

The Civil War Diary of Alfred W. Shollenberger

Access: Open to research.

Accession: The diary was donated to Wilkes University by Sara Hummel Rynkiewicz of Kingston PA, sometime before her death in 1971.

Provenance: Gift of Sara Hummel Rynkiewicz of Kingston PA, sometime prior to her death in 1971.

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Processed and Transcribed by: William Billingsley, Archives Work-Study, Fall 2020-Spring 2021, Ryan Mercer, Archives Work-Study, Summer 2021, supervised by Suzanna Calev, Archivist, Fall 2020-Summer 2021.

Biographical Sketch of donor, Sara Hummel Rynkiewicz:

Sara Victoria Hummel Rynkiewicz was born in Cressona, Pennsylvania sometime in 1885 to her parents, Levi and Barbara Hummel. She had six siblings, two of whom died when they were children. She married Dr Stanley Henry Rynkiewicz sometime in 1904. They were married for 64 years, until Sara's tragic death in 1971. On August 1, 1971, she was unfortunately killed in a traffic accident in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Her husband Stanley also met a tragic end three years later, when he was brutally murdered in his medical office. Alfred W. Shollenberger's Civil War Diary was donated to Wilkes College's Eugene S. Farley Library sometime between 1947 and 1971, prior to her death. It is unknown how exactly Sara came into possession of Alfred's diary, however it is likely that it was passed down through Alfred's descendants, as Sara was the sister-in-law of Alfred's youngest son, Leroy Charles Shollenberger.

Biographical Sketch of creator, Alfred W. Shollenberger:

Alfred W. Shollenberger was born in Hamburg, Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1839 to Joseph Shollenberger and Sarah Wolff. He had three sisters. Alfred was a carpenter by trade, according to the 1880 US Census. There is not a consensus, or solid evidence of, exactly which regiment Alfred was a part of. One possibility is the Pennsylvania 19th Infantry, which is what is listed on his headstone (this is strange, as that unit was mustered out in 1861). Another is that Alfred was a member of the United States Military Railroad Construction Corps, however there are no official records of their rosters available. Alfred also mentions that he has comrades in the PA 102nd infantry, although his name is not listed in the records for that unit. Based on the contents of his journal he was not personally involved in direct battle conflict, rather he primarily did engineering and construction work to build and/or destroy infrastructure like railway bridges. Alfred was married to Mary Ann Holton sometime in 1863, prior to his deployment. After he returned from his deployment they had six children. Alfred passed away on November 26, 1915, aged 76.

Scope and Context:

Alfred's journal spans from March 31, 1864 to December 19, 1864. In it, Alfred details his period of service as a Union Engineer as a member of the **construction corps**. He frequently highlights the events of his day, news he has received of the ongoing conflict, as well as recording the weather conditions almost every day. Alfred spent time mostly in Virginia, parts of what is today West Virginia, Washington DC, and Philadelphia. He was involved in some of the most pivotal events of the war with his engineering work, such as in the Shenandoah Valley region during the Valley Campaigns and in Washington DC during Jubal Early's 1864 attack on

the capital. Furthermore, while he was not involved in other events directly, Alfred often mentioned them in his entries. He often accurately reported the major news of the war very soon after the events took place. For example, he recorded information about the Fall of Atlanta in September of 1864¹, the activities of the guerilla group Mosby's Rangers in Northern Virginia², and the failed Union strategy at the Battle of the Crater³. He also frequently mentioned many now famous Union Generals and politicians, such as Ambrose Burnside⁴, David Hunter⁵, Phillip Sheridan⁶, Ulysses S Grant⁷, Secretary of War Stanton⁸, and even President Lincoln⁹ himself. Although he did not participate in the gruesome battles that the conflict is most known for, the engineering work of Alfred and others like him was crucial to the success of the Union. Engineers and laborers helped facilitate troop transport, supply chains, and even helped turn the tide of some battles. Almost all entries are mostly legible, with a few indecipherable words/phrases every so often. A few entries, especially in November and December are missing, too faded to read, erased, or crossed out.

Note to Researchers: This is the original transcription of Alfred W. Schollenberger's diary. For an edited transcription where punctuation, grammar, and spelling have been edited to aid researchers in accessing the historical content presented in Alfred's diary entries please see the digital file [here](#).

¹ See the September 5 entry.

² See the October 14 entry.

³ See the September 19 entry.

⁴ See the April 25 and September 19 entries.

⁵ See the July 15 and August 9-10 entries.

⁶ See the August 9-10, August 21, September 21, October 15, and October 20 entries.

⁷ See the May 12, May 14, August 1, and August 6 entries.

⁸ See the July 11 entry.

⁹ See the July 11 entry.

Transcription:

March, Thursday, 31, 1864.¹⁰

George K Seaman Gr

By = percentage on wage days at 15 cts per day

3.75 3.75

June 2. Geo K Seaman Gr

By Cash 12.0 \$30

April, Friday 1.¹¹

275 15 2720 2175

290 2145

14

July 3 J04 K Seam 100

By Cash 10.00 10.00

By Cash 9.00 10.00

By 14 flour 19.00 1.45

¹⁰ This entry seems to contain mathematical equations, likely used by Alfred to calculate his pay. It appears to have been added later, likely not on the date of the entry.

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Saturday, 2.¹²

19.00 90 \$21.75

17.00 10

36 80 900

25 115.40

940 2175

360 2365

1540 9175

4540

April, Sunday, 3. 1864.¹³

1.18

1.40

50

75

3.83

Monday, 4.

¹² This entry seems to contain mathematical equations, likely used by Alfred to calculate his pay. It appears to have been added later, likely not on the date of the entry.

¹³ This entry seems to contain mathematical equations, likely used by Alfred to calculate his pay. It appears to have been added later, likely not on the date of the entry.

\$1863

Tuesday, 5.

Started for Verginia and arrived at Philadelphia at half past one went to the Bald Eagle Hotel when we arrived there we found Benj Kline Wallace, Shollenberger + Gheo Zweizig There acconad¹⁴ with A. Seidel we concluded to go to the theatre

April, Wednesday, 6. 1864.

From the theatre we took the street cars to the Washington Depot and started at 12 ½ this morning and arrived at Washington at 8 ½ oclock 12 p.m. then took a visit to the capotal and took several drinks and stews then started for the peons for a pass. Then we started for Alexandria

Thursday, 7.

Commenced to work at the plank platform between the machine shop and the blacksmith shops. The wether being beautifull after the snow and rain of the 5th and 6th.

Friday, 8.

Worked at a shanty between the engine house + the stageid¹⁵ and finished it here tonight.

April, Saturday, 9. 1864.

¹⁴ Here Alfred likely means accompanied.

¹⁵ This is most likely a misspelling or slang, however what he is referring to is unknown.

Drizzling all day a little with rain we did not work much so I came to the conclusion to make a clothes and tool Bone which I did accompanied with 'Bony' Riegel

Sunday, 10.

The water being very high that it swept away several bridges on the Orange + Alexandria RRoad so we received orders to go out the road and plodded up the bank that was washed away got finished at 6.00 A.M. + then returned

Monday, 11.

Went up the road toward Washington, arrived there and found the Potomac so high that the RRoad was washed away. That there was no transportation all day the tide went down + we got the road fixed til 9a.m the river was higher than ever known

April, Tuesday, 12. 1864.

Went to work between Washington and Alexandria put up Krib¹⁶ Wall to keep the water from washing away the RRoad bank. Worked in the well pretty near all day the weather clear + wild ducks in abundance on the river.

Wednesday, 13.

¹⁶ A cribbing or box crib refers to a wooden structure used to support heavy objects during construction. More information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Box_crib

To work on the long bridge¹⁷ clearing away rubbish caused by the high water. The day was clear and windy Charles Leuberg received a dispatch to come home. I was laboring under the pains of headache this afternoon

Thursday, 14.

To work on the Krebbing between Alexandria and Washington worked til one oclock the timber being all. Then loafed the rest of the day. Went to the fishery alone got a good string of cat fish

April, Friday, 15. 1864.

To work at the Krebbing between Washington + Alexandria The timber being all til dinner we went home + loafed till 4 ½ oclock. Then built cars¹⁸ for the cattle til ten oclock a.m it was raining a little on and off today.

Saturday, 16.

Raining all day one squad being out at the long bridge and we being loafing. I finished my chest washed and shaved then laid about in my bunk while others amused themselves in playing checkers + cards

Sunday, 17.

¹⁷ Here Alfred is referring to the "Long Bridge" over the Potomac, in Washington DC.
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Bridge_\(Potomac_River\)#Civil_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Bridge_(Potomac_River)#Civil_War)

¹⁸ When Alfred writes "cars", he is referring to train cars.

We was not to work today we loafed all day in the afternoon we went to visit the boys of the 7th P.A.V. of who we got several chaff bags. They received marching orders to leave tomorrow.

April, Monday, 18. 1864.

To work building a shanty above the depot and after supper went to the theater and seen the days of 16 and other plays and after the theater took a couple glasses of ale then retired

Tuesday, 19.

Worked at the Shanty till 2 ½ am then went to the shanty and loafed till 5am. Then carried boards til six oclock, the 7th PAV boys left this morning there was a great many soldiers went up the road today

Wednesday, 20.

Worked floor boards today. Nothing happened of any consequence during the day only Charles Seaman came from Tennessee today none yet ____ and stays with us during the night

April, Thursday, 21. 1864.

Worked at the shanty above the depot the weather is fine. No news today Joseph Reber received a letter to come home he will leave tomorrow.

Friday, 22.

Worked at another shanty and unloaded stuff for another the weather being fair nothing new today Joseph Reber left for home this morning

Saturday, 23.

Worked at another shanty up at the comasary dept and moved one from its place and put up shelves for a bread house. The wether being fine. No news. A letter from home was received.

April, Sunday, 24.

No work today walked about seen the large Gun throwers 470ft Ball in the afternoon visited the camp of the 11th regulars and heard the band play. A large crowd of ladies and gents was assembled on the parade

Monday, 25.

Worked at the old iron sepperated it ready action the wether in the morning being rainy but cleared up beautifully in the afternoon. Burnside's¹⁹ soldiers came in pretty thick today.

Tuesday, 26.

Worked at the old iron and weight it. The day being beautifull. Nothing new of any account

April, Wednesday, 27. 1864

¹⁹ Here Alfred is likely referring to soldiers under the command of General Ambrose Burnside.

Working at the old iron, the wether being favourable. Nothing new of any account.

Thursday, 28.

Worked at the old iron as usual nothing new. The wether being beautifull the soldiers going out fast

Friday, 29.

Worked at the old iron till dinner then was detailed for opening oysters for a supper for the boss she rest by the day we opened 3 of these was a deserter shot today and a dog shot by a detctive

April, Saturday, 30. 1864.

To work on the old iron nothing new of any important

May, Sunday, 1. 1864.

Worked at the old iron as usual the wether being cloudy in the morning but cleared off five without rain. Two trains of coloured went to the front in the evening went to church

Monday, 2.

Worked at the old iron at the wharf nothing new the wether being fine in the forenoon a heavy storm rain that the boys had to remove there beds on account of the rain

May, Tuesday, 3. 1864.

Worked on the wharf at the old iron as usual worked pretty hard and was drove still harder the wether is beautifull

Wednesday, 4.

Worked at the old iron on the wharf nothing new the wether is beautifull the army moved they brought in all the forage

Thursday, 5.

Worked at the old iron as usual nothing new of any account the wether is beautifull

May, Friday, 6. 1864.

Worked at the old iron as usual the wether was beautifull nothing new as usual. We were in the river bathing after supper

Saturday, 7.

Worked at the old iron as usual the day being very warm. Mr Lamda was hurt a bar fell on his foot nothing new of any account our army is on there way to Richmond and are successful so far in swing.

Sunday, 8.

Did not work today but received orders not to leave the shanty on account of the woundid soldiers comeing in. The report is that ten thousand rebs²⁰ was on the field wounded and 3 thousand killed²¹

May, Monday, 9. 1864.

Worked at the old iron on the wharf nothing new only it is reported our army is successful and Lee is retreating toward Richmond the wether is warm two gangs was ordered to the field.

Tuesday, 10.

Worked at the old iron at the wharf and then went out at the stocade and weight old wheels till night no news of any account the wether is fine. We had a little rain last night which cooled of considerably

Wednesday, 11.

Worked at the old iron till three oclock pm and then rested the remainder of the day the iron being all till tomorrow the wether being fine with a Shower this evening nothing new. Wrote a letter to my wife this evening

²⁰ Alfred uses the terms "rebs" and "guerillas" to refer to the Confederates.

²¹ Here Alfred is likely referring to the aftermath of the Battle of The Wilderness.
<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/wilderness>

May, Thursday, 12. 1864.

Worked at the wharf unloading the train of iron and weighing it. The wether is disagreeable today shorter showers all day nothing new of any account only the report is that Grant expects to take posetheon of Richmond one of these days²²

Friday, 13.

Worked at the old iron gathered the iron up about the road to Fish Town awfull dirty work nothing new only accounts of the papers capture of 40 guns + 5000 prisoners everything looks favourable the wether today is rainy this afternoon stopped off Seaman + Exeter allowed

Saturday, 14.

Worked at the old iron a while then gathered leaden pipes and weight them. Nothing new the wether is fine after the rain, no news of any account information from the paper gives us that Grant is in hot pursuit of the Rebs

May, Sunday, 15. 1864.

Not at work today the news are but little this forenoon I took a walk to the graveyard accompanied with HG Plen. Then this afternoon went to King's wharf and saw a steamer come up with prisoners the wether is rainy with thunder storms

²² Sherman's advance was halted at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, still ongoing on this date. <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/spotsylvania-court-house>

Monday, 16.

Worked at the old iron finished up and put the scales in the office at 4 ½ pm then went to the shanty and loafed nothing new the wether is fine Epler commenced to work to day

Tuesday, 17.

Went down to the wharf fishing while down received orders to move got the thing aboard and left Alexandria 6 ¼ oclock we are now passing fort Washington the walls are loaded with guns at the house above a lady waved a flag at us. Arrived at Aquia Creek at 11 ½ oclock at night the night is beautiful

May, Wednesday, 18. 1864.

Got up at 4 oclock and went to work at the dock it being all destroyed by fire we repaired it so as the train could be landed after the train was landed we loaded our things and got to Brookes Station and pitched our tents then unloaded the lumber at the bridge. The men being afraid of guerillas²³

Thursday, 19.

²³ Alfred is either referring to Confederate soldiers, or an unofficial Confederate raiding group like Mosby's Rangers, who he mentions later.

This morning commenced at the Bridge and finished it till 3 oclock pm then stuck tents and loaded our traps²⁴ and went to the Potomac Creek Bridge pitched tents and unloaded lumber till 8 oclock then sloped²⁵ off till the morning sick this forenoon did not work till afternoon

Friday, 20.

Commenced to work at the Potomac Creek this morning at 4 oclock AM and hurried it up pretty fast worked till 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ P.M. got the lower bend all up to the second pier and five on the second tier one in the third. Then took supper and after a good wash received a letter from Paulla

May, Saturday, 21. 1864.

Worked at the bridge. Got up at 4 oclock a.m. and went to work at the Potomac Creek Bridge put on the braces. The bridge I think will be finished till tomorrow. The wether today was fine no news

Sunday, 22.

Got up at four oclock and went to work at the bridge got it finished till four oclock in the afternoon the Engine E.L. Wenty was the first Engine crossed the bridge. Nothing new the wether is fine with a shower today

Monday, 23.

²⁴ Alfred uses "stuck" and "loaded our traps" to refer to packing up their tents and campsite.

²⁵ Sloping off refers to leaving quietly.

Rose this morning at Sun Rise struck out tents and loaded our traps. With the intention of going to Fredericksburg but was Sadly disappointed and came to Aquia Creek again and pitched our tents and put our tools on Board of the barge. Then loafed

May, Tuesday, 24. 1864.

Got up this morning and struck our tents loaded our traps and stayed and helped to unloaded the wounded and gave them water. In the last rain I found one of the Hamburg Boys Augustus Miller we gave him something to eat and drink then took him aboard of the open wave then went aboard our car which was on the barges heavy storm

Wednesday, 25.

Left Aquia Creek last night at 10 ½ oclock. It was raining and storming. Fixed my belt in the boat and rope in the morning as we landed at Alexandria unloaded our things and dug a seller **(cellar)** for our things then loafed. The wether is fine. Nothing new of any account.

Thursday, 26.

Rained this morning and this afternoon worked awhile made a box for tools, nothing new of any account.

May, Friday, 27. 1864.

The day being fair nothing new of any account, no work today. I was making a valice²⁶ this evening we was downtown to get coal and hinges and then went to get Lager Beer

Saturday, 28

The wether has been fine. No work today the boys are loafing about the shanty I finished covering my valice. Nothing new of any account. Several gangs was ordered to the white house²⁷ in the morning.

Sunday, 29.

Worked at the wharf at Alexandria put tracks on the barges the weather is fine nothing new. Five gangs left Alexandria for the white house on the peninsula

May, Monday, 30. 1864.

Worked at the wharf fixed up the boats and laid track on. Nothing new of any account the wether being beautifull. I earned my April pay today which was 55 dollars

Tuesday, 31.

Worked at the barges at the Alexandria wharf till 10 oclock in the forenoon then went to the shanty and loafed the other part of the day. The wether being fine nothing new²⁸

²⁶ A valise refers to a small travelling bag / suitcase.

²⁷ Here Alfred is referring to White House Landing, a supply depot on the Pamunkey River.

²⁸ The last 2 lines of this entry have been erased and are thus indecipherable.

June, Wednesday, 1. 1864.

No work today laid about the shanty and awaited orders. The day being very warm. Nothing new. Some of the boys and myself was down at the river fishing our luck was bad

June, Thursday, 2. 1864.

Laid about. No work today.²⁹

Friday, 3.

Laid about the shanty till after dinner then some of us went out to build Scow Boats³⁰ worked till six oclock then went to the shanty. The wether today was cloudy with a little rain. Nothing new of any account.

Saturday, 4.

Worked at H air Light boat³¹ and got done with them tonight: nothing new the wether is fine. Dr Miller called to see us last night he is in the soldiers rest

June, Sunday, 5. 1864.

No work today the wether is fine and the boys are all enjoying themselves as they think best I for my part went fishing but had bad luck. After supper went out to the grave yard no news of any account

²⁹ The last 2 lines of this entry have been erased and are thus indecipherable.

³⁰ Scow refers to a flat bottomed barge used for transportation in shallow waters.

³¹ This is likely a slang phrase, the meaning of which is unknown.

Monday, 6

No work today. Loafing about the shanty all day the wether is very warm and with a heavy thunderstorm in the evening which cooled off the air beautifully. No news of any account.

Tuesday, 7.

No work today awaiting orders. The wether today is cold nothing new today of any account. This evening we went out fishing the first throw I made got a bite and hauled out and got on top of the water a large perch and broke the line

June, Wednesday, 8. 1864.

No work today, we are awaiting orders. The day was fine. No news of any account we was out fishing tonight caught a pike Mays had better luck than usual

Thursday, 9.

No work today the boys are all enjoying themself as they think best. Nothing new of any account. The weather was warm today till towards evening then a heavy rain storm came on.

Friday, 10.

Put up a culvert today between Washington and Alexandria on the Rail Road, the wether today was fine. No news of any importance. We have spent this evening this far by singing

June, Saturday, 11. 1864.

Went to work between Washington and Alexandria put up a culbert and two bends at a small bridge. Nothing new of any account. The wether today was rather cool then usual Mr. Shivers got his foot caught and hurt pretty bad

Sunday, 12.

No work today for amusement we took a walk to the river where we found colord people bathing in the river in the afternoon took a walk to the grave yard the wether is fine, no news

Monday, 13.

No work today. The boys all amused themselves at one thing or another, some of them throwing quoits³² and Joe Reber and myself took a walk to see the New World the largest steamer ever came to Alexandria. The government has her for a hospital 375ft long 4 stories

June, Tuesday, 14. 1864.

No work today. Fishing all day but had bad luck the wether is rather cooler then usual. Nothing new of any importance

Wednesday, 15.

No work today the wether today is fine. Nothing new of any importance. Chases three gangs came from the white house this evening

³² Quoits is a traditional game that involves throwing a metal ring over a distance to land on a spike. It is similar to horseshoes.

Thursday, 16.

No work today nothing new of any act. The wether today is fine

June, Friday, 17. 1864.

Worked at Wharf No. 5 put an extension to it nothing new of any act. the wether today is fine.

This evening I went fishing after supper and caught a cat fish³³ 16 ½ inch long

Saturday, 18.

Worked on the dock No. 5 at Alexandria. No news of any importance only the capture of Petersburg³⁴ the wether is beautifull I was fishing this evening we had pretty good luck

Sunday, 19.

No work today the wether is fine. Nothing new of any importance we was out fishing tonight had pretty good luck sent a letter to my sister Emma today

June, Monday, 20. 1864.

Worked at Wharf No. 5 got finished till night nothing new of any account. The wether today was fine. This evening we for amusement went fishing and caught a fine string of cod fish

Tuesday, 21.

³³ In his journal Alfred writes "cad fish" which could be referring to either cod or catfish.

³⁴ Here Alfred is referring to the Siege of Petersburg: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/petersburg>.

Called out to load lumber and after we had it loaded we got orders to go to Washington we struck tents and loaded and reached Washington at 2 oclock. Pitched tents after supper we went to the Congress Chamber the question before the houses was about the California Rail Rd.

Wednesday, 22.

Worked at the sixth st. wharf at Washington nothing new of any importance the wether today was fine. The seamen drew the river is beautiful with the below us. Target practice today

June, Thursday, 23. 1864.

Worked at the wharf at Washington nothing new of any act. the wether today was very warm

Friday, 24.

Worked at the wharf at Washington. The wether today was very warm I almost gave out, no news of any account

Saturday, 25.

Worked at the wharf at Washington. The wether was very warm. Nothing new of any account we was to the Columbia garden and had some lager and chees William Fesig came up from the white house I seen him at the wharf

June, Sunday, 26. 1864.

No work today. The wether today was very warm till twords evening and then had a heavy thunder storm we passed our time today flot under the wharf there being a fine breeze. No news of any account today

Monday, 27.

Worked at the wharf at Washington. The wether today was very warm though as evening we had a heavy thunder storm but little rain this evening we was at Grovers Theatre³⁵ the act was Magoppe³⁶ a beautifull scenery

Tuesday, 28.

Worked at the wharf at Washington the wether today was fine no news of any account. The steamer Connecticut arrived with 500 wounded of which 10 were dead

June, Wednesday, 29. 1864.

Worked at the wharf at Washington nothing new of any importance the wether was not quite so warm as it was yesterday. Joseph Ginder and Fesig called seiuss today they are camped here in Washington

Thursday, 30.

³⁵ President Lincoln frequently attended plays at Grover's Theatre.

³⁶ Magoppe is what is written by Alfred, but it is either a misspelling or slang, of what is unknown.

Worked on the wharf at Washington nothing new of any account. The wether is fine. While working Dr Miller came on the wharf he was waiting on the boat to go to Alexandria a little rain twords evening

July, Friday, 1. 1864.

Worked at the wharf at Washington till 2 oclock. Then received orders to strike camp and go to the long bridge on the Virginia side where we pitched our camp and went to bed the mosquitos are very troublesome. Nothing new got paid

July, Saturday, 2. 1864.

Worked at the long bridge at Washington. Nothing new of any account the wether very warm till the afternoon we had a heavy storm.

Sunday, 3.

Worked at the long bridge at Washington putting in a butment under the bridge. The wether is fine nothing new of any account this evening I was sitting on the bridge fishing the fire works was seeming to be a going. A letter from CH Ballen today

Monday, 4.

Worked at the long bridge across the Potomac. Nothing new of any account in the evening orjaid³⁷ the bridge and went into the city to enjoy a little of the fourth. The wether is fine

³⁷ This is either a misspelling or slang, the meaning of which is unknown.

July, Tuesday, 5. 1864.

Struck tents this morning and loaded on the cars to move to south street at Washington arrived there before dinner and pitched our tents and rested for the day went to the wharf and seen the confishcaded steam ship. No news the Alabama³⁸ was sunk

Wednesday, 6.

Went out on the wharf to work sawed off one spike then laid over for the day the wether is pretty warm the thermometer stands 102 degrees in our tent. The news variable it is reported that the Rebs are going to Pennsylvania³⁹ again. It is hoped they will meet with a warm reception

Thursday, 7.

Worked at sixth wharf at Washington nothing new of any account. The wether today was very warm. Received a letter from my sister Emma

July, Friday, 8. 1864.

Worked at the sixth wharf at Washington the forenoon while working the steamer John Brooks landed and had on board the body of Henry Deward⁴⁰ who was embalmed. No other news but of the Raid into Pennsylvania

³⁸ The CSS Alabama was sunk off the coast of France in one of only two Civil War naval battles in foriegn waters. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chernoburg_\(1864\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Chernoburg_(1864)).

³⁹ Here Alfred is referring to the raids into Pennsylvania by the Confederate Army during the summer of 1864.

⁴⁰ Alfred clearly writes "Deward" though there is no record of any prominent figure with that name. There is a possibility it is a misspelling of Seward, however Henry Seward was still alive at this time.

Saturday, 9.

Worked at sixth street wharf at Washington. The wether was very warm today. Nothing new order reported the Rebs to evacuate Harper's Ferry. Wrote a letter to my wife tonight. The Rebs are destroying the Rail Rd and cutting off all command of from Washington

Sunday, 10.

No work today the wether is fine. The quartermasters men was all armed today and ordered to stand gard on account of the raid. I was sick all day with tooth and head ache. Received two letters today with ⁴¹

July, Monday, 11. 1864.

Worked at the wharf at Washington till dinner then went up to the Philadelphia depot and put in a stringer⁴². Today there is a great excitement the 6th coevr landed arming it whom was A Wolfinger. Old Abraham⁴³ and Lee Stanton paid a visit to the wharf to see the soldiers come in

Tuesday, 12.

No work today on account of the soldiers coming to the rescue of Washington. The 6 coerratened here today. Amongst whom were the Hamburg Boys of the js unit. Great excitement created in town the Rebs threatened Fort Lincoln and destroyed the Rail Rd between there + Philadelphia

⁴¹ The last line of this entry is too small and faded to make out.

⁴² A "stringer" or "stinger" refers to a cross support in floor or ceiling construction.

⁴³ Here Alfred refers to the President as "Old Abraham". Lincoln was at Fort Stevens when the Union army prevented the advance of the Confederates towards Washington.

Wednesday, 13.

Received orders to pack and go to Alexandria did so and arrived at Alexandria at 11 oclock unloaded our things and thought we was about at home. When orders came to pack up again we packed our things and loaded our tools and awaited orders. The Rebs was drove 7 miles today

July, Thursday, 14. 1864.

Had orders yesterday to pack up but did not leave. No work today but are still awaiting marching orders. Today the Rebs was drove back several miles I think they will meet with a warm reception they have stolen several thousand heads of cattle but I hope they will be recaptured

Friday, 15.

No work today but everything ready for marching orders. The wethr today is fine. The news today is favurale the rebs are reported to retreat twords Richmond again Hunter⁴⁴ in hot pursuit

Saturday, 16.

Left Alexandria at one oclock for Manocgey Bridge on the Balo and Ohio RR. On our road up we met W Fesig arrived at the Realy House at 10 oclock. Spread our blanket on top of the car and slept on our way to the bridge which is 56 miles from here

⁴⁴ Here Alfred is referring to General David Hunter.

July, Sunday, 17. 1864.

Arrived here at the Manocgey Bridge this morning at 3 oclock took breakfast and went to work at the bridge. It is an iron but pretty well shattered with common back braised hit up and was finished till 3 oclock then started for Harpers Ferry and arrived here at 6 oclock this evening and unloaded the lumber

Monday, 18.

This morning went to work at the bridge at Harpers Ferry it is part iron and part wood the latter was burned by our own men to keep the Rebs from enjoying a birds eye view of Harpers Ferry reminds me all the world of Port Clinton. The report is that a fight is going on at negro Gab⁴⁵ about 18 miles from this

Tuesday, 19.

Worked at the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Rd Bridge at Harpers Ferry. Got all the bends up ready for braceing. The soldiers are thick in this peace. There batteries are planted on top of the mountain no news of any account

July, Wednesday, 20. 1864.

⁴⁵ Alfred clearly writes "negro Gab", the meaning of this is unknown.

Got up at four oclock and took breakfast and then went to work at the Harpers Ferry bridge we put up braces today. No news of any account. The wether today was very warm a shower this afternoon

Thursday, 21.

Worked at the bridge at Harpers Ferry no news of any account. The first train crossed over the bridge at 2 oclock. The wether today is fine

Friday, 22.

Moved from Sandy Hook to Harpers Ferry and camped on the other side of the bridge the Rail Rd bridge is now finished. And so we will go to work at the wagon road bridge. Today a train of wounded came in and 14 prisoners from ⁴⁶. No news of any account

July, Saturday, 23. 1864.

Worked at the wagon road bridge at Harpers Ferry. Nothing new has transpired today. The wether is fine. Got out of rations and must live on Hard Tack also broke our stove to Adams⁴⁷ so we must do the best we can

Sunday, 24.

⁴⁶ The end of this line is too faded to be read.

⁴⁷ This is most likely a slang expression from the period, "Adams" is written clearly.

No work today we was taking a walk about the country. There is fighting going on at Martinsburg today the report is that the Rebs was on there way to Harpers Ferry again the wether today is fine

Monday, 25.

Rained hard all last night and this forenoon did not work till after noon then went to work at the wagon road bridge. Great excitement prevails amongst our soldiers + citizens it is reported the Rebs was on there way to this place they are shooting things all day and the passing train was ordered back

July, Tuesday, 26. 1864.

Went to work at the bridge at Harpers Ferry worked till dinner then received orders to take off as much work as we could and pack our things and leave. The Rebs coming twords this place the report is that they are only 4 miles off. The citizens shipped all our things off. So we got aboard the cars and left at 5 oclock. They had orders to cut the bridge again we just put up

Wednesday, 27.

We rode all last night on the cars and arrived at the Relay House at 9 oclock this morning from a skedaddle from Harpers Ferry left the Relay House at 12 oclock and arrived at Washington at 4

oclock then laid over till 7 oclock in the evening and started for Alexandria arrived there at 8 oclock this evening

Thursday, 28.

No work today loafing about the shanty at Alexandria no news of any importance. Only it is reported that they are fighting in the Shenandoah Valley. The wether today was fine

July, Friday, 29. 1864.

No work today loafed about the shanty. The wether was very warm today. No news of any account ⁴⁸

Saturday, 30.

No work today loafing about the shanty and awaiting orders. The report is that the Raiders are marching through Pennsylvania again they was at Chambersburg⁴⁹ this morning and going on twords Harrisburg. The wether is fine

Sunday, 31.

No work today loafed about the shanty and wherever we could make ourselves comfortable. The wether today was very warm the news is that the Rebels are at Chambersburg and destroyed 250 buildings by fire and then left

⁴⁸ Some math that is too faded to read appears at the end of this entry.

⁴⁹ Here Alfred is referring to Confederate General Jubal Early's burning of Chambersburg, PA following a victory in the Shenandoah Valley.

August, Monday, 1. 1864.

Loafed about the shanty till dinner. Then went to the wharf and build a raft of timber for Washington wharf at 9th st. Then got ready to leave for Washington in the morning the wether today is fine. Reports of Grant blowing up the Earth Works⁵⁰

Tuesday, 2.

Got up at half past four. Took breakfast and then got on the cars and went to the wharf loaded our traps on board of a schooner then left for Washington arrived here at 10 oclock and pitched our tents and then unloaded the schooner of some plank(s). Rain twords evening

Wednesday, 3.

Worked at 9 street wharf at Washington no news of any account. The weather today is fine nothing about the raiders but fighting accounts

August, Thursday, 4. 1864.

Worked at 9 st wharf put on the stringers + planked. The wether today was rather cooler than normal we did keep this Thanksgiving day⁵¹ by working. The colored people had a picnic. This evening I was at the wharf + got a watermelon. Pretty high in price

⁵⁰ Alfred is likely referring to the ongoing siege of Petersburg. Two days earlier, after months of digging, Union forces blew up a mine under a Confederate fort. The following charge was mishandled and the lines remained unchanged at Petersburg.

⁵¹ Alfred clearly writes "Thanksgiving Day", this is very strange as it is still early August.

Friday, 5.

Worked on the 9 st wharf no news of any account the wether today was rather warm, this afternoon while Rast⁵² and myself went to the wharf to buy a watermelon an old man + his son got to fighting and the son hit his father with a club the man went into the bag and got a knife and stabbed him, his son

Saturday, 6.

Worked at 9 st wharf Washington the report was today that Lee and his main army was on there way to Pennsylvania + Grant + his army comeing into Grant is 12 hours ahead of Lee. It is also reported that the Rebs have hoisted the black flag the wether today is fine

August, Sunday, 7. 1864.

Struck our tents and went to Alexandria got rations + tools and returned immediately to Washington on our way to Harpers Ferry. We left Washington at 8 oclock this evening and arrived at the Relay House at 11 oclock this evening where we stopped till morning. The wether is warm

Sunday, 8.

⁵² Alfred is most likely referring to one of his comrades by a nickname.

Left the Relay House on the Balt. + Ohio Rail Rd. this morning on our way to Harpers Ferry for the purpose of putting up bridges and going through a valley all along till we arrived at Harpers Ferry in the afternoon at 4 oclock then pitched our tents and maid ourselves at home

Tuesday, 9.

Commenced to work at the Wagon Road bridge this morning Gen Sheredan⁵³ was on the bridge today and Gen Hunter left for Washington today. Cavalry crossing the river all day

August, Wednesday, 10. 1864.

Worked at the Harpers Ferry Bridge. Nothing new of any account. The wether today was rather warm the soldiers seem to like Gen Sheredan better than Hunter

Thursday, 11.

No work today on account of lumber, the lumber was all worked up. No news of any account. More cavalry arrived here today. The wether today was pretty warm

Friday, 12.

Worked at the Harpers Ferry bridge today laying the plank. No news of much account a sad accident occured with one of our hands named John Buckley had the misfortune of looseing his arm at the expedition at City Point. The wether today was warmer then heretofore

August, Saturday, 13. 1864.

⁵³ Here Alfred is referring to General Philip Sheridan.

Worked at the bridge at Harpers Ferry. Joe Farrins Gang came up this forenoon and went up the road towards hall town. A sad accident occurred today while two cars was standing on the siding the engine came up in full speed and the sider was round so she run in and killed two and wounded one

Sunday, 14.

Worked at the Bridge at Harpers Ferry and finished the wagon road bridge. No news of any account the car that was run off yesterday was put on the track again. The weather was very warm today

Monday, 15.

Got up at five oclock and went to work at another Rail Road bridge at Harpers Ferry we have now connected three bridges at this iron bridge to close. Nothing new of any account the wether today was very warm got a pretty good shower

August, Tuesday, 16. 1864.

Went to work at half past five this morning at the Rail Road Bridge putting up trussles. In the afternoon we got reinforcements Joe Farrins men helped. Nothing occurred today of any account. Cloudy all day

Wednesday, 17.

Worked at the bridge at Harpers Ferry and got about finished with it. Farrins men was up the road about 3 miles towards Winchester cutting the gourillas got after them and robbed them of all they had and took 10 negros along and shot one in the arm

Thursday, 18.

Went up the winchester rd. to put up a water tank and got one side up when we got orders to pack up and leave for Alexandria. Farrins men packed up + we came down to the station and then the orders was countermanded⁵⁴ so we pitched tents again. Rain this forenoon

August, Friday, 19. 1864.

Camped up the Winchester rr and went up the road and tore up the old track and put up a new one got up as far as Hall Town. Got a map of Green County as we came back. The colored men afraid of the guerillas. Raining all day, no news

Saturday, 20.

Went up the road up towards Hall Town and took off the rail in the afternoon went to work on a bridge below our camp. Put on stringers and fetched a load of plank and our rations of beef along to the camp. Raining nearly all day

⁵⁴ Revoked.

Sunday, 21.

Worked at the bridge and track. An attack⁵⁵ on Sheredan above Charleston commanding since dinner till late this evening. The report is that our men are falling back was on heights this every the fight is about 9 miles off cannonadry had plain

August, Monday, 22. 1864.

Got up and took breakfast then received orders to pack up and leave for Washington. We left Harpers Ferry at 8 oclock and arrived at the Relay House at 3 oclock in the afternoon. Left there at 12 oclock at night and arrived at Washington next morning. Rain today

Tuesday, 23.

Arrived at Washington this morning and pitched tents on Maryland Avenue and went to work at the trough. A steam boat run in and broke it while closed. Charles Leuberg was struck with a place while working. No news of any account

Wednesday, 24.

Got up this morning at 4 oclock and went to work at the drough and the long bridge Washington and finished it till this evening. Nothing new of any account the wether today was warm

⁵⁵ This is likely a skirmish leading up to the Third Battle of Winchester.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Battle_of_Winchester

August, Thursday, 25. 1864.

Worked at the long bridge at Washington. Nothing new of any account the wether today was rather warm

Friday, 26.

Worked at the long bridge till dinner. Then went to work at the 8 st wharf at Washington.

Nothing new of any account. The wether today was moderate. Received a letter from my wife today

Saturday, 27.

Worked at 8 st wharf at Washington. Unloaded a barge of lumber. One of the new men was unlucky and he fell a spoke near his mouth and cut his lower lip from his chin clean up. No news of any account

August, Sunday, 28. 1864.

Camped at the Long Bridge in Maryland avinew. No work today. Loafed about camp and walked about. No news of any account. The wether is quite pleasant today. Wrote a letter to my sister today

Monday, 29.

Worked at the 8 st wharf at Washington getting out stringers and putting them down the wether is quite pleasant today no news of any account

Tuesday, 30.

Worked at 8 st wharf at Washington till dinner then got orders to pack our traps and go to Alexandria. Arrived at Alexandria and went to the wharf to go to City Point put our things on the dock and at 8 oclock loaded on the steamer John Warner and left at about 9 oclock this evening

August, Wednesday, 31. 1864.

Step first rate⁵⁶ on the boat last night and woke up at sun rise and just opposite Point Lookout. At noon passed Fortress Monroe and by 10 oclock in the evening landed at City Point unloaded our things and loaded them on the cars to go out the road 5 miles in the morning

September, Thursday, 1.

Slept in the cars last night at City Point and got up and went out the road 3 miles from Petersburg to build a road from the road to Petersburg to Weldon road. Pitched camp and then went out to cut ties for the road⁵⁷

Friday, 2.

⁵⁶ "First Rate" refers to the highest class of quarters on a ship, similar to first class on a plane.

⁵⁷ Alfred usually uses the term road to refer to both pedestrian/horse paths as well as railroad tracks, which can make some entries confusing.

Went out the new road and cut ties till dinner and then put up a cribbing over a revein. The Rebs and our men have a brush everyday. We are within the reach of the Rebs

September, Saturday, 3. 1864.

Build a cribbing on the road from the City Point Rd to the Weldon Rd. Worked till dark opposite Petersburg about one mile off. We are gitting along pretty fast. Cannonnading every night this evening we watched the shells fly

Sunday, 4.

Got up and packed our traps and moved with teams out the road towards the Weldon Road about 5 miles from where we camped. We are close to our front fortifications about a half mile off.

This afternoon put up bridge across a revein

Monday, 5.

Report that Atlanta⁵⁸ was taken. Worked at the bridge across the revein opposite our tents and finished till dinner, then cleared the road today the ties got to one of our forts till night where the road scene (???) close by. The wether is fine. Heavy shelling last night the boys was all frightened and they watched the shells

⁵⁸ Here Alfred is referring to the capture of Atlanta by Union forces.

September, Tuesday, 6. 1864.

Went out the road to fill up and tamp (???). The engine ran up to our camp this evening. The rebs had great cheering last night they got the news that they took Washington⁵⁹. Fireing going on all the time heavy thunderstorm last night and rain all day

Wednesday, 7.

Worked on the road beyond our camp filling up track the engine was fired upon today by the Rebs four shots on the new road. The Rebs seem to take it very hard on account of Atlanta being taken, the wether today was fine

Thursday, 8.

Worked at the Rail Road at tamping and filling up we are about 2 miles from the Weldon Road. Cannonading in the front the wether today was fine rain towards evening

September, Friday, 9. 1864.

Filled up the track at the new road from City Point Rd to the Weldon Road. Heavy cannonading + musketeing heard today. The train is fired upon every time it goes the road but not struck yet it struck a soldier and took his head off today by one of the cannon balls

Saturday, 10.

⁵⁹ While the Confederate Army did not actually take Washington, the forces under General Jubal Early had a false sense of excitement due to perceived cowardice of Union General Sheridan in attacking their position. <https://www.nps.gov/cebe/learn/news/upload/Washington-Attacked-Sentinel-FINAL.pdf>.

Worked on the new road from the City Point Rd to the Weldon Rd. Cleared the brush and stumps and reached the weldon road till evening at the place they call the Yellow House. ⁶⁰ came to see us, they are camped here

Sunday, 11.

Filled up the track of the new road out near the Weldon Road. Charles Williamson is camped right aside the road. I went over and found him asleep. Seen Gen Warren yesterday our men took the Rebs front picket line and there was fireing all last night today is ____

September, Monday, 12. 1864.

Filled up the track of the new road from City Point to the Weldon Road. Nothing new of any account. Picket and artillery fireing constantly our men got out the reft júst last night where they have taken the other day got pad off for June + July

Tuesday, 13.

Worked on the new Rail Road filling up. Picket and cannon fireing all day. The Rebs fire into the train every day. Jeremiah Minder was here to see us today. After supper we was taken out to throw up brestworks⁶¹ to support the trains. The whole construction corp was at it

⁶⁰ Alfred lists numerous names in this entry, but they are written too near one another to be read.

⁶¹ Breastwork refers to a temporary defensive structure used to protect a target.

Wednesday, 14.

Worked all last night digging breastworks to keep the Rebs from firing on the train, about half mile long. Worked all night we was not shelled. We laid over today to take a rest so I went to see the ruins of that exploded fort it is about 10 miles below our camp. Seen the Reb forts

September, Thursday, 15. 1864.

Worked all last night throwing up breastworks on the new road to keep the Rebs from firing in the train and rested this morning till dinner. Then went out in the afternoon to fill up the road a fight expected tomorrow or next day, the wether is fine

Friday, 16.

Worked at the Breast Works at the new road. Heavy cannonading this afternoon, the shells burst near our breastworks. Today the rebs maid a charge on the Weldon Road but was driven back with heavy lofs the wether today was fine

Saturday, 17.

Worked at the Breast Works till dinner. Not feeling good for some time I did not work in the afternoon part of the army is constantly moving and the pickets firing all the time day + night. The balls of the Rebs flying through our camp pretty thick one of Farrins men was wounded in the shoulder last night while sleeping

September, Sunday, 18. 1864.

Sick today the boys are all at work that feel well but there are a great many sick. I took a walk out to the Weldon Road and seen all the Hamburg Boys ⁶² We had a fine time got 2 cantines of whiskey and drank together stayed till 2 oclock then went home

Monday, 19.

Went to work at the Brest Works as usual opposite the fort which Burnside's blew up⁶³. The shells bursting pretty freely opposite us about 3 squares. Nothing new of any account the wether today was fine

Tuesday, 20.

Worked at the Brest Works as usual the shells flying pretty fast below us, one landed quite near us. No news of any consequences. The wether today was fine

September, Wednesday, 21. 1864.

⁶² Alfred writes a list of names in this entry, but they are unable to be read.

⁶³ This is most likely a reference to the Battle of the Crater.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Crater.

Worked at the Brest Works till dinner then went down the road to Reams Station to fill up the track. Went home at five oclock heavy fireing this morning the whole lines fired a salvo on account of the victory⁶⁴ of Sheredan in the Valley

Thursday, 22.

Worked on the Road tamping up towards Reams Station no news of any consiquines the day was cloudy with rain last night

Friday, 23.

Worked on the track filling up nothing new of any importance. The wether today was fine Jake Fritersoh has gone to City Point Sick James Francis is here with us tonight C Williamson was here today

September, Saturday, 24. 1864.

65

⁶⁴ The Valley Campaigns of 1864 were taking place throughout the year, in the Shenandoah Valley near where Alfred was stationed at this time.

⁶⁵ This entry is too faded to read.

Sunday, 25.

In the mouth of the Rappahanac left City Point 11 am and arrived at Fort Monroe by dusk. Having a heavy gail we anchored till this morning then started up the bay for Alexandria. The storm being so heavy we run into the Rappahanac the gun boat fireing shots atop our bow and stopped us we are now following her back to the lighthouse to anchor for the night it is now 3 oclock. Friederich very sick

Monday, 26.

Alexandria

Left the Rappahanac, at about 5 p.m. yesterday. The storm being pretty well over so we struck for the Chesapeake Bay and run all night this morning we landed safe at Alexandria loaded our traps aboard the cars and are awaiting orders to go out the Manassas Road the wether is fine

September, Tuesday, 27. 1864.

Loafed about the shanty awaiting orders in the afternoon went to the wharf and loaded with trap. No news of any account. Rober Friederich Bierrman + C Seaman went home yesterday the wether is fine

Wednesday, 28.

Went to work to frame water tanks till about 4 pm then got paid off for August then loaded our things and started out the Orange + Alexandria Rail Rd. Run out about six miles. The grap⁶⁶

⁶⁶ Alfred clearly writes "grap", which is likely slang. The meaning of which is unknown.

being on the track the engine could not pull the train further so we went back to Alexandria again and stopped till morning slept on top of the cars

Thursday, 29.

Took 3 engines and tried the trip over, got to Accotink Bridge and put that then went to Popes Head Run and put up that then went to NO2 and put up that till evening then took a rest for the night in the rain on top of the cars. Beds all wet and only two meals a day. Pretty ruff

September, Friday, 30. 1864.

Started for Popes Head Run NO3 put that up then took breakfast at 11 AM. Then started to NO4 and put that up and run up to Bull Run and took supper and went to rest on our wet beds again, on top and under the cars. Raining all day + night pretty hard on the natives

October, Saturday, 1.

Went to work at the Bull Run Bridge took breakfast at 9 am and then went to work again.

Finished the Bridge till 1 pm and run down to Broad Run and put that up till dark. Then took our supper in the rain and mud, no shelter got a car to sleep in tonight

Sunday, 2.

Started from Broad Run to Kettle Run put that up till 10 AM and then took breakfast. Then went down the Road to the Rappahannock River. Then run back to Warrington Junction till 10 pm and took supper then run to Manassas Junction and laid over for the night

October, Monday, 3. 1864.

Took breakfast and started out the Manassas Road cleared the road of gray about 1 mile out then walked back to the junction again and took supper very hungry at 2 meals a day. The boys all help themselves to hogs + calfs + chickens

Tuesday, 4.

Started out the Road with the construction train run up the road about 25 miles then stopped in the wood overnight. Plundering every thing as we go along pigs chickens calves + grapes are plenty around

Wednesday, 5

Started after breakfast and changed cars got sleeping cars and cook + eating cars we live comfortable now. Stopped at Salem and found the depot running as we arrived which the guerillas set on fire this morning guerillas plenty all along a fight today

October, Thursday, 6. 1864.

Stopped at Piedmont last evening and put up a bridge. Stopped all night the guerillas are getting worse had a little fight last evening with them. We was called at last night to throw up rifle pits to defend ourselves and the train heavy cannonading last evening down the road a piece, The guerillas have now surrounded us they have turned 4 pieces of artillary on us and fired away

Friday, 7.

Great excitement the rebs have surrounded us entirely and burned the bridges behind us and before. They are within a rifle shot from us placed their artillery in range to take the train but this morning they have moved their artillery to ⁶⁷ point our men charged at them and drove them off last night. We threw up rifle pits all last night. Left the place on a retreat at 11 pm today That is Rectortown

Saturday, 8.

On our retreat yesterday the Rebs burned our bridge and tore up the track wherever they had a good position and was after us and fired on us all the time at Salem our men had the height so they checked them. We reached White Plains by dusk yesterday today we cut wood for the engine and loafed till further orders

October, Sunday, 9. 1864.

White Plains VA

Received reinforcements last night and this morning we started out the road again and just up Joes Bridge and severed the little ones, and got as far as Bictmont⁶⁸. Then run back to Ricterton to stop over night. No trouble with the rebs today heavy frost today

⁶⁷ The location Alfred mentions here is too small to be read.

⁶⁸ Alfred writes "Bictmont" as if it is the name of a place, but it may be slang as there is no reference to anywhere in Virginia with that name.

Monday, 10.

Run up the road today to Biedmont⁶⁹ and part of the gang put up a small bridge and others cut wood for the engines. I for my part was out foraging, got 3 bags of apples 1 pig 1 young heifer then started butchering and got all butchered till dark. Today the rebs took up a rail from the track and smashed up the whole train engine cold

Tuesday, 11.

Beidmont VA

Put up a frame for a water tank then went down the road below Salem to where the wreck of the train was the intention is to put up stogade where the pickets stand. There is two engines all smashed and the whole train. The names of the engines was Union + Minot

October, Wednesday, 12. 1864.

Beidmont

Put up a small bridge about half mile above the bridge then laid track till night the soldiers are busy at butchering they have plenty of fowl and beef. No news of any act P.S. The cavalry had a pretty good fight⁷⁰ at White Plains they fought hand to hand

⁶⁹ Alfred writes "Beidmont", which is possibly a misspelling of Piedmont, in reference to the West Virginia town.

⁷⁰ This is likely referring to the Battle of Tom's Brook.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tom%27s_Brook.

Thursday, 13.

Left Beidmont at about 10 in the morning orders came to stop work on the bridge and load our tools so we came to Recterton and cleared away brush and trees from the side of the track so the pickets have full view of the Rebs.

Friday, 14.

Recterton

Cut wood for the engines till dinner, then dug a foundation for a turntable a piece above the village. The report is today that the cavalry has captured Mosbi's⁷¹ artillery 4 pieces harness caissons all 9 prisoners in the mountain

October, Saturday, 15. 1864.

Worked at the turntable a little way above Recterton the report of yesterday that Mosby's artillery was captured is true they captured 4 pieces harness caissons (???) and 9 prisoners. They brought them down today to take Alexandria. Gen Sheridan came to this place to pay a visit to Gen Auger⁷²

Sunday, 16.

⁷¹ When Alfred writes "Mosby", he is likely referring to Mosby's Rangers, an unofficial Confederate raiding party.

⁷² Here Alfred is referring to Christopher C Auger, one of the lesser known Union commanders.

Worked at the turntable today got it pretty near finished turned two engines today the last turned was W.H. Whiton + Spast. Nothing new of any account the wether today was fine

Monday, 17.

Rectertown

Worked out in the woods along the Rail Rd fell trees and cleared brush. Nothing new today of any account. Butchered a sheep today

October, Tuesday, 18. 1864.

Rectertown

Cut down the woods along the Rail Road between Recterton and Salem, no news of any account, the boys have killed two steers⁷³ today

Wednesday, 19.

Rectertown

Cut down the woods along the Rail Road between Rectertown and Salem. No news, only there has been heavy cannonading up at Manassas all day the boys have been out raiding after apples

Thursday, 20.

Rectertown

⁷³ A steer is a young cow raised for meat.

Cut timber along the Rail Road between Rectertown and Salem. The report came that Sheridan captured 40 guns and 2000 prisoners yesterday at Manassas. We recieved orders this evening to pack up and go to Alexandria tonight yet. The wether is fine

October, Friday, 21. 1864.

Alexandria

Left Rectertown last evening for Alexandria and here about 1 last night put things in the shanty today then went out to Aquiank Bridge on Orange and Alexandria RRd and put up a bend 12 miles from Alexandria

Saturday, 22.

Went to work at building a skiff. While the other boys are training trestles No news of any importance the wether is fine

Sunday, 23.

A day of rest at last. Today we are not at work so I went to walk and ⁷⁴

October, Monday, 24. 1864.

Alexandria VA

⁷⁴ Part of this entry is too faded to read.

Went to work at a skiff while the rest are framing timber. No news of any account today. A few guerillas was brought in. The wether today was fine

Tuesday, 25.

Alexandria VA

Worked at the skiff as before the news today is that the Rebs was badly whipped in Kansas and entirely routed no further news of any account. I received an advently letter from my sister the wether was fine today

Wednesday, 26.

Building skiff today as usual and finished the carpenter work at it. No news of any act. Got a letter from my wife today from Philadelphia. The wether is beautiful

October, Thursday, 27. 1864.

Worked at the skiff corked pitched + painted it got it finished till night. No news of any consequence the wether cloudy

Friday, 28.

Went to framing timber with the rest of the boys. No news of any account. The wether is clear today we had rain last night

Saturday, 29.

Worked in the Bridge Shed commenced another skiff. No news of any account the wether is fine

October, Sunday, 30. 1864.

No work today so I am fixing up my box to go home, Orders came at dinner for the gang to go to Harpers Ferry the 102 concluded to go home so I packed my things to start in the morning and the rest packed theirs on the cars bound for Harpers Ferry

Monday, 31.

Philadelphia

Sent my chest down to the express office. Then took breakfast in the market house then started for Washington left Washington at 11 am for Philadelphia and arrived there at about 6 pm. Then took the street cars up 15th st to Callowhill then walked to my sisters

November, Tuesday, 1.

Philadelphia

Walked about Philadelphia and drank Lager Beer + enjoyed myself as good as I could. Went to see Seidel and made engagement to go to the theater

November, Wednesday, 2. 1864.

Philadelphia

Moved about Philadelphia and took a glass of beer and in the evening went to the Chestnut Theater accompanied by my wife and Seidel and ⁷⁵ East Lynn was the play for the evening

Thursday, 3.

Philadelphia

Took care of the children in the forenoon while my wife + sister went out shopping. In the afternoon went to see my aunt and cousin accompanied by my wife and sister. Took supper then returned home.

Friday, 4.

Philadelphia

Run about the Oyster Wharf till dinner then went out to my sisters house and got ready to start for Birdsboro left Philadelphia in the afternoon and arrived in Birdsboro till dusk and stopped overnight. Cloudy with rain today

November, Saturday, 5. 1864

⁷⁶

Sunday, 6.

⁷⁷

⁷⁵ The name Alfred writes here is too faded to be read.

⁷⁶ This entry has been scribbled out and covered up with mathematical equations.

⁷⁷ This entry has been scribbled out and covered up with mathematical equations.

Monday, 7.

Geo K Seaman for Lo 1 day labor at tryons house 1.85⁷⁸

The entries for November 8 - 13 are missing.

The entries for November 14 - 19 are used for math equations and tracking of pay for April and May of 1864.

The entries for November 20 - December 13 are missing.

The entries for December 14 - 19 are used for math and are mostly scribbled out / erased.

The first 2 of 4 Memoranda entries are used for math or scribbled out / erased.

Memoranda. **(Final Page, Front)**

Alexandria VA June 12

Today in walking around town we came to Christ Church and found a grave of Sarah Pearce.

Daughter of William + Mary Pearce of Hart County who departed her life Oct. 13th 1794 aged

118 years

Memoranda **(Final Page, Back)**

⁷⁸ Most of this entry has been scribbled out and covered up with mathematical equations.

Alexandria June 7th 1864

The following I coppied (**copied**) from a tomb stone as I have come across by taking a walk.

--- --- --- ---

To the memory of a Female Stranger

Whose mental sufferings terminated on the 4 (**th**) day of Oct 1816

Aged 23 years and 8 months

--- --- --- ---

This stone was placed here by her disconsolate Husband in whose arms she sighed out her latest breath and who under god did his utmost even to sooth the cold dead ear of death.

How loved how valued once avails thee not

To whom related or by whom begot

A heap of dust alone remains of thee

Tis all thou art! And all the proud shall be

--- --- --- ---

To him gave all the prophets witness that through his name whosoever believes in him shall receive remission of sins

Acts, 10th chapter, 43rd verse

--- --- --- ---

Alfred W. Shollenberger

Hamburg

Berks Co. Pa