

**REPORT OF LEWIS H. STEINER,  
M.D., INSPECTOR OF THE  
SANITARY COMMISSION,  
CONTAINING A DIARY.  
NOVEMBER, 1862**

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# REPORT

OF

LEWIS H. STEINER, M. D.,

*Inspector of the Sanitary Commission,*

CONTAINING A

DIARY

KEPT

DURING THE REBEL OCCUPATION OF FREDERICK, MD.

AND

AN ACCOUNT OF THE OPERATIONS

OF

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

DURING

THE CAMPAIGN IN MARYLAND,

SEPTEMBER, 1862.

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1862.

The following report of Dr. STEINER, while it embodies facts and incidents which illustrate the work of the SANITARY COMMISSION, did not seem properly to come within the limits of official publication. As a part of the history of the war, possessing more than ordinary value, it was thought desirable that it should be given to the public, as a private venture, without cost to the treasury of the Commission.





## REPORT.

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FREDERICK L. OLMSTED, Esq.,

*Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission:*

IN accordance with your request, I have the honor to transmit an account of my operations as Sanitary Inspector during the last month. The engagements which crowd so thickly upon me just now, prevent that careful preparation which a report, including incidents of such deep interest to every American, should receive from the reporter. The best that I can do is to give you as faithful an account as my diary and recollections, and the reports of other officers of the Commission, will enable me, in as few words as possible, deprecating all criticism of its style and finish.

On reporting for duty in Washington at the end of August, I arrived the day of the battle at Bull Run. The urgent necessities of the wounded demanding instant attention, at the suggestion of Dr. Jenkins, Associate Secretary, I went out in the ambulance train on Saturday and remained until Sunday evening. The report of my visit was handed in to Dr. J. shortly after my return.

The remaining portion of the first week of the month was occupied in examining the U. S. Military Hospital, known as the Soldiers' Home. A report embodying the result of my examination has been heretofore submitted.

Friday, September 5.—Left Washington at 6 o'clock, under the impression that the Confederate army had crossed the Potomac the preceding evening and were then in Frederick. Anxiety as to the fate of my friends, as well as to the general

treatment my native place would receive at rebel hands, made the trip by no means a pleasant one.

Along the road, at different stopping-places, reports reached us as to the numbers of the Confederates that had crossed into Maryland. The passengers began to entertain fears that the train would not be able to reach Frederick. These were, however, quieted by a telegram received at a station near Monrovia, which announced the road open. Arriving at 12 o'clock, M., I found the town full of surmises and rumors. Such information had been received by the Post Quarter Master and the Surgeon in charge of Hospital, that they were busy all the afternoon making arrangements to move off their valuable stores. The citizens were in the greatest trepidation. Invasion by the Southern army was considered equivalent to destruction. Impressment into the ranks as common soldiers, or immurement in a *Southern* prison—these were not attractive prospects for quiet, Union-loving citizens!

Towards nightfall it became pretty certain that a force had crossed somewhere about the mouth of the Monocacy. Telegrams were crowding rapidly on the army officers located here, directing that what stores could not be removed should be burned, and that the sick should as far as possible be sent on to Pennsylvania. Here began a scene of terror seldom witnessed in this region. Lieut. Castle, A. Q. M., burned a large quantity of his stores at the depot. Assist. Surg. Weir fired his store-house on the Hospital grounds and burned the most valuable of his surplus bedding contained in Kemp Hall, in Church street near Market. Many of our prominent citizens, fearing impressment, left their families and started for Pennsylvania in carriages, on horseback, and on foot. All the convalescents at the Hospital that could bear the fatigue, were started also for Pennsylvania, in charge of Hospital Steward Cox. The citizens removed their trunks containing private papers and other valuables from the bank-vaults, under the

firm belief that an attack would be made on these buildings for the sake of the specie contained in them. :

About 1½ o'clock, A. M., it was ascertained that Jackson's force—the advance guard of the Southern army—was encamped on Moffat's farm, near Buckeystown, and that this force would enter Frederick after daylight; for what purpose no one knew. Having possession of this amount of information, I retired about two o'clock, being willing to wait the sequel, whatever it might be.

Saturday, September 6.—Found, on visiting the market in the morning, that a very large number of our citizens had "*skeedaddled*" (i. e. retired rapidly in good order) last night. Every mouth was full of rumors as to the numbers, whereabouts, and whatabouts of the Confederate force. One old gentleman, whose attachment to McClellan has become proverbial, declared that it was an impossibility for the rebels to cross the Potomac; and another, who looks upon Banks as the greatest of generals, declared that Banks' force had been taken for Confederates, and that the supposed enemies were friends.

At length uncertainty was changed into certainty. About nine o'clock two seedy-looking individuals rode up Market street as fast as their jaded animals could carry them. Their dress was a dirty, faded gray, their arms rusty and seemingly uncared for, their general appearance raffish or vagabondish. They shouted for Jeff. Davis at the intersection of Patrick and Market street, and then riding to the intersection of Church and Market, repeated the same *strange* jubilant shout. No one expressing an opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of this proceeding, they countermarched and trotted down the street. Then followed some fifty or a hundred horsemen, having among them Bradley T. Johnson, *soi-disant* Colonel C. S. A. These were received with feeble shouts from some secession-sympathizers. They said, "the time of your deliverance has come." It was plain that the deliverance they meant was from