



JOURNAL
[illustration]

July 30th, 1864

Captured by Mahones command after the springing of the mine in front of the G.A.C.A.P. on Griffeths farm near Petersburg Va. We encamped for the night near the city in the open field guarded by our captors.

July 31st We were marched through [torn] city of Petersburg and placed under [torn] upon a small island above the City [torn] August 1st [? Petersburg [?]] reached Danville at 12 °clock M.

August 2^d In prison at Danville

August 3^d Passed wearily enough. expect to go South in the morning

August 4th Called early and leave in the cars for Greensboro' on the G.&B.R.R.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 184, Box 1/11)
MMN #64622

Date: July 7, 1864 - Nov. 11, 1864
Description: John P. Sheahan POW journal

Pass through Greensboro, Lexington, Salisbury
Charlotte, Chesterville, Winnsboro' and arrive
in Columbia S.C. at about 5 P.M. Aug
the 5th here we were insulted by the
crowd who gathered around us, and some
more dis[?] than others they [illegible]
us as we passed thro' the streets under
guard we were lodged in Richland Prison
where we found quite a number of officers
belonging to both army and navy of the U.S.

August 6th Passed the most speedi-
ly of all my captured days. Have plenty
of books to read.

Sunday Aug 7th Passed wearily enough
all the old prisoners are removed

the [page torn]
Mon Aug 8 To day we appointed a
commissary, and an officer of the day whose
first duty is to look after the cleanliness
of our prison. Good news from Mobile
no sooner was the news from Mobile
read than the prison fairly shook

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of our prison. Good news from Mobile
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read that the prison fairly shook

with cheers and as if actuated by the
same impulse all commenced singing
"The Star Spangled Banner". Our singing called
many around our prison and so infuriated
the officer in charge that he would al-
low us no water untill far into the
night. We have our meal [torn]
Breakfast 8 A.M. Dinner at 3 P.M.
Tuesday Aug 9. The day was a glorious
one made so by the cheering news from
Mobile. This day the insolence of our
guard was almost unbearable. Col Welds
56th Mass was grossly insulted by the Corp
of the guard -
Wednesday Aug 10th - Passed as quietly
as usual. This day I became so
hungry that I had to buy something of
Capt O E Bartlett which he had bought
at the prison door from some negro
woman who had gained permission
to sell to the Yanks. for high prices.
Thursday Aug 11th Now than ever.

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hungry that I had to buy something of
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at the prison door from some negro
woman who had gained permission
to sell to the Yanks, for high prices

Thursday Aug 11th More than ever,

have I thought of home and friends in
fact I have been homesick, this afternoon
I stood at one of my prison windows
and looked down upon the little stream
of life which seemed to ebb and flow
now a gay citizen would pass, then a

now a cadet as tho coming from mar-
ket now a knot of old shrivelled and dressed
up then earnestly talking, now the cadet
with his gay uniform, went stepping past
next comes a wounded soldier and still
another with haversack canteen and rifle
in true soldier at length I grow weary
I turn away from the grated window, to
rest for it is near night yes the twelvth
night of my captivity

Friday Aug 12th Today we reorganized our
cooking department chose new cooks and
seemed to see the good effect even the
first day had a talk with a resident of
Gettysburg wrote a letter to L.M.S. given
Sat Aug 13th Prison life begins to wear

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and looked down upon the little stream
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[torn] a basket as tho coming from mar-
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upon me, our first soup.

Sun Aug 14 Again another sabbath finds me a prisoner, thoughts of home comes crowding through one's mind, the house, father mother, sisters and brothers all are before me to the cry of the guard "all out"

makes one know again I am a prisoner

Mon Aug 15 A dull day, being accused falsely of using ardent spirits I become angry, having calmed down I resolve to do better in the future we obtain new cooking tools after a long siege

Tu Aug 16 commence the study of Spanish, finish "Scotts Pirate" make new resolves

Wed Aug 17 Passed as usual, pleasant as usual, fast becoming accustomed to prison life continue my resolve can see a slight change, A Theatre near our prison listen to Macbeth great applause —

Thurs Aug 18 Passed as usual monotonous enough in the evening see a play

upon me. our first soup.

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from our prison window at 10 o'clock I
look from the grated window upon "my
guiding star" curious thoughts about the
future and the past.

Friday 19th Some letters rec'd thro' the
lines by flag of truce boat large amo

some were by both army and navy
officers

Sat Aug 20th Weariness has full possession
of me, write a letter to my father, care
of commissioner Ould Richmond ru-
mors of an exchange

Sun Aug 21st Again it is the holy sabbath
but nothing is here to distinguish it from
other days I have spent in Columbia

prisoner, hear of the shameful conditions
of our prisoners at Andersonville - they
establish a new camp at Millen with
fortifications so arranged as to turn the
guns upon the prisoners as well as upon any
raiding force which may come for their
relief write a letter to M.S.

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Monday 22^d Reported capture of Memphis
by the Rebels great rejoicing —

Tuesday 23^d Glorious news from Petersburg
Grants army permanently occupy the Weldon
Rail Road.

Wed 24th Nothing official from Memphis
Grants still on the Weldon road form
plans of escape

Thursday Aug 25th nothing from Memphis
or from Grants army, day unusually
dull.

Friday Aug 26th a dull day new propositions
for exchange of prisoners general opin-
ion that a general exchange will be
effected

Sat Aug 27th Study Spanish [torn] much
pleased with it, good news a fort
across the Weldon RR mounting 40 guns

Sun Aug 28th Another Sunday in
prison brings thoughts of home and
days gone by looking forward with
great anxiety for our release.

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Monday Aug 29th a conference concerning
Mess grande a dull day with no
tidings from home

Tues Aug 30th Bought a mattress for \$32.00
dream of "home sweet home"

Wed Aug 31st aday unusually dull no
rumors of exchange

Thursday Sep 1st Again comes Autumn
with her seared leaves four years ago
today the most eventful of all my life

Frid. Sept 2^d Fast becoming acquainted
with my fellow prisoners, a dull day, study
and read.

Sat-Sept-3^d Morning papers contain a
rumor that Atlanta has been captured by
the Yankees but refrain from giving particulars
hoping it may prove incorrect. Evening edition
confirms the capture of Atlanta. great rejoicing
among the prisoners

Sun Sep 4th Brings thoughts of home and
hours so pleasantly spent there the day
unusually quiet nothing official from Atlanta

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Mond Sep 5th As usual no money from home.
Tuesday Sep 6 Dancing school reminds me
of home also of subsequent acquaintances
So much my guide this life — Read "Female
life among the Mormons"

Wednesday Sep 7th Dark and rainy all day no
tidings from home.

Thursday 8th Study Spanish and read "Pride
of life" think much of home καίερος αστηρ
Friday 9th Capt Amory rec'd a box of clothing
from US lines, rather low spirited and
discouraged at prospect of life "Apud stellas"

Sat Sep 10th Draw new rations nothing of
note

Sun Sep 11

Henry C Roper
Co E 12th Inf

13th Va Cav B Co under

Wade Hampton
Petersburg Va

Thursday Sep 12 All quiet — no tidings from
home but anxiously expected

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all as usual —

Sat-Sept-17th Saturday again and still no news from home

Sun Sept-18th Sunday again. I am really homesick to day all quiet - no news -

Mon Sep 19th Rec'd a letter from Mrs. here from home and feel gay generally - write to Mrs. here

Tues Sep 20th A large body of troops passd thro' here to day en route for Atlanta have a long talk with a Union man in Confederate uniform he tells me of the despotism of the Southern and relates interesting incidents concerning the enforcement of the conscript act - prisoners anxious about Sherman

Wednesday Sep 21 A pleasant day. a large number of Andersonville prisoners came here to day. truly a miserable looking lot of men they report 100 to 125 dying daily both from starvation and brutality of the confederate guard - who having shot a Yankee was entitled to a furlough of 60 days prisoners assert that they have seen a guard return

Sat Sept 17th Saturday again and still no news from home

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immediatly upon shooting a defenceless prisoner
and marched to HdQrs to receive at once the
promised furlough

Sep 22^d Borrow a Latin Reader

Sep 23^d Read Latin and learn the Spanish
verb "Haber"

Sep 24th Read Latin History and Spanish
make good progress in the latter

Sun Spet 25 Brings thoughts of home
a dull day no news or rumors

Monday Sep 26 Read Latin and study
Spanish grammar

Tuesday Sept 27 Finish reading 250 lines
and review it - study Spanish

Wednesday 28th all quiet - no news from
any source -

Thursday 29th Considerable talk in
Columbia papers about Yankee pedlers.

Frid Spet 30 Lt Bell eludes the guard
and goes thro' the city - Telegraph discovered
and cut - a brother in law of Gen Grant on floor above
some of the prisoners write him a letter which he

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answers

Sat Oct 1st Study Spanish nearly all day

Sunday Oct 2^d Morning dawns and two prisoners are escaped we make "Dummies" and I am made nurse for the supposed sick man. The deception is discovered through the treachery of Capt McChesney 2^d NY Mtd Rifles

Monday Oct 3^d Commence the Study of German. Recd a letter from home dated Sept 8 a day of plans to be executed

Tuesday Oct 4 Study German learn the Alphabet Der-Mein-Ihr-welcher-welcher.

Wednesday Oct 5 Learn to conjugate Spanish Amar-Temer - study some Latin. "I sigh for a dark and a stormy night" Xelaades

Thursday Oct 6th - a dull day stirring news expected from Atlanta

Friday Oct 7th - No news a dull day study Spanish and German all day make some little progress in German

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Sun Oct 9 a cold day suffered extremely with
the cold having no fire and insufficient
clothing. the confederate flag floats firm
the Carolinian Office and a large crowd
has gathered around the Bulletin board—

Monday Oct 10 - a cold day suffer some with the
cold Study Spanish and German Lt Baird
rec'd a letter —

Tuesday Oct 11th Read a great deal and
study but little

Wednesday 12th our prison repaired and
one half our windows boarded up so
that at four o'clock it is quite dark
and unpleasant—

Thursday Oct 13th News from the Valley Sheridan
captures 8 pieces of Early's artillery good
news from "North the James"

Friday a pleasant day no news study
and read all day

Sat. Make a new table and improve
the appearance of my cell generally
Election news anxiously looked for

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Sun 16 Oct Sunday has come again and
like all others which I have spent a
prisoner bring fresh thoughts of home sweet
home This morning I had a day dream
not in mid day but at Early dawn but
it was never the less a day dream and
one precious yes. most precious I was
at home. no war had been all was
peace the family circles was yet unbroken
all was gladness. joy. The village church
bell rung and we all repaired to the
house of God to listen to the instruction
of our pastor we listen to his closing
prayer and then repair to our homes we
gather around the family board we are all
there no one is absent in and instant the
whole years have passed the scene is
changed yes changed indeed a fathers
face has grown. can worn mothers hair
is now mingled with gray a dear brother
has fallen in battle and now sleeps in
the village church yard near my town

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Two yonger brothers are in the army
at Petersburg and even before now may
have fallen - I grow dizzy with thinking
and wish to dream no more —

Mon 17 Oct a pleasant day Navy boys ordered
to Richmond for exchange study some
Spanish find it hard - study a little
German write home and send it by
Davis of the Navy.

Tues 18 Oct a pleasant day - Residents of
Columbia hold a meeting to investigate the
letter of Hon W W Boise.

Wed 19 Oct Study Spanish much interested
make some progress in German

Thursday 20 Oct Study Spanish and German

Friday 21st Oct a pleasant day nothing [torn]

Sat 22^d Oct Write home for money and clothes
commence a review of Spanish —

Sun 23^d Oct a cold day suffer with the cold
and hunger —

Mon 24 all quiet study hard all
day. make good progress —

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Tuesday 25th I cannot put my mind to study have firmly resolved to escape and try to gain our lines every thing is now ready for our departure I hope I may be successful I am resolved

Wednesday Our plan failed a private put the guard on the alert by trying to tear of a board from the prison yard resolve upon new plans fully determined not to winter in Richland

Thursday 27 Become convinced of the incincerity of my and give up the idea of escape for the present having learned that a double guard had been posted around the prison yard

Friday 28th Study Spanish and German a pleasant day

Sat 29th Oct Lt Bettengers calls for his Latin reader a pleasant day

Thursday 30th Oct a call from Lt Bettenger 76 Pa and Lt Ware of the 9th Me Inf Vols

Monday 31st a pleasant day study German Spanish

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Tuesday 1 Nov a pleasant day study all day
Wednesday 2 Nov a rather cold day no news
Thursday 3 Nov a pleasant day spend it in study
reviser Spanish R. Voks
Friday 4 Study German all day making good progress
and am much interested
Sat 5 Nov Study Spanish all day good news
from Pa Election
Sun 6th Nov. a pleasant day but rather cool
read a little in the Bible and think of home
looking anxiously for tidings from home and family
Mon 7 Nov a pleasant day feel very disconsolate
at the prospect cannot study at all think more
of home than ever before.
Tuesday 8 Nov a pleasant day vote for
President whole number of votes 74
Lincoln 67 - McClellan 7 officers of [torn]
guard remarked that we voted wrong
or rather made a wrong choice
Wednesday 9 Nov Study hard all day
Thursday 10 Nov a pleasant day witness
a negro auction near the court house
news to the effect that the 5 AC went for
McClellan also My State

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 Sat 12th " Study German all day
 Sun 13th " A quiet day read some scripture
 Mon 14th " Commence the Spanish irregular verb
 Tues 15th " Study Spanish with little German
 Wednesday 16th " Study Spanish
 Thursday 17th " Study German hear of Lincolns election
 Friday 18th " a pleasant day Study Spanish
 Sat 19th " Study Spanish and prepare for a review
 in German make good progress in Spanish Ir-Verbs
 Sun 20th " a dull day news favorable Sherman
 retreating on Augusta Ga.
 I will pass over some time here for I have
 not space to write all I wish I might —
 Dec 8, Thurs. a pleasant day commence the
 study of Spanish irregular verb
 making good progress
 Nov 9 a pleasant day study German
 and Spanish
 Nov 10 Am making good progress in Spanish
 commencing a review
 Nov 11th Dreamed a queer dream of home finest
 reading a most perfect picture of human nature

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