

sheets of matter in a short
 time the small brack that
 run through the stock-
 ade rose so fast that the
 holes cut through the
 stockade could not let the
 matter through and began
 to rise very fast up against
 the stockade there was a
 large valley above us and
 the only place for the matter
 was to pass through the camp
 in a short time the matter
 was to the top of the stock-
 ade as the matter ^{rose} ~~climbed~~
 so fast that the stockade
 gave away and the matter
 rushed through the camp
 and those that camped
 near the swamp had to
 run for their lives some
 that could not help them-
 self was ~~examined~~ ^{their} before

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friends could help them as
the matter swept through the
camp and struck the stockade
on the lower side it gave
away the matter swept
the swamp clean of all
the filth I believe that God
sent that rain to ~~change~~
camp when the stockade
gave away the prisoners began
to cheer what a shout
went up from ^{the} prisoners
The rebels came out with
their whole force and
tried to stop our men from
get out they told our men
if they attempted to get out
they would open on them
with their whole force
they had two large forts
near each end of the stockade
so they could pour grape
and canister into the camp

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The rebels threw a few shells
over ^{our} a camp to stop our
boys from cheering but they
could not for every time
they threw a shell over
the camp the boys would
cheer the louder as soon
as the matter went down
they put on a large force
of Nigros to repair the
stockade it took them all
night to repair it I never
^{saw} a place that was so thoroughly
cleared it thoroughly cleared
every part of the camp the
men had to lay in their
net close but they were
use to it many a night
while I was a prisoner I
lay down on the ground
with my close around
that you could ring out
matter ^{out of them} with out shelter or
blanket for five months

how men could endure so ^{much} ^{match} ^{of} ²
I do not know one morning
^{soon after the rain}
as I was passing along near the
^{west}
~~west~~ ^{south} side of the camp I
^{saw}
a number of men standing
near the dead line about
half way down to the
Swamp I went up to them
and saw what they was
looking at their was a
stream of matter running
down between the stacks
and dead line and some
of the men got some short
picks and tied a cup on
to the end of them and
reached over the dead line
and dipped up some matter
it was the best matter that
I ever tasted while in the
South after a few days
the rebels let some of our
men go out and dig out
a spout and run the

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water under the
dead line what a rush that
was for the matter that
was sent a crowd that
you could not hardly get up
to the matter we had to
put on a pleier man on
and make every man fall
into line and stay in
the line till your turn
come I had a quart cup
and all I had to do was to
drop my cup under the
stream and it would fill
in a instance the stream
of matter was as large as
a mans arm great was the
mistry how the spring
come to break out in
that dry side hill and
^{some} would ask why it did not
break out in camp instead
of where it did I do not
think it could have
been in a better place

for the reason that know⁴⁶
one could get to the head
of the spring to rile the
water I never drinked
and better water while I
was in the surrace than
the water that came from
that spring I know that
this water saved hundreds
of lives and I believe it
saved mine for it seemed
to give me new life I
have had may ask about
the spring and what I
thought caused it to break
out thair I do not think
thair is a man that can
tell the cause but I do be-
lieve that it was the over
ruling power of god I believe
that it was the answer
to those prayers in prison
and further more I know
that god does answer pray

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for I have proved him in
my own case I wish the
world had more faith
in god and to day after
more than 24 years I rejoice
that I am able to write out
these few lines that whoso
ever has the privilege of
reading this few lines of
mine may know that I
have found that saviour
who is able to save and
who is able to cure as
safely through all of
the trials and temptations
of this life and to give
us life ever lasting in the
world to come

for some time after the
spring broke out the men
seemed better in health many
would give up and would
soon die I never knew a
prisoner to live long after

they give up some would ^{be} get
out the dead line on
purpose to be shot and some
me ^{would be} crawling and running away
from their friends and
jump over the dead line
the rebels would shoot
them or any one that reached
his hand over the dead
line I was standing on the
bridge one day before the
spring broke out waiting
for one of our men to come
up out of the brook the
bridge whair I stood was
about three feet from
the dead live end above
the bridge we could get
clear matter the man reached
his hand under the dead
line the rebels guard shot
him through the head I
help to take him out
of the brook how I

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killed I had a gun I do not
think he would have another
privilege of shooting another
man just as soon as they had
shot any one they ^{would} take him
off and put another ^{man} in his
place if they killed a
man they got a thirty
days furlour and if they
only wounded ~~the man~~
they got fifteen days
most every man that they
shot they killed. great was
the rejoicing one day when
we heard that Killpatrick
was with in ten miles of
the camp the ^{news} was brought
it in by some prisoner
the news spread through
the camp in a few minutes
the rebel when our men
began to cheer thought
our men began to cheer
was going to try and break

out and through a few
 shells over the camp to
 let us know that they
 was ready for us it prove
 to be a false alarm.
 all throu R Killpatrick did
 try to get thair but
 he did not have force
 enough and had to give
 it up how we wished
 he had accomplis his objct
 a short time after this
 we heard heavy firing
 a short distance from
 camp we thought surely
 that our enemy was coming
 but it proved to be a
 sham fight that the
 rebels was having about
 four miles from camp
 thair was a lot of sother
 ing gettiman and laides
 come to see the yankees

prisoner after the Shaw
 fight they came to the
 camp near enough to look
 into the prison we could
 see the ladies pointing
 their fingers at us and
 a laugh in I do not see
 how they could enjoy
 looking at us. we wished
 they had been obliged to
 come in and boarded with
 us for a few days and
 see how they would like
 it I think their would
 be a difference to their
 turn. every few days the
 rebels would report that
 we would soon be exchange
 we soon learned that it
 was a rebel lie sometimes
 we would get a rebel paper
 they would be full of
 their great victories over

our army but the new 50
prisoners said that our army
won most every battle and we
^{lived} on those hopes that we should
soon be released the rebels
sergeants that came in every
morning to count the prisoners
to see if any had died
or had escaped if any had
died or got away they would
fill up with new prisoners
so as to keep their ~~prison~~
full these rebels sergeants
would bring in some thing
to trade with our boys
they would bring in tobacco
and exchange it for the
buttons on our blouses or coat
I could get a large piece
of tobacco for one button
they wanted ~~it~~ ^{to} by all of the
green backs they could get
they would give 5 for one
of their money but few

had any greenbacks to
 sell some had some money
 that they had hid in their
 close if any one had any
 money he was lucky you
 could by a pint of flour
 for one dollar and you could
 get one sweet potato for ten
 cents of their money their
 was a rebel sutler in camp
 that use to sell flour &
 sweet potatoes & most all
 kinds of vegetable how
 my mouth use to water
 for a taste of those fruits
 if our men could have had
 one good size potato it would
 doo them more good then
^{any other} meridian those that had any
 money could get a few potatoes
 and it help to keep away
 the sherry and those
 that had sherry money

had to suffer with the
 Skurery. I have had may
 ask what we use to do for exercise
 the first thing in the morning was
 as soon as the sun got up was
 to fall into line on the skerm-
 ish line and then we would
 spur with our whole force
 the plan of attack was to
 pull of our shirts and turn
 them wrong side out and
~~was the~~ amisking that we use was
 our two thumbs we would
 go down one seam and
 up another and so back and
 forth till there was not
 a single gray back left
 it was the greatest slaughter
 of gray backs that I ever
 saw we would kill thousands
 in one single skermish
 and this slater took place
 every day and those that
 neglected of hell of the lice
~~would~~ ^{would} be eat up alive

the last of august our men 53
had to lay tunnel dug in the
camp one was nearest to the
fort and the other nearest
to the rebels camp they
had dug to the blockade
and then dug along the
in side of the blockade
for a road or more and had
packed the dirt back so
that a large force could
rush against it and push
it over we had three large
forces organize to break
through and capture the
rebel camp one party was
to charge on the fort
and another on the rebel
camp and another on the
depot where the rebels had
a lot of arms & ammunition
every thing ^{had} been planned to
start about midnight I
do not know what success

our men would had the
 last day had aimed to make
 the attempt we had one
 traitor in camp that
 told the rebels of the
 tunnel and the rebels
 sent in a large force
 in to camp to fill up
 the tunnel I ^{strongly} ^{saw} that ^{man}
^{is} ^{small}
 in my life every one tried
 to get hold of him their
 was such a rush for him
 that I could not get
 very near him some said
 that he was killed and
 other said that the rebels
 took him out of prison
 but one thing I do know
 that there was never a
 meaner man ever lived
 if our men had failed
 it would have been a
 great deal worse for

the prisoners and sometimes
 I have thought it could not
 been much worse for they
 had to die a lingering death
 the meek's one could not
 get away they would have
 to stay and starve to death
 and ~~unwill~~ was in one of the
 worst places it could be
 put in was in a ~~spalley~~
~~place~~ ⁱⁿ the mind could not
 track it is was so warm
 that's that unless you
 kep your feet covered up
 the sun would burn you
 r feet to a blister it did
 seem as we could live throug
 h the day and after the
 sun went down the ^{bright} was
 cold that we would be near
 ly frozen & killed through
 after the rebels had filed
 up the last tunnel they

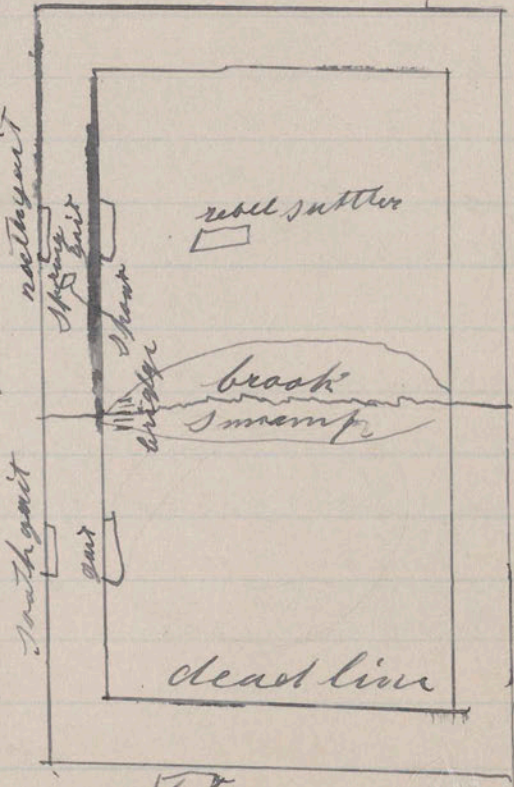
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to build a
commence line of Stockade
out side about two or three
and had got it most done when
I left in Oct. while I was
there I wrote a number letters
but they never got home
I do not ^{think} that in ten
thousand was mailed
altho' the rebels told us
that they would send them
their use to be ^{an} large lot
of letters that use to come
for us but few were
got into the prison I have
said in this sketch that
^{their} was never a meaner man
then the one that told
about the tunnel but
I will take that back
for their was one and that
was the old Dutch Capt.
Capt. Werty, he was the
most bawdick man that
I ever saw or ever heard

of he elicited to see our
 men murdered and shot down
 he had to pay the penalty
 on the galass and Jeff
 Davis ought to have been
 hung ^{up} beside of him. before
 I leave Andersonville I will
 make a draft of it.

Foot

The rebel guard had stairs
 on the outside that went up to the
 top of the Stockade and they
 stood on a platform with the two



feet of the top of the Stockade
 I think their must have been fifty
 or more on guard at one time

about the middle of Oct. 48
I went to my Co to draw
my ration and as soon as they
had give out our rations the rebels
counted us up in two ranks
and give the order right face
and marched us out of the
gait we did not know what
they was going to do with us
they told us that we was
going to be paroled we hated
to go and not see our friends
again I had a uncle that
I would like to have bid
good by that was the
last time I ever saw him
for he soon died after I left
it was the only disree that
I ever had to go back was to
bid my friends good by
some of them lived to
come home ather died
their mpat a Sean me
was leaving behind Fearat

never be half told I have
 not told half that could
 be told of the suffering in
 that prison pen the rebels
 marched us to the depot and
 put ^{us} into box cars that had
 been use to carry cattle
 in and had not been clean
 but we had seen so much
 filth that the cars was
 clean and healthy beside
 the prison we had just
 left as we moved ^{from} the
 depot we took our last look
 of andersonville it seemed good
 to be out in the open country
 once more the rebels told us
 that they was gain to take
 us to Charleston to parole
 us we arriv at Charleston
 the next day and they took
 out of the cars and marche
 d us out into a large

field they had a ⁶⁰ furrow
plowed around a large piece
of ground to mark the dead
line and the rebels stood on
the out side of the furrow
we did not have any fence
around us we was guarded
by the Georgia troops they
was the best soldier that
guard us while I was a prisoner
we was about half a mile
from ~~town~~ ^{the city} and toward the
bay we could hear Gillman's
battery every fifteen minutes
they was out on the bay
five miles from the city
and was throwing three or
five hundred shells into
the city every fifteen minutes
per night & day in the night
I like to see them pass over
our camp or nearly over us
and in a while one would
burst in the air and the

pieces of the shell would fall
into our camp I do think any
one was hurt by these shells
but it made such a mark in
the city every day & night
we could see the smoke and
hear the fire alarm calling
out the fire department
to put out the fire how
we wished we could get to
our lines but we could not
we were as well as twenty
miles away from their fire
all the good it did us some
of the men would run the
guard in the night and try
to get away the ~~Confederate~~ rebels
Officers came into our camp
one day and told our men
if they would insist in
their army they would give
them a new suit of clothes
and plenty to eat and they

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mood not have to fight any
they wanted them to do guard
duty and they persuaded 50
to enlist and took them out into
the city and dressed them up
in a new suit of close and
gave them the best of ration
after a day or two they took
them down to the bay and
put them on picket and
that night they ^{got} a negro
to get a flat boat and run
it close to the shore and
party out of the 50 got aboard
and cross the bay to our
battery how mad the rebels
was the took the other 10
back to camp and took away
their close and give them
their old close I was near
the line where they took
them into camp the rebels
said they would never trust
another yankee the rebels gone

1785 ^{parcel} ~~letter~~ while we was hear they give 63
some rice and pease & molasses &
meat and some times they would
give us some hard bread if it
could have been more in quantity
but the whale would not
make only our meat a day
The Cathlick priest & nun
ust to come out every ^{day} and
bring some Tobacco and
ginger bread and through
it into camp when the boys
saw them coming they
would get as near the dead
live as they daired to when
they through ^{away} into the line
what a scabble their would
be they would be piled
up 3 or 4 deep one time
I got two pieces of tobacco
that was my biggest haul
I had three or four on top of
me but held to the tobacco
I new was lucky enough
to get any of the ginger

bread we had ~~now~~ ^{had}
 shelter while I was here we
 was here about 10 days and
 then they took us to the
 city and put us aboard of
 the cars the rebels told us
 that we was going to ^{Savannah} ~~Savanna~~
 to be exchange when the
 rebels was going to move any
 of the prisoners they would
 tell them that they was going
 to parole or exchange of it
 they would not try to get
 away we left Charleston
 and started toward ^{Savannah} ~~there~~ and
 we began to think that we
^{would} soon be in our lines after
 we had got a few miles
 from Charleston the train
 took another road and then
 we know that the rebels had
 lied to us again and told
 them so we did ^{not} know ^{what} ~~what~~

65
They was going to take to the
next day after we left Charleston
Two brothers in my case they
made their plans to escape
me told them that they had
not better try it their plan
was to as near the door as
get

the could and then spring
by the guard me was in both
cars the rebels guard ^{stood} ~~stand~~ at
the doors they ^{had} ~~had~~ the doors
open to let in air on the
rear car the had about 30
guard but none prisoner
so if any one jump of they
would shoot them they had
some seats on a platform
car these two Brother got
to the middle of the car the
cars ^{the cars} was ~~back~~ full of 65
to each car the train was
running about 15 miles a hour
when these two brother
jump out of the cars one

66
66
on each side of the train
they was near a culvert and sprang
into the culvert the other the
^{one} fell and before he could get
to the culvert the rear of the
~~train~~ ^{train} got along the rebels
fired a volley and killed him
the train stopped and backed
up to the place one of the
^{rebels} in our car jump up and surte
hed his pockets he found a
good silver watch the ^{other} one
got sutch a start they
could not hitch him I
do not know whether he
ever got away or not I
wish I could remember their
names but it has been so
long that I canot the next
morning we arrived at Florence
Station and was ^{taken} out of the
cars now could not see the
prison from the depot for

~~1864~~
64

Thair was a piece of woods
that we had to go through
as soon as we got through
the woods we could see the
prison pen it was a mile
from the ~~stake~~ ~~defat~~ ~~me~~
got ^{thair} the ~~front~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~prison~~
and was put in the prison
The prison was in a better
place then Andersmill
the brook that run throug
h the prison was larger and
better matter the camp
was an now grown they
had cut off the timber
to build the stockade
the land on each side
of the brook was on a
side hill not very steep
the dead line was a
small ditch about 20
feet from the stockade
they had a large ~~spring~~ ^{spring}

6867
rigorous to work building
raised flat farms for their
artillery they was built
up as high as the Stockade
^{they} had of those raised fort
^{one} at each corner of the
camp so they had comple
te command of the camp
their was about ten thous
and prisoners in their hands
I arrived their the camp
was larger then Andersonville
me was not craveled far
from I did not have any
blanket nor any ~~thing~~^{thing}
right me went at night
to get a place to set up
haves keeping all the
winter I had to comence
keeping house with me was
a grant cap and I was
better off then some
of them for they did
not have that now

would ^{you} like to keep house ~~6957~~
with one quart cup and
nothing to cook in it, our
ration was some difference
from what we had in
Andersonville. I had
rice and about two table
spoonfull of molasses
or I suppose pork stuff
it was not fit to make
unlike with I did not
have but one cup so I
had to draw all of my
ration together. I
mixed rice and molasses
together and cook them
the best I could but the
quality was so small that
it did not make much
difference for whatever
we drew it had to be
cooked together sometimes
we would get a small
piece of meat it was so

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small that we use to slip
it into our mouth to keep
from loosing it for some
of it was alive and had
to match close to keep it
from running away a good
fat magat was about the
poor kind of meat that
I ever eat after they was
cooked thair did not seem
to be ^{any} thing left but thair
hills you may think this
is a tuff story to tell
but it was a fact for
if we took the magats
out of the nest we would
not ^{have} match left you never
new a prisoner to throw
away any thing that could
be eating. a few days after
we got to sparance the first
Tuesday in Nov. ^{from} ~~from~~ our
Presaelental elision the rebels

73
on the ground and try to fight
away death but few ever lived
to get out of prison I have seen
men with their legs drawn
up to their bodies with
rheumatism from they suffered
had to lay on the metgraw
all night and day with out
shelter or blanket I had been
sick so long with the chronic
diarrhoea and scurvy that
I had become so weak that
I could not stand on my feet
but a short time I had to
lay on the ground with
out shelter or blanket ever
since I had been a prisoner
those that did not have any
blanket would lay close to
gether to keep from freezing
-ing it was very wet and rainy
most of the time I was their
one among the rebels sent
ward that our Government

had sent us sum clothing and it
told us to come to the ga't
and they would give them out
as far as they would go I
went to the ga't but I could
not get any the rebels said
they had given out all their
was me soon found out that
they had used them their
self all the clothes I had
was a blouse and pants a pair
one old shoes and cap the
blouse sleeves was more off
to the elboes and my pants
was all in rags that was all
I had to keep me warm the
next day I herd that the
rebels was goin to give out a
few blankets I got to the
ga't as soon as I could and
was lucky for once I got
a blanket I never felt so
rich in my life as I did with
that blanket I went back

To my other command and spread
 it over as many as could get under
 it some of the boys persuaded
 the rebels to let them go out
 and get some lumber to build
 a shed for the sick in a
 short time they ^{had} one large
 enough for four or five
 hundred of the sick ^{our} ~~and~~
 boys split out the shingles
 to ~~cover~~ ^{cover} it with and they
 had to fasten them on
 with poles and pins they
 would lay a course of shingles
 & the shingle was about 5
 or 6 feet long and then fast-
 ened them ~~and~~ then with poles
 and pins they made a roof
 that did not leak but little
 as soon as it was done they
 came through the camp
 and told those that was
 sick to go to the hospital

I spent and was taken in home
glad I was to get under cover
and more the hospital was soon
full we had to lay on the ground
with out any thing under us
those that had a blanket would
spread it over as many ^{as} could get
under it usual 4 would get
under ~~it~~ one blanket you
may think ^{that} was crowding
pretty close but you must
remember that we had drunk
^{up} one half by this time so
you see that we did not
want but a small place
to lay in and the closer we
layed the warmer we would
be once a day the doctor
would come through the
~~hospital~~ ^{hospital} and give the men
some medicine I got some opium
nine once in a while for the
chills I use to take all the
medicine I could get I had
every ^{kind} of disease that

was in the hospital so that^{ly}
I could get all kinds of medicine
in fact it was so small a dose
that all the kinds they had
would not make but little
difference I grew weak so
fast that I could not get on
to my feet with out help
The chronic diarrhoea and
severe had got such a hold
of me and the rheumatism
that I began to think my
time was short on earth but
I never give up but what I
should get home and that
was all that saved me and
hundred of others one night
~~the~~ one died that lay beside of
me I new when he died but
had to lay beside of him
till morning in the morning
they came to take him out
when they took his blanket
of ~~for~~ him his whole

close was in nothing with ⁷⁹
lice they open his close
and thair was one solid
mass of lice they had drawn
the last drop^d blood out
of him any one that neglected
to ~~take~~ ^{lift} ^{stake} up his close and kill
them off they would eat them
up one day while in the
hospital I heard a man taken
on as tho he was in great
distress I made some inquiry
who it was and they said
it was one of the prisoners
that had tried to get away
and had him tied up by
his thumbs the rebels
would bring your hands
behind you and tie your
thumbs together and then
put the chord over a limb
of a tree and draw you
up so you could just
touch the ground with