

Diary Page 51

Date:

Tuesday - May 10, 1864

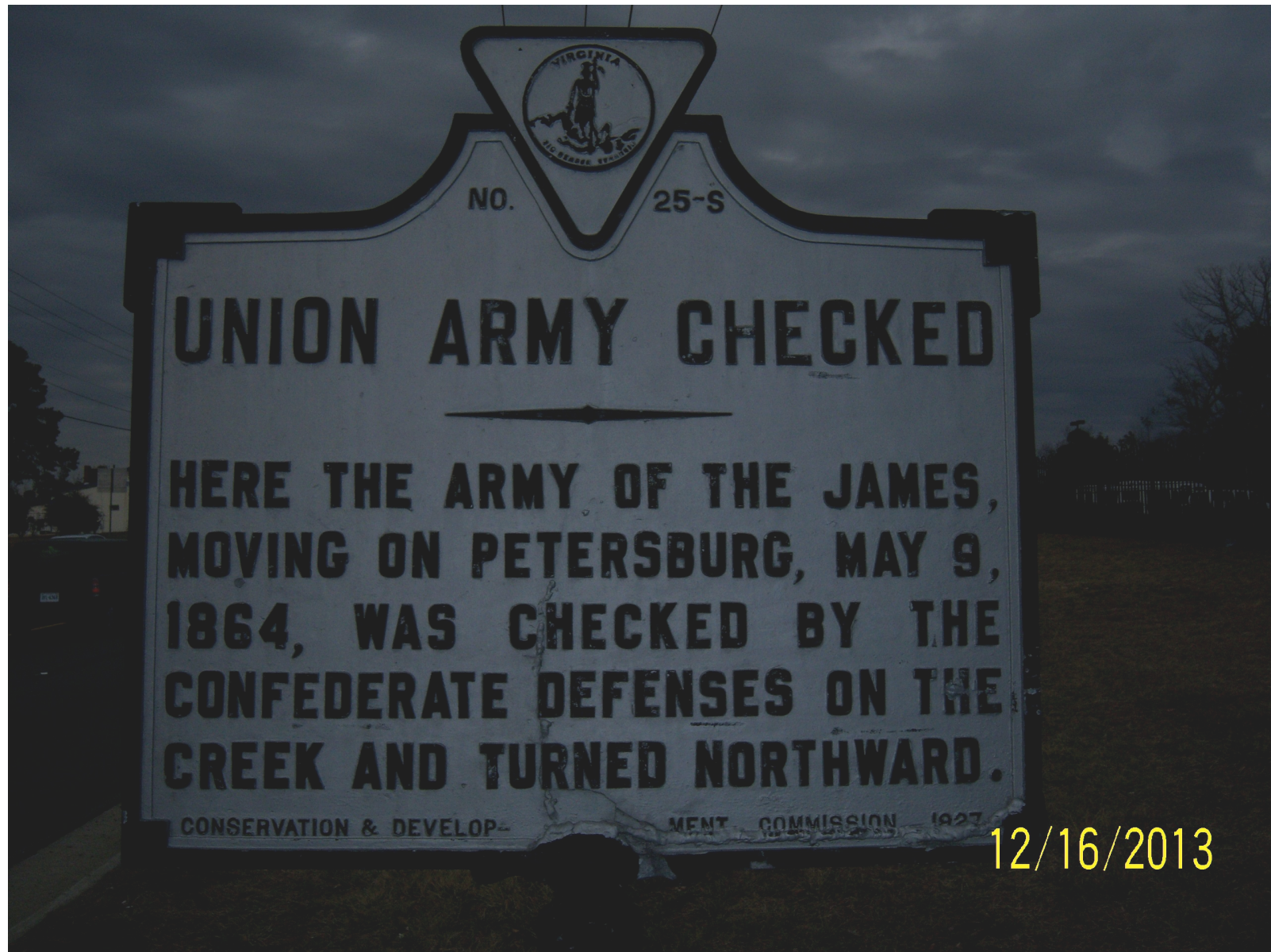
Sergeant Ryland Position:

Petersburg, Virginia

There being only one coach for our whole company I have to get on the top of the cars. Consequently I did not long stall. We reached "Little Petersburg" about one o'clock on Monday night. It was said we were to stop six miles on the other side of Petersburg, but as we were to so much needed around the city, we were carried directly through. At this late hour of the night the whole town seemed to be in a perfect stir. Handkerchiefs were waving out of almost every window Tuesday 10th Just as we got out of the xxxx of the city day broke. Cap't Preston was in command of the Rig and he stopped us several times to rest and I got to cat nap. We were coif dent xxx of going into a fight early in the morning as we saw Gen D.H.

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland train coach finally reaches Petersburg, Virginia, and his car stops six miles from the city. He notes that handkerchiefs waving from almost every window welcomed them into the city. After this encouragement, the boys got ready for a fight. Captain Preston was in command and he made sure to rest his troops along the way.

Below photograph: Defending Petersburg, Confederate forces were successful in repelling the Union Army in May 1864. (Photographer: Price)



12/16/2013

Diary Page 52

Date:

Wednesday, May 11, 1864

Sergeant Ryland Situation:

Marching near Petersburg

*Hill and he told us we were al
most sure to have an engagement
I must confess I felt a little excited
We were marched about three or
four miles from Petersburg and
were stopped in the woods when
all of us got xxxxx xxxx. We were
permitted to spend the day. In the
evening we received orders to man
the entrance life of the breast water
our third of each company was
sent in the evening and at night
after we all had retired to rest. The
balance of us were march up and
sent to this place to watch the move
ments of the Yanks. As it was though
we all got very good nights rests.
and today the 11th. I am on Picket
sitting under. This harsh writing*

Annotation: General D. H. Hill has informed the boys that they should be ready for a fight on May 11, 1864, in Petersburg (just south of Richmond – the Confederate Capital). So the Company marched about four miles outside the city and halted in the woods.

= = =

On May 5, 1864, Union Major General Butler's troops arrived in the Richmond/ Petersburg area. The next day, Butler ordered his men to cut telegraph lines, severing a major communications technology for Confederate forces.

Union forces also disrupted portions of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, the line carrying Confederate soldiers, supplies, and foodstuffs to Richmond. The Union troops destroyed infrastructure through May 11.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources highlights this situation with Marker S-20, “Union Army Railroad Raids,” and Marker S-25, “Union Army Checked.” These markers are placed in Chesterfield County between Richmond and Petersburg.

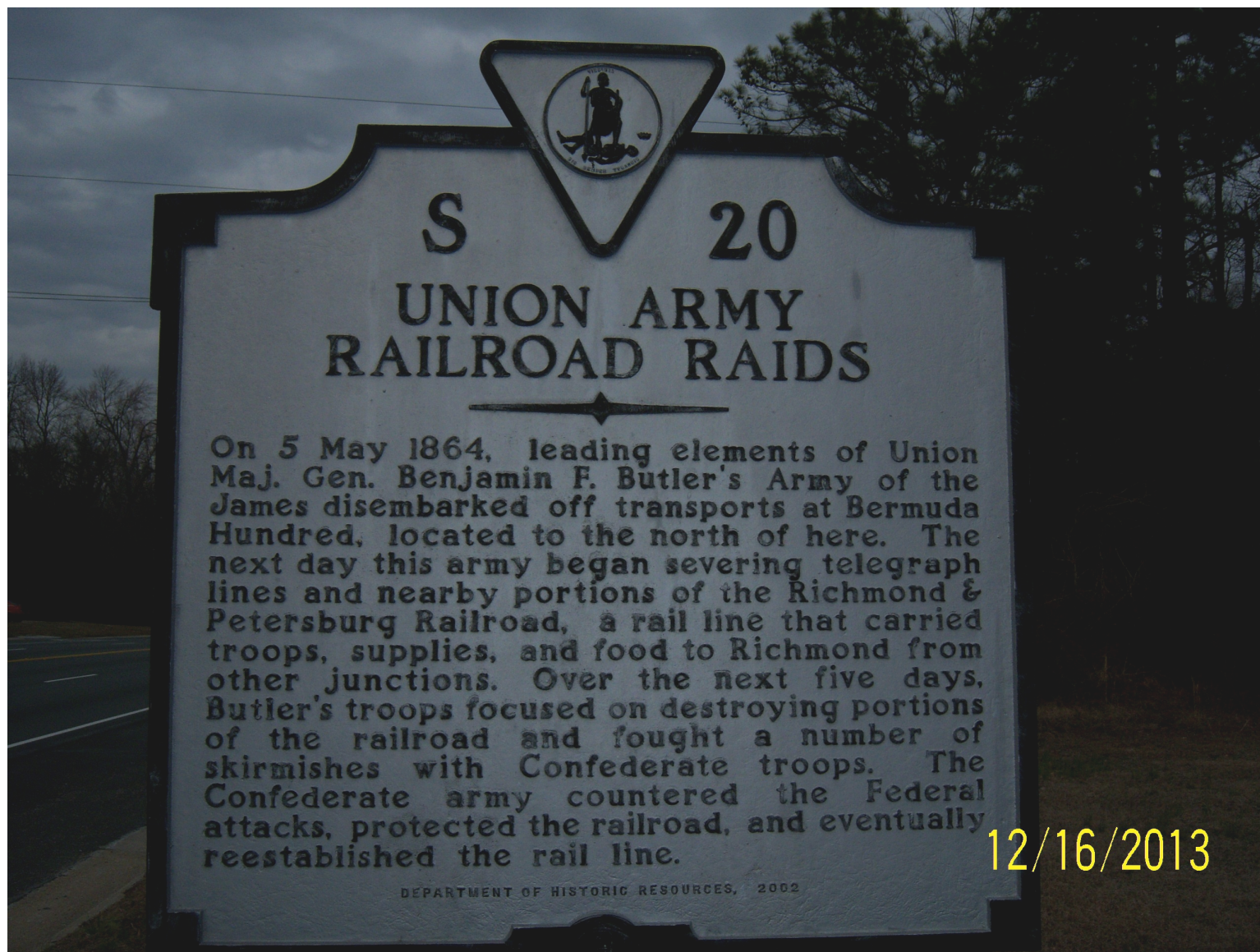
These state historical highway markers note that, from May 5 – 11, 1864, Union forces sabotaged Confederate telegraph lines and railway infrastructure just north of Petersburg.

Confederate troops – including Sergeant Ryland and his Company – successfully countered the Federal attacks, protected the railroad, and reestablished the rail lines.^{1 2}

Photograph below: Union army troops attacked this site between Richmond and Petersburg on May 5, 1864. Their mission was to disrupt critical supply lines and railroad infrastructure. Sergeant Ryland’s Company K was deployed to defend these assets. (Photographer: Price)

¹ “Union Army Railroad Raids,” Marker S-20, A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers, Third Edition, Marker S-20, “Union Army Railroad Raids,” p. 109

² “Union Army Checked,” Marker S-25, A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers Third Edition, p. 109



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, 2002

12/16/2013

Diary Page 53

Date:

Wednesday – May 11, 1864

Sergeant Ryland Situation:

Fighting near Petersburg

*into my diary. We have seen the morning papers and good news comes from every quarter. Gen. Price has contained the whole army opposed to him under Gen. Steele. **Banks has been transferred again and Gen Lee (God help him) has again come out victorious. The Yankees are retreating from before Petersburg and the hand of our Heavenly Father seems to be touching for us.** Gen. Beauregard has arrived and taken command of these forces. There seems to be about eighteen thousand men now. May God still continue to bless us, and if it is his will, may he bring this war to a close during the present year.*

Annotation: Good news from the morning papers! General Price has contained the opposing army under Union General Steele. And General Lee has come out victorious. The Yankees are retreating from Petersburg and the Hand of our Heavenly Father seems to be touching us.

General Beauregard has arrived and taken command of about eighteen thousand troops. Sergeant Ryland prays for God to bless the mission and help end the war by year's end.

= = =

Confederate General Sterling Price, born nearby in Farmville, was helping command troops in familiar territory.

Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard was born in Louisiana and was a prominent general for the Confederacy. He commanded seven brigades in Petersburg, including General Wise's Brigade. ³

General Beauregard's greatest achievement may have been saving the city of Petersburg, Virginia, and thus also the Confederate capital of Richmond, from assaults by overwhelmingly superior Union Army forces at this very point in June 1864.

Just south of Richmond, General Beauregard "bottled up" Union forces between the James and Appomattox Rivers in 1864. In just a few months, however, Union forces were able to cross the James and attack Richmond defenses in September 1864. ⁴

³ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 50

⁴ "The Bottle," Marker S-18, A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 109.

Diary Page 54

Date:

Thursday – May 12, 1864

Sergeant Ryland Situation:

Marching through Petersburg

We were not long permitted to remain on picket, but soon after getting fixed we received marching orders. So we fixed up not knowing where we were going to. Afterwards we learned we were going to Durhams Farm. Reached there about night when it commenced to rain pretty hard and continued all night. Thursday 12th – The day commenced with rain. About twelve o'clock Col Goode received orders to double quick us to Petersburg as the Yankees were reported to be advancing on the Norfolk and Petersburg R.R. We marched about halfway to town and were ordered back to the same place. Scarcely had we gotten back when we were ordered to the Jerusalem Plank Road and reached there about eight. Were taken for Yanks by 46th Va and came very close to being first into but providentially They found

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland received marching orders just after his Company's victory. They proceeded to Durhams Farm where it commenced to rain hard. About Noon on May 12, Colonel Goode received orders to double quick march the men to stop Yankees approaching on the Norfolk and Petersburg Rail Road.

The 46th Virginia almost fired on the boys thinking they were Yankees, but by the grace of God they identified them properly. Colonel Goode was a lead field officer with the 34th Infantry.

= = =

On May 11, Union Major General Butler was entrenched just north of Petersburg. Confederate troops under General Hoke formed a flank facing south.

On May 12 Confederate General Smith led troops through the Federal line to present-day Route 1, then north toward Richmond. At Redwater Creek, a Confederate surge blocked union forces. ⁵

The Civil War served as a founding stone for infrastructure that today many of us take for granted, including electric communications, railroads, and shipping ports.

Telegraph lines offered a new dimension in strategy to military planners. Now, leaders would not have to rely entirely on quick messengers to deliver critical details. And military forces would have new targets. ⁶

Railroad lines provided critical transport to carry troops and supplies for both the Confederate and Union forces. Confederate and Union forces went back and forth - repeatedly capturing available railroads for their own use and sabotaging others more firmly in enemy hands.

Here, he notes Union forces marching to the Norfolk and Petersburg Rail Road (N&PRR). The N&PRR was completed in the 1850s. During the Civil War, Confederate troops largely used these lines to transport goods to and from the port city of Norfolk.

Today, the N&PRR lines and infrastructure are part of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. The city of Norfolk, Virginia, today serves as one of the nation's largest and most significant shipping ports.

⁵ "Redwater Creek Engagement," Marker S-36, A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 110

⁶ The Untold Civil War, by Robertson, p. 198

Diary Page 55

Date:

Friday - May 13, 1864

Sergeant Ryland Situation:

Marching through Petersburg

out who we were. We fixed ourselves very Comfortably and were then ordered back To Dennis when we arrived sleepy and Tired about one o'clock. We slept fairly Well although it was raining all the time. Friday 13th. Rain again this morning. We xx Until evening were then ordered to a Bridge this side of town. I don't think I ever had a more disagreeable march in my life. This makes the 2nd time we have marched thro. Petersburg. We arrived at our destination just before night and were quartered in a large mill. The first night for some time xx all night and the next morning the Sun was Clear and beautiful (May 14th). We remained in the mill all day xx and I went to town with Cap't Bagby and had a splendid dinner. While we were there they went

Annotation: Confusion reigns! Sergeant Ryland describes one of his most miserable marches through the pouring rain in Petersburg. This was the second time his Company was ordered through the city. They were stationed in a mill that night.

Diary Page 56

Date:

May 1864

Sergeant Ryland Situation:

Marching south of Richmond

Xx the Reg. was under marching orders. We got there in time to go with them xx through town to Pocahontas Bridge and then received orders to go back to the same place. For the fourth time we were marched through town. After getting back through xx xx xx of us had to come to this place xx.

*Jonesboro 23 conversions
Bro Roberts and myself.
Laurel Hill Augusta*

*Co sixty conversions
Bro Roberts and myself*

Annotation: In the confusion of the day, Sergeant Ryland describes how his Company has received orders to travel through Petersburg four times in miserable conditions, marching across the Pocahontas Bridge. He also notes many Christian conversions (presumably fellow soldiers).

The last five lines on this page are written in pencil.

= = =

In June 1864, General became ill, and Colonel Goode assumed command of the Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Harrison and Major John R. Bagby led the 34th. ⁷

This military activity was part of the Battle of Drewry's Bluff. This site, located eight miles south of Richmond at a major bend along the twisting James River, stands across from Chaffin's Bluff. These two locations constituted a major defensive fortification for Confederate forces. In May - June 1864, the 34th Virginia Infantry participated in battles here defending Petersburg and Richmond. ^{8 9}

Today, the site of the current Pocahontas Bridge currently provides automobile access across the Appomattox River from Petersburg to Richmond.

⁷ 34th Virginia Infantry, Scott, p. 57

⁸ "Battle of Drewry's Bluff," Marker S-8, A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 107

⁹ "Second Battle of Drewry's Bluff," Marker S-9, A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 108

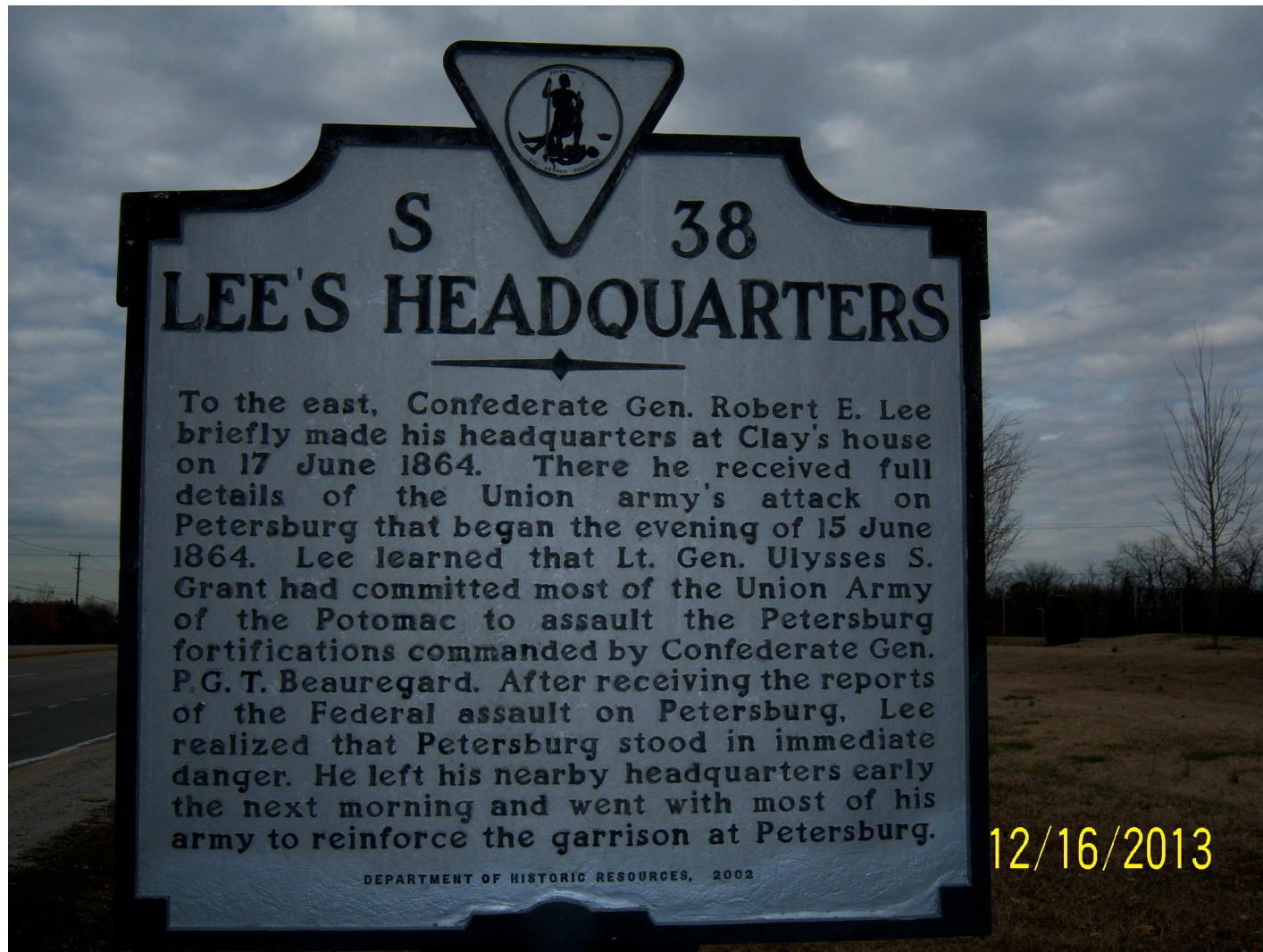
The General Robert E. Lee monument, and ones memorializing several other Confederate leaders, stand on Monument Avenue in Richmond. Unveiled in 1890, the Lee monument depicts the General seated on his favorite horse, Traveller. ¹⁰

As commander of the Confederate Army, Lee steadfastly encouraged all Southerners - including his men - to pray to the Lord. He also felt that many actions of Southerners were suspect and not worthy of their blessings. Lee felt that support from God would be essential to secure Southern victory. ¹¹

¹⁰ Richmond on the James, by Louis Manarin (Arcadia Publishing, 2001), p. 40

¹¹ Discussions re. General R. E. Lee with Reverend R. David Cox, Lexington, Virginia

Photograph below: This Marker stands between Richmond and Petersburg. General Lee established his headquarters here in June 1864, during fierce local Union attacks. (Photographer: Price)



(CONFEDERATE.)

R | 34 | Va.

John St Ryland
2 Sgt, Co K, 34 Reg't Virginia Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for July & Aug, 1864.
dated Aug 31, 1864

Enlisted:

When Feb 7, 1862

Where

By whom Capt J R Bagby

Period

Last paid:

By whom Capt Fellers

To what time Apr 30, 1864

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 4th Regiment Virginia Heavy Artillery was organized by S. O. No. 112, A. & I. O. O., dated May 15, 1862, to serve either as artillery or infantry and it was assigned to duty as infantry by S. O. No. 118, A. & I. O. O., dated May 23, 1862. Prior to the formation of this regiment some of the companies were mustered as of a proposed 4th Regiment of Artillery, U. S. A., which never completed its organization. Captain Norton's Company was attached to this regiment from May 15, 1862, to June 21, 1862, when it became Company D, 1st Battalion Virginia Heavy Artillery. The regiment was designated the 34th Regiment Virginia Infantry by S. O. No. 26, A. & I. O. O., dated March 8, 1864.

Book mark:

J. M. Williams
(922) Capt.

(CONFEDERATE.)

R | 34 | Va.

John St Ryland
2 Sgt, Co K, 34 Reg't Virginia Inf.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Sept & Oct, 1864.
dated Oct 31, 1864

Enlisted:

When Feb 7, 1862

Where

By whom Capt J R Bagby

Period

Last paid:

By whom Capt Houston

To what time June 30, 1864

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 4th Regiment Virginia Heavy Artillery was organized by S. O. No. 112, A. & I. O. O., dated May 15, 1862, to serve either as artillery or infantry and it was assigned to duty as infantry by S. O. No. 118, A. & I. O. O., dated May 23, 1862. Prior to the formation of this regiment some of the companies were mustered as of a proposed 4th Regiment of Artillery, U. S. A., which never completed its organization. Captain Norton's Company was attached to this regiment from May 15, 1862, to June 21, 1862, when it became Company D, 1st Battalion Virginia Heavy Artillery. The regiment was designated the 34th Regiment Virginia Infantry by S. O. No. 26, A. & I. O. O., dated March 8, 1864.

Book mark:

J. M. Williams
(922) Capt.

Images above: The following Confederate records, part of his CSR, note Ryland's appearance with his Regiment on July, August, September, and October 1864.

Page 57

Date: 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation: Uncertain

Dates of death of members of Co. "K" 34th Virginia Infantry 1864 and 65:

John A. Cropfield	died May 21, '64
N. Berkeley	" May 30, "
Z. L. Walton	" June 7 th "
T. L. Segar	" June 17 th "
J.B. Kemp	" July 6 th "
Corp. W. J. Casey	" " 25 th "
E. Bagby	" " 30 th "
J.W. Parks	" " 31 st "
W.M. Spencer	" Aug. 2 nd "
J. Harris	" " 13 th "
J.M. Cooke	" " 14 th "
W.R. Smith	" " 20 th "
W.W. Gleason	" Sept 8 th "
J. T. Powers	" Sept 11 th "
Corp. H. T. Lumpkins	" " 11 th "

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland notes casualties from Company K of the 34th Virginia Infantry realized during 1864 and 1865.

= = =

While page numbers 1 – 90 are intact, Sergeant Ryland did not pen entries to this diary from June 1864 – March 1865. To continue the flow through this latter stage of the Civil War, the writer has included several historic references noting the activities of the 34th Virginia Infantry, under the command of General Wise and Colonel Goode covering this period.

The 34th Virginia Infantry were part of General Robert E. Lee's Third Army Corps. ¹²

The Siege of Petersburg

Petersburg was a major supply line for the Confederacy. Multiple railroad lines running east-to-west and south-to-north transported foodstuffs, supplies, and troops through this point.

In mid-June 1864, Union troops attacked Confederate forces in Petersburg. Union commanders believed that, should Petersburg fall, the capital of Richmond, located twenty-five miles to the north, could not survive.

Sergeant John W. Ryland and the 34th Virginia Infantry took part in the Siege of Petersburg. With General Beauregard as the lead officer, General Wise commanded his Brigade, while Colonel Goode and Major J. R. Bagby field commanded the 34th.

¹² From Petersburg to Appomattox, April 2 – 9, 1865, by Christopher Calkins (Farmville Herald Press), pp. 6 – 7

For the 34th, defending Petersburg meant fighting from the trenches. And this was no easy task. Conditions in the ditches were horrible. Summer heat, mud, little food, and poor water accompanied the soldiers day-by-day. ¹³

The Battle of the Crater was part of this siege, taking place in June/July 1864. Here, federal troops dug a 550 feet mineshaft into a hillside beneath Confederate lines and emplaced barrels of gunpowder. On July 30, the Union Army detonated this collection, killing a large number of combatants and creating immediate chaos.

Gathering their wits, soldiers with Company K manned guns on the South rim of the Crater. ¹⁴

The battle would transform into a standstill. The 34th Infantry largely remained in the trenches, defending the Confederate position through the start of October. The Union's General Grant moved aggressively on these Confederates on October 27, but the siege would continue.

Lieutenant Josiah Ryland was captured by Union troops during this attack. ¹⁵

For the 34th, 1864 came to a close in the trenches of Petersburg. General Wise had resumed command of his Brigade and Colonel Goode resumed command of the 34th. ¹⁶

When the New Year of 1865 rang in, the outcome of the War Between the States was looking inevitable. Desertions among the Confederate troops began to rise.

From January through March 1865, the 34th - consisting of 367 men and 30 officers – remained in the Petersburg trenches. ¹⁷

¹³ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 59

¹⁴ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 63

¹⁵ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 66

¹⁶ 34th Virginia Infantry, Scott, p. 68

¹⁷ 34th Virginia Infantry, Scott, p. 70

Entailing 70,000 casualties, the Siege of Petersburg was the War's most drawn out military event. The protracted Siege of Petersburg would last from June 1864 until March 1865.¹⁸

The earthen crater that resulted from the Petersburg blast (170 feet X 80 feet X 30 feet in size) exists to this day at the national battlefield park.^{19 20 21}

Sergeant Ryland and the 34th Virginia Infantry Regiment followed the same basic trail as did General Robert E. Lee in the last days of the War.

¹⁸ "Siege of Petersburg, " Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities/Library of Virginia, <http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/>

¹⁹ "The Siege of Petersburg," National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/>

²⁰ "Battle of the Crater," Civil War Trust, <http://www.civilwar.org/>

²¹ Petersburg National Battlefield, National Park Service, Petersburg, Virginia

Photograph below: Marching westward, remaining Confederate troops - led by Generals Longstreet and Gordon - crossed over the Appomattox River en route to the Amelia Court House and Danville on April 3, 1865. (General Hill, commanding troops including the 34th Virginia Infantry, died on April 2, 1865. Longstreet assumed command over his soldiers). (Photographer: Price)





Photograph above: The above sign stands outside the Amelia Court House, southwest of Richmond. On April 4, 1865, General Lee rendezvoused here with his remaining troops – including the 34th Virginia Infantry Regiment – in hopes of receiving rations brought in on railcars. Failing to receive these essential supplies, General Lee marched westward to Sailor's Creek and Appomattox. (Photographer: Price)

Diary Page 58

Date:

1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation:

Uncertain

<i>C. Didlake</i>	<i>died</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>22nd, '64</i>
<i>Lt. B.H. Walker</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>18th, "</i>
<i>M.K. Easley</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>15th "</i>
<i>E. Turner</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>13th '65</i>
<i>G.T. Carr</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>17th "</i>
<i>J.G. Howel</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>in Northern Prison</i>	
<i>R.L. Didlake</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>29 '65</i>
<i>J.S. Davis</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>S. V. Jones</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>"</i>
<i>S.S. Nunn</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Prisoner</i>	

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland notes casualties from Company K, 34th Virginia Infantry realized during 1864 and 1865.

= =

The Confederacy's Final Surge: The Appomattox Campaign

Historians consider that the American Civil War ended with the Appomattox Campaign – a series of battles in central Virginia from March 29 – April 9, 1865. ²²

According to Confederate Major General Bushrod R. Johnson, his command included Wise's Brigade and the 34th Virginia Infantry during the last days of the war in central Virginia (March 29 – April 9, 1865).

²² "Encyclopedia Virginia," Virginia Foundation for the Humanities/Library of Virginia, <http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/>

On March 29, near Hatcher's Run in Petersburg, Wise's brigade came under fire at Boydton Plank Road, a critical supply line for the Confederates along the South Side Rail Road. The 34th Virginia Infantry, led by Colonel John T. Goode, defended this point. ²³

On March 31, Wise's Brigade continued defending the Boydton Road and helped repulse three enemy charges.

Strategically moving westward away from Petersburg on April 1, Wise's Brigade boarded South Side Rail Road cars at 6:30 pm and traveled seven hours to Ford's Road and Namozine Road. The next morning, these troops learned that Union forces had broken other defenses in Petersburg. Wise's Brigade was attacked on April 2. ²⁴

On April 1, General Wise ordered his men to march to the South Side Rail Road. Couriers reported that other Petersburg defenses had fallen. ²⁵

April 2 was an eventful day for the Confederate States of America. Union forces broke through local defenses and rushed into Richmond. Chaos erupted across the Confederate Capital City. To prevent Union confiscation, Confederate officials ordered the burning of warehouses filled with tobacco and other commodities. Richmond was soon ablaze.

That day, Confederate leaders ordered the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg. Troops would march westward through Amelia County toward Appomattox County. ²⁶

²³ General Bushrod Johnson's report to Division Headquarters (April 10, 1865) - The Siege of Petersburg, www.beyondthecrater.com

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ 34th Virginia infantry, Scott, p. 72

²⁶ "Cottage Farm," Marker S-43, A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 151

During this march, General Robert E. Lee orders the destruction of bridges after his troops have crossed. ²⁷

General Lee withdraws his remaining forces in three columns, moving westward to Amelia Court House (located along the Richmond and Danville Railroad line). Here, General Lee fails to find needed rations for his troops.

General Lee then plans to direct his men westward toward Farmville, Virginia, on the South Side Railroad, hoping again to find rations. He would have to cross over the Amelia Court House and Sailor's Creek along the way.

Sergeant Ryland and the 34th Virginia Infantry, commanded by General Wise, hold the rear guard for Lee's army.

On April 3, Union forces occupy Richmond. ²⁸

From April 3 – 5, Wise's Brigade, marching to the rear of other Confederate forces, reached Amelia Court House. Hoping to find rations on railcars here, General Lee instead finds more munitions only. He ordered his men to burn these supplies near the court house. ²⁹

Continuing on, the Confederates passed this landmark and marched all night to Sailor's Creek in western Amelia County. Here, on April 6, Union forces attacked. The 34th Virginia Infantry and the whole of General Lee's Army, suffered extreme losses in battle.

General Lee loses about 7,700 men - one quarter of his remaining army - in battle at Sailor's Creek. These men are killed, seriously wounded, or taken prisoner. ³⁰

²⁷ From Petersburg to Appomattox, by Christopher Calkins (Farmville Herald Printing, 2003), p. 19

²⁸ Ibid, p. 16

²⁹ Ibid, p. 14

³⁰ Ibid, p. 31

On the morning of April 7, Wise's Brigade – including Sergeant John W. Ryland -continued on, marching westward toward Farmville, Virginia. On the afternoon of April 8, they reached Appomattox Court House.

On April 9, 1865, General Lee commanded his men for the last time. He surrendered to the Union's General Grant on this day – Palm Sunday - at Appomattox Court House.

During the Appomattox Campaign, at least three local Baptist churches in Appomattox suffered the ravages of war. These places of worship included the New Hope Baptist Church, Liberty Church, and the Red Oak Baptist Church.

³¹

Image below: The Union Army awarded J. W. Ryland - a Prisoner of War - a Parole at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865. Ryland would carry this pass during his travels back home (from Appomattox, past Richmond, back to King and Queen County).

³¹ Ibid, pp. 37 – 38

R

(Confederate.)

34

Va.

F. M. Ryland

Det, Co. A, 34 Virginia Regiment.

Appears on a

List

of Prisoners of War, belonging to the Army of Northern Virginia, who have been this day surrendered by General Robert E. Lee, C. S. A., commanding said Army, to Lieut. Genl. U. S. Grant, commanding Armies of the United States.

Paroled
Done at Appomattox Court House, Virginia,
April 9, 1865.

List dated Hd. Qrs. Johnson's Div., April 10, 1865.

Remarks:

Number of roll

323

(652)

B. J. Bidwell

Captain

Authorities note that, for the first three years of the Civil War, the 34th Virginia Infantry did not experience a great deal of military action (albeit poor living conditions and the monotony of drawn-out military service). But in the last year, service in the 34th became quite active.

Diary Page 59

Date:

Wednesday - April 12, 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation:

Ryland begins walking back home as a defeated soldier

*Started from Appo ax C.H.
Wednesday Ap. 12th and walked
to an old mill where we
stopped for the night. Next
day travelled all day and
the creek was up crested.
Got an excellent supper
and stayed in the woods
with the 46th. Next day we
changed our course and
camped at Elk Island
Ferry. Mr. Flannagan
gave us a good dinner
and Mrs. Anderson at the
ferry gave us xxx gave us some fruit
Xxxx After camping
ferry on time to stay all
night at Col. Randolph*

Annotation: Following General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, Ryland plans to go home. Walking eastward, his trek will take him from Appomattox, past Richmond, and on to King and Queen County.

This page is written in pencil.

= = =

Sergeant Ryland stopped writing his journal in May 1864, when the Siege of Petersburg began. (After many months of bewilderment of why this is the case, the writer can only assume that – while Ryland did have the paper and the opportunity to write during this period – he must not have had access to a pen or pencil. Now, three days after the Confederate General Robert E. Lee announced surrender, he resumes writing. Ryland may have obtained a pencil from an officer who no longer needed it.)

General Lee, commander of the Confederate forces, closes the War Between the States when he surrenders to Union General Grant at Appomattox Court House on Palm Sunday - April 9, 1865. ^{32 33}

Along with fellow Confederate soldiers, Sergeant Ryland was given a paper document at Appomattox Court House stating that he received an official Prisoner of War Parole. ³⁴

Chaplain Patrick G. Robert also received a Parole. ³⁵

Using printing machines, Union authorities made personal Parole document copies non-stop at Appomattox from April 8 - 13. Confederate soldiers needed these documents, serving as passes, to avoid arrest or other harassment from Union authorities while they traveled from battle back home. ³⁶

³² “Appomattox Court House,” Marker K-158, A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 246

³³ “Battle of Appomattox Station - 1865,” Marker K-159, A Guidebook to Virginia’s Historical Markers, Third Edition, p. 246

³⁴ Copy of Union document stating “J. W. Ryland, Prisoner of War, has been granted a Parole at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865,” Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia

³⁵ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 133

³⁶ From Petersburg to Appomattox, by Calkins, p. 37

For the 34th, and General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, the war was over on April 10. ³⁷

Afterward, Sergeant Ryland and fellow soldiers walk from the courthouse toward Richmond. Days later, they camp at Elk Island - a 1,300-acre tract splitting the James River in western Goochland County. General Wise also received a prisoner of war parole at Appomattox. He died on September 12, 1876. ³⁸

At the end of the war, Wise's Brigade included the 34th, 26th, 46th, and 59th Virginia Infantry Regiments. ³⁹

Concerning his future, John Ryland now faces soul-searching decisions.

³⁷ 34th Virginia Infantry, by Scott, p. 73

³⁸ "Henry Alexander Wise," National Governors Association www.nga.org

³⁹ "Confederate Forces Under Lee – Wise's Brigade, April 10, 1865," The Siege of Petersburg, www.beyondthecrater.com

Diary Page 60

Date:

Saturday – April 15, 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation:

Walking toward Richmond

*Harrison's but they were
full and could not take us
xx xx xx to Col.
Julian Harrisons and
then took us in putting us
in a school house giv
ing us a very good supper
and breakfast. Josiah and
almost broken down on
started again but did
not go far. We are now
stopping at Mr. Souther
lands and she is so kind
and good to us. We hope
and pray God may re
ward him for his kind
help. The crowd is made
up of the following xx
men: B. Carlton- E xx*

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland notes how he and his fellows begin walking from Appomattox back home to King and Queen County as defeated soldiers.

Colonel Randolph Harrison was a lead field officer with the 34th Infantry. In defeat, he supports his fellow soldiers as best he can. Sergeant Ryland is much appreciative of such kind gestures.

This page is written in pencil.

= = =

At the surrender at Appomattox Court House, it was reported that on April 9, 1865, Union General Grant said, “[Each] officer and man will be allowed to return to his home, not to be disturbed by the United States authorities. . . .”⁴⁰

During his time as a soldier, John Ryland generally maintained a very neat diary. His script was well written, his sentences well formed, and his lettering was even lovely. (Because many schools emphasized handwriting in the 1800s, this was not an unusual trait.)

After the surrender at Appomattox, though, his diary becomes a scratching pad of sentence fragments and random notes.

Authorities note that the 34th Virginia Infantry Regiment engaged in six especially notable battles in 1864 and 1865:

- 1) Drewry’s Bluff – May 16, 1864
- 2) Bermuda Hundred – May 17 and June 14, 1864
- 3) Petersburg Siege – June 1864 through April 1865
- 4) The Crater (part of the Petersburg Siege) – July 30, 1864
- 5) Sailor’s Creek – April 6, 1865
- 6) Appomattox – April 9, 1865⁴¹

⁴⁰ The Civil War, by Bruce Catton (American Heritage, New York, 1960)

⁴¹ Compendium of the Confederate Armies – Virginia, Stewart Sifakis (Heritage Books, 1992), p. 223

Diary Page 61

Date:

Sunday - April 16, 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation:

Walking toward Richmond

*Bowie. Goodkin John Deer
H.G. Pendleton Jim
Kinpo R.A. Ly. Broad
ders and myself. Sunday
morning Ap. 16th Left Mrs. South
worth's and came over to Mr. Halls
where we expect to get breakfast and
then move on to Hanover Junction
as fast as we can. All the people a
xx him seem to be good and kind
Travelled all day Sunday, which
was a beautiful day. Got xx
at Mr. Brooks at Factory mills
in Goochland County. The old
fellow did not seem to be very
glad to see us, but gave us
some bread and xx. After
dinner we started again to
walk to Mr. Edward Morris'*

Annotation: During his walk toward Richmond, Sergeant Ryland and fellow Confederates encounter both local support and dismissal. His travels take him through Goochland County toward Hanover Junction, located about twenty-five miles north of Richmond. This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 62

Date:

April 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Walking back home to King an Queen
County

*of Hanover. Got there about dark
and were put in an office to
sleep. Waiting for breakfast
next morning we were detained
about three hours. After break
fast we started and walked like
all the world to Negro Fort.
Here we stopped to have some
bread baked and I came over
to Mr. Brown's to carry Aunt
Louisa a letter if they had
Xxx to send, intending at the
Time to stay a very short time,
But Mr. John Brown finally
offered to carry me to Charlie's
tomorrow if I would stay
all night with him which
I of course consented to do
being very anxious to see*

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland continues his journey just north of Richmond through Hanover County. He takes the opportunity to look in on friends and family, including Charlie (a.k.a., Charles H. Ryland), along the way.

Diary Page 63

Date:

Monday - April 17, 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation

*Charlie on xxxx. Monday
April 17th, 1864. I dislike very
much the idea of having the other
boys but I am really so tired
and am forced to stop. Went by to
see Mr. Brown's family and they
persuaded me to stay all night.
Tuesday morning Mr. John Po
carried me to see Charlie who
unfortunately was not at home. Af
ter tarrying for a few moments &
chatting with the old folks Mr.
Brown put me in a near way to
go to Aunt Iris, and after wan-
dering about a great deal I got in
the night coach. Walking quite
rapidly I reached there a little
after sundown and stopped for
the night. The next morning*

Walking back home to King and Queen
County

Annotation: Feeling very tired, Sergeant Ryland continues his trek past Richmond.

This page is written in pencil.

= = =

On this page, John W. Ryland repeatedly refers to his cousin, the Reverend Charles Hill Ryland. C. H. Ryland was also a native of King and Queen County and was ordained at the Bruington Baptist Church. He served as a Hospital Steward and as an evangelist for the Confederate Army.⁴²

Diary Page 64

Date:

April 1865

Sergeant Ryland's Situation:

Traveling back home to King and Queen County

I went as far as Beulah on one of his horses, left it there and started afoot for Dunkirk Got across in time to reach Mrs Fleet's by dinnertime. After dinner took out again and calling by Uncle John's for a short while, reached home just before night xxxx & xxx xxx to remain until my country shall call for me again. Since my arrival at home I have been engaged in various occupations, but mostly doing nothing, but riding about to see my friends and relations. It is almost time for me to stop this and go regularly to work.

⁴² Faces on the Wall, by Hackley, p. 85

Annotation: Sergeant Ryland has decided to return to his home in King and Queen County. After all, the Confederate States of America has surrendered to the United States of America, and there is nothing tying him to the CSA Army any longer.

In his personal journal, he notes that he will remain at home until his country calls for him again. After all, it is about time for him to find regular work.

This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 65

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Back home, recovering from the toils of war

*Kiping. A gentleman wrote
Men come to kiss among themselves
And scarce would kiss a brother.
But women want to kiss so bad
they kiss and up each other
Where upon, a lady xxxxed
This reply
Men do not kiss among themselves
And its well that they refrain
The bitter dose would vex them so
They would never kiss again*

*As sometimes on favor woman's life
Is applied this nauseous lotion
We have to keep among ourselves
As a counteracting potion.*

Annotation: No longer a soldier with the Confederate States of America, John Ryland now recovers from the toils of war back home in King and Queen County.

This page of his diary is poetic. It marks a striking change from recording the hard services of a soldier.

Just a thought, the first word on this page is, "Kiping," and this is a mystery (but a small mystery). As Rudyard Kipling was born in 1865, Ryland could not be referring to this English poet before penning these words. This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 66

Date: 1865

John Ryland's Situation: Back home, recovering from war

Paper of loins for Peggy

Coffee pot for xxxx

Turnings for a bonnet

20 lbs Brown sugar 14 lbs xxx

10 " White Sugar

\$7.17 44 lbs bacon sold

8 lbs butter sold

½ dozen chickens xxxxxx

2 ducks \$1.00

Mr Geo. W. Stratton

Mapeys Mills

Tye River

Mxx Lucy Stratton (xx me)

Mt xxxxx 4 conversions

Bro James Roberts &

Myself

Annotation: John Ryland makes random notes in his diary.

This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 67

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Back home, recovering from war

2 Turkeys

4 ducks > \$3.50

Rooster Aunt C

3 ducks \$2.00

Rooster

2 doz. eggs Sis Lucy

Lamb Sold

2 bus meal Sold

Mrs Fleet

16 doz eggs

11 lbs butter Sold

200 lbs flour Sold

2 ½ lbs butter Sold

St. Stephen 12 conversions

Bro Robert Settle myself

Annotation: John Ryland records lists of items in his diary.

This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 68

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Considering his future back home

*Acts 24th Chap 26th verse
Go thy way for this time &
Language of Felix xxxxx
to Paul. Felix the Roman
Governor sent for Paul
to preach to him Jesus
for idle curiosity. Bold
xx of Paul in telling him
of his sinfulness. He was
convinced by the argument
used by Paul. Could not
withstand them. Go thy way xx
The language of Roman gov.
is the language of every day
Life. Consider conduct of Ro-
man Gov. & then see if we
are not sinning by fol. his
xxxxx. Why did he put it off
Roman xxx. When did he*

Annotation: John Ryland records biblical verses in his journal.

This page is written in pencil.

Diary Page 69

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Considering his future back home

1 sack fine Dautt
x x x x x x x x x x
x x x x x x x x x x
2 toothbrushes
Needles
Sugar
2 bags concentrated lye
Scribbles and list of goods

Annotation: John Ryland writes assorted notes in his journal.

Diary Page 70

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Considering his future back home

Bag of sugar
XX Ryland 14.12

Xxx butter 7.50
Cash and 2.70
Xxx x xx 2.95
Xxxx
xxxxxx

Annotation: John Ryland writes assorted notes in his journal. This page includes goods crossed out and illegible wording.

Diary Page 71

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Considering his future back home

Xxxx
Xxxx
Xxxx

10.23.18

J. W. R.

Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Annotation: This page includes items listed and illegible wording.

Diary Page 72

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Considering his future back home

*Say ye. A direct command
from Jehovah himself to
the xxxxxxxx writes to put
xxx the fact, not only to
those who lived at his
time but to the righteous
of all ages and times. Pro-
claim far and wide
through all the world
to people of all tongues
languages & people. We
must then look at the un-
righteous & see what is meant
by it in the paper under
consideration Two men
went up into the temple
to pray. One a Phoenician &
the other a xxxxxxxxxx*

Annotation: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 73

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Contemplating his prayers

*Not every one that saith
unto me Lord Lord shall
enter into the kingdom of
heaven but he that doeth
the will of my Father in
heaven. Many are called
but few are chosen. Say ye
to the righteous it shall be
well with him for he shall
eat of the fruit of his doings.
It shall be well with him.
It is in accordance with
human nature for us to
get along as well in the world
as we can. Why does the
xxxxxxx xx and his treasure
& spend sleepy nights for
fear some one will snatch
his treasure while he sleeps*

Note: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 74

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Contemplating his thoughts

*How eagerly does he dress, his
well filled boys to count his
nights & see if it all be safe.
Why does the father toil so
eagerly if it be not to provide
for the future wants of his
dear ones. Why does the man
chant for or in his ledger
& day book from morn til
night. Why does the morning
expose himself to wind
and weather but for the same
object in order that it may
be well with them in things
pertaining to this world and day
to come & as we have said
before this is in accordance
with human nature.*

Note: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 75

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Contemplating his thoughts

Not one object to discover. The subject in this light – Righteousness. Mankind divided into two great claps Righteous & wicked Plan of salvation What are the fruits of the damages of the righteous. No man hath life houses or lands or wife or children but the same shall receive ten fold more in this life xxx & in the world to come life everlasting. The tenacity with which man kind cling to life. Is it not then a considerable xxxx ment when we know the righteous shall receive life everlasting. Wo unto the wicked. The word itself sounds solemn. Promises of God contain. Gods

Note: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 76

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Contemplating his thoughts

*Goodness in permitting the
righteous and wicked to be
together in the world & share
alike his mercies and bless
ings. Send the rain on the just
and unjust. Axxxxxx all alike
But this is duly for the pres
cient. The child of God whose
afflicted has a xxxxx of grati
to which he can go & big of
patience to endure it, he has
the promises of the word of
God upon which he can not.
In this he differs from the
man of the world.*

Note: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 77

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Making notes

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXX

Material for xxxxxxxx

For Miss Watkins

2 pr shoes for Robert \$3.02

Shoes for Mrs Wilmore

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Veil for Alice

Colonel corset 23 or xx

French xxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx

Due Jan \$1.19

N.G. Mantiply

C. Tyree

Went to school

With Father

Note: This page includes random writings, cross-outs, and scribbles. The lettering on the last four lines is quite large.

Diary Page 78

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Looking for a wife

Coun Attorney J.M Jeffries
Sheriff C. W. Porter
Comm Revenue E. Lipscomb
Magistrate J.W. Ryland

As xxxxx xxxx Can you

Point to a time when xxxx

Will be a con xxxxx First

Time Felix had xxx hxxxx

The Gospel xxxxxx. Day of

Penitence. Exxxxx

Miss Matte Camden (fat girl)

" Fanne McComb (sweet girl)

" Capri Plunket (good girl)

" Lucy Stratton (suit me)

" Maggie Plunket (fine girl)

" Sallie Mason (fast girl)

" Sallie Mitchell (suit me)

Note: J. W. Ryland seems to be looking for a wife.

Diary Page 79

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his prayers

*Mr Guiver & Mary Landers
got the horse left by Heighe
1st Peter 1st Chap 4th Verse
Addxxxx mostly to Jews
who had perhaps been turned
out of this inheritance to
which they were born. Had
xxxxx affection to the Lord
of Canaan as a land of
inheritance settled on
them by God to comfort
them under this affliction
They are reminded of
our inheritance reserved
in heaven for them and
such an inheritance was
this that the land of
Canaan was but a mere
shadow in comparison to
it. Here was xxxxxxxxxxxx
the inheritance of all. The*

Note: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 80

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his prayers

*Bettie Shelton
(Sweet little girl)
Miss Mary Lewis Pale
North Bank
Jamesville Depot
Bx & Ohio R.R.
chicken of Girl – Leeans
heaven holy inspiration it
self has said, "if we are
children then xxx xxxxxx
of God & joint heirs of Jesus
Christ. The gifts of God are
Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
upon all men but lie
gives this inheritance to
those who are his sons
and daughters by xxxx
motion & adoption.
There are 4 excellencies
of this inheritance.
Let us see:*

Annotation: Red stains mark this page, marring readability. These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 81

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his prayers

Henry B. Ray > 5.00
Nancy J. Lorn

1. *It is incompatible*
 2. *It is undefined by misery sin or*
 3. *It never fades away*
 4. *Is reserved in heaven*
- for us. Consider each of
these*

*It is incorruptible like
Its maker. He is ever
lasting. Our home from
above which is eternal
in the heavens.
It is undefined like
The great high priest
Now in possession of it
Sin and misery the two
great defilements which
now x soil this world
and mar its hourly
xxxx xx xxxxxx xxxx*

Annotation: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 82

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Protesting the loss of the Confederacy
and lamenting the rule of the federal
government

*I do solemnly swear
(or affirm) in the presence
of Almighty God that I
will henceforth faithfully
support, protect, and de
fend the Constitution of
the United States.*

*It xxxx not any but
always retains its hourly
Xxxxxx ever entertaining
& xx sing the saints who
prop up it without the least
xxxxxxxxxxx in distaste
It is reserved in heaven
for you. It is a glorious
inheritance because all
that is in heaven is glo-
rious It is contained xx
version safely kept till*

Annotation: Ryland has crossed out the above section with an X (thereby making a strong personal political statement. Of course, the Confederate States of America only recently surrendered to the United States of America.)

= = =

Ill will between the North and the South did not uniformly end on April 9, 1865. Many southerners continued to harbor hostility for the U.S.A.

Andrew Johnson became the 17th President of the United States, following in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln. On May 29, 1865, President Johnson issued a proclamation of amnesty and pardon for citizens of the Confederate states. This pardon applied to persons who had been involved with the rebellion, either directly or by implication, and those who continued to express hostility to the U.S. Government.

To receive this pardon, participating individuals were required to sign the following oath:

I, -----, do solemnly swear (or affirm), in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God. ⁴³

While General Robert E. Lee did not encourage continued aggression, John W. Ryland harbored resentment.

This proclamation did not apply to members of Congress who assisted the pretended Confederate government of officers above the rank of colonel.

General Lee would wait until late 1865 to sign his loyalty oath to the United States. ⁴⁴

⁴³ "President Johnson: Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon for the Confederate States," www.britannica.com

⁴⁴ The Untold Civil War, by Robertson, p. 338

Union authorities also expected strict loyalty from influential community representatives like religious leaders. Pastors from several Baptist churches in Virginia were arrested or had their property destroyed for failing to take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government.⁴⁵

Diary Page 83

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his prayers

*we come to the possession
of it. It is also for you, for
us. For every one that is
begotten again to a lively
hope. This inheritance
is preserved for them &
none but them. All the
rest will be shut out &
that forever
How we ought to strive to
Gain this inheritance &
Labor but some of us
should fall by the way.
Temptation to which
we are exposed in this
world. The world the
flesh & the Devil*

Annotation: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

⁴⁵ "Deconstruction and Rebuilding: 1861 – 1869," Chapter 16, The Baptists of Virginia by Garnett Ryland, Chapter 16, pp. 297-299

Diary Page 84

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his prayers

Behold the Lamb of God.

1st Chap. of John

*Seek ye the Lord while he may
be found*

*Brethren my hearts xxxx &
prayer to God for Israel is that
they might be saved.*

My xx give me thy heart.

Consider your ways Haggai 1st Chap

*And they all began to make
excuses*

Go thy way for this time

What shall it [scribbles]

Except ye repent & C Luke XIII

This is a faithful saying & C.

Lans. III 40th

Annotation: These writings have apparently become assorted thoughts and prayers.

Diary Page 85

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his notes and looking for a wife

Wednesday & W night
Uncle Roberts Tuesday night
Thursday
Mrs Pattons Dinner
Thursday
Mr W. Leake all night
Friday
Rev J.H. Fox all night
Bro. R. C. Hamner " Sat preached sermon
" Nicholas " Sun preached sermon
" J. W. Roberts " Mon
Mrs Christians " Tues Pretty girls
Bro V. T. Settle's " Wednesday
" Boltons Mr Wright Thursday preached
Friday
" V. T. Settle's Mrs Settle
Saturday
Mrs Penn Bro Richardson
Sunday
Bro Brockman Dr Gibson
Monday
" xxx W. Broaddus
Mrs Penn's Tuesday night pretty girls
Bro Mantiply Wednesday
Bro Quarles Thursday pretty girls
Mrs Kents Friday night

Annotation: J. W. Ryland seems to be looking for a wife.

(The handwriting on this page is larger than usual. He may have rewritten the pencil lettering on this page using darker ink.)

Diary Page 86

Date:

Friday - September 29, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Looking for a wife

Bro Broaddus Sat ngt
" Settle's Sunday night
" Mays' Monday night
" Dillard's Wednesday "
" " Thursday "
" Jones' Friday "preached
Mr Loving's Saturday "preached
Bro Sheltons Sunday "preached
Sister Hite's Monday " Pretty girls
Bro Bolton Dinner Tuesday Pretty girls
Mr. Plunkett's Tuesday night Pretty girls
" Giles' Wednesday "Preached
" Pattersons Thursday " Preached angrily
Friday night Sept 29th travelled
Till 11½ oclock & then staid
At Bro J.W. Roberts

Annotation: Illegible scribbles at bottom of page

J. W. Ryland seems to be looking for a wife.

(The handwriting on this page is larger than usual. He may have rewritten the pencil lettering on this page using darker ink.)

Diary Page 87

Date:

Saturday - October 7, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Looking for a wife

Wrote to Mollie Oct 13th

Mr Shelton Wright

Nelson Co

Lowesville P.O. Va

Nelson Co

Sat night Do. & staid at Bro

Borden's. Got there about 11½ oclock

Bro C F Frys Sunday night

Mr. Deffenbaughs Monday "

Col. Carr Tuesday

Mr. Coffman's (dinner) Wednesday

Bro Bushing's Wednesday night

Mrs Langford's (dinner) Thursday

Mrs Harris' Thursday night

to see poor Captain Matte xxx x xx

Friday Oct 6 Went to Staunton

Mr Berry's Friday night

Dined Sat Sept 7th at Mr.

*Samuel Garber's. To
day Bro. Borden gave
me a pair of pants.*

Annotation: John W. Ryland incorrectly matches dates and months on this page (but the time period seems to be October 1865).

He traveled to Staunton, Virginia, and saw Mr. Samuel Garber.

(The handwriting on this page is more pronounced than usual. He may have rewritten the pencil lettering on this page using darker ink.)

Diary Page 88

Date:

Monday - October 9, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records

Baptizing at Laurel Hill

Monday Oct 9th 1865 xxxxxx

And had them xxx by

A tailor for me

Bro Borden's Sat night

Sunday Oct 8th Three services today

but don't expect to preach atall

Bro. C. F. Fry's Sunday night

Mr. Deffenbaugh's Monday xxx

Meeting closed Monday

" " " night

Dined at Mr. Thos H. Drumhollow's

Tuesday October 10th 1865

Mr. Grayson's Tuesday night

Mr. Diggs Wednesday dinner
Bro J.H. Fox Wednesday night
" " " all day Thursday
" " " Thursday night
" " " all day Friday
" " " Friday night
Sat: Oct 14th Rainy day &
Quite cold.

Annotation: John Ryland documents his daily activities.

This page, and the rest of the diary pages, are written in pencil.

Diary Page 89

Date:

Wednesday - October 18, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records

Wrote home Oct 14th
Bro J. H. Fox's Sat night
" " " Fox's Sun night
" " " Monday
" " " " night

Took boat to Howardsville
Tuesday Oct 17th 1865 – ¼ past
one & have not left yet. Left
at 1 ½ o'clock, reached
Howardsville by 5 & Got
To Bro Roberts by 8.

Bro J. W. Roberts Tues night
“ “ “ Wednes “
Wednesday 18th October rain
again
Bro J. W. Roberts Thurs ngt
Bro Jake Jones Friday “
Bro Shelton's Sat ngt xxx

Annotation: Howardsville, Virginia, is a town on the James River and the railroad line in Nelson County. Howardsville is located 25 miles south of Charlottesville.

Diary Page 90

Date:

Sunday - October 29, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records

Baptizing at Jonesborough
Sunday Oct. 22nd 1865 xxxxxx
Sister Hitro + Sunday night
At Lovingstone Monday Oct
23rd 65 dined at Bro Daniel's
Bro J W Roberts Monday night
“ “ “ Tuesday “
At a Yankee meeting Wednesday
Bro J W Roberts “ night
Started to Richmond Thursday morn Oct. 26
Got to Richmond a little after
5 o'clock and came directly to
Bro Turpins, where I am at this

time ¼ to 6 Pm Oct 26th 1865

Bro W H. Turpins Friday night

“ “ “ “ Sat “

“ “ “ “ Sun “

Preached at 2nd Bap Ch.

Sunday morning Oct 29th

Annotation: Federal reconstruction of the southern states involved many community meetings, here called a “Yankee meeting,” to build good will.

Even though the C.S.A. surrendered to the U.S.A. six months ago, J.W. Ryland still bitterly refers to “the Yankees.”

Diary Pages 91 – 94 Missing (i.e., two sheets of paper)

Diary Page 95

Date:

November 1865

John Ryland’s Situation:

Reviewing personal records

it atall after I went.

Tomorrow I have to take

my leave of Nelson. I go

by Sharon to preach for

Bro Fox Sat & Sunday on

my way home. I decided

to have very much indeed

Bro Nicholas Friday night

Bro Hamxx Saturday “

And to dinner Sunday. Ex

pect to go to Bro Fox’s Tues

evening. Last night had a

*present from my Lucy
xx xxxxx of a
xxxx xx x xxx
xxx xx very much
xxxx by Mr. Very accep
table*

Annotation: John Ryland reviews his personal records and makes sure to note that Lucy gave him a present last night.

Diary Page 96

Date:

Wednesday - November 29, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records

*Preached at xxx yes-
terday (Nov 25th) & expect to
preach again today (Nov. 26).
Bro Fox's Sunday night
Expect to start for Richmd
early in the morning. May
a kind Providence con
duct me safely to my
journeys end =
Goochland C.H. Monday ngt
Got to Richmond about ½
past 3 o'clock.
Uncle Roberts Tuesday night
Snow Nov. 29th 1865 caught*

*me in Richmond. Much
to my sorrow, as I am
compelled to go home*

Annotation: John Ryland expects to preach again on Sunday.

Diary Page 97

Date:

Saturday - December 30, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records at the end
of 1865

*FIND OUT ABOUT THAT
LETTER*

*Sometime this week
Certain and soon
Met with Sue B. here
Yesterday. Pony's back
Is quite for this morn
ing, but a good deal bet
ter than it was yester
day =*

*Bro Turpins Wed night
" " Thurs "*

*Mr Burruss Friday "
Left Sat morning soon
after breakfast. got to
Uncle Johns for dinner
and came home that
evening – So end my
travels for the fall of*

Annotation: John Ryland reviews his activities over the past few days, reminding himself that he is now ending his travels for the year.

Diary Page 98

Date:

Saturday – December 30, 1865

Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing personal records at the end of 1865, probably in Goshen, Virginia

*1865 Expect to start
again about the first
of January 1866
Dined at Uncle Sams Thurs
day Dec 21st 1865
Dined at Fleetwood Friday
Dec. 22nd 1865
Rain Sunday Dec 24th
At home Christmas 1865
Went on a hunt with
George and Co. Dec. 26th 1865
At home Dec 27th “
Rainy day
“ “ Dec 30th 1865
At home Lucy here
with me. Went to Far
mington last night. Had*

Annotation: John Ryland reviews his personal records at the close of 1865. This includes making note that he is with Lucy here at home. (Farmington is an unincorporated area near Charlottesville, Virginia, located 65 miles from Goshen.)

Diary Page 99

Date:

Monday – January 1, 1866

John Ryland's Situation:

Reflecting in Goshen, Virginia

*a delightful time. Got
Home last night about
eleven o'clock.
Jim Holland xxx
Xxx him too. Wish
so much she had sent
my trades by Jim. The
old year just about
to take its departure –
Gen. C Nunn. Little Ply
Thos R Gresham Stevens
Temple H. Kemp Barrington
Rain Jany 1st 1866
Staid at Goshen Dec 31st
1865*

Annotation: John Ryland notes that he has stayed at Goshen, Virginia, for the New Year.

Diary Page 100

BLANK

Diary Page 101

Date:

January 1866

John Ryland's Situation:

Reflecting in Goshen, Virginia

TEXT DELETED

*I don't see how I can
Come w/o him. Cousins
Mary and Gloria are coming
To our house tomorrow
and will stay all night and
the next morning I am
going to Sangora to prayer
meeting and that evening
I will start on my
Way*

Annotation: John Ryland marks the New Year.

Diary Page 102

Date:

January 1866

John Ryland's Situation:

Reflecting in Goshen, Virginia

*How will you write and
Go with me too? I can't
go with today. Wish I could
am really disappointed.
but I am xxxxxx now and
must stay at home.*

Annotation: John Ryland makes random notes.

This appears to be the diary's last available chronological entry.

Pages 103 -104 Missing (i.e., one sheet of paper)

Diary Page 105

Date:

Tuesday - October 17, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reviewing his daily events

*Xx xx xx xxxxxxxxxxxx
xx. I am so anxious to
hear from my xxx
xxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxxxx
Oct 17th 1865 Sitting on a
trunk waiting for the xx*

*xx. After one o'clock and
it has not gotten here yet
Scottsville/ I am getting
Out of all patience with it
Oh if I had my horse
Xx xx I could leave
these diggings!! I don't
think I ever will be
caught in this fix again
Have to go all day with
out anything to eat*

Annotation: John Ryland reflects on his need for a horse. (This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 106

Date:

Friday – September 1, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Recounting weekend activities

*Got dinner at Mr. Patton's
Staid all night at Mr. Luck
Friday Sept 1st travelled all
day without dinner for myself
or horse and xx xx
J. H. Fox's about xx xx
To go on to Nelson. The
next day but Bro Fox will
not hear of my going with
out xx for him
Sunday so I xx Sat
evening and that night staid*

*with Bro Harrison who
was so Kind to xx xx
Tonight/Sunday I am at
Bro Nicholas' who is
ally so Have not had
A chance to invite him
Xx xx xx*

Annotation: John Ryland recounts his activities over the course of the weekend. (This entry was made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 107

Date:

Thursday – May 11, 1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in his diary

*The 11th day of May 1865 a
bet has been made by
Lizzie Fleet and Johnnie
Ryland that the latter
will be married two
years from this day.
If it comes to pass
a silk dress is to be
given to Fleet. Nice
that for J. Ryland.
J. W. Ryland
Lizzie Fleet
Witness
Leroy E. Fleet*

Martha J. Fleet

*Gold chain to be paid
to L. Fleet for mailing it.*

Annotation: John Ryland notes a bet that Lizzie (Lucy) Fleet and John Ryland will be married two years from now.

It appears that J. W. Ryland purposefully noted this agreement at the back of his diary. Therefore, it was not written in a chronological sequence.

= = =

According to family records, Lucy Fleet Bagby – from Goshen, Rockbridge County Virginia - had married John Roane, but he was killed in battle during the war.

John William Ryland then married Lucy Fleet Bagby Roane after the Civil War. The couple lived for a while in Goshen where John Ryland served as preacher at the Goshen Baptist Church.

Diary Page 108

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

Reflecting on power of prayer and
looking for a wife

*Mr. Sam Henry
Since it is so important
That we should pray & no
one dismiss for one mo-
ment the utility of prayer
it becomes us to consider*

*how we ought to pray.
We axxx is first
In humility = Telling
a dark sense of our own.
Worthinp to approach
into the presence of the
mighty ruler of the uni-
verse.*

2nd In faith

xx Miller Penn (Pretty girl)

(sing well) Letice Pamplin

“ Betty Penn (Pretty girl)

Annotation: By his writings, John Ryland seems to be looking for a wife. (This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 109

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in his diary

*Mr. J.W. Broadus
Humility. As men who
have violated the command
ments of God & so deserving
his eternal displeasure ban
ishment from his pres
ence to a place where pun
ishment in some degree
adequate to our crimes
may be inflicted upon*

*us, and my Lxxxx
must it not be a terrible
place indeed.*

Mis Sallie Mitchell

“ Annie Quarles (Good)

“ Mollie Quarles (sweet)

“ Jennie Quarles (nice)

“ Alice Pamplin (fine looking)

Annotation: John Ryland seems to be looking for a wife. (This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 110

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in his diary

*Cap't A. F. Bagby wounded and left behind
wounded before we left*

Sgt. John Bagby “ “ “

“ J. W. Ryland

“ J. L. Cosby

“ G. W. Dicelater

Corp. R. J. Cooke

“ A. V. Daniel wounded and at home

“ J. W. Walker captured

“ W. Temple “ “ “

Priv C. B. Ashley “ “ “

“ R. Bagby

“ J.D. Booker captured

“ *W.R. Booker*
 “ *J.D. Brushwood captured*
 “ *B. Carlton*
 “ *M Cashion*
 “ *R B Chaplin captured*
 “ *R. L. Coleman* “
 “ *G. W. Cooke* “

Annotation: Sergeant John Ryland recounts soldier casualties, noting himself.

(This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 111

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in his diary

Priv T. Chutney at home I expect

“ *T.J. Crinch*
 “ *J.S. Davis wounded & captured since dead*
 “ *J.M. Deshazo captured*
 “ *J. H. Didlake*
 “ *R.S. Didlake wounded & captured since dead*
 “ *J. Drudge at home*
 “ *J.H. Eubank wounded & captured*
 “ *J. L. Fogg*
 “ *R. H. Gleason at home*
 “ *J. A. Grisham at home*
 “ *R. H. Grisham* “ “
 “ *C. Harper captured*

*“ S. V. Jones wounded & captured since dead
“ T. C. Hillary detached
“ J. Kemp
“ J. T. Lampkin at home
“ R. A. Lynn
“ B. W. McLellan wounded & captured*

Annotation: Sergeant John Ryland recounts soldier casualties. (This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 112

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in
his diary

*With this ring I thee
Wed. My good and
Priv (words scribbled)*

*“ J. B. Nunn “
“ C. R. Nunn at home
“ S. S. Nunn “ dead
“ G. A. Patterson
“ H. C. Pendleton
“ G. Phillips lost left arm captured
“ C. W. Porter*

Annotation: Sergeant John Ryland recounts soldier casualties. (This entry is made out of chronological sequence.)

Diary Page 113

Date:

1865

John Ryland's Situation:

John Ryland makes notes in
his diary

Xxxxxx xxxx xx
Xxx In the name of the
Xxxxxx xxx xxxx
" S Janny
" J H Janny
" W H Vaughn
" J. T Walker wounded & captured
" J W Walker captured
" J M xxxxx
" J T Wright

Whole piece of bleach cloth
Hoops
Fine Blk Silk
2 corsetts
1 pr shoes xxx
1 xxxx xxxx
Touching comb xxx
1 xxx xxx

Bonnet xxx xxx
Blue flowers

Annotation: John Ryland recounts soldier casualties and makes notes.

Page 113 is the last written page in the diary.

AFTERTHOUGHT

About 620,000 lives were lost over the course of the American Civil War.

Few observers could say that persons tied with the Confederate States of America, or Baptist churches in southern states, emerged victorious following April 1865. Southern states, their citizens, and their leaders endured federal reconstruction activities, carpet bagging, property theft, and a range of other indelicacies associated with a defeated nation.

Virginia suffered grievous wounds of war - extending far beyond military targets - that stretched across the state. Even religious institutions were directly impacted. Many churches and spiritual meeting houses were occupied, ransacked, or destroyed; ministers were imprisoned or detained. Church congregations dwindled.

In the wake of this turmoil, John William Ryland continued to lead a brave, values-based life. As he had been a loyal soldier during the military conflict, he became a loyal spiritual soldier afterwards. In fact, his faithful service as a pastor was an example of what the Baptist Church needed in those post-war years.

On July 24, 1866, he and Lucy Fleet Bagby Roane married. (Lucy had been married to Ryland's friend, John Roane, but, according to family records, he was killed at Seven Pines Battlefield in 1862 – the same battle in which John W. Ryland was wounded. Lucy took the name, Lucy Fleet Ryland.)

Maintaining his own personal commitments, John Ryland continued to serve as a minister of the Gospel. In 1867, Pastor John Ryland began ministering at Goshen Bridge Baptist Church in Rockbridge County, Virginia. As written

in the Goshen Bridge Church Book, (following the assembly “Articles of Faith” and “Constitution”) the brethren welcomed their new reverend into their fold. ⁴⁶

In Goshen, Lucy Ryland gave birth to Walter Hugh Ryland in 1870.

John W. Ryland wrote a report to the State Mission Board in 1872 in which he revealed the challenges of his work: “There is not a week in which I am not called upon to go to destitute neighborhoods to preach. The people seem to be hungry for the bread of life.”

That year, he was called back east to minister at Hermitage Baptist Church in Middlesex County – close to the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay. The Hermitage Church Book notes:

“At a special meeting of the church, held December 22, 1872, Rev. John W. Ryland and Lucy, his wife, presented a letter of dismissal from the Goshen Bridge Baptist Church of Rockbridge County, Va., and requested admission into this church, which was on motion unanimously approved to.” ⁴⁷

He also preached and at Olivet Church in King and Queen County and at Zoar Baptist Church in Middlesex. ⁴⁸

He served as Reverend at Olivet and Hermitage up until his death on March 26, 1905, at age 68. ^{49 50}

⁴⁶ Church Book, Goshen Bridge Baptist Church (hand-written entries, 1829 – 1895), Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

⁴⁷ Church Book of the Hermitage Baptist Church – Middlesex County, Va. (hand-written entries, 1863 – 1908), Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia, p. 69

⁴⁸ Church Book of Zoar Baptist Church, Middlesex County, Virginia (hand-written entries, 1808 – 1909), Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

⁴⁹ Records held with the Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Fred Anderson – Executive Director, Richmond, Virginia

⁵⁰ Virginia Baptist Ministers, by Taylor, pp. 125-126

He had wished to die as pastor of his flock - and so it was. Upon his passing, friends said of him: "He was quiet, pure, unselfish, work and true to God and. His aim was God's glory and the salvation of souls."

He had no vaulting ambitions. John W. Ryland's tastes were simple and his lifetime goal was to lead his flock under divine guidance.⁵¹

Cousin Josiah's Diary

At this diary's beginning, the diarist notes that Cousin Josiah presented him with this blank pocket book as an 1864 New Year's gift. Cousin Josiah, of course, also kept his own diary as a CSA soldier.

Josiah notes that he began his CSA service alongside John William at Chaffin's Bluff - that strategic location on the James River between Richmond and Petersburg. The two soldiers were later separated - Josiah remained near Richmond while John William travelled to South Carolina with Wise's Brigade.

As he notes in his own diary, the Union Army captured Josiah on the Baxter Road in front of Petersburg October 27, 1864. Josiah is sent to Fort Delaware (in the state of Delaware) where he remains a prisoner until the surrender at Appomattox.

In his diary Josiah writes, "April 9 - Today the Army of Northern Va surrendered to Genl U.S. Grant after the evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg on the 3rd."

Source: "Diaries of Josiah and Thomas Ryland," copy at University of Virginia's Small Special Collections Library (microfilm reel #1222)

- -

⁵¹ Ibid

FINAL RESTING PLACE



Above photograph: Pastor John William Ryland (born: October 19, 1836 – died: March 26, 1905: “Our Father, Simply a Sinner Saved by Grace”) and his wife, Lucy Fleet Ryland (born: October 7, 1838 – died: February 4, 1921: “Wife of Rev. John W. Ryland”) are both buried at the Hermitage Baptist Church Cemetery in Church View, Middlesex County, Virginia. (Photographer: Price)

DIARY INDEX (referencing diary page numbers)

Biblical references:

- Parable of the Prodigal Son, p. 21
- Book of Acts, Chapter XXI, p. 27
- Book of Colossians, Chapter I, p. 35
- Parable of the Prodigal Son, p. 42
- Book of John, Chapter I, p.84
- Book of Haggai, Chapter I, p. 84
- Book of Luke, Chapter VIII, p. 84
- Book of Lamentations, Chapter III, Verse 40, p. 84

Generals:

- CSA Wise, Henry Alexander p. 3
- CSA Smith, Edmund Kirby, p.34
- CSA Hill, Daniel Harvey, p. 52
- CSA Price, Sterling, p. 53
- USA Steele, Frederick, p. 53
- CSA Lee, Robert Edward, p. 53
- CSA Beauregard, Pierre Gustave Toutant, p. 53

Military Strategies

- Prayer (CSA), pp. 31, 38
- Siege (USA), pp. 33, 55

Other Officers

- Captain Bagby, pp. 3, 6, 18, 24, 31, 55
- Captain A. F. Bagby, p. 110
- Major Bagby, John R. – Field Officer of 34th Virginia Infantry, pp. 7, 24, 27, 31, 35

Troop locations

- Appomattox, Virginia, p. 59
- Bruington, Virginia, p. 11
- Chaffin's Bluff, p. 2
- Charleston, South Carolina, pp. 1, 2, 4, 6, 29
- Florence, South Carolina, pp. 2, 3, 8, 47
- Petersburg, Virginia pp. 2, 9, 13, 50, 51, 52, 53, 55
- Richmond, Virginia, pp. 7, 9, 12, 13, 47, 94, 96
- Weldon, North Carolina. pp. 2, 9
- Whiteville, North Carolina, p. 2
- Wilmington, North Carolina, pp. 2, 8, 9, 47

Special thanks to the following for their help in researching this work:

Teresa E. Roane, Archivist, The Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia

Chris Calkins, Park Manager, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Sailor's Creek Battlefield, and recipient of Award of Merit from American Association of State and Local History (2014)

Fred Anderson, Executive Director, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, University of Richmond, Virginia

Darlene Slater-Herod, Research Assistant, Virginia Baptist Historical Society, University of Richmond, Virginia

Robert E. L. Krick, Historian, Richmond National Battlefield Park, U.S. National Park Service

E. Lee Shepard, Vice President, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond

Minor T. Weisinger, Archives Research Coordinator, Library of Virginia in Richmond

Melissa F. Price, Amelia Court House, Virginia

Walter H. Ryland II, Richmond, Virginia

John W. Ryland III, Williamsburg, Virginia

In Memoriam

Clarice Bagby Ryland Price

She was with us from September 15, 1928 through March 2, 2003, and currently resides at Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery [along with her parents, Robert Ryland, D.D., a Confederate Pyramid memorial, and Virginia Governor Henry A. Wise] ⁵²

⁵² "Look for an Angel: A Walker's Guide to Residents of Hollywood Cemetery," Richmond, Virginia, pp. 7 and 18.