

Stowell, Myron E. (1839-1864)

Diary, Jan. 1-May 17, 1864. South Deerfield, Mass., Annapolis, Maryland, and various locations in Tennessee and Virginia.

1 vol. manuscript 17cm

Diary kept by Stowell, a resident of South Deerfield and soldier in the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Infantry. Diary begins near Blaines Crossroads, Tenn. Stowell returned home in early Feb. on furlough, and attends church, prayer meetings, and "singing school." Several references made to his brother Charles, a sergeant in the 34<sup>th</sup> Mass. Infantry, and sister Jennie. Stowell makes a trip to Worcester and Springfield before returning to his unit in mid-March. Stowell served in the Hospital Dept.; on one occasion he states that he bathed wounded "Rebs." Camp life consisted of writing letters, attending religious services, and washing clothes. Meals are sometimes described, and there is one mention of playing football. Stowell's regiment marched from its quarters in Annapolis to the front in Virginia at the end of April. On May 6 they participated in the Battle of the Wilderness where he manned a rifle pit. They arrived at Spotsylvania, Va. on May 12, and Stowell records erroneous reports that Richmond had been captured. His last entry on Tues., May 17, notes that the bands of both armies had begun to play. Stowell was killed in action the following day. Notes on distances between locations and accounts of expenses such as food, clothing, stationary, newspapers, and photographs kept at rear of diary.

Stowell Family Papers, folder 1