

George Spahr Diary, p. 422-423 entry for March 1, 1864  
Transcribed by Mary Z. Rose 11/16/2017

1<sup>st</sup> March, 1864. Night – cold. Morning do. – cloudy. Breeze fair.

In camp all day. Not very busy. Issued some clothing and did some writing.

Was solicited to re-enlist but could not “see the place.”

The regiment has been under the ban of three contending factions, ever since its organization: The Missouri faction, the Quincy, and the “Fremont Ranger” factions; and for the last year the Rolla faction, which as yet has exerted rather small influence. If let alone the men agree well, and get along well together. All the contention and trouble is among the officers, and created by them. Many of the Illinois men have expressed a desire to be separated from this and attached to an Illinois regiment, and many of the Missouri men would prefer being transferred to a regiment composed of men belonging exclusively to that state.

The Missouri faction consists of those companies and parts of companies recruited about Palmyra and in North East Missouri, of which is Col. Glover, Surgeon Taylor, and Companies A, B, E, and F with parts of J and K. The Quincy faction consists of that part of the regiment recruited in Illinois, in and near Quincy, of which are Lt. Col. Black, Companies C and D, and a few in other companies. The “Fremont Ranger” faction is composed of Cos. G, H, and part of I, and is that part that was swindled into the regiment under Major Gallop who was cashiered by the Court Martial at St. Louis, and sentenced to thirty days in Gratiot Street prison with ball and chain for contempt of court. The Rolla faction was mostly recruited about Rolla, Mo., and is composed of Co’s L and M.

There have been several calls upon the men to re-enlist as veterans, but they have invariably refused. Many of the Illinois men have expressed a willingness to re-enlist if they could do so in an Illinois regiment, but not otherwise. Today the regiment was assembled and formed into a square by squadrons. A speech or two were made and then Col. Black called for all who wished to re-enlist in the reg’t as veterans to step two paces to the front. Not a man stepped out. He then called for all to step out two paces who would re-enlist in case the reg’t was changed from a Missouri to an Illinois reg’t. Not a man moved. “That bait showed the hook” too plainly. No proposition was made to get rid of the factional spirit. We must retain that in an case. The men are too anxious to get away from that to bind themselves to it for another term. Lieut. Col. Black was not well pleased.

Cay cool – generally clear. B. fair.