

The background of the entire image is a dark brown color with faint, hand-drawn comic sketches in a lighter brown tone. These sketches include a character with a speech bubble saying "forever", a character with "August 2016" written above them, a character with "zzz" above their head indicating sleep, and various other figures and objects like a tent and a character with a large eye. 

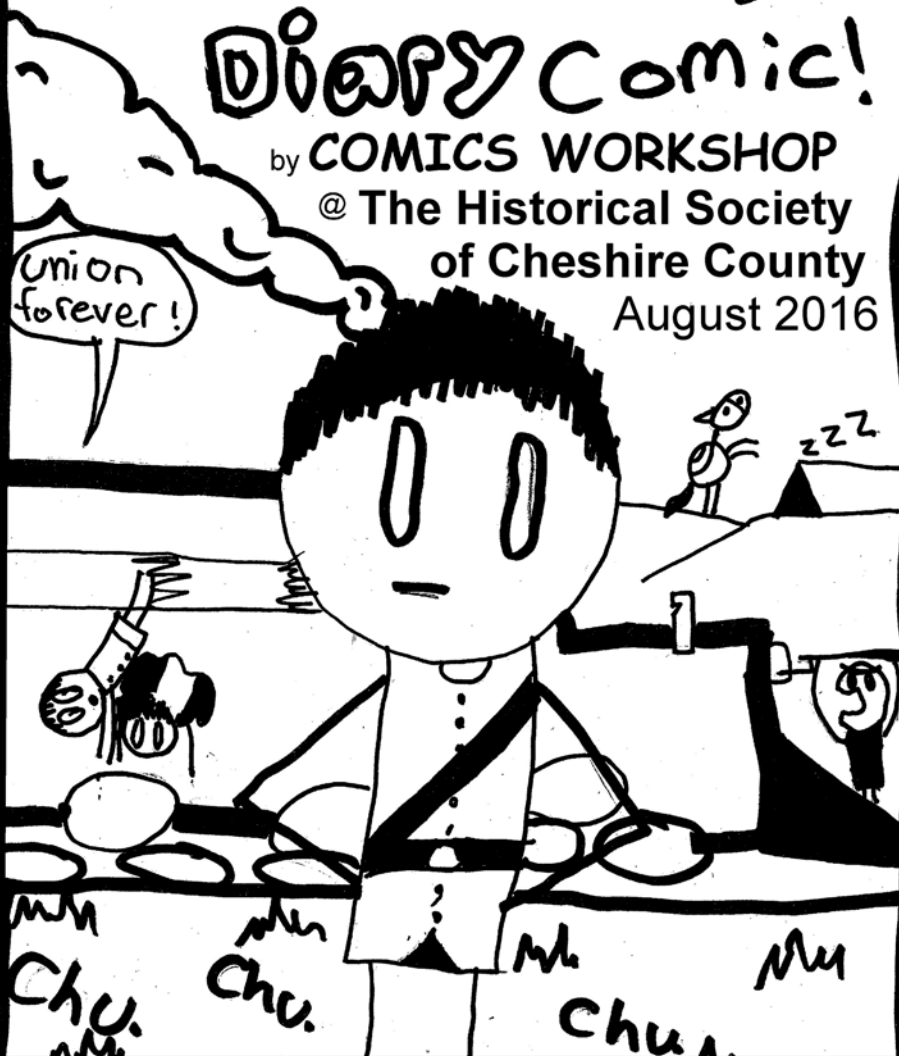
**ONE UNION SOLDIER'S ADVENTURES  
FROM KEENE ENLISTMENT TO CAPTIVITY  
IN THE CONFEDERACY!**

# **THE WILCOX DIARY**

**AN ONLINE COMIC BOOK CREATED BY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN  
THE MONADNOCK REGION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR CIVIL WAR  
COMICS CAMP WITH THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY  
(KEENE, NH) AND COMICS WORKSHOP.**

# The Wilcox Diary Comic!

by COMICS WORKSHOP  
@ The Historical Society  
of Cheshire County  
August 2016



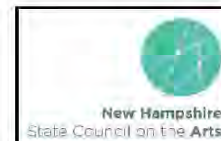
## MAY 1864: CAPTURED!

*The Civil War Diary of Charles Wilcox | p.2*

### ABOUT THIS PROJECT:

In August 2016, middle school students from around the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire gathered at the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene to create their own unique sense of history through art. In the *Civil War Comics Camp*, students worked as a team with Society staff and with cartoonist/Civil War musician Marek Bennett ( [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com) ) to become citizen archivists and comic artists. They developed new skills in: historical research, cartooning, storytelling, music, performance, transcribing 19<sup>th</sup> century cursive handwriting, and self-publishing. The end result of this week-long camp is this comic book based on the real-life experiences of a young man from Keene during the Civil War.

The diary of Charles W. Wilcox, preserved in the archives at the Historical Society, was the lead primary source used by students to create this book. Students verified Wilcox's personal tales with additional primary and secondary sources throughout the week. They learned popular Union and Confederate songs from the 1860s, performing for guests using 19<sup>th</sup> century folk instruments such as the bones, triangle, donkey jaw, and frying pan. They visited the Civil War encampment of the 6<sup>th</sup> NH Volunteer Regiment and practiced drilling as Wilcox may have done. They toured Cheshire County to learn the stories of local men who fought in the war and see sites related to their lives, including Wilcox. Students were able to explore American culture today by examining its past.

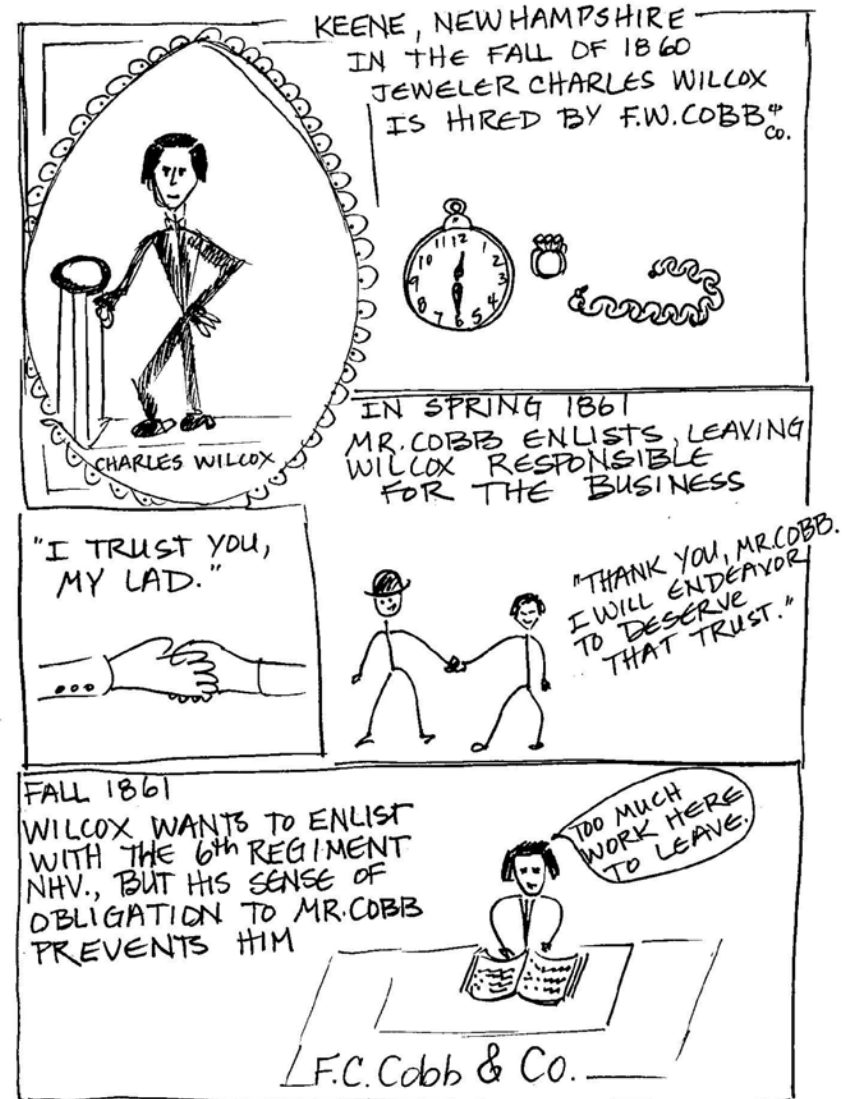


The Historical Society of Cheshire County would like to thank the **National Historic Preservation & Records Commission** (National Archives), the **New Hampshire State Council on the Arts**, an anonymous business donor, **Keene State College**, and **Thomas Charters** of Swanzey for supporting the camp. Many thanks to **Theresa Stack**, who transcribed the diary pages we used in this camp! We would also like to thank **Marek Bennett**, **Alan Rumrill**, members of the 6<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteers, **Eric Howley**, **Becky Barton**, and **Tyler Kosakowski** for your hands-on lessons and historical research.

Jennifer Carroll, Director of Education  
Historical Society of Cheshire County  
Keene, NH / August 5, 2016

*This booklet pairs student artwork from our August 2016 camps with related quotes from Wilcox's diary ("diary") and the History of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers ("H9R").*





Art by Abby Mather

*"As suddenly, as swiftly, and as terribly as the cyclone sweeps over the smiling country, leaving death and desolation behind, did this open rebellion and its consequences come upon the nation." ~ H9R, p.2*



AUGUST 05, 1862 WILCOX MEETS HIS CLOSE FRIEND  
ON CENTRAL SQUARE IN KEENE.



GOOD TUESDAY MORNIN'  
HENRY!

THE 9th IS IN  
TOWN!

TIME TO  
ENLIST?



MORNIN' CHARLES!  
YES THE DAY  
HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

TO CAPT. BABBITT'S  
RECRUITING OFFICE!

Art by Abby Mather

**"The company now commanded by Captain Babbitt shall be known as Company I."** ~ History of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers, in the War of the Rebellion, p.13

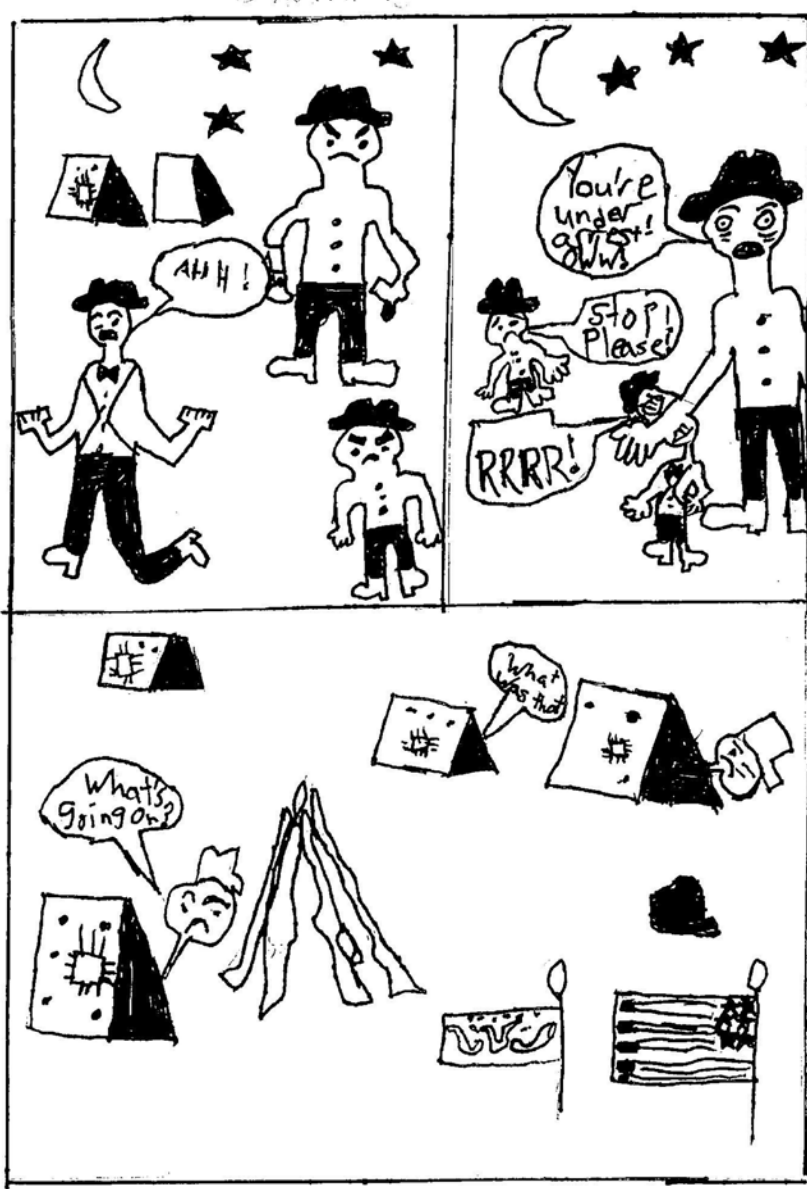


c.1862(?) / Art by Emily

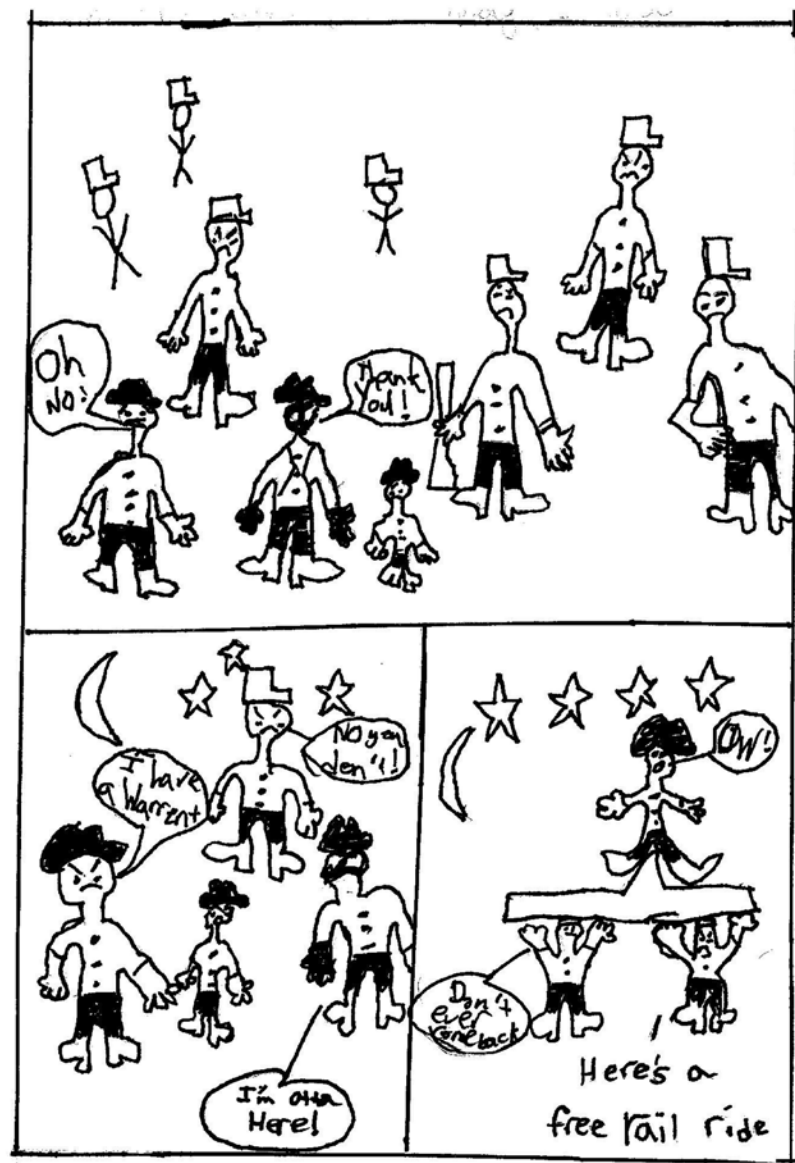
**"This same Parsons was the man who helped save the colors at Spottsylvania, who was promoted to be color sergeant for his bravery, and who was killed while carrying the colors at Petersburg, July 20, 1864."** ~ H9R, p.385



"One day a sheriff appeared in the camp, and attempted to arrest a young contraband who was acting as waiter for Lieutenant Copp" ~ H9R, p.274



c. May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863/ Art by Hunter



c. May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863/ Art by Hunter

"Just then, somebody sung out " A rail ! " ... His honor, the high sheriff of Lincoln county, didn't seem to particularly fancy this idea of a rail, and looking very pale and sheepish began to edge off as fast as possible..." ~ H9R, p.274



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864 / Art by Molly

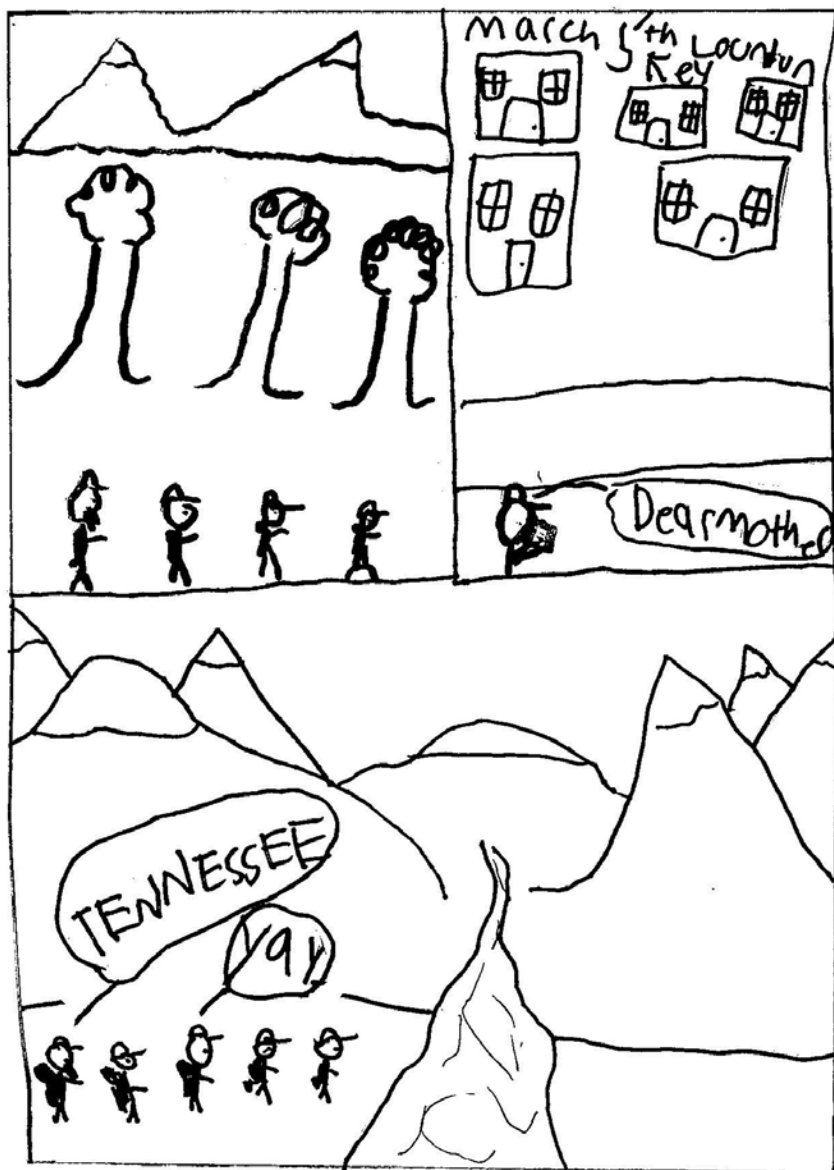
*"cold & wet, snow 3 inches deep. officers without Tents or Blankets."* ~ Diary, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864



March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864 / Art by Molly

*"Remained in Camp all day. Wether pleasant and warm."* ~ Diary, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1864





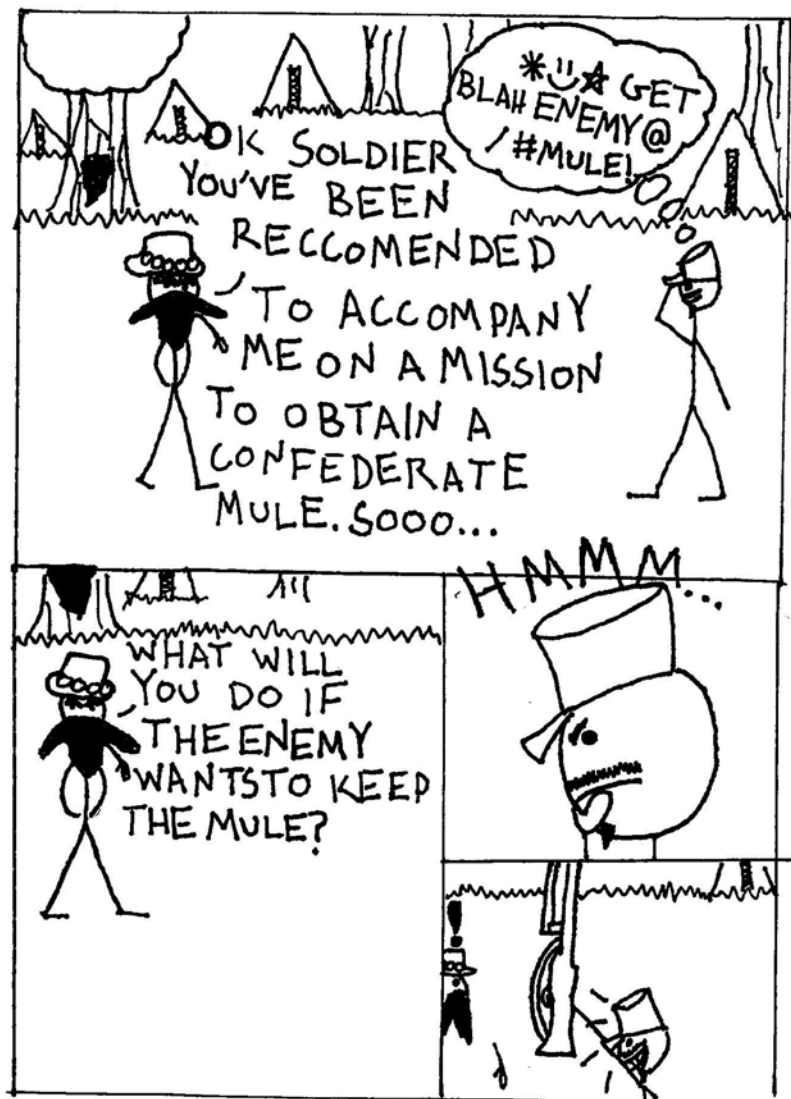
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Griffin

"Wether cold and wet, remained in camp near London [KY]...  
Sent a letter to Mother" ~ Diary, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864



From letter dated March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Griffin

"The night before, the guerrilla party had noticed a mule with the U. S. brand at one of the places they had visited, and ... Quartermaster Moses was anxious to secure the animal to replace one lost from his teams..." ~ H9R, p.335-6



March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Moses

"He asked Captain Buswell to let him have a man to go back with him to get it. The captain suggested Lemar, one of the French recruits, as a good one for this duty" ~ H9R, p.335-6



March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art (& artistic license) by Moses





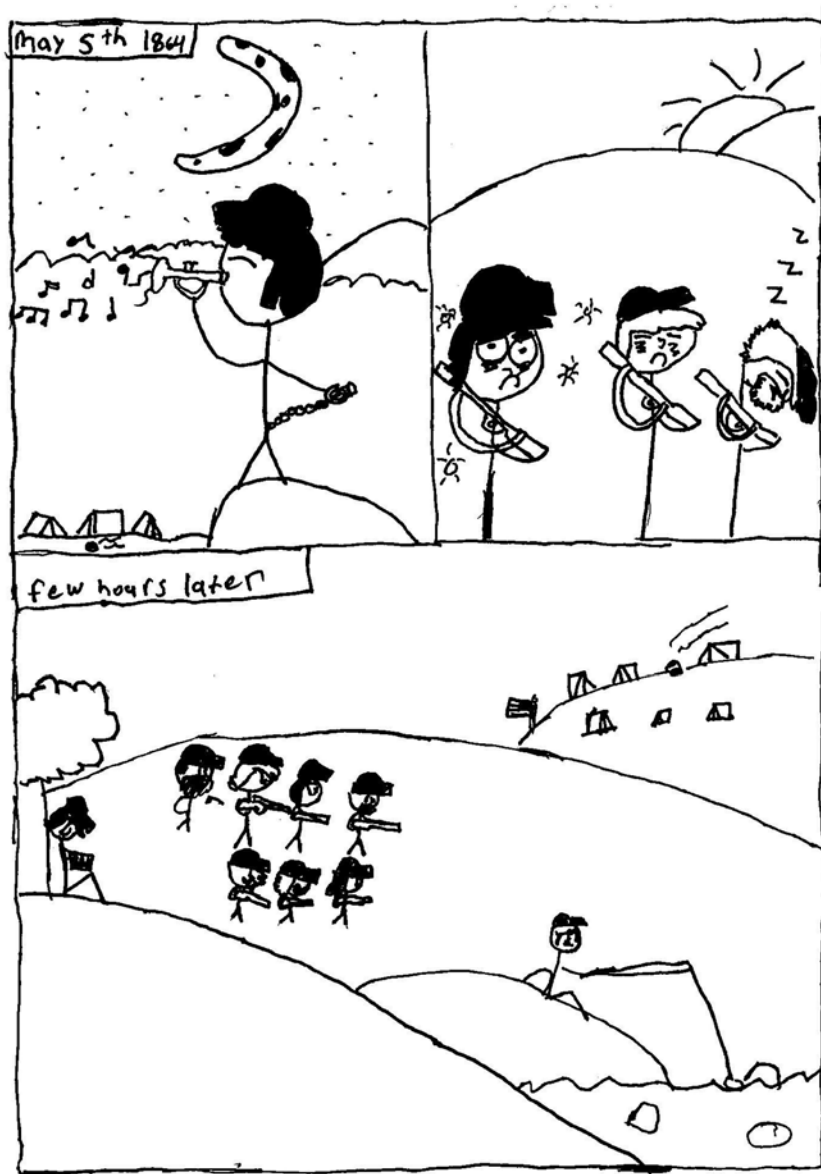
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Moses

"Before noon they rejoined the regiment, the Frenchman riding the mule, and looking every inch a conqueror." ~ H9R, p.335-6



May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Emily

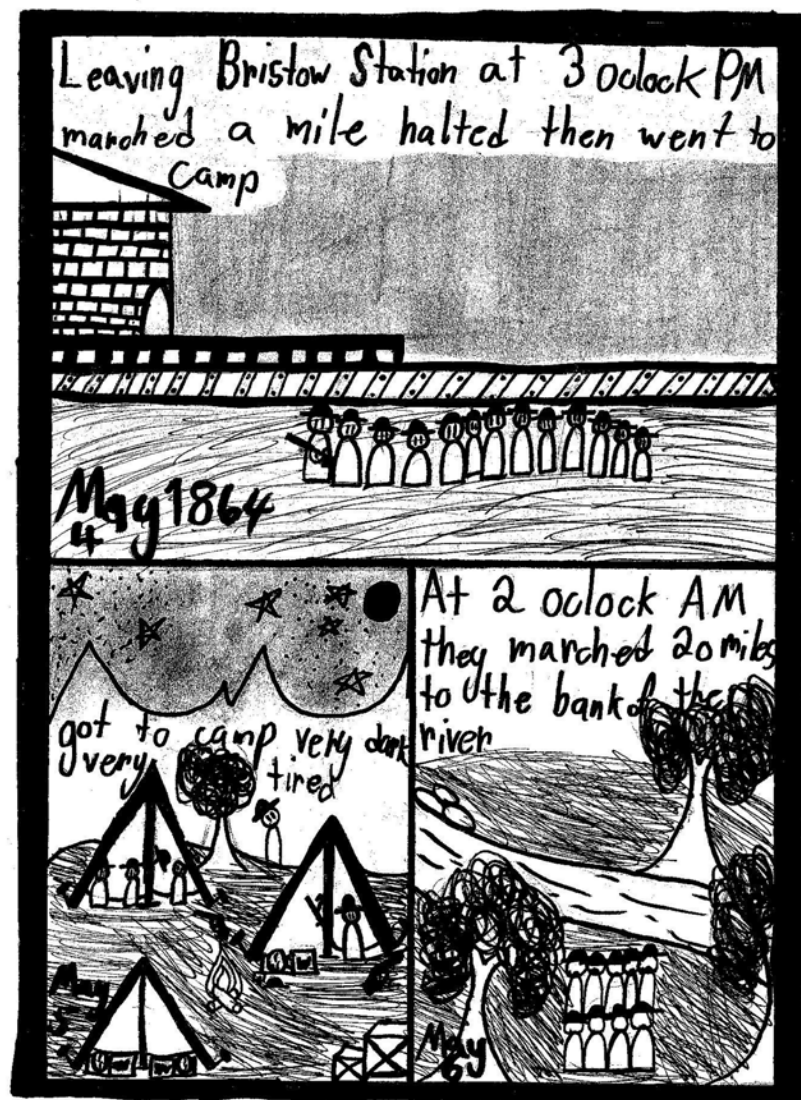
"Halted and remained there until dark..." ~ Diary, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864



May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1864 / Art by Emily

"Revellie at ½ past 2 o'clock AM..."

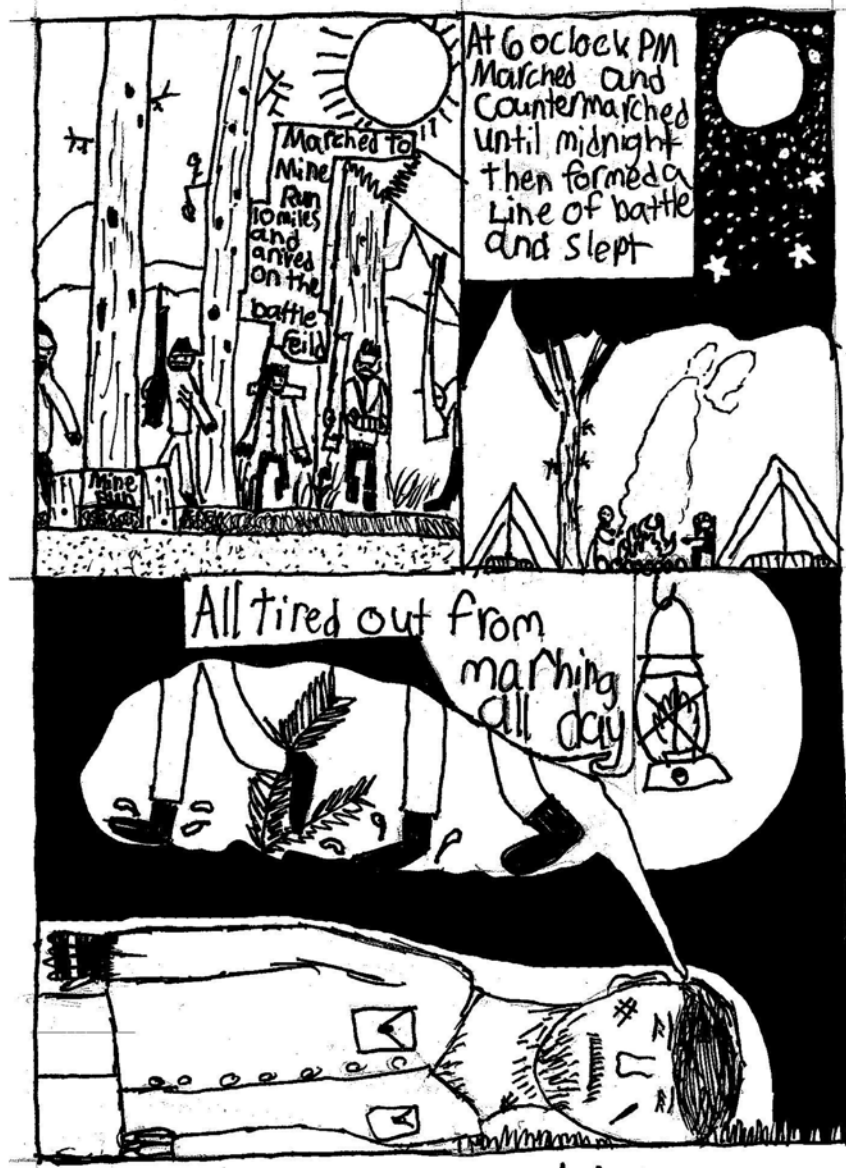
~ Diary, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864



Art by Lilly

"The first day of the advance only a few Confederate pickets were seen and scarcely a shot was fired." ~ H9R, p.359





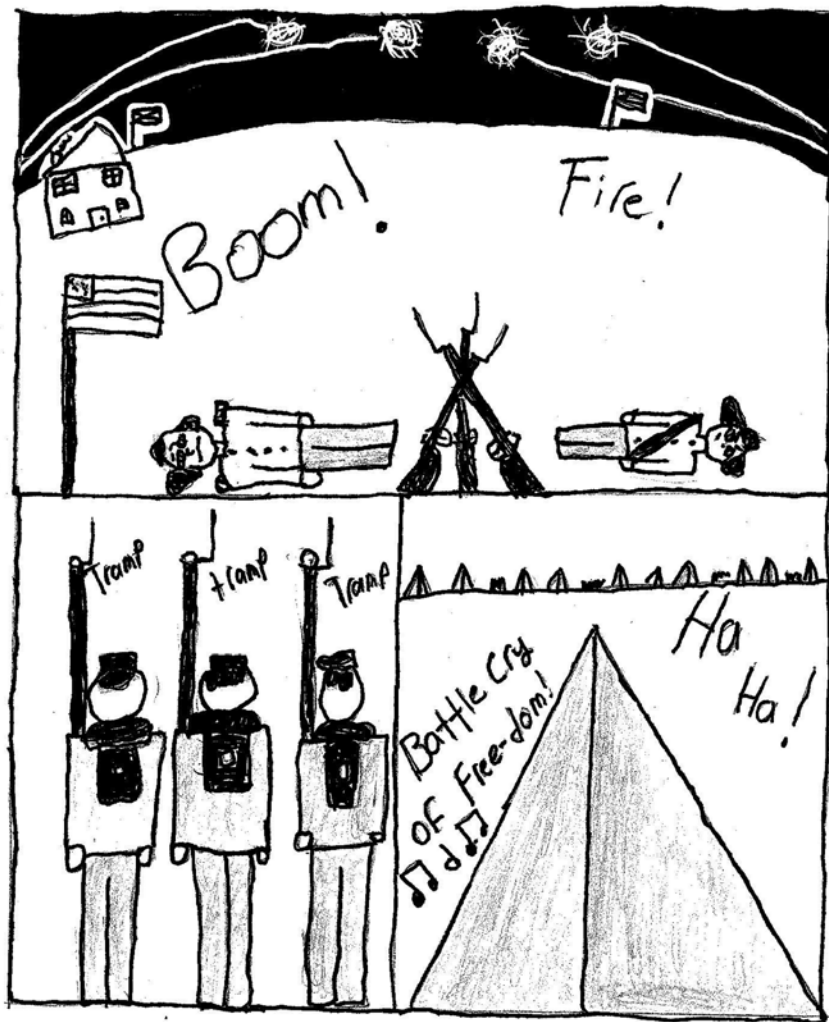
Art by Aidan

"All the [hands] pretty well tired out all tired out after marching all day" ~ Diary, 6<sup>th</sup> May 1864



Art by Aidan

"Threw up Breast works and laid the works supporting the 14<sup>th</sup> NY... but saw no fighting..." ~ Diary, 7<sup>th</sup> May 1864



Art by Lee

*"Layed on our arms all last night about a mile from the battlefield... Firing commenced on our right early in the morning..." ~ Diary, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1864*



Art by Lee

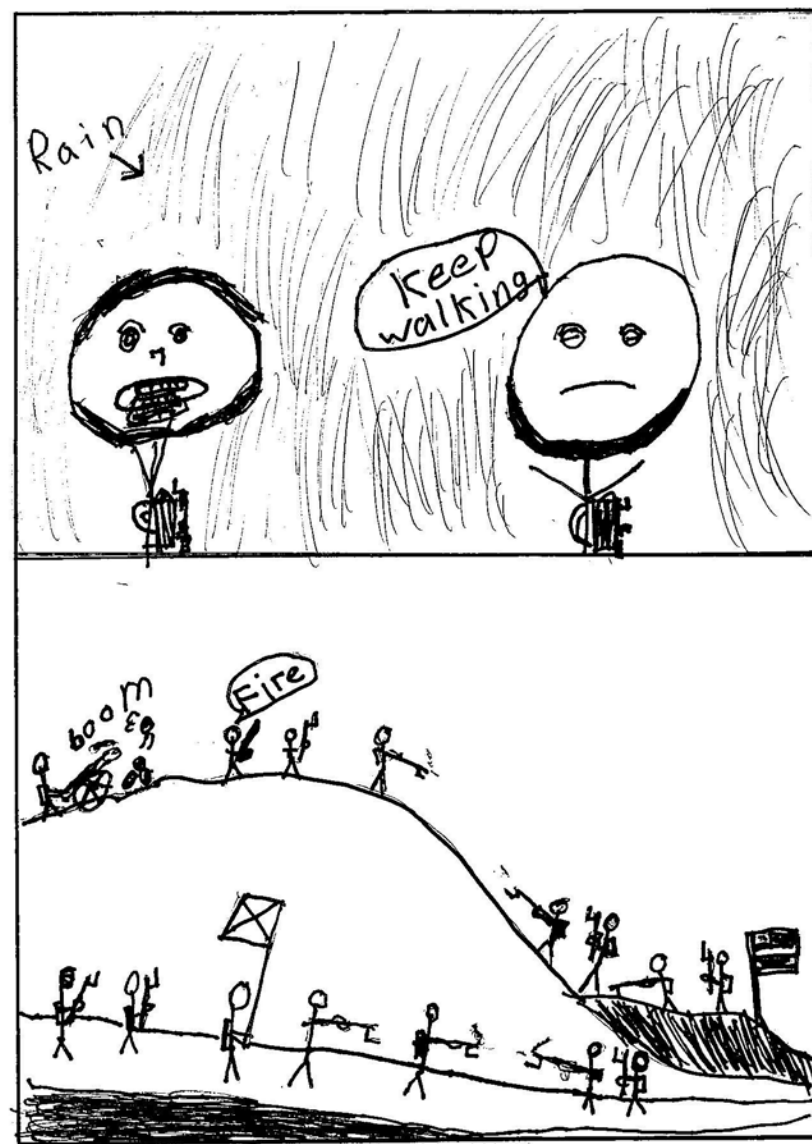
*"The reb Cav were in our rear and succeeded in capturing a [few] ambulances..." ~ Diary, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1864*





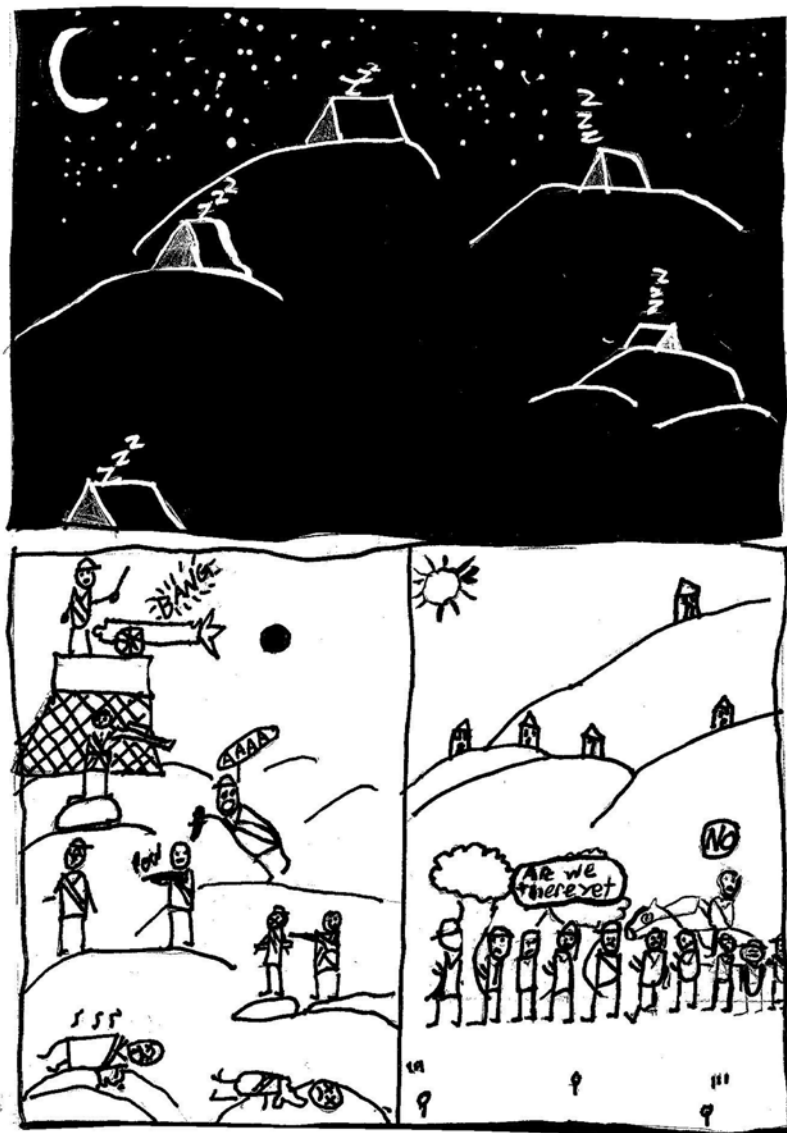
May 11<sup>h</sup>, 1864 / Art by Logan

"My supper of (neck) steak went into the frying-pan warm, but before it was cooked the order to fall in came..." ~ H9R, p.563



May 11<sup>h</sup>, 1864 / Art by Logan

"...and on the march and in a Virginia rain-storm I partook of my last meal in 'God's country.'" ~ H9R, p.563



Art by Keegan

*"Moved forward in line of Battle at 5 oclock A. M. and amediately charged on the Enemies works..."*

*~ Diary, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1864*



Art by Zander

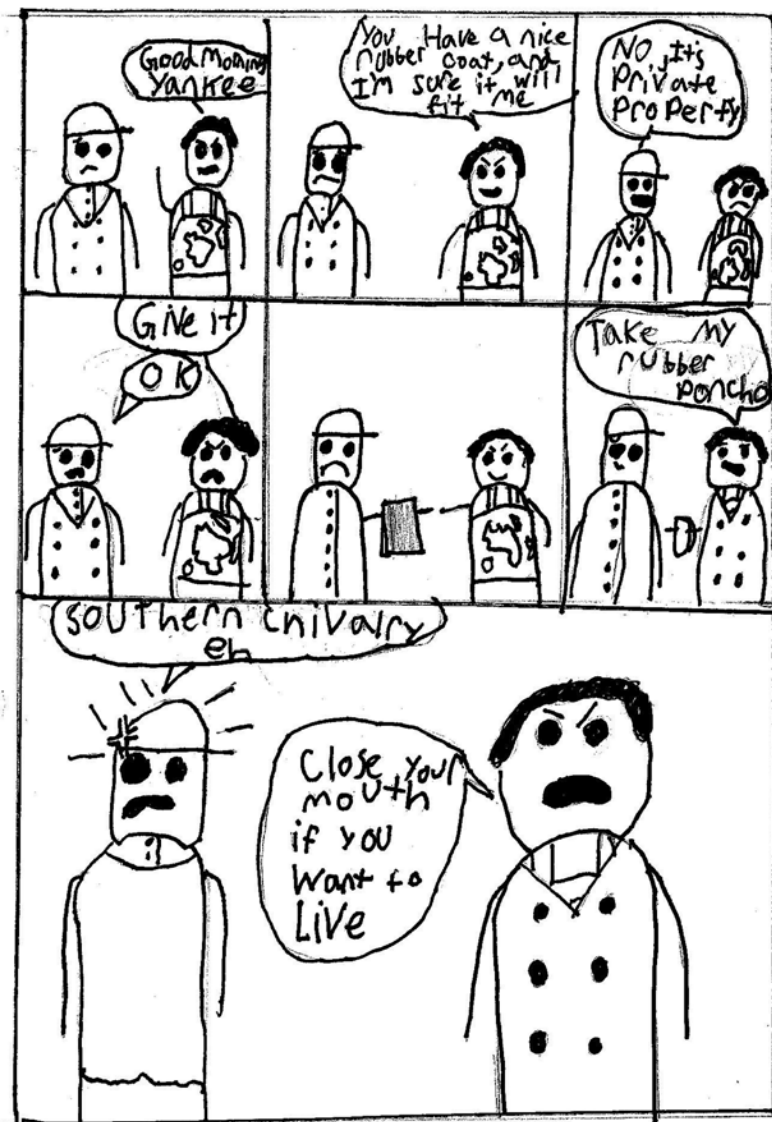
*"Myself and 48 men... were taken prisoners and were amediately taken to the rear of the Enemies lines."* ~ Diary, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1864





Art by Zander

"My Sword, Belt, Pistol, Silver watch and Chain... were taken from me... by 31 Va!" ~ Diary, 12<sup>th</sup> May 1864



Art by Keegan

"Before I could say more he commanded me to come out of it at once, which I did." ~ H9R, p.566



Art by Sammy

"Hungry, wet, and cold, we lay down on the grass to rest." ~ H9R, p.566



Art by Sammy

"Arose late feeling very weak..."

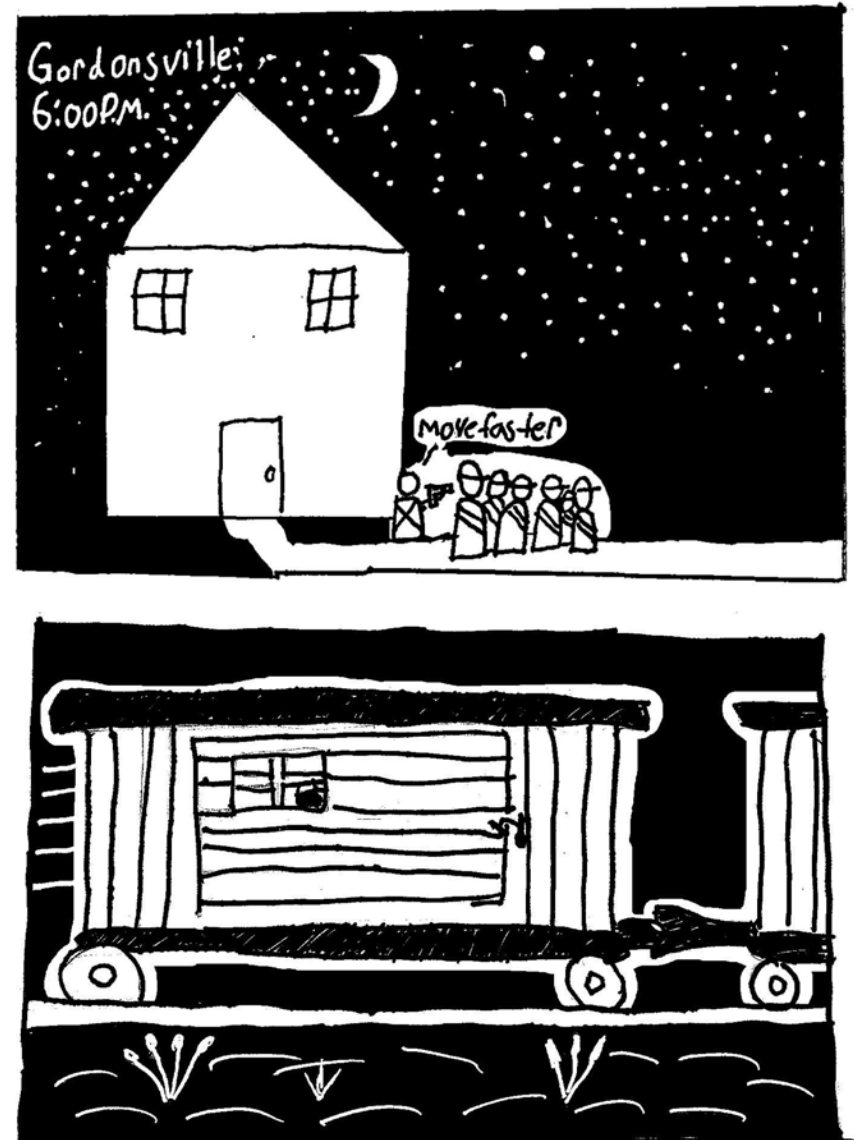
~ Diary, 14<sup>th</sup> May 1864





May 18, 1864 / Art by Molly

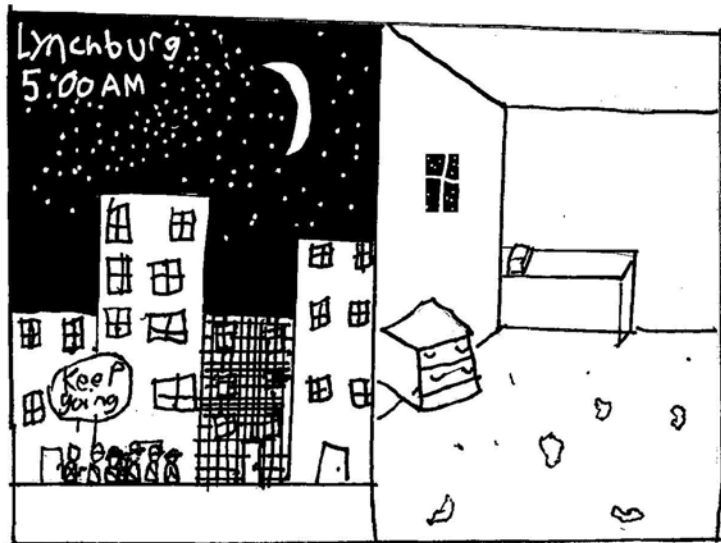
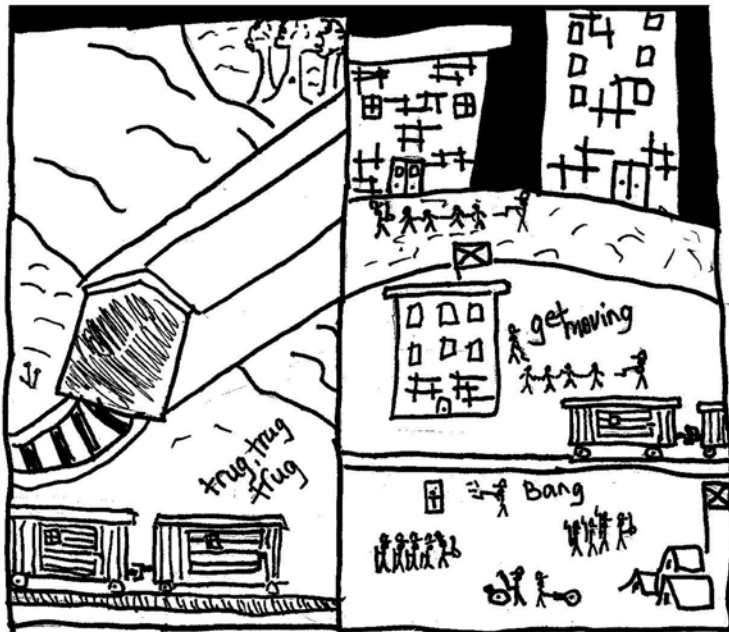
*"The men were marched outside of the city to a camp..." ~ Diary, May 18<sup>th</sup> 1864*



Art by Keegan (top) & Sam (bottom)

*"Very weak and languid from hunger..."*

*~ Diary, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1864*



Art by Sam (top) & Keegan (bottom)

"The officers were quartered in a small, filthy room, on the third floor of a brick warehouse..." ~ H9R, p.569



Art by Sam

"Our quarters dark and filthy" ~ Diary, May 18<sup>th</sup> 1864





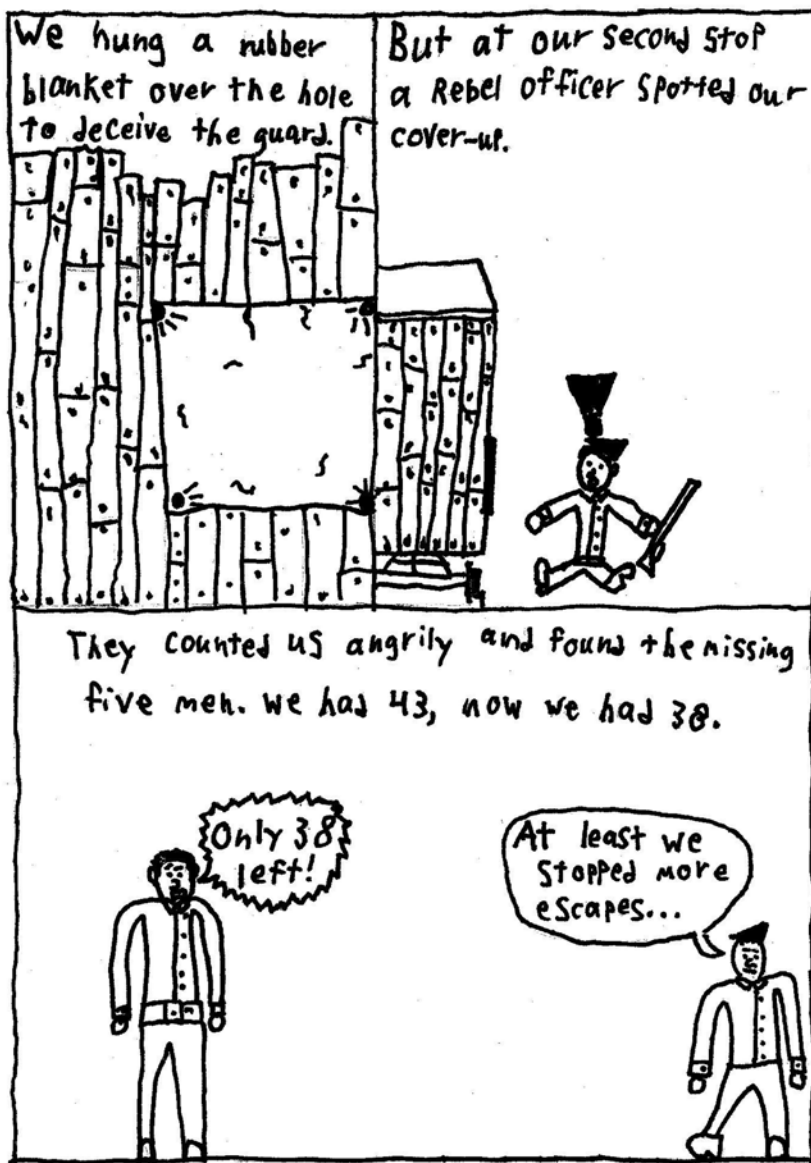
Art by Alex

"We were suffering intensely from this overcrowded condition, and it was planned to reduce our number..." ~ H9R, p.570



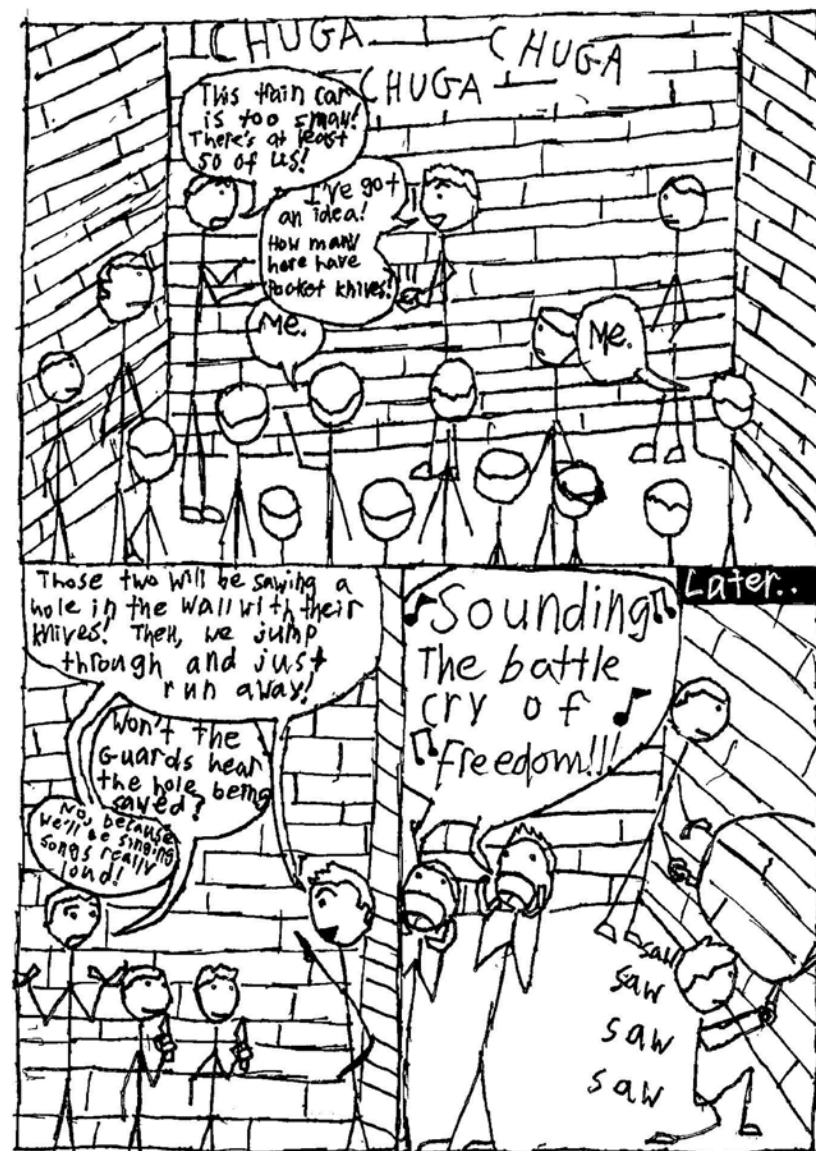
Art by Alex

"A double quartette was detailed to ... take the lead in singing patriotic songs... so as to drown the noise made by the cutting." ~ H9R, p. 570



Art by Alex

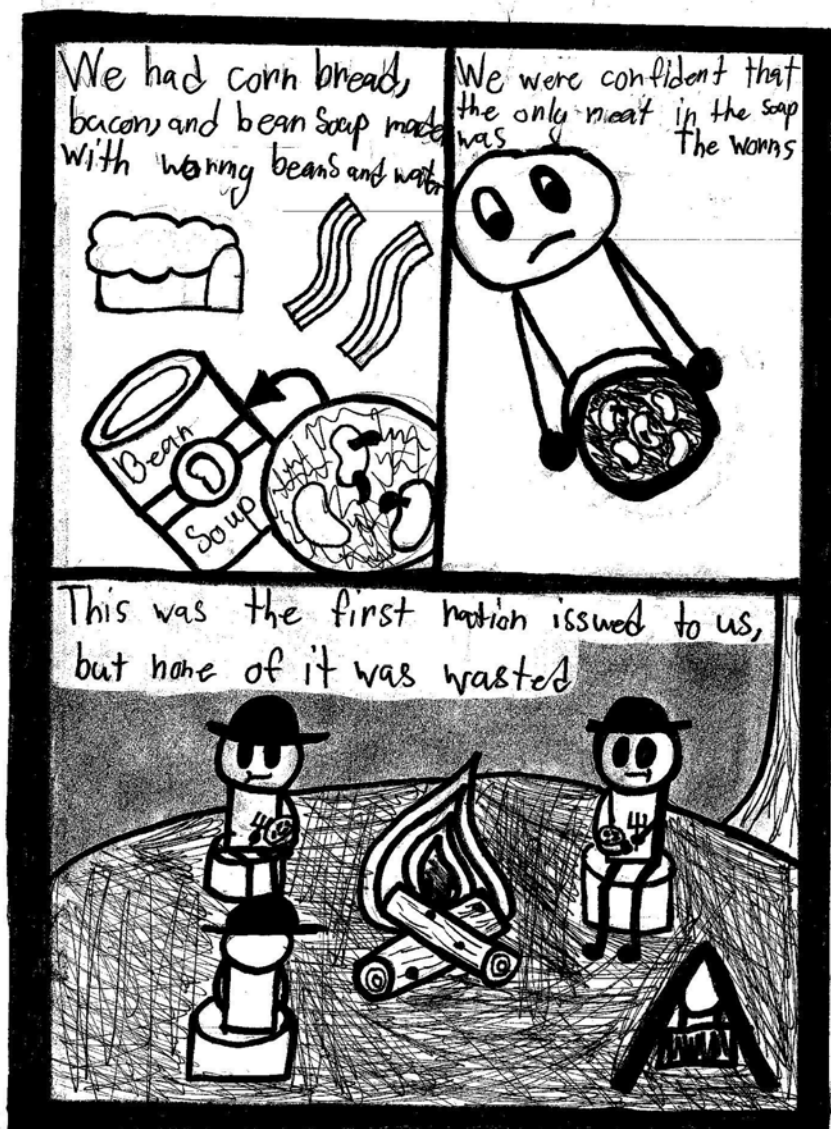
"... the blanket being near the color of the outside of the car." ~ H9R, p.570



May 23, 1864 / Art by EF







Art by Lilly

"Drew more bread and ham and bean soup made of beans and water very por eating but we were glad to get anything..." ~ Diary, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1864



Art by Tristan

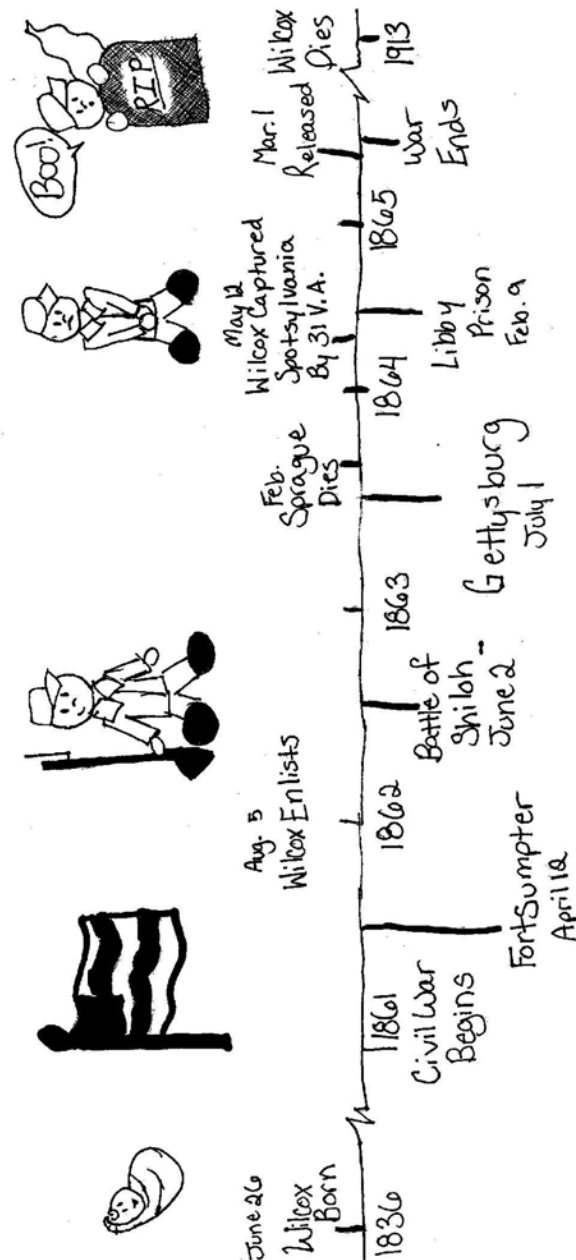
"[We were] better pleased with [Danville, Va] than any place we have been in..." ~ Diary, May 25<sup>th</sup> 1864



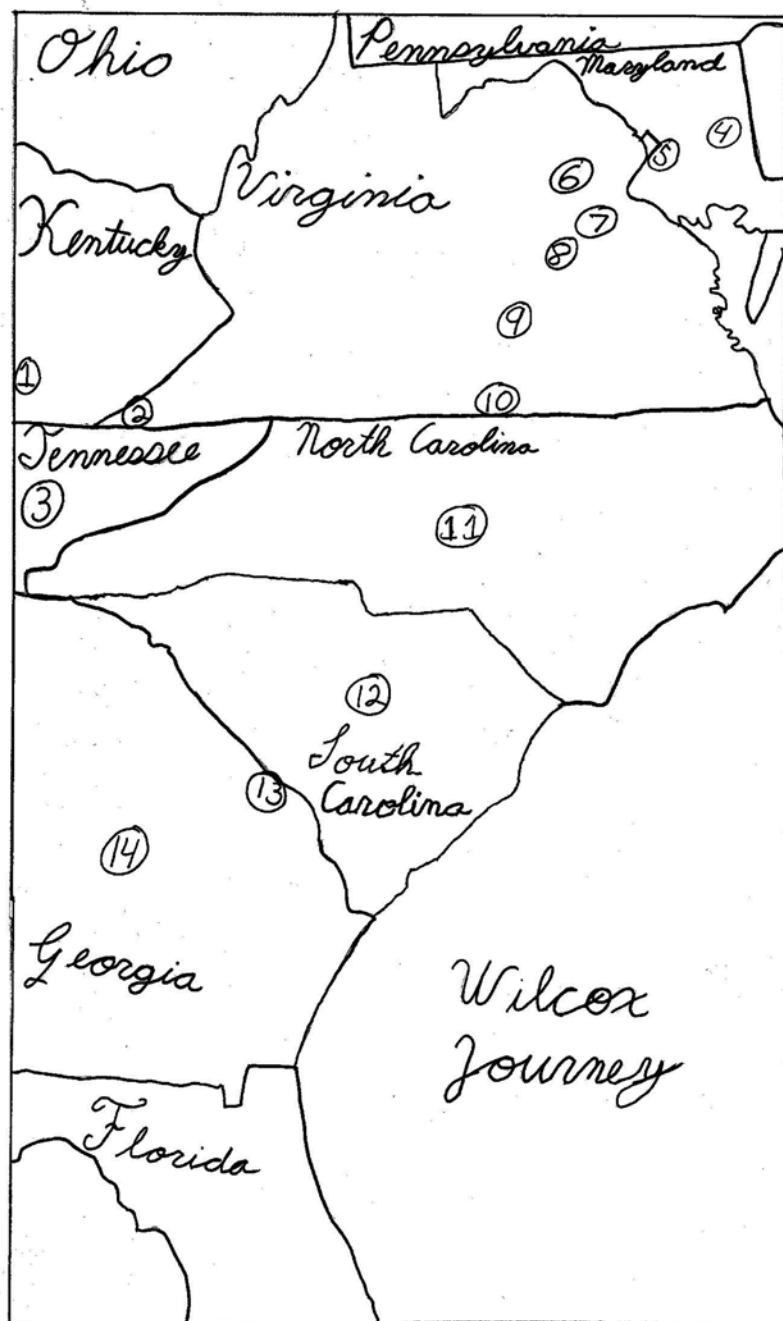


Art by Tristan

"Their threats availed nothing, however, only to cause us to sing more and louder, until again a hole had been cut in the rear door." ~ H9R, p.572



By Jess + Molly



## Wilcox's Journey

1. Burnside KY Feb. 27, 1864
2. Cumberland Gap Mar. 12, 1864
3. Knoxville TN Mar. 17, 1864
4. Annapolis MD Apr. 23, 1864
5. Washington DC Apr. 25, 1864
6. Manassas VA Apr. 28, 1864
7. Wilderness & Spotsylvania May 8-12, 1864
8. Gordonsville VA May 17, 1864
9. Lynchburg VA May 19, 1864
10. Danville VA May 23, 1864
11. Charlotte NC May 26, 1864
12. Columbia SC May 27, 1864
13. Augusta GA May 28, 1864
14. Macon GA May 30, 1864

Map & list by Tyler Kosakowski.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

We drew all our comics from these primary sources:

- Lord, Edward O., *History of the Ninth Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion* (1895)  
[Abbreviated as: H9R]
- Wilcox, Charles W., *Civil War Diary* (1864)  
As transcribed by Theresa Stack (2016)  
[Abbreviated as: Diary]

Our visual and informational references included:

- The Review of Reviews Co., *The Photographic History of the Civil War in Ten Volumes* (1912)
- Sherman Publishing Co., *The Pictorial Battles of the Civil War* (1885)
- Woodhead, Henry (Editor), *Arms and Equipment of the Union* (1989) [AEU]
- ...

For links to reference resources, sample artwork, and more, visit the Wilcox Diary project homepage at:

[www.LiveFreeAndDraw.com](http://www.LiveFreeAndDraw.com)



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