

GEORGE W. SPAHR
Civil War Diary
(September 1861 - December 1864)

Page no.	Year	Month	Day	Subject
115	1856	October		lived in St. Louis for a few years until moved to Illinois in October 1856
129	1857	April		got a teaching job at a district school 1.5 miles from Collinsville, Illinois, and started second term in April 1857
162	1860	June	13	diary begins June 13 th , 1860
184	1860	September		hired to teach in Columbia, Illinois, in September 1860 for \$40/month
214				described meeting wife Ella
248				describes marriage; 'Manda = Ella's sister Amanda B. Davis
273	1861	September	16	asks for a raise (still a teacher) to \$45/mon., which is refused. He and Ella pack their things. 'Manda agrees to look after their stuff and Ella while he is away and if he doesn't return.
274	1861	September	22	met in St. Louis with a recruiter for a battalion of cavalry under order of Gen. Fremont at Camp Sturgis. Arrives at Camp Sturgis on Sept. 22.
275	1861	September	23	sworn into service as a member of the Fremont Ranger Battalion of Cavalry but at his request not assigned to a company. Temporarily attached to Co. A.
276	1861	September	24-25	he is sent out as a corporal guarding secessionist prisoners
277	1861	September	26	signed a petition for the removal of Major Gallup and the promotion of Lieut. Wilcox
277	1861	September	30	sent out as a private to the arsenal for guard duty
279	1861	October	5-6	got a pass to visit Ella

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279	1861	October	8	35-40 secessionist prisoners took the oath of allegiance and were released
280	1861	October	12	joined the new company and was appointed corporal. Currently called Co. D.
280	1861	October	15	Co. A was mustered into service
281	1861	October	16	his company is now Company C
281	1861	October	21-26	mistakenly called "Missouri" instead of "Illinois" volunteers
284	1861	October	30	story about a fight between prisoners
285	1861	November	1	received uniform
285	1861	November	4	controversy about being asked to muster in as a half company of MO volunteers while officers were gone
286	1861	November	5	more about MO vs IL fiasco; received letter from Ella
287	1861	November	6-11	visit with Ella
289	1861	November	15	description of gun boats
290	1861	November	19	removal to Benton Barracks
292	1861	November	26	smallpox outbreak in barracks
293	1861	December	1-2	accidental deaths and murders; dream; gets a horse
294	1861	December	5-8	Gen. Halleck ordered them attached to 3 rd MO Cavalry – not happy, they don't like Major Gallup; dream; depart on steamer; Gallup's life threatened
300	1861	December	25	received letter from Ella
300	1861	December	26-30	war news, rumors, and friendly fire (?)
301	1861	December	31	mustered in
305	1862	January	17-25	goes out on a scout to Newark (35 miles NW of Palmyra) then Edina (Knox Co.), horses died, saw a skunk, Wilmothville (Adair Co.), Lancaster, Kirksville (24 miles from Lancaster), Paultown, back to Edina, Newark, Palmyra. Bunkie Gardner dead upon return.
309	1862	February	1	consolidation into Co. D(?) or I(?) 3 rd Cav. Mo. Vols.
312	1862	February	20	mustered in as a full company
312	1862	February	21	rebel woman tries to smuggle files in pies to prisoners

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315	1862	March	6	received letter from Ella saying she got his \$20
324	1862	April	15-17	company goes to Palmyra and crossing of North River
327	1862	April	24-25	encounters with bushwackers
331	1862	May	14	ordered to dispose of extra clothes; reference to "French leave" (?)
335	1862	June	10-14	on furlough in Columbia, Illinois, with sore eyes; Ella acts very distant
338	1862	June	25	Ella weighs 113 lbs. and George weighs 157 lbs.
339	1862	June	26	Ella says she may not remain faithful
340				rejoins camp now 2.5 mi south of Rolla
341	1862	July	5-6	receives apology letter from Ella; writes back forgiving her
342	1862	July	9-12	relates how a battalion mutinied; gets a letter from Ella that she is moving to Bethalto to do housework for a living.
343	1862	July	24	50 men enlisted due to call for all able-bodied men in the state
344	1862	July-August	31-1	game of killing flies with cartridges
345	1862	August	7-8	reports of a defeat and a victory
346	1862	August	13	newspapers confiscated
348	1862	August	25	incident where prisoners were killed, perhaps on purpose
348	1862	August	30	rumor that secessionists are coming
351	1862	September	21-22	rumors of imminent attack on fort
352	1862	October	1	Ella returns to Columbia
354	1862	October-November	20-6	receives word from 'Manda that Ella has probably joined a brothel; writes a pointed letter; receives another letter from 'Manda: Ella is in a "house" in St. Louis
356	1862	November	11	Major Gallup is under arrest
357	1862	November	16	mentions Lieut. Wolf
358	1862	November	25-26	description of a rebel attack
359	1862	December	1	describes punishment of a soldier
359	1862	December	1-3	march for Houston
360	1862	December	4	in charge of co. while Lieut. Lacey is sick
361	1862	December	20	transferred out of officers mess, Captain treats him unfairly

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363	1863	January	1	receives his first cavalry overcoat (versus infantry)
364	1863	January	10-24	in a battle at Hartsville, and aftermath, rebel losses on p. 371, newspaper account described on p. 371
372	1863	January	29	went out in the woods to try to shoot a hog or 2 for the company to eat
374	1863	February	7	description of brutality to civilians
377	1863	March	2	not getting along with captain and bunkmate
381	1863	March	31	Major Gallup still under arrest
381	1863	April	6	complaints about horse
382	1863	April	13	Lieut. Lacey leaves army after Hartsville (PTSD?) now officers include 2 nd Lieut. C.W. Wolf and non-com Q.M. Sergeant G.W. Spahr
383	1863	April	18-20	made a wall to his tent out of socks. Didn't get to use it as they were ordered out on Apr. 20
391	1863	June	11	had his photo taken while on furlough and testifying for Major Gallup in the major's court martial
392				learned he will be detached from the company "again" to be clerk in the ordnance dept of the 1 st Iowa Cav., 2 nd Brigade
398	1863	August	6	"my tent is within a few feet of several graves. The trees are very much marked and scarred by bullets."
400	1863	August	23	horse rolls over him
400	1863	August	24	soldier shot for watering his horse
401	1863	August	25	small battle at Brownsville, Arkansas
401	1863	August	26-27	another series of skirmishes and Spahr is sent to get help
404	1863	September	7	rebel deserters
404	1863	September	10-11	battle and aftermath; conversation with a black man
409	1863	October	10	horses dying from lack of water
411	1863	November	3	dug nails out of a burned gin-house to build the roof of his winter quarters house
415	1863	December		something about parole (?) of Col. and revenge

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422	1864	March	1	refusal of all to re-enlist as veterans; factions within company; problems with officers
427	1864	March	18	Arkansas becomes a free state
439	1864	August	5	gets paid \$175
443	1864	September	10	“The election of President is a very important subject just now.”
445	1864	September	21	wrote a letter to President Lincoln
449	1864	November	8	Lincoln re-elected
455	1864	December	31	musters out: served 3 years, 3 months, 9 days, mostly as a non-com
457	1865	January	17	arrives back home; reunion with Ella not mentioned
500	1866	June	2	“I called upon my lawyer, secured a certified copy of the decree of divorce, paid the costs and fees, and took a receipt in full for the same. I am now free from that trouble. May God ever keep me free from such another. The whose expense has amounted to fifty dollars.”
568	1868	September	8	went to Mrs. Tetherington’s (Martha/Mattie) about 3:30. Married in her home at 4:30 by Father Ballard with small gathering of friends as witnesses. “John came in and gave us his hand with the other friends but Ella refused to come, as also did Mary Ann.”
659	1874	November	29	a visit from his sister Catharine’s second son, Joseph M. Strickling. “I have heard nothing of any of the family before for 22 years. He knows nothing of his mother. Has not heard from her for 20 years. He is working at his trade – stair-building – in Edwardsville.” Nearby pages mention Letty (sister?) and several mentions of Mattie (wife).