SERGEANT CHARLES F. NORRIS COLLECTION, 1915–1918

Collection Information

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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March 2015

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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
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-thirds 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


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:

Photo 8:
“Mess” Ft. Harrison – Indiana – 1916" [soldiers standing line in front of mess tent holding mess kits]
Photo 9:  
“Regimental hike – Aug. 1916”  
[soldiers marching beside water]

Photo 10:  
“After the storm. Capt in center Aug. 1916”  
[soldiers in company street, lined with tents]

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”]

Photo 12:  
“After the storm Aug. 18–16 Co. F. at Llano Grande Texas.”  
[10 soldiers in front of wreckage from typhoon]

Photo 13:  
“More water Llano Grande - Texas, Aug. 1916”  
[flooded field around camp]

Photo 14:  
“Llano Grande, Texas Co. F. After storm in camp. Nov. 1916” [soldiers standing among wreckage]

Photo 15:  
“Serg. Kyle in flooded district at Llano Grande, Texas”  
[soldier standing in middle of flooded field, camp in background].

Photo 16:  
“Stuck” in the mud on a hike. Other pictures show this scene too” [soldiers on a hill surrounded by water]

Photo 17:  
[soldier in front of tent with rifle]

Photo 18:  
“Sergeants – Co. F. 1st Ind. Inf. – Llano Grande, Texas Aug 16” [7 soldiers standing in line with arms folded]
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]

Photo 20:
“Joe Millstone and his smile at Llano Grande, Texas Co. F. 1917" [smiling soldier holding mess kit]

Photo 21:
[seated officer flanked by two lieutenants standing on either side]

Photo 22:
“Non-Coms – Co. F. 1st Ind. Inf. Llano Grande, Texas"
[group of Sergeants and Corporals standing around seated sergeant with clipboard]

Photo 23:
“Fat & Slats at it. Llano Grande Texas '16"
[two soldiers boxing, group of soldiers watching]

Photo 24:
[Soldier with pipe, reading letter, sitting on tree limb]

Photo 25:
“Uno Larson-Corp. Co. F., Llano Grande, Texas 1916"
[corporal standing with hands on hips]

Photo 26:
"Minnesota Camp – Llano Grande – Tex. 1916"
[camp tents next to river]

Photo 27:
"Nebraska Camp, Llano Grande Tex."
[panoramic view of camp with tents and soldiers]

Photo 28:
“Street of Co. F. 1st Ind. Inf. at Llano Grande – Texas"
[camp street with line of tents]
Photo 29: "Indiana Y.M.C.A. at Llano Grande Texas"
[large wood frame building]

Photo 30: “To my friend Sergt. Norris, Orion Norcross”
"Adj. Norcross" [soldier posing in front of tent]

Photo 31: “Serg. Keilman Co. F.”
[Fred Keilman in rowboat hands on oars]

Photo 32: “Me!” [Charles F. Norris getting a haircut]

Photo 33: “Charles F. Norris / Broadwater” [two soldiers with bugles, Norris with his right hand on his holster]

Photo 34: “Co. F. on hike with 1st Ind. Inf.” [soldiers marching with rifles on their shoulders –“Malone, Perry, Riley, Heal and Lyons identified]

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]

Photo 36: “Bridge near Mercedes, Texas” [river with bridge in right foreground”

Photo 37: "1st Pres. Church at Mercedes – Texas – Aug. 16" [soldiers and civilians in front of church]

Photo 38: “Sergeants in upper row
Back – Finch & Moe – Herrod (Malone 1st Serg.)
Hazlett, Kettles, Angous Caine
Corporals kneeling down
N.C. officers of Co. F.
First Ind. Inf. at Mercedes, Tex.” [soldiers standing and kneeling in front of tent]
Photo 39:
“Venustiano Carranza. Carranza himself at
International Bridge, Brownsville, Texas”
[President of Mexico and military and civilians]

Photo 40:
"International Bridge, Brownsville, Texas"
[view of bridge]

Photo 41:
“International Bridge at Brownsville, Texas”
[civilians crossing bridge at U.S. military checkpoint]

Photo 42:
Co. F. at lake near 1st Inf. Llano Grande, Sept, 1916”
[3 soldiers standing by water amid trees]

Photo 43:
“Co. F shelter tents, lake near Llano Grande, Texas,
Sept., 1916”
[encampment of pup tents and soldiers]

Photo 44:
“3 nuts crossing The Ferry” [3 soldiers waiting to
cross river, Sept. 1916]

Photo 45:
“3 nuts having Refreshments, Llano Grande, Texas
Sept., 1916”
[3 soldiers drinking beer]

Photo 46:
“Larson?, Norris, more refreshments, warm beer”
[3 soldiers drinking beer, Sept. 1916]

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]
Photo 48: Photographs
“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]

Photo 49: Photographs
“Mexican Border”.
“Station at Llano Grande, Texas”
[two soldiers standing in front of shelter, wagons with horses in the background]

Photo 50: Photographs
“Mexican hut on way to Border”
[two women in front of hut, one holding a baby]

Photo 51: Photographs
“Mexican huts near the Border, made of mud plastered on boughs of trees, roof is of thatch.”

Photo 52: Photographs
“Norris – Taylor – Mat Leach- Joe Aydelotte, 1916 chow Mexican Border”
[soldiers sitting at table eating]

Photo 53: Photographs
“Mexican Border 1916”
[four soldiers at table eating, Norris being fed by Kyle, Burch offering drink to Fred]

Photo 54: Photographs
[hundreds of soldiers in field on parade review]

Photo 55: Photographs
“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]
Photo 56:
“1st 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]

Photo 57:
“White army advancing against trenches”
[line of soldiers on firing line with rifles]

Photo 58:
“Loading Artillery and Caisson”
[soldiers putting artillery shell into cannon]

Photo 59:
“Artillery in Action”
[firing artillery piece with smoke, note soldier in background holding hand over ears]

Photo 60:
“Sunset on the Rio Grande”
[Rio Grande looking toward Mexican shore]

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

CONTENTS

[Souvenir Christmas Menu]

On the Mexican Border
Christmas 1916
Camp Llano Grande, Texas.
Company "F"
First Indiana Infantry.
Called out by the President June 19, 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]

"Donna Pump
Rio Grande
Feb. 8, 1917"
[illustration of building with two smoke stacks]

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

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

"Christmas on the Border
C. Frank Norris
1916"
[country road with fence and house, night sky]

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

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

“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]
The Mexican Border June - 1916/March - 1917
with Co. F. 1st Indiana National Guard from Gary Ind.
Sgt Charles F. Norris Jan. - 1 - 73"
[caption written on board with drawings]

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

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

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

"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]

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

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

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