

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc.

CIVIL WAR DIARY
OF
CHARLES S. DUDLEY

1862 – 1863

**Edward Smith Library
P.O. Box 130
Northford, CT 06472
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The diary of Charles S. Dudley was found in a table donation to the Totoket Historical Society by Elizabeth Dudley Waters, great granddaughter of Charles Dudley.

Charles Dudley was born in 1834 in Guilford, CT. He enlisted at New Haven CT on August 12, 1862 for a three-year tour of duty. He was discharged on January 20, 1863 due to "functional disease of the heart contracted in the service" according to Service Records in the National Archives. He died in Westville, CT on Dec 1, 1914 at the age of 80.

A line (-) or a question mark (?) has been used where the words are illegible.

Grace Rapone Marx, President
Totoket Historical Society

Diary of C. S. Dudley
1862

Co. I
14th Regiment
Connecticut Volunteers

68 East 40th St.
New York

Wednesday January 1

Mason and Slidell left Ft. Warren by ? New Orleans ? by steamer "Rinaldo". These men were rebel commissioners to England taken by Capt. Miller from steamer. Kent, England demanded their release on the ground of a violation of the rights of neutrals

Saturday January 4

Came to New York and went with Fr. to Central Park with skates.

Sunday January 5

Heard Rev. J.P. Johnson preach from Rev. 3-10-11 subject 1862 a year of trials.

In the evening heard Barchon ? in Plymouth Church preached from Rev. 12-1 was interested

Monday January 6

Commencement school out.

20th St. No. 40

News of day on important weather snowy and moderately cool.

Tuesday January 7

Wrote my resignation.

Wednesday January 8

Came to B. next day went to P. then to N.H.

Thursday January 9

Chas. Sumner made a speech in the Senate on the "Trent Affair" a masterly exposition of the triumph of American principles as applied

to international law.

Friday January 10

Col Sam Cerult ? of Northford died today age 47. Burnside ex. sucheck from Ft. Warren. Cairo Ex sailed.

Sunday January 12

Ps. 101-1 I will sing of many and of judgement unto the Lord I will sing Ps 1-13

John - 123.35.36 Dr. Phelps

Mat. 16.3 Rev. J.C. Abbott

Monday January 13

Came home from N.H. The com. Battery left Meriden for New York.

Sunday January 19

Battle of Mill Spring. Fed Vic.

Thursday February 6

Fort Henry taken, Foot

Saturday February 15

Bowling Green evacuated by the rebels and occupied by Gen. Mitchell without firing a gun.

Sunday February 16

Fort Danielson fell.

Tuesday February 25

Nashville occupied by Union troops.

Tuesday March 4

Columbus evacuated by the rebel.

Monday March 10

Battle of Pea Ridge fought - rebels defeated but not dispersed. Missouri liberated.

Thursday March 13

Burnside landed-----Newburn N.C. New Madrid Mis.evacuated
Supplies of all kinds taken.

Friday March 14

Battle Of Newburn - Burnside supplied.

Friday April 4

Gunboat Carondolet runs the rebel blockade at Is. No. 10
Capt. Walke?

Saturday April 5

The Bible nowhere ays make yourself better and come to Jesus
but come now

Sunday April 6

John 5th L.O. Wm. Smith ye will not come onto to me that ye may
want? life.

(Mat 25, 10) 1. Luke

It is the will of man that distresses the soul.

Monday April 7

Battle of Pittsburg Landing fought. Fed Vic. commenced on
Sunday Island No. 10 surrendered to our forces.

Friday April 11

Anniversary of attack on Fort Sumpter.
Fort Pulaski surrendered.

Wednesday April

Pres. Lincoln approved and signed the act of abolition of slavery
in the District of Columbia also names the commissions and chairmen
Jos. G. Barret - Joseph P. Vinton - Dan R. Goodhue

Thursday April 17

One year ago today Virginia receded (sic) form the union.

Wednesday April 30 Came to Stamford.

May 1 Thurs.

Boys came from N.Y.

May 2 Friday

Commenced school.

May 3 Sat.

Half day of school.

May 4

A beautiful spring mom. Mr. Bacon preached from Mat. 3 -
3:14 - 21.

May 10 Sat.

Staircase to Gallery of Senate

Battle scene - Storming of Chepultepec in the American West.

Staircase to the Gallery House. An allegoric scene representing the
westward progress of the empire.

Aug 11 Monday

Left Stamford and school Reg for New Haven - went out to Guilford and
staid with Henry.

Aug 12 Tues

Went to New Haven and enlisted and back again to Guilford.

Aug 13 Wed

Went up home with Henry and Anna.

Aug 14 Thurs

Made visit to Aunt N. and S. Had word to go up to Hartford tomorrow.

Aug 15 Friday

Went to Hartford and James went with me. He went home and I went out to
Guilford.

Aug 16 Saturday

Went home with James day before going. We went to Leetes Island

and took leave of friends.

Aug 17 Sunday

Went to church for the last time leaving home and perhaps the last time anywhere. My thoughts of things and faces are as thorough as they were the last time.

Aug 18 Monday

Left home for Camp Foote (Hartford ?) Staid in Wethersfield overnight at Mr. Robbins.

Aug 19 Tuesday

Held our elections and choose J>R> Bunsoners captain Jos. L Townsend 1st Lt. Samuel Fisk 2nd Lieut. Sergeants appointed by the Capt.

Aug 20 Wed.

Bishop and others call on us at camp - attended lectures at Center Church Saw Gaffney and Redley et. al Some drilling and some drilling and some writing for the Captain.

Aug 21 Thurs

Writing for Capt. and drilling nothing important in camp. Old normal friends came to see me staid to dreft (?) parade.

Aug 22 Friday

Rumors that we are leaving soon. No furloughs to be given "Mon 25" we shouldered knapsacks and made it to the landing and were in the boat. the trip down the river was pleasant.

Aug 23 Sat

Very busy with Capt's papers finally complete so that we past Muster and we receive our Bounty and our months pay in advance. we are under marching orders for Monday. Some of our folks went home.

Aug 24 Sunday

We have packed our knapsacks and prepared for a stint - Many of our friends came up to see us. Libbie, Anna, James and George came up to camp. Our meeting may be a final one. God only knows and

in him is my trust. It is rather hard to turn my back on home friends and all I have been accustomed to love and enjoy, for three long years of hardship and perhaps a final farewell. It is hard - but I feel it is a call of duty.

Tuesday August 26

Landed in N.Y. Pier 2 North River about 6 o'clock. had soup furnished from the New England which was excellent were put on board a boat for Elizabeth New Jersey took us for ---Harrisburg Had a very comfortable and pleasant trip at Easton at sundown.

Wednesday August 27

In Harrisburg early in the morning a dirty city what I saw of it left soon for Baltimore - people on the way especially in Md. loyal in their expressions. Arrived at Bal. at 4:00 marched through city and had supper Left at 10 in the most uncomfortable circumstances - - was in a miserable night.

Thursday Aug 28

- went to the Capitol- looked through the principal rooms disappointed in some and some not is my impression of our National capitol. Marched at 10 across long Bridge to Arlington Heights (sic) went into camp. Bulging as if we were on fro

Friday August 29

Called at two in much hurry to take our guns and ammunition and marched to chain Bridge in Georgetown. Some of us expected to see fighting others thought it doubtful - we were placed in the Rifle Pits and told to hold them. The Battle of Bull Run commenced our troops have the advantage firing ground - Gun station South of Fort Ethan Allan.

Saturday August 30

Battle still raging our troops are repulsed or leave the field to the enemy Our commandants put us in preparaton for an attack. the day closes with the appearance of storms we have no tents no cots no wollen (sic) jackets

Sunday Aug. 31

Raining our condition uncomfortable and our men exposed to the weather. No firing when the troops move back. No services and nothing expected to get enough to eat and keep dry. we seem to be very poorly cared for in point of supplies. Transportation can not be sent.

Monday Sept 1

Tents have not come. Nothing important some provisions sent us - day closes with attending storm. We think that soldier's life is thrust upon rather fast. The water is good and a good supply. The country poor and --- the people----

Tuesday Sept. 2

Tents came today and we put in enough to accommodate us which seems more like Army. Fewer sick than I expected going in. the officers beginning to give us some duties.

Wednesday Sept 3 Nothing going on.

Thursday Sept 4

There has been angry men. Many this way when battle is expected. Many camps have been pitched about here. we have easy times and fair living for soldiers life.

Friday Sept 5

Nothing but regular routine of camp life. It is pretty certain that we gained nothing by the last battle. McClellan and _____ are in the fort.

Sat. Sept 6

Camp cleaning in earnest. Something is up. Orders to march, and Rec'd a letter from Stamford - Collins on to fall in with accountants I discountermanded. very glad to have it. Jackson said to be crossing into Maryland.

Sunday Sept 7

Cleaning of arms and firing of arms for inspection of arms. Strange

business for the Sabbath day. was ordered to march at 2 for Oakville Md. The day hot and dusty - reach Penleyvill aft. sundown rest here awhile. March thru until one

Monday Sept 8

March again to camp at Sumners Headquarters - 20 miles - camping in the woods with PA - 130 + 132 N.Y. 108th.

Tuesday Sept 9

Staid our night in March again at 11 - 7 miles are ok. Man died - sad to behold - two of is cousins in same Co. burying him. Slept well overnight and had fresh beef for breakfast. more men in sight cooking their food than I ever saw said to be one hundred thousand beginning to experience the hardship of soldiers life. On to Fredricks. Water good about half way tum.

Wednesday Sept 10

On march at 9 days that and mentioned we are in Morris Brigade Frenches Division, Sumners Corps. Saw Sumner as we marched out. Marched 4 or 5 miles and halted in the wood looks like a stream. Rebels said to be advancing toward PA. Battle at ----reshapes.

Thursday Sept 11

Called at an early Early River and Prepared fro a march - started off through the lots and the woods at a rapid rate. Quite fast for the sick and weak men among us. Marched about 5 miles to Clarksburg and drew upon a line of cattle - the enemy said to be just beyond us within four miles of us. We are on a hill a mile north from Clarksburg the view is quite commanding. No enemy in sight from our position - that I know get seen.

Friday Sept 12

We were on picket duty last night. No trouble or alarms. Marched at 9 - in the rear passed through Hyattstown and encamped in the open field the rest of our unfinished on --- ---- ---. Our march ahs been hard and the weather hot --- and the distances 7 or 8 miles. No rebels, marching towards Meagerstown.

Saturday Sept 13

Left our camp early "sgey" by 1/2 after 5 for Fredricks. Which is 40 miles from Washington. on way through the fields came in sight of Fredricks at about 10 o'clock after some delay we marched through the city with the band playing. Rebels left on Wednesday last had plundered and bought with their own currency all they could take away. Firing heard in the distance. our buttress unchanging the enemy. 104 wagons and 200 prisoners taken last night. Went to the cornfields north of the city.

Sept 14 Sunday

Had hoped for rest today - but on the march again - and quite rapidly too. With very few and short rests towards and over the mountains behind which the contest of yesterday is beginning again onwards. Some of the firing seen in the distance as we see the top of the mountain - the place in the valley below us is Middletown - rested at night on the fields of this days contest and the badness of both fighting and lying on fields near us the rebels can move on and ----

I am tired and very sorry I could not have spent the day differently The contest here has been sharp I expect.

Sept 15 Monday

Rested because I could not help it. washed as sunrise this morning. I missed seen the bodies of several victims of yesterdays contest. Waried aide - ghastly sight - as many see some trouble before tonight. 700 of our men said to have been killed. do not know how it is. Expect soon to move. the night was a sharp one. Moved on to Borisusborough and buy and to --price of wood and rested this night, moved on to where e Petersville. Spent the night. Heavy firing has been heard all day. the rebels are trying to get over the ridge back into Virginia.

Tuesday Sept 16

the battle opens about 9 by artillery firing and lasted until 1/2 past one. The loss on our side was not large. some killed and some wounded. The shell and the shot --- sink into our ranks. Altogether to --- ----, much harm done. saw one man hit in the foot and one or two men killed.

The 14th Connecticut Volunteers went on to distinguish themselves in the following battles.

August 23 1862 - May 31 1865

1. Held part of the defensive line of the Battle of Washington DC in the second battle of Bull Run.
2. Battle of Antietam
3. Chancellorville
4. Gettysburg (Cemetery Ridge)
5. Bristoe Station
6. Morton's Ford
7. Wilderness
8. Laurel Hill
9. North Anna
10. Totopotomoy
11. Cold Harbor
12. Reams Station

Reference - Volunteer Sons of Connecticut Blake Hines