

Collection #
M 1079
OM 0536

LEWIS KINSEY HARRIS CIVIL WAR MATERIALS CA. 1862-1868

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box; 4 oversized folders; 2 flat file folders

COLLECTION DATES: June 3, 1863 – May 28, 1865

PROVENANCE: Gift; Camilla Warrick, Terrace Park, OH

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0178

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lewis Kinsey Harris was a citizen of Richmond, Indiana born in South Bend on May 16, 1838. He served the Union in three different regiments. During 1861, he enlisted in the 8th and 39th Indiana Infantry before enlisting again on August 19, 1862 as a Private in Company F of the 69th Indiana Infantry Regiment. After three years in this company, he joined Company B on January 23rd, 1865, serving as 1st Lieutenant. He mustered out with his new company in Mobile, Alabama on July 5, 1865 and returned to Indiana, working as a blacksmith in Richmond, Indiana and taking an active role in civic affairs until his death on December 28, 1918.

The 69th Indiana Infantry served in many battles throughout the Deep South during the war. Notable actions included participating in Sherman's Yazoo Expedition in 1862 and the Siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Like many regiments, the 69th suffered from desertion, disease and heavy casualties throughout its tour. Impressively, flag-bearer Eli Allman carried the regimental colors for his entire three years of service without once being wounded. Late in the war, while moving to join up with another unit, the 69th lost 24 men in Companies B, K, and G to a mass drowning while crossing Texas's Matagorda Bay on May 13, 1864. These and other losses forced the regiment to reorganize into four new companies: A and B merged into Company B; D and F merged into Company B; C, D and H reformed into a new Company C; and E, I and K became the new Company D.

After several actions in Alabama, the regiment took part in the final battle of the Mobile Campaign, leading the successful assault on Fort Blakely from April 2 to April 9 in the closing battle of the war. Following the fort's capture, they returned to Mobile, remaining there until final discharged on July 5, 1865.

Sources:

Civil War Database

Carolyn Sue Bridge. *These Men Were Heroes Once: The Sixty-Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry* (West Lafayette, IN: Twin Publications), 2005.

Obituary. "Lewis Kinsey Harris" Dec. 29, 1918

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains extensive equipage and muster roll records for Companies F and B of the 69th Indiana Infantry Regiment. Documents are chronologically organized and separated according to general information presented in each form. A majority of the muster and equipage rolls are witnessed and dated by Lt. (and later Captain) Harris and thus, are largely chronologically restricted to his term of service (1863-1865).

Box 1 contains monthly equipage receipts for military items (ammunition, firearms, clothing, rations, etc.) received by the regiment on a monthly basis between 1863 and 1865. These papers provide a general overview of the company's supplies and distribution patterns. Other, miscellaneous papers include receipts for issued orders, abstracts for regimental expenditures, General and Special Military Orders, ordinance audits, and volunteer enlistment forms. In addition, two bound ledgers are also included, both maintained by Harris. The first contains an alphabetical listing of the men, complete with an index of the items provided for each individual soldier during his tour of duty. The second volume is a monthly record of bulk supplies provided to Harris's company B.

More extensive equipage listings and several larger muster rolls are also in the oversize folders, organized according to Harris's company assignment. A short record of men from Company B lost in the war is also included in a subsequent folder.

The largest and most extensive muster rolls in Harris's collection are in flat file storage. These two folders offer complete listings of the soldiers under review and are separated to cover the years 1863-1864 and 1865, respectively.

Note: Men who joined the regiment after its initial mustering in 1862 are present in company musters, but records for service in the 69th are rarely carried over into the subsequent regiments which these soldiers later joined to fulfill their pension quota.

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Receipts for Orders Issued, 1865	Box 1, Folder 4
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Price Lists of the Nashville True Tennessean Steel Plows (undated)	Box 1, Folder 10
Volunteer Enlistment Forms (blank)	Box 1, Folder 11
Miscellaneous Forms (1865)	Box 1, Folder 12
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Monthly Company Equipage Ledger (1864-1865)	Box 1, Folder 14
Monthly Regimental Camp and Garrison Equipage Receipts, Co. F. (March 1864 – Jan. 19, 1865)	OM 0536, Folder 1
Monthly regimental Camp and Garrison Equipage Receipts, Co. B. (Jan.19, 1864-July, 1865)	OM 0536, Folder 2
Lists of Men Lost (1865)	OM 0536, Folder 3

Morning Muster Reports, Co. B. (1865)

OM 0536, Folder 4

Muster Rolls for the 69th Indiana Regiment, Dec 30,
1863-Dec 31, 1864.

OM 0536
Flat file FF 16-d, folder 1

Muster and Muster-Out Rolls for the 69th Indiana
Regiment, Jan. 31 30, 1865 – May 25, 1865.

OM 0536
Flat file FF 16-d, folder 2

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 (in this case, M 1079).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.