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CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIS B. KEITH

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1588606

Sunday - January 1, 1865

Left Columbia, Tennessee with the pontoon train - marched 12 miles and went in to camp at 5 o'clock. Marched the green mules and teamsters - had a rough time to get it in to camp.

Monday

Left camp at day light - the roads very rough and hard but melted before night and was very muddy. Marched through Tuloski, Tennessee at 4:00 - marched 12 miles.

Tuesday

Left camp at day light and marched 15 miles to Elkton, Tennessee. Got in to camp at 4 o'clock. Drewed rations in evening. Rained a little - the first detachment had the pontoons laid down.

Wednesday

Laid in camp _____ of all day - rained at night. Plenty of citizens came in to Camp.

Thursday

In camp all day. Nothing transpired worthy of note.

Friday

Still in Camp - went over in town and got my diner for 50 cents. Cheap as dirt ain't it.

Saturday

Still in Camp. Tree fell on a Head Quarter mule and killed it. Dress Parade at 4 o'clock.

Sunday - January 8, 1865

In camp - very butifull morning. I took a ride on Capt. Garmon's horse - went out in the country 5 miles and got my diner at a house who never saw a yankee before.

Monday

Regt. still in Camp. Drewed rations in the evening. Went over the river and got my dinner.

Tuesday

Long roll beat at 12 o'clock to see how long it took the conscripts to get in line. Some came out in their shirt tail and some with out any clothes at all.

Wednesday

Left Camp at daylight for Huntsville, Alabama. Marched 7 miles and went in to camp at dark - very muddy roads and hard to travell.

Thursday - January 12, 1865

Left Camp at day light - marched all day and went in to camp at dark - marched all 9 miles.

Friday

Left Camp at day light and arrived within 2 miles of Huntsville and went in to Camp at 4 o'clock.

Saturday

Laid in Camp all day received our mail the first we received since we left Nashville over a month.

Sunday - January 15, 1865

In Camp. Rev P. P. Cooney had church. Evry man must go - went down town with Orderly Sergt Kelly of Co. I and had a good time.

Monday

Orders came to build winter quarters. A heavy detail made to chop wood for the houses.

Tuesday

Still working on them - getting along very fine.

Wednesday

Very nice morning - my log shanty pretty well done building it. 8 by 6.

Thursday

Comenced working on my shanty at 8 o'clock and got the Puffs (?) on by 4 o'clock a.m.

Friday

Finished my house and moved in - a good fire place and very comfortable.

Saturday

Had company drill in forenoon and battallion drill in afternoon.

Sunday - January 22, 1865

Church at 8 o'clock - Dress Parade at 4 o'clock.

Monday

Drill all day. Company in forenoon and battallion drill in afternoon.

Tuesday

Rained most all day - no drill - went to town for coureasity and I got satisfied.

Wednesday - January 25, 1865

Drewed clothing and rations in afternoon. Raining.

Thursday

Clear and cold. Evry body in his shanty for comfort.

Friday

Clear and very nice morning - had drill in forenoon. Drewed more clothing.

Saturday

Clear and cold - ditched our tents and swept up camp. Driled in afternoon.

Sunday - January 29, 1865

Very nice day - had church at 8 o'clock by Reve P. P. Cooney.

Monday

Clear and nice - received 200 more conscripts. Our company got 19. Our company (agryote) 85 present and absent.

Tuesday

3rd Division of our corps is moving for East Part Mississippi - pased through our Camp.

Wednesday - February 1, 1865

Had Drill all day. Very nice and warm day for ducks.

Thursday

Received a letter from M. K and E. R. Y. and answered them.

Friday

Very nice day. Our Sutler opened out to see what he has got.

Saturday

Had drill in forenoon and dress parade in afternoon. Received a letter from E.R.Y. and H. C. and M. K. Big mail came in for once.

Sunday - February 5, 1865

Rained and snowed all. Church at 8 o'clock.

Monday

Clear and cold but rained and snowd at night - most off the Regiment got drunk and plaid* several low life tricks.

*Plaid probably means "played."

Tuesday - February 7, 1865

Snowd all night - Thawed some in forenoon. I received 2 letters from home. Companys A. E. I. and K returned from Easton.

Wednesday

Went to town - had a good time. Rote letter to T. F. All the officers drunk in the sutler tent to night.

Thursday

Colonel B. F. Mullen left for home this forenoon. No Ale aloud to be sold in Camp today. 4 of the officers under arrest for drunckedness.

Friday

Company drill in forenoon and Battalion drill in afternoon. Darnd mudy.

Saturday

Company drill in forenoon and dress parade in afternoon. Drawed clothing. Rote 3 letters home to friends.

Sunday - February 12, 1865

All quiet in Camp. Nothing going on to attract any notice.

Monday

Very cold in morning. Went to town with Sergt Kelly - had good time - Rained coming home. Yours trruly.

Tuesday

Cold and wet drill in afternoon.

Wednesday

Drill all day - coat weather.

Thursday

Company drill in forenoon and batalion drill in afternoon. Genl Stanley in Camp. John & James got drunk.

Friday

Drill in forenoon - wind blowd so hard we couldn't drill in afternoon. Slowd some of the hair off of Majors head. Charleston was evacuated and the old flag raised over Fort Sumpter.

Saturday

In camp all day - very warm and nice day.

Sunday - February 19, 1865

Very butiful day. I went out in country and got my diner. Received a letter from home.

Monday - February 20, 1865

Comapny drill in forenoon and battalion drill in afternðon till dark. Drawed rations again.

Tuesday

Very windy. Did not drill. Rumord evacuating of Charleston.

Wednesday

Rained most all day. The report confirmed of Charleston evacuation. The old flag raised by Capt. Henry Braff on Act. General Gilmore's Staff.

Thursday

Rained all day - nothing going on.

Friday

Went to town and returned at dark and found Zurk (?) in Camp. Guest from home.

Saturday

Rained and blowd like the Devil but 40 in afternoon - it cleard up from raining and blew like the Devile till dark. Drawd Rations at 4 o'clock.

Sunday - February 26, 1865

Verry butiful morning.

Monday

Rained in afternoon. Drier in forenoon.

Tuesday

Clear and nice. Nothing going on.

Wednesday - March 1, 1865

Rained some - no drill.

Thursday

In Camp all day. Clear and cold.

Friday

Rained all day and a heavy storm at night.

Saturday

Clear and warm. Got a letter from home. Went out in the country to Mr. Bradford and staid all night.

Sunday - March 5, 1865

Very nice morning. Warm and nice.

Monday

Very nice day. Got a wring up in camp and had a sparing exhibition. Are on half rations.

Tuesday

Very nice day. Went out in the country 15 miles. Got back at 4 o'clock. Dress parade.

Wednesday

Cloudy and rainy.

Thursday

Rained all day. Went to town and got back at dark. Received letter from William Crooks 4 Canary (?) Illinois.

Friday

Cold day. Drawed rations. Rote a letter to Wm. Crooks.

Saturday

Rained all day. One year ago today I was in Huntsville, Alabama. Now at Rock Bluff, N. Y. 1866. I enjoyed myself very well there but a _____ bit more here.**

Sunday - March 12, 1865

Very nice day. Some talk of leaving.

Monday

Pontoon wagons loading supplies for a move.

Tuesday

Rained all day. We haled (probably means hauled) the pontoons into town and put them in the cars for Knoxville, Tennessee. Found out that there was a rebbel gang in the Regt.

Wednesday

Clear and warm. We have got the _____ under guard.

Thursday

Was to start today but the orders was countermanded and we are to wait and get on the cars. P. P. Cooney (spelled Conj by Grandfather) leaves for home in the morning.

Friday

Sutler moved to town and went to Chattanooga.

** These notes were added in pencil to the original ink inscription "Rained all day." Grandfather probably added the rest of this passage a year later.

Saturday - March 18, 1865

Very warm day. The orderly sergt. had battalion drill.

Sunday - March 19, 1865

Butiful day. Took a ride in the country. A theater actress visited our camp in the afternoon.

Monday

Very warm day. Had two days.

Tuesday

Rained last night. Verry muddy this morning.

Wednesday

Clear and warm. Wind blowd very hard.

Thursday

Nothing going on but drill. No mail yet.

Friday

Preparing to leave. Went to town in the evening to the theater.

Saturday

Got up at daylight and left camp at 6 o'clock and marched to town by 8 o'clock. Stacked arms. We loaded our section and started from Huntsville at 3 o'clock and arr'd at Chatanooga at 5.

Sunday - March 26, 1865

Sun morn - we had time to get our breakfast and started for Knoxville at 9 o'clock. The train ahead of us run off the track at Lebanon and we laid there til 3 in the morning. Arr'd in Knoxville

Monday

at 6 o'clock in the morning. Run us on a switch. We unloaded and went in to camp at 1 o'clock. Picked our tent and got super.

Tuesday

A little wett this morning. No news of any importance. Mad (probably means made) a requisition for clothing.

Broke camp at 12 o'clock - went through the streets of Knoxville and marched 6 miles. Went into Camp at dark. Very rough country.

Wednesday - March 29, 1865

Left camp at day light. Went to a dance at nite. Marched 14 miles. Went into Camp at 4 o'clock. Had another dance at night. Cars ran off the track. Killed Joseph Rand.

Thursday

Left Camp at day light. Rained last night. Went through New Market at 10 o'clock 3 miles from Camp. Marched about 15 miles today. Went in camp at 7 o'clock _____
Very large and butiful Springs.

Friday

Left Camp at 6. Marched 14 miles. Went into Camp at 4 o'clock. On a good camping ground. Went through Morris Town and Russelville. We are within 4 miles of Bulls Gap. Leo B was in the advance today.

Saturday - April 1, 1865

Staid in Camp till 11 o'clock. Got orders to move up with the Army. Went through Bulls Gap at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Went into Camp three miles from the Gap at 5 o'clock. Drawd Sour Crout from our Old Dutch Docktor. Can't get back for the Bull has got his tail over the Gap.

Sunday - April 2, 1865

Nice day - formed the company in regular and pitched our tents in line. I got a pontoon for my tent and loaded the pontoon train and they went into Camp.

Monday

Cloudy. Have company drill at 8 o'clock. We get 60 rounds of ammunition tomorrow. News came of Richmond being taken. One hundred fired for the Victory. Great Excitement in camp.

Tuesday

The 2nd Division and 3rd Division pased our Camp in the forenoon. Good news from Richmond. Batalion drill in afternoon. Went to a dance at night.

Wednesday

More troops pased us today and more good news from Richmond.

Thursday

Still in camp. Went to town after Ration. Had drill in afternoon.

Friday

All quiet. No news of importance. Heard that the Fort Mis R Elu (?)*** was captured. 2 companys of cavalry passed Camp for the front.

Saturday

Very butiful morning. Very cold last night. Had no drill. Cleaned up Camp and done our washing for Sundays' inspection. Wrote a letter this evening to W. I. Crack. *** Could be that this means Mister R. E. Lee - cannot decipher too well.

Sunday - April 9, 1865

Rained some last night and cloudy this morning. Rained all day. Rote a letter to F. F. Keith. (F. F. Keith was an uncle to Willis B. Keith.)

Monday

Rained all day. No drill. More good news. Generl Surenand (probably means general surrender). One braggade fired off their guns at 12 o'clock at night.

Tuesday

Very warm. Went out in the country.

Wednesday

Comenced raining. Rained all day very hard. The creek very high. The teams had to swim to get over. Rec'd letter from W. R. Keith from New York. (W. R. Keith was an uncle to Willis B. Keith.)

Thursday

Cleared off. Went out in the country 14 miles to get some eggs for Easter Sunday. Returned to camp at 4 in afternoon.

Friday

Rained all forenoon. Had speaking at briggade headquarters by Gene. (General) Kimball, Colo (Colonel) More and others.

Saturday - April 15, 1865

Rained in forenoon. Very pleasant in afternoon. Heard that President Lincoln and Seward was assassinated at Washington.

Sunday - April 16, 1865

Very butiful morning. Had all the eggs we could eat and warm corn bread. 11 (?) eat breakfast.

Monday

Dispatch came to Camp stating that the President was dead and Seward was only wounded.

Tuesday

Rained in forenoon. The first Division ordered to Nashville - pased our camp in the afternoon. This sutler fetched a barrell of beer to Camp. All the officers ggt drunk as usual. Inspection by Luiet. Kennedy.

Wednesday

The 2nd Division pased our camp in forenoon and their trains in afternoon. Orders came to Camp for our Regt. to move at 12 o'clock tomorrow. Rained all night.

Thursday

Got up at daylight. Co. E. & H. loaded the Pontoon and started for the Gap at 6 o'clock. The Regt left Camp at 12 and marched 3 miles on the other side of the Gap and 1 mile of Whitesburg.

Friday - April 21, 1865

Got up at 6 - marched at day light - went thru Russleville at 10 and Morristown at 12. Went in to Camp at 3 o'clock in afternoon at Planters Spring where we camped before when we was coming to Bulls Gap. Distance marched today 18 miles. We had a dance last night at Whitesburg.

Saturday

Left camp at day light. Marched in rear of train - passed through Morristown at 10. Arr'd in camp at Strawberry Plains at 3 o'clock. Distance marched today - 20 miles.

Sunday - April 23, 1865

Left camp at daylight. Marched in rear of train. Arr'd in Knoxville at 2 o'clock. About 20 trains started for Nashville this afternoon. Distance marched today - 16 miles.

Monday

Ditched our camp and poleased the camp generally. Very butiful morning. Train loaded with troops running at night. We think we will stay here for 3 or 4 days. Went on to town at night.

Tuesday

Very warm today. Troops going to Nashville all night. Drawed 5 days rations in the afternoon. Trains coming and going with troops.

Wednesday

Troops still going to Nashville. Went over in town. Bought a watch for \$20.

Thursday

Very butiful morning. Trains still leaving for Nashville. Sold the watch for \$80. Went to a dance last night.

Friday - April 28, 1865

Heard that Booth was killed in Virginia. Capt. Oslen says we will leave tomorrow. Rain in the afternoon.

Saturday

Clear this morning. Comenced loading wagon train this morning.

Sunday - April 30, 1865

Loaded the wagon all forenoon. All the Regt. except (except) Company B and C left Knoxville at 2. We will stay till 11 at night.

Monday - May 1, 1865

Left Knoxville last night 11 o'clock. Travelled all night and arr'd in Chattanooga at 12 o'clock. Ate dinner - Saw Fely & Hard Tack. Then left Chattanooga at 1 o'clock. Travelled all night - arr'd in Martinsburg at daylight.

Tuesday - May 2, 1865

Arr'd at Nashville at 10 o'clock. Unloaded train. Went into camp - 2 miles from town. Got 130 dollars from P. P. Cooney (spelled Cony). Went in town - paid Sutler 59 dollars --- settled. (The dashes are Grandfather's.)

Wednesday

Very butiful morning. Struck tents and moved 2 miles farther from town. Went in to Camp with The Division at 10 o'clock. Put up our tents in regular order. Drawed rations in afternoon.

Thursday

Very warm. Ditched our Camp and drawed rations.

Friday

Very warm last night.

Saturday

Cloudy but not rainy. Drawed rations in afternoon.

Sunday - May 7, 1865

Very nice weather. Dress Parade in afternoon. Ordered to be ready for a grand review at 7 o'clock tomorrow.

Monday

Rained all day. Review postponed til tomorrow.

Tuesday

Pontoon train left for town at day light. The Reft. left at 7. Marched down to Fort Negly (?) and formed in line with our Brigade. General Thomas rode along 3 or 4 times (?) and at 12 we marched in review. Their was large _____ of citizens there.
lines

Wednesday

Rained a little today

Thursday

Very warm today. Received a letter from H. N. Keith. (H. N. was a brother to author.)

Friday

Very cold and rainy. Dress parade in afternoon.

Saturday

Very warm day. Great cheering in the 1st Division last night.

Sunday - May 14, 1865

In Camp All Day.

Monday - May 15, 1865

In Camp All Day.

Tuesday

Last night just after dark the First Division Indiana - Stanley's Old Division - marched to his headquarters. Evry man had a candle in his hand. It was a grand sight. I was than wide a wake.

Wednesday

In Camp All Day. Nothing going on. Applied at headquarters for a furlough of 20 days.

Thursday

Went to town in forenoon. Returned at 4 in afternoon. Nothing going on of any importance.

Friday

Rained all day - Thunder and lightning. Hail Snow and everything else and plenty of rain thrown in.

Saturday

Is not raing this morning but looks like it. No rain today. Dress Parade today (?)

Sunday - May 21, 1865

All quiet

Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - "All quiet" was all that was written on these days.

Thursday

Nothing going on In Camp.

Friday

The same as yesterday. I recieved a letter from E. R. Fisher.

Saturday

Nothing going on.

Sunday - May 28, 1865

Received my furlough at 10. Went to town at 12. Staid all night. Rained last night very hard. Got up at 4 ate my breakfast and _____ left Nashville at 8. Arr'd in Louisville at 6. Left Jeffersonville at 9.

Monday

Arr'd in Indianapolis at 4 this morning. Left Indianapolis at 8. Arr'd at Terre Haute at 11. Left Terre Haute at 4. Arr'd in Rockville at 8. Left Rockville at 7. Arr'd at home at 9.

Tuesday - May 30, 1865

Run around all day.

Wednesday

Got a horse and went about 40 miles today.

Thursday

Went down to Charlie Crooks at night.

Friday

Went to Wolfs and John Dixon. Saw the boys and returned back to the store. Staid at home all night.

Saturday - Sunday - Monday - Tuesday (June 3 - June 6, 1865)

Went up to Bloomingdale to the College and saw some of my friends. Fetched one of them home with me. Staid all night at his house and on Tuesday we went back to Bloomingdale gest at dark.

Wednesday - Thursday - Friday (June 7 - June 9)

I enjoyed myself very well for the last week. Time passes off very slow.

Saturday - Sunday - Monday (June 10 - June 12)

Went to Clinton to a Show and had a good time.

(On Saturday, June 10, he has a notation that says: Mathew 336 - first to church.)

Tuesday - Wednesday (June 13 - June 14)

I went to Bloomingdale to the Quaker Town (?) Fair.

Thursday - Friday - Saturday (June 15 - June 17)

My Time is _____ out and I must return to my Regt. soon.

Sunday - June 18, 1865

Got Ready to return to Regt.

Monday

Left home at 8 o'clock. At Terre Haute at 12. Took the train to Indianapolis at 5 - arr'd at 8.

Tuesday

Left for Jeffersonville at 10 this morning. Went to the theatre at night. Arr'd at Jeffersonville at 5. Left for Nashville at 6.

Wednesday

Arr'd at Nashville at 8 in the morning. Found out that my Regt. had left for Johnsonville, Tenn.

Thursday - June 22, 1865

Went to exchanged Barrox. Found out some of my Regt. expect to leave tonight.

Friday

Capt. Peters sayed if I could stay he would get me transported to the Regt. Left Nashville at 7 o'clock. Went to Fairvale (?) with the boys. Capt. Peters failed to get for me transportation.

Saturday

Arr'd in Louisville at 7. Asked Capt. Peters if he got transportation for me yet. Says he has not. Went down to the wharf and waited for Peters 3 hours for him to get the transportation. He got me no transportation so I went & got it myself & went on to Jeffersonville & took the _____ boat _____.

Sunday - June 25, 1865

Left New Albany at 9. Arr'd at Mitchell at 2. Took the Quincy train for Evansville. Arr'd at Quincy at 7 in the morning. Went to the Evansville Depot - have to wait til tomorrow till 7 o'clock. Left Quincy at 7. Arr'd at Evansville at 9. Found my captain & had a good time with him.

Monday

Run around town all day.

Tuesday

Left Evansville at 9 - arrived home at 2. Found folks all well.

Wednesday

Cloudy this morning. Looks like rain. Bought me a coat.

Thursday - June 29, 1865 through Sunday, July 2, 1865 (No entries made in diary.)

Monday

At the store all day. Very warm. Upp all night last night. Feel sleepy. Nothing to do and no disposition to do it. Expect to have a fourth tomorrow if nothing happens.

Tuesday

Went to Rockville to celabration and at Clinton at night.

Wednesday

Arr'd from Clinton at 7. Slept all forenoon and went to Terre Haute in afternoon.

Thursday

Got horses shod. Saw Capt. Garmon - Lieut McKene and Capt. Genish of Evansville. Had a good time.

Friday

Left Terre Haute at 4:00 last night - arr'd home at 10. Slept on porch last night.

Saturday - July 8, 1865 (Editors note.)

No entries made until July 19 with exception of Thursday - July 13 which was not clear enough to decipher.

Wednesday - July 19, 1865

Left home at 7 for Rockville. Arr'd there late at 9. Very muddy roads. Arr'd at Terre Haute at 11. Left T. H. at 4. Arr'd at Quincy at 7. Staid all night at the Pauley House.

Thursday

Left Quincy at 6. Arr'd at Odin at 12. Rote a letter to H. C. Left Odin at 3. Very warm travelling. Met John Hanlon from my Regt. Arr'd at Cario at 8. Went to the Soldiers Home - staid all night.

Friday

Ate my breakfast at Terre Haute. Went to Soldiers Rest and got an order for transportation. Got transportation at 11. Went to T. H. Got diner there. Went down to the boat Niagra and started for N. D. at 6.

Saturday

Very warm all night. Could sleep but very little. Stopped at Columbus, Ky. and stayed for wood at Garrison. Very hot today. Rained some in afternoon. Stopped at Memphis at 4. Left there at 5. Stoped at Helena (?) at 12 last night.

EDITORS NOTE: Grandfather told his family how he sat in the coil of a rope to keep from getting sea-sick on the boat.

Sunday - July 23, 1865

Slept pretty well last night. Stopped at a Government landing and 200 men belonging to 3 _____ got off. Stoped again about 4 and got wood. When I got up Sunday evening I was thinking of you N _____. (Could have been a girl called Nettie that Grandfather was acquainted with back home.)

Monday

Monday morning we was loading wood again and was 17 miles from Vicksburg. Went forward in boat and slept late and arr'd in site of Vicksburg. I am at Tick while writing - left V K at 8. Plenty of peaches.

Tuesday

Had a good trip. Very large and butiful plantations on both sides of river. Louisiana expect to go _____ tonight. I am sitting in bow of boat thinking of N _____. It is about 4 o'clock. Sailing along very finely. Nothing to do but write and think of the folks at home. Every two hours _____ loaded _____ going home.

EDITORS NOTE: This passage was not very distinguishable. The underlined words are those we are in doubt about, and the blanks signify words we could not distinguish at all.

Wednesday - July 26, 1865

Arr'd in N. O. at 6 last night. Staid all night on boat _____. Went from there to a Soldiers home and from there to P. M. office and from there to the distributing and forwarding board.

Thursday

Staid in barrax til 3 in afternoon. Then got orders to go to Corp. H. Q. and report. Found our Regt. _____ and stoped with him. Genl. Stanley & Corps H. Q. left at 8 for Indianola, Texas. Wrote a letter to Ed Feelen. Had a Hard Rain in afternoon and got wet of course.

Friday

Another boat left fro Texas in the morning. Very warm. Wrote a letter to Nettie. Mailed it on the Government Boat Tribela (?).

Saturday

Very warm today. Went down to boat. Had a good sleep. Then went and got some Fregt (?)

Sunday - July 30, 1865

Ship going to start for Land _____ at 9. Got on _____ - bond (bound?) for Texas. Had a hard storm about 2 o'clock. Shooting at (Some letter which looks like an "H" is in this space) all along river. Got in the Gulf at dark. Boat heaves heavy.

Monday

Had a good sleep last night. Out of sight of land. Sun shines very warm. Ship heaves considerable. Shot 4 porpoises.

Tuesday

Sick all day. Heavy sea. In sit of land about 6 o'clock in evening. Have got a very bad headache. Arr'd at 10 o'clock at the mouth of the bay.

Wednesday

9 o'clock hoisted anchor and come very _____ upsetting. Steamed up the Bay. _____ and arrived at Indianola at 10 o'clock. Have a hard headache yet. Changed boat for _____. Run aground at 5. Had time to get off.

Thursday

Acidence will happen for me. Had to remain on the sand bar all night. We got off the at 9, and sailed up to Avoia at 10. Got up the ship and went up to town and started across the Texas plains for our Div. 12 miles distance. Stoped at a farm house and got some butter milk. Come up a hard storm 6 miles from Camp. Started for Camp at 6. God how it rained. The waters was 2 feet deep on the plain. Arr'd in Camp at 4 o'clock. Found myself very tired.

Friday

In Camp all day. No news of importance.

Saturday

Corps Head Quarters moving to Victoria, Texas. Rec'd letter from _____ Keith & Danher (?)

Sunday, August 6 & Monday, August 7, 1865 - No Entires

Tuesday - August 8, 1865

Nothing going on last few days. Broke camp at 2 this morning. Marched til 10. Went into Camp 12 miles from Green Lake on Wido Ross Farm.

Wednesday

Got up at 12 at night. Started for Victoria at 1. Had a hard march. Arr'd in Victoria at 7. Distance marked 10 miles. Left there at 3 in afternoon. Marched 5 miles. Went into Camp at 6. Forded Gad Lope Cape River at Victoria and camped on _____ River.

Thursday

Changed camp. Very warm.

Friday

Put up our tents for Regular Camp. Jack (?) got his discharge and starts for home tomorrow morning. Rote a letter to H. C., F. L., K. & I., B. & Y.

Saturday

Jack left this morning for home. Capt. Powers got a nigger cook.

Sunday - August 13, 1865

Went over to the 31st _____ Some of my friends.

Monday

Hot as the Devil

Tuesday

Hotter as the Devil. All the talk is Mustered out. Mustered Out.

Wednesday

I arose this morning at day light.

Thursday

All Quiet on the Gadlope.

Friday

All Quiet at Head Quarters.

Saturday

Have to cover our Camp with shade trees.

Sunday - August 20, 1865

Very warm all day. James Teaverty (?) come over to see me. Dress Parade in evening.

Monday - August 21, 1865

I drew rations. L. Shilling detached at _____. H. Q. crackers with Meat and Pork with Teeth in Sugar with Sand in Flour with Brand in _____.

Tuesday

One of the 9th Ind. boys caught a fish weighing 30 lbs. early this morning. August (?) agreed to cook and wash for me 1 month for 10 dollars till the 22nd of Sept. _____.

Wednesday

Mail came in. No letters for me. 30th Ind. left for Sulphur Springs today. Leeut. Rock come to the Regt. says the Sutler will be here too.

Thursday

Diary _____ but did not come.
(EDITORS NOTE: A long passage above was not distinguishable.) A month ago today I was on the Mississippi River at Vixburg. 2 months ago I was at Louisville, Ky.

Friday

Rained all day. Very muddy. Drewed beef and bought some rations.

Saturday

Rained all day. The report is that we will be mustered out the 1st of next month. Drewed some rations. 5 days of Flower _____ are heavy on the Flap Jacks.

Sunday - August 27, 1865

Raing agin this morning. Had inspection. Went over to 31st. Drewed rations of Beef. Report that we will be mustered out this week. All _____ the detached men ordered back to Regt.

Monday

Had inspection in the morning. Very hot day. My Company had to pull an achre of weeds before my Capt. Sent. (?) Drewed Beef. Report that we are to be mustered out this week. Bought a watch for _____.

EDITORS NOTE: Within this entry space, Grandfather has written: Georgia, N. C., Penn., Conn., N. J., Md., N. Y., Del., Mass., S. C., Va., N. H., R.I. This probably signifies the states he had been in prior to Texas.

Tuesday

Very heavy dew last night. Water run off tents and standing on the ground. Genl. Kimbal and Colonel Simon visited our Camp. News that we will not be mustered out till next May. Quite a change.

Wednesday

Very cold last night. Hot in forenoon. Rained in afternoon. Had drill in afternoon. Report that the Brigade will be consolidated and our Regt. mustered out immediately.

Thursday - August 31, 1865

Capt. Powers and I had a full. I turned our _____ and dried him up with as few words as possible. Had another fuss before dinner. He refused to sign my commendations for rations after the Colonels orders.

Friday - September 1, 1865

Drewed rations yesterday evening. 5 days of flower. Worms in it 2 inches long. This morning is clear and cold. Rec'd 2 letters from _____ & H. C. Drewed clothing but not our full compliment. Drewed rations.

Saturday

Nothing of importance transpired. Mailed my letter today at 1 o'clock. Drewed beef in afternoon. Bill Bronghton and John Vaughn were dropped from the books. Discharged.

Sunday - September 3, 1865

Was a very butiful and warm morning. Drewed more clothing. Went over to 81st & saw the boys. It is said that we will start for home this week. Drewed beef bones.

Monday

Very warm day. Capt. Powers got a darky to cook for him. An Irish Capt. & an Dutch Cook and a Nigger Waiter. Quite a contrast for Head Quarters.

Tuesday

Rained a little this morning. Mosquitos were very thick last night. Drewed rations in forenoon. Colonel Tissin Horses came up from New Orleans. Gallagher came back to camp from hospital. Report that 4 Regts. are to report at N. O. by the 15th of this month.

Wednesday

Mosquitos was awful last nite. Wrote a letter to Cap. Garmon Evansville. The Artillery fired a salute. Rumor that Gen'l Sheridan has arrived. Reported that we will be mustered out by the 1st of Oct.

Thursday

What will we do when the mosquitos eat the soldiers up and scatters the bones all around. Orders for inspection by Maj. Gen'l Wright but countermanded. Ch Bear. Reported that we are to go to San Antonio. That is Hell again.

Friday

I had to sleep out dores last night. The mosquitos were so bad. Good News. The order has come to muster us out. It is at Division Head Quarters and expect the order at Regt. Head Quarters tomorrow.

Saturday

Nice cool breeze this morning. Blowed a perfect hurricane all day. The Muster Rolls are at Division H. Q. Hury UP UP.

Sunday - September 10, 1865

Cloudy this morning. The mosquitos was very thick & bad last night. Went out on the ground & put up my mosquito net & rested very well. Gen'l Kimball had a review of the 1st. Division and then made us a Farewell Speech.

Monday - September 11, 1865

Mon. morn. Cool last night. Slept out doers. Drawed 5 days of rations yesterday. 2 of Corn Meal & 3 of Hard Tack. Rained very hard in afternoon. The water was a foot deep on ground.

Tuesday

Was a very warm day. Capt. Dawson (Davison) come back from Victoria and says the military officers will be here this week to muster us out out.

Wednesday

Very warm all day. My (Mess 4) Master hiered a darcy to cook for us for \$10 a month. The ___ ___ ___ return with us.

Thursday

After our darcy got breakfast and ate it, he shiddadled for hier wages. Had a very hard rain in afternoon. Report that the Muster Out is a humbug.

Friday

Rained all day. Drawed rations. Muster Rolls came to camp. Going to commence making them out Monday. It will take at least sixteen days & then make mistakes.

Saturday

Orders came for sertain to make out the Muster Roolls. We will comence to work on them Mon. morning if ___ ___ well.

Sunday - September 17, 1865

Worked hard all day at the Muster Out Roolls. Got one finished, but it is an awful long and tiresome job. _____. (5 words not distinguishable.)

Monday

Gest been to breakfast. _____ for the Roolls again. Worked hard all day. Capt. Powers spoiled 2 Roolls. He can't know when breakfast is _____.

Tuesday

Sutler sold out and left for Victoria. Left a barrel of nuts and a keg of pickles and 2 boxes of cheeses and a box of Junk for me to sell.

Wednesday

Worked some on the Roolls but I got sick in the afternoon & had to stop. Sold out the Sutler goods.

Thursday

A sad accident happened to a member of the 31st Indiana. He was driving team after water which become frightened & through him off. Both wheels passing over his body and head. He lived but a short time. He called on his Mother. Poor fellow.

Friday - September 22, 1865

Another sad accident happened to a bugler of the 9th Indiana. Over at Brigade Head Quarters he was bit in the foot by a triananta. He swelled all over and suffered a great deal. He died last night.

Saturday

Dis was one very hot day. It would suffocate the devil. The officers are still working on the Muster Roolls. Some are very ___ done.

Sunday - September 24, 1865

Was the hottest day we have had since we have been in Texas. Capt. Dawson (Davison) and Liuet. McCabe have got there roolls done.

Monday

We drew rations 5 days. Hard Tack and h of worms. The mustering officer is to be here in the evening to sign the 9th Indiana Roolls.

Tuesday

Rained most all nite. The 31st Indiana leaves camp for Victoria this morning. Rather muddy to march. ___ came back from town. I sold him \$50 worth of tobacco. Bought \$50 worth of ___ from ___.

Wednesday

Raining and drisling this morning and cold. Saw James ___ and sold him 27 dollars worth of tobacco for a watch. Bought 30 dollars worth of ___. Ballance due 80 dollars.

Thursday

At 8 o'clock the 9th Ind. turned over there Pup Tents and left camp for home at 1 in afternoon. Orders to make available our work tonight with the Mustering Office ___.

Friday

When I called for the roll this morning the Privates were making a ___ for the officers to sign. Our roolls has come and found the roolls all right & mustered us out of the U. S. Service.

Saturday

Sent muster roolls to town at 8. We turned over our pups, kettles & camp and Garrison equipage. We was ordered to take back our Pups again. Dress Parade ordered & move in the morning for Indiana.

Sunday - October 1, 1865

Orders countermanded. Will not leave today. I guess all the officers drunk in camp on a Hell of a Spree. Suppose that we will be mustered in again. Left camp at 5 o'clock in afternoon. Marched through Victoria. Stopped at 10 o'clock - slept 5 hours. Got up at 3 and marched.....

Monday

to Alligator Pond & got our breakfast at 6 in the morning. Distance marched 25 miles. Left at 1. Marched 10 miles to Green Lake. Got into Camp at 12. Expect to leave at

Monday - October 2, 1865 (Continued)

10 tonight for Indianola. I left at 4 in afternoon. Marched ahead of the Reg.

Tuesday

Got In to Indianola at 3 in the morning. Distance marched 25 miles. Laid in Camp all day. No boat for us.

Wednesday

Everman, I am in and companys B. K. G. & E got on board at sundown. Will not leave the bay until tomorrow morning. Drewed 10 days rations.

Thursday

Went down to the mouth of bay and staid there until 2 in afternoon. Then started for Galveston. Very rough sea. The rest of the Regt. passed us in the Beauport.

Friday

We run in to Galveston at 3 in afternoon & ___ of the Regt. up town. Very nice place.

Saturday

Quite an excitement last night. 2 of the crew got to fighting and this morning 4 of them left. And this afternoon there was \$20,000 dollars stolen from clerk of the ship. Could not find the money. Left Galeveston at 5 in afternoon.

Sunday - October 8, 1865

We anchored last night at the Bay and waited until this morning. Had a good run until evening. Then we had a hard storm.

Monday

Rained some this morning. Sea very rough. Had a hard storm in the evening.

Tuesday

Clear & nice this morning. Rained some of in afternoon. About 4 we saw the light house at the Mississippi. Got into the Mississippi at sundown.

Wednesday

Morning about 7, are about 55 miles from town New Orleans. Arr'd at the wharf at 12. Staid on boat all night. The rest of the Reg. about 5 miles from boat.

Thursday

Went to the Theatre last night and saw a large fire in town coming back to the boat. Got lost & was day light before I got back to the boat. Left New Orleans in the Boat M. S. Mapham (?) at 6 o'clock.

Friday

Running along very finely this morning. Nice & large plantations on both sides of the river. Pased the steam boat Id Handa (?) & Star of Liberty (?). Pased Red River at 5 o'clock in eveing.

Saturday - October 14, 1865

Stopped at Natches last night and at sunrise we was at Grand Gulf. Pased the steam boat Gen'l Quitman, W. R. Arthur & Grey Eagle. The Julia is behind us trying to beat us to Cairo.

Sunday - October 15, 1865

We had a hard race to Vixburg but we beat her about a half mile. She run in. 5 times to stop us but could not. Pased the Molly Able while riding.

Monday

Very cold last night but warm all day. Had a pleasant run. Passed Hellena, Arkansas at 2 in afternoon. Passed a steamboat on a sand bar.

Tuesday

Had a nice trip today, but at night we struck a sand bar-had a hard & stormy night.

Wednesday - October 18, 1865

8 in the morning - are 50 miles from Cairo. Sailing along nicely. Arr'd in Cairo at 4. Took the freight train for Mattoon at 4. Run very ____.

Thursday

Arrived In Mattoon at 3. Changed cars for Indianapolis. Arrved at Indinapolis at 3. In the morning went to the soldiers home and staid all night.

Friday

All the Juse (Jews) & Dutch from town up to Camp trying to sell clothing on ____ . Turned over our guns and went to Camp ____ and went into Barrax.

Saturday

Govenor Morton made a speech and then we went to the Soldiers home and got our Reception dinner. Very good for ____.

Sunday - October 22, 1865

Staid at the Spencer house all this time. Rote a letter to Garmon and Fleury. Will get paid tomorrow.

Monday

Went to Camp at 9 o'clock. Staid all day and at half past 4 we was paid off and got our discharge as being in the Service 4 years and 8 days.

Tuesday

I went to the Theatre at night. Left Indianapolis at 12. Arived at Terre Haute at 4. Left Terre Haute and arrived in Montezuma at 8. Staid all night at the Hapht (?) House.

Wednesday - October 25, 1865

I got hom this morning at 9 o'clock. No more from your

Humble Servant

Willis E. Keith.

HISTORY OF THE 35TH INDIANA REGIMENT INFANTRY

Verbatim from: A COMPENDIUM OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION, by Frederick H. Lyer, New York; Thomas Yoseloff, Publisher, 1959, Vol III, Page 1133.

Organized at Indianapolis, Indiana and mustered in December 11, 1861. They were ordered to Kentucky on December 13, and duty at Bardstown until February, 1862. Attached to Negley's 7th Independent Brigade, Army of the Ohio, to July, 1862. 23rd Independent Brigade, 5th Division, 2nd Corps, Army of the Ohio, to November, 1862. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, Left Wing, 11th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to January, 1863. 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 21st Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, to October, 1863. 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, to August, 1865. Dept. of Texas to September, 1865.

SERVICE

Movement to Nashville, Tennessee, February 10-March 12, 1862. Duty there till April 5. At Shelbyville till May 10. Negley's Expedition to Chattanooga, Tennessee May 28-June 15. Chattanooga, June 7. Guard duty along Memphis and Charleston Railroad until August; march to Louisville, Kentucky in pursuit of Bragg, August 21-September 26. Pursuit of Bragg to Loudon, Kentucky October 1-22. Battle of Perryville, Kentucky on October 8. March to Nashville, Tennessee October 22 to November 12, and duty there till December 26. Murfreesboro Pike-November 9th. Dobbin's Ferry, near Lavergne, December 9th. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Battle of Stone's River, December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. Duty at Murfreesboro till June. Middle Tennessee or Tullahoma Campaign June 23-July 7. Occupation of Middle Tennessee til August 16th. Passage of the Cumberland Mountains and Tennessee River and Chickamauga, Georgia Campaign August 16-September 22. Battle of Chickamauga September 19-20. Siege of Chattanooga 26-29. Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27. Lookout Mountain, November 23-24. Mission Ridge, November 25. Ringgold Gap, Taylor's Ridge, November 27. Regiment re-enlisted at Shellmound, Tennessee on December 16, 1863. Veterans on furlough January and February, 1864.

At Blue Springs, Tennessee till May. Atlanta, Georgia Campaign May 1-September 8. Tunnel Hill, June 6-7. Demonstrations on Rocky Face Ridge and Dalton, Georgia, May 8-13. Buzzard's Roost Gap, May 8-9. Battle of Resaca, May 14-15. Near Kingston, May 18-19. Near Cassville, May 19. Advance on Dallas, May 22-25. Operations on line of Pumpkin Vine Creek and battles about Dallas, New Hope Church, and Allatoona Hills, May 25-June 5. Operations about Marietta and against Kennesaw Mountain, June 10-July 2. Pine Hill, June 11-14. Lost Mountain, June 15-17. Assault on Kennesaw, June 27. Ruff's Station, Smyrna Camp Ground, July 4. Chattahoochie River, July 5-17. Peach Tree Creek, July 19-20. Siege of Atlanta, July 22-August 25. Flank movement on Jonesboro, August 25-30. Battle of Jonesboro, August 31-September 1. Lovejoy Station, September 2-6. Operations against Hood in North Georgia and North Alabama, Sept. 28-November 3. Nashville Campaign, November-December. Columbia, Duck River, November 24 to 27. Battle of Franklin, November 30. Battle of Nashville, December 15-16. Pursuit of Hood to the Tennessee River December 17-28. Moved to Huntsville, Alabama and duty there till March, 1865. Operations in East Tennessee March 15-April 20. At Nashville, Tennessee till June. Ordered to New Orleans, June 16 - thence to Texas in July and duty there till September.

Mustered out September 30, 1865. Discharged at Indianapolis, Indiana on October 23, 1865.

Regiment lost during service five officers and eighty-two enlisted men killed and mortally wounded. One hundred sixty-four enlisted men by disease. Total of two hundred and fifty-one.

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE 35TH INDIANA

Verbatim from: WAR OF THE REBELLION: OFFICIAL RECORDS OF UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES, Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1880-1901, Series 1, Volume XVI, Part 2, pages as indicated.

On June 10, 1862, the 35th was in Negley's 7th Independent Brigade in the District of the Ohio. Regiment commanded by Colonel John C. Walker. (Page 7)

Special Orders No. 89 from Headquarters Army of the Ohio at Huntsville, Alabama, July 1, 1862, relieve the 35th from duty in the 7th Independent Brigade and ordered it to move to Huntsville. (Page 88)

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE OHIO
Huntsville, Alabama - July 12, 1862.

Lieutenant-Colonel CONKLIN
Commanding Thirty-fifth Indiana Volunteers
Fayetteville

SIR: The general commanding directs that you march with your regiment for Elk River Bridge, on Chattanooga road, as heretofore ordered. It will probably be best for you to move via Winchester. On the march you will keep on the alert for the rebel cavalry which has been through that part of the country. You will report your arrival and anything of interest that may occur or that you may observe. Telegraph stations have been ordered to be established at Tullahoma and Cowan. It is not the intention to put your regiment as a guard on the line, but to put it in a position suitable for future movements. You will, however, guard the bridge and railroad while you are near it.

(From Page 134)

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. WRIGHT,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

On July 14, 1862, the 35th marched from Fayetteville for Shelbyville. (Page 134)

On July 20, 1862, Brig. General W. S. Smith, commanding the guards on the Nashville and Decatur, Nashville and Chattanooga, and Memphis and Charleston Railroads, reported: (Page 191)

"The Thirty-fifth Indiana, one of the worst behaved regiments
I have ever seen, got off the trains for Murfreesboro this morning."

On August 4, 1862, Maj. General Don Carlos Buell reported that the 35th was in General Nelson's command in advance of McMinnville. (Page 258)

On October 8, 1862, the 35th was in Colonel Stanely Matthews' Twenty-third Brigade, Fifth Division, Army of the Ohio, at Perryville under Colonel Bernard F. Mullen. (Page 593)

CAMP OF 35TH IND. VOLLS VETT - HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA - MARCH 6TH, 1865

Mr. Willard Keith

1588606

Dear Sir

I will rite you a few lines to let you no that I am well at present and I hope these few lines will find you the same. I have ritten you several letters but still I get no ancer and what the reason is I cannot tell if you have not time to rite you can get some one elce that has got time I am ancious to hear from my Eastern Relation I heard from Uncle Flury (Fleury) that Grandmother was unwell and I would like to hear from home once more and to have all the particulars given I am shure it won't take you a dat to rite to me if you wish to.

I have not heard from any person in the East but one since I have been in the Army and I have not heard from Henry in 2 years and I cant tell where he is at present I have been enquiring more about Georges Death latly

On back of the sheet of paper it reads:

he was a Scout for Genl. Dodge and was Killed at Trenton, Tennessee in Dec. 62 he had a watch worth about \$30 Dollars and the Quartermaster got it and kept it until latly he was Captured and the watch with him.

Please rite soon and tell me how all the neibors get a long

Tell Grandmother I hope to see her once more.

No more at present from your Nephew

Willis B. Keith

Direct "I" Company. "B" 35th Indiana. Vetteran Volls.

2d Brigade 1st Division 4th Army Corps

Huntsville Alabama

In the summer of 1863, the Confederate army at Tallahoma was weakened by detachments sent for the defense of Vicksburg, and Bragg found himself exposed to the risk of an attack by Rosecrans from Murfreesboro simultaneously with a movement by Burnside from the Ohio to drive Buckner out of Knoxville. Bragg therefore determined to fall back to Chattanooga. To cover the retreat, he ordered Brigadier-General John Hunt Morgan with a picked force from his division of mounted infantry to ride into Kentucky, breaking up the railroad, attacking Rosecrans' detachments, and threatening Louisville. To gain more time, Morgan wanted to extend the raid by a wide sweep beyond the Ohio, but Bragg would not consent.

Morgan set out from Burkesville, on July 2, with 2,460 men and 4 guns, ostensibly to execute Bragg's orders, but really bent on carrying out his own plan. Although ten thousand Federal troops under Generals Hartsuff and Judah were watching the Cumberland at various points, Morgan skillfully effected the difficult crossing, overcame Judah's opposition, and rode north, followed by all the Federal detachments within reach.

On July 4, he attacked the 25th Michigan, Col. Orlando H. Moore, in a strong position guarding the bridge over Green River, and drew off with a heavy loss. On July 5, he defeated and captured the garrison of Lebanon, and then marched by Springfield and Bardstown, to Brandenburg on the Ohio, where he arrived on the morning of July 9. At once he began crossing on two captured steamboats. The passage was disputed by a gun-boat, and by some home-guards with a field-piece on the Indiana shore, but by midnight the whole command was in Indiana. Twenty-four hours later, General E. H. Hobson followed, leading the advance of Judah's forces in pursuit. But Indiana and Ohio were now in arms, and at every step their militia had to be eluded or overcome; to do either caused delay.

Turning to the east, Morgan rode through Corydon, Salem, Vienna, Lexington, Paris, Vernon, Dupont, Sumansville, and Harrison, Ohio, detaching to burn bridges and confuse the pursuit, impressing fresh horses, his men pillaging freely. Under cover of a feint on Hamilton, Ohio, he marched by night unmolested through the suburbs of Cincinnati, and at last, after dark on the evening of July 15, he reached the bank where from the first he had planned to escape on the Ohio River. Morning found his pursuers closing in from all directions. Morgan with many of his men (about 300) escaped across the river but many were also drowned. All the rest were killed (120) or captured (700). After nearly reaching the West Virginia shore, Morgan himself returned, and with the remnant made for Pennsylvania, hotly pursued, and finally surrendered on the 26th of July, near Beaver Creek, with 364 officers and men.

Later on Morgan commanded in south-western Virginia. After another disastrous raid into Kentucky, he was killed at Greenville, Tennessee, on the 4th of September, 1864.

EDITORS NOTE: It has been said Grandfather Keith met John H. Morgan when taken prisoner in 1862 and Morgan excused him from prison because of his youth and in the premise that he would return home and not take up arms against the South again. Grandfather Keith returned home to Indiana, re-joined the same day and returned to his regiment.

John Hunt Morgan was a cousin of Sarah Allen Yeakum, who later became the wife of Willis B. Keith. The relationship was a second cousin to Sarah Allen Yeakum and a first cousin to her mother, i.e. the mother-in-law of Willis B. Keith.

The Thirty-Fifth (or First Irish) Regiment was organized at Hartford, Conn. and mustered in on the 10th of December, 1861, with a roll of about 500 men. It was sent to Fort Mifflin, Pa., where it remained for a year, and then for four months on the coast of Virginia, and then moved with General Burnside's Army to Washington, and thence to Nashville. On the 2nd of May, 1862, the regiment, together with the Sixty-First (Second Irish) Regiment and the unassigned recruits for the same were ordered to proceed to Tennessee, in charge of Colonel Bernard P. Muller, of the Sixty-First, and there join the Thirty-Fifth, with which regiment they were to be consolidated. These transferred men joined the Thirty-Fifth at Nashville, where the consolidation was perfected; Colonel Muller becoming Lieutenant Colonel, and subsequently Colonel of the regiment. From Nashville, the Thirty-Fifth went into the interior of Tennessee as far as McMinnville, from which place it marched during September, 1862, with Buell's army to Louisville, as part of Stanley Matthew's Brigade, Van Cleve's Division of Crittenden's Corps.

From Louisville, the regiment marched in the pursuit of Bragg through Kentucky, participating in the battle of Perryville, October 8th, and in the skirmishes of the march. Returning to Nashville, it remained inactive until December, when it proceeded on a foraging expedition, during which it had a severe skirmish with the enemy on the 9th of December at Lottins Ferry, near Lavergne, losing five killed and thirty-five wounded. After this it marched with Rosecrans' army toward Murfreesboro, where it participated in the battle of Stone River, on the 31st of December, 1862, and 1st and 2nd of January, 1863. In this engagement the regiment fought on the extreme left, and sustained a loss of one-third of the number engaged, having 29 killed, 72 wounded and 33 missing - making a total loss of 134. The Thirty-Fifth remained in the vicinity of Murfreesboro until the march upon Chattanooga was commenced, in which it took part. In the engagement at Chickamauga on the 19th and 20th of September, it participated, sustaining heavy losses.

While encamped at Shell Mound, Tennessee, the regiment re-enlisted as a veteran organization, on the 16th of December, 1863, and soon after started for home on veteran furlough, reaching Indianapolis on the 2nd of January, 1864. Returning to Tennessee in February, it went into camp at Blue Springs, Tennessee, until the Atlanta campaign opened. On the 3rd of May, as part of the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division of the 4th Corps, it moved from camp and participated in all the marches, battles, skirmishes and scouts of that historical campaign. At Kenesaw Mountain, on the night of the 20th of June, while the regiment was at the front line, it was fiercely and unexpectedly attacked and thrown into temporary confusion. The regiment rallied, and for half an hour fought a desperate hand-to-hand conflict with the enemy, the men using their muskets as clubs, and repelling the enemy whenever opportunity offered, and finally, with the aid of a regiment of another regiment of the brigade, they drove the enemy back. The Thirty-Fifth lost in this affair 11 killed, including its commanding officer, Major Lufficer, and 54 wounded. On the 1th of July, when near Marietta, the regiment, while acting as part of the skirmish line, advanced and captured the enemy's rifle pits and twenty-eight prisoners. This was accomplished notwithstanding the regiment's flank fire. Its losses were four killed and seven wounded.

After the passage of the Shattuckville river, the regiment being ordered to dismount, was ordered to hold the camp until 11:00 a. m. on the 20th of November, when it started on the march to Nashville, Tenn. On the 21st of November, the regiment was ordered to dismount and to march on foot. On the 22nd of November, the regiment entered Nashville, Tenn. On the 23rd of November, the regiment commenced its retrograde movement on the river, and on the 24th of November, it was ordered to march with the 4th Corps in pursuit. At Franklin, Tennessee, the regiment received four hundred drafted men and substitutes, was placed in the front line on the 30th of November, and gallantly repulsed a charge which the enemy made upon the works. In the two days' fight at Nashville, it took a considerable part, but fortunately lost but few men. After the rout and complete demoralization of the enemy, the regiment participated in the pursuit as far as Good River, where it was detached and assigned to the charge of the ponton train.

In the movements of the 4th Corps to Huntsville and Knoxville, the regiment took part, returning to Nashville in the spring of 1865. In June, it was transferred with the 4th Corps to Texas, where it remained in duty with Sherman's army until the month of September, when it was mustered out of service and returned home. Reaching Indianapolis on the 30th of October, it was present at a public reception given to returned troops in the Capitol grounds, on the 1st, at which addresses were made by Governor Morton and others.

The losses to the regiment from the commencement of the Atlanta campaign up to and including the battle of Nashville, are officially reported as follows:

Killed, one officer and twenty men.

Wounded, two officers and one hundred sixteen men.

Total killed and wounded - 139.

Thirty-Fifth Regiment Infantry
Copies from Indiana State Library
Archives Division

THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIS BENSON KEITH*

Born: December 30, 1844

Died: November 20, 1933

CONTENTS:

Two copies of service record obtained from Indiana State Library.

Diary of W. B. Keith. Original spelling and content of diary not altered. Some notes have been added by the editors for clarification or additional information.

Copies of the history of the 35th Indiana Regimental History.

List of officers for 35th Indiana Regiment.

Two pictures of G. A. R. groups with W. B. Keith pictured.

A copy of a caricature of W. B. Keith.

A copy of a newspaper article regarding W. B. Keith by Fanny Keith.

A copy of the G. A. R. Post No. 103 record.

A copy of a letter written by W. B. Keith to his uncle. This includes two sheets.

A transcript (printed) of the above letter.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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Miss Fanny Keith
(Daughter of W. B. Keith)


Mr. Leslie Hoff
(Grandson of W. B. Keith)

* © Beverly Cooper 1965

Miss Beverly Cooper
(Great-Granddaughter of W. B. Keith)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for Adams County, Nebraska, this 12th day of March, 1965.

My commission expires May 21, 1966.


Notary Public

September 17, 1964

Mr. B. J. Cooper
417 Saunders
Hastings, Nebraska

My Dear Mr. Cooper:

In re the Civil War Times, August, 1964, page 45.

There is, as per Mr. Hubert Hawkins, the Indiana State Historical Society, little extant on the 35th. Indiana.

However, in researching for a book I'm trying to do on the New York Irish, I ran across two different, and, to me, highly interesting pieces. They both are currently in my library, and if either one or both pique your interest, would be very happy to forward Xerox copies to you.

The first is to be found in Indiana Bell of Honor, and there are several copies of this lying about the book-stalls ---- though this would not negate my offer of a Xerox copy.

The 35th., being almost a totally Hibernian outfit, sought the services of the Rev. Peter Paul Cooney, a Holy Cross padre from Notre Dame.

Much to everyone's sorrow, Fr. Cooney's papers were destroyed in a fire which almost destroyed the University ---- and this just prior to his putting them in any publishable form. Then, and still more sorrowful, Fr. Cooney died before he could again set down his recollections.

Fr. Tom McAvoy, University of Notre Dame Archivist, wrote the "Civil War Papers of Fr. Peter Paul Cooney" some years ago, and this may be gotten on inter-library loan from the University.

The second reference that I alluded to above is borrowed from the University of Notre Dame Archives as is an unpublished Manuscript by David Powers Conyngham who was an Irish Military observer during the war.

Conyngham published the Irish Brigade, but died before this manuscript could go for editing. The title is Heroes of the Cross; Priests and Nuns on the Battlefield; and it is the section on Cooney that I could send on to you if you wish.

I have a microfilm copy of the New York Irish-American, 1860-65, which was prepared for me by the New York Public Library. This has many, many refernces to the Indiana Regiments built along the ethnic lines of the Irish ---- among them the 35th. You might search here.

I presume that you have already searched Dwyer, Trevelyan Miller, the O.Rs, Benson Lossing, etc.

Would be very nice to hear from you.

Very truly yours,

VIRGIL L. LEVY, D.D.S.

VLL/dk

COPY

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|------------|----------|---------|
| TO | LOCATION | DATE |
| Dr. Levy | | 6/11/65 |
| FROM | LOCATION | |
| Rev Cooper | | |
| SUBJECT | | |

MESSAGE:

Dear Dr. Levy:

Forgive my delay in acknowledging receipt of your kind letter of April 7. Have been very busy and unable to keep caught up - especially on personal matters.

I appreciate very much the materials you sent to me. I only wish I had the money, as well as the time, to pursue the research on this diary and related materials as regards the individuals mentioned, battles, etc. I have obtained some Xerox copies relative to Father Peter Paul Cooney and found them most interesting. Thank you for advising me where to look for this material.

SIGNED

REPLY:

The name of my great-grandfather was Willis Benson Keith - my father's mother's father if you understand. Why didn't I say - my Grandmother's father???? Anyway, only being an enlisted man as private and working up to the rank of seargent I doubt that he would be mentioned anywhere. I would be thrilled to learn if he ever was of course!

Anyway, I am mailing you a printed copy of the diary and related information I collected in my researching the 35th Indiana. You will note the diary is mainly "jettings" as one "purblisher" - sorry, publisher - told me and of no historical value. Granted it does interest mainly the relatives of W. B. Keith but several "buffs" who have read this, found it both interesting and amusing. I hope you do too. Please advise me when you receive this as I am mailing it from my business address. Excuse the bad typing - am in a rush and don't want to delay sending this out to you so will mail it as is.

DATE

Regards,

79230 VICTOR BUSINESS FORMS, LINCOLN, NEBR.
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2362

