



Samuel Clayton's two pocket diaries. The smaller diary measures 3×5 inches and has daily entries from 16 January 1862 to 16 January 1863. The larger diary measures 3.5×6 inches and has daily diary entries from 22 August 1863 to 14 December 1863. The smaller diary is missing the back cover and closing flap.

September 1st [1862]—The weather cloudy. We stopped at Fairfax and made our coffee and traveled on our way and reached Alexandria in the afternoon.

2nd—We marched to Camp Misery on the Potomac River. Stopped for the night.

3rd—We took up line of march and came through Alexandria and arrived at our old Camp Franklin and it being 6 months that we left it.

4th—The morning fair and all quiet.

5th—The morning fair and all quiet. Regiment came in from picket.

6th—The morning fair and all quiet and pitched tents on Camp Franklin. Received marching orders to move at a minute's notice. Left camp at 8 o'clock and crossed the bridge over the Potomac and past the Washington buildings at 12 o'clock and traveled on the road all night and arrived in Maryland about 2 o'clock in the morning and all well and traveled about 10 miles to Georgetown Heights.

8th—Took up line of march & marched 9 miles & encamped on the road. The morning fair. We marched through Rockville about 9 o'clock in the morning. A large town. Halted on a hill for the night.

9th—Morning fair. Still marching at 8 o'clock & traveled all day & halted at night in a valley back of a woods. On Monday, had a fight with the Rebels while on the march and drove them. The next morning they drove in our pickets & fell back. We had our Division up in line of battle and our artillery stationed on a hill in front.

10th—Morning cloudy. All well & our army still in line of battle. We passed through Dawsonville.

11th—Morning cloudy. On the march about 8 o'clock and passed by the Sugar Loaf Mountains & in full chase after the Rebels.

12th, Tuesday—Marched 15 miles. The weather cloudy. Got orders to march. Our pickets drove in the Rebel pickets, killing two of their cavalry & planting the flag on the Sugar Loaf Mountain. The Rebels are entrenching on the Monocacy. Defeat of Ashby's Cavalry, they losing 15 killed. Do not know how many wounded. We lost 7 killed, 1 wounded. 36 Rebel prisoners. Commenced the march at 9 o'clock. On our road, took the Rebel Gen. Hill. Marched 20 miles. Passed through Heights Town and encamped.

13th—We getting ready to march our men on ahead fighting, we passed Sugar Loaf & [Ca]Tocton Mountain, crossed the Creek Monocacy & a large mill at top of a hill. Passed our wounded through Buckeystown and encamped on the road at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountain.

14th—After marching 8 miles, got up at 3 o'clock to march, the sun raising splendid & all well. No news from the front. We passed over the top of the Greble [Gambrill] Mountain. Traveled through Jeffersonville & stopped near the Alleghany where they was fighting—the cannon never ceasing. The Rebels defeated & driven back with a great loss. Our Brigade took 2 pieces of artillery. The Colonel [Roderick Matheson] & Major [George Frank Lemon] of the 32nd New York was wounded. We drove them from the top mountain [at Crampton's Gap] & took 200 prisoners. Traveled 20 miles today.

15th, Monday—Morning fair. Ordered to march. Passed through Burkittsville & seen a sight that I never want to witness in my life again—the dead and dying. The groans of the wounded was awful. The churches and school house were full of wounded Rebels. There was only a few of our men there. The ambulances was busy fetching in the wounded all night. We have taken 1500 prisoners & killed about 600 of them. They make the Rebels bury their own dead & they asked us for tobacco which we gave them. Among the prisoners is majors, captains, and other officers. We encamped in a woods near Burkittsville. We took a walk over the battlefield & seen all the dead. Among the dead are 11 belonging to the 96th Pennsylvania & 4 to the 18th New York. We pitched tents in view of the battlefield and laid down to sleep.

16th, Tuesday—-Morning fair & all quiet. The Rebels not done burying their dead after two days hard work. It will take a week to finish. we take as much care of their wounded as we do of our own. Seen the burying of legs and arms that had been taken off the wounded. We passed through Crampton's Gap on the Blue Ridge & came to a halt in the woods opposite Pleasant Valley where our regiment lay. We saw many a prisoner whilst on the way [who were] taken after the battle. we marched two miles.

17th—Morning fair. The battle [at Sharpsburg] raging all night, continued till morning. Took up a line of march at 8 o'clock and marched through Rohrersville. At 10 o'clock our men [had] driven the rebels very hard. Came to a halt on the road. The Rebels flying before the artillery, cutting them to pieces as they run. Encamped 1 mile above Rohrersville for the night.

18th—All quiet. Firing commenced at 8 o'clock. Rebs not to be found. We got ready to start at 12 o'clock on towards the battlefield. Came to a halt & parked in an apple orchard for the night.

19th—Morning fair. All quiet. Took up the march at 9 o'clock & passed through Sharpstown [Sharpsburg] at 10 o'clock & stopped on the battle ground & saw 42 Rebels in one place & also 22 of the 28th Pennsylvania buried in the woods near the battle ground. We saw thousands of dead Rebels on the battlefield unburied. We marched through Sharpstown [Sharpsburg] and got on the Ring Road. Encamped for the night. The Rebs crossed the river into Virginia.

20th—Morning cloudy. Getting ready for a march. Came to a halt in the woods. Then commenced firing on the Rebs while they were crossing.

21st—Morning foggy. Commenced packing up to move at 12 o'clock at night & did not march until 7 in the morning. Passed through Killingtonville & a Jones' Crossroads. Came to a halt on the road for the night.

22nd, Monday—Morning fair. All quiet on the opposite side of the river. The Rebels waiting for a chance to cross. Men ready for them. Rebels laying dead on the field 6 days unburied. They turn black & swell so they cannot be touched. Our quartermaster [John Haviland] has resigned & expects to leave tomorrow.

23rd, Tuesday—Morning fair. Orders to move but was countermanded. 3 o'clock P. M., started and passed through a village called Mt. Moriah. Came to a halt in a field near the roadside & received a gift of apple butter from our quartermaster sergeant. We eat heartily. There was 4 spoonfuls for 8 men.

24th, Wednesday—Morning fair. All well. It turned to rain in the middle of the day. It is cold. we had apple dumplings, beef steaks, & fine potatoes for dinner. The Rebs are quiet since they got defeated in the last battle. The dead was so numerous that they burned them on Monday last on the battle ground.

25th, Thursday—Morning fair but very cold. All quiet. Still on the same ground.

26th, Friday—Morning cold. A frost. Cold evening. We halted on a hill.

27th—The morning fine. Still at same camp near Dam No. 4. All quiet. I had a good swim. Still at camp near Bakersville. Our regiment on picket at the canal.

28th, Sunday—Morning cloudy. All quiet. No news from front. Our regiment came in from picket.

29th, Monday—The morning fine. All quiet. Still at same camp near Bakersville.

30th—I saw a dozen coffins along the road—the friends after dead. Morning fair. Still at Bakersville. Nothing new. I went through Hagerstown. It is a nice little town. It has nice churches. There was 2 trains of cars came in while I was there.

October 1st—The morning fair. All quiet. Nothing new from headquarters. We heard two reports of cannons to the right of us, firing very fast. We do not know what it was.

2nd—Morning cloudy. All quiet. No news from headquarters. Drums beat for a long time & could not tell for what.

3rd—Morning fair. All quiet. Had a great time in putting up 3 field bedsteads in our tent. Our Division reviewed by the President & Little Mac & many citizens from the country around.

4th—The morning fair. All quiet. No news from the front. 15th New Jersey Infantry came in camp in a field near us. Balloon ascension.

# Bio of Samuel Clayton

Born in 1803, Samuel a private in Co. D, 95th Pennsylvania Infantry (a.k.a., “Gosline’s Zouaves”). Samuel enlisted on 4 September 1861 at 60-years-old and he was discharged on a surgeon’s certificate on 26 March 1864. Samuel was married to Rebecca Scott in the early 1830’s while living in New Jersey.

By 1850 he was employed as a watchman in Philadelphia and was the father of at least five children, his eldest son named David. In 1860, he was residing in Philadelphia’s 2nd Ward and employed as a stevedore—a job well-suited for his duties as a teamster in the military service and to which he returned after the Civil War. Samuel passed away in 1891.

[Thaddeus Lowe claimed he received no orders to take his observation balloon and equipment to Sharpsburg until the day after the battle. When he arrived, McClellan expressed regret that he had not been there to provide intelligence during the battle; Lowe used the opportunity to press for an independent command.]

Photo shown is an Artist's rendering of the Battle at Crampton's Gap. The town of Burkittsville was filled with wounded soldiers—mostly Rebels—who were treated in makeshift hospitals. Over a dozen buildings in the town, including its two churches, schoolhouses, barns, outbuildings, and houses were filled with wounded.