

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.

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

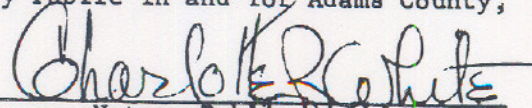
Mr. Leslie Hoff
(Grandson of W. B. Keith)

* © 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

CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WILLIS B. KEITH

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. Drew 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. Drew 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 toock 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 battalioin drill in afternoon.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday - January 25, 1865

Drew 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. Drew 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 atract 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. Blowd 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 afternoon 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 Chattenoga.

** 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. Crook. *** 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 got 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 - pased 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 G 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 Bely & 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. Drewed rations in afternoon.

Thursday

Very warm. Ditched our Camp and drewed rations.

Friday

Very warm last night.

Saturday

Cloudy but not rainy. Drewed 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.

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 ject 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 6. 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 6. 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 stoped for wood at Garrison. Very hot today. Rained some in afternoon. Stoped 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 Vick 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. Rote 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

Acidance will happen for me. Had to remain on the sand bar all night. We got off tho 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 Beeff. 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 Reg. 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

Drawed 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. Drawed clothing but not our full compliment. Drawed rations.

Saturday

Nothing of importance transpired. Mailed my letter today at 1 o'clock. Drawed 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. Drawed more clothing. Went over to 81st & saw the boys. It is said that we will start for home this week. Drawed 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. Drawed 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. Oh Dear. 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. Hurry 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 dores. Drewed 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 darky to cook for us for \$10 a month. The _____ return with us.

Thursday

After our darky 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. Drewed 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 drawed rations 5 days. Hard Tack and 4 of worms. The mustering officer is to be here in the evening to sign the 9th Indiana Rools.

Tuesday

Rained most all nite. The 31st Indiana leaves camp for Victoria this morning. Rather mudy 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

Stoped 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 B. Keith.