

**“Alfred H Buck Civil War Journal, Oct 21, 1862 – March 14, 1862”**

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**Only contains entries relevant to Camp Johnson, Oct 21, 1862 – Dec 23, 1862**

A.W. Buck - Co. H, 12<sup>th</sup> Regt, NJ Vol - Ellicotts Mills, MD

Ellicotts Mills, Camp Johnson

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1862 – Heavy frost in the morning. I went to the Q.M. to draw food rations for 6 days and sold some of the over plus of rations. Afternoon reported at the Capt's tent. We have a school of noncommissioned officers meet a 1½ o'clock for 1 hours drilling one another and then went to the Q.M. after beef and bread to take out on picket duty tomorrow. Evening in camp making preparations getting ready for picket. Lt Lippincott is sick of fever.

22d – I arose at 5 o'clock to get the water *carried* for breakfast. Breakfast over we started with 25 files for Picket. Sergeant Groff in command of the 1<sup>st</sup> section, Srgt Living the 2d section, myself with the 3d, and Corp \_\_\_\_\_ the 4<sup>th</sup> and went to Hell Town on the Columbia Turnpike a cross road. A blacksmith shop and a little store and two or three other shanties were the principal buildings. Mrs Young the lady who kept the store made us a lot of apple dumplings. Afternoon Asa Burt and I walked out ¾ of a mile on the road. Called at one Mrs. Leisher and got some apples and returned to our guard. Lt Fogg called to see us bring \_\_\_\_ me a \_\_\_\_\_ from Mrs *Rendolph*. After eating our supper of boiled cabbage I put on guard 2 at a time relieved them every 2 hours through the night. Nothing occurred to alarm us through the night. We slept in a stalk bed by the roadside

23d- We were relieved by Co \_ and started home. Arrived in Camp at 9 o'clock found Lt Lippincott no better and in the hospital. Afternoon I went down in the town with Jos *Matlock*. Co drill in the afternoon and read two letters one from sister *Callie*. Evening doing some errands in the town and nursing Lt Lippincott doesn't appear any better. I bought a pistol of Jos *Matlack*.

24<sup>th</sup> – Very heavy frost morning drawing rations and doing errands in the town. Called at the hospital to see Wm *Crispin* and Lt Lippincott. Lt a little easier. Several boxes of provisions were sent to Capt & Co from *Woodstown*. Afternoon

reciting a tactic lesson in the Capts tent & went down to the Q.M. after fresh beef. Evening in camp called at Co A tent No 3. Dan'l Col of *Woodstown* was in camp.

25<sup>th</sup> – Clear. \_\_\_\_ Co went out on batt drill. I went to draw rations of bread and meat. I studied tactics and recited a lesson at 1½ o'clock and went to draw rations for Sunday. Evening doing some errands in town and called to see Lt Lippincott.

26<sup>th</sup> – Rainy. I drew wood for cooking & H.K Leieuallen & I took Anthony Wiley to the hospital. Called to see Lt Lippincott he was a little better. Afternoon was very stormy. We were in our tents all the afternoon. Writing letters was the chief pass time. Continued to storm all night. I sat up with Lt Lippincott in the hospital. I write a letter to a friend. Lt was quite restless.

27<sup>th</sup> – Stopped raining at 10 o'clock am. I took the *police* & went down to the Q.M. and drew full rations of groceries for 5 days. Afternoon recited a lesson in tactics and went shopping in the town. Evening I wrote a letter to Brother Edgar & read the articles of war to the inmates of my tent.

28<sup>th</sup> – Clear and very frosty in the morning. A man named *Jacon Hughport* in Co K was accidentally shot in the knee by a gun in the hands of a member of Co B. The wound was supposed to cripple him for life. I went down to draw rations of bread and meat. Afternoon reciting a lesson in tactics at the Capts Tent & .A. Dubois and I went to the Patapsco Store. I caught a strangers horse running away to a *buggy* the owner gave me 25 cents for doing it. We went back in Camp after retreat got supper and I and Srgt Jennings went to the hospital to sit up with Lt Lippincott. Found him much better.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Clear morning, went to the Q.M. after rations & shopping in the town. Co drill in the camp afternoon I went with the police after *bread*. Evening Srgt Holmes & I went to town shopping . I called at *Mrs Colemans* to see Lt Lippincotts wife & sister.

Thursday 30<sup>st</sup> – Clear morning drawing rations and shipping and called at the hospital to see out sick men. Afternoon getting ready for inspection and grand review. Evening shopping and stayed all night with Lt Lippincott.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – Clear morning. I drew bread and went out on inspections and grand review about two miles from camp. Got back to camp at 2 o'clock. Afternoon I went to the Q.M. and drew fresh beef. The Co had no drill. Evening doing errands in the town.



Saturday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> – Clear morning drawing full rations and selling the overpluss. Afternoon *Ammond Kain* and I went into the woods to cut a liberty pole. We practiced target shooting with my pistol and then we went into camp. The Co carried out their beds and equipments to air and clean out our tents. Evening Srgt Summers and I went to the town hall to a meeting of the B.B. for practicing sacred music. I called at Mrs Triggs to see Lt Lippincott.

Sunday Nov 2d – I went to the Q.M. to draw bread. The Co were inspected and then we went to church in the town hall, it being used by the \_\_\_\_\_ for meeting. Afternoon I was ordered to get 48 hours rations cooked for picket duty. The order was countermanded at \_ o'clock. I called at Mrs Triggs to see Lt Lippincott. Evening in camp writing a letter to Brother Frank. Wm *Yearnest* one of our Co was put in the guard house for drunkenness.

Monday 3d – Cleat and windy. *H. J. Todd* and I went to a blacksmith shop in the town and ground an axe and some knives and called at Mrs. Triggs to see Lt Lippincott. He was not quite so well as usual. I then called at Mr *Jaros* shop and at the Q.M. and I then went into camp to dinner. Afternoon I recited a tactic lesson and then took the police and went to the Q.M. Afternoon beef I called at Mrs. Triggs to get *Hattie* Lippincott to put a pocket in my dress coat. Evening in my tent mending my \_\_\_\_\_. The Co went out on battalion drill in the morning and Co drill in the afternoon.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Clear morning drew my ration of wood from the Q.M. Studying tactics in my tent afternoon recited a tactic lesson in the Capt's tent and went down town to see Lt Lippincott. Evening went and sat up with him.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Clear morning drawing rations and doing errands. Afternoon we were ordered to go out on picket. I drew 4 days rations of meat. Evening at Mrs Triggs to see Lt Lippincott.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Morning clear and pleasant. Our Co went out on Picket I stayed in camp and prepared rations to take out to the pickets. Evening at Mrs. Triggs to see Lt L.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – I arose about 5 o'clock and I prepared the rations to take out. Commenced snowing at 8 o'clock. We started at 9 o'clock for the picket posts in the commissary wagon. Went first to Hilton and then across to the 1<sup>st</sup> post on the Frederick Turnpike and then on to the outpost 7 miles from camp. Dealt out the rations and returned to camp. The snow about 6 inches deep and still snowing. Evening I called to see Lt L. Found him much better.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Clear, cool. The snow melted slowly and made the traveling very bad. I was doing all \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ all day. Evening I called at Mrs Triggs.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Clear. I went to the Q.M. to get fresh beef and then went to presbyterian church. Afternoon and evening in camp writing letters.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Morning preparing rations to take out to our pickets. Afternoon I went out in the commissary wagon to take them to them. I brought a boy in to camp with me. He was a deserter from the rebel army. Evening called at Mrs. Triggs.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Clear morning doing chores in camp and in town. Afternoon I went to the Q.M. drew 1 days rations of pork to cook for pickets. Evening I called at Mrs Triggs.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Morning cloudy went out to take rations to our pickets in the commiss wagon and then went to the soldiers who were cutting wood for the reg't and then came into camp. Aaron Padgett, D Padgett, A.W. Woodruff and Aaron Harris were in last evening and went away at 3½ o'clock today. Evening called at Mrs. Triggs to see Lt L.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – In the morning I prepared rations and took them to Ilchester to our pickets and visited the cotton mill for the first time in my life and then went back to camp and called at the depot and got a dry tent to me from home. Everything came without damage then helped Mr Hann in building a kitchen. Evening called at Colliers store and Mrs. Triggs.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – I drew some wood in the morning and then went down town to assist Corp'l Lieuallen get a stove up to camp. Afternoon helping Mr. Hann in finishing the kitchen. Evening called at Mrs. Triggs.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> – Clear in the morning. I engaged the commissary wagon to go after the cooking utensils of our pickets. I then went out to look for a stove for the kitchen. I found one in a house belonging to the union factory. It was a 9 plate stove and cost \$1.50. In the afternoon I bargained with a wagoner to bring it to camp and then went to the Q.M. after supper. Eve in camp Co all in.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Cloudy and cool we had an inspection of arms at 9 o'clock and I then went to Presbyterian church. Rev Mr Brown of Reg't preached. Afternoon in my quarters reading until 4 o'clock and then went out on dress parade. Evening in



my quarters. *Furman Parvin* called in a few minutes. I wrote a letter to *Larvis Johnson*.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Rainy morning at the Q.M. drawing full rations selling the overpluss. I came back into camp at noon. Afternoon I went down to the Q.M. after fresh beef. Called at Colliers stone store. Evening in my quarters reading tactics.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Rainy. I went down in the town in the morning to get a lot of cabbage for dinner. I came back to study tactics. There was a lot of new clothing delivered at the Capt's tent for the Co. In the afternoon I overhauled my bed, took the *butts* off of the *husks*. In the evening I purchased a Balto American and I spent the evening in reading it.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Rainy all day. In the morning I went down to the Q.M. to draw pork. I came back to my quarters and studied tactics. Went to the Capt's tent and got a new suit of clothes which came in by a special requisition. Afternoon I got John Dubois to cut my hair and then I went down to see our men in the hospital, three of our men being in there at the time and I called on Lt L. Found him very unwell with a headache. I took my new pants and blouse to *Ms Kate Triggs* to get the stripes sewed on. Evening I went out in town to do errands and came in and wrote a letter to *R.L. Foster*.

20<sup>th</sup> – Rainy. I went to the Q.M. and drew pork for the day and then I went and wrote a letter to Dr. Cochran. Afternoon in my quarters reading a paper and washing myself. Evening drew wood for the Co. Evening in my quarters reading my paper rec'd from *C.E. \_\_\_\_*.

21<sup>st</sup> – Rainy. Morning I went to the Q.M. after rations of pork and in camp reading. Several of the officers went out to look for a place to encamp. Not being successful they returned and ordered boards for stockading the tents. I went to the Q.M. in the afternoon to get fresh beef and called at Mrs. Triggs to see Lt L. He was not very well. Evening Srg't *Geoff* and I went to Mrs Hughes to a husking frolic. There were several of Co *\_\_* there and Capt *Clift*, Lt *Mafelchen* of Co D. We husked until 11 o'clock and then went to supper. The Co danced and played cards until daylight. I did not participate in them. 2 negroes had a fight.

22d – Clear. Took breakfast at Mrs Hughes and then went into camp drawing rations in the forenoon. Afternoon I went to the Q.M. and drew bacon for Sunday and went into camp and cleaned my gun and accoutrements. Evening in my quarters writing in my diary. I rec'd a letter from *\_\_.* *Richman*.

23d – Cloudy and windy. We had Co inspection at 8½ o'clock and then 6 of us went to the Presbyterian church and then went back in camp. Dress parade at 4 o'clock. Evening I went to the Q.M. and drew bread and then P. English and I called at Mrs. Triggs to see Lt Lippincott.

24<sup>th</sup> – Morning clear and cool. I went to the Q.M. in the morning after bacon and then went out on battalion drill. Afternoon I went to the Q.M. and drew fresh beef and then went out on dress parade. After that was over I took the Co out to post No 1 to fill for their beds with straw. Evening I called at Mr *Fort's* in the town and came back to camp and wrote a letter to mother.

25<sup>th</sup> – In the morning it was clear and very frosty. I had no rations to draw so I took all of the men that I could muster and went after wood and then went out with the Co to drill in the afternoon. The \_\_\_\_\_ came in. I drew our rations and then the Co went out in charge of the orderly srgt and commenced to drill in the bayonet exercise and came back in camp and got ready for dress parade but it was postponed. Evening is rainy. I spent the time in cleaning my musket. Corp'l Leieuallen's brother came in camp from Jersey.

26<sup>th</sup> – Cloudy in the morning. I went to the Q.M. and drew full rations of groceries. I sold the California peas. Afternoon in camp drilling in the bayonet exercise. Evening in my quarters writing a letter. *Jas Looper* of *Beltsgrove* is in camp. Srgt Living is very unwell. The Provost Marshal captured a lot of muskets and clothing at Poplar Spring. It is now expected that we shall remain here all winter.

27<sup>th</sup> – Clear and very frosty. It is Thanksgiving day but not generally observed. We had a Co drill in the avenue. We broke ranks at 10 o'clock and I made a cupboard in my quarters. Afternoon we had dress parade at 4 o'clock. Evening I called at Collier's Stone Store and Mrs Triggs to see Lt Lippincott. He was very low spirited and talks of resigning.

28<sup>th</sup> – Cloudy and the sky had every appearance of snow but it cleared off before noon. I went down early in the morning after the bacon and then I went to guard mounting and out of Battalion drill. Afternoon I went to the Q.M. after fresh beef and then went to the Co to drill in the bayonet exercise until 3 o'clock PM. Dress parade was postponed. In the evening I called at Co A \_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes and after that cleaned up my equipment for Grand Review and inspection to be held tomorrow.



29<sup>th</sup> – Cloudy. I took the men and went down the lane after wood and then put on \_\_\_\_\_ knapsack and equipments and went out with Co on inspection and grand review on the field where we go for battalion drill. The reg't was commended for the good appearance of arms, and knapsacks, Co H in particular. We got back in camp at 12 ½ o'clock. I went to a farmer in the afternoon and procured some husks for my bed and went to the Q.M. and got hard bread for the Co. In the evening I called to see Lt. L.

30<sup>th</sup> – Morning cloudy I went to the Q.M. I drew bread for 2 days and then went back to camp after calling at the hospital. Co inspection in camp. I wrote a letter to brother Frank. Afternoon sleeping and reading tactics and at dress parade. Eve in camp wrote a letter to brother John.

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Morning rainy drawing full rations and selling a part of them. Afternoon in camp drawing wood. Evening called on Srg't Smith Co G. Found him under arrest. I went down to do errands. Called at Colliers Stone Store and at Forrests Store.

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Rainy morning. Drawing full rations and selling the overpluss. Afternoon in camp. Corp'l Padgett called at my quarters and borrowed my pistol to take out on picket. Evening I went down town to do errands. Called at Forrests Store and Colliers tin shop.

2d – Clear. I acted as Srg't of the guard. I was on duty from 1 until 6pm and from 1 until 7AM. The 2 cooks from Co E were put under guard for coming in camp drunk. I released them at daylight. Capt *Schooley* offices of the day. Lt Acton officer of guard.

3d – I was relieved from guard duty at 9 o'clock AM and took the old guards out to shoot the loads out of their guns. *George W. Duplerp* Co F the best shot. I went to my quarters and slept until noon and in the afternoon I went to the Q.M. and drew fresh beef and came back in camp to dress parade. Evening in my quarters. Corp'l *Lieuallen* and others were in. I went and slept with Lt Fogg. He had a sore throat.

4<sup>th</sup> – The weather was very clear and cool. We had a short drill in the morning on the Co parade grounds and then broke ranks and waited for orders to fall in for our pay. I went to the hospital tent to get it. The Adjutant, the Major, and Lt Col were under the influence of liquor. We were paid in United S money. In the evening I called to see Lt L. Some of the officers and ladies had a ball at McGowans Hotel. I go back in camp while the Co was out to roll call.

5<sup>th</sup> – Cloudy in the morning. I went to the Q.M. to draw bacon. Came back to camp. I went out on battalion drill. Major and Adj't were too drunk to go out. Cap't Thompson and *Jobes* acted in their places. It began to snow about noon. We got back in camp about 12 ½ o'clock. I spent the afternoon in clearing my musket and eve in writing. Still snows at 10 o'clock.

6<sup>th</sup> – Morning clear and cool. I went to the Q.M. and drew full rations and sold the over pluss. Our Col had orders to report at Washington on Monday morning with his reg't. The camp was in a great excitement about packing up to leave. Afternoon I was in my quarters packing up my knapsack. I went down town in the evening to Mrs Triggs to see Lt L and take Mrs Trigg some sugar.

7<sup>th</sup> – Clear and cold. I arose rather late and Srg't Holmes of Co K came in to take breakfast with me and I then went out to the Q.M. to draw fresh beef and came back into camp and wrote a letter to brother Frank and took the men out to get wood and 4 went with me to the Q.M. after hard bread for one days rations. Evening I took tea and had a chat at Mr *Forts* and then called at Mrs Triggs to see Lt L and came in camp. Called at Co K to see Corp'l Padgett, Corp'l Moore was examining the mens heads and making phreneological observations. I went to my quarters after roll call and wrote a letter to father.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Clear and cool. I went down to the stable the first thing in the morning to get the wagon master to take Lt Fogg to Mrs Triggs but the hill being so slippery he could not get up with his team and Lt was carried down on a stretcher. In the afternoon I took *Ammond Rein* and *Jason Vanmeter* and went out to Niggertown after a German who had cheated our cooks out of 2 mess pans but he paid me for the pans rather than go to the guard house. I called at Co K and Corp'l made an examination on my head. Evening in my quarters packing my knapsack and mending my clothes and writing a letter P.S.P.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Clear. Lt Fogg no better. Lt L about the same. In the morning I drew wood for the Co and then drew 4 day rations to cook and take with us. Afternoon I took a squad of men out in the town to do errands. I called to see Mrs Triggs and Lt's. Evening I was at Mrs Triggs. Came into camp at taps. 1 Co of the 138<sup>th</sup> PA Reg't came last evening to do guard. Twenty at this place.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Clear. Struck tents at Camp Johnson and left for Washington at 4 o'clock PM and arrived in Washington at 3 AM and quartered in the barrack.