

THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

Inside the Vault: Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

March 18, 2021

The session will start shortly. Please note:

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org so we can assist you.

Our Team

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Pete Vermilyea - 2005 Connecticut History Teacher of the Year
- Jennifer Geller - “The Bullet” in the Angelica Company of *Hamilton*
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator
- Zoya Siddiqui - Curatorial Intern

During the Session



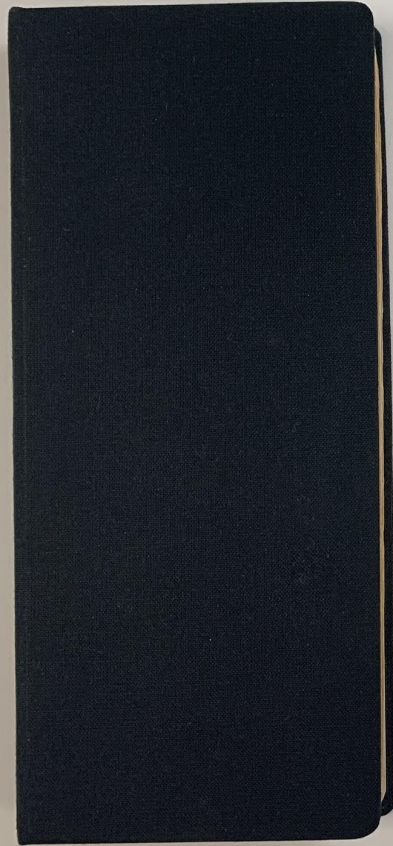
- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature**, which is at the bottom of your screen.
- **Viewing in full screen** is recommended to see the presenters and the presentation at the same time.

For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.
- The chat feature is automatically turned off.

Today's Documents

Diary of
William Woodlin
7.9 X 3.5 inches



Diary of
Cyrena Hammond
3.9 x 2.5 inches



Diaries



- Day Book, Diary, Journal
 - 206 diaries in the Gilder Lehrman Collection
 - 1755–1944
- Diaries can be composed of:
 - Blank pages
 - Pages with prefilled dates
 - Printed front matter - includes yearly calendar, place to record observations about weather, etc.
 - Sections at the back - memorandum, accounting, etc.

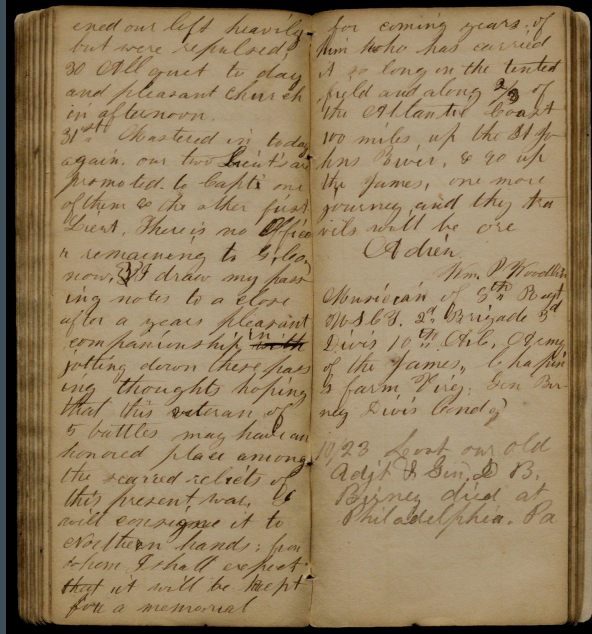
William Woodlin (1841-1901)



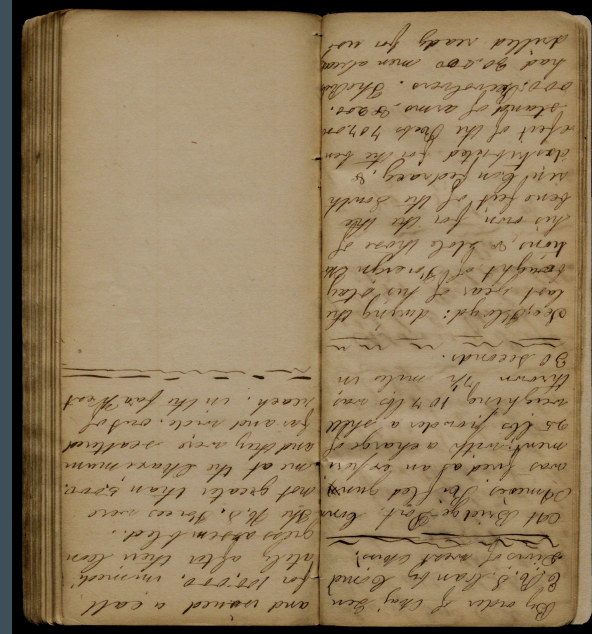
- 1841 - Born into slavery in Louisiana
- 1844 - Mother Anna & three siblings were emancipated by John Palfrey
- 1860 - listed on the census as William Woodlin
- August 20, 1863 - enlisted in Syracuse, NY
- Camp William Penn - mustered into the 8th USCTs and served as a musician
- June 1865 - discharged after suffered sun stroke in Texas

Adieu.
Wm. P. Woodlin
Musician of 8th Regt
USCT, 2nd Brigade 3d

William Woodlin's Diary



Page 121–122



Page 123–124

- Consists of blank pages
- Written in two directions
- Front to back - 122 pages of diary entries
- Back to front - 22 pages of notes (accounts, poetry, & notes about the USCTs)

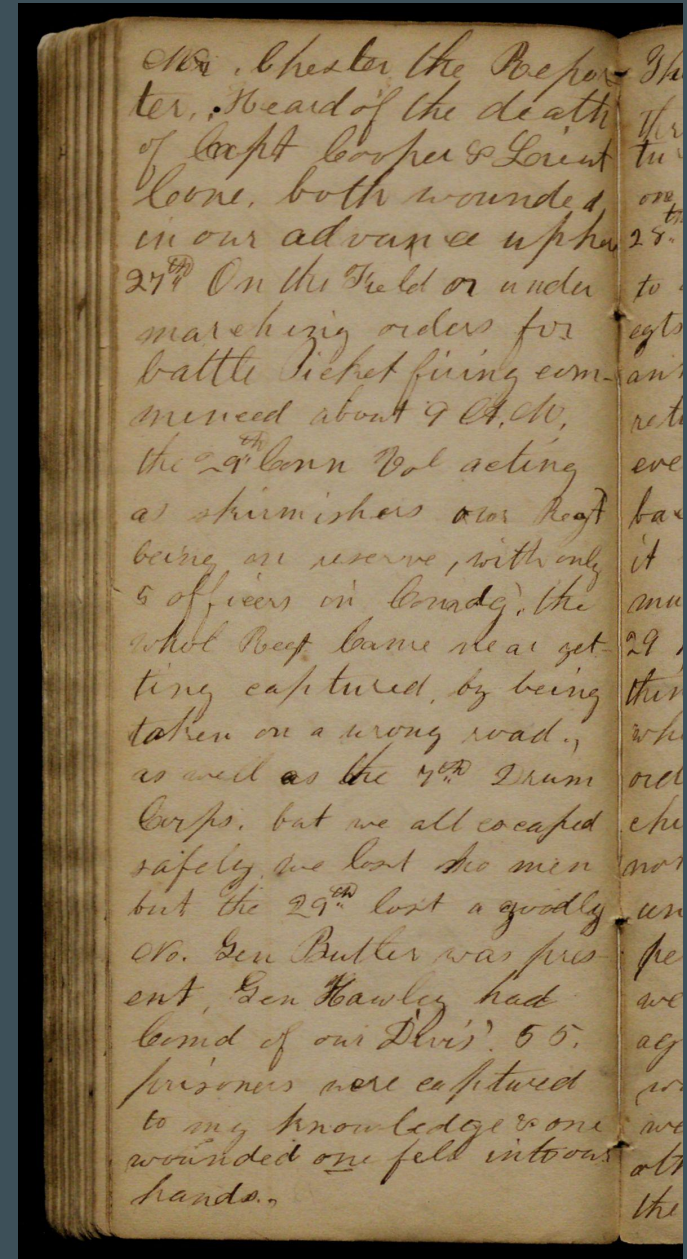
Woodlin's Diary

Topics discussed in Woodlin's diary:

- Music
- Movements of the other USCTs
- Deaths in the regiment
- Writing & receiving letters
- Coming under fire
- Building winter quarters
- Ships
- Food
- Skirmishes
- Writing to the Syracuse *Weekly Anglo-African* newspaper

What isn't in the diary:

- Personal news
- Personal opinions



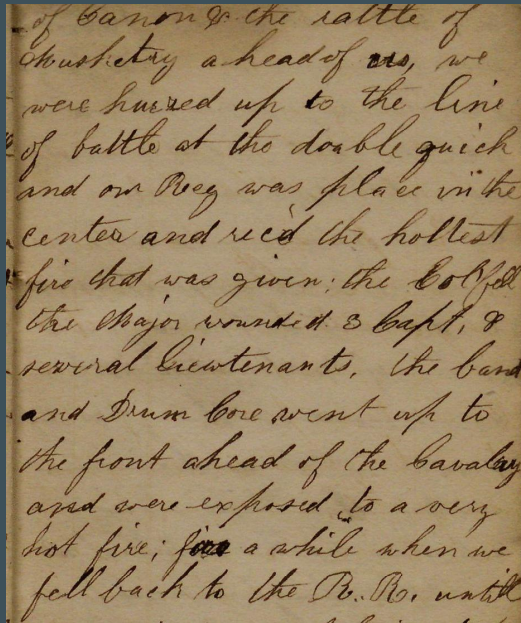
October 31, 1864

31st Mustered in today again. our two Lieuts are promoted to Capts. One of them & the other first Lieut. There is no Officer remaining to G. Co. now. I draw my passing notes to a close after a years pleasant companionship in jotting down there passing thoughts hoping that this veteran of 5 battles may have an honored place among the scarred [sacred] relicts of the present war. I will convene it to Northern hands; from I shall expect that it will be kept but a memorial for coming years; of him who has carried it on the tented field and along 2/3 of the Atlantic Coast 100 miles up the St. John's River & 90 up the James, one more journey and they travels will be ore.

Adieu

Wm. P. Woodlin

February 1864 - Battle of Olustee, Florida



of Canon & the rattle of
Musketry ahead of us, we
were hurried up to the line
of battle at the double quick
and our Reg was place in the
center and rec'd the hottest
fire that was given; the Col fell
the Major wounded 3 Capt, &
several lieutenants, the band
and Drum Core went up to
the front ahead of the Cavalry
and were exposed to a very
hot fire; for a while when we
fell back to the R. R. until

20th ... after this halt we were ordered forward, & soon could hear the roar of Canon & the rattle of Musketry ahead of us, we were hurried up to the line of battle at the double quick and our Reg was place in the center and rec'd the hottest fire that was given; The Col. fell the Major wounded a Capt, & several lieutenants. the band and Drum Core went up to the front ahead of the Cavalry and were exposed to a very hot fire: for a while when we fell back to the R. R. until we were in danger of being taken by a flank movement of the Rebs: we got away however ...

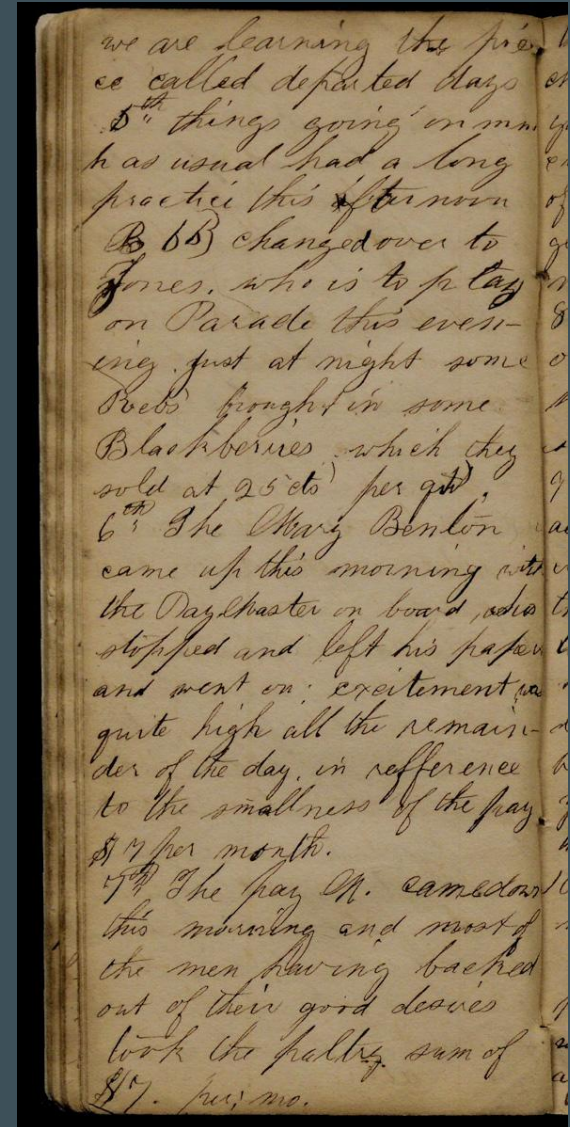
May, 1864

[May] 6th The Mary Benton came up this morning with the Paymaster on board, also stopped and left his papers and went on: excitement was quite high all the remainder of the day in reference to the smallness of the pay \$7 per month.

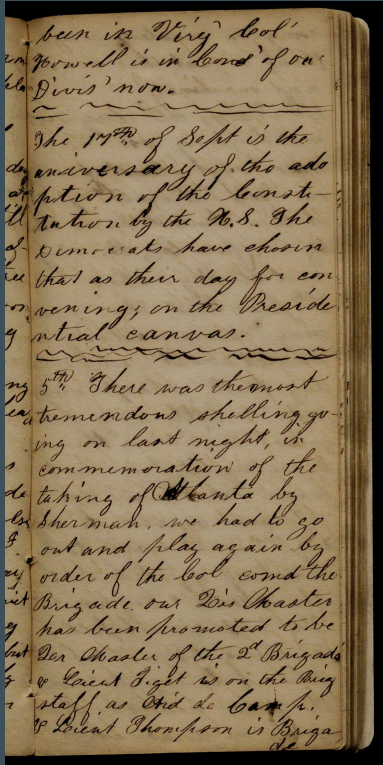
7th The pay M. came down this morning and most of the men having backed out of their good desires took the paltry sum of \$7 per mo. the larger portion of which will soon be spent in gambling. No mail came today worth speaking of, the boats being engaged in transporting troops north.

21st The Dr. Came back this morning from Fernandina bringing the report that our forces had got in the rear of the Rebs & drove them from their position at Olustee. I read the law today giving the colored men their pay as white men and the news of the capture of Richmond.

[August] 31st We fixed up camp & played twice the Regt also encamped & was mustered in for pay with that miserable slave; question to every man. which means \$7 per month. We drew a ration of vegetables, which went first-rate also fresh bread.



September, 1864



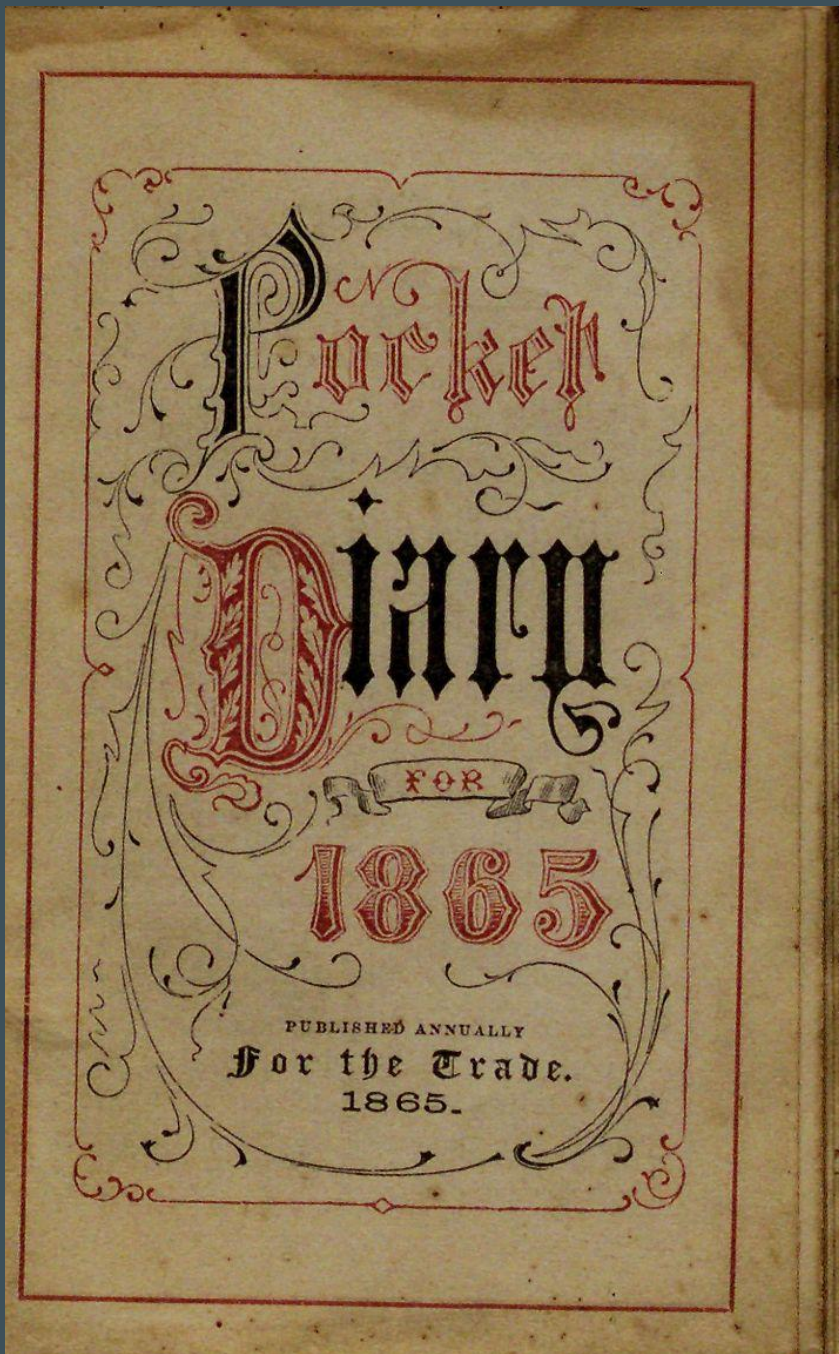
[September] 2nd We band boys built a bombproof today & then practiced awhile. we then went and serenaded Col. Howell act. Divis. Gen. about midnight we were started by the cheers of the men in front which turned out to be on account of the taking of Atlanta by Sherman. We went out and played a No of pieces.

4th I wrote two letters today. I heard of the death of My friend Nelson Freeman last night. I wrote in answer today. we drew rations. all quiet on the lines no firing, only from our side & but little of that. It really seems like sunday for once since we have been in Virg. Col Howell is in Comd' of our Divis' now.

The 17th of Sept is the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the U.S. The Democrats have chosen that as their day for convening on the Presidential canvas.

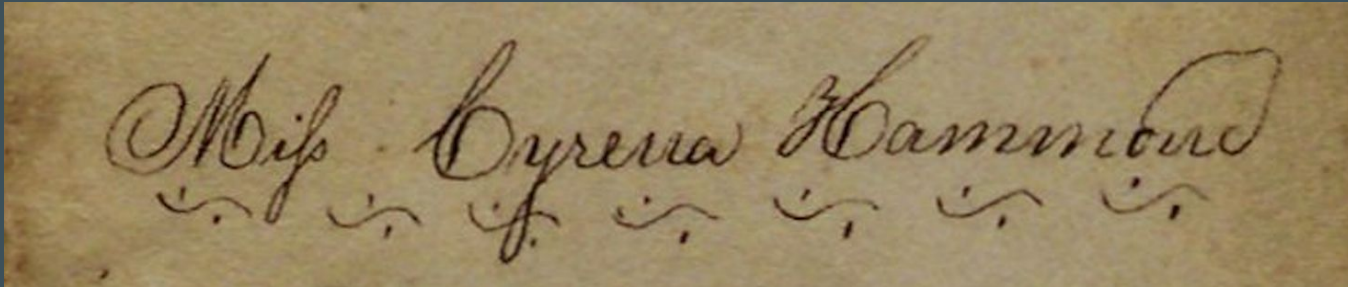
5th There was the most tremendous shelling going on last night in commemoration of the taking of Atlanta by Sherman.

....



*The Diary of Cyrena
Hammond,
1865*

Cyrena Hammond (1847 - 1886)



Miss Cyrena Hammond

- 18-year-old girl from North Bergen, New York
- Kept a diary in 1865
 - Wrote about her day-to-day life
- Parents were Lemuel and Mary Hammond
 - Father was a farmer
 - Had five siblings
- Married Leman Squire Olcott in 1882
 - Had one daughter
- Records on Hammond are difficult to find
 - What we know for certain about her life we know from her diary

Cyrena Hammond's Diary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 1865.

Attended divine service
Asa Ables preached,
Sam Green brought me
a letter from Mrs Brown
also Clara Green, went to one
meeting made D. Molly made

MONDAY 2

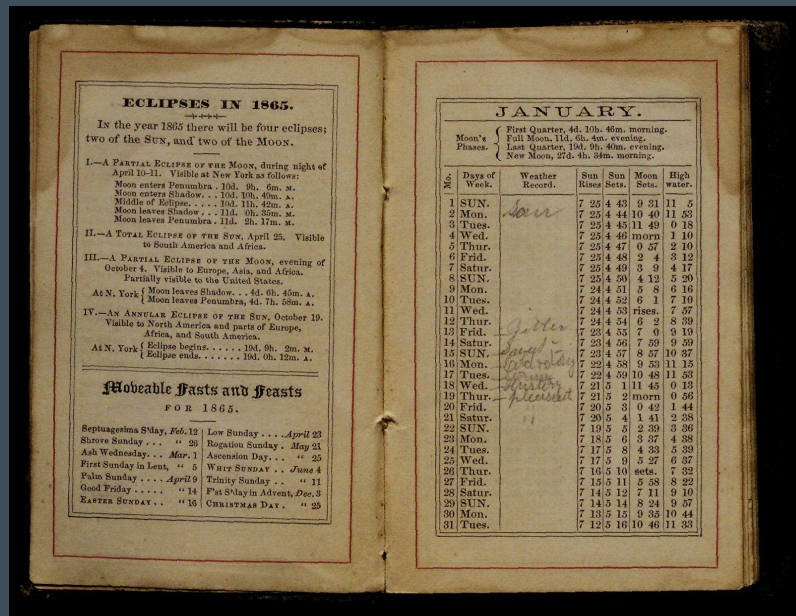
Went to school, Storch
John White on an Ex.
Euphemie Throules came
up here to give us a call
I went home with her
after school at night,

TUESDAY 3

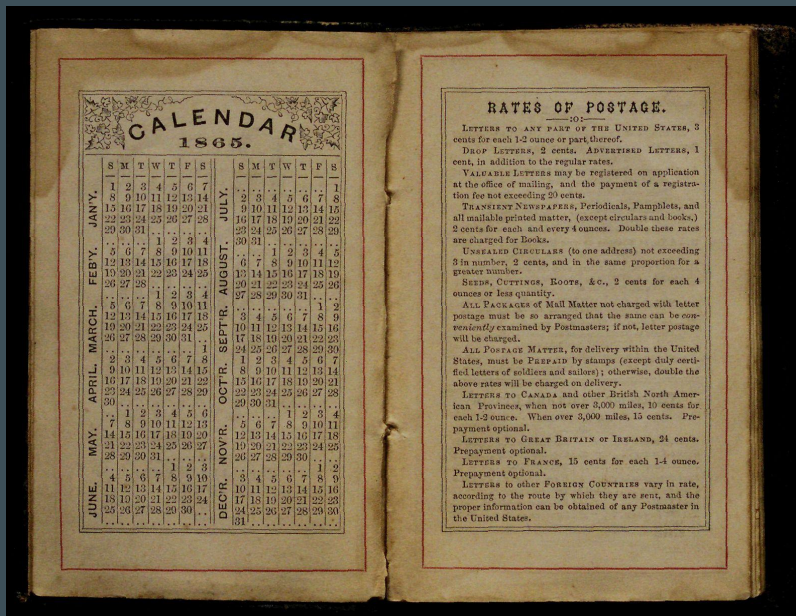
2 Will & Ed came home
visited Mr Lusk's school
at the stone schoolhouse
got home sick and started
for home, met Mary so I
went back & we had four
alive singing

- Most of her diary focuses her daily activities
- Writes about her friends, school, church
- Did chores around the house but did not work
 - Family was likely relatively well off
- Hardly discusses the war at all
- Does mention Lincoln's assassination, but only briefly

Cyrena Hammond's Diary



- Front pages include a calendar, information about postal rates, eclipses and religious observances
- Hammond started filling out the section to record the weather but stopped after a few days



Entry Pages

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1865.

Did not do much of anything
but get vituals and wash
dishes. Was very lousome
nothing going on, but lying
and tattling,

SATURDAY 29

Expected company but it
rained so in the afternoon
they could not come.
Horatio Talcott came down
here to get his hair cut,
I wrote a letter to E. J. R.

SUNDAY 30

This day being my
sixteenth birthday
J. C. O. Hammond
resolved to drink no
more tea except
in case of sickness.
Amen.
Went to meeting
in the afternoon
the young people
met for a sing
we enjoyed ourselves
first & last, old
people was there to look
on, of course!

MONDAY MAY 1, 1865
I was bed, and then wrote
a letter to John. I went
down to North Bergen and
"Dutch Moll" met me so she up
and spit on me, I turned round
& politely told "Dutch Moll" she would
get dipped in the drink if she done it
again, then she commenced to call

TUESDAY 2

Mother coloried her yarn
she had a good heap over
the lo's for some white oak
did not find any,
Mr Babcock called in the evening

WEDNESDAY 3

I went up to Mr White
to see Frier she was awfull
tickled to see me, In the eve
I read stories, went to bed &
did not sleep three hours

Daily Life

THURSDAY 18

It rained all day, I did not do much of any thing, Mary got a letter from Jim Beadle a soldier in Grants cavalry

“It rained all day, I did not do much of any thing, Mary got a letter from Jim Beadle a soldier in Grants cavalry.”

“Went to school, after which John & I went down to Em Phillips. Mary & Em had a gay time laughing at us. We all came up to hear Marcellus preach.”

TUESDAY 28

Went to school, after which John & I went down to Em Phillips. Mary & Em had a gay time laughing at us. We all came up to hear Marcellus preach,

SATURDAY 18

Worked hard all day. cleaned the piazza, went to writing school. Mr Willis came home with us & he staid all night. It froze up hard in the eve.

SUNDAY 19

“Worked hard all day cleaned the piazza, went to writing school. Mr. Willis came home with us & he staid all night. It froze up hard in the eve.”

Temperance and Religion

MONDAY 9

After school Em Phillips I &
John went down to Lou's
to get our supper. Then we went
up to Temperance meeting.
John sat with us, & we went
home with me.

"After school Em Phillips I &
John went down to Lou's to get
our supper. Then we went up to
Temperance meeting. John sat
with us..."

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1865.

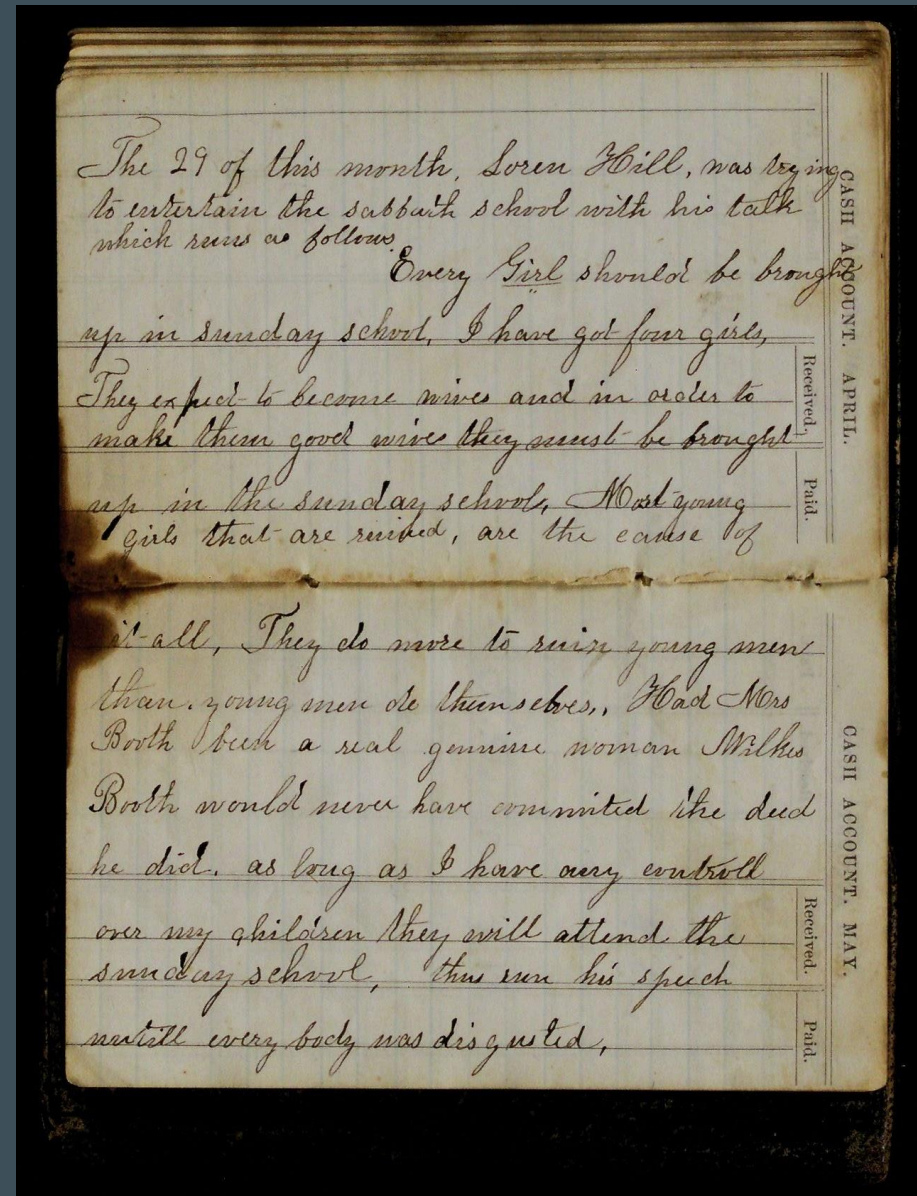
Attended meeting. The Sabbath
school was reorganized, made
a fool of the singing. In
the P.M. we went up to the
church to learn some new
pieces but we sung the old
^{ones}.

"Attended meeting. The Sabbath
school was reorganized, made a
fool of the singing. In the PM we
went up to the church to learn
some new pieces but we sung the
old ones."

Lincoln's Assassination

April 19, 1865: "The whole union is dressed in mourning today."

"The 29 of this month, Soren Hill was trying to entertain the sabbath school with his talk which runs as follows: Every Girl should be brought up in Sunday School. I have got four girls, They expect to become wives and in order to make them good wives they must be brought up in the sunday school. Most young girls ... do more to ruin young men than young men do themselves. Had Mrs Booth been a real genuine woman Wilkes Booth would never have committed the deed he did. As long as I have any contrroll over my children they will attend the sunday school. Thus ran his speech untill every body was disgusted."



Transcribe Cyrena Hammond's Diary

GLC09413: Cyrena Hammond, [Journal], 1865.: Page #4

Original title: GLC09413_00019.jpg

Track media ☆

Protection: Open to all


Status: New

Expiration: Never

Mark this revision as complete ☐

Save

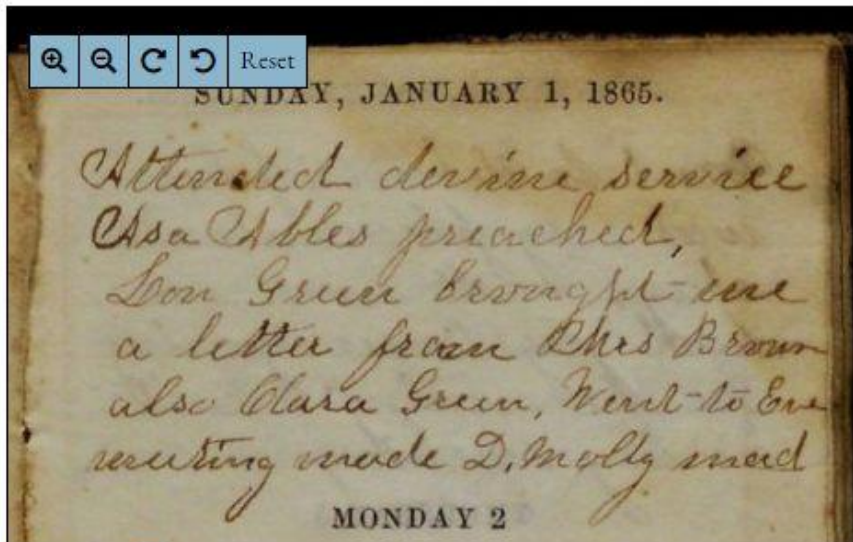
Cancel

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Layout



Summarize your changes



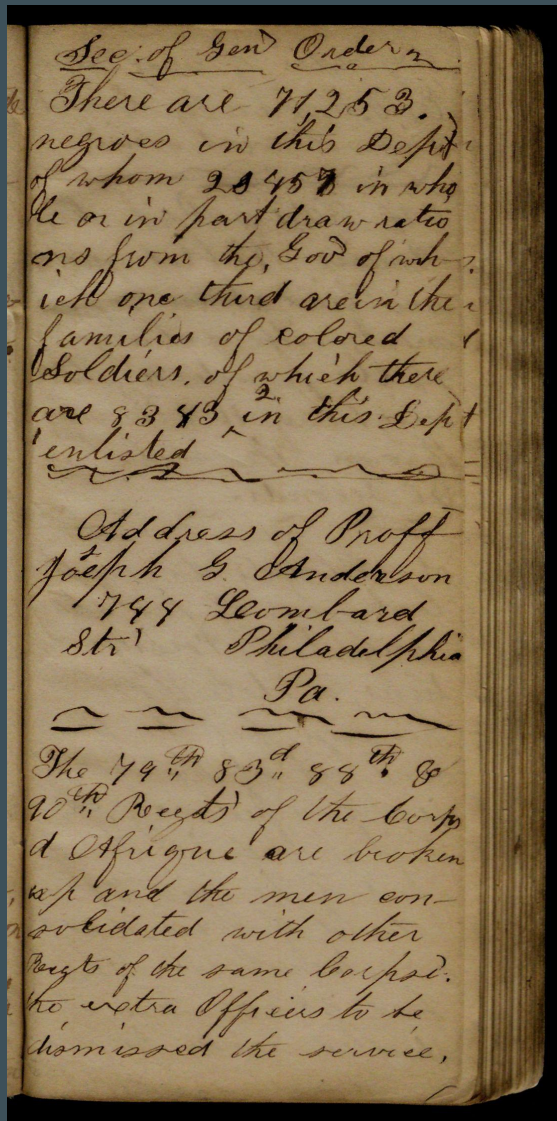
B I U   “ h1 h2 h3 h4 h5

Horizontal rule

Upcoming Programs

- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm ET (4 pm PT)
 - We will be discussing the life and work of Benjamin Banneker.
- *Book Breaks*, March 21 at 2 pm ET (11 am PT)
 - Sophie White will discuss her book *Voices of the Enslaved: Love, Labor, and Longing in French Louisiana*, winner of the 2020 Frederick Douglass Book Prize.
- Nominate a teacher for History Teacher of the Year!
 - Each year the History Teacher of the Year award honors an exceptional K–12 teacher in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and US Territories. These winners are then entered into a pool for the National History Teacher of the Year award.
- Visit gilderlehrman.org for free resources for students, teachers, families, and history enthusiasts of all ages.

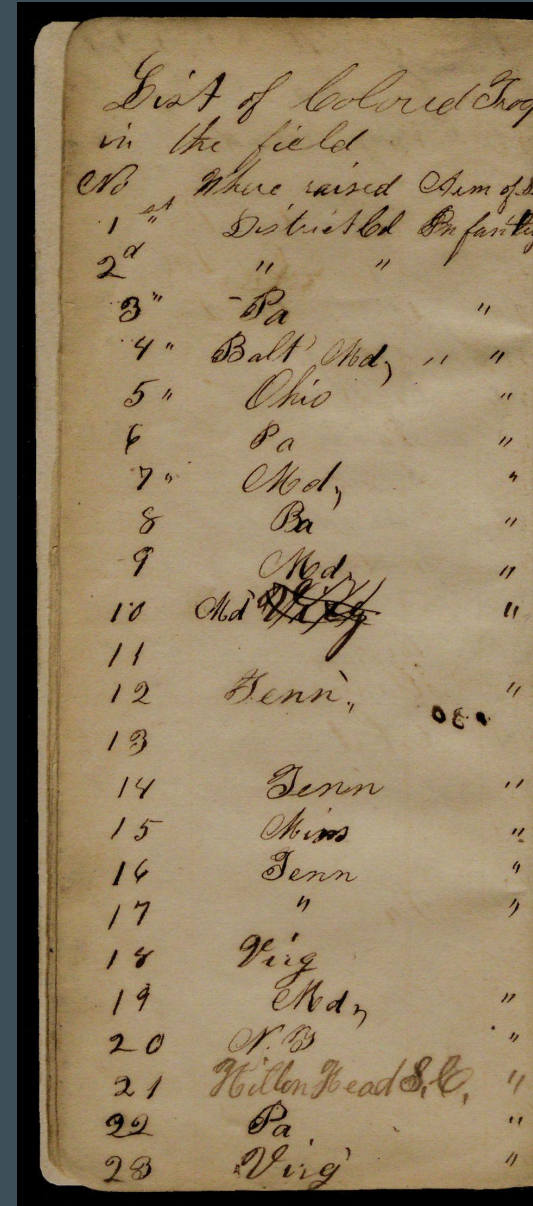
Diary Notes (end matter)



Quote from
General Orders
No. 90
August 4, 1864
Department of
Virginia and North
Carolina

Professor Joseph
Anderson,
bandleader who
trained Black
musicians in the
USCTs

Breakup of the Corps
d'Afrique



7 pages
listing USCT
regiments