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Final Civil War Diary of Charles Mead

The Final section of the Civil War Diary of Charles B. Mead, edited by Elaine G. Purdy, is the third and last entry that was first presented in Vol.27, No.1, 1997 and Vol.28, No.1, 1998. This current issue records the last entries prior to his death in action on June 17, 1864, near Petersburg, Virginia.

The diary was lost until 1962, and then reprinted by his descendant Mrs. Hull Maynard. The current presentation was then compiled and edited by Ms. Purdy.

Charles Mead, a member of Company F. First U.S. Sharpshooters discusses his life in the Army in Virginia in this issue, from January 1864 until death. He describes everyday living conditions of his fellow soldiers such as playing checkers, inspections and routine life, while waiting for oncoming battle and the advance on Richmond.

An appendix lists, in alphabetical order, all the names mentioned in the diary and their dispositions as discharged or killed in action. A sober reminder of the war that saved the Union, and the sacrifices of many young men.