on our getting to the depot the Ladies were left to themselves to get along as well as they could But shall I tell the cause! Did we for get them or what, The truth must come. The Enemy were firing pretty fast along the linees at the time, and of course the Ladies and in fact every thing else was driven out of our [minds] It is my intention to appologis if I should ever be so fortunate as to see them again, We visited the Regt to day. [These] men have just got in from the lines. To guage from their looks, they certainly have a pretty hard time of it. Every one appears to be in fine spirits not withstanding their many trials and troubles. The Soldiers appear to be a great deel more hopeful [the] the people at home who are [far] away from danger. I havnt desided which company to join, Com F. & [I.] are both from Chester. My brother prefers Com F. and he being a member of that Corps I think I shall join it.

25th [July 1864]

My brother and I visited the Regt agan to day I have concluded to join Com F. The Officers of the Company are Capt O. A. Wylie. 1 Lieut. Shannon. 2^d McDaniel. 3^d John. Anderson. I am so far very much [pleased] with them. I expect to mess with Mr. Ed Mobley. He is an exception of a man every way

26th [July 1864]

Yesterday I was a citizen. today I am a solder in the Glorious Confederate Army, under the brave and efficient Gen Lee. I got my gun (an Enfield) and accoutriments from the Ordnance Sargeant a little while ago am now ready for active duty.

27th [July 1864]

Went into the trenches last night about ten O Clock, and came very near freezing. I dont think I ever saw the wind blow so hard in my life, it actually blew a perfect hurricane tents and in fact --everything else, was leveled with the ground I suffered a great deel with cold, being compleatly drenched with rain. Not a very [pleasant] initiation. The Yanks are only a little ways off. They are [sunning] themselves [on] the top of the works. There is no musketry firing but an occasional flash, and then the shreaking shell reminds one of danger. Our mortar batteries have been throwing a few bombs into the Enemy's lines which appear to create right-sharp running to and fro.

28th [July 1864]

Some few men were killed this [morning] by the cannon shot - thrown at us, but our lines suffer none at all, when a brech is made it is speedily repaired.

29th [July 1864]

We left last night for Richmond I had my first experience in [marching] Stood it first-rate The roads are very dusty it has not rained here for three months. We all suffered a [great from] thirst. Water is very scarce, and what little is to be had, our[Cass] scarcely drunk it. on account of its being so awful bad.

30th [July 1864]

are now camped at [deep botton], distant - 11 miles from Richmond Our Com will go on pickit to night. --

31st [July 1864]

We [are] about eight - hundred yds in front of Our line Our pickets are on a branch, with plenty of [level] water to quench our thirst. Heard a tremendous explosion in the direction of Petersburg last night the artillery firing has become quite heavy all morning.

August 1st [1864]

Back again with the Regt. all quiet along the [Janus] tonight, except the distant firing, I am gradually becoming accustomed to it, don't mind it near as much as I did at first.

There are about a division of Yanks on this side of the river[therys] Keep quiet consequently we have nothing to do

August 4th [1864]

Bur has come up with the wagons was glad to see him.

6th [Aug. 1864]

To-day is my birthday am just eighteen years old. I had a letter from home yesterday. They are all well. We are still camped at [?p} bottom and are getting on first rate, plenty of corn meal, bacon, beef, rice, sugar, coffee The regular article itself. We have more luxuries here than the folks have at home, The papers give us no news of importance Grant - sprung his men last - Saturday, but - made nothing by it, [quiet] as [reighed] [along] the lines ever since. Hope the Yanks may meet with the same luck every time.

10th [Aug. 1864]

getting on finely Hope the enemy will let us alone. Think there is a fuss brewing The calm wont last many more days

Sunday 16th [Aug. 1864]

The Yanks attacked us hot at heavy early this morning. Our pickets were driven in, but with only slight loss Our Company & 'A' [releevd] the skirmishers about - 10 Oclock. The Yankee line of battle charged us, but we gave it to them so heavily that they - retired. They brot up a battery of 4 guns to support the charging party, but did us but little damage. The firing has been going on all day without intermission They left behind them a fine lot of Commissary stores which was taken care of by us. I filled my haversack with Crackers. found them very nice a short time after night we were relieved by the Texans. While in front the Regt move about one mile further to the left, where we found them. about twelve Oclock Our company had two men wounded none Killed.

17th [Aug. 1864]

We Occupy the [l???t] of New Mark hights a very fine position. We can see very distinctly the Enemys skirmish distant - about 1,000 yd You can see their gun boats ascending & decending the James. The gunboats have been annoying us all day by throwing Camp Kittes (as we call them) at us. Our company is supporting a battery of rifed guns they fire with as - much accuracy as we can with our [rifles] Some of our men have been standing by the guns all day watching the shells after they leave the [gun]. We can see them for som moments. The enemy succeeded in capturing about one mile of our works, but held them only a short time we retook them as soon as we received reinforcements. Our loss is very slight. That of the enemy is quite heavy both in killed and wounded

25th [Aug. 1864]

Part of Our division is in this city Petersburg and part on the North Side. We have been here [for some time] doing nothing for some time how long we will remain in idleness is unknown to us. We are camped in the suburbs of the city - near the Weldon Rail Road.

August 30th [1864]

Still in Petersburg unable to say how long we will remain. Think we will move in a day or two as we scarcely remain over three or four days in one place My Brother is with the wagons He is quite well

September 1st [1864]

as I said the other day shure enough we have received orders to be ready to march at a moments warning will move in a short time.

2^d [Sept. 1864]

Left the city yesterday and got to Dunlops Station on the Richmond & Petersburg Rail R at which place we are now camped this is a beautiful place. Would like to stay here for a while, but unfortunately it isnt left to me to decide.

September 5th [1864]

[Still camped] near the Station. We have nothing to do now No drilling. No work It wont last long however. we get plenty to eat I think the best beef I ever seen.

11th [Sept. 1864]

In the city one more. We are hard at work strengthening our lines We are now engaged in throwing up a second line just in rear of first. We leave our camp a little after dark. We work at night altogether in fact it would be impossible to do anything during the day. The enemy keep up such a tremendous shelling Several of our men have already been [killed] by the enemy fire Nothing of interest has occured for some [time] past. The shelling on Thursday was o awfull. It is well-enough to shell them occasionally to let them know that we are still alive. The Yanks have made no new move since they got such a drubbing at Reams Station and it is not at all probable that any demonstrations will be made until Butler completes his canal at Dutch gap. There a simultaneous move will be made both on both the North & South side of the river They won't accomplish much. Since we have Gen Lee at our head Our army is in fine spirits. ever ready to meet the Yanks If we only had a good general out West Our Independce would be shure. I drew my bounty yesterday \$50.00 will send it to my mother by the first opportunity. I have little or no use for money here. every

thing is so high. My health [continues] good. I think I have gained about thirty pounds since I joined the army. There is nothing like exercise.

15th [Sept. 1864]

Have moved again are now on the Model farm a few miles from the town. We are extending our lines on the Squirrel Levee Road about two miles from camp. We take our arms with us in case we should be attacked have not as yet been troubled by the enemy

20th [Sept. 1864]

Still camped on the Model farm we were marched out the other day to see a member of the 2d Regt shot for desertion. It looked crewell to see the poor fellow shot, but we are obliged to have dicipline in our army. and to have it every one who goes contrary to the regulations must expect to suffer for it. I think too that it has a good effect on others

25th [Sept. 1864]

Went to see the cattle [capturd] by General Hampton from the Yankes There were about twenty five hundred of them and undoubetedly the finest lot of stock I ever saw. How we will feast at the expense of Yanks. ----

28th [Sept. 1864]

Have just received orders to move will be off in an hour or two I was off at work on the new line when we received the orders. We had to move at double-quick time for several miles and of course we were pretty well broken down when we got back to camp. The brigade moved off about midday at the station two miles from town will be off for Richmond in a few minutes got off the train at [Recis] Station which distant one mile and half from James river. We crossed the James at [Dreweys] Blufs on a pontoon bridge. The river is quite wid and deep at this place and is about seven miles distant from Richmond. I saw the Patric Henry (a school ship) near the north bank. She is the first steam boat [that] I ever saw. She appeared very large to me but she is in reality quite a small boat.

29th [Sept. 1864]

The enemy have succeded in capturing a very strong fort - it appears that we are to attack it to night and recover it if possible. How many poor fellow are destined never to see the light of another day.

30th [Sept. 1864]

The attack did not come off last night as we expected it is[thought] that the fort will be attacked to-day we marched in the direction of the fort last night. could hear them at work very distinctly We remained in front for some time we then went to Fort Gilmer where we rested [for] the remainder of the night. There were a great many dead Negroes in front. I noticed in our pile about thirty They were Killed the day before during an attack on the fort. We captured a great many more than we killed. They were very much frightened and would give all sorts of excuses, for being in the army. When When we asked them I filled my cartridge box with Yankee cartridges. The are far superior to ours We have gotten orders to move.---

October 1st [1864]

The attack did come off as we all expected, and half of our Regt have gone to their eternal home. Never again will they answr to their names. never again will they fight for the country that was mor dear than life itself - They fill a Soldiers grave. May they rest in peace Our company carried twenty seven men into the fight. next morning only six answer at roll call. I received a wound in the right shoulder on the collar bone. it pains me a little. I think it will be well in a week or two. I am staying with my Brother. ---

October 8th [1864]

We again attacked the Yanks yesterday and made them skedaddle like [fun or fire]. We captured a large number of prisoners, and ten peices of artillerey. Our loss very slight. Henry [Lamvrt] poor fellow was Killed He was the only one killed in the Regt

October 15th [1864]

Have moved from the Darbytown to the [Williamsburg] Charles City Road Still busily engaged in strengning our lines. if the Yanks only let us alone for a few more days I thing we can give them a pretty warm reception. They have been very quiet for some time past. - We are some distance from each other but can hear their drums very distinctly. I think there must be about a million of them to judge from the noise. -----

27th [Oct. 1864]

The enemy attacked our lines this morning in considerable force They have been so far repulsed in every attempt to capture our works. When the attack was made we were in our quarters, and were taken some what by supprise, but in a few moments we were in the trenches a ready for them. a few destructive volleys soon brot them to a stand still. About noon we were to move to the extreme left, We had scarcely arrived when a heavy volly of the enemy appeared

in line of battle[accompanied] by both artillery a cavalry They advanced in fine style until they came within close range of our small arms. We poured volley after volley in them. The line appeared to wither away, as soon as those with the front rank were cut down, their places were soon filled by those [coming up] from the rear, Our fire soon became so heavy that they were [un?] to stand it long The men deserted their colors, and sought [safety] in flight. Some few escaped, but the Majority surrendered themselves prisoners to us. We also captured fifteen stands of colors, and a number of small arms. The ground was completely covered with the dead men, together with hundreds of wounded. I succeed in getting a very fine Spencer rifle. I want to send it home by the first opportunity

November 4th [1864]

We are now very comfortably quartered behind our new line of works, within a short distance of the Williamsburg Road We are all hard at work on our new line. They are daily growing strong and begin to look as if it would not be a very pleasant job to undertake their capture. There is no news of importance We hear that Sheridan has retreated to the Potomac River, and has destroyed the Rail Road, on which he has been receiving his supplies. It appears that a part of his army will be kept in the neighborhood of Washington, and Harpers Ferry. The remainder will be sent to Grant in order to cooperate in the last grand struggle for the capture of Richmond. Whither they will be successful in their efforts remains to be seen. Butler continues in work on the Dutch Gap canal, it will in all probability be completed in a short time. I don't think that Grant will accomplish much we are prepared for him in every way. The artillery firing continues very heavy at Petersburg We sustain very little damage.

6th [Nov. 1864]

Since last Thursday week, the day on which Grant attacked us along our [entire], and which resulted so disastrously to him all has been put at intervals through the day & night We hear the roar of the heavy guns at the Howlett battery shelling the laborers in the Dutch Gap canals. It is rumored that Grant ordered his troops forward to attack our works but failed. His troops are getting tired of rushing on our lines, into the very jaws of death, without the slightest hope of driving us from our works. Grant's loss in the late battles is so - to be very heavy - in his official - report. he acknowledges a loss of only 200 men This differs somewhat from the report of the Northern Newspaper correspondents. They admit a loss of about three thousand, who no doubt falls short of his actual loss. From what we can learn his total loss must have been between eight and ten Thousand. I have not seen Bur for some time Want to visit him soon. The nights are growing somewhat cool will have to send home for some winter clothing. Heard to day that there was a box of clothing in Richmond, Hope it may prove true.

15th [Nov. 1864]

Are still in the same place Have little or nothing to do, very little drilling. We work occasionally on our lines, We have splendid winter quarters. and are fixed up just as comfortably as soldier could expect or want to be. Plenty of rations, and of the very best quality The health of the Regt is first rate

25th [Nov. 1864]

Every thing remains quiet, if it was not for the report of a heavy gun down at Howlet's no one would think for a moment, that the war was still going on. We are getting on splendidly, just work enough to keep us all in good health and spirits. It has been raining considerably for some time past The roads are pretty bad

December 1st [1864]

We are still camped on the Williamsburg road about eight miles distant from Richmond, I and some others belonging to the Regt frequently go to the city. for the purpose of getting a sight of some of the fair sex, and to visit the Theater. We generally leave camp about half hour before sun down, walk eight miles, flank the guard at the [inner] line, get to town in time for The Theatre Keep out of the way of the Provost guard, return to camp and are up, bright and early for roll call at day light. Having walked about twenty miles in all, --

12th [Dec. 1864]

All has been quiet here for some time past No indications at present of an attack, We have splendid winter quarters, and if the enemy will only let us alone we will get through the cold weather without any sufferings. We have had delightful weather, until Friday last, about day the sleet and snow commenced to fall and continued pretty much all night about 9 o'clock Friday night considerable excitement was caused by an order to be in readiness to march at day light, with three days rations in haversacks. Various were the surmises but it was the general belief that we would go to Petersburg, as we had previously heard that Grant was moving troops in the direction of Weldon. at day light next morning all being in readiness we started for Petersburg as we expected but instead of going to that place we march through our lines, down the Charles City Road in the direction of the Yankee work of we all knew or thought that a fight was ahead, but after tramping through the sleet, snow, and mud all day, we returned to our old camp, being completely exhausted from the severe March, It turned out to be as the Yanks call it, "a reconnaissance in force" We found the enemy farther away than we thought for which I suppose was the object of the move, We lost in our Regt, one man killed, and some six or seven wounded, and two or three prisoners We have all recovered from the fatigue this morning and are as lively as ever, We hear that General Lee has completely whipped the Rading party below Petersburg There is no further news of importance all is quiet along the lines

December 25th [1864]

Christmas Day, and very very cold. Have been moving about some of late, but are again in our old quarters, We have had very unpleasant weather for several weeks, The rain had almost washed us away. The whole country around about here appears to be under water it is almost impossible to get about at all. All military movements will have to stop until the roads improve, It is said that Ladies of Richmond intend giving us a New Years dinner hope it may prove true would like right will to get something good to eat. The health of the Regt continues good. There is no news of any importance

January 1st [1865]

The long talked of Christmas dinner has come at last. Three turkeys, two ducks, one chicken and about ninety loves, for three hundred and fifty soldiers. Not a mouth full apiece where has it all gone too, where [did] it go The commisser or quarter masters no doubt got . May the Lord have mercy on the poor soldiers

January 15th [1865]

We have moved back about three hundred yards in rear of our lines, to a much better camping place. We didn't take much at first to pull down our pleasant winter quarter, after so much toil and trouble. but we must obey our superiors right or wrong. We are fixed up all right again, and are better satisfied The weather has been quite cold plenty of Ice and snow,

January 28th [1865]

All is quiet, and little to do, Rumors of peace are current but without foundation. Bur started a furlough this morning if it comes back approved he will leave for home in a day or two. We heard some time since that there was a box containing our winter clothing. provisions, and [other] articles. Would like to get it.

February 15th [1865]

Since Bur left us we have been moving about from one part of the line to the other We now occupy that part of the line near the Darbytown Road which was lately felled by [Hotses] division. Our pickets are within a few yards of the Yanks, Can hear them talking very distinctly. They try by every means in their power to induce our men to desert. Some few have already left from our Brigade We suffer considerably on account of the Scarcity of fire wood We are compelled to go nearly a mile for it in rear of the camp, and bring it on our backs.

25th [Feb. 1865]

Bur has not returned from home yet, have heard from him several times. He will be back in a few days, then we will hear all of the news from home.

March 14th [1865]

All is quiet here except a move of the Yankee Cavalry a few days since, threatening a dash into Richmond Both parties being [mind] bound - nothing of importance is looked for. A move by either is out of the question for the present. We have had two or three days of beautiful weather but it is so changeable I am afraid it won't last long The atmosphere is [heavy] this evening and indicates rain Bur has returned from home. he says the people were very much excited in Chester, while Sherman was passing through the State The enemy are said to have behaved very badly in their March through our district, Scarcely [more] so though than the bands of thieves and robbers in the garb of Confederate Soldiers, and prowling about through the country, stealing every thing [they] can lay hold on. It is outrageous [conduct] I think if a few of the scoundrels were caught and hung it might have some effect and restrain the others. We hear that that Killpatrick has been whipped by Hampton, dont [know] where the fight took place. Bur says the people at home think that war is a terrible thing, but they have not the slightest Idea of what war really is. If they could only see some of the farms in [Virginia] where every particle of fencing has been destroyed, The houses plundered, and in many instances burned to the [ground] with nothing standing but the Naked [chimneys] Then they could see what war really is I think they have [gotten] off remarkably well, and [sincerely] hope they may not be called on to suffer more from Sherman's raid than they [already] Our army is in fine condition [and] good spirits. Although we have had some deserting of late None though have left but trifling men, who never did us any good. We are glad to get rid of them. One or more Yanks come over to us every morning. They report their troops in a very [dissatisfied] condition, and but for the very strong Picket which [renders] it almost an impossibility to desert a great many more would come over I am not [? inclined] much to rely on what the rascals say. A man who will desert his country is not to be trusted

April 1st [1865]

Received orders to prepare for a move about eight O'clock tonight. don't know where our destination is. Think we will go to Petersburg In Richmond at twelve.

April 2^d [1865]

Part of the Regt, the left wing left for Petersburg last night. We will follow as soon as possible. While coming to the city last night we could see the flashing of the guns and hear the continued roar of the heavy guns down the lines. Expect to have pretty [? lines] down at Petersburg

3d [Apr. 1865]

Our lines were abandoned last [night] We are now retreating before the enemy. When we entered the city on yesterday the town [appeared] to be wrapped in flames. a large portion has been destroyed by the enemys shells. Our divisions found them in heavy fource in the rear of our lines. On the Model Farm, We held them in check all day. about 10 Oclock at night we moved off. Our loss was quite heavy in Killed and wounded. The enemy loss was awfull. The ground was covered with [their] dead boudies.

4th [Apr. 1865]

The retreat continues. we are moving in the direction of Berksville Junction on the Richmond Rail Road. It is reported that Hampton is there with his Cavalry.

4th [Apr. 1865]

Passing through [Amelia] Courthouse today had a skirmish with the Yankee advance [guard] held them in check. Our wagon train [gives] us a great deal of trouble Have already lost a few We all suffer [for the] want of rations. We have not eat anything, or slept an hour since the retreat commenced. The army is in pretty [? poor or sad] condition

5th [Apr. 1865]

We have daily skirmishes with the enemy resulting favourably to us. have captured a large number of Prisoners

7th [Apr. 1865]

Passed through the town of Farmville [Prince Edward County, Va.], on the Lynchburg Railroad Here we had a heavy fight with the Yankee infantry. They attacked us in heavy fource, but were repulsed, We lost a large number of ammuniton and baggage wagons burned also a number of [prisoners]

April 9th [1865]

Appomattox C H After untold trials and sufferings, we [surrendered] to the enemy at nine Oclock this morning We were advancing in the direction of the town, when we were suddenly halted. Here we remained for some time, [About] 1 hour after General Custer road through under flags of truce. We began then to think that some thing was up. We were then ordered to a piece of woods on the left of the road, where we stacked arms and went into camp. We all knew then that the Southern Confederacy was no more. All of our hard fighting, after passing through so much danger. after loosing so many good men, and gaining so many glorious victories, all was lost. some of the men, cursed others wept,

and mourned [over] our misfortunes, but I consoled myself with the thought that we had all tried to do our duty. A [soldier] should, and since we had lost, that perhaps it was all for the best.

April 11th [1865]

Four years ago to-day our Regt [took] up arms in defense of our country, and to-day [at] the same [?] we surrender ourselves [as] prisoners of war. We marched [up] to the town through two lines of the enemy, formed on both sides of the road [and] stacked arms. We [then moved] back to camp to await our paroles which are expected soon---

13th [Apr. 1865]

Left Appomattox at noon for home. have met up with a large number of blue coats, out foraging. It doesn't look right to see them pass without [hearing] the [click of] a gun. but they [are] very respectful to [us], and we being prisoners, have of course to pass on without a [word].

20th [Apr. 1865]

In [Weldon(crossed out) D?] Here we expected to meet with the cars but they are not [running] now We will have to foot it still farther. We all suffer from the scarcity of provisions The country is completely ruined ----

22^d [Apr. 1865]

Greensborough [N.C.] - Gen Johnsons army is encamped in the [vicinity] of this place. They will [surr?] in a few days. If they had done their duty, How much better off we would have been They are undoubtedly all to be blamed for it all.

24th [Apr. 1865]

In Charlotte N.C. will leave for home tomorrow.

25th [Apr. 1865]

Arrived in Chester at 4.OClock P.M.. found all of my friends well and looking anxiously for us. Glad to get home once more.