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# “Proud Are We”

## Private Rhinehart and the College Company of the Twenty-second Kansas Volunteers

*by Justin Dragosani-Brantingham*

Clifford Thompson Rhinehart, on May 16, 1898, did what many of his fellow students at the Kansas State Normal School (KSN) and other Kansas colleges were doing. He volunteered for service in the war with Spain. While many students joined farmers, tradesmen, and others in their hometown units, Rhinehart joined Company H of the Twenty-second Regiment, Kansas Volunteers, known as the College Company, that was being formed on the campuses at Lawrence, Manhattan, Topeka, and Emporia. Like Samuel Adams of Topeka, also a member of Company H, he kept a daily journal. Rhinehart's experiences, observations, and thoughts as an idealistic and sometimes disillusioned soldier provide significant insight into a turbulent era for Kansas youth.<sup>1</sup>

The 1890s in Kansas was an age of nationalism and imperialism fueled by patriotism, idealism, and, among the young, a desire for adventure and glory. Some Kansans had misgivings about going to war with the Spanish over their treatment of Cubans, but the sinking of the *Maine* was the catalyst for thousands of Kansans to answer their nation's call.<sup>2</sup> Young men of Kansas had grown up in households that encouraged a sense of duty

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1. "The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart," private collection of Harold Patterson, Coffeyville, Kans.; Judith H. Byrd and Philip R. Mason, eds., "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry: From the Diary of Samuel Adams," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 36 (Winter 1970): 402–23.

2. For differing views of Kansas newspaper editors and others, see Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, "Student Soldiers of 1898: The 22nd Kansas College Company" (master's thesis, Emporia State University, 1997), 5–7; Harold J. Sylwester, "The Kansas Press and the Coming of the Spanish–American War," *Historian* 31 (February 1969): 251–67.



*Private Clifford T. Rhinehart of the Twenty-second Kansas, Company H.*

"PROUD ARE WE"

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*The student battalion at Kansas State Normal School in Emporia formed in 1889 with William Clarence Stevenson, a KSN graduate in that year, its organizer and commander.*



and honor as they listened to tales of wartime heroics. The Grand Army of the Republic was a highly admired and politically powerful organization in communities throughout Kansas. These Union veterans' "influence on the generation that took part in the [Spanish–American War] conflict cannot be measured," proclaimed Major Willis L. Brown of the Twenty-first Kansas. "Patriotism has been taught from the schoolhouse, from the pulpit, from the rostrum, and the beacon lights of the GAR hall. The great soldier state of Kansas was ready for the fray."<sup>3</sup>

Rhinehart was born in Noble County, Ohio, January 23, 1873, and grew up on a farm southwest of Columbus in Cherokee County, Kansas. He had taught school in Cherokee County for several years and enrolled in the fall of 1897 at the Normal School in Emporia to work toward a teaching certificate. Clifford Rhinehart's father, Joseph Rhinehart Jr., and an uncle, Iret Rhinehart of Spring Hill, Kansas, both had served in the Seventy-eighth Ohio Infantry during the Civil War. This was typical of the family backgrounds of other Kansas students.<sup>4</sup>

3. W. L. Brown, "Kansas in the Spanish–American War," *Kansas Historical Collections 1897–1900* 6 (1900): 130. For attitudes in Kansas toward a war with Spain, see Christopher C. Lovett, "The Crowning Glory and the Greatest Grief: Kansas in the Spanish–American War," *Kansas Heritage* 6 (Summer 1998): 4–8.

4. Kansas State Normal School, Student Records, Office of the Registrar, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kans.; *Columbus Courier*, September 29, 1898; *Columbus Advocate*, October 6, 1898. Clifford Rhinehart's family included his parents, Joseph Rhinehart Jr. and Mary Lucinda Thompson; a brother, Pearl Scott Rhinehart; and two sisters, Bessie Ann (Brown) and Carrie Albavine (Michael). During the Civil War Joseph Jr. was wounded severely in the hip at the Battle of Champions Hill in Mississippi and sent to the hospital in Memphis. Clifford's uncle, Iret Rhinehart, rose to the rank of captain by the end of the war. See Adjutant Gen-

The idea of a company composed entirely of college students, such as Company H, had its roots in the student battalions at the college campuses in Manhattan, Emporia, and Topeka. Washburn College had a student militia under the command of a regular army officer. It had folded in 1897, but Captain W. A. Harshbarger returned in April 1898 to recruit student volunteers. Kansas State Agricultural (KSA) College in Manhattan possessed a Military Department for "proper development of the body as well as the mind." A regular army officer was provided by the federal government to train selected students for military service. Courses in infantry, artillery, and drill were offered to instill "characteristics of a true soldier—love of country, subordination, and a healthy constitution."<sup>5</sup> The federal government provided guns and equipment, and KSA supplied the uniforms, which could only be worn at drill, much to the dismay of the students.

eral's Office, War Department, July 14, 1882, in Joseph Rhinehart's Pension File (218559), Bureau of Pensions, Department of the Interior, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; "Students Will Go," *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 23, 1898.

5. "The Military Department," *Students' Herald* (Manhattan), March 9, 1898.

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A student battalion at KSN in Emporia had its start in the fall of 1889. William Clarence Stevenson, an 1889 graduate and professor of penmanship and bookkeeping, was its organizer and commander.<sup>6</sup> From 1889 to 1898 the student battalion numbered in the hundreds yearly. Company B, a women's company, had more than one hundred members in its charter year of 1892. The battalion's annual banquet drew enormous crowds and earned a reputation for being a "pleasing social feature of the school." The battalion trained regularly, drilled competitively, and practiced encampment northeast of Emporia on the Neosho River at Camp Taylor, named after the KSN president, Albert R. Taylor. Kansas University (KU) students did not have a military drill class until the defeat of Spain. After a student request for a regular army officer to lead them in drill and tactics was not successful, Professor James A. Naismith answered their request and led the students in military training.<sup>7</sup>

The patriotic fervor that swept through Kansas colleges produced, in addition to enlistments, public demonstrations for the liberation of Cuba in April 1898. Students ran the Cuban flag up the main flagpole at KU. They cheered three times at chapel in Cuba's honor and the "Pharmics" fired several shots. At Washburn in Topeka, on the night of April 22, a stuffed dummy labeled "General Weyler" was set ablaze and suspended from the telephone wires before a crowd of about five hundred, including many women wearing Red Cross uniforms.<sup>8</sup> Earlier that day, regular army troops briefly stopped on a train in Lawrence. Amid cheers and waving flags, the troops

6. While a school principal in Eureka, Stevenson organized a Greenwood County militia in 1886; it became part of the state militia with Stevenson as captain. See "Military Company," *Eureka Democratic Messenger*, October 29, 1886; "Military Company," *Eureka Herald*, October 29, 1886.

7. *Kodak* (Emporia: Kansas State Normal School, 1898), 168–73. This student yearbook published by the senior class contains a short history of the KSN battalion; "Physical Culture Drill," *Kansas University Weekly* (Lawrence), October 1, 1898.

8. "Cheers for Cuba," *Kansas University Weekly*, April 23, 1898; "Students Excited," *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 24, 1898; "Students Burn Weyler," *ibid.*, April 23, 1898. General Valeriano Weyler, the Spanish governor of Cuba in 1896 and 1897, relocated rural Cubans to urban centers to counteract the guerrilla warfare tactics of the insurgents. Although this was militarily effective, it caused mass famine and suffering that earned him the name "Butcher Weyler."

and students, as well as townspeople, exchanged patriotic words. Professors were unable to keep their students in class. "Nobody was interested at that moment in the extraction of Greek roots or even in the campaigns of Napoleon," one student wrote. "Our own country was about to prepare for a campaign of its own and we of the great—restless, excitable, patriotic west were stirred." The Cuban flag that had been on the KU flag post was taken down and waved by the students at the depot. A captain caught sight of the flag and asked if he could take it to war. The "boys were only too proud to grant the captain's request." Professors excused their students later in the day as a trainload of black troops passed through Lawrence. Students and citizens cheered when the train arrived with the words "Remember the Maine" emblazoned on the engine.<sup>9</sup>

KSA students at Manhattan showed their support by wearing badges that read "Freedom for Cuba and Vengeance on Spain." Members of the student battalion and their guests passed by a placard proclaiming "Remember the Maine" as they joined in singing and cheering amidst stacks of arms, the American and Cuban flags, and bursts of cannons at the Military Banquet on May 2. Although President Albert R. Taylor of KSN stressed to the Emporia students they should not feel compelled to fight, and that their duty to country could be in staying and finishing their education, students "went wild" on April 26, lit an enormous bonfire, and tossed the Spanish flag into the flames as they sang songs and burned an effigy of General Weyler.<sup>10</sup>

Chancellor Francis H. Snow of KU declared it was just to fight against oppression and read a statement prepared by the university council composed of faculty that challenged the students to ask these questions of themselves:

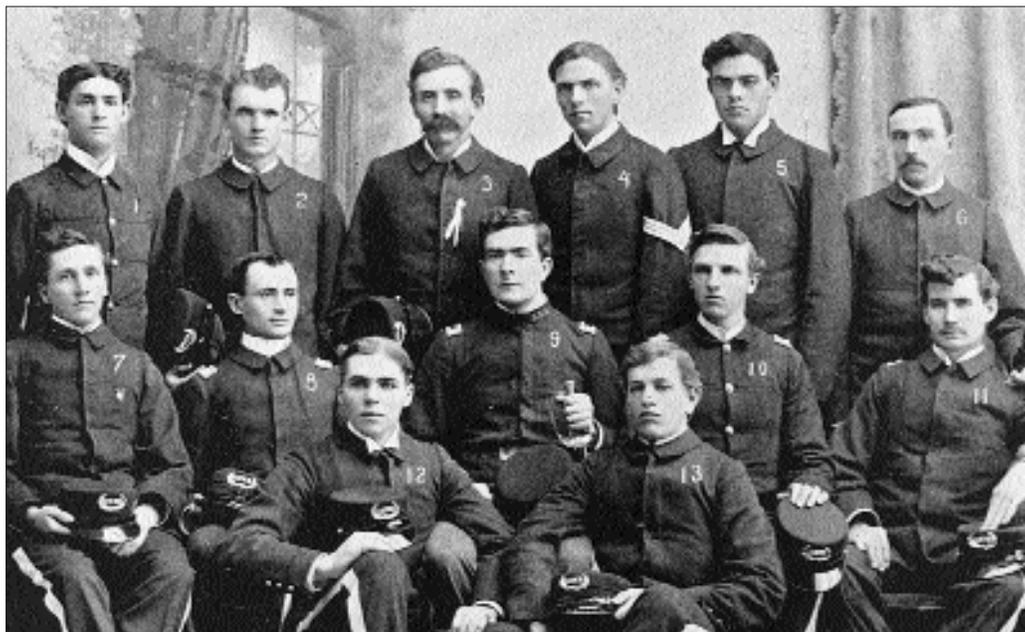
Can I serve my country best as a soldier or a citizen? Ought I to sacrifice my personal interests

9. "To Arms! To Arms!" *Kansas University Weekly*, April 23, 1898; "A Still Bigger Crowd Sees the Colored Troops," *ibid.*, April 23, 1898.

10. *Students' Herald*, April 27, 1898; "The War Party," *ibid.*, May 4, 1898; "War Fever Rages," *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 27, 1898.

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*Officers of the KSN student battalion pose for a photograph in 1898. Officer number 9 is battalion commander Stevenson.*



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for the nation's good? Can or should I leave home and imperil its happiness? Can I enlist as a volunteer with a moral conviction of the rightfulness of the act, and a clear judgement free from all taint of temporary excitement or selfish motive? Can I maintain a steady enthusiasm, born of this moral purpose, in spite of trial, suffering and chance of death? Ought I, in view of all the circumstances, to offer my service and my life to my country?

To any student of the legal age of 21 years who thoughtfully decides these questions affirmatively and responds to the call of his country by enlisting, the University can but say, "Go, and God bless you."<sup>11</sup>

Snow added that patriotism exists for men who enlist or men who stay at home. Students should have parental permission, there was no shortage of volunteers, and only those in their senior year should consider going. He warned that war interrupts studies, and after the Civil War ended, some never returned to campus.<sup>12</sup>

The KU Board of Regents added an incentive on April 27 by stating that seniors in good standing entering military service would be granted their diplomas, and juniors of legal age would be given credit for their junior work. KU also guaranteed any faculty member who enlisted continued pay during his absence and his position when he returned. KSN also reserved its professors' positions if they enlisted but refused to grant early degrees to enlisting seniors. President Taylor's decision earned him criticism from the "entire college contingent." Those who enlisted from the College of Emporia received their diplomas without graduating.<sup>13</sup>

The idea of a Kansas company composed entirely of college students and faculty gained momentum quickly at KU as members of the football team said that "they would feel it a personal insult if they were left out." One suggestion was that a KU unit might affiliate with a regiment from the University of Pennsylvania, but KU students and faculty refused to be a

11. "Wise Council," *Kansas University Weekly*, April 30, 1898; "Address to K.U. Students," *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 27, 1898.  
12. "Address to K.U. Students."

13. "Meeting of Regents," *Kansas University Weekly*, April 30, 1898; "Enthusiasm at K.U.," *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 25; *ibid.*, May 15, 1898; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, May 16, 1898.



*Amid rampant student enthusiasm, Albert R. Taylor, KSN president, stressed to his students, as did other college and university presidents, that they should not feel compelled to fight. Taylor later visited members of the College Company at Camp Alger, Virginia.*

Those arriving at Camp Leedy, located at the Topeka fairgrounds, had departed from their campuses and hometowns as heroes. At Emporia on the morning of May 12, the KSN volunteers met with friends and family in the college assembly room. A “company of handsome Normal girls” pinned a silk flag and a rose to each soldier’s coat lapel and wished him “God-speed.” Then the “kindergarten filed in” and presented each soldier a tiny flag. At the depot cheering crowds said farewell to the students of Company H and to Company E, comprising mainly Emporians.<sup>16</sup>

The volunteers were gathered on May 12 at Camp Leedy, and when the company elected officers on May 13, William C. Stevenson of KSN was elected captain of Company H, Henry M. Thomas of KSA was chosen as first lieutenant, and George H. Rising of KU as second lieutenant. The College Company representation included KSN, thirty-six; Washburn, seventeen; KU, sixteen; KSA, eleven, and the College of Emporia, four.<sup>17</sup> A number of volunteers had been

“tail to Pennsylvania’s kite.”<sup>14</sup> More than forty KU students signed the roll for a company and elected George H. Rising as their captain, only to find out a day later that there would not be a student company exclusively for KU. It must include KSN and KSA students in proportion to the number of male students, and it would be under the command of Colonel Henry C. Lindsey of the Twenty-second Kansas Infantry. The KU students wanted their own distinct company and protested that the KSN and KSA volunteers were “pedagogues and farmers.” Meanwhile, KSA President Thomas E. Will corresponded unsuccessfully with Kansas Adjutant General Hiram V. Allen and Governor John Leedy for a distinct KSA company.<sup>15</sup>

14. “A College Regiment,” *Kansas University Weekly*, April 23, 1898; “Students Volunteer,” *ibid.*, April 30, 1898.

15. “The Captain of the K.U.,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, April 30, 1898; “The Student Company,” *Students’ Herald*, March 4, 1898; *Kansas University Weekly*, April 30, 1898; Thomas E. Will to Hiram V. Allen, May 4, 1898, and to John Leedy, May 7, 1898, box 2, folder 4, Military Applications, John W. Leedy Administration, Records of the Governor’s Office, Library and Archives Division, Kansas State Historical Society.

16. “Normal Boys Await Orders,” *Emporia Daily Gazette*, May 9, 1898; “The Normal Soldiers,” *ibid.*, May 12, 1898; “The Normal Volunteers,” *State Normal Monthly* 10 (May 1898): 137. KSN student Rutherford B. Park of Scottsville was originally assigned to Company H, but because the quota had been exceeded he was transferred to Company E at Emporia before both companies departed for Camp Leedy. The first KSN student to die in the war, Park died on August 26 of typhoid fever at the Fort Meyer hospital and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. See *Beloit Times*, September 8, 1898; *Western Call* (Beloit), September 9, 1898.

17. “The College Company,” *Topeka State Journal*, May 13, 1898; “Camp Leedy Notes,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 19, 1898; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, May 19, 1898. The four College of Emporia volunteers were solicited by Stevenson but were not eligible under the orders of Governor Leedy. “Professor Stevenson got around this little point by having the boys admitted to the Normal this morning. They were all issued class permits and this makes them eligible to the company of state students, although they have never attended a state school even for a day. The Agricultural college and the University will probably make a kick, as they

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mustered in earlier and, at noon on May 17, when all the companies of the Twenty-second gathered near the center of Camp Leedy, the entire regiment drew up in close columns and the rolls of the officers and men of each company were called. Those absent were satisfactorily accounted for, and the entire regiment was mustered in.<sup>18</sup>

Conditions at Camp Leedy differed greatly from Camp Alger in Virginia where Company H would later be stationed. The Twentieth, Twenty-first, and Twenty-second Regiments were all located at Camp Leedy, which lay so close to home that the college soldiers regularly received visitors and gifts. Along with young women and friends, Civil War veterans came frequently to pay their respects. One veteran sent a red sash to Captain Stevenson for him to wear when he was officer of the day.<sup>19</sup> Kansans were reminded that in the Civil War “the line of march of volunteers going to the front might be traced by the things they threw away—gifts made for them by fond friends, but which they were unable to carry with them.” Instead edibles were encouraged:

a box from home is a treat much appreciated by the volunteer, whose soul wearies of tough beef, fat bacon, and the soda biscuit of the camp cook. Eleven dollars a month does not purchase many luxuries in the way of food, and your boy is probably hungry much of his time.<sup>20</sup>

should.” See *Emporia Daily Gazette*, May 9, 1898. The College of Emporia was a Presbyterian college located a few blocks west of KSN. The student newspaper praised the four and concluded, “May they soon return to us safely, crowned with the wreaths of victory.” See *College Life* (Emporia), May 14, 1898.

18. “The Twenty-Second,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 18, 1898; A.M. Harvey, “The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment,” *Kansas Historical Collections 1897–1900* 6 (1900): 138. Kansans were surprised when Captain Stevenson returned to Kansas college towns in the middle of June and recruited twenty-five more volunteers. See *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 18, 1898; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 20, 1898; “Itinerary of Company H,” *State Normal Monthly* 11 (October 1898): 12. One of the new recruits, Private George E. Davis, was reported to be the youngest man in the Twenty-second at age sixteen. He was a “big and healthy boy, and with his mother’s consent, has gone to the front.” See “Kansas’ Youngest Soldier,” *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 27, 1898. Eventually forty-seven KSN students would be members of Company H after further recruiting in June. See *State Normal Monthly* 12 (December 1899): 37.

19. “Simply Vile,” *Topeka State Journal*, May 16, 1898, 7; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, May 13, 1898; Camp Alger was named after Russell A. Alger, U.S. secretary of war.

20. “Gifts Must Be Small,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 24, 1898.

In addition to food, a common gift was a “housewife,” a kit with soap, writing materials, and other personal necessities.<sup>21</sup>

The Twenty-second was the last of the three regiments to leave Camp Leedy. Company H marched to the train at 2:00 P.M. on May 25. Local members of the Grand Army of the Republic escorted the volunteers through the streets crowded with cheering Topekans.<sup>22</sup> The young soldiers were eager for glory but also to see the world:

The Twenty-second is about as well pleased with its assignment to Washington as the Twentieth is with its trip to Manila. Many of the members of the former have never been east of the Mississippi [R]iver, and a number have never been out of the state. The prospect of seeing the national capital almost repays the disappoint of not being pushed to the front.<sup>23</sup>

As the train paused in Ottawa, Kansas, where flags decorated the streets, two women moved among the cars distributing bouquets. The elder of the two shouted, “Goodbye, boys and God bless you! My son has already gone.” The younger woman added, “And he was my sweetheart.” Other shouts and greetings awaited them across eastern Kansas.<sup>24</sup>

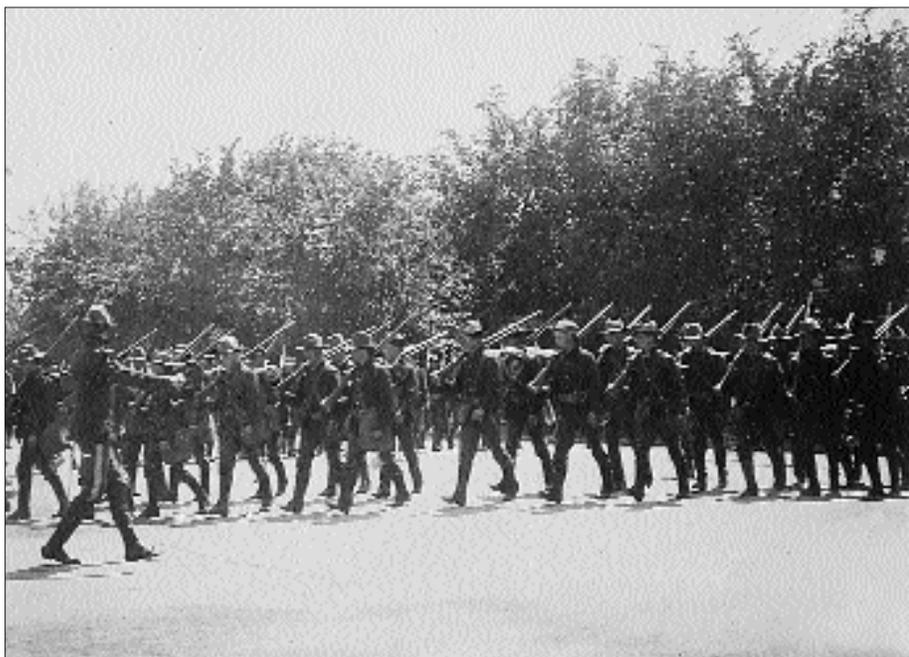
As they continued across Missouri and eastward, the cheers and gifts of food continued. On May 27 Ohio University students at Athens welcomed the College Company at a luncheon, and a company from Athens, which included many students, boarded the train. As the long journey continued through tunnels and along mountainsides, Kansas soldiers

21. A “housewife” is a kit that women commonly gave men in the Spanish–American War including, but not limited to, such things as a pocket pin cushion and needle case, chamois letter case, comb or brush, sponge, soap, compact writing case, knitted boots of Germantown wool, and soft woolen socks. See *ibid.*; “For Kansas’ Boys,” *ibid.*, June 17, 1898.

22. Harvey, “The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment.” After the three regiments departed, Camp Leedy was home to a fourth regiment, the Twenty-third Kansas Volunteer Infantry (Colored). See Christopher Lovett, “‘To Serve Faithfully’: The Twenty-third Kansas Volunteer Infantry and the Spanish–American War,” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 21 (Winter 1998–1999): 256–75.

23. “Camp Notes,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 18, 1898.

24. “The Twenty-Second Regiment En Route,” *ibid.*, May 28, 1898.



*The College Company of the Twenty-second arrived at Camp Leedy in Topeka on May 12, 1898. It was stationed there with the Twentieth and Twenty-first until May 25, when it moved out to Camp Alger, Virginia.*

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demanded the train stop at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, so they might see the monument to the "greatest Kansas hero."<sup>25</sup> On the morning of May 28 the troops marched around the John Brown monument and "with music and song gave expression to their love and veneration" of their martyred hero by singing "John Brown's Body." The band next played "Dixie," and the local people cheered. Around noon the soldiers reached Washington and "from the train, the Capitol building, Washington Monument and the gilded dome of the Library building can be seen." Another eleven miles via the Southern Railroad brought them to a station at Dunn Loring, Virginia, at 4:00 P.M. Here they unloaded their gear and marched the final four miles to Camp Alger. Company H arrived in camp on May 28 at 7:00 P.M., just missing a camp review by President William McKinley.<sup>26</sup>

25. Byrd and Mason, "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry," 403-4; "Word from the 22nd," *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 2, 1898; "News from Camp Alger," *Manhattan Nationalist*, June 10, 1898; "The Twenty-Second Regiment En Route."

26. Harvey, "The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment," 139; Byrd and Mason, "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry," 404; "The Twenty-Second at Harper's Ferry," *Topeka Daily Capital*, May 29, 1898; "Kansas There," *ibid.*, May 29, 1898; "Word from 22nd," *ibid.*, June 2, 1898. Camp Russell A. Alger extended five miles along the Southern Railroad from

Their first night in camp the men slept on hard ground without straw, under shabby tents; they would have had empty stomachs if not for the 159th Indiana Regiment sharing some soup, hardtack, and coffee. Most of the tents flooded during a downpour as the men huddled together in the few remaining dry tents. The next day they relocated the tents, dug ditches, and began to make plans to elevate their sleeping areas to prevent a recurrence. The nearest water for bathing or swimming during the early part of Company H's stay was a pond about two and one half miles from camp near a "150 years old" mill reputed to be "where George Washington hauled wheat to."<sup>27</sup> The closest available uncondemned spring to the Kansas regiment was about a mile from their camp. On June 3 guard reinforcements had to be posted to keep the Seventh Illinois from also claiming

Falls Church to Dunn Loring and from the rail south toward the Fairfax courthouse.

27. "From Camp Alger," *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 3, 1898; Byrd and Mason, "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry," 405, 407; "Word from the 22nd." Rhinehart visited the mill on July 4 and described it as just the right size to "make a Kansas farmer a good henhouse, if they would take out the little 'joint' that was in the corner, where they sold 'moonshine' whiskey."

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*The Twenty-second was commanded by Colonel Henry C. Lindsey, whose rigid discipline governed the daily lives of the men at Camp Alger.*



it. Later the same day the Twenty-second Kansas finally received its military hats, clothes, and shoes. The men did not receive their regimental colors and their Springfield model 1879 rifles and bayonets until later in the month.<sup>28</sup>

The Kansas regiment was quickly seen by eastern soldiers as “a gang of cowpunchers and ‘bad men’ with guns,” or “daring borderers and dead shots.” Their reputation as westerners probably was enhanced when they constructed “corduroy spring beds” with short poles. They stripped pine trees for needles and used other plants with soft foliage for cushioning. When the rains came again, the Kansans had dry elevated sleeping arrangements. They also may have utilized their farming or horticultural class skills as they landscaped their campgrounds with moss, ferns, shrubs, and small trees.<sup>29</sup>

Company H donned its new uniforms, polished its boots, and had its first battalion inspection by Colonel Henry C. Lindsey, the regimental commander, on Sunday, June 5. Samuel Adams wrote in his diary, “I think Co. H made a pretty good showing for the first time.” Rigid discipline governed the daily life of the men at Camp Alger. A soldier learned not to dare “raise his hand, or turn his

head, or spit,” let alone be absent from the drill muster roll. An infraction might result in a trip to the guard house or long hours exposed to the sun sitting astride a saw horse.<sup>30</sup>

The soldiers nicknamed Camp Alger “White City” because of the white canvas tents as far as the eye could see, covered with a thin layer of pulverized yellow clay that whirling dust clouds deposited everywhere. A typical day started with the trumpeter’s “First Call” after which the volunteers dressed, gathered their arms, and headed for the parade ground. There roll was taken in formation. Then the soldiers tidied their bedrolls and could go to their breakfast of beans, a potato, a piece of bread, and a slice of fat pork. This was followed by sick call, a clean-up of the grounds, exercises, and about two hours of “theoretical instruction” on the rules of war. Next came the most dreaded part of the day: hours of

28. “From Camp Alger”; “The Kansas Boys Won Out,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 3, 1898; “Camp Alger News,” *ibid.*, June 15, 1898; “Life at Camp Alger,” *ibid.*, July 6, 1898.

29. “Fighting News,” *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 13, 1898; “Kansas Notes,” *Manhattan Mercury*, June 22, 1898; “Kansas Boys at Camp Alger,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 10, 1898; “Camp Alger News.”

30. Byrd and Mason, “A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry,” 407–8; “At Camp Alger,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 2, 1898; “Sick List Grows,” *ibid.*, June 25, 1898; “Army ‘Saw-Horse,’” *ibid.*, June 29, 1898.



*The soldiers nicknamed Camp Alger "White City" because of the white canvas tents covering the vast landscape.*

march and drill in the hot sun with minor breaks to prepare them for service in Cuba. The noon meal, which was similar to breakfast, was followed by mail call. For the remainder of the afternoon the companies practiced battle maneuvers, held mock battles with blank ammunition and fixed bayonets, or used the rifle range. For supper the men usually dined on beans, pea soup, potatoes, hardtack, and coffee; on rare occasions they received rice, beefsteak, or tomatoes. A dress parade followed, then time to rest, read, or talk until "Taps" at 9:30 P.M. As the talking died down, the Kansas men, sometimes crammed eight per tent, dreamed of "delicacies as are furnished by an unlimited market."<sup>31</sup>

The soldiers soon began to complain about bad water, bad food, and an unhealthy climate, as typhoid fever, measles, malaria, and diarrhea began to spread and cause alarm. One soldier complained that army food had "so much grease in it" that a man

"could hardly eat it." Impure water led the Kansans to drill a well but its quality was so bad it was condemned. A Kansas guard watched their spring (christened "John Brown") day and night—at night with a loaded rifle. Water was stored in covered barrels and boiled before drinking. The men of Company H received vaccinations on June 8, and large numbers complained of sickness.<sup>32</sup> The Woman's Relief Corps and other Kansas groups sent gingham pajamas for convalescents, light flannel bandages, reading materials, tobacco and pipes, and other items to help improve the soldiers' situation, where sick soldiers,

[a]ccustomed as they have been at home to the daintiest sheets and the softest pillows, there, sick and suffering, have nothing between them and the hard, hot ground but a blanket! There, in that land of blazing suns and crawling reptiles—lizards and tarantellas—stretched on the bare ground, with no pillows for their aching heads and nothing to eat but hard tack, bacon and beans, the strength of

31. Harrison, *City of Canvas*, 26, 56; "A Day at Camp Alger," *Students' Herald*, November 2, 1898; "Camp Alger News"; "Letter from Camp Alger," *Topeka State Journal*, June 10, 1898; "From Camp Alger"; Noel Garraux Harrison, *City of Canvas: Camp Russell A. Alger and the Spanish-American War* (n.p.: Falls Church Historical Commission and Fairfax County Historical Society, 1988), 23–26.

32. "From Camp Alger"; "Camp Alger News"; "Sick List Grows"; "Life at Camp Alger"; Byrd and Mason, "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry," 408; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 23, 1898.

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their manhood,—of their splendid nobility of principle is indeed put to a severe test.<sup>33</sup>

Virginians soon learned to sell the Kansans food far better than their army rations. “Those who have the price can purchase berries, biscuits, gingerbread, eggs and milk from farmers who daily come up to our lines.”<sup>34</sup> An ice cream vendor set up shop inside the Kansas lines on a hot day and left two fifteen-gallon freezers stocked full. Unidentified soldiers raided the goods and the vendor unsuccessfully appealed to the colonel for compensation. Local food vendors who set up shop inside the Kansas lines did not have good reputations. One soldier wrote home:

Of all the curses in this camp, the two prominent ones, in our judgement, is allowing the robbers who conduct the stands to give the boys credit and that the clerk to the chaplain is allowed to loan money at 25 per cent from pay day to pay day. Between the hold up prices of these stands and the Shylock at the post office, the boys won't have a cent left.<sup>35</sup>

Company H's first payday was on the afternoon of June 24. Some soldiers settled previously acquired debts, others pursued their hopes of amassing large fortunes with the aid of “dice or cards.” Many “spent the day and incidentally their money in seeing the sights” of Washington.<sup>36</sup>

Civilians from Washington and from Kansas often visited the troops at Camp Alger. Populist Kansas congressman Jeremiah “Sockless Jerry” Simpson ate dinner with the men of the regiment the day after their arrival. Charles Curtis, Re-

publican congressman from Topeka, visited them on July 3, and numerous educators attending the National Education Association came by a few days later. These included Oklahoma University president David Ross Boyd, KSN president Albert Taylor, and several Kansas professors and school superintendents and their families. Captain Stevenson's wife, Lena, and other officers' wives also visited frequently.<sup>37</sup> People back home received news of the camp from such visitors but more frequently from the soldiers themselves. The Twenty-second was highly literate, and letters to friends and family frequently ended up in local newspapers and often were borrowed by other dailies and weeklies across the state. Some of the letters, only meant by their authors for their families, provided not only news but controversies.<sup>38</sup>

Albert Taylor described Captain Stevenson as “the self-made, energetic organizer and vitalizer of the commercial department and of the military battalion, everybody's friend and confidential advisor of many a discouraged and stranded student.” He went on to write that Company H was “largely composed of students whose patriotism was ignited by his fiery zeal for his country at the opening of the Spanish–American War.” A student of the class of 1899 described him as “a genius with a pen and a man of great sympathy and compassion.” In addition to his military work with students, he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Kansas National Guard and served on the military staff of two governors.<sup>39</sup>

However, the esteem in which Stevenson was held began to deteriorate among his fellow officers

33. “Lyon County Soldiers' Aid Society,” *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 16, 1898.

34. “News from Alger,” *ibid.*, July 6, 1898.

35. “News of the Soldier Boys,” *ibid.*, July 13, 1898; “Sick List Grows.”

36. The men were paid according to their ranks and time served. Annual wages were: private \$167.20, corporal \$216, sergeant \$365, second lieutenant \$1,392, first lieutenant \$1,500, and captain \$1,800. See “Their Pay Day,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, June 30, 1898; *Emporia Daily Gazette*, June 30, 1898.

37. Byrd and Mason, “A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry,” 405, 413–14; “The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart,” July 13, 1898; “The National Educational Association,” *State Normal Monthly* 11 (October 1898): 10; “News of the Soldier Boys”; “From Camp Alger,” *Emporia Daily Gazette*, July 6, 21, August 1, 2, 1898. “Sockless Jerry” Simpson was a Union veteran and a congressman from western Kansas. Charles Curtis was later a U.S. senator and vice president.

38. Harvey, “The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment,” 138. For more on the Kansas soldier serving as a war correspondent, see Alan J. Stewart, “The Kansas Soldier as a War Correspondent: 1898–1899” (master's thesis, University of Kansas, 1957).

39. Albert Reynolds Taylor, *Autobiography* (Decatur, Ill.: Review Printing and Stationary Co., 1929), 71; Gaitha Page, “Before the Turn of the Century,” *Alumni News* (Emporia), May 1963; Kansas State Adjutant General, *Eleventh Annual Report, 1897–'98* (Topeka: State Printer, 1899), 21.



*Unidentified soldiers from Company H of the Twenty-second Kansas at Camp Alger.*

and enlisted men after he returned from his recruiting trip to Kansas in late June. Soon critical views found their way into Kansas newspapers. One student wrote, "Our company is well drilled, but it is not to the credit of the captain." Another student wrote, "Our captain actually don't know a thing about the manual of arms, much less how to drill a company properly."<sup>40</sup> Unfortunately for one soldier, Private Ernest M. Clark, his comments in a letter to his father found their way into print:

We have been having trouble with our captain. Hardly anyone in the company likes him, for he is no drillmaster at all, and our major is a very good drillmaster from West Point; but he has a bad temper, and the other day the captain didn't hear his command and gave it wrong. The major didn't like it, and told the captain to wake up and pay attention. The captain talked back to him, and that made the major mad and he gave the captain a good raking. That made the captain very angry and he reported it to the colonel after the drill. Last Sunday [July 10] he sent a request to the colonel to get the company transferred to another battalion.

We didn't want that to happen for we knew we had the best major in the regiment, and we would have to give up the colors, too; so we got up a petition to allow the company to remain where it is. Then the captain came around to each tent and said that anyone who signed that petition was not his friend, and that he would keep the company where it was if we wanted to, but if we did he would resign; that he just would not serve under a man who treated him as Major [Chase] Doster had. Every man in the company except three or four signed the petition, so if the captain's word is good we will soon have a new captain.<sup>41</sup>

He never resigned. When word of Clark's letter reached Stevenson he had the private arrested on the grounds that it was illegal for enlisted men to complain in their correspondence about officers. According to Private Samuel Adams, "The boys were pretty stirred up over the matter" when the captain imposed Clark's sentence: a ten-dollar fine and thirty days in the guard house. Clark asked for a court-martial. Major Doster presided and lessened the fine to two dollars and no imprisonment. Clifford Rhinehart wrote, "Clark is a young innocent boy who never did

40. "The Professor in Trouble," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, July 27, 1898; "The Case of Professor Stevenson," *ibid.*, August 4, 1898.

41. "Kansas in the Spanish-American War Scrapbook," vol. 2, 272.

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"This P.M.," wrote Private Rhinehart, "we marched to the woods again." Here members of the Twenty-second take a deserved break from marching under the hot Virginia sun.



any harm in his life when he knew it. His letter was nothing more than anyone else would do, & he should come clear."<sup>42</sup> Numerous other complaints about Stevenson also surfaced. In part these may have related to the difficulty some enlisted men may have had in adjusting to Stevenson's new role, moving from a friendly professor to a demanding commander preparing his men for combat. Another private, Ode L. Rankin, a former editor of the *Strong City Derrick*, wrote a strong defense of the captain:

Concerning the criticisms of Captain W. C. Stevenson of company H, which have been printed in several Kansas papers, charging him with lack of military ability, it is necessary only to say that his company is considered by many to be the best drilled one in the regiment, and which has been accorded the honor of carrying the flag and regimental colors because of its superiority, when the honor properly belonged to another company by right of position. This does not argue any lack of military ability on his part.

He concluded by observing that the company was made up of students from different schools, "noted

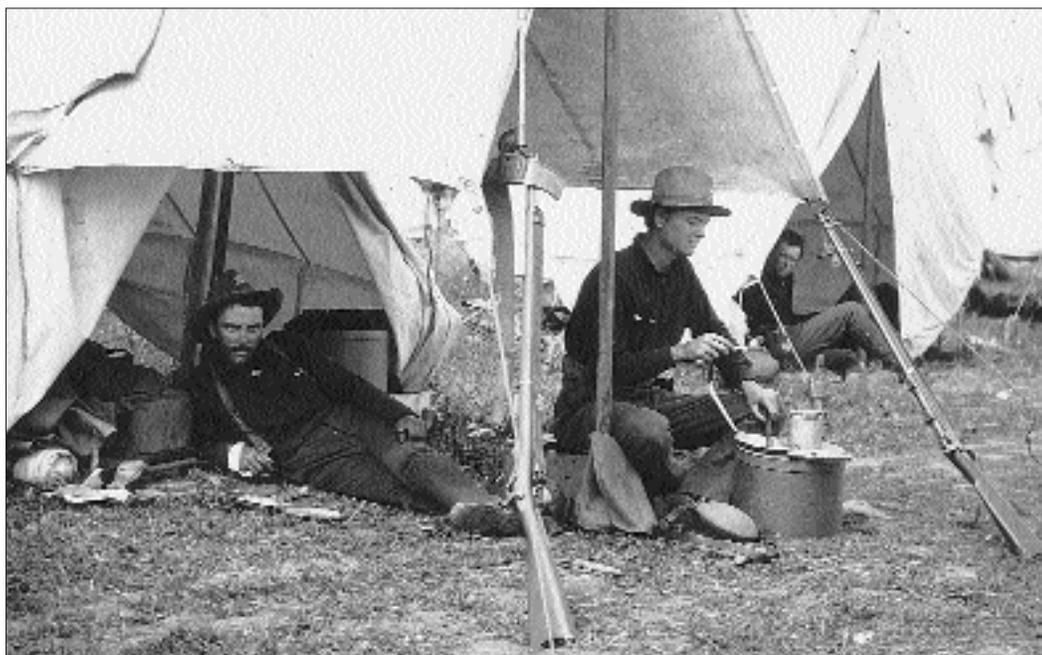
42. Byrd and Mason, "A Story of the 22d Kansas Volunteer Infantry," 414–15; "The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart," July 9, 1898; "From Camp Alger," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, August 2, 1898.

for their ability to 'kick,'" and "it is to the captain's credit that he has held the elements together as well as he has."<sup>43</sup> Stevenson cannot be regarded as faultless, but the degree of his ineptitude may have been exaggerated.

Unsatisfactory and unsanitary conditions at Camp Alger, including deaths due to an outbreak of typhoid fever, led the War Department to relocate the troops elsewhere, as it planned to "break up the large camps and spread the troops about the country." On August 3, Company H soldiers packed up their gear, took down their tents, and headed out with the regiment. They marched toward Thoroughfare, Virginia, a distance of about fifty miles, and stopped the first day en route at Burke's Station. They proceeded on August 5 to Clifton Station on the east bank of the Bull Run River and "picked up many relics of the old war times—muskets, bayonets, sabres, bullets, and pieces of shells."<sup>44</sup>

43. "Kansas Beats New York," *Topeka State Journal*, August 1, 1898.

44. "Moving Camp Alger," *ibid.*, August 4, 1898; Harvey, "The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment," 141; "The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart," August 5, 1898; "At Bull Run," *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 26, 1898; "Scattering the Army," *ibid.*, August 11, 1898.



*Following supper, the men of the Twenty-second were given time to rest and relax before "Taps" at 9:30 P.M.*

The quartermaster and trainmaster had been unprepared for the quick departure from Camp Alger, and, in spite of Colonel Lindsey's protest, the soldiers carried almost no rations for thirty-six hours. Thus they were forced to forage, which caused damage to corn fields, gardens, and chicken roosts along the way; soldiers even killed cattle. Some ransacked Confederate graves for officer swords and other souvenirs; apparently members of the Twenty-second were not directly involved.<sup>45</sup> On Sunday, August 7, they marched westward across the Bull Run River and through Manassas; according to Major Alexander M. Harvey:

Although years had intervened since the city's history had been made, and the evidences of industry and peace were everywhere, it was not hard for one to read in the faces of the townfolk a dread

45. "At Bull Run,"; "How He Franked It," *ibid.*, August 13, 1898; Harvey, "The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment," 142; "Can Talk Now," *Topeka State Journal*, November 5, 1898. Captain Louis C. Duncan, the regimental assistant surgeon, was court-martialed for his alleged involvement, but he was found innocent after a lengthy, well publicized trial. He was fined for failing to arrest the plunderers, but even this sentence was set aside, and Duncan resumed his duties with the Twenty-second.

and dislike of the army. This was further suggested by the next issue of the local paper, containing lines throughout its editorial page like the following: "Federal troops marched through town on Sunday," "The country is full of blue-coats," etc.<sup>46</sup>

After leaving Manassas, the Kansans marched past a red stone monument memorializing the Confederate dead, and near Bristow Station they camped on the right bank of Broad Run. Here time was given to baseball between Kansas and Indiana troops. Kansas won two of three with Company H's Charles H. Barnes of Emporia pitching the third and decisive game.<sup>47</sup>

Heavy rains for five hours during the march worsened the men's condition as they left Bristow on August 9 for Thoroughfare Gap at the base of the Bull Run Mountains. While camping here they heard of the August 12 armistice with Spain. Clifford Rhinehart wrote, "We have had no drill yet & is very pleasing to us all as the war is over & one does not care to exercise himself." The men spent their days swim-

46. Harvey, "The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment," 141.

47. "Won from Indiana," *Topeka Daily Capital*, August 7, 1898.

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ming, gathering berries, buying food from nearby farmers, seeing the sites, dodging the guards and waiting to go home. On August 27 the College Company and the rest of the Twenty-second boarded the train for Camp George C. Meade near Middletown, Pennsylvania, going back the way they had marched. While stopping at Washington, according to Rhinehart, "we were well fed by the Red Cross & it was the first square meal we had since we left camp Alger August 3d."<sup>48</sup>

Camp Meade proved a better temporary camp. "Here, we can hear the locomotive and see in the distance Middletown, and we realize that once more we are within the lines of civilization." Soldiers compared the people of Pennsylvania favorably to those of Maryland, and those of Maryland were seen as superior to the Virginians, whom they thought were about "forty years behind the times."<sup>49</sup> Rhinehart exclaimed the next morning: "This is a beautiful morning, a beautiful country, and a beautiful camping ground, & a fine lot of people. We see no virginian here, but well dressed & intelligent looking people." By August 29 word had spread that the Twenty-second was to return to Kansas. On August 31 new clothes, shoes, and blankets were available so the soldiers could "go back respectable looking."<sup>50</sup>

Five sections of the train arrived in the rain at Fort Leavenworth on the night of September 11 to a welcome by thousands of Leavenworth citizens. A huge sign hung in the depot with the words, "We Surrender Unconditionally. The Town is Yours." A cannon fired a volley of five shots to greet the heroes as each of the sections arrived between 5:00 and 10:00 P.M. Leavenworth citizens knew the men would be hungry and offered sandwiches and hot coffee.

48. "The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart," August 27, 1898.

49. "From Camp Meade, Pa.," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, August 23, 1898; "From Camp Alger," *Topeka Daily Capital*, July 3, 1898. For similar comments from others, see *Manhattan Mercury*, June 8, 1898; "From Camp Alger," *Manhattan Nationalist*, July 8, 1898; Dragosani-Brantingham "Student Soldiers of 1898," 107–8.

50. "The Journal of Clifford T. Rhinehart," August 28, 31, 1898.

The coffee was not the "weak sister" variety but of the kind talked of as "strong enough to bear up an egg." The sandwiches were sandwiches, each made of a loaf of bread cut in two with a good-sized beefsteak nicely cooked between the halves.<sup>51</sup>

After the crowds died down, Colonel Lindsey ordered the men to sleep in the cars rather than having them march a mile and a half to the camp ground and then make camp in such heavy rain.

At about 9:00 A.M. on September 12 the weary soldiers paraded down Leavenworth's Delaware Street to Camp Lindsey, a small and short-lived camp just south of the fort. The order to grant immediate furlough came to the Twenty-second on September 13. They could take all their personal gear. They were to return to be mustered out on October 14 after all the paper work had been completed. Several also accepted the option of joining the regular army and were given their pick of any regular regiment.<sup>52</sup>

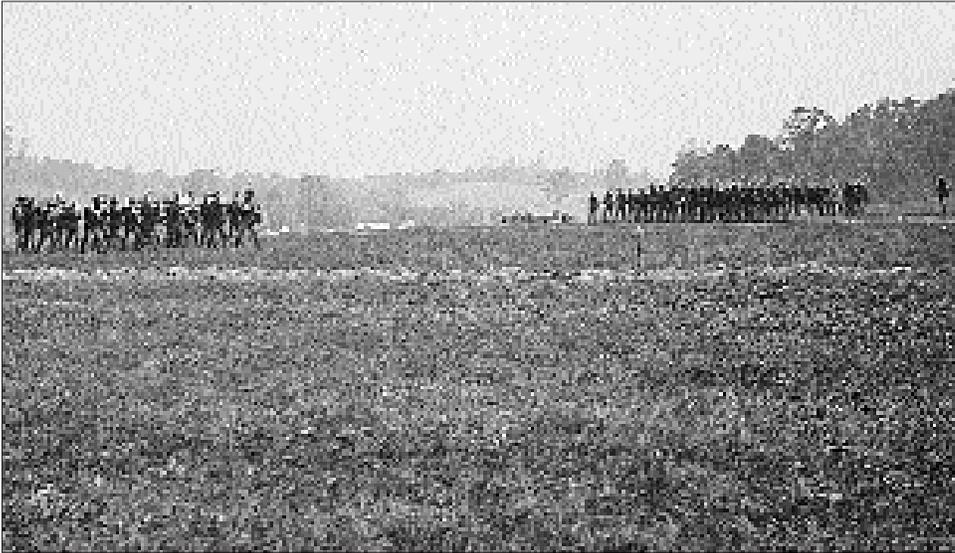
The College Company had left near the end of a school session and returned at the beginning of one after a summer in the military. It was not as they had planned but the schools were delighted. Charlie Finley, Washburn football coach, went to Leavenworth to reclaim his eight football players. The KU newspaper expressed pride for its members, despite the fact that they "did not have the opportunity to face the Spaniards," and claimed, "there never was [a] braver body of you men or one that responded more readily to the country's call."<sup>53</sup>

Emporia residents had the largest numbers to welcome home from the Twenty-second Regiment, both from Company E and from Company H, the

51. "Came in the Rain," *Leavenworth Evening Standard*, September 12, 1898; "Return of the Jayhawks," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, September 13, 1898. Companies G, H, and M arrived shortly before 9:00 P.M.

52. "Home Sweet Home," *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 13, 1898; Harvey, "The Twenty-Second Kansas Regiment," 142; "Off to Their Homes," *Leavenworth Evening Standard*, September 13, 1898; "Get Home Today," *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 14, 1898; "Volunteers Depart," *Leavenworth Evening Standard*, September 14, 1898; "State Normal Boys in the Army," *State Normal Monthly* 12 (December 1899): 37. For the names of those who remained in the service, see Dragosani-Brantingham, "Student Soldiers of 1898," 116–17, 137–40.

53. *Kansas University Weekly*, September 17, 1898; "College Players Coming," *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 14, 1898.



*"Nothing but drill, drill, attracts our attention now," wrote a dissatisfied Private Rhinehart. Here members of the Twenty-second (right) and the regiment's band enact that dreaded exercise at Camp Alger.*

College Company with its KSN and College of Emporia students. The fact they had not entered battle did not lessen their devotion in local eyes:

To an Emporia girl, every blessed boy that went off to the war and drilled in the mud of Camps Alger and Meade is a Hobson or Dewey. And why not? All they needed was a chance such as the glorified had. That is the reason the town turned out to honor the boys on their return today.<sup>54</sup>

Most of the businesses and all schools closed while the streets, decorated with flags and bunting from the Santa Fe depot to the Normal School, filled with Emporians and college students to greet the returning heroes. Cannons signaled their arrival at 3:00 P.M. on September 14. Mayor William Addis, members of the city council and board of education, faculties of the KSN and College of Emporia, the Woman's Relief Corps, and other organizations led the parade.<sup>55</sup> The Grand Army of the Republic members acted as honor escorts, riding "as if the fate of the nation depended on the angle their backs made with the saddle."

54. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, September 14, 1898.

55. "Welcome Home," *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 15, 1898.

[Then] came the men whom the town honored—the boys in blue—every mother's son of them being watched and gloated over by their kin, who "pointed with pride" from the crowd. Captain McGinley was in command of the two companies, which had been formed into one. The boys carried their guns, knapsacks, canteens and ammunition. Captain Stevenson rode in a carriage and, when the crowd cheered the boys, he felt important enough to stand up in his glory and bow to the crowd.<sup>56</sup>

On campus Mayor Addis greeted the soldiers, and Albert Taylor gave a ten-minute address to which Captain Stevenson responded. The Woman's Relief Corps, the Red Cross, and other local organizations then provided a feast of fried chicken, potato salad, sandwiches, apple pie, and cheese. Free passes to see Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Emporia on September 17 were later given to the men.<sup>57</sup>

Members of Company H could now get back to football or baseball, scholarly pursuits, or the responsibilities of jobs and families. The men returned to

56. "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

57. *State Normal Monthly* 11 (October 1898): 9; "Free for the Boys," *Topeka Daily Capital*, September 17, 1898; "Buffalo Bill's Show," *Emporia Daily Gazette*, September 19, 1898.



On August 3 the Twenty-second prepared to leave Camp Alger and march to its new quarters at Camp George C. Meade near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Leavenworth in late October and were officially mustered out on November 3, but two soldiers of Company H did not return.<sup>58</sup>

Private Richard M. Coulson of Harper, a Washburn student, had remained at the Fort Leavenworth hospital in September. The doctors reported that “he is much better today, and believe the worst is over” when his parents came to see him on September 21. On September 23 Coulson died of typhoid. Private Clifford T. Rhinehart, a KSN student from Columbus, went home on furlough to the family farm in Chero-

58. W. C. Stevenson returned to teaching. He later taught at James Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, where Albert Taylor had become president. He gained a national reputation in commercial studies and died in 1909. For details of his life, see Dragosani-Brantingham, “Student Soldiers of 1898,” chapter 2. KSA’s First Lieutenant Henry M. Thomas overcame illness, considered instructing military science, but instead decided on a successful farm business, “turning the sword into a plow share.” See *Students’ Herald*, January 12, 1899. KU’s Second Lieutenant George H. Rising became an instructor at St. John’s Military School in Salina, Kansas. See *Kansas University Weekly*, September 24, 1898. “Mustered Out,” *Topeka Daily Capital*, November 4, 1898; “22nd Mustered Out,” *Leavenworth Evening Standard*, November 3, 1898. Most privates collected fifty dollars or more in pay.

kee County where he also died of typhoid five days later on September 28.<sup>59</sup>

Unfortunately for many of the student soldiers, an opportunity to prove their bravery in combat did not come to them because the Spanish–American War ended quickly. Kansas received them as heroes nonetheless. These collegians had courageously, yet naively, risen to the occasion of defending their country’s interests. They had seen distant parts of the nation and its cultural differences and visited many noteworthy sites. Ultimately these student soldiers matured, surviving harsh military camp conditions in an unprepared-for war that tested their health as well as their wills. Throughout the years that followed, people would reminisce about the collegians who boldly banded together to form Company H of the Twenty-second Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment—the only one of its kind.

59. Washburn placed a memorial window in the campus chapel that read “Richard M. Coulson, Co. H, 22nd Vol. Inf., died in Hospital, Sept. 23, 1898.” The Philomathian Society at KSN placed brass tablets on its wall in memory of Clifford Rhinehart and another member, Curran C. Craig of the Twentieth Kansas. Another plaque in memory of Clifford Rhinehart and Rutherford B. Park of the Twenty-second, and of Curran C. Craig and Lieutenant William A. McTaggart of the Twentieth was also placed on the campus; it was later lost and a new plaque in memory of all four was rededicated on October 16, 1998. See “Kan. Soldiers in Hospital,” *Topeka State Journal*, September 21, 1898; George W. Martin, “Memorial Monuments and Tablets in Kansas,” *Kansas Historical Collections*, 1909–1910 11 (1910): 260; “State Normal Boys in the Army,” *State Normal Monthly* 12 (December 1899): 37; Sam Dicks, “ESU Remembers First Four Student Fatalities As Part of Spanish American War Centennial,” *Emporia State University Spotlight* 28 (Fall 1998): 6–7.

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Clifford T. Rhinehart's journal, which follows, preserves the thoughts of a young man who had a critical mind and objected to the pettiness, drunkenness, and ignorance of some of the officers in what he called a "tin soldier" war. He also had a genuine patriotism, a dislike of Populists and southerners, and a strong devotion to the righteous cause for which he volunteered, and for which he and Coulson, along with thirteen other men of the Twenty-second Regiment, gave their lives. Rhinehart wrote as if he knew others would read it. He placed a title and disclaimer on the cover page, another title on the back of the cover page, and throughout the journal he inserted commentary that is superfluous if meant only for himself. His candidness, as he shares his daily struggle of attempting to make sense out of the frenzied world around him, helps us understand Kansas and America as they approached the Twentieth Century.

The months of April, May, and June must have been recorded in an earlier volume now lost. This volume begins with July 1, after the arrival at Camp Alger, Virginia.<sup>60</sup>

## The Journal of Private Clifford T. Rhinehart

Property of C.T. Rhinehart,  
Co. H. 22 Kans. Vol.,  
Camp Alger Va.

P.O. Columbus Kans.  
(Cherokee Co)

60. The underlining is as in the original. Punctuation and spelling also are generally as in the original with minor changes for clarity—for example, Rhinehart's spelling of "clothes" as "cloths." A one-day error in dating on August 26–29 is also corrected. For the original spelling and pagination, see Dragosani-Brantingham, "Student Soldiers of 1898," appendix. A CD-ROM of the original handwritten journal is available at the University Archives, Emporia State University, Emporia, Kans. An earlier transcription by Opie Hartman is at the Cherokee County Historical–Genealogical Society, Columbus, Kans.

In this book is found the daily doings of camp life as I see it, & it is my intention to keep as near the truth as possible, & not writing a word that I do not see for my-self.

C.T. Rhinehart

[back of cover page]

Spanish–American War  
from  
April 1898–1898  
C.T.R.

### July 1st. 1898. Friday

The month opened by being the warmest day we have had in camp. In the morning we took our guns for the 1st time & hunted Spaniards through the woods for a few miles but found none but lost one man in a berry patch; berries were ripe. It was through the thick pine woods & tangled underbrush that we made our debut, & it was trying on all of us.

This P.M. we marched to the woods again & had drill with our guns & we are making rapid progress since we received our guns; before we were nothing more than a "mob" but feel more confidence in ourselves now.

There is not much sickness in camp now. I am doing part work, rheumatism is better.

### Saturday, July 2nd, 1898.

I was detailed for the first time to help cook, to-day, but it is not much of a job as the few thing we cook needs, but to put them on the fire & then take them off again. Of course, it is not the way to cook, but every thing is done opposite in the army to what it is in a free country. Such as we eat & drink here would not be allowed in doors at home, but we do not complain for it is the very best we can expect.

The heat is becoming so intense here that many fall prostrate at drill & all of us are more or less affected by the heat. It was so hot this P.M. that drill was deferred till evening. The weather is still very dry.

### Sunday, July 3d, 1898.

Last night at 12 we were all called out to form in line as some of the Pa. troops had deserted & started for home for the fourth. We were compelled to "fall in" many of us without clothes on & not even a gun. It was owing to the extreme ignorance of the officers, as they would not allow us time for anything of the kind. If we had been attacked by the enemy it would have been all the same with them but it would have been different with us, for all would have been killed or captured, not having a gun.

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It is still very warm to-day but can stand it very well when we do not have to drill. I received a fine box of grub from home to-day & it will go down the fourth.

### Monday July 4th 1898.

This is the 4th of July. 122 years have passed since freedom dawned upon our Nation. Its birth, its growth, its power, is marvelous. We are stronger to-day than ever before. No nation on the face of the earth has made so rapid progress, has advanced so far in civilization, has shown to the world the value of freedom, & liberty, given man his first rights, his liberty of thought, his free speech, his religious views about myths & miracles, nymphs & maids, ghosts & goblins. Man is no longer burned at the stake for dis-belief of gods, or tortured for the rejection of miracles.

Near this camp, lived the father of our Country. Upon these grounds were fought the Indian, the English, the South; the Indian for land; the English for Freedom, the South for the preservation of our Union. But to-day the Indian is peaceful, the English our friend, the North & South one united Nation. Proud are we of our Nation, our country & our flag. The woof & warf that binds the American heart & hand to hamlet & home, are the ties of friendship that cannot be broken.

Under these banners success & preservation of our Nation are ours. This is the most exciting, the most enthusiastic, the most patriotic & glorious fourth of July the younger generation has ever seen. At this writing canons are booming, men are hollering, & running about camp shouting the great victory of Sampson at Santiago. It looks like it was ordained for Santiago to fall for the Soldiers in the field to have a grand jubilee. Patriotic words fall from every lip—spoken from every tongue. At every new word from our arms brings fourth new applause. Every heart beats the same sentiment—all speak the same words.

Yet, our nation can improve, can learn the rights of man & tell where his neighbor's rights begins & where his ends.

Civilization has just begun to dawn. The horizon of free thought & belief is a welcome right & soon every free man will have his liberty.

How I spent the Fourth.

With a few companions, in the morning I started for the country to view the sights of the old fashion ways & customs of the people of Va. Through the thick pines we marched for a few miles dodging the provost guard on many occasions marching through the hot sun far into the country.

The quaint old buildings, the odd looking people, the old plantations were sights for us Kansans to see. Every way one would look he could see the modern of ancient years. On all sides was in sight the progress of decay. Fields that had been under cultivation for 200 years, had long since gone back to forests & the old cabins where once dwelled the African slave had now become the home of bats, & desolation. Generation after generation had lived on the same plantation without building a house, setting an orchard, or taking a trip out side of the Co.

The land is poor & sandy & the few acres that are cultivated by negroes & whites are of all shapes, taking many fields to make an acre.

I visited the old mill, where Washington had his milling done. It was a small structure & would make a Kansas farmer a good henhouse, if they would take out the little "joint" that was in the corner, where they sold "moonshine" whiskey. From the old mill we trudged along the hot dusty road, each one "falling out" when he saw a ripe berry, while the rest marched on as before. Negroes swarmed from every hut to see a "blue coat" & to learn the "wah" news.

The roads in this state do not run straight for any distance but turn in all ways to run in, but ONE direction—always up hill.

About noon something told to us to inquire after a good square meal; so we stopped at an old Va. plantation where clung & clustered the quaint forms of many ages & where the hospitality of a Southern home bids a stranger welcome. The shrewd old man glanced at the hungry squad & kindly invited us to go to his raspberry patch to "fill up" before dinner. We paid a generous compliment to his first "course" & returned to the house with our appetites keener & much better prepared to wield the knife & fork more graceful & a much more becoming manner. At last dinner was spread & we were invited to partake. The way the boys made blunders in trying to sit about the table as they once remembered in days gone by, at home, on real chairs, was laughable in the extreme.

Some of the boys although from good homes & having good training in these early days, did some things that was not in accord with good manners & up to date with the latest etiquette. Some even went so far as to say "please" & when waited on by any-one; would say "thanks." This was of course in direct violation of the etiquette of camp.

Our P.M. ramble was through more of these back woods or really a continuation of the same. Greatly to our surprise in the p.m. we saw a real mowing machine & of course we boys crawled through the fence & began

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querying him what the machine was, what it was for, how it worked, & then he looked much surprised and said: "what state are you from" & we said: "Mo." at the same time telling him: "we cut our grass in Mo. with a crooked knife". He said there was another man on the pike road about 5 miles from there that owned two of them.

His horses as well as the machine was of the old make but he thought them good & new. Our curiosity was well nigh surfeited by evening & after a bath in the clear stream a few miles from camp, we trudged back to our old tents where supper, something like we had seen before, stood before us.

In the evening we had field sports & many took part, but Co. "H" has a man who will always take the prizes when he is not barred out.

#### **Tuesday July 5th, 1898.**

All were ready for work this morning as we had had good news & a good time the fourth. In the p.m. we went out for the first time at sham battle through the woods; & if we don't have more time to "load" "aim" & "fire" we will not hit many in battle unless it be those of our own men; for all was done in a hurry rustle bustle & excitement.

We pitched tents (dog tents) for our first time this evening & did first rate as few mistakes were made & it was done on quick time.

Field sports again this evening & the same man took every one of them.

#### **Wednesday, July 6, 1898**

Last night we had a fine rain the first in many weeks.

I did not drill to-day because the rheumatism was bothering me again.

Our Capt. & our Maj. had a few words when drilling & all thought that a fight was eminent, but was somewhat smoothed over for the time being.

#### **Thursday, July 7th 1898.**

Today was another skirmish drill through the woods & it showed much improvement.

In the evening many teachers from Kans. who were attending the National Association at Wash. City came out & gave us a call. Some complimented us on our fine display of arms & thought we were in a fine home; but I only requested them to come & partake of our fare once & they declined saying they had not time. It would be a little different from what they had in Wash. D.C.

#### **Friday, July 8, 1898.**

This was another day for hard drilling & marching. We have begun to act more like deamons than ever before & it will not be long till we are perfect ones if soldiers make them.

Not many are now on the sick list as we have become more accustomed to the climate.

Most all are anxious to go from this Camp to Cuba.

#### **Sat., July 9th, 1898.**

This was the regular day for inspection & we had no drill. In the a.m. we cleaned our guns as the order was: if spots of rust was found on the arms any-where we would be charged up with them. We are not furnished oil or anything to brighten them with & it is a hard job to keep them clean.

Our co. fared well as only one or two received a reprimand from the officer about his gun. Many of the other co's got a reproof & were compelled to burnish his gun again.

There is a severe break between our Capt. & our Maj. & our Capt. is trying to get transferred to another battalion.

Our Capt. is not very well liked among our boys it seems & is getting worse every day. He is not the man for the place. Our Second Lieutenant is the man to replace him should he resign & I do not believe that one in the co. would say "stay" if he offered to resign. A man for Capt. who holds himself aloof from his men & who is hard to approach by anyone is not a fit man to govern men.

It is now that some of the privates find out that many who had borrowed money of them at home- & lived upon charity now are, Capt. Lieut. or in some other position where they will not speak to them. In fact it is the hardest part of my soldier life to salute persons whom I know to be damned rascals despised by every-one. I have no use for this "form" "tin soldier" & other damned foolishness that tortures us to death.

#### **Sun. July 10, 1898.**

Last evening I went on guard again but as a supernumerary so I had little to do in the fore-part of the night. In the p.m. several had to be relieved for being sick.

A person's main duty on guard is: to "salute" officers & give them due attention. At guard mount is the most obnoxious feature of the whole game. One has to stand, at "attention" while a whole lot of those little petty officials fools go through a whole lot of red tape that makes anyone so very tired. All of this may be necessary for a good army & to whip Spain but I cannot see it that way & to me it only makes us mere tools in the hands of idiots.

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### **The Presidents "Proclamation."**

Today I read the proclamation for "prayer" in all of the churches of our Nation & to give thanks to the "Almighty God" for his help & success of our arms. And not only that, but I read the response to the P.[President] by all the ministers in Wash. to many all over the Country.

It seems to me that it was the most silly thing ever indulged in by such a high official. It is a pitiful condition that a man gets into when he even believes that him-self, & a great deal worse when he presumes upon the ignorance of the people of an enlightened nation. It is too childish for men of sense & men of thought to ever spend his time & energy at any such foolishness.

In olden times they consulted the Oracle before entering battle; in modern times they prayed to "gods" for success in arms & at the present time they give thanks when we have success in arms. Such is the ignorance, the superstition, & foolishness of some people. It is time for men to learn that: the biggest guns, the best guns, the most proficient men, the highest science & all other conditions the same in proportion, is what makes the battle go that way. It is an insult to the intelligence of a free people to teach them other-wise.

As long as men depend upon "gods" & other super human "deities" to fight their battles, they will make an utter failure; & they should .

Gods have nothing to do with battles or anything else except to strain peoples' imagination, who thinks little and eats much. God never fights battles & an honest man will say so. He never performed myracles for man by fighting battles. Joshua was a myth & so were his myracles. Moses was a fake & we should know it. Christ never performed a myracle & no sane man ever thought he did. Why does not God stop the cruelties of Spain; why has he let them go on so long? Awaiting on the U.S. to act 'spect, & then give him the glory.

There are two kinds of religions. One who is educated & lives off the ignorant & one kind who are ignorant & support themselves & the church.

Some of the divines now try to reconcile science & religion & a few years back they were at swords point, & theology was trying to stamp out science in every conceivable form. It made little difference how it was done. Darwin, Humboldt, Voltaire & all those men of science had not only to fight the rotten superstition of the Churches but had to fight for their lives. The church & its influence has kept back the world in civilization 10,000 years. "Hell's fire" has been its text & scare word.

### **Mon., July 11th 1898.**

Today was pay day & not many were there but what were able to "drill" up to the paymaster's tent & get their tempting morsel.

In fact there are but few on the sick list at present although I have drilled but one day in 3 weeks not more than 3 at the outside.

Most of the boys were busy spending their money today for every foolish thing that could be brought into camp. When soldiers have money they will spend it quicker than any people in the world.

Many were busy trying to get passes from the Col., Capt., & in every way possible to go to W.[Washington] City. I was one of the lucky ones & will go tomorrow.

### **Tuesday, July 12 1898.**

Early this morning I arose to take my second trip to W. City. Seven of us started at 5 a.m. walking to Falls Church, 4 miles from camp. I described the country in my first volume on my first trip & will say nothing about the country.

We ate a few things we bought on the road to Falls C. but did not get breakfast till in W. The first thing I did on arriving at the depot was to buy a ticket & leave it on the counter; therefore I had to pay my way the second time.

We soon reached the City & taking the car at the depot (electric car) we went down Pen. Ave. to 13½ St. to the depot leading out to Mt. Vernon, Alexander, to the home of Washington.

It is about 16 miles & the first part of the trip is through low swampy ground covered with tall grass & small willows. We soon strike small hills where it is very poor, the land is fit for nothing but for making brick & for sight-seers because of historic grounds. We travel through glade & glen, over hills & vales, large timber, small underbrush.

We soon found ourselves at the depot at the very entrance of the old home of Washington. Things around the place looked some-what worn out but when one entered through the gates (after paying a quarter) he soon found himself in fine grounds walking on fine side walks surrounded by the most beautiful foliage of trees.

A small cornfield on the left, a small meadow on the right (west) (as we go into the grounds to the S) & a high brick wall surrounds the garden.

One is struck by the very air of emotion when he realizes that he is walking on the very ground of the Father of his Country. It is to all Americans a sacred ground.

We notice as the walk turns to the E. on the left side we see a few building smoke houses & wood house & all

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along this walk we see all kind of forest trees that make shade that cannot be penetrated by the sun. In fact the foliage of the trees are so thick that one cannot see the large mansion of W. till he is quite close. Then looms up before him the familiar picture that we are of used to seeing in our books of the home of W. It is to us as familiar as our own homes & is a beautiful house imitating marble but is nothing more.

As one enters the west door into the hall he sees on either side the parlor, sitting room, dining room & all have the same furniture in them as they had in W. time.

Near the stair way hangs a key about 8 in. long & as big around as a finger & is the Key to the Bastille presented to W. by Layfett [Lafayette]. It was the key that locked the prison in which so many of the people of France was confined.

Every room in which I entered seemed to be sacred with the remembrance of the life & work of the patriotic Wash., especially when in these war times we hear the roll of the drums & the silver notes of the heroic bugle. As we entered those sacred halls I could not help thinking that in that house once lived a man who had been a man of peace, of war, & great in his Country. In a south room up stairs, was the room where W. died & many of his war articles were setting about in the room.

We next passed through the hall to the north where rooms were furnished for different members of his family.

Many of the rooms are furnished with furniture brought from abroad, but is quaint & old. All of the rooms or each one is furnished with an old fashioned fireplace. Every-thing is honest-like & inviting in the extreme.

After seeing all the sights on the upper stories we went into the library on the lower floor. It is as every thing else, ancient but well chosen. I saw in those alchoves such books as Sakespeares' works in 10 vol., Blackstone's works, Laws of Va., Military tactics & a great many vol. likely 500 in all, & were well preserved.

The walk next led us to the kitchen where in olden times W. ate his meals or at least they were cooked.

The waiters & manager of the place still eat here.

We next visited the stables where W. kept his fine horses but none were there. It is a very large brick barn 50 by 40 ft is well preserved. This is to the S.W. of the house about 100 yds.

A few yds. north of the barn is the old chariot shed & in that stands the old family chariot of W. It might have been a fine carriage in his day, but it is to us very ancient; although much like the ones still in use at this place. (Va.)

Our walk led us to the old tomb of W. which faces to the north, on the bank of the Potomac. It is not a large

structure, being built on the same plan as a cave, having a wooden door. The tomb is overgrown with large trees which shows that the T. is very old; going to the s. in a few rods we came to the new tomb of W. & his wife & all of his relatives. It is a brick structure about 20 by 30 & just inside of double iron doors, we could see the solid marble caskets of W. & his wife, one on each side of the door. Back of this inclosed by a brick wall & iron door were all the relatives (40) buried. When the last one was buried the door was locked & the key thrown into the Potomac.

We saw trees near the tomb, planted by the Prince of Wales, Don Pedro, & several other noted men.

A fine summer house stands nearly in front of the house over looking the P.[Potomac] In all, in all, the site for a home was well chosen. It is high & dry above the P. & overlooks it to the far east.

The last thing looked at was the deer park just in front of the house running down to the P.

Half past one was up the bell rang which gave warning that the steamer was at the wharf & we bid fare-well to Mt. Vernon & its surroundings.

It was worth many \$ to me to see these things as they were. I had read & studied of these things all my life but I had not the least conception of what they looked like nor what they were. One may read himself blind & crazy, but he will learn more in one hour, of actual fact than he will in a lifetime by the former.

The trip back to W. was a pleasant one. I was invited to dine with some friends on board the ship & it was the most palatable meal that I had eaten for some time.

The steamer was about 125 ft long, 50 ft. wide & was 3 stories high. It was as fine as a parlor & made good time.

The banks of the P. are covered with forests so dense that one would suppose that he were in a wilderness, away from civilization.

I met some young ladies on the steamer, who were teachers from Penn. All strangers are apt to say something to a soldier & will soon make his acquaintance.

On reaching W. City I went to the zoological park where animals of every conceivable nature & clime, is found.

After taking supper, I started home or to the camp.

Many of the soldier boys were drunk on the cars & it is a shame that they will make a fool of them-selves.

### **Wed. July 13th 1898.**

My trip to W. yesterday fitted me for rest to-day & I was so lame from my rheumatism, that I could scarcely stir.

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Most of the day was spent in answering letters & writing in my diary what I had seen in my second trip to the City.

Many visitors were in camp today who had been to W. City to the Teachers Association. Among the many were Pres. Taylor & wife from Kans. Also Prof. Iden. We were all glad to hear from Kans. & to see our old time teachers.

The news this evening is that Santiago will soon fall but we cannot tell how true it is.

**Thurs. July 14th, 1898.**

Today was my first day of drill & I stood it pretty well till this evening, when I began to feel very tired & lame.

I can see that our troops are improving in health as well as drill. Not many are sick except those who have sore arms.

Today we learned that Santiago had actually fallen & the troops are in a great fever of excitement.

The hospital Corps of the Tenn. leave tomorrow for Cuba on the account of so much sickness among the troops.

There is some talk of us moving but it is such an old story that it has lost its savor.

**Friday, July 15, 1898.**

This A.m. our capt. acted as maj. in battalion drill & was to my opinion a poor drill-master, lacking in commands, thought, & sense of duty.

Some more of the Prof. were out from W. again this evening & shook hands good by.

**Sat., July 16, 1898.**

No drill to-day as it was inspection of arms, camp & person.

Inspection is a farce in a great measure & tends more than any-thing else to make "tin" soldiers of men i.e. such work as this.

Some of our guns were in a poor condition, but as a Co. we fared well.

The weather is very dry & warm again.

**Sun. July 17, 1898.**

Sunday was a welcome visitor to all the boys for hot weather had exhausted our vigor for work & we wished to get out side the camp & fill up on "country" grub.

Early this morning I got a pass with 2 others & made for the country, cups & spoons in hands, to gather berries & have a feast. We soon struck the berries about 3 miles

from camp & proceeded to fill our tin-cups & "baskets," both holding—.

The country is the same in all directions. The same sights may be seen at all plantations; that is to say; old people, old houses, old wagons, old barns, horses, & in fact every-thing that has age at all, is old indeed. It is a very familiar sight to parents, the looks, which bears, the age of many generations. It seems that families are reared, married, live to old age, to die in the same house, on the same plantation. Never-theless we find them generous, kind-hearted & hospitable. A soldier may intrude to a great extent without a murmur from the occupant. A person may think he is not with-in miles of a house or habitation, but all at once a hut or house can be seen through the clump of bushes, & houses that looks like sheds may reveal a dozen "kids" all white-headed & "cross-eyed." Few pretty girls were seen any-where. Most of them are slim, black, & talk like the "colored" folks.

The fourth of July was not observed by the people as any-thing more than a passing event. They went nowhere, they said nothing to the Children about it, but lived right on as any other day. Such I am not used to. Kans. & the whole north is used to go on all such occasions & in fact more energetic and know more of the world in general.

Our berries being picked, we went to the nearest house, where we bought some milk & with the bread & cookies we brought along, made a full meal; afterwards taking a good sleep under the large walnut trees where we ate.

Soldiers could be seen moving in all directions—foraging i.e. gathering berries & some looking for something to drink. It is a sight to see so many who are almost crazy for some-thing to drink, & make them sick, & mean. One would think that no one had enlisted in the army, but hobos & bums; but many are not that way.

After a long rest & sleep, we started for camp & on the road found an old stone bridge where the clearest & purest water flowed & the temptation was too much for us to resist, so we took a good bath for the first time in the army. We next picked our cups full of berries & sped back to camp.

The weather is very warm.

**Mon. July 18th, 1898.**

Nothing but drill, drill, attracts our attention now.

There are a great many on the sick list to-day but it is nothing but vaccination.

Today was "brigade inspection" for the whole camp. N.Y., & then Ind. & then Kans. filed by. Ind. did the best,

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then came Kans. The 22 Kans did the poorest that they ever did on a parade; & Co "H" my own Co. was a sight of excited fools yet we tied for first place with "E."

All of our Co. was mad for the way we did. Our Capt. proved his incompetency more than he ever did before as he never called "port arms" till reminded by a private.

#### **Tues. July 19th, 1898.**

To add to the sick list this morning, Co. "A" had been fed on soured meat, & about 10 o'clock they began to fall sick all about the grounds.

Sixty in all were carried from all about the grounds to the surgeons tent where many were detailed to help care for the sick. No one ever saw so many sick at the same time.

I was on guard last night & to-day. It is a farce. Our posts are so far apart that any-one could go through.

Some of the Ind. fellows wanted to go through our lines & I asked them if they had passes & they said: "no," so I told them they could go through if they had no pass but if they had one, they could not.

#### **Wed. July 20, 1898.**

The sick of Co. "A" are better but one is not expected to live; they were removed to their quarters last night.

Today Tenn. & Ind. had a sham battle & before the guards could restrain the mobs from the 22 Kans. & the 159 Ind. they had run past the lines over the hill about half a mile to where the battle was being fought. But their fun was ended when they attempted to return to the Camp. They had turned out the guard making it too close for many to escape back. Many came back by squads, but some unlucky ones became separated from the rest. One of our men was lucky? enough to get into the guard house. That is a place that bears a great resemblance to a jail. Also the inmates look somewhat like those who always frequent those places.

In looking over those who are in these places one cannot help but think that Uncle Sam had hired men who were not worthy of their position. No doubt many are enlisted who are worse than any Spaniard whom they are fighting against.

Some of the boys became much excited because of the news: that they were thrown into another brigade, but like other news of the kind, was not so.

Some are ignorant enough to still believe every-thing.

#### **Thurs., July 21 1898.**

Fatigue was my duty for today. It consisted of work & double rest. Each man made himself a broom from brush,

then proceed to sweep the whole grounds. It looked to me some-what foolish but that is necessary for tin soldiers.

One has a good time when on this duty. I swept for a few moments then carried off some trash & then stayed out in the woods for a few hours, for a while. In the pm. I reported for duty, but no officer came near so I did not touch a thing till supper & then not much as our supper was slim.

We were blessed yesterday with a good rain.

#### **Friday, July 22, 1898.**

Our battalion drill was at 8 o'clock this morning & it was long & hard. If constant drill, & work & feet will make good soldiers, then we will be perfect ones.

Last evening the commissary sargent & the cook had trouble about frying potatoes for breakfast. The cook claimed that he could not "fry" them in the time allotted for him. The capt. was consulted & he upheld the sargeant. Some 2 or three in the co. want the job, & to my mind, are trying to oust the cook to get his job.

The Capt. is being worked by them & he is too soft to see it. His head is so thick that nothing like reason can penetrate it. It was brought before the co. this evening, but three fourths of the boys were in favor of keeping the cook, & this made the Capt. mad & he gave the boys to understand that "H E" was running the Co. & said it was not a "political convention," & it was not for the "Co. to decide." He did not think (he never does) that it was we who elected him to this office (Capt.) that he was not filling & the way we had our caucus & "convention."

A few weeks before this he had discharged the best commissary sargent that we ever had because he (sargent) would not give him (Capt.) double rations of sugar.

Three fourths of this Co. would have him resign if it were possible, but he has not sense enough to know when he is excoriated by the Co. He does not seem to know that all the boys hate him.

I do not say this because he never gave me a cross word in my life; but it is because I dislike to see the boys treated as if they were dogs.

Our Co. would never be fit for battle as long as he knows as little as he does at present.

How an officer will abuse his power is beyond my comprehension. I believe in obedience, but when an officer is incompetent for the position he is trying to hold he is not a man if he tries to hold it.

I was a witness against a Smith, the Battalion Adjutant of the third battalion, this A.m. He on the day before in my presence went across the guard line without showing his pass & when the guard said "halt!" he turns

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around & tells the guard to "go to hell" & a few other sentences that are not fit for this diary but which I freely swore to in the "field court." Five of us were sitting near the guard line at the time of the occurrence. I asked the guard if he were going to take that? He said: no.

So we wrote our names, co. & Regt on a slip of paper & gave it to the guard.

Smith had one witness, we or guard had five.

Smith tried to prove that the guard was not a good soldier & did it for "spite."

I was much surprised at White for the testimony he gave & the quibble he did to make it sound in favor of the known guilty man.

Smith is one of these ignorant, bombastic, sycophant of a whiffet, that had no principle & much less sense. He thought because he held a little position, gotten by a friends infernal populist pull, that he could do as he liked.

#### **Sat., July 23, 1898.**

Today is the time for inspection but we had battalion drill all morning.

It is according how drunk our Maj. is, the amt. of drill depends on that; but our Maj. is the only man that is fit to govern men because he knows how.

Our p.m. was well spent at rest, but were looking at all times to hear the bugle blow for drill.

At "dress parade" last evening many of Co. F was mentioned as being fined for dis-orderly conduct & will be allowd no privilage for 60 days. This co. is from my home town, but not all are angels. The offences were drunkenness & disorderly conduct. They have poor examples.

#### **Sun., July 24, 1898.**

Inspection this morning of quarters. It consists of all the privates standing in front of their own tents with clothes all on, shoes backed, "head & eyes to the front" to breathe 18 to 19 times per min; not too loud nor too low. It is one of the scenes "of the first act" of the "tin" soldier.

The trouble we have been having in our Co. has been communicated to many of the home paper viz. the "Ottawa Journal", "Emporia Gazett", [Topeka] State Journal, & the "Topeka Capital." In the Ottawa Journal was an article written by one Ernest Clark, who had only written a letter to his father in a way that was truthful in the extreme but was not written for publication. It exhasperated our Capt. very much, & wished some one to communicate a refutation to the same papers, but so far, has not succeeded.

The letter was in substance as follows: "The Maj. gave an order the Capt. did not under stand it & gave the wrong order" A dispute followed & the language of the Maj. made the Capt. wish the Maj. court martialled, & his Co. "H" removed to another battalion. He (Capt.) said if his Co. was not removed that he would resign & wished the expression of the Co.; they voted for him to resign.

#### **Mon, July 25th, 1898.**

The first thing on the programme this morning was for the Capt. to send Ernest Clark to the guard house for "insubordination", that is to say, for telling the truth, that is to say, for spite more petty than tongue can tell.

This p.m. he had his trial in "field court" before the Lieut. Colonel; he gave him a fine of \$10. & sentence of 30 days in the guard house. The whole Co. is in a state of rebellion, & will appeal to a higher court.

The co. is clamorous for the capt. to resign & go back to Kans. or some-where.

This p.m. we were ordered to "pack" all our goods in our haver sacks, & prepare for a long march. We were soon ready with a load large enough for a pack mule besides our guns. Then we started for the old mill about 3 miles away. The trip was not so hard as was expected & none gave out on the way. We reached the mill in about an hour & after a little rest marched on to the "swimmin hole", a little farther on. This is an opportunity that we can not often boast of & are always glad to make the trip.

In marching back, I was late in dressing & some 8 of us fell behind & took our time in coming to camp. Therefore we missed the dress parade.

#### **Tues., July 26, 1898.**

This was my day for carrying water & if one works it rightly, he will miss drill. Each man takes 2 buckets & carries 20 per day. The distance ½ quarter.

The weather is very warm again & is getting very dry.

The war is still on in our co. & do not know when it will be off.

The boys are not in the humor for peace.

This p.m. was brigade inspection for our brigade 159 Ind. 22 Kans., & 3d NY. We were compelled to blacken our shoes put on all our clothes & have our guns in fine order. The day was sweltry but a tin show had to be made before Sec. Alger, Porter et al. After marching about 2 miles through the dust & heat we were not in a very very good condition for the fastidious eye of our Sec. but we made a very good showing.

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It was amazing to see the number of officers that confronted us on the parade grounds. I do not know where they take the lead that way in battle or not.

Most all rode fine horses & were a fine looking set of men.

Co. "H" was mentioned to our colors by the brigadier Gen. as the best looking, & had the best line in the brigade.

I think it is watched more closely because it is the color co.

**Wed., July 27, 1898.**

I was for the first time placed as guard at Hospital head quarters to-day, i.e., for the division H. Q. It is an easy job but one has to be there all the time. It is the same as guard at our Regt. but we go on in the morning & come off in the morn. (7:30)

It rained most all night & our little dog tents were not worthy of the name, when the "flood came." I had never seen it rain that way before.

I took my "& walked" into a large tent & made my bed on a table that was 4 ft. high & 1 ft. wide; & I had to stay awake half the time to see how to sleep & stay on the board.

It is the business? of the Corporal to wake one up every 5 min. There are many strange sights to see among different men. A casual observer can see & tell the dif. between or among the N.Y., Tenn., Kans., Mo., & many other states even before they speak.

**Thursday, July 28' 1898.**

Very damp this morning, but on this soil of Va. it is impossible for it to get muddy. We could find no better camping ground in the world as to that respect.

I beat drill all day & am feeling fine over it, but may get in the guard house for my being funny. The rest of the boys come in puffing like cattle & said they had to drill like H—.

Although I have beaten many drills I never have been reprimanded by the Capt. yet.

The weather continues his usual heat with unabated Severity.

Sham battles are being fought by the Ind. & Tenn.

**Friday, July 29, 1898**

We drilled 24 hours this morning or it seems that way. In fact drill has become a drag, it being kept up so long. Our co. is drilled more than any other Co. on the ground & it is because; it is thought we like to drill.

I was a witness this morning on the trial of E. Clark Co. "H"; our co. for the offense committed a few days ago, by writing home about the inefficiency of our Capt. as a drill master. The Cap. wished to prove by me that Clark laughed at him in the evening when the Capt. & he were in my tent & he (Capt.) was showing the article to Clark. I could testify to nothing of the kind as I was paying close attention to both so as I could see all that took place. Clark treated the Capt. with all the respect that could be shown an officer; therefore I could not swear to a lie. Clark is a young innocent boy who never did any harm in his life when he knew it. His letter was nothing more than anyone else would do, & he should come clear.

A letter came out in the Emporia Gazette to-day with no name signed to it & it was a roast sure enough on the Capt. It told of the "sugar" incident & other "great" events.

**Sat., July 30 1898.**

Our usual drill this morning was unusually long & our Reg'tal drill was harder than at any time since we enlisted. It may be because the war seems to be near at end & need to be well drilled to go home.

Regimental inspection this p.m. of guns, knapsacks, haversacks, canteens & clothes. This is the first of the kind & was done satisfactorily to our Maj. who is the inspector.

We were ordered to fix beds off the grounds by Sun. evening. Ours being already fixed, we were not compelled to do so.

A welcome rain came last night as it kept us from dress parade.

**Sunday, July 31, 1898.**

We were out early this morning fixing tents & ours is the best fixed on the grounds.

Nothing of interest takes place on the grounds except base ball, & that is about as little thing as one can mention.

Sunday School catches but few of the boys, while most of them are out picking berries & escaping the monotony of the long hot days in camp.

We have given up going to any other place than Camp Alger. In fact our officers or most of them are wholly unfit to lead men into battle.

This is the result of appointing men for such positions for political reasons.

**August 1st, 1898.**

Monday was a hard day for Co. "H" as all of us were lined up to accept a spade, shovel, or ax & march to the

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division head quarters & clean off the trash & underbrush from an old dirty swamp. In the a.m. we did not hurt ourselves; but in the p.m. it was warmer for us.

Each corporal had in charge a squad of 8 men, & some swelled up like a calf full of butter-milk.

The longer I stay in the army, I see more bombastic rule from those whose authority? & commands vary directly, & in proportion to his damned ignorance. As we had no drill to-day the Maj. took us out on dress parade as usual & of all the marching we ever done, we did the poorest this evening, we ever did. On account of this, we were "double timed" about ½ mile carrying those old heavy guns & it so warm. Many could not stand the run, so they dropped out or some fell out of line. I could outrun the maj. horse if it were not for my gun, but it is hell to carry gun & do so.

Some claim he was drunk & did not care. I would hate to follow a drunk man in a parade, saying nothing about in battle. A drunk man is not fit to call hogs; & such men should never be given responsible positions.

#### **Tuesday, Aug. 2nd 1898.**

Another day of "fatigue"; this time, it was clearing off grounds about 1½ mile from old camp, for a new one. It is a fine shady place, but the most essential thing—water, is not nearer than the old camp. All are glad to make the change even if not to the "front." Our brigade has never been together before & will be much handier than before.

This p.m. we learn that the "new" camp grounds will not be occupied by us, but on the other hand we'll move to some distant camp; near Manassas, on the old battle field of "Bull Run."

We are to have: tents, canteens, ponchos, canteens, knapsacks, haver-sacks, guns & 2 days rations. This will make a good load if not; it's a miracle.

#### **Wed., Aug 3d, 1898.**

Rained all night last night, & our tent did not fill the position that it should—leaking on the least provocation.

Every thing was bustle & rustle this morning. All were glad the time had come for us to leave this camp for good. Not all left, but most all 12000 men. The Va. & N.Y. (1) were left in camp.

In the early morning the camp was a-stir. Wagons moved in all directions. Soldiers began to pack their "purties" throwing away all but the most highly prized; & giving away to Negroes all old traps & clothes that they could not take or send with the wagons. Negroes were seen packing off loads on their backs that would take a cart to hold. We were given bacon, hardtack, coffee,

sugar, (all now) for our meals on the road. The big tents were left as they belong to the state; & will be sent back to Kans. The most of them are not fit for any-thing.

About A.m. or 10 o'clock we were formed in co.; then batalion, then Regt., then brigade, N.Y. leading, then Ind., then Kans.

It was a sight to see so many men lined up with humps on their backs that looked like they might weigh 100 lbs. But most likely about 30–45; & after an hours march 100, 200, 300 & increasing 100 lbs. every mile or hour. The day, as luck would have it: hot as sun could make it, & greatly to our comfort, water was scarce.

At last our Regt. marched into line, the bands playing the liveliest music. All felt gay as they bid farewell to the old hot, dusty, detestible camp & drill grounds, for a more exciting time, & a more merry chase; & as the boys saw the last tent fade from their sight, a sigh of relief came to them. Ever since the last of May, we had been kept in quarters to drill, drill, drill, till all hated the calls for drill & the more we drilled the more despised it was, & the less we cared.

As usual the boys made their usual rade on the stands before leaving & also on vendors, milk wagons & such—other nuisances as infect the camp.

The usual delays, disappointments &c. of course have to be met.

No more than started than guards, men overheated, & sick, could be found along the route. The Ind. which had gone "before" had many men "fall out" that could no longer stand the march.

Our march was toward the south east till noon; or till we had gone 5 miles. It was a constant up grade with but a little rest. The farther we went the heavier our packs got & the warmer the day was, & the less we had to eat. Men would "fall out" to get water, roasting ears, & other thing to eat & towards noon was hard to keep the men in line. At last noon came with its usual severity. A farmer had the good fortune? to have most of us to stop on his farm. All were thirsty, tired, & hot. Some cooked a bite, some ate what they had, all drank water & rested. One hour had passed, & we were again on the road. Much to our chagrin, we were told it was 25 miles from Manassas & that we had made no progress since morning & were no nearer than when we started.

We soon trudged on along the hot roads darting into every shady place, constantly looking for water. In the p.m. more fell out than in the morning. Whole squads were seen along the roadside nearly & some wholly given out, most of them from Rhod-Island.

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Hills became so numerous & steep that they considered them no longer jokes or treats, but "cussed" all the way up (being no down). It was in such places & under such circumstances that we "remembered the Maine." Some even regreted that the Maine had ever been blown up. Some "cussed" the Va. miles, all "cussed" Spain. It was on this trip that I found out that a man on a horse was "superior" in every way, to a man a-foot. He can ride faster, straighter, & longer without resting than any other animal. He is a fair example what a man can stand? when placed on horse-back.

The road still went on, so did we. Every "native" we met we asked: "how is it to camp"? He would say sometimes 2-5-10 or sometimes 20 miles. At last we knew that no Va. man knew a mile from an inch. The country passed through this morning was a better c. than where we had been camped. Some farmers had barns, horses, & likely ate white bread once a day. All seemed satisfied with their lot as it had fallen to them. Roads run in all directions; all up hill.

At last we were in sight of the little station of Burke where the "Southern" R.R. passes through. It is a small station of 100 but the land marks a better appearance than any we have seen. A little stream flows through the village & was used by the soldiers in a most hearty manner. A cornfield was near camp & the soldiers were very desirous that the corn should be taken care of so they helped with open hands & hearts.

This is my first night as a soldier tramp. A piece of fat bacon, 2 hard tack & some coffee. I soon found out that some men could not cook, & I was one of them. As I lay down that night I thought one victory had been gained.

Water was scarce & some nearby suffocated for a drink.

Next morning the sun rose on a bloodless battle field.

Most of the soldiers know enough to lay down & go to sleep when the time comes, but some have little respect & much less sense.

While we stopped for dinner at the farmhouse, of course the boys were very thirsty, but such actions as they had, I had never seen hogs act as they did; unless it were some Arkansas pigs. When a bucket of water was brought out, all at once jumped into it with tin cups wasting half of it. When 20 of the pigs drank out of the tin cup they crowded nothing; but the men did when after the water.

#### **Thurs., Aug. 4 1898.**

Nothing but rest, sleep, & fast to-day. Hundreds of soldiers were seen going in all directions early in the morning. No doubt they were looking for friends & relics.

It has been a long day for most of us because of the lack of food & water. Nothing in the way of water was provided & what was in the wells soon gave out & were compelled to drink creek water that was muddy.

All last night the ambulances kept busy bringing men in who had fallen by the wayside. The wagon train did not get in till 3 this morning.

A good bath & a long sleep in the woods gave one quite a rest. Orders for an early march was given this evening, & will cook 3 meals ahead.

#### **Friday, Aug. 5, 1898.**

At 3 o'clock this morning the bugle blew for us to arise & get ready for the days march.

It had rained all night & the men got little sleep & their blankets, tents & clothes were all wet; which made a very heavy load. After a short bite of [break]fasting, we started on the long march over the slippery road on our journey. The color Co. ("H") (my Co.) led the division. We set a merry pace for those behind. Our co. was made rear guard along the route. Nothing changed the monotony of the march save a little rest & filling our canteens. The country is densely wooded, having once been in cultivation, but not since the war. Houses are scarce & they are small filled with large families. The mystery is: how do they all live. The land is of red sand but trees grow dense owing to the rains & to the great underflow. Our travels are still up hill. Not so many stragglers on to day's march as in the first day, the sun not shining so hot.

Soon an open field is seen to the right & high hills with no trees on most of them are circling to the west. This is the old battle field of Bull Run. As we draw nearer towards these hills we observe that they are covered with old rifle pits & breast-works. We soon were pitching our tents on the rocky hill & our flag was planted on the mound where in 61 stood an old S.C. battery. It was a very appropriate place. No sooner was I turned loose than I began to look for relics about the grounds. I found nothing, so I began to look for something to eat. The rebel position held in 61 was a fine location & how the union men made any advance is more than I can tell. The hill where the battery stood is 600 ft high & almost a half slope. At the bottom of this slope to the west is Bull run. It is not a large stream but runs very swift. I soon found some apples & roasting ears & apples. These are quite a treat when hard-tack has been the mess for a while.

In the p.m. I was placed on guard in an orchard, but as luck would have it the apples were all green. Water at this place was scarce also, but not like it was at Burk.

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Each man did his own cooking here as before & were getting more used to it.

An incident occurred just as we were going on guard when we reached camp. Our Maj. called on our Co. to guard the cornfield opposite the camp. As we were falling in to get our guns the Capt. became somewhat excited & hit one of the men & shoved 2 others into line. "What will come of it quoth little Peterkin."

I am learning some-thing new every day about cooking. My 3 meals cooked & put in my knap-sack were mashed into every conceivable shape when I looked at them. Hardtack with me starvation, but maybe will get used to it. I am not complaining, in the least, as I expected to have worse times.

My whole aim was to get through the guard lines & visit the sights & pick up relics on the old battle fields of Bull Run.

**[Saturday, August 6, 1898]**

I succeeded the morning of the second day. As soon as my early breakfast was finished I made a sneak through the lines, past the provost guards, & far into the country. Breast works could be seen on all the hills, where they were over-grown with trees since the war. It was a strongly fortified position during the war. How human indurance could have stood the shot & shell from such strong positions is more than I can tell.

All the time I was looking for relics, but found nothing till I had gone over a strong position where two strong works came together at a right-angle; and in a little ravine, where it was said many union men were killed, I found 14 long lead bullets. I was much elated by my success & continued for quite a while, but found nothing else.

All over the fields could be found bottles or half bottles which were filled with gin for the soldiers in time of the war. I am much indebted to an old Southerner for the information I received from the different positions of the states N & S. He was living in the same house that he occupied when the battle occurred. Evidently he was still a Southerner & did not try to conceal it. If he were taken to the northern states & see the progress of civilization compared to the S. he would surely open his eyes to the sloveliness of the South & the business of the N. It is marvelous how some will shut there eyes to the progress of the world & not even turn their heads to see it march by.

All of the battle grounds which cover an area of five miles square is as poor as time & wear will make it. The fields they farm, is nothing but piles of small rock. They talk of the number "barls" they will reap from their fields as glibly as the populist politicians of Kans. talks of the

many ways of making the millions; & are just as likely. In fact all the people (whites) are pops & look like their brothers in Kans.

All of the soldiers had little to eat on the road & less when they came into camp. Some had nothing to eat for 24 hours & of course would take any-thing that came in the way. The next morning after the first day's camping found men scattering in all directions to find relics & some-thing to eat. It was not long till some of the companies were most all out. Some had gone miles, some not so far; but from the top of those high hills one could see men in squads on all other hills, looking through the cornfields, shaking apple trees, & chasing chickens & turkeys. Provost guards were seen in all directions but none of them tried to stop a man. After I had gathered some corn, picked some apples, I began to build a fire & get dinner? which was soon gotten & served.

It was not long after this that worn out by rambling about I began to make my tracks back to camp.

On my way back, I was captured by guards, that had been sent out to "run in" those who were out. The night before some of the soldiers had killed a cow for a man & the officers after the mischief had been committed, were very strict. But I was not all the one as I came within a mile of camp where some guards were, I found 360 captured in the same way. This was 4 p.m. & they kept us waiting till 8 p.m. when all of us were marched in & lectured by our colonel & turned lose. This 360 was from the whole camp, but Kans. & Ill. had most of them.

While I was gone that day some men under the direction of Dr. Duncan of our Regt. dug into one of the graves that was near camp & took out the remains of a confederate officer that had been killed. It was done for "relics" but they wished them badly for to rob the grave.

It kept the boys busy to tell what they had seen, what they found & what they had stolen. Some had quite a feast on what they had.

This evening all were getting ready for the march the next day. Two meals were to be cooked & placed in haversacks. All were glad to leave as one does not care to stay in the same place very long at a time; besides the people where we camped were glad to get rid of us, as we were little to their credit.

In the morning N.Y. will take the lead & Kans. the rear.

**[Sunday] Aug. 7, 1898.**

It is a beautiful day & all are in good spirits to march. We were about the last ones to leave camp & of course not a very early start. It was first through the dense wood up

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hills crossed Bull Run, where we struck open country. Far to the west we could see Mts. & were 25 miles away. Between these high elevations was to be our camp.

No one dropped out this time as it was a cool day & we had something to eat. People along the route had their Sun. clothes on & some were going to church. At last a level open country came to view & we could see the little town of Manassas. It was near this town the 2nd battle of Bull Run was fought. It is a beautiful little town of 600 with some fine residences, churches, & stores. Just west of the town stands a monument of red sand-stone 50 ft. high, to the memory of the dead Confederate Soldiers. It does not look like this country is much better blessed than the other places we have been as to water.

It might be said that a Va. mile meant 2 common miles & their way of measuring rods is from tree to tree.

The fantasies of hope fade a-way on the march just as a mirage does on the desert, & leaves the same desolate feeling. One thirsty, tired & hungry believe every-thing that looks like relief or will bring success. Credulous men are in the army the same as elsewhere. The more gigantic an un-truth, the more followers among ignorance & foolish.

As we drew near the new camp grounds, all caught a glimpse of the little muddy creek, & the scarcity of water had already been learned. It was then the whole division swore their best. Each one thought that an officer or set of officers that would place a body of men in a desert like this was not competent for such a position. We soon pitched our tent but not in very good humor. No sooner was this done than we began a search for water & something to eat. Neighbors had little water, but was soon given away. A good wash in the muddy creek was no small treat as it had been quite dusty.

It was my turn to go on guard & I was stationed about 2 miles from camp, back the same road we came.

The folks were typical Southerners & soon began to tell their woes. It did not take long for the old man to tell of his part in the "civil war". He was quite an old man but had never been out of the state or even out of the co., or had he ever been in Wash. City. His wife was a grand niece of Jefferson Davis & she seemed proud of it. They had many relics of the old traitor.

That night I had no supper & they knew it, but did without till 12 o'clock & then I milked one of their cows.

#### [Monday, August 8, 1898]

In the morning I got 2 pancakes by asking for it. I had loaned all the money I had to some of the boys in my co. & I was left to beg or starve. Although on constant watch

at this place some thoughtful person or persons took 4 of his best turkeys.

At noon they gave me a hunk of cornbread which was good to a person hungry. I was soon relieved from duty by a new guard & so I went back to the old dry hot camp.

I soon learned that we were to abandon the place at once. All were ordered to cook 3 meals ahead for a march 14 miles to the Blue ridge Mts. at Thorough Gap. A set of men were never gladder than when it was known that we were to leave a camp where there were no water, shade or but little to eat.

No doubt but what this camp grounds will haunt me for half a century.

#### Tues. Aug. 9 1898.

Last night the rain fell old fashion & these little tents sifted water through as fast as it fell. It was not long before every-thing was as wet as could be & we lay there as still as suckers in water till day dawned & we were called in line.

We had to roll our blankets, tents & every-thing up wet & it weighed heavy. We started about 8; & had not gone far before it began to rain again & continued to do so for 7 miles. We were in a fine flight as we passed through the little town of Hay market 5 miles from our destination.

Soon after the start we could see the mountains & they looked but a few miles away but were quite a ways off.

This is a better looking country than we have been used to seeing. People are better dressed & look more intelligent as we get farther from Wash. City. This did not last long for we soon struck poverty & ignorance again.

Our next town was Thoroughfare & is near our present camp. It is within 1 mile of the Blue Ridge. It is picturesque beside the places we have been camped & is to us quite a change.

Our camp was soon made & each one was cooking his supper of meat & potatoes. It soon began to rain & of course no one was prepared in the least for it & all got wet. Captains, Lieut. & privates all shared alike. The tents were fixed the best way possible & we lay down to sleep as if we were in feather beds.

#### Wed., Aug. 10th 1898.

Rained all night but stopped this morning to let us get breakfast. As soon as b. was over, I took a walk toward the Mts. I found some fine springs, lots of ripe huckleberries & started to the top of the Mts. It was quite a walk, but I was well paid. The top of the Mts. did not give me a good enough view of the place so I mounted a tree which

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was king of the forest, & 70 ft. from the ground. I could see for a great many miles in all directions. It was worth the trouble in climbing to the top. I soon returned to camp where a good dinner was about ready. I say good, because it was not touched by me in preparing it. It does not look like we were going to stay here long.

**Thurs., Aug. 11, 1898.**

These days are un-eventful as nothing but rain, eating, roll call, & trying to keep dry, is in order.

We now have orders to move to Middleton, Pa. & will start in a few days. Rumors of all kinds go through the camp but none believe them but the credulous.

**Friday, Aug., 12, 1898.**

I never have had such a cold & sore throat as I have had in the last few days, but it is due to exposure in rain, getting feet wet because of no shoes & constantly sleeping in wet blankets on the ground.

We are now fareing better as the cook is here & is doing his duty having some one to help him.

**Sat. Aug. 13 1898.**

This is the first clear day we have had since we have been on the grounds.

All the other Regiments have been paid except us, but we will be in a few days.

Our camp does not bear the look of a place where we will camp long, as the streets are full of stones & do not pretend to police them.

**Sun., Aug. 14, 1898.**

We have had no drill yet & is very pleasing to us all as the war is over & one does not care to exercise himself.

**From Mon. Aug. 15 to Wed. 17.**

Monday we did nothing but clean up the streets & will stay here for a few days. All are getting anxious to hunt a new camp, but not until they are paid.

Tues. I took a walk to-wards the mts. where Thorough Gap is but had not time to go all the way. The streams in the Mts. are fine & if we had had such a place to bathe when at Alger we would not have not been so much sickness.

A casual glance at the people here still says we are still in Va.

**Wed. [August 17, 1898]**

We were paid to-day & it was welcome to most of us as it had been 6 weeks since last pay day. Some had all

their money spent long before pay-day. Some borrow money of a Shylock on the grounds & pay him 25 c. for the use of \$1. till pay-day. Some buy every-thing that comes along; it makes no difference where it is needed or not.

We drilled some to-day but the ground is so rough & rocky & the men so in-different that they don't care. It is just to keep health in the army, or some would not take exercise if they were not made to do so.

All received shoes, & other wearing material this evening & it was not too soon as some were nearly naked & many were barefooted.

All the straw was burned in the streets to-day to prevent fever.

**Thurs., Aug. 18th 1898.**

I was put on guard this morning the first for quite a while.

It was reported that we leave to-day, but reports are many, & very untrue.

The camp is getting to be very monotonous.

**Fri. Sat. [August 19–20]** went by with the usual routine of tin-soldier business.

**Sunday morning [August 21]** we re'd orders to move closer to the Mts. And in the p.m. all packed his belongings for a move. It was only a mile, but the warmest, dryest, hottest one of all our marches. We were lucky in getting next to the timber where shade & water is more plentiful. It shows the usual lack of fore sight in the officers, in not placing us here in the first place. The air is much purer here than in our last camp, where we were in low muddy ground.

It was announced that one Reg't would leave per day till all were transferred to Middletown Pa. that will make the Kans. move about next Sun.

**Mon., Tues., Wed. [August 22, 23, 24],** moved by with nothing except the officers most all were drunk; in fact they (most of them) have been drunk ever since we have been to this camp.

A petition has been circulated for the last few days to have our Regt. disbanded & sent home but the officers have fought it all the time because of their salary.

I would either go home or stay in the army, it makes little difference to me. I will never sign a petition to go home.

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**Thurs. Aug. 25th 1898.**

I went to the top of the mts. again today & took a view of Thoroughfare Gap. Most of the co. is absent from drill & it takes great effort to get them out.

**Friday Aug. 26**

Today I was on guard & I had a good post where I had nothing to do but sit down & keep my eyes open. But when night came so many of the men & officers were drunk that instead of sleep we were compelled to parade the streets for 3 hours. Many were arrested & thrown into the guard house, but it was as much fault of drunk officers as men. One man from Co. "E" was stabbed with a bayonet & hurt quite badly. All are glad that we are going to leave this camp tomorrow.

**Sat. Aug. 27th 1898.**

All were awakened by the bugle at half past 3 for an early start to Middletown Pa. All were glad to arise so early in order to leave.

After breakfast we bundled up our articles & marched to the R.R., mounted the train & soon were steaming back the same way we had come afoot a few weeks before. Many times I saw the places we had camped, marched, & rested, & fasted. It was much easier than when we trudged through the rain, the boiling hot sun, & took us so long to go a little way.

We came by the way of Alexander, Manassis, Wash. City, Baltimore, York, Harrisburg, then to Middletown.

At Wash. D.C. we were well fed by the Red Cross & it was the first square meal that we had had since we left camp Alger Aug. 3d. After we had crossed into Md. things bore a different look. We saw no foolish looking women, kids, men & other animals that, so often met our eyes in Va. The country was fine, the farmers prosperous, factories going, & all busy. The farther we came north, the better were the improvements, both of people & country. Pa. is much ahead of Md., as Md. is ahead of Va. All express themselves as tired of Va, & would not stay there for the state. For my-self, I have enough of the dry, hot, sandy, d— old state.

This evening at 9 o'clock we came into Middletown, but did not leave the cars for camp till morning. It was somewhat tough sleeping, but it was better than marching a mile in the dark to camp.

**Sun. Aug. 28, 1898.**

This is a beautiful morning, a beautiful country, a beautiful camping ground, & a fine lot of people. We see

no virginian here, but well dressed & intelligent looking people.

With no breakfast we was led to our new camp ground where tents were pitched, fine water from a tank on the hill is run to the head of every Co. St. & every thing is an ideal model for a good healthy camp. The finest thing is the Susquehanna river which is within a mile of camp & that is something we did not have at Camp Alger. Why they did not have sense enough to get a place like this in the first place is more than I can tell. The weather is much cooler here than in Va. & the ground much higher ground. We still have little to eat & what it is, is mostly hard tack & bacon with some black coffee.

**Mon. Aug 29**

All are well pleased with our camp; as our first good bath was in the Sus. River the first good one the boys have had since last summer.

Our orders are to move to Kans. as soon as the business is straightened up; & that will be about Sunday next. We are to have a furlough for 30 days but have to report back to Topeka or Leavenworth at the expiration of that time.

**Tues. Aug. 30**

We have nothing to do now, but to sit around & eat sow belly & caned beans. We drill some every day just to keep up tin soldier business.

**Wed. Aug. 31st 1898.**

All are busy fixing up his clothing acct & other things for the trip to Kans.

This evening I failed to go on dress parade & will likely be punished for it.

Lots of new clothes, shoes, hats, blankets, & other things came in for the soldiers this evening & will be fitted out tomorrow. Some are in much need of clothes, as they want to go back respectable looking.

**Thurs. Sep. 1st 1898.**

I was taken before the col. this morning for not being on dress parade last night. I fixed it up all right & he said I was in the right so he let me off without punishment.

All are busy getting Clothing & fixing their acct. We had little to eat this morning as usual

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The End

