

Collection #
SC 2791

DEXTER LADD THOMAS DIARY, 1865–1870

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1865–1870
PROVENANCE:	Unknown
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.0263

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dexter Ladd Thomas lived in Newville, DeKalb County, Indiana. He enlisted in the Union Army as a 1st Sergeant on 29 August, 1862, and was mustered into H Company, Indiana 88th Infantry. The regiment left the state for Louisville, and remained there until October, when it was assigned to the 17th brigade, General Rousseau's division, and accompanied the army in pursuit of General Bragg. On the reorganization of the army in November, the 88th was assigned to the 2nd brigade, 1st division, Army of the Cumberland.

It participated in the battle of Stone's River, and was severely engaged while moving with its division to the support of the right at a critical moment. On the evening of 3 January, 1863, the brigade drove the enemy from cover in the final charge. The regiment went into camp at Murfreesboro until June.

It was in the movement that resulted in the battle of Chickamauga. Its division advanced upon the enemy and took many prisoners, but was forced back by overwhelming numbers. The corps fought against repeated assaults for two days, and acted as the rear-guard when the army fell back towards Chattanooga. The regiment was with General Hooker in the battle on Lookout Mountain in November, 1863, and the following day was engaged in the charge on Missionary Ridge, being among the first to plant a flag on the works.

It moved with General Sherman's army in May, 1864, participating in the many movements and skirmishes of the campaign which brought the army to the gates of Atlanta in July. It crossed the Savannah River in January, 1865, and moved into South Carolina, destroying railroad tracks and engaging in various movements. It moved to the Cape Fear River, thence to Richmond, and then to Washington, D. C., where it was mustered out June 7.

Sources:

American Civil War Research Database, 2005 [cited 8 August 2006]. (<http://civilwardata.com/>)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is a diary written by Thomas, from 1865—the last year of his service in the Union Army—until 1870. His entries from when he was in the army are mostly daily from February to April, and consist of what time they started marching, the weather, what they ate, and other daily happenings. After the war it skips to 1869 and consists of notes from classes he took in college, lists, expenses, and other thoughts he wrote down. The last third of the diary is from 1870 and is mostly rough drafts of papers and letters he wrote.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2791).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.