

Sunday, October 4, 1863 [Page 61 of diary] *The day has been rather cool. I had four pieces of bone taken from my hand this morning. They had preaching in the dying room after dark there was two or three wounded men died in the last few days*

[No entry for October 5]

Tuesday 6 *We had a hard frost last night. To day it rained all day longe. We have had to keep in our tents moste of the time. This is called the Cumberlan[d] Hospital. it is numbered [sic] off into Sections & Divisions there is a picket fence around it my hand is doing well*

[No entries from October 7 through October 11]

Monday [October] 12 [Page 62 of diary] *The day has been rainy. I stil remain here in the Hospital at Nashvill. My hand is healing nicely. There is noting exciting going on to day*

Tuesday, October 13, 1863 [Page 63 of diary] *To day is election day for Ohio it will be excitement there. For the Union men must defeat the Traitor Vallandigham. [Clement Vallandigham, outspoken anti-Union Copperhead candidate for the Ohio governorship, whom Lincoln later had arrested and sent behind enemy lines]. The Ohio soldiers are allowed to vote. I cast my vote to day for the first time. I may be caught at it, but who cares. It is the same thing as killing a Rebel. [Benedict would not be twenty-one, the legal voting age, until that December. He was voting illegally.]*

Wednesday 14 *Yesterday was rainy & disagreeable day, but nothing more. As a general thing to all election days, though as a general thing [sic] happen to be rainy days. God rant that Ohio may be saved from her by keeping the Traitor away from her State.*

Thursday 15 *Good news, Brough is elected for Governor of Ohio. Three cheers for Brough & the Union a groan for the Copperheads. A three to expell Val. [Vallandigham] forever from Ohio & all other traitors take upon his part, if he be a Brother of mine, I would never own as such again. [The underlining by Benedict indicates the passion behind the views he held. Such passions are what made men willing to die for keeping the Southern states in the Union, and, conversely, willing to die to leave the Union.] [Republican John Brough 1811-1865 would begin his term as Governor of Ohio in January of 1864; the current Republican governor in 1863 was Gov. David Tod, whom Benedict will later mention]*

Friday, October 16, 1863 [Page 64 of diary] *I left the Cumberland Hospit. at Nashville this morning. was carried to the L. [Benedict probably meant "N' for Nashville] depot & put in freight cars for Louisville, Ky. one hundred & seventy five miles distant. we had grub give to us on the road. we arrived at Louisville about six oclock in the evening. Ambulances were waiting to take us to the Hospit*

Saturday 17 *The day is pleasant. I am in Hospit No.[18?] on Jefferson street There is thirty of us in the ward Roy out of my Co is with me Turners Hall is the name of the building Dr. J. Gardner in charge as Hospital surgeon. The Yard Master struts through the room as if he was a king of high rank.*

Sunday 18 *We got orders to be ready at five in the morning to go to Cincinnati, Ohio. We were put on board of the Steamer Reindeer Cabin passage. We run aground once during the day time. We went at the rate of about six miles an hour. The distance being one hundred & fifty miles to Cincinnati from L. [Louisville]*

Monday, October 19, 1863 [Page 65 of diary] *The weather is pleasant to day. The Indiana [Indiana] Boys get off from the Boat at Madison, fifty miles from L. We landed at Cincin. about eight o'clock in the evening, taking the night at the Soldiers home in C. have good accommodations & plenty to eat*

Tuesday 20 *This morning we left the Soldiers Home & conveyed over across the R. in Ambulances & crossed on a Ferry. & were put in the Main Street Hospit. in Covington, Ky. There is the best accommodations here of any place we have been yet.*

Wednesday 21 *I still remain here in the Hospit. there is no prospect of getting a furlow. We were smuggled over here by being told that we were going to Camp Dennison. We are in a comfortable place for the present, but when [illegible] weather comes on, Ah.[Look out Boys for your he-man's run.?)*

No entries from October 22, 1863 through Wednesday, October 28, 1863

Thursday 29 [Page 66 of diary] *I still remain in hospital at Covington Ky. The weather is pleasant. We were mustered for pay this morning. Our occupation now is playing cards, checkers, & reading, when ever we we [sic] take the notion. I pass my time mostly in the latter*

No entries from October 30 through Tuesday, November 3, 1863

Wednesday 4 [Page 67 of diary] *General Rosycrance [General William Rosecrans, late Commander of the Army of the Cumberland, now relieved of command] arrived at Cincin., morning, he came up the River from Louisville. There was a piece of Field Artillery run down to the landing on the Cincin side & fired him a salute of six guns. He addressed the People at the Burnett House with a short, but patriotic speech*

No entries for November 5 & 6, 1863

Saturday 7 [Page 68 of diary] *The weather is pleasant to day. those who had their descriptive rolls were paid off to day. I did not get any on that account, for my descriptive roll had not come yet*

No entries from November 8, 1863 through November 12, 1863

Friday 13 [Page 69 of diary] *This evening the Dr was arround to take names for furlows. I was not in at the time & so I did not get any this time, as many could get furlows. No more. The weather has been warm & plesant.*

No entries from November 14 through November 19, 1863

Friday 20 [Page 70 of diary] *The boys who had their names taken for furlows started for home this after-noon. The weather is rainy & disagreeable. My hand has healed up entirely now, but I have not much use of my fingers yet*

Saturday, November 21, 1863 [Page 71 of diary] *I am well at this present time. To day there is a bleak wind blowing from the North west, & the first drizzeling of snow, the first that has fallen this season. the day is cloudy & dark. this is scrubbing & cleaning upp day in the Hospital. all the nurces have to help*

Sunday 22 *Today the weather is plesant out & other wise it is inspection day in the Hospital, all are examined some are sent to their Regmt some are discharged, & some are just put into the Invalid Corps. I am one for the latter, at least he took my name for it.*

Monday 23 *The weather to day is rather disagreeable. as it has kept raining moste of the day. I have remained in the Hospit. to day, in the C Ward. the Dr. took some more names for furlows*

Tuesday, November 24, 1863 [Page 72 of diary] *the weather is plesant out to day. this after-noon I took a strole arround through the Town. every one appeared to have some thing to do. while my comrad & I strlled [sic] alonge through the streets, some one took my shoes for their use and I had to take some one elses.*

Wednesday 25 *To day there is a cold chilly wind & the sky is dark & cloudy. I have remained in the Ward & passed the time in reading. I have rec'd two letters to day. one from home & one from a friend.*

Thursday 26 *To day the weather is windy, but warm. This is Thanksgiving day, the whole Hospital had a splendid dinner to remember the day & Main Street Hospital. I have received two more letters. This day I have commenced writing letters with my right hand again. [Earlier in 1863 President Lincoln, looking for ways to unite the nation, declared that the fourth Thursday of every year would be a national holiday, Thanksgiving Day. This was the first annual national Thanksgiving Day holiday.]*

Friday, November 27, 1863 [Page 73 of diary] *I will remain in the Hospital. The Dr took my name for the Invalid Corps again to day. The weather is stormy & could*

Saturday 28 *To day the sky is clear & the atmosphere warm & pleasant. I took another stroll up through Town this afternoon. there is a great deal of excitement to see the success the Army of the [sic] has had in the last few days*

Sunday 29 *I am well & every thing goes off cheerful. last night it froze hard enough to hurry a man up. It snowed a very little yesterday. The reports is that Grant has captured 7 thousand Prisoners & 52 pieces of Artillery [Benedict is having a difficult time writing with his right hand. The writing here is hard to read.]*

Monday, November 30, 1863 [Page 74 of diary] *There is bad scribbling on the other side of this page. It is owing to my nervousness as sometimes am troubled with it. The weather is cold & freezing. all is quiet to day about the Hospital. I got news that there is to be more furlows granted to Soldiers in U.S. Hospit. here after*

Tuesday, December 1 *I have remained in the Ward to day. everything quiet pervades [excepting?] the [business?] of the nurses at their daily toil, waiting on the sick.*

Wednesday 2 *I wrote this day to Governor [Tod?] to day to see if could not get transferred to Cleveland. Am not expecting much he will answer. all hopes of getting a furlow is closed now for the present. I [received?] a [letter?] fom B. to day*

Thursday, December 3, 1863 [Page 75 of diary] *All has been quiet about the Hospital to day We sill [sic] get favorable news from the front. [General U.S.] Grant still keeps pursuing Bragg [Confederate General Braxton Bragg] in his retreat to Dalton Georgia. He has taken upwards of 60 pieces of Artillery & seven thousand prisners.*

Friday 4 *The day has passed off agreeably pleasant. The quiet scene of the Hospital has ben undisturbed for several days, no deaths to cause grief, no excitement to break the monotonous same. Nothing to wake us from that solitude of thought of your scenes passed & gone*

Saturday 5 *The morning is pleasant. I received a letter from the Governor this morning. I sent a few days ago to see if I could get transferred from here to Cleveland Ohio there was one of the Boys had a fit this morning This is scrubbing day to prepare for inspection tomorrow*

Sunday, December 6, 1863 [Page 76 of diary] *The day has been pleasant. I broke guard & took a walk out through Tow[n] this after-noon. We had inspection this fore-noon by Dr. Spears, our head Dr. I wrote a letter to my Sister Ollie, my Sister by marriage in the year 1863.*

Monday 7 *No striking instances has ocured to day. the weather being warm & agreeable pleasant, I am troubled with a swelling at the eyes of late. I suppose caused by having the head-ache so much We still get favorable news from the Army of the Cumberland.*

Tuesday 8 *There was a fight in this Ward {7} this morning. The opponents were small men, one a Duchman & other a Yankee. no blood drawn & no bones broken. they were parted before serious dammage was done. We had a hard frost last evening*

Wednesday, December 9, 1863 [Page 77 of diary] *The day has been plesant & I this after noon went over into Cincin, for a walk. yesterday my name was taken for a Discharge with some others. There was some sent to their Regmts, & some are a going to be sent to Camp Dennison*

Thursday 10 *The weather is cloudy & a drizzling rain we have had all day. yesterday there was a man died with rheumatism, down in the sixth Ward. he is the first one since I have been here 20th of Oct.*

Friday 11 *The weather has been about the same as yesterday. This morning Dr. Spears {our head Dr} was around examining men for the Invalid Corps my name was called & I was exmined [sic]. They wont discharge anyone unless he is about ready to Die {or dead two weeks*

Saturday, December 12, 1863 [Page 78] of diary] *This is scrubbing day for the Hospital. all hands at work except the patients. The floor has to be scrubbed. & the bed cloths have to be changed, for inspection Sunday. The weather rainy & disagreeable. under foot*

Sunday 13 *This is the Lords day for religious services, meditation, & thought, all is quiet & solemn about the Hospital, no card playing or any other games allowed on this day. I still remain unremoved & no further news of my being an Invalid*

Monday 14 *The weather has been windy & it tried to snow this fore-noon but no go. I took a ramble around through town, with a friend of mine, Chas Haddly, this after-noon The Dr of our Ward, Brown, is arround on his regular rounds every morning at half past 9 is a great authority for every one, to see my hand*

Tuesday, December 15, 1863 [Page 79 of diary] *I have remained in the Hospital to day. the weather being stormy & cold. this morning there was several men sent out of this Ward & the one below, to Camp Dennison for to be put into the Invalid Corps*

Wednesday 16 *This morning there was considerable snow fell, but soon disappeared. This after-noon rained nearly all the time. Dr Spears was arround & he spied me here yet, saying that he intended for me to go away with those that went yesterday*

Thursday 17 *To day the weather is windy & could. it has froze hard enough to holde upp for the two nights past. It seldom freezes hard enough to hold upp here. Dr Spears & the Medical Director was around this fore-noon. He sanctioned Spears opinion of putting me into the Invalid Corps I was over in Cincin. this after-noon*

Friday, December 18, 1863 [Page 80 of diary] *This evening General Burnside arrived in Cincin., being relieved of the command of the Army at Knoxville, Ten, called the Army of the Ohio there was three salutes fired at the fort, in front of Covington at his arrival. The weather is cold to day.*

Saturday 19 *I have remained in the Ward to day. every Saturday morning before the Dr. comes around the floors of all the Wards have to be scrubbed & moped for inspection on Sunday. The bugle is blown every morning regular at nine oclock for every man to be at his bed, as the Dr. comes around*

Sunday 20 *We have had a plesant day to day. it has been warm & plesant. We had inspection at nine this morning. Dr. Spears was around. This after-noon there was a great flow of civilines [civilians], a common thing of Sundays, in & out of the Hospital, however great, none come to see me. I climbed the fence & went out in the evening*

Monday, December 21, 1863 [Page 81 of diary] *The weather this day been warm & plesant to day. there was some men sent to their Regmts this after-noon & others came in from the front I was out on a pass this after-noon [Very faded]*

Tuesday 22 *I have remained in the Hospital to day in the after-noon I made a checker board for the Ward the day has been dark & cloudy there has been no one expelled from the Hospital to day.*

Wednesday 23 *Nothing of any importance has transpired about the Hospital to day. Great excitement firebales [firebells?] in Cin. at the present time, for the great Sanitary Fair is under exhibition this week. It commenced on the 22nd & ends on the 25th of this month. [The Sanitary Commission raised money to help the soldiers of the Union Army. Many citizens donated money to the Commission.]*

Thursday, December 24, 1863 [Page 82 of diary] *Yesterday was a dark & cloudy day. to day the sun shines bright & clear. Still thin is clouds that hover in the atmosphere. The contributions raised for the Sannitary Fair is estimated at over nine hundred thousand dollars for the sick & wounded Soldiers for this year. [Illegible marks about one word long]*

Friday 25 *This is mery Christmas day, the weather being warm & plesant. We had a Christmas Dinner of roast turkey, chicken pie & other delicacies. it was got upp by the Stuard & taken out of the Hospital funds I was out on a pass in the after-noon*

Saturday 26 *To day has been stormy & could & have remained in the Hosp. To day scrubbing has been going on as usual of Saturdays. The Clearks took our names for to be numbered for pay this morning.*

Sunday, December 27, 1863 [Page 83 of diary] *To day it has been warm & plesant have had no inspection to day. I have occupied the day in writing to my friends. There was a man died out of the fifth Ward*

Monday 28 *This morning we were mustered for pay. When the Dr. came around he took names to go to the Sanitary Fair. I was one of the lads to go. We were presented with tickets but had to give them up when we went in [This is the first time Benedict has spelled "up" with just one "p"]*

Tuesday 29 *This morning the weather is could & windy. The mail came after breakfast. I received a letter from Mary B. R. from Iowa We were musterd again in the morning & in the after [sic] We signed the pay role.*

Wednesday, December 30, 1863 [Page 84 of diary] *To day the weather is cloudy but warm. all is quiet about the hospital. this after noon there was a several Ladies over here from the Sanitary Fair, fetching clamshells & buttons for the Soldiers to make rings for the Fair*

[Following the double space allowed for December 31, 1863, there are four lined pages labeled **MEMORANDA** on which Benedict has written.]

Thursday 31 *This is the last day of the year 1863. I am still remaining in Main Street Hospital, at Covington, Ky [across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, Ohio] the day being cloudy & a mist or dizzling [sic] rain falling. This fore-noon there was a Man, by the name of Pieters who died at just fifteen minutes past twelve oclock int his Ward to day. He was taken to the dead house. Poor Man lived to the end of month & the end of the Year & died in the service of his Country. Last nigh a sergent coming from Cin. on the ferry & [stepped?] off the ferry before it got to the landing & came pretty [close to]*

MEMORANDA [Page 85 of diary]

drowning He was rescued by a man handing him an umbrell [sic] to take a hold of which he held on to & was pulled out. He stays in this ward. The Old year passed out with a driving rain & stinging could weather. The New Year came in the same way. There was no spirits or guns fired to welcome it into existence. There was the sentinal at the hospital gate found in the morning frozen to death but was brought to life again. New Year morning there was some three inches of snow on the ground. The couldest weather We have had here yet. The weather is so disagreeable could that I have remained in the Hos. some men permitted to go over to Cin. to spend the day & as many as wanted to went out as there was no guard on at the gate during the day. We had nothing in remembrance of 1863

MEMORANDA [Page 86 of diary]

Eighteen hundred and sixty-three has passed away never to return & thank God I am still alive yet, all the injuries I have received are the loss of two finger on my right hand, which were shot off by a musket ball in the Battle-field of Chicamauga, Sept 19th about two oclock in the after-noon, except that I am all right yet & I remain a private in Co. G, 17th O.V.I. of the U.S. In this will be found a few short sketches of my trials & dangers of the year ended [Here Benedict skipped a line before beginning his "sketches."]

Who ever reads this do not expect any great amount of intelligence from it, for I have give only a brief sketch of the days as passed alonge. There is a good deal that I have give no account of or it has slipped my memory what passed. This Memoranda I commenced on the 28th day of June 1863, while I was on the Prison Boat anchored on the Ohio River at Cincin. I was then under guard & and [on] my way to my Regmt at Murfreesboro, Tenn. from Camp Chase O [Ohio] after being a paroled prisner & exchanged as good fortune had it I was favored with an oppportunity of going home to see my friends. I was absent from Camp about six weeks, as soon as I was exchanged I reported to head quarters at Camp Chase, where I was retained some five weeks & then sent on to my Regmt. The third day of July I arrived at Murfreesboro & was put into Convaless. Camp. on the 4th day of July I was sent out on picket half a mile south of the breast works. I was detailed to act as Corporal on post. We were under charge of one a [sic] Sergent of Vancleve Staff a Brigadier [Van Cleve was a brigadier general.]

MEMORANDA [Page 87 of diary]

I arrived at my Regmt on the 9th at Manchester, Tenn, which place we left the same day for Macminville Tenn I will go no further in details of my rout through Dixie but will permit you to look it over and imagine for yourself the [illegible] and dangers & events of my life as a Soldier in U.S.A. of the year 1863. I will close this memorand with all due respect to my Soldier comrads & friends of those who are with us in the cause for the Union & Constitution, but death to tyrants & traitors to our Country. With the blessings of God & providence I bestow thanks on him who has spared my life through this year of trials & suffering & dangers I have passed through. I will close for the year 1863 with [illegible] justice to cause of my Country Chas Benedict

MEMORANDA [Page 88 of diary]

Saturday, January 2nd 1864 I was taken a prisner of War just one year ago to day at the Battle of Stone Rver. I was taken arround to Richmond & kept there one week. I was Paroled on the 24th of Jan. & delivered over to the U.S. Government on the 26th of the same month at Citty-Point. The weather to day is snow & cold

Sunday Jan 3 The weather has been twenty degrees below Zero for several days past. The weather to day is warmer. We were paid off to day at noon. I received six months pay \$78.00

Jan 4th 1864

To day the weather is cold, but keeps snowving. There is about five inches of snow on the ground. Last night about midnight there was one man died in the Sixth Ward. There was a drunken man put out of the Ward last night. He belonged to the second Ward. This is the [illegible]

MEMORANDA [Page 89 of diary]

I lent Chas Stevens fifty cts to day 12th July

I lent Chas Stevens fifty cts to day 17th July

Chas Stevens owes me \$6.75 cts for things soled by Joel Johnson & sent to him at Nashvill, Tenn in 1863

On the inside of the back cover of the diary is written the following:

Samuel [Aiterbush?] Co. C

N. Beck Co. C

Chs. Ellsworth Co. C

Jos. Guin Co E

Geor. W. Byrd Co. F

Alva Willis Co. F

*Names of the men I were in charge of on picket at Murfreesboro Tenn. the 4th day of July
1863 when I was in Convalescent Camp there*

At the very bottom of the page is written this

Two lines crossed out then

Directions to Miss Mary R. Benedict

Minouk Woodford Co Ill