

your feet toes and leave 79
you to suffer for half a
day the suffering was terrible
I herd the man begging the
rebels to shot him to end
his suffering they have
exp them hung up till
some have died I wish
the ~~the~~ officer that ordered
the man tied up had been
oblige to take his place
to endure the same suff-
ing the rebels tried every
means in their power to
make our men suffer I
believe there is a day comi-
ng when those rebels have
got to answer for the
suffering that our men
past through in those pri-
sons all I can say is that
god will have mercy
on their souls the 30
th of November the nurse ^{same}

through the hospital and ⁸⁰
told all the sick ones that
the rebels was going to
parade a thousand prisoners
and told those that was
able to walk to the other
end of the hospital and
sign the parole papers I
was so weak that I could
not get onto my feet I
ask the nurse to help me
onto my feet he did and
went with me to the office
and sign the parole the
rebels said they would not
take any one that could
not walk to the depot
the depot was a mile from
the prison I did not know
how I was going to get there
but I was bound to try or
die in the attempt there was
four of my company living
at that time three of them

got their names on the roll 81
one was sick in the hospital
with me his name was Jas
Clark and the other
was Edwin W Southworth
Southworth came to the
hospital that morning to
see me I told him that the
rebels had paroled me he
found out that the rebels
had not got quite enough
to make out the thousand
he made believe that he was
so lame that he could
hardly go and get his name
on the parole he told me
he would help me to the
depot the rebels told
us that they would take
us out at four o'clock in
the afternoon when the
hour had arrived to be taken
out their seem to be a new
life in my every nerve

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seem to take new life in me
I got up and walked to the
gate and answered to my name
when it was called as soon as
they had got a hundred
they would let them out
of prison and took them
a short distant from
the prison to wait till
they was all out as fast
as we got out they would
give us some bread it was
made from flour but it
was so saure that you could
hardly eat it after the
prisoners was all out they
took us a short distant
took the cleapat and left
us in a corn field and it
began to rain hard we
said thair for some time
the men was so sick that
they could not go but a
few rods to time before

They would have to rest my ⁸³
Strength began to give out
I would fall down and could
not get up with out help I
would tell my old dege that
I had not got quite through
with ^{them} yet that they had
got to get me to the deapot
with out fail. my feet
and legs up to my nose
was dead as to any feeling
in them I could not tell
by their feeling when
I stepped on the ground
we was from six o'clock
at night till two o'clock
in the morning got to the
deapot ~~so~~ you can see how
much we was their was a
number died that night
on their way to the deapot
^{when} ~~we~~ we got to the cars I could
not get into the cars with
out help they put us into

86 84
box cars as many as could
sit down to gether there was
not room to lay down if
we could have layed down
~~we~~ we could have got some
rest they got us all loaded
into the cars by day light
and the train started me
bid Clarence good by
for ever when our train
got to the first station
out of camp Clarence me
met a large train of our
prisoner going to Richland
the trains staped a
few moments and I saw
W. Nelson W. West on the
train he ask me where
me was going me told him
me had been paroled and
was going to Surinam
West said the rebels told
them that they was going
to be paroled I told him

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he was gain the long way
and that they was gain
direct to Florence prison
and so it proved they went
^{to} Florence prison next has
told me since that he tried
to get a chance to jump
on to our train when our
train started we left Florence
the first day of Dec 1866 and
arrived in Saranac the second
day about midnight there was
run the train on to a side
track and took us out of the
cars and took a short distance
and left us in ^{or} a small ~~place~~
~~so~~ piece of land near the river
the wind blew hard and it was
so cold that it did seem as
though we should freeze to
death if it had not been for
the blanket I had I should
have froze to death that's
was a number that did freeze

To death that night the rebels
might just as well left us in
the cars till morning but they
wanted to ^{get} rid of as many
as they could that night
the rebels gave us some hard
tack they gave 8 x I had
tacks a piece it was the
first time the rebels were
was General with their
ration we had more than
we could eat for once I could
not eat more than 3 or 4 of
mine my teeth want use
to eating nutchards bread
we had been living on faith
most of the time for five
months and it was hard to
break over our habit men had
been use to small rations so
long that it was hard to
force new habits that night
while we was at the depot
train after train loaded

with rebels was passing through ^{of 4}
the city we ask them where
they was going they said
they was going to meet Shure-
mans army and was going
to give them a licking we
told them that they would
be the ones that would get
^{the} licking and so it proved

Shuremans army was with
in two miles of the railroad
when we past over it I
have always been glad that
we got past our army that
night before they struck
the railroad for the reason
that the rebels as soon as it
was day light ~~they~~ took
us to the boat they had
three small boats the
flag of these boat was named
Jeff Davis and one was Gen.
Lee and the was Gen. Beauregard
before we left the wharfe and

nigger women come to the 88
boat to sell ^{pie} pies and corn.
Small cakes out of the bags
bought a pie and ^{gun} the nigger
women fifty dollars in con-
fession money and told her
to keep the change for
he did not ^{need} it any more that
was the only ~~part~~ pie
that was sold the boats
left the city as soon as
they got loaded up to me
had got 4 or 5 miles from
the city the the boat
that I was on struck down
on the bottom of the boat
with such force that it
it nearly stopped the boat
the rebels said it was some
timber sunk in the river
to keep our gun boats from
getting to the city only light
draft boats could pass over
it nine miles down the river
we came in sight of our gun boats

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as soon as ~~we~~ got so we could see
the old flag the boys began
to cheer the rebels tried to
stop them but it was now
use or him we past the gun
boats the boys threw up their
caps into the air and cheered
men that could not stand
on their feet without help
before got up and cheered it
~~that~~ ^{seem} renewed our strength the
rebels told our men if they did
not stop their noise they would
take us back to prison we told
them they could not do it
and pointed them to the gun
boat we had just and told
them that our gun boats
would not let them near
reached our flag of truce
boat and as we came up along
of our boat it was one of our
largest Ocean Steamers they
had to have a ladder ten or
twelve feet long to get on
to our boat some could not

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climb up and they had to be
help I tried my best to but
could not get up they had to
help me after they had got
us all onto the boat they ~~take~~
those that could take care
of them selves and put them
onto another boat that stands
beside the receiving boat I
stayed on the hospital boat
as soon as they got them all
separated they had every
man take of his cloze and
throw them over board did
me ~~like~~ ^{like} to see those gray
backs go into the river it
seem that I could almost feel
them running up and down my
own back now then they
gave the boys some soap and
water to wash them self
and those that had not stren-
gth to wash them selves the
nurses would wash them
as fast as they got washed
they would give them a soap

Suit of close and as soon
 as they got dressed they took
 them into another room and
 give ^{them} something to eat I was
 so weak that I had to lay
 down in a bench the nurse
 treat me a cup of ^{coffee} and two
 sody crackers and a small
 piece of meat when I had
 tasted of that coffee I realized
 I cannot tell it it now is to
 try to tell of the joy and the
 happiness that filled my soul
 I shall never forget that time
 and how good the coffee and
 crackers and meat tasted I do
 not never expect to ever taste
 any food that tasted as good
 as that did in the boat friends
 did you ever cry for joy if
 you have then you can realize
 my feeling ^{at my the} first
^{time} since I had been taken
 prisoner that I shed any tears
 it ~~was~~ was the happiest time

I never saw or ever expect to see
as soon as the nurse could she
help me to an dress and get a
bed for month I had laye
d on the ground without a shelt
-er or blanket, Their care never
be but one greater change
then the one that I had just
past through and that is
from this life to life
eternat in crist Jesus, as
I layed my mence bed down
on a pillow once more the
tears would run down my
cheaks and I was not the only
one on that boat that shed
tears of Joy the officers
and nurses did every thing
of that they could to make
us compally that might we
started for Annapolis, Md.

I did not get up till the
second day after we left
Suannah and then I dress
my self and tried to get
up on deck I was trying to

Crall up the stars one of
 the nurses came along and
 put his arm around me
 and ran up the stairs with
 me and sat me down in a
 chair he said that he could
^{camp} two up these stairs to once
 I looked around to see if
 I could see any land there
 was not any in sight that
 was the only time that I
 was ever out of sight of
 land I looked around as long
 as I wanted to and then went
 back to my bed and did
 not dress my self again
 till we got to Annapolis as
 soon as the boat got to Annapo-
 lis we was taken to the hospital
 I and had us take off our
 clothes and wash us again and
 then they gave us another
 suit of clothes as soon as we
 got cleaned up the ladies came

of the Sanctuary Commission come
 in to the hospital and brought
 paper and envelopes for the
 boys to write to their homes
 and those that was not able
 to write they wrote letters for
 them to their friends I was
 so much that I could not sit
 up and they wrote to my wife
 that I had just arrived at
 Annapolis and would be home
 as soon as I was able to travel
 their was one long man in
 my ward that was wounded
 before he was taken prisoner
 in the knee the gangren had
 got in and had eat all the flesh
 away from the knee so that
 it left the knee bone bare
 six inches above and below
 the knee they sent a dispatch
 to his father I matter that
 their son had arrived at Annapolis
 they lived in Pennsylvania
 they both got their the next

day they dare every thing they
 could do to stop the gangrene
 but the mortification sit in
 and he lived only 6 or 5
 days while his father was
 there he sent out into the
 village and got a barber to
 come in and shave & cut
 our hair we had not been
 shaved except our hair cut
 while we was in prison
 their was one in our ward
 that had ~~curly~~ curly hair he
 had a ^{curly} ring head of hair
 the barber could not get
 his shears through his hair
 his hair was woven together
 so solid ^{by day} that he had to cut
 it the same way as a sheep
 comes on his parcel and
 turn it back and eat close
 to his head and when he
 got it off his hair held
 solid together the barber
 said that it was as heavy

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as a carrying piece of meat
it was the only way that
we could get rid of the gray
backer was to eat our hair close
to our heads when I was
being washed one of the
Dr. came into the ward
he said I was the first
living skeleton that he ever
saw stand on his feet I
weighed 85 lbs. when I was
taken ^{prisoner} and when I came out
~~weighed~~ I weighed 90 lbs. I had
the epidemic diarrhoea so
bad that I could not eat
only the littlest bread the
Dr. use to give me eight
ounces of whiskey and a half
pint of brandy a day to
keep up my strength in
a few days the pay master
came there and payed us
two months pay and our
rotation money 25 a day while
in prison there was one
in our ward as soon as he
got his money sent he

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was going to have all he wanted
to eat for once he went to
the satter tent and bought
7 twelve small mince pies
the pies was about as large
as a common sance he set
down and eat the twelve
pies and he thought he did
not have quite enough and
bought another and while
he was eating the thirteenth
pie he sliced and it was
soon with a great many
they was almost crazy
for some thing to eat
and if they could get it
they would eat to much
I was so low that I could
not eat much and I believe
that is what saved my
life after I had been there
two weeks I asked the Dr
for a purlow to go home
for every one was in tittle
to 30 days purlow as soon
as they was able to stand

the Journey the Perse⁴
I was not able I would die
on the road I told him
I had no notion of dying
yet and that I was going home
he told me that I should
go as soon as I was able the
Dr use to give me eight
ounces of whiskey and half
pint of brandy a day to
keep up my strength I told
the doctor if I could get
home I thought I should
gain faster after I had been
there three weeks the Dr
told me if I thought I
could stand the journey
he would let me go home
I told him ^I men that I could
he said I ^{had} so much grit
he would let me go so he
made out a parole pay
me and another in my
ward by the name of
Sergt. Charles E. Merrill and
that night they carried us
to the boat we must have

anniversary to Baltimore on
 the boat and took the cars
 the next morning we got to
 New York we took a car pass
 to go to the Newingland
 rooms where all the soldiers
 stayed when they was pass-
 ing through New York every
 one could have his meals &
 lodging free. There was a
 stranger in the car pass when
 we got in as soon as we got
 in he took out some money
 and handed it to the driver
 I did not know he had paid
 the driver and took out some
 money to pay our fair he
 told us that he had paid
 our fair ~~for~~ thanked him
 he said he new as soon as
^{we} stepped into the car pass
 that we was paroled prisoners
 and ask us several questions
 about our prison life after
 we had got to the Newingland

rooms)

They gave us a good warm
 meal after our dinner we ask
 a parice man that stayed
 in the room ^{whair} we could
 get our transportation renewed
 he told us it was four miles
 from thair and sayed if we
 would give us our paricels
 he would send and get our
 transportation for us so we could
 stay whair it was warm he
 sed we would need all of
 our strength to get hame but
 glad we was and they gave
 us a bed to lay down and
 rest we got our transportation
 and ^{30th Oct} that aften noon we
 took the train for Spring
 field class soon aften we
 left Mr. G. a Gentleman in
 the cars came to us and ask
 us if we had just came
 out of prison we tall him
 we had he took a seat next
 to us and ask us all about

our prison life and what I
me suffered in the prison he
asked us if we had any stiments
we told him we did not have
any for me was not able to
go out and get some paper
his relise and took out a pint
bottle of m'iskey and handed
it to us and told us to take
some and keep it for me
I should need it to keep up
our strength to get home
we got to Springfield that
night about ten o'clock when
we got out of the cars he
told us he would take us
to a hotel where we could
stay for the night for we
could not get any farther
that night we had got
to wait till eight o'clock
the next morning we must

To the hall with him¹⁰²
we went up to the clerk and
pocketed our names he ask
the clerk how much our supper
and breakfast and leging would
be he took out his wallet
and paid the clerk what
a difarance thair was to be
among friends thur thair
was among our enemies every
one tried to help us after
supper we went into the bar
room every one and the bar
room was full would come
to us and shake hands with
us and say they was glad
that we had got out of
prison they keep us answer
ing question till midnight
before we got a chance to
go to bed the next
morning after breakfast

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They carried us to the depot
the train was to leave at
8 o'clock but on account of
a heavy snow storm we did
not leave till most noon
while we was waiting in
the depot a Giltman came
to us and ask us how far
we had got to go we told
him he said we did not
look as we was able to travel
so far and wanted to know
if we had any one to help
us along we told him we
told ~~him~~ ^{had not only one} we had come from
annapolis and we thought
we could go the rest of
the way he wanted to know
if we had any stimulants
we told him we had not
for we had use up all
of the stimulants we had

with us ~~we~~ went out and
 got some whiskey and told
 us to use ^{it} to take some
 every little while and then
 he took us by our hands
 and bid us good by
 and said he hope we would
 soon be with our friends
 we left Springfield about
 noon the rail road was
^{so} block that we did not
 get to Barnet till 11 o'clock
 at night sergeant Merrill
 lived in rear part of I hated
 to get out and leave him
 along for he had to go
 on crutches he had been
 wounded in his foot.
 Just before he was taken
 prisoner and it had not
 heard if he was not
 so redue in flesh as I was

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for he had never had the
chronic diarrhoea and scurvy
but the gangrene had
got into his foot and he
lost all of his toes I beg
him good by and got
out at barnet I did not
expect to get home that
night it was so cold &
if I went home that night
I had got to go on the stage
to Peacham 7 miles the
thermometer stood 26 below
zero I told the stage
driver I wanted him to carry
me to the hotel for I did
not dare to go to Peacham
that night for I would
freeze to death ^{he} told me
he thought he could make
me comfortable I was the
only one to go up he had

a covered stage and hall ¹⁰⁶
a lot of buffalo I got in
and layed down on the
bottom of the stage with
a couple of buffons under
me and three or four spread
over me and soon went
to sleep and step all of
the way to Peackham we
got to Peackham about 1
o'clock in the morning my
father lived about a mile
from the bottom the
stage driver kept the
hotel and I stayed with
him till morning for my
father did not know
that I was coming so
soon in the morning I went
into the post office and the
office was full and there
was not one that would

107
have known me if they
had not heard that I had
got home they all said I
was the poor person that
they ever saw John Morse
one of my company lived
at Peacham hollow where
my father lived he heard
that I was at the post office
at Peacham carrier me took
his team and come up and
got me and carried me home
when I got to father they
saw me get out of the stage
to come in to the house I
had two sisters at home
they told mother that
a old soldier was coming
in I raped at the door
mother came to the door
I spoke to her she said
it was a soldier and said

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can it be you mark I told
her it was all that was left
of me she could not speak
to me for some time after
I got into the house she said
it did not seem possible
that I was the same boy
that went to the war I
told her not to feel so
bad for I was in hopes
to look better soon my
wife lived with her father
father's while I was in the war
she lived in the East part
of the town two miles
from my father father's
in the afternoon Mr Morse
took his turn and carried
me to my wife father's
when I went into the
house father Clark said
how like the devil you look

Mar 22

109
Mark my wife was away
to one of the neighbors when
I got home they sent for
her she come home she
felt so bad when she
saw me ^{that} she could speak
she could not hardly believe
I was the same man
I do not think I should
be alive to day if it had
not ^{been} for the cure that
I had after I got home
they sent for the Dr.
as soon as they could
they all thought I could
not live but a short
time I told them that I
was not going to die now
that I had got home the
Doctor thought I was a
hard looking customer
he said he would try and

^{see} what he could do for me
in a few days I began to
gain and when my pardon
was out I was able to go
to Antislavery hospital and
stayed there till the war
closed after nearly 25
years since I was taken
prisoner as I attempt to write
out this short history
of my life I have endeavored
to write it just as I saw
it I have not it from
memory for I have not any
memorandum to refer to I antio-
ated the 12 of November
1861 in Co. D. 1st regt. W.
Car. and was discharged
July 25. 1865 up to
June 29. 1864 I had been
in over 60 battles my regt.
was in 73 battles

I have in my possession the
Caledonian that is printed
by Bell, Stone & Co.
St. Johnsbury VT dated
Dec. 30th 1864

that gives the account of
the time that I came home
and I will write it just as
it is given in the paper

From Andersonville

Quite a number of Vermont troops
who were captive at Andersonville
are now returning exchanged

Wash^{ington} H. Wheeler of Peacham and
sergt. Charles C. Merrill of Newfane
Newfane came up on the train
Friday evening. Wheeler is of Co.

1st regt. V. Cav and was taken
prisoner at the battle of Stony
Creek June 29, 1864 and was in
prison five months. Sgt. Merrill is of
the 11th Vt and was captured

with ~~so~~ many of our boys on the
median railroad the 23 of June
Whicker was sick of chronic diarrhea
~~and~~ nearly all the time. ^H he had the
sourwey badly, he is a pitiable
object and a living monument
to the barbarous cruelty of those
men who have called themselves
the "chivalry" and gentlemen
of this country, we know now
what "chivalry" means it is
chivalry to starve a union soldier
by inches. ^W when young Whicker
went into the confederacy he
weighed 185 lbs. when he arrived
at Annapolis he weighed 96
sergt Merrill was not so reduced
as his comrades, never having
contracted the chronic disease
so common in the south
he had gangrene in one foot
which he lost all ^{of} his toes but
he hobbled about as erect as
cheerful and happy. Both

these men gave their testi-
to the great atrocity of a
rebels towards their prisoners
Andersonville, robbing them of
their blankets and much of
clothing not providing shelter
nor allowing their captives to make
themselves houses, giving them no
food and nothing to cook it
with, although the camp was
surrounded with forests, not provid-
ing water to drink nor removing
filth from the ground
a few of the
crimes which
up the e
the sou-

Written Dec 30, 1864