

M288: Edwin Emery Diaries and Memoir

Significant topics mentioned:

Vol. 1 September 8, 1863- January 8,1864

- Sworn into Army on September 9, 1863.
- Moved by ship from Portland through Boston and Chesapeake Bay. Ultimately, disembarked at Alexandria, VA.
- Moved on foot to Culpepper, VA to join up with the 17th ME.
- Involved in several battles
- Promoted to Sergeant Nov. 17th
- Preoccupied throughout this journal with spreading Christianity among the ranks. Very concerned over the amount of swearing and gambling amongst the men. Gravitated towards individuals who were also extremely religious.

Vol. 2 MISSING

Folder 2 Transcript of Diary (Vol. 2) Entries for May 12, 1864- June 20,1864

- Wounded in the thigh and neck while falling back from charge as color sergeant on May 12, 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House during fight in Muleshoe Salient.
- Laid during the day and night only to be located in the early morning hours of the 13th.
- Removed to hospital near Fredericksburg and eventually sent back to Maine.
- Although initially had a quick recovery, quickly developed severe pain in his left foot.

Vol. 3 December 12, 1864-February 4, 1865

- Had been wounded in the thigh (at Spotsylvania May 12, 1864) as color sergeant, spent nearly six months at home
- Also married while on leave and promoted to 2nd Lt.
- Made way to Washington D.C. hospital, where yet again concerned with lack of religion amongst the men.

Vol. 4 March 25, 1865- May 4, 1865

- Ambulance driver during the Appomattox Campaign of spring 1865. Busy transporting the wounded from the battlefield.
- Pursued Lee with rest of the Army to Appomattox
- Heard of Lincoln's assassination on April 16th

Vol. 5 May 5, 1865 -June 17, 1865

- Participated in the victory parade in Washington D.C. on May 23rd.
- Viewed the Western Theater Armies parade on May 24th
- Met General Grant

Folder 4 “A Color-Sergeant’s Recollections of the Battle of the Wilderness”

- Marched in the area of the Wilderness feeling out Lee’s Army
- Details engagement with the enemy, close call with bullet going through his cap.
- Describes extensive use of earthworks that had become the norm at this point in the war.
- Horrified at the “sacrilege” of soldiers taking possessions off of dead comrades.
- Thought they were breaking off after three days, but actually continued the campaign. The men cheered in support of this
- 17th Maine went from 465 to 270. 28 killed, 154 wounded, 13 missing

Folder 5 Captain Verrill’s Claim at Spotsylvania/Father at Spotsylvania

- Account, by Emery’s son, regarding Captain Verrill’s understanding of the 17th Maine’s retreat at Wilderness, and the confusion surrounding this event.
- Account by Edwin Emery in which he describes the assault of the 17th at Spotsylvania on May 12th, which resulted in the wounding of the color sergeant, his father Edwin Emery.