

Information Sheet

R Lamkin, Alfred Avery, 1833-1918.
443 Diaries, 1853-1872.
Five folders, photocopies.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are diaries of Alfred Avery Lamkin, a soldier in the 25th Ohio Infantry and a civilian employee of the army during the Civil War, who moved to Jasper County, Missouri, in 1866. His diaries cover antebellum employment in Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri, military service in Virginia, South Carolina, and Kentucky, and postwar activities in Ohio and Missouri.

Alfred Avery Lamkin was born on 30 June 1833 in Venice, Cayuga County, New York. By 1853 he and his family were living near Republic and Tiffin in Seneca County, Ohio. Lamkin took various jobs in the late 1850s. They included positions as laborer and candy salesman in Ohio and Indiana, as a brakeman on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad in Missouri, and as a teamster in Missouri and Iowa. Lamkin was in Ohio when the Civil War began. He enlisted as a private in Co. F of the 25th Ohio Infantry on 8 June 1861. He was appointed sergeant after his enlistment and was promoted to second lieutenant on 23 January 1863. Lamkin served with his unit in Virginia and saw action at Cheat Mountain, Beverly, McDowell, Cross Keys, where he was wounded, and Second Bull Run. Lamkin was detailed to the ambulance corps in October 1862, and in March 1863 took command of the ambulance train of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 11th Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac. In that capacity he was involved in evacuation of the wounded from the battlefields of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Lamkin was relieved of duty with the ambulances in August 1863 when the 25th Ohio was moved to Folly Island and Morris Island, South Carolina.

Lamkin resigned his commission in November 1863 and returned to Ohio. He secured a position as a civilian employee of the quartermaster department and was back with the Army of the Potomac by September 1864, assigned to wagon trains working to and from the army and the depot at City Point, Virginia. In May 1865, Lamkin went to Columbus, Kentucky, where he was involved in quartermaster affairs. He remained through the summer of 1865 removing cannon from fortifications and disposing of surplus property.

Lamkin returned to Ohio in October 1865. He worked on the family farm and occasionally drove a team hauling wood, fodder and apples. He wed Mattie Fleet of Seneca County on 16 October 1866. Along with his wife and her father, Abraham Fleet, Lamkin moved to Jasper County, Missouri, to take up residence on a farm owned by the Fleets on Dry Creek north of Carthage. Lamkin was a farmer, stockman, and county official in Jasper County until his death on 9 April 1918.

Lamkin's diaries for 1853-1872 are in five small "pocket" journals. The brief entries note personal activities and acquaintances, primarily for the period 1855-1866. There are no entries for 1854, 1858, or the period August 1859--July 1862. Miscellaneous memoranda and notes on personal finances are at the end of each diary.

The first diary (Folder 1) covers the period 1853-1859, which included employment in Ohio, Indiana and Missouri. The next three diaries (Folders 2-4) concern Lamkin's service during the Civil War, including his career as a civilian employee of the army. There are only a few brief battle accounts, but the entries offer an itinerary of the marches and countermarches of the 25th Ohio Infantry in Virginia and South Carolina, his duty with the ambulance corps of the Army of the Potomac, and service in the quartermaster department in Virginia and Kentucky. The last diary (Folder 5) concerns his last months of service with the government, his return to Ohio and marriage to Mattie Fleet, and their removal to Jasper County, Missouri. The postwar entries are somewhat inconsistent chronologically as entries for 1868 and 1869 are interspersed with those for 1866. The last entry appears to be that of 23 June 1872. Most of the Missouri entries concern renovation of the Fleet farm, building a house, farm life, and personal finances. Beginning in 1869, the entries contain only records of employment and finances.

Shelf List

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Folder 1: Diary, 9 May 1853 – 30 August 1859

Folder 2: Diary, 2 July 1862 – 1 August 1863

Folder 3: Diary, 1 August 1863 – 5 February 1865

Folder 4: Diary, 5 February 1865 – 30 September 1865

Folder 5: Diary, 30 September 1865 – 23 June 1872

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Martha Jane Jensen

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Index Cards

Ambulance service.
Chancellorsville (Va.), Battle of, 1863.
City Point (Hopewell, Va.).
Columbus (Ky.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Farm life—Missouri—Jasper County.
Farm life—Ohio.
Fleet, Abraham.
Folly Beach (S.C.).
Folly Island (S.C.) [SEE Folly Beach (S.C.)].
Gettysburg (Pa.), Battle of, 1863.
Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company.
Indiana—History.
Iowa—History.
Jasper County (Mo.).
Kentucky—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Lamkin, Alfred Avery, 1833-1918.
Lamkin, Mattie (Fleet).
Morris Island (S.C.).
Ohio—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Ohio Infantry—25th Regiment [SEE United States. Army. Ohio Infantry Regiment, 25th].
Peddlers and peddling.
Pennsylvania—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Republic (Ohio).
South Carolina—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Tiffin (Ohio).
United States. Army—Transport of sick and wounded.
United States. Army. Ohio Infantry Regiment, 25th.
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia—History—Civil War, 1861-1865.
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Washington (D.C.).