

Collection #
P 0091

**SERGEANT CHARLES F. NORRIS
COLLECTION, 1915–1918**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Photographs: 1 half size photograph box,
1 panoramic photograph in hanging storage
Graphic Works: 2 OVC folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1915–1918

PROVENANCE: Charles F. Norris, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 1975

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Lt. Claude N. Settles Photo Album (P 0013)
Captain Emile F. Martin Photo Album (P 0144)
Lt. Joseph E. McCurdy Photo Album (P 0259)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1975.0611

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

According to his WWI Draft Registration Charles F. Norris was born in Freeport, Illinois on December 13, 1888. He served as a sergeant in Company F of the First Indiana Infantry of the Indiana National Guard for one and two-third years. At that time, Norris was married, worked as a draftsman, and lived in Gary, Indiana. The 1930 federal census shows his wife's name was Maude and the couple had three children, Charles F., Barbara L. and James H. Norris. Indiana city directories of the 1930s list Norris as a commercial artist in Gary, Indiana. Norris died in November 1981 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Mexican Punitive Expedition: In 1916 trouble escalated on the American/Mexican border when rival political factions struggled for control of Mexico. National Guard units of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona were federalized to protect American border towns. Other state guards, including Indiana, were also called to active duty. They assembled at Fort Harrison for induction into federal service and began departing in July 1916. Indiana Governor Ralston appointed Lieutenant Colonel Edward M. Lewis, as brigade commander. Colonel Leslie R. Naftzger, commanded the First Regiment, Thomas R. Coulter commanded the Second Regiment, and Aubrey D. Kuhlman commanded of the Third Regiment. After traveling by train to camps in the Brownsville, Texas area the militiamen wrote home with tales of the snake and scorpion infested area and their work to make it livable. The units trained extensively during their time in Texas, culminating with 12 days of field maneuvers in November 1916 between Camp Llano Grande and Port Isabel. On November 24 the dispute was settled and the Hoosiers returned to Fort Harrison in December 1916.

Sources:

Material in the collection

Indiana's citizen soldiers : the militia and National Guard in Indiana history / Indianapolis : Indiana State Armory Board, 1980. General Collection: UA180 .I53 1980

<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains drawings and photographs made by Charles F. Norris during his time as a sergeant with Indiana National Guard, Company F, from Gary, Indiana.

Norris was a skilled draftsman and commercial artist and drew fourteen small sketches in pencil and pen and ink of his military experiences; eleven made during the Mexican Expedition in 1916 and 1917, and three made in France and dated 1918. These drawings were mounted on two large boards by the donor and were possibly framed for display.

There are also sixty snapshots showing the troops training in 1915, boarding trains at Gary and Indianapolis, Indiana, and camp life on the border at Llano Grande, and Resaca de la Palma, Texas in 1916, one panoramic photograph of the company at Indianapolis, and a Souvenir Christmas Menu in Texas from 1916.

Norris wrote comments and dates on the front and back of the photographs. These are transcribed in quotation marks in the Contents section of the collection guide. The photographs are arranged in chronological order and were numbered by the processors to maintain order. Processor's remarks are in square brackets.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, 1915, 1916

CONTENTS

Caption: "Gary Co. "F" Indiana National Guard at Indianapolis, Ind. 1916"

Description: [soldiers at attention in open field, many handwritten names on the photograph]

Size: 7x5 x 43 inches

Photo 1:

"Corporal Norris & Captain Umpleby, Labor Day-1915, Indianapolis, Ind. (Notice the wrist watch on Captain)" [two soldiers aiming weapons]

Photo 2:

"C.F. Norris, May 1916, Gary, Ind."
[Norris in uniform with rifle]

Photo 3:

"Joe Nay, 1916, Gary" "Serg. Nay at Gary"
[soldier in uniform with rifle]

Photo 4:

"Rookies–Gary, Ind. June 1916"
[seven soldiers standing at attention with rifles]

Photo 5:

"June 24-16 Boarding train for Mexican border, Sgt. C.F. Norris." [soldier with glasses]

Photo 6:

"Wash Day 7-7-16, Corp. Lloyd Finch. Ft. Harrison"
[soldier washing clothes in a bucket]

Photo 7:

"Lieuts. Kidwell & Riley at Indianapolis Ind. July 16, Co. F." [two officers sitting in front of tent]

Photo 8:

"Mess" Ft. Harrison – Indiana – 1916" [soldiers standing line in front of mess tent holding mess kits]

CONTAINER

Panoramic Photographs:
Hanging Files,
Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photo 9: "Regimental hike–Aug. - 1916" [soldiers marching beside water]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 10: "After the storm. Capt in center Aug.-1916" [soldiers in company street, lined with tents]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 11: "Camp at Llano Grande, Texas – Mexican Border. Scene on Aug. 18 1916 – after typhoon from the Gulf" [four soldiers among wreckage from typhoon"]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 12: "After the storm Aug. 18–16 Co. F. at Llano Grande Texas." [10 soldiers in front of wreckage from typhoon]	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 13: "More water Llano Grande - Texas, Aug. 1916" [flooded field around camp]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 14: "Llano Grande, Texas Co. F. After storm in camp. Nov. 1916" [soldiers standing among wreckage]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 15: "Serg. Kyle in flooded district at Llano Grande, Texas" [soldier standing in middle of flooded field, camp in background].	Photographs Box 1 Folder 1
Photo 16: "Stuck" in the mud on a hike. Other pictures show this scene too" [soldiers on a hill surrounded by water]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 17: "Serg. Fred Keilman Co. F. 1 st Ind. Inf. – Llano Grande – Texas. Aug. 1916" [soldier in front of tent with rifle]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1
Photo 18: "Sergeants – Co. F. 1 st Ind. Inf. – Llano Grande, Texas Aug 16" [7 soldiers standing in line with arms folded]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 1

<p>Photo 19: “Mess time during storm on hike of Aug.-18-16 - 1st Ind. Inf. at Mercedes, Texas” [Soldiers in mess line with stacked rifles in foreground]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 1</p>
<p>Photo 20: “Joe Millstone and his smile at Llano Grande, Texas Co. F. 1917” [smiling soldier holding mess kit]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 21: “Capt. J.A. Umpleby, Lieuts. Riley & Mc Gann. Llano Grande – Texas, 1916” [seated officer flanked by two lieutenants standing on either side]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 22: “Non-Coms – Co. F. 1st Ind. Inf. Llano Grande, Texas” [group of Sergeants and Corporals standing around seated sergeant with clipboard]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 23: “Fat & Slats at it. Llano Grande Texas '16” [two soldiers boxing, group of soldiers watching]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 24: “Bill Otto” “Serg. Wm. Otto Co. F. – Indiana Nat. Guard at Llano Grande, Texas, 1916” [Soldier with pipe, reading letter, sitting on tree limb]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 25: “Uno Larson-Corp. Co. F., Llano Grande, Texas 1916” [corporal standing with hands on hips]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 26: "Minnesota Camp – Llano Grande – Tex. 1916" [camp tents next to river]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 27: "Nebraska Camp, Llano Grande Tex." [panoramic view of camp with tents and soldiers]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>
<p>Photo 28: “Street of Co. F. 1st Ind. Inf. at Llano Grande – Texas” [camp street with line of tents]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1, Folder 2</p>

Photo 29: "Indiana Y.M.C.A. at Llano Grande Texas" [large wood frame building]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 30: "To my friend Sergt. Norris, Orion Norcross" "Adj. Norcross" [soldier posing in front of tent]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 31: "Serg. Keilman Co .F. [Fred Kielman in rowboat hands on oars]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 32: "Me!" [Charles F. Norris getting a haircut]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 33: "Charles F. Norris / Broadwater" [two soldiers with bugles, Norris with his right hand on his holster]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 34: "Co. F. on hike with 1 st Ind. Inf." [soldiers marching with rifles on their shoulders –"Malone, Perry, Riley, Heal and Lyons identified]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 2
Photo 35: "Mercedes – Texas – 1916" "After a 3 mile walk to Mercedes, Texas – a 50 cent Banquet – what more" [soldier, may be Norris posing amid palm trees]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
Photo 36: "Bridge near Mercedes, Texas" [river with bridge in right foreground]"	Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
Photo 37: "1 st Pres. Church at Mercedes – Texas – Aug. 16" [soldiers and civilians in front of church]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 3
Photo 38: "Sergeants in upper row Back – Finch & Moe – Herrod (Malone 1 st Serg.) Hazlett, Kettles, Angus Caine Corporals kneeling down N.C. officers of Co. F. First Ind. Inf. at Mercedes, Tex." [soldiers standing and kneeling in front of tent]	Photographs Box 1, Folder 3

<p>Photo 39: "Venustiano Carranza. Carranza himself at International Bridge, Brownsville, Texas" [President of Mexico and military and civilians]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 40: "International Bridge, Brownsville, Texas" [view of bridge]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 41: "International Bridge at Brownsville, Texas" [civilians crossing bridge at U.S. military checkpoint]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 42: "Serg. Norris & Keilman with Corp. Larson. Co. F. at lake near 1st Inf. Llano Grande, Sept, 1916" [3 soldiers standing by water amid trees]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 43: "Co. F shelter tents, lake near Llano Grande, Texas, Sept., 1916" [encampment of pup tents and soldiers]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 44: "3 nuts crossing The Ferry" [3 soldiers waiting to cross river, Sept. 1916]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 45: "3 nuts having Refreshments, Llano Grande, Texas Sept., 1916" [3 soldiers drinking beer]</p>	<p>Photo-graphs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 46: "Larson?, Norris, more refreshments, warm beer" [3 soldiers drinking beer, Sept. 1916]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 47: "Joe Kyle, Otto Lundgren, Mexican Border, 1916" "Sergts. Kyle and Lundgren at Brownsville, Texas Sept. 1916" [two soldiers with wagon, one in traces pretending to pull]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>

<p>Photo 48: "1916 Rio Grande" "Rio Grande River from the American side showing Mexico side. Finch is taking a picture at the same time. Co. F. 1916" [Group of soldiers along river]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 49: "Mexican Border". "Station at Llano Grande, Texas" [two soldiers standing in front of shelter, wagons with horses in the background]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 3</p>
<p>Photo 50: "Mexican hut on way to Border" [two women in front of hut, one holding a baby]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>
<p>Photo 51: "Mexican huts near the Border, made of mud plastered on boughs of trees, roof is of thatch."</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>
<p>Photo 52: "Norris – Taylor – Mat Leach- Joe Aydelotte, 1916 chow Mexican Border" [soldiers sitting at table eating]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>
<p>Photo 53: "Mexican Border 1916" Joe Kyle, C.F. Norris, Fred Kleiman Burch? [Burch in Perry] [four soldiers at table eating, Norris being fed by Kyle, Burch offering drink to Fred]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>
<p>Photo 54: "Grand review at Resaca De La Palma Nov. 25, 1916" "Resaca De La Palma, Mexican Border. Review for Gen. Funston, Nov. 25, 1916" [hundreds of soldiers in field on parade review]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>
<p>Photo 55: "Artillery passing the review, Resaca De La Palma" "Resaca De La Palma, General Funston Review, Mexican Border, 1916" [soldiers and artillery caissons lined up for review]</p>	<p>Photographs Box 1 Folder 4</p>

Photo 56: "1 st Ind. N.G. Co. F. – Llano Grande – 1916" "Grand Review at Resaca De La Palma, 11-25-1916" "Co. F. on Parade ground at Llano Grande, Texas. I am at extreme right." [Soldiers lined up at attention]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 4
Photo 57: "White army advancing against trenches" [line of soldiers on firing line with rifles]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 4
Photo 58: "Loading Artillery and Caisson" [soldiers putting artillery shell into cannon]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 4
Photo 59: "Artillery in Action" [firing artillery piece with smoke, note soldier in background holding hand over ears]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 4
Photo 60: "Sunset on the Rio Grande" [Rio Grande looking toward Mexican shore]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 4

Series 2: Christmas Menu and Sketches, 1916, 1917, 1918

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
[Souvenir Christmas Menu]	Photographs Box 1 Folder 5
On the Mexican Border Christmas 1916 Camp Llano Grande, Texas. Company "F" First Indiana Infantry. Called out by the President June 19, 1916 Arrived at Llano Grande, Texas for Border Service July 16, 1916. Mustered out "March 14 – 1917" [hand written]	
[Dinner menu, and roster of soldiers in Company	

"Co. F. 1st Indiana National Guard on the Mexican Border, June - 1916–Mch. - 1917
Sg't C.F. Norris - 1-8-73"
[caption written in red on board with drawings]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Donna Pump
Rio Grande
Mexican Border – 1917 – C.F. Norris, Sgt.
Feb. 8, 1917"
[illustration of building with two smoke stacks]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Our Colonel
1st Ind. Inf.
Sept. 4, 1916
Serg. C.F. Norris"
[officer standing in profile with tents in background]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Hospital Tent
Llano Grande Texas
Serg. C.F. Norris
9-4-16"
[Hospital tent flying American flag]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Christmas on the Border
C. Frank Norris
1 9 1 6"
[country road with fence and house, night sky]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Llano Grande, Texas
C.F. Norris
1916"
[Moonlight shining on the river]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Sentinels 3/10/PM.
10/22/18
Alsace Lorraine West France
C.F.N."
[hillside with trees at summit]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

"Old and New Water Containers
Serg. Norris – Llano Grande 8-16-16
[canvas bag hanging from tree branch, garbage can
with spigot sitting on pallet]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 1

The Mexican Border June - 1916/March - 1917
with Co. F. 1st Indiana National Guard from Gary Ind.
Sg't Charles F. Norris Jan. - 1 - 73"
[caption written on board with drawings]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

“Sharpshooting”
[soldier lying in grass firing across a field]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

"Nov. - 5 - 18
Borquenay, France"
[two seated soldiers, one writing]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

“On the Mexican Border
C.F. Norris 12-2-16"
[encampment with American flag flying above tents]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

"R.R. Station.
Llano Grande, Texas 1917
Sept 6-17 Sgt. C.F. Norris"
[thatched roof open air railroad station under palm
trees, lounging soldiers in shade, tents in background]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

“Furled tents”
Mexican Border
Aug. 16-16 Sgt. C.F. Norris"
[tent sides taken down wrapped around center post]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

“The town from a distance
Jouwacourt [?] France 8/22/18
[possibly a phonetic spelling, view of French town]

OVC Graphics:
Folder 2

“Officers Row” Mexican Border – 1916
August 26 – Sgt. C.F. Norris
[tents with wood frame, doors and screens]

OVC Graphics:
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, P 0091).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.