

## The Civil War Diary of Willis Benson Keith

Born: December 30, 1844

Died: November 20, 1933

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 [sic]. Marched through Tuloski [sic], 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. Drawed [sic] rations in evening. Rained a little – the first detachment had the pontoons laid down.

Wednesday

Laid in camp [illegible] 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(sic) for 50 cents. Cheap as dirt ain't [sic] 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 [sic] morning. I took a ride on Capt. Garmon's horse – went out in the country 5 miles and got my diner [sic] at a house who never saw a yankee [sic] before.

Monday

Regt. still in Camp. Drawed [sic] 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 [sic] 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 travel. [sic]

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 [sic] man must go – went down town with Orderly Sergt [sic] 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 [sic] working on my shanty at 8 o'clock and got the Puffs [illegible] 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 [sic] 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 battalion drill in afternoon.

Tuesday

Rained most all day – no drill - went to town for coureasy [sic] and I got satisfied.

Wednesday – January 25, 1865

Drawed [sic] clothing and rations in afternoon. Raining.

Thursday

Clear and cold. Evry [sic] body in his shanty for comfort.

Friday

Clear and very nice morning – had drill in forenoon. Drawed [sic] more clothing.

Saturday

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

Sunday – January 29, 1865

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

Monday

Clear and nice – received 200 more conscripts. Our company got 19. Our company [illegible] 85 present and absent.

Tuesday

3rd Division of our corps is moving for East Part Mississippi – pased [sic] 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 [sic] at night – most off [sic] the Regiment got drunk and plaid [sic] several low life tricks.

Tuesday – February 7, 1865

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

Wednesday

Went to town – had a good time. Rote [sic] 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 [sic] to be sold in Camp today. 4 of the officers under arrest for drunkenness [sic].

Friday

Company drill in forenoon and Battalion drill in afternoon. Darnd [sic] muddy [sic].

Saturday

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

Sunday – February 12, 1865

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

Cold and wet drill in afternoon.

Wednesday

Drill all day - coat weather.

Thursday

Company drill in forenoon and batalion [sic] drill in afternoon. Genl Stanley in Camp. John and James got drunk.

Friday

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

Saturday

In camp all day - very warm and nice day.

Sunday – February 19, 1865

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

Monday – February 20th, 1865

Company drill in forenoon and battalion drill in afternoon till dark. Drawed [sic] rations again.

Tuesday

Very windy. Did not drill. Rumord [sic] 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 [illegible] in Camp. Guest from home.

Saturday

Rained and blowd [sic] like the Devil but 40 in afternoon – it cleared up from raining and blew like the Devile [sic] till dark. Drawd [sic] Rations at 4 o'clock.

Sunday – February 26, 1865

Verry [sic] butiful [sic] 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 [sic] all night.

Sunday – March 5, 1865

Very nice morning. Warm and nice.

Monday

Very nice day. Got a wring [sic] up in camp and had a sparing [sic] 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 [illegible] Illinois.

Friday

Cold day. Drawed [sic] rations. Rote [sic] 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 [illegible] bit more here. [Editor's note: 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.]

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 [sic] the pontoons into town and put them in the cars for Knoxville, Tennessee. Found out that there was a rebbel [sic] gang in the Regt.

Wednesday

Clear and warm. We have got the [illegible] 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 leaves for home in the morning.

Friday

Sutler moved to town and went to Chattanooga. [sic]

Saturday – March 18, 1865

Very warm day. The orderly sergt. [sic] had battalion drill.

Sunday – March 19, 1865

Butiful [sic] 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 [sic] muddy [sic] this morning.

Wednesday

Clear and warm. Wind blowd [sic] 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 [sic] at Chatanooga [sic] 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 ran off the track at Lebanon and we laid there til [sic] 3 in the morning. Arr'd [sic] 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. Piched [sic] our tent and got super [sic].

Tuesday

A little wett [sic] this morning. No news of any importance. Mad [sic] 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 [sic]. 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 [illegible] Very large and butiful [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] Sour Crout [sic] from our Old Dutch Docktor [sic]. 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 [sic]. Great Excitement in camp.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

All quiet. No news of importance. Heard that the Fort [illegible] was captured. 2 companies of cavalry passed Camp for the front.

Saturday

Very butiful [sic] 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.

Sunday – April 9, 1865

Rained some last night and cloudy this morning. Rained all day. Rote [sic] a letter to F.F. Keith. [Editor's note: F. F. Keith was an uncle to Willis B. Keith.]

Monday

Rained all day. No drill. More good news. Generl [sic] Surenand [sic]. One braggade [sic] fired off their guns at 12 o'clock at night.



Tuesday

Very warm. Went out in the country.

Wednesday

Comenced [sic] 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. [Editor's note: 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 [sic] headquarters by Gene. Kimball, Colo More and others.

Saturday – April 15, 1865

Rained in forenoon. Very pleasant in afternoon. Heard that President Lincoln and Seward was assasinated [sic] at Washington.

Sunday - April 16, 1865

Very butiful [sic] morning. Had all the eggs we could eat and warm cornbread. 11 [illegible] 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 [sic] our camp in the afternoon. This sutler fetched a barrell [sic] of beer to Camp. All the officers got drunk as usual. Inspection by Luiet.[sic] Kennedy.

Wednesday

The 2nd Division pased [sic] 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. and 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 through Russleville [sic] 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 [sic] through Morristown at 10. Arr'd [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] the camp generally. Very butiful [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] loading wagon train this morning.

Sunday – April 30, 1865

Loaded the wagon all forenoon. All the Regt. except [sic] 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 [sic] in Chattanooga at 12 o'clock. Ate dinner – Saw Bely [sic] and Hard Tack. Then left Chattanooga at 1 o'clock. Travelled all night – arr'd [sic] in Martinsburg at daylight.

Tuesday – May 2, 1865

Arr'd [sic] at Nashville at 10 o'clock. Unloaded train. Went into camp – 2 miles from town. Got 130 dollars from P. P. Cony. Went in town – paid Sutler 59 dollars - settled.

Wednesday

Very beautiful [sic] morning. Struck tents and moved two miles farther from town. Went in to Camp with The Division at 10 o'clock. Put up our tents in regular order. Drew [sic] rations in afternoon.

Thursday

Very warm. Ditched our Camp and drew [sic] rations.

Friday

Very warm last night.

Saturday

Cloudy but not rainy. Drew [sic] 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 [sic] tomorrow.

Tuesday

Pontoon train left for town at day light. The Regt. 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 [sic] was large [illegible] of citizens there.

Wednesday

Rained a little today

Thursday

Very warm today. Received a letter from H. N. Keith. [Editor's note: 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 jest [sic] after dark the First Division Indiana - Stanley's Old Division - marched to his headquarters. Evry [sic] man had a candle in his hand. It was a grand sight. I was than [sic] wide a wake [sic].

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 [sic] this morning but looks like it. No rain today. Dress Parade today

Sunday – May 21, 1865

All quiet

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – [Editor's note: "all quiet" with all that was written on these days.]

Thursday

Nothing going on In Camp.

Friday

The same as yesterday. I recieved [sic] 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 [sic] all night. Rained last night very hard. Got up at 4 ate my breakfast and [illegible] left Nashville at 6. Arr'd [sic] in Louisville at 6. Left Jeffersonville at 9.

Monday

Arr'd [sic] in Indianapolis at 4 this morning. Left Indianapolis at 8. Arr'd [sic] at Terre Haute at 11. Left Terre Haute at 4. Arr'd [sic] in Rockville at 6. Left Rockville at 7. Arr'd [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [sic] all night at his house and on Tuesday we went back to Bloomingdale gest [sic] 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. [Editor's note: On Saturday, June 10, he has a notation that says: Mathew 336 [sic] – 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 [illegible] out and I must return to the 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 [sic] at 8.

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday – June 22, 1865

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

Friday

Capt. Peters sayed [sic] 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 [sic] in Louisville at 7. Asked Capt. 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 and got it myself and went on to Jeffersonville and took the [illegible] boat [illegible] [illegible].

Sunday – June 25, 1865

Left New Albany at 9. Arr'd [sic] at Mitchell at 2. Took the Quincy train for Evansville. Arr'd [sic] at Quincy at 7 in the morning. Went to the Evansville Depot – have to wait til [sic] tomorrow till 7 o'clock. Left Quincy at 7. Arr'd [sic] at Evansville at 9. Found my captain and 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 [Editor's note: no entries made in diary.]

Monday

At the store all day. Very warm. Upp [sic] 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 [sic] and at Clinton at night.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Got horses shod. Saw Capt. Garmon – Lieut [sic] McKene and Capt. Genish of Evansville. Had a good time.

Friday

Left Terre Haute at 4:00 last night – arr'd [sic] home at 10. Slept on porch last night.

Saturday – July 8, 1865

[Editor's note: No entries made until July 19 with the exception of Thursday - July 13, which was not clear enough to decipher.]

Wednesday – July 19, 1865

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

Thursday

Left Quincy at 6. Arr'd [sic] at Odin at 12. Rote [sic] a letter to H. C. Left Odin at 3. Very warm travelling. Met John Hanlon from my Regt. Arr'd [sic] at Cario [sic] at 8. Went to the Soldiers Home – staid [sic] 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 [sic] there. Went down to the boat Niagra [sic] and started for N. D. at 6.

Saturday

Very warm all night. Could sleep but very little. Stopped at Columbus, Ky. and stoped [sic] for wood at Garrison. Very hot today. Rained some in afternoon. Stoped [sic] at Memphis at 4. Left there at 5. Stoped [sic] 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 [illegible] [illegible] got off. Stoped [sic] again about 4 and got wood. When I got up Sunday evening I was thinking of you N[illegible].

Monday

Monday morning we was loading wood again and was 17 miles from Vicksburg. Went forward in boat and slept late and arr'd [sic] in sight 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 [sic] plantations on both sides of river. Louisiana [res of sentence is illegible]. I am sitting in bow of boat thinking of N[illegible]. 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 [rest of sentence is illegible].

Wednesday – July 26, 1865

Arr'd [sic] in N. O. at 6 last night. Staid [sic] all night on boat [3 illegible words]. 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 [sic] in barrax [sic] til [sic] 3 in afternoon. Then got orders to go to Corp. H.Q. and report. Found our Regt. [illegible] and stoped [sic] with him. Genl. Stanley and Corps H.Q. left at 8 for Indianola, Texas. Rote [sic] a letter to Ed Feelen. Had a Hard rain in afternoon and got wet of course.

Friday

Another boat left for Texas in the morning. Very warm. Wrote a letter to Nettie. Mailed it on the Government Boat Tribela [sic].

Saturday

Very warm today. Went down to boat. Had a good sleep. Then went and got some Fregt [sic].

Sunday – July 30, 1865

Ship going to start for Land [illegible] at 9. Got on [illegible] bond [sic] for Texas. Had a hard storm about 2 o'clock. Shooting at [illegible] all along the 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 [sic] of land about 6 o'clock in evening. Have got a very bad headache. Arr'd [sic] at 10 o'clock at the mouth of the bay.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Acidance [sic] will happen for me. Had to remain on the sand bar all night. We got off tho [sic] 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 distant. Stoped [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [illegible] Keith and Danher.

Sunday, August 6 and Monday, August 7, 1865 – no Entries

Tuesday – August 8, 1865

Nothing going on last few days. Broke camp at 2 this morning. Marched til [sic] 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 [sic] 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 [illegible] [illegible] 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 [sic] a letter to H.C., F.L., K. and I., B. and Y.

Saturday

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

Sunday – August 13, 1865

Went over to the 31st [illegible] [illegible] 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 [sic].

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 [sic] rations. L. Shilling detached at [illegible]. H. Q. crackers with Meat and Pork with Teeth in Sugar with Sand and Flour with Brand in [illegible].

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. [illegible]).

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Diary [long passage illegible] but did not come. A month ago today I was on the Mississippi River at Vixburg [sic]. 2 months ago I was at Louisville, Ky.

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday – August 27, 1865

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

Monday

Had inspection in the morning. Very hot day. My Company had the pull an achre [sic] of weeds before my Capt. Sent. Drewed [sic] Beeff [sic]. Report that we are to be mustered out this week. Bought a watch for [illegible]. [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 has been in prior to Texas.]

Tuesday

Very heavy dew last night. Water run off tents and standing on the ground. Genl. Kimball 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 [illegible] 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 [sic] orders.

Friday – September 1, 1865

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

Saturday

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

Sunday – September 3, 1865

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Mosquitos(sic) was awful last nite [sic]. Wrote a letter to Cap. Garmon Evansville. The Artillery fired a salute. Rumor that Gen'l [sic] 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 scatter the bones all around. Orders for inspection by Maj. Gen'l [sic] Wright but countermanded. Oh Dear. Reported that we are to go to San Antonio. That is Hell again.

Friday

I had to sleep out doors [sic] 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 [sic] a perfect hurricane all day. The Muster Rolls are at Division H. Q. Hury [sic] UP UP [sic].

Sunday – September 10, 1865

Cloudy this morning. The mosquitos was very thick and bad last night. Went out on the ground and put up my mosquito net and rested very well. Gen'l [sic] 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 doors [sic]. Drawed [sic] 5 days of rations yesterday. 2 of Corn Meal and 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 come back from Victoria and says the military officers will be here this week to muster us out.

Wednesday

Very warm all day. My [illegible] Master hiered [sic] a darky to cook for us for \$10 a month. The [4 illegible words] returned with us.

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Orders came for certain [sic] to make out the Muster Roolls [sic]. We will comence [sic] to work on them Mon. morning if [illegible] [illegible] well.

Sunday – September 17, 1865

Worked hard all day at the Muster Out Roolls [sic]. Got one finished, but it is an awful long and tiresome job. [5 illegible words.]

Monday

Gest [sic] been to breakfast. [Illegible] for the Rools [sic] again. Worked hard all day. Capt. Powers spoiled 2 Rools [sic]. He can't know when breakfast is [4 illegible words].

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 Rools [sic] but I got sick in the afternoon and 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 and through [sic] 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 acident [sic] happened to a bugler of the 9th Indiana. Over at Brigade [sic] Head Quarters he was bit in the foot by a triananta [sic]. He swelled all over and suffered a great deal. He died last night.

Saturday

Dis [sic] was one very hot day. It would suffocate the devil. The officers are still working on the Muster Rools [sic]. Some are very [illegible] done.

Sunday – September 24, 1865

Was the hottest day we have had since we have been in Texas. Capt. Dawson [sic] and Liuet. [sic] McCabe have got there [sic] and their roolls [sic] done.

Monday

We drawed [sic] 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 [sic].

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Friday

When I called for the roll this morning the Privates were making a [illegible] [illegible] for the officers to sign. Our rools [sic] has come and found the rools [sic] all right and mustered us out of the U.S. Service.

Saturday

Sent muster rools [sic] to town at 8. We turned over our pups, kettles and camp and Garrison equipage. We was ordered to take back our Pups again. Dress Parade ordered and 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 - October 2, 1865

to Alligator Pond and 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 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 [sic] B. K. G. and E got on board at sundown. Will not leave the bay until tomorrow morning. Drawed [sic] 10 days rations.

Thursday

Went down to the mouth of bay and staid [sic] 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 and [illegible] 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 stollen [sic] from clerk of the ship. Could not find the money. Left Galveston 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 and 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 [sic] at the wharf at 12. Staid [sic] 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 and was day light before I got back to the boat. Left New Orleans in the Boat M.S. Mapham [sic] at 6 o'clock.

Friday

Running along very finely this morning. Nice and large plantations on both sides of the river. Pased [sic] the steam boat Id Handa[illegible] and Star of Liberty. Pased [sic] Red River at 5 o'clock in the eveing [sic].

Saturday – October 14, 1865

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

Sunday – October 15, 1865

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

Monday

Very cold last night but warm all day. Had a pleasant run. Passed Hellena [sic], 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 and stormy night.

Wednesday – October 18, 1865

8 in the morning – are 50 miles from Cairo. Sailing along nicely. Arr'd [sic] in Cairo at 4. Took the freight train for Mattoon at 4. Run very [illegible].

Thursday

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

Friday

All the Juse [sic] and Dutch from town up to Camp trying to sell clothing on [illegible]. Turned over our guns and went to Camp [illegible] and went into Barrax [sic].

Saturday

Govenor [sic] Morton made a speech and then went to the Soldiers home and got our Reception dinner. Very good for [illegible].

Sunday - October 22, 1865

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

Monday

Went to Camp at 9 o'clock. Staid [sic] 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 [sic] at Terre Haute at 4. Left Terre Haute and arrived in Montezuma at 8. Staid [sic] all night at the Hapht [sic] House.

Wednesday – October 25, 1865

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

Humble Servant

Willis B. Keith