

Silas D. Wesson served in Company "K,"
8th Regiment,
Illinois Cavalry Volunteers,
during the Civil War.

Although no mention is made in this Diary of Ezra Goodyear,
they undoubtedly knew each other,
and experienced the same battles, skirmishes
and hardships.

This excerpt of the Diary picks up at the point
just after the battle of Gettysburg,
where Ezra Goodyear would have been
integrated into the unit with Mr. Wesson.

DIARY KEPT BY S. D. WESSON DURING
THE CIVIL WAR

S. D. Wesson enlisted Sept. 8, 1861
Date of muster, Sept. 8, 1861

Re-enlisted as veteran Jan. 1, 1864
Date of muster, Jan. 1, 1864

Mustered out as 1st Sergeant July 17, 1865

Co. K, 8th Ill. Cavalry regiment was mustered out of service at Benton's Barracks, Missouri July 17, 1865 and ordered to Chicago where it received final payment and discharge.

Silas returned to Leland and married his "doxie girl" Magdalene Suydam, sister of Cornelius and Simon Suydam mentioned in the diary.

They had eleven children: Belle, Mason, Elvie, Grace, Minerva, Sadie, Wright, Wilder, Lloyd, Elon, and Ray.

S. D. Wesson was born Aug. 22, 1839, and died in Feb. 1909.

Aug. 1—Again with the reg't, but many of the boys have been killed or crippled for life.

Aug. 5—Skirmishing every day. We are going to advance our picket line to the Rappahannock, beyond Culpepper Court house.

Aug. 10—Weather hot and dry. The flies bite and make life a burden to our horses.

Aug. 31—Have been standing picket about two weeks. We have a settlement of loyal people here called the "Jersey Settlement." They are nice people. We have been picketing the river. Gen. Kilpatrick sent a letter to a lady living on our picket line. Simon and I carried her the letter. She was very polite to us. She wrote to Gen. Kilpatrick and gave me the letter. "Old Kill" will never get that letter.

Sept. 1—Marched to Falmouth. Kilpatrick is going farther down the river to destroy a rebel gunboat. Found it, captured it, and sent it to the bottom of the river. I found some nice grapes in the woods.

Sept. 3—Marched back to Weaverville. Co. I captured a rebel who had come home to see his sweetheart. His girl cried and cussed the Yankees, but we took her "Jack" anyhow. When she bade him goodbye-GOLLY-how she kissed him.

Sept. 12—Got soft bread today. The first in two months.

Sept. 13—Crossed the river last night. I stood picket all night. As soon as it was light enough the whole brigade started, drove the rebs to Culpepper Court House. Co. M had a man cut in two with a cannon shot. Halted at Culpepper an hour or two. I got a lot of smoking tobacco in a store and gave it to the boys.

Sept. 13—Moved on towards Pony Mountain. The rebs made a stand at a Brick house. Our artillery fired into the house and killed an old man and a little child. It was a sad sight. The enemy made a stand at Pony Mountain. We drove them back. Gen. Custer was wounded in the foot.

Sept. 14—Advanced to the Rapidan River. We are picketing at Raccoon and Morton's Ford.

Sept. 15—The rebs seem to be busy across the river. They mean mischief. A lieut. of the 17th Alabama deserted last night and came over to us. A Miss Stringfellow was shot in the ankle by some of the rebs while she was upstairs in her home watching the fight.

Sept. 16—The enemy crossed the river, killed 4 and captured 24 of the 4th N. Y. Cav. Col. Cesnola is a jabbering Italian. He is no good. The Gen. took the regimental flag away from the 4th N. Y. for being surprised.

Sept. 18—Raining hard all day. The 12th Corps came up and took our place on the picket line and we marched to Stevensburg.

Sept. 21—Started for Madison Court House. Met the enemy in the thick woods. Had a hot fight, lost 3 men killed. Charley Brown was so scared he couldn't shoot without laying down. We drove the rebs through Jack's shop and across the Rapidan at Barnet's Ford.

Sept. 23—Back to Stevensburg in camp.

Sept. 25—The 11th and 12th Corps are going by our camp.

Sept. 30—Paid off by Major Schofield. It is nice to have some money again. Marched by Weaverville again. The girl who kissed her lover "Jack" goodbye and cried and hugged him is still there and her house is full of officers of the 11th and 12th Corps. She seems happy with her Yankee lovers. Wonder if all girls are the same.

Oct. 1—Standing picket on the line of the Rapidan. The nights are cold. It is hard work to keep warm.

Oct. 11—Enemy crossed the river this morning and pitched in to our regt., fought all the way back to Stevensburg, made a stand there to give Kilpatrick time to come in from Robison's River and join us. Hard fighting for an hour. Fell back to Brandy Station and fought till dark. Custer got his brigade in a trap and we had to help him out.

Oct. 12—Advanced again to Stevensburg. The whole army of the Potomac is making for Centerville. We are rear guard.

Oct. 13—Blew the R. R. Bridge across the Rappahannock and started for Bealton Station.

Oct. 14—Wagon train on the road to Brentsville with our Brigade to guard them. Had a fight with the enemy, beat them easy. Gen. Warren fought the enemy at Bristoe Station. It was the prettiest fight I have seen for a long time.

Oct. 16—Cold and Rainy. Saw a Deserter shot. He belonged to 1st Div. 3rd Corps.

Oct. 19—Marched back to Bull Run.

Oct. 20—Marched to Warrenton.

Oct. 21—Enemy have fallen back over the river. Our wagons have not come up—we are hungry.

Oct. 25—Had a fight with Stuart.

Oct. 28—Went on picket at Bealton Station.

Oct. 29—No rations. Hungry and cold. Found a yoke of oxen, old and lean, killed them and got something to eat. Cap Wells was chasing a reb when his horse fell in the creek. The Cap. got his mouth full of mud but he swore it all out in a hurry. He got the reb too.

Nov. 1—Our new Chaplain, W. A. Spencer, preached his first sermon to the reg't today. Judson is gone, the boys were too wicked for him.

Nov. 4—Major Beveridge is gone to take command of a new regiment.

Nov. 8—"Long Roll" sounded in the infantry camp last night.

Nov. 9—Marched to Sulphur Springs and then to Hazel River—Had a fight with A. P. Hill's Corps. Myron Hall and Horton were killed and 12 men were wounded.

Nov. 24—Cap Cassidy shot himself in the arm, crippling himself for life.

Nov. 25—Crossed the river—going towards Richmond again.

Nov. 26—My horse fell in the river—gave me a cold bath.

Nov. 27—Still fighting, but not advancing.

Nov. 29—Not much fighting today. The bushwhackers killed 2 of our men today.

Nov. 30—Crossed the river back to camp—fighting is over for this time. My horse fell in the river and gave me a cold bath in crossing at Ellis Ford.

Dec. 1—Cold and rainy. Standing picket is hard work. There is no more fighting this winter, I think.

Dec. 22—Have been standing picket and talking of re-enlisting, think I will try it for 3 years more.

Dec. 25—A dull cold Christmas. Simon Suydam and I went on a scout. We stopped at a house where there was a young lady. There was a gold watch on the table. Simon took it and the woman squealed and begged for the watch. He gave it back to her and said "Keep it". Simon is a good boy. The young lady seemed very happy and she smiled at each other so nicely.

Dec. 26—Moved camp and began to build huts for the winter.

Dec. 27—Went to Stevensburg to get furloughs and pay. Came back without them.

Dec. 28—Some of the boys have gone home. The rest of us will go before long.

Dec. 29—Col. Gamble has taken command of the Brigade.

Dec. 31—Cold, wet, and gloomy. The year is going out in the mud and rain. We sleep by the fire and take turns next to the fire to keep from freezing.

Jan. 1—On the march to Warrenton. It was mud this morning, tonight everything is frozen up. The cold is terrible.

Jan. 2—Frozen down to the ground. My blanket was fast in the ice and mud. It is getting colder every day.

Jan. 3—Went out to a farmhouse to get a dinner—paid a dollar for rye coffee and corn pone. Had just as soon had dinner on hard tack and good coffee. One of the young ladies was nervous. She screamed and kicked at Simon Suydam while we were eating our dinner. Guess that was what the old lady charged us a dollar apiece for.

Jan. 4—It is so cold that our horses will not stand still. They try to get to the fires to warm.

Jan. 5—On the march back to the old camp. I think I will re-enlist to keep from freezing.

Jan. 6—Building chimneys in the old camp. We can keep warm with them.

Jan. 7—At work on the discharge for the men who re-enlist. I am going home.

Jan. 11—It is dark. We are on the cars for Washington singing "We're going home" Big Dan is drunk. The boys have knocked him out of the car. Hope someone will kill him.

Jan. 12—Soldier's rest is a big house and we are here all right. The Capitol is here yet and Jeff Davis is not as sure of the fight as he used to be.

Jan. 14—On the cars all ready to go home. It is cold, we have no fire but we pile in thick to keep warm.

Jan. 15—At Baltimore this morning. The city is full of soldiers. We are going to have cars with stoves in the rest of the way.

Jan. 16—At Pittsburg and we are fed in the city hall, the same place we were fed three years ago.

Jan. 17—Had a good supper at Fort Wayne. The people are very kind.

Jan. 18—We are in Chicago. Bryan hall is opened for us. We had a good dinner. Anna Kickinson made us a speech. She is a splendid looking woman.

Jan. 19—Off for home on a thirty days furlough. It seems to queer, everything is covered with snow.

Feb. 18—Back in the old camp at St. Charles. Fun is over. We have said “good-bye” once more. We know what we are going to meet. We did not know in 61. We know it is hard work and DEATH. Sworn in again for “three years or during the war.” Same old story only we know what it means this time.

Feb. 20—New recruits coming in every day. They are young boys or old men. They will make good soldiers, I think.

Feb. 25—On to Richmond once more. Wonder if we will get in the city this time.

Feb. 26—In Chicago. Shut up in the Soldiers Rest. Guards at every door. We start today for Washington.

Feb. 27—Fed in Cleveland. The ladies gave us a splendid supper.

Feb. 28—The country is very hilly. Nothing but hills and trees in this part of Ohio.

March 1—In the Soldiers Rest at Washington. The rebels have not carried off the Capitol while we were gone.

March 3—Marched to Giesboro Point where there are about 15,000 horses in the Government Stables. All the diseases that a horse has is here, and all the vices too. I don't think we will get horses enough to mount the reg't.

March 10—Col Blake is in command of the camp. He is a funny old fellow. He calls a drink of whiskey a “blizzard”. He takes lots of “blizzards” every day.

March 12—Ira Kennicutt was thrown from a horse today and hurt. The horses balk under the saddle and play all kinds of tricks.

April 1—I got a letter today from home. It had only two words on it. I know the writing.

April 3—Still trying to pick out horses fit for duty. A hard job. There is an Insane Hospital on a hill near camp. It is for soldiers who re-enlist, I guess.

April 10—The boys are coming in by squads every day. The reg't will be all here pretty soon.

April 21—We go to Washington to stand picket on Pennsylvania Avenue.

April 30—In camp north of the city near the place we camped in 1861. There are a lot of barracks where “Scott's Nine Hundred” were quartered. It is a dirty place.

May 1—Drill and dress parade. Guard mounting every morning. It is hard work and no use.

May 7—Co. D sent to Alexandria to do picket duty on the Occoquan Creek.

May 10—Co. C and F were sent to Acquia Creek to stand picket.

May 13—Major Forsythe has gone to report to Ben. Sheridan.

May 15—Started today for Belle Plain. We are going on our old fighting ground. The "Christian Sanitary Commission" are here in force. All the way from Fredricksburg to Belle Plain they have a fire every $\frac{1}{2}$ mile where the wounded can get hot coffee and something to eat. A constant stream of wounded going to the rear. It is terrible.

May 16—A lot of rebel prisoners are camped near the Landing. Moseby tried to get them out last night but we run him off.

May 18—Duckworth came into the Company today. He was cut off the morning of the 12th when the rebs charged our advance guard. It took him a week to get around Lee's army. Scoville is taken prisoner. Tom Clute was killed. Harvey Chappel is missing.

May 20—The cavalry is all gone except our reg't. Sheridan is going for Richmond.

May 25—Sheridan had a big fight with the reb cavalry. We hear Stuart is killed. Wade Hampton will probably be the Rebel Cavalry leader now.

May 30—The country around Culpepper Court House is desolate. No people—no crops—here and there a Negro is working a little but the country is more like a graveyard than any thing else.

May 31—On a scout to Bethlehem Church. A young lady was sitting on the porch holding a little Negro girl. I asked her, "What will you take for that nigger?" She said, "I will take her life, my life, and all our lives." She was mad. Maybe she thought I was making fun of her.

June 1—We are on the march for Alexandria—going back to Washington, I think.

June 3—Back in old camp. Drill and dress parade in the hot sun.

June 8—Co. F has gone to Camp Stoneman. We have a new Assistant Surgeon, Dr. E. L. Nelson.

June 19—A funeral of women in the city. 17 young ladies were killed by an explosion of fire works in the United States Arsenal.

June 22—On picket again. It is better than living in barracks. We are fighting Moseby now.

June 23—Anson Keene found a small red keg full of something at Brigade Hd. Qrs. He thought it was beer so he stole it and carried it into camp, called the boys to come and take a drink.

He tapped the keg. It was vinegar and the boys were mad. They took a cup, put in some vinegar and salt and made Anson drink it. We call Anson Keene "Red Keg" now.

July 1—The reg't is scattered from Bull Run to Point of Rocks. It is a long line to picket.

July 4—Bought a Roman Candle of the Sutter. Had fun shooting it at the boys. Orders to march tonight.

July 5—Marched all night, still moving on. There is fighting ahead, I guess.

July 6—Marched to Sandy Hook, had a skirmish with Moseby.

July 8—Been fighting and marching night and day. The country is full of rebs. Had a set of 4 dismounted by a cannon shot. Charley Greenville killed. He was a good soldier, born in Finland. He served in the Russian Army during the Crimean War. It has been a hard day for us. The rebs outnumbered us and we have nothing to do but fall back. The Maryland Home Guards have come to help us. They are no good.

July 9—There is to be a battle sure. The 2nd Division of the 6th Corps has come up. We were marching all night. We are forming line of battle. Bill Pelling got frightened when the shells came howling over our heads. The rebels have a much longer line than ours.

July 10—On the retreat to Baltimore. We got whipped. What did they send us out there for? Why didn't Grant send more men? The rebs outnumbered us 10 to 1. The Maryland Home Guards run without firing a shot. The 6th Corps boys and us had it all alone. Our Co. is scattered. I don't know where half of them are. We beat the reb cavalry at Urbana and then retreated all night. Tom Baker is killed. Jim Satters is wounded and prisoner. Kinley is wounded, everything has gone bad, but we got the rebel flag and killed the Major commanding the 12th Va.

July 11—In Baltimore at last, the retreat is over. We have our horses in a livery stable and the men sleep on the ground, in the street, and on the roof of the stable.

July 17—I saw Gen. Sigel. He made a speech in German to the people in front of the Entan House. "Coon Creek" of Co. B got drunk again, tried to kill George Roe and got killed himself. The hogs rooted him around during the night but we buried him the next day.

July 18—Major Waite took our Co. and got Gen. Franklin, whom the rebs had taken prisoner.

July 20—The army is advancing, our reg't on the advance. Went through Snickers Gap into the valley, John Thorson was captured.

July 21—Marched to London Valley, 60 miles in two days.

July 22—Crossed the Katoctin Mts. to Difficult Run.

July 23—Back in the old camp. We stand picket from Georgetown to the Monocacy.

July 30—Moseby came down on Co. E at Point of Rocks and captured 12 men. Frank Crosby got away, the rest went to Richmond.

Aug. 1—Still on picket. We have moved camp to Muddy Branch and everything goes better now.

Aug. 5—All the Brigade go to the front to help Sheridan drive Early, except our reg't. We are left to picket 40 miles of river, watch Moseby, and go scouting. It keeps us busy.

Aug. 10—One of Company H boys named Cyrus Brunson accidentally shot by his comrade J. Fletcher.

Aug. 22—Today is my birthday and I am going on a scout.

Aug. 30—Another raid after Moseby. We are across the Potomac and going west.

Aug. 31—Back in camp. Lost one man, got 4 prisoners, killed one guerilla, 32 guerillas dressed in farmers clothes, 56 horses and mules and 2 wagons loaded with cotton yarn. Burned a cotton and wool factory, Marching 120 miles in thirty-two hours. A good day's work. Cal Bronson can throw an apple as far as he can see and swift as one of Moseby's men can shoot.

Sept. 1—Thomas J. Austin cut the telegraph wires when Early invaded Maryland. We got him today. He won't cut any more wires.

Sept. 6—On a scout again. Major Ludlam is in command.

Sept. 7—Took 4 prisoners this time and a lot of horses. Moseby is getting afraid of us.

Sept. 8—Co.s E and B are gone to port Tobacco. Our picket line is now about 70 miles long.

Sept. 10—Beemusdusfer, a Pennsylvania soldier, was taken prisoner at Monocacy, got away from the rebs and found his way back to the river. Our boys brought him into camp and his is going today to Washington.

Sept. 12—A little drummer boy is staying with our Co. He says his name is "Charley". He is a funny little fellow.

Sept. 18—The boys who did not re-enlist are going home today. Three years are gone and the war not ended yet.

Sept. 19—I have got “Old Charley” back. I rode him a short time in the spring of ‘62. I shall keep him now as long as he lives.

Sept. 20—Still on picket. Time goes slow and there is no excitement in camp.

Sept. 21—Off for Virginia again, looks like a big scout this time.

Sept. 25—Back in camp at Muddy Branch. Have got a lot of prisoners, poor devils, they look sorry. Our orders were to burn every barn in the Shenandoah Valley, destroy all the grain, take all men prisoners, drive off all the stock and leave the women and children to starve, I suppose. We would not do it. It is the first time I saw the reg’t refuse to obey orders.

Sept. 28—Chaplain Spencer preached today. He is a good “Sky Pilot”. He was a Sergeant in Co. F. He was sent home on a furlough and got ordained and is now our chaplain.

Oct. 1—Many of the boys are getting furloughs. They are going to stay and vote for Abe Lincoln.

Oct. 5—On the march once more. Hope we have left Muddy Branch for good.

Oct. 10—In camp at White Plains. I tried to get some potatoes out of a garden, but the woman living there would pick up the potatoes as fast as I dug them. I had to give up.

Oct. 15—Rectortown is a little village in the mountains on the Manassas Gap R.R. Moseby’s men run a train off the track and killed some of our boys. We are camped here now and Moseby had better look out.

Oct. 28—Started to Salem to hunt Moseby and we found him. Captured a picket of 4 men and was glad to dig out. Moseby had a big force in Salem.

Oct. 29—On the march to Snickers Gap. Cold-dark and rainy. Found Moseby off his guard, took 14 prisoners, with now loss on our side. One of the prisoners was a woman.

Oct. 30—On the march to Upperville to help a Negro move his family to Rectortown. Moseby gathered his men and showed fight. The hills around us were covered with his men. At last they surrounded us and charged from all sides. It was the hottest fight I have seen since Chancellorsville. We whipped them but it cost us 10 men killed and wounded and one prisoner. We got 17 prisoners and gave Moseby a good whipping. Chauncy Gonsolas was taken prisoner. He said Moseby swore for an hour at his men after the fight was over, he was so mad.

Oct. 31—Went on a scout to Warrentown. The rebs bushwhacked us after dark as we were marching back. They did not hit any of us.

Nov. 1—On the march to Culpepper C. H. The country is desolate. War is a terrible thing. I pity the people who are trying to live here. They are robbed by both friend and foe.

Nov. 2—Election today. We were drawn up in line on the old Bull Run battlefield and roll called for President. Co. K voted 42 for Lincoln and 2 for McClellan. The field is covered in places with human skulls.

Nov. 10—Camping and scouting all over. It is nice work, a new camp every night.

Nov. 21—Our marching and fun is over and we are in camp at Fairfax Station. A new brigade again; 8th Ills. cav'y, 13th and 16th N. Y. cav'y, 202nd Penn. Inf., 4th Penn heavy artillery, and 16th Mass light artillery. Col. Gamble in command. He put on lots of style now.

Nov. 23—I said "dam it!" this morning to the chaplain. He took me down and punched me with his fist. He is a good Methodist and won't let the boys swear.

Nov. 27—I have been sick with Cholera Morbus for several nights. Am well in the day but sick all night. Dr. Stull gave me a lot of medicine today.

Nov. 28—A lot of new recruits joined us here. Jo Minigus, Isaac Mitchell, and a lot of little Frenchman from Chicago.

Nov. 30—Our company is moved to Falls Church. There is a church here that is built of brick that was brought from England. George Heintzelimer is going home on furlough. We are building huts for winter and stables for our horses. By the time they are built we will have to march.

Dec. 1—Lieut. Hupp is at Burke's station, with part of the Co. The rest of us at Falls Church. The regiment is at Fairfax C. H.

Dec. 15—A lot of new commissions came for the boys. They had a big drunk at head quarters over the new officers.

Dec. 20—Started on a scout over in the valley. Col. Clendenin in command.

Dec. 24—Back in camp. I have a sprained ankle. I cannot walk. We did not have much fighting. Moseby was not very numerous. We got a flock of sheep and 14 prisoners.

Dec. 25—Christmas day cold and muddy. We are waiting for marching orders. 2 of the 16th N. Y. were taken prisoners by Moseby's men. They got away when the guard was drunk. Got their feet wet and frozen crossing the Rappahannock River.

Dec. 31—Maj. Gelray is in command of our camp. He is a one armed fool. He is proud and struts like a turkey gobbler.

Jan. 1, 1865—Another year started. The war not ended yet. There is a Col. King in command of the heavy artillery here. He signs his name like this (K_____g)

Jan. 5—There was a big ball and sleigh ride at headquarters. The horses ran away and upset the sleigh and the boys stole the officers gloves and overcoats when they were gone to supper.

Jan. 8—Chaplain Spencer has got the printing office fixed up for a church. On the walls of the room are posted notices of runaway slaves. It looks queer.

Jan. 20—Drill and scouting duty. Not much to do. Dr. Humiston of the 13th N. Y. Cavy. uses the church here for a hospital. It is full of sick.

Jan. 31—The boys are racing horses now, trying to find out who has the fastest horse.

Feb. 1—Cold, muddy, and foggy. Major Gelray puts on more style than Gen. Grant. The boys hate him.

Feb. 5—On the march for the Valley. Some of the boys stole the shelter tent off the roof of Maj. Gelray's tent.

Feb. 22—Had a squirt gun fight today. All the boys made squirt guns and everybody got wet. Bill Bates got mad and wanted to shoot.

Feb. 23—Captain Corbit of Co. B brought in a rebel, Col. Carter, one captain, one lieut. and 5 men.

March 1—Capt Fayweather of the 2 Mass. heavy artillery gave me \$10 for a saddle.

March 4—A lot of the officers went to the Inauguration of Lincoln. It was cloudy and rainy but just as Old Abe came out on the East Porch of the capitol the sun shone out all at once on his face. It was nice.

March 7—Moseby's men pitched into some of the 16th N. Y. Cav'y, killed 2, and took eight prisoners.

March. 8—A party of officers rode out to the old Bull Run battlefield. The field is covered with skulls. Capt. Lawrence is going to get an order to bury them and erect a monument on both 1st and 2nd Bull Run fields.

March 10—Went out on a scout, captured some of Moseby's men.

March 20—Grand Review of the Brigade at Flint Hill.

March 23—Col. Gamble took part of the brigade on a scout, brought in some prisoners.

March 27—The boys stole Col. Gamble's turkey after it was cooked. The Col. swore awful but it was no use. Then he would say "Thunder and Mars" "Heavens on earth" but he never found his turkey.

March 29—Weather warm and wet. The boys are getting tired of staying so long in one camp.

April 1—Went on a scout to Munson's Hill to escort some sick men to the hospital at Falls Church.

April 3—Richmond is taken. Everybody is wild. We have been firing volleys all day.

April 10—Gen. Lee has surrendered. The war is over now, but we had a fight today at Brinston Hill with a force of cavalry that tried to capture our mule train.

April 15—Last night Boots and Saddles sounded. We are marching west. It is said Lincoln is killed. I don't believe it.

April 16—It is true Lincoln is killed. We are marching east now, going into Maryland. We marched 30 miles yesterday. There was to be a party at Brigade headquarters and Wilkes Booth was invited on the 15th. The night before he killed Lincoln and dug out. If he gets into our hands he had better say his prayers quick.

April 17—Still hunting for Booth. We found his boot at Dr. Mudd's. We took the Dr. in. Booth is hid somewhere and he will be found. It is all heavy timber here. We have marched through all the swamps in Maryland hunting for Booth.

April 19—We here Lincoln's funeral is today in Washington.

April 25—In camp Casey near Washington. Booth is taken. Now if we could get him he would be roasted over a slow fire.

April 29—We hear Johnson has surrendered. The war is over sure now and we will go home to die no more.

May 1—The time is long, nothing to do, nobody to shoot at, I would like to go home. Rebel soldiers are coming home in squads. They don't look very happy.

May 5—In camp at Fairfax Station, waiting to go home.

May 15—The armies are coming in from Richmond. There is a foot race among the infantry to see who will get to Washington first. The men are going out on the march. Our wagons have been sent towards Brentsville to pick them up.

May 23—Over 100,000 men in line. I never saw so many men in line before. It is Grand. Sherman's army parades tomorrow.

May 24—Sherman's men are marching up Pennsylvania Avenue today. We are going into camp at Fairfax Station.

June 1—We have orders to go to Texas. I would rather go home.

June 11—The brigade is going to the Bull Run battlefield to dedicate the monuments our men have built. Gen. Hancock is with us. He has a fine whiskey nose. We buried 2400 skulls under the monuments.

June 16—Orders again to go to St. Louis.

June 19—On the march for Washington. Good-bye to Old Virginia.

June 21—At Cincinnati, Ohio—Co. K goes on the cars across Indiana and Illinois to St. Louis. The other companies will go by water.

June 27—In East St. Louis. Will cross river to-morrow.

June 28—In Benton Barracks. Co. L's boat ran into a snag and sunk. Five men drowned and all the horses.

July 1—Orders are to march to Fort Riley, Kansas. The boys are mad.

July 4—Gen. Pleasonton made us a speech today. He was our old commander. He says he will try to get us mustered out.

July 6—We have got orders to muster out. It makes us all happy.

July 10—Busy making muster out rolls.

July 17—Start for home, Glory Hallelujah.

July 19—In Chicago at the Soldiers Rest. We have the best supper we have had for 2 years.

July 20—In Camp Douglas waiting for pay. John Thorsen was taken prisoner in Snickers Gap, over a year ago. We thought him dead but he is here in Chicago all right and wants his pay. Chaplain Spencer preached to us in St. Louis before we started. His text was from the Book of Ruth, "Whither thou goest—I will go, etc. We have organized the "Eighth Illinois Veteran Cavalry Association."

July 21—Paid off in "Gold Option" Bonds. Am going home tomorrow and "Old Charley" is going with me. We have fought together and we go home together.

July 22—The boys are singing "We're going home, no more to roam". It feels so queer to wear a long tailed coat, and vest. The boys look strange with their new clothing. I have bought a ticket for Leland. Good-bye Old 8th! Good-bye Co. K!

So now farewell to war and strife
Hardtack to more can find me
I'm going home to a quiet life
With the girl I left behind me.