

## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

### Repository

Civil War Museum, Jack D. Michaels Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

### Language of Material

Material in English (typed copies)

### Abstract

This activated collection of 3 diaries that Robert Sidney Merrill wrote chronicling his service from 1863 to 1865 in the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry regiment. Diaries contain hand drawn maps of Pursuit of Forrest, April 1865, Sherman's March 1864 and Sketch of 1<sup>st</sup> Brig HQ 1865. Pictures of Pvt Merrill, Generals Edward McCook and James Wilson. Diaries contain 251 pages including glossary and index.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item) Robert S. Merrill Civil War Diaries, Co K, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry Regiment The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

### Provenance

### Processing Information

Processed by Bruce T. Klem 2019

### Biographical Note:

Robert Merrill was born in Union, New York, October 31, 1842. Family moved to Wisconsin in 1854. Enlisted in Beaver Dam. Discharged June 19, 1865 in Nashville, Tennessee. Graduated from The Northwestern Agricultural mechanical Association in Dubuque, Iowa, September 1878. Listed occupation as artist, photographer and painter. He died on June 8, 1924 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## COLLECTION OVERVIEW

### COLLECTION LIST:

Doc 1 of 30 January 1863 Barnesville, MO., letter writing, weather(rain and mud), building fortifications, picket duty, foraging, fatigue duty, unit operations(Springfield & Alton), scouting, patrolling, Camp Chase, MO., 11<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry, snow and winter weather, Major Torrey, bushwhacker attack.

Doc 2 of 30 February 1863 near West Plains, MO., pay, poor health, winter weather, Confederate General Marmaduke, letter writing, scouting operations, Salem, St. Genevieve, Valley Forge, & Eminence, MO., foraging hogs & chickens, limited rations,.

- Doc 3 of 30 March 1863 Cape Girardeau, MO., drilling, health issues, wet weather, operations to Clarkston, MO., Rebel attack, prisoners, guard duty.
- Doc 4 of 30 April 1863 Cape Girardeau, MO., scouting operations, unit & individual drilling, Major Torrey, Bloomfield, MO., Jackson, MO., Confederate General Price, Battle of Cape Girardeau, MO.
- Doc 5 of 30 May 1863 Cape Girardeau, MO., Grand review, camp life, scouting operations Whitewater, MO., capture prisoners, letter writing, mail, grazing horses, unit moving Eddyville KY., boat Chortence, Cumberland River.
- Doc 6 of 30 June 1863 Clarksville, TN., drilling, foraging, parades, training horses, regiment moving to Clarksville, TN., Nashville & Triune, TN., river bathing, new saddles, camp Triune, Union General Mitchel, fighting Rebels, operations to Murfreesboro, TN., 5<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, fighting at Shelbyville, TN., Major Torrey,
- Doc 7 of 30 July 1863, Manchester, TN., on the march, stable guard duty, wet weather, skirmishing, foraging blackberries, forced to walk as punishment, bathing, ration issue, letter writing, Huntsville, AL., illness, ration thieves, pay, guard mount.
- Doc 8 of 30 August 1863, Salem, TN., camp operations, unloading supplies, scouting, rain & hot weather, guard duty, foraging, illness(sunstroke?), cooking meals, revolver issued, rations(pork apples peaches), pay muster.
- Doc 9 of 30 September 1863, Stevenson, AL., movement toward Chattanooga, 2<sup>nd</sup> Indiana, new horses, feed call, picket duty, beef cattle, breakfast, "Boots & Saddles", skirmishing, rations, operations, camp set up, Layfette, &, Crawfish Springs TN., retreat to Chattanooga, TN., battle with Confederates, watering horses, Big Squash Creek & Bridgeport, TN., mail.
- Doc 10 of 30 October 1863, Jasper, TN., wet weather, driving cattle, wagon train burned, battle with Rebs, picket duty, 4<sup>th</sup> Indiana, foraging corn, Decherd, McMinnville, Shelbyville, TN., rations issued, Battle at Farmington, TN., sick, potato cakes, marching to Huntsville, AL., ration detail, stable guard, mail, new recruits, new saddles, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wis Infantry, camping, 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.
- Doc 11 of 30 November 1863, Winchester, TN., Payroll musters, new horses, picket duty, mail, wet weather, foraging, newspapers(Independent), camp tents, illness, horse condemned, buying personal items, on the march, paid, Caney Forks, TN., drowning 2<sup>nd</sup> Indiana.
- Doc 12 of 30 December 1863, Sparta, TN., food foraging, new arms issued, Capt Harnden, clothing repair, picket duty, wet weather, cold, issued colt revolver, Clinch River, Kingston, TN., horse feeding, taking secesh property, Longstreet's headquarter, Knoxville, TN., operations, New Market, TN., skirmishing, artillery fire, battle, Talbot, TN., cavalry charge.
- Doc 13 of 30 January 1864, near Knoxville, TN., operations, veteran's enlistment, foraging, Talbot Station, TN., snow, cooking, mail, skirmishing, Colonel, LaGrange, reveille, battle at Dandridge, TN., almost a prisoner, New Market, TN., guard duty, Sevierville & Strawberry Plains, TN., cavalry charge, prisoners 60 -70.

- Doc 14 of 30 February 1864 near Marysville, TN., wet weather, foraging, mail & letter writing, Major Torrey, new recruits, camp duties, newspaper(Independent), camp punishment, 18<sup>th</sup> Indiana battery, lead team limber, artillery drill, snow, cannoneer drill, race track, Madisonville, TN., prison guard duty.
- Doc 15 of 30 March 1864 near Cleveland, TN., wet weather, religious services, Athens & Calhoun, TN., newspaper(Independent), operations, paid 2 months, guard duty, camp life, cold, letter writing, snow, foraging, town dance, buying & selling gear, target practice.
- Doc 16 of 30 April 1864 near Cleveland, TN., Grand Review, rain, scout operations, drawing, newspapers(Independent & Harpers), letter writing, Union General Thomas, guard duty, cooking, friend Jennings sick, Jennings funeral & personal effects, serving as a cannoneer, drawing new clothing.
- Doc 17 of 30 May 1864, near Varnell Station, GA., transferred to 2<sup>nd</sup> IN, Major Torrey, sent to Chattanooga, Chickamauga Bridge, infantrymen, Tunnel Hill fight, Corporal of the guard, Colonel LaGrange captured, fortification work, ill, Union General Hooker, searching for stolen gear, patrolling, camp life, drawing battle pictures, newspaper(Independent), mail, cost of sending body home.
- Doc 18 of 30 June 1864, near Chickamauga, TN., camp operations, guard duty, sewing, lithograph drawings, Chattanooga Camp Deinesse, swim in Tennessee River, new horse, in guard house, Rebel prisoners in Chattanooga, Provost Marshal, gathering berries, drawing rations.
- Doc 19 of 30 July 1864, near Chattanooga, TN., river bathing, pass to town, Provost Marshal, berry picking, guard duty, camp operations, horse care, sketching, mail, shoeing horses, newspapers(Chattanooga Daily & Independent), Atlanta capture, Union General McPherson's body, working on shells into rings, rain, drawing rations.
- Doc 20 of 30 August 1864, near Chattanooga, TN., guard duty, camp operations, drawing rations, raid on Atlanta Macon RR, Major Torrey captured, ill severe cold, river bathing, selling shell rings, mail, rainy weather, detailed to Cartersville, GA. Division HQ.
- Doc 21 of 30 September 1864, near Cartersville, GA., illness, expiration of service, medical treatment, quinine, shell rings, letter writing, Atlanta capture, Union Generals Sherman & McCook, drawing, Martha Cummings death, Roemus' Cavalry Tactics, visiting Co K, Resaca, GA., Camp Deverse, visit dentist, photographs, boot repair.
- Doc 22 of 30 October 1864, near Cartersville, GA., Division Flag, camp life, drawing, rainy cold weather, Confederate forces, rations, Battle at Burnt Hickory & Allatoona, GA., Confederate prisoners, Union Generals Sherman, Stanley & McCook, Union 4th, 17<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps, church services, move to Kingston & Adairville & Calhoun, GA., charge against Confederates, map making, newspapers (Milwaukee Sentinel & Independent), camp operations, Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Div Cav Corps, trading equipment, washing, hospital trains, birthday.

- Doc 23 of 30 November 1864, Calhoun, GA., Rail trip, Crutchfield House, Nashville, rainy weather, Louisville, Louisville Hotel, pay, sending money home, drawing rations, recruits, new clothing, drawing, laundry ladies, Headquarters duties.
- Doc 24 of 30 December 1864, Louisville, KY., Letters from home, march to Shepardsville, Provost Guards, Elizabethtown, cold weather, drawing rations, Bowling Green, Russelville, wagons, skirmishing, artillery capture, soldiers shot after surrender, Princeton, foraging Reb horses & mules, Trenton, Green River, Phillips Plantation, 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cav, Union Colonel LaGrange.
- Doc 25 of 30 January 1865, Edgefield, TN., letter writing, getting supplies, Johnstons Plantation, freezing weather, Duck River, sketching, cooking, drawing rations, marching, 2 & 7<sup>th</sup> KY Union Cav, .
- Doc 26 of 30 February 1865, Edgefield, TN., sketching, map making, Eastport landing, snowy weather, letter writing, mail, foraging, Widow Ross, mustering out rumors,.
- Doc 27 of 30 March 1865, Monte Valle, AL, rainy weather, sketching, drawing pictures, newspapers(Independent & Sentinel), illness, Union Generals (Croxtton, McCook, Wilson), cold weather, moving, letter writing, marching to Frankfurt, bushwhackers, rebel prisoners, Scouts, Lost Creek Valley, Monte Valle, Al.
- Doc 28 of 30 April 1865, Centreville, AL., Confederate General Forrest, skirmishing, Rebel prisoners, destruction of looms Randolph, Selma, Montgomery, AL., Lt Miller & Scouts killed, map making, Union General McCook, Col LaGrange, Capt Goulding(drowned), 4<sup>th</sup> Div Corps HQ, 4<sup>th</sup> Regular Cav, campaigning in Alabama, Capture of train & horses & prisoners, capture Fort Tyler, sketching.
- Doc 29 of 30 May 1865, Griffins, AL & Tallahassee, FL., drawing, Union General McCook, camp operations, sold pistol, move to Tallahassee, train to Andersonville, Albany, Americus, Thomasville, GA., punishment for thieves, Rebel Guerrillas, sketching for the General, travel to Madison, FL., 36 gun salute for Lincoln, move to St. Marks, steamer Spirea, shipboard.
- Doc 30 of 30 June 1865, Tallahassee, FL., travel to Atlanta, travel to Cartersville, GA., travel to Nashville, TN., Union General McCook, mustering out, Sherman House, travel to Wisconsin, activities at home, clothing list, cash account.