

Cyrus F. Boyd Diary

This collection consists of a Civil War diary probably written at some point after the Civil War by Cyrus Boyd, an Iowa infantry volunteer who fought in Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and other locations in the South.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Cyrus F. Boyd
Title: Cyrus F. Boyd diary
Dates: 1862-1883, bulk 1862-1864
Size: 1 diary (3 volumes), 2 boxes
Location: SC15-3

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Researchers are asked to use the photocopies.

Additional physical form available: Diary volumes have been photocopied.

Publication note: A copy of the diary has been published in *The Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, 1861-1863*, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1998; *Civil War Diary of Cyrus F. Boyd: Fifteenth Iowa Infantry, 1861-1863*, Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1953, reprint, Millwood, New York: Kraus Reprint Co., 1977.

Related collections in other repositories: Mr. Boyd is thought to have made numerous copies of his diary after the Civil War and thus other copies may be found in various locations. The original copy of the diary, 1861-1863, is at the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Acquisition information: Date of acquisition unknown.

Citation note: Cyrus F. Boyd diary (SC15-3), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

Cyrus Boyd was born around 1837 and was raised in Warren County, Iowa. He was a first sergeant in the 15th Iowa Infantry, Company G until he was transferred to the 34th Iowa Infantry, Company G as a first lieutenant in March, 1863. His actual Civil War experience began when he and the 15th Iowa arrived in time for the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee. They later fought at Corinth and Vicksburg.

He mustered out of service on November 12, 1864. After the war, he married his sweetheart and later in 1896 moved to Ainsworth, Nebraska. This diary probably was written sometime after the Civil War. Mr. Boyd was thought to have used his original diary notes in making copies for other people after the war. Boyd was an

excellent writer and provides good detail concerning the battles he fought in and what it was like to be a Union soldier in the western theater of war. Among other things, he discusses company procedures, transportation, and attitudes toward African Americans.

Scope and content note

This collection includes 3 volumes of a diary written by Cyrus Boyd detailing his Civil War experiences. The last volume continues for some years after the Civil War. The first diary volume is of the 15th Iowa Infantry and is dated July 2, 1862 to February 15, 1863. It references the Army of the Tennessee, Battle of Corinth as well as other action in Tennessee and Mississippi. Entries relate daily activities as well as battle experiences. A list of the original roll of Company G, 15th Iowa Volunteers is included as well as sketches of their lives, discharges and transfers.

The second volume is dated from February 16, 1863 to July 30, 1863 when Boyd was a first lieutenant in the 34th Iowa Infantry, Company G. Locations during this time period include Lake Providence, Louisiana; Benton Barracks, Missouri; Pilot Knob, Missouri; Warrenton, Mississippi; the siege of Vicksburg; and Yazoo City, Mississippi. Various river boats used to transport the soldiers are mentioned. It also contains the roll of Company G, 34th Iowa Volunteers. The entries include comments on camp life, national issues, generals in command, the weather, etc. This volume actually starts in 1858 but the Boyd entries begin in February, 1863. The used journal book may have been acquired by Mr. Boyd while in Mississippi.

The third volume is dated from August 24, 1864 with October, 1883 as the last entry date. The last page may actually relate to 1884. In the beginning of this diary volume Boyd is still a member of the 34th Iowa Infantry. The diary starts with requisition lists for May 28, 1864 to June 18, 1864. Diary entries include camps in Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas as well as description of river transport and the return to Iowa. Also included are entries for special field orders as well as a roster of commissioned officers for the unit. Later entries are written in pencil and give accounts of his life after the war including his marriage, children, work, etc.

Collection Inventory

- **Diary, Volume #1** - July 2, 1862 - February 15, 1863 - 15th Iowa Infantry - References the Army of the Tennessee, Battle of Corinth and other action in Tennessee and Mississippi.
- **Diary, Volume #2** - February 16, 1863 - July 30, 1863 - 34th Iowa Infantry, Company B - Boyd is a first lieutenant and locations include Lake Providence, Louisiana; Benton Barracks, Missouri; Pilot Knob, Missouri; Warrenton, Mississippi; the siege of Vicksburg; Yazoo City, Mississippi.
- **Diary, Volume #3** - August 24, 1864 - October, 1883 as the last entry date - The last page may actually relate to 1884. Boyd is still a member of the 34th Iowa Infantry. The diary starts with requisitions lists for May 28, 1864 to June 18, 1864. Diary entries include camps in Alabama, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

Processed by Special Collections Department Manager Gloria Maxwell, 1992; further processing, 2002.