

# Dreary days precede Thanksgiving

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under the weather, reporting that he had a sour stomach.

Though he was feeling better on the day before Thanksgiving, Stephen obviously wasn't happy about the menu of beans and mush, which he called "Not so good." But the private engaged in a little swapping of food, trading beets for peppers.

Though it is unlikely that the Confederate officers of the camp

were taking any notice of the Yankee holiday, Stephen did get somewhat better rations on Nov. 24. He entered in his diary: "Got up late and had a stew of beef and mush with peppers in good meal. Rain. Rebs say no exchange for us. Very hard rain got wet. Got some more rations of beans and bread & molasses and got supper of beans and bread. Had bread and molasses left for breakfast."

Despite the privations of Andersonville Prison, Private Stephen, an

Ohioan, lived to become an adopted Hoosier. Oscar Curtis, who edited the diary, wrote that Stephen was paroled at Jacksonville, Fla., in April of 1865 and moved to Indiana in 1867. After a brief stay in Stanford, he settled in Solsberry, where he was a farmer, dying in his 89th year in 1929.

It is likely in the years between that Stephen and his wife and 10 children celebrated Thanksgiving with all of the enthusiasm typical of Hoosier farm families.