

5-17-1865

## Diary of Thomas S. Armstrong, 1865-05-17

Thomas S. Armstrong

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This Memorandum was  
Bot. in Washington D.C.  
What a change has come over  
the spirits of our dreams?  
We 4 of us are sitting in a car  
on the Richmond and Danville  
R.R. Mr Capt Peter March Leopt  
William M Wilson Lieutenant R.  
H. Anderson & myself. We are  
waiting for this train to start  
Report says it has been working  
since yesterday steam up all the  
while. One year ago on the first  
we were in the same place with  
a guardian named J. Kemp Webb  
Each Hog Car was full of passen-  
gers bound for Danville Lee  
& Grant were at close quarters  
To day one year ago the great fight  
at Spotsylvania took place



We Ran slowly. Passed Amelia  
C.H., nothing saw a RR Station  
a few houses, among them the  
little C.H. Came on to Peters V  
A little past we came to a row  
of Breastworks thrown up by  
Sheridan - N.E. Dead mules -  
Dead Horses Dead Bees were  
stretched along the RR  
toward Evening we came to  
Burlsville Jnc. - Got some  
thing to Eat here Crackers  
cheese Chicken with some  
Commissary & Cigars the  
rest of the gentlemen played  
cards & drank Commissary  
the part of the 1st Div is  
here. N.E. had a tall time  
I had a Conversation with  
Brig Gen Walker b.s.h.  
He talks of going to London

Co. Da 17

Stock and early Got ready  
negroes & crackers made  
in the Breakfast. Leo's fell  
litter in. Got corn in  
aimed in and N.E. to  
Also all Drums beating files  
N.E. - I took my blue  
serge company. Came  
State topped Shaded arms  
9 N. Fleck Swodgrass House  
procurer. Saw some of  
Neathans ladies one was  
tricking a cigar on the  
Past tower. Cars here our  
Cab was gotten. Took a  
Dinner with A Mac  
of 100 O.O.S. Making  
about 9 o'clock  
Tram started  
well Darrode H.



We Ran slowly. Passed An  
C.H. nothing save a RR.  
a few houses, among the  
little C.H. Came on too  
A little past we came to  
of Breastworks thrown in  
Sheridan - We, Dead men  
Dead Horses Dead Bees we  
stretched along the RR  
toward Evening we Cam  
Burrowsville Jnc. - Got so  
thing to Eat Here Crac  
chese Chicken with some  
Commissary & Cigars &  
Rest of the gentlemen &  
candy & drank Comm  
part of the 1st Dr  
here. He had a talk  
I had a Conversation  
Brig Gen Walker be  
the talks of going too

May 17  
Awakened early Got ready  
Coffee & crackers made  
our Breakfast. Leo's fell  
in line. Got born up in  
Orrman and Went to  
Danville Drums beating fives  
playing. I took my place  
in the company. Came  
in Stopped Stalked arms  
Law Fleck Dwygrass Brown  
Carpenter. Saw some of  
the Southern ladies one was  
smoking a cigar on the  
platform. Cars here our  
rest was gotten. Took a  
place with A Mac  
"Ben" of 100 O.S. 3, making  
fun about 9 o'clock  
Our train started  
farewell Danville &c



The land rather than  
considerable corn growing.  
The hills are very soon washed  
into gullies. The valley we've  
just passed rather picturesque  
with the creek running through  
that we are lying on its banks  
now - about here about a mile  
on our right we passed a  
mill pond. The Henry & St.  
stream along the RR. The  
Creek runs into the River here.  
Our Boys got on at the Station  
12 m.

Stopped 23 miles from  
Danville Read Chas. O.  
Mally. Got off & took to the  
shade. We got behind  
Running steadily soon  
temped at N.C. with the  
other trains in sight

as we got to Do 31.  
When Bernam wood shall  
come to Danville -  
Just arrived at Do 31. Country  
Rural & poor. Right here  
is a large wooding  
bridge crossing the  
River Do 31 RR Bridge.  
The sight is grand the  
122 going home on the  
card with their arms  
& Rebs watching us  
as we pass and pass  
two then country  
before we passed the bridge  
& below in the corn field  
two lusty fat great faps  
laffest awatched us  
great noses cleaning corn



140  
88  
52

5.0 miles to Danville  
brought us to Stanton River  
a beautiful valley to be seen  
& I stood up as we crossed  
to the three bridges.  
There the 1st the bridge  
over the Stanton river  
covered - At 5.8 we  
came past negro dropper  
corn & white man furrows  
out. Now we are 5.9  
from D., a station with  
Rail pretty well built.  
Woodpile & saw here - 5.9  
on left. Boards up & down  
Key Station. Rather a poor  
place a few unfinished buildings  
a church while a cross field to  
left in edge of woods 1/4 mile away  
a fine frame house out building  
stands on the elevation

to the bright Cross Roads.  
Oct. 16th to I have  
Arrived at Burkeville  
8.3 M from Richmond  
Saw our young lady she  
& her passenger companion  
were sitting on some stage  
Bays. She looked modest &  
as simple minded as ever  
The Army men were here  
in force - Soldiers trying  
to get relics old shoes  
knives etc. Got some cake  
cigars & Commissary. Our  
train from here got on the  
Rail We passed finally  
Our train Arrived at Richmond  
after mid night



We ar May 18  
Arrived at Richmond before  
after midnight last night. We  
got off awhile before day &  
made a bed upon the Bank  
above the River on the right.  
After getting We started early for  
our Camping ground in the  
woods - put up our tent -  
carried poles & after dinner  
went to the River Swamp  
River O'Mally like it will

May 24  
All day in camp. Arrived  
early made all things in order  
ate a royal meal of Coffee & Cr  
crackers - fell in & moved off  
J. D. Swenson in front - Marched  
to Richmond. thro the streets of  
Manchester we proceeded  
part of the 24 A.C. receiving  
us - Gen Wright & Staff pass  
ed us here - he was received  
with cheers. Proceeded over  
the rocky Porton mp 18  
to Broad. We are now lying  
on the side walls - we are  
closed in mass guns stacked  
grand relat.

After reaching another  
we marched past  
May Gen Hallcutt at  
Co Distances



The day was warm. We  
marched fast passed  
some breakfast worked our  
out of - 8 near Richmond  
my feet were very sore.  
At night we camped near  
Hanover. 25 or 26 miles  
Encamped in clear land  
the R.R. West of us. The  
cars passed.

May 25

With Difficulty I march  
ed my heels pained me so -  
Crossed a River on Pontoon  
said to be the Pamunkey  
Warm Sun stroke  
Dr Houston sent me to  
The Rear. Rode 5 or 6 miles  
in the ambulance  
Encamped in Pine woods

Below woods - Made our  
tent in order - Had tea  
& coffee just past Cheslerford Sta  
May 26

Rained last night  
Slept very well in middle  
I started - Camp Rains had  
crossed fields thro woods  
swamps past mansion  
Came to a Dam waded  
thro. Waded in wading us  
to our knees. Then came  
to creeks ponds ditches  
thro then we waded  
the troops cheering when  
they came - About 3  
P.M. We stopped in  
a field or fields, carried  
kails for the tent  
Alizer who had lost his



Cattle told me 24 m to  
Fredericksburg, was  
out cutting pine.  
Made a good beef, ate  
over hard back & beef  
Rainy -

May 27  
Rainy - lying over. Cold  
the ground very wet. There  
is weakness that transportation  
came to Richmond for the 6 a.m.

May 28 Sun  
Still lying over. Took Co  
out on inspection. Saw took  
it out on dress parade. Rins  
my Herato.

May 29 Mon  
Started early. Our Brig Col Rea  
fer after Synnors. Our  
fellows kept right up

Cut my left shoe - got very tired  
arrived at Fredericksburg  
at 1 1/2 P.M. Encamped below  
tower. Capt Dr Houston Lem  
hadner US Robertson le Cahurak  
to I went up to town - Cavalry  
out we viewed the devastation by  
Burrach's shells. The place looks  
dilapidated - The Cavalry after us

May 30  
Started early from our camp.  
Went past the heights - after  
passing them - We went  
thru town to the Pontoon  
ground up the hill & came to  
the ground with timber cut off  
marching steadily - flanked some  
rested after my feet & legs  
nearly gave out - When  
we came to the top of the hill  
where I nearly gave out rested  
about 1 I stopped for dinner  
beer nigger did not get to  
us so we ate home & slept  
marched on until 4 & 5  
camped in pines to left  
near creek - about 18 m  
hot had ache this afternoon

May 31 Took both Bunches  
Aroused early. On the road  
at Dawn 5 o'clock - March  
ed thro oak woods. Scarce  
of water - Marched hard Reas  
feet sore & Counting



Stopped at noon - made it  
by hard work & pain - Not Hell  
woods thick - Many fell out  
some died of sun stroke. Had  
day, sharp shoots. Killed Cavalry  
Our Dinky slow coming up  
Capt & George cooked dinner.

June 1  
Started at 5. 2 Brig 3 Div  
in front. Then 1st Div  
The Road good - George & I  
got behind in slowness -  
took my shoes off. Went  
5 or 6 miles this - Our way  
led thro thick woods - Not  
came to the Ocoquan - After  
crossing halted near the Brund  
works on the left of the Road  
could see the Confederates winding  
down the hill on the opposite  
side - 5 or 6 miles Broke us  
to Fairfax Station - Went thro  
after dinner - Came out to  
Fairfax Co. about 1