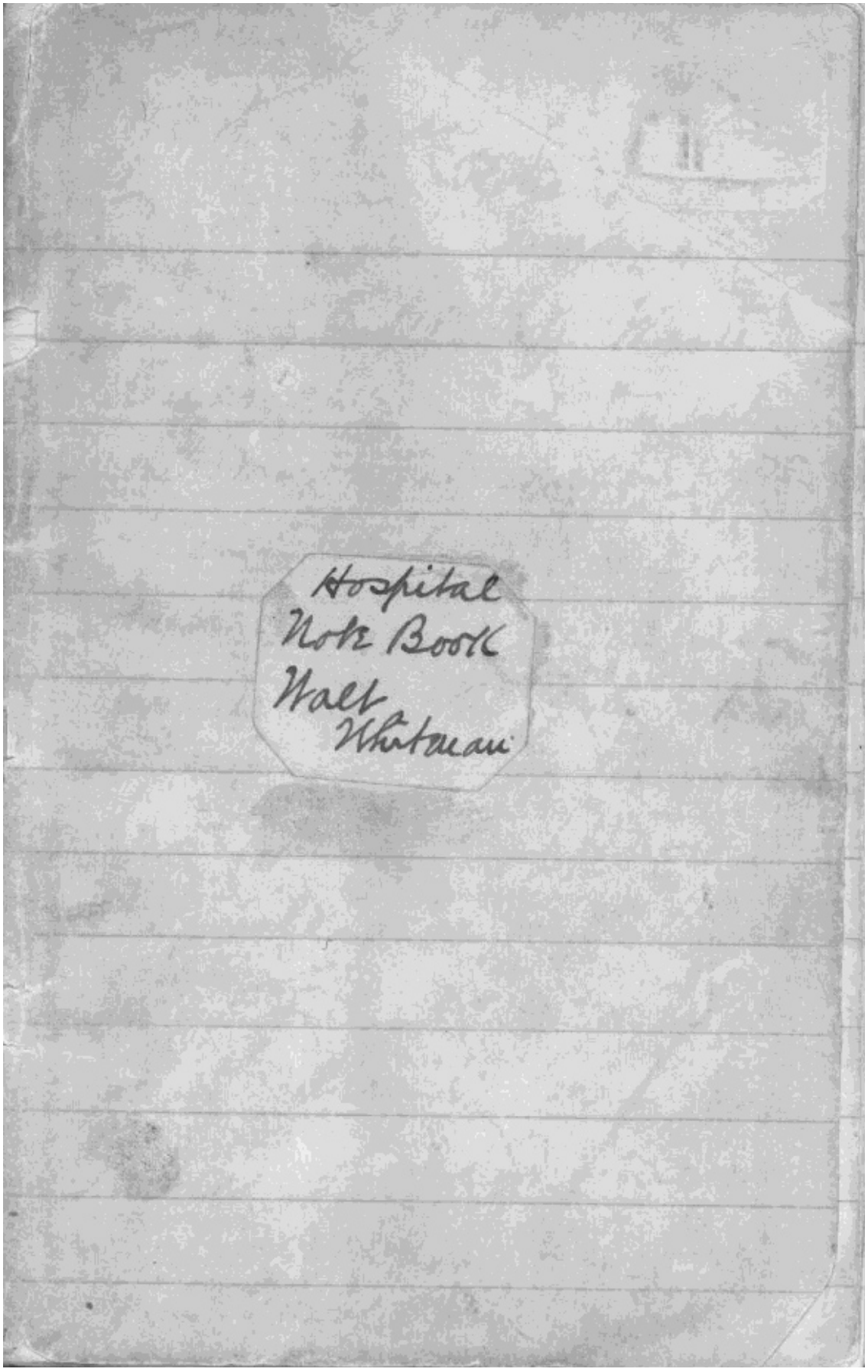

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Scene in the woods on
the Peninsula — told me
by Milton Roberts, wrd G.
(Maine)

after the battle of White
Oaks church, on the retreat
the march at night — the
scene between 12 & 2 o'clock
that night at the church
in the woods, the hospitals
show at night, the wounded
brought in — previous
the silent stealth march
through the woods, at
times stumbly over the
bodies of dead men
in the road, (there had
been terrible fighty there

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that
~~the~~ day, only closing at
dark) — we retreating
the artillery horses feet muffled
orders that men should
tread light & only speak
in whispers —

Then between ~~12~~ midnight &
1 oclock we halted to
rest a couple of hours
at an opening in the
woods — in this opening
was a pretty good sized
old church used ~~impro~~
impromptu for a hospital
for the wounded of the

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battles of the day
thereabout — with these
it was filled, all varieties
horrible beyond description
— the darkness dimly
— lit with candles, lamps
torches, moving about
~~but dark~~ but plenty of
darkness & half darkness
— the crowds of wounded
bloody & pale the
surgeons operating —
the yards outside
also filled — they lay
some on blankets
on the ground, & some
on stray planks, or

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— the ~~desp~~ despairing

screams & curses of some

the murky darkness the ~~great~~ gleaming of the torches, the smoke from them too.

out of their senses, the

doctors operating, the scent

of chloroform, the glisten

of the steel instruments as

the flash of lamps fell

upon them

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at

— ~~after~~ Antietam

There was a very large
barn & farm house
— the barn was filled
with wounded, & the
barn yard, & the
~~farm~~ house as full
as it could stick
— a peaceful barn,
now blood
the fragrant hay they
used to place the men
on for operations — they
turned the cattle out of
their stalls

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