

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

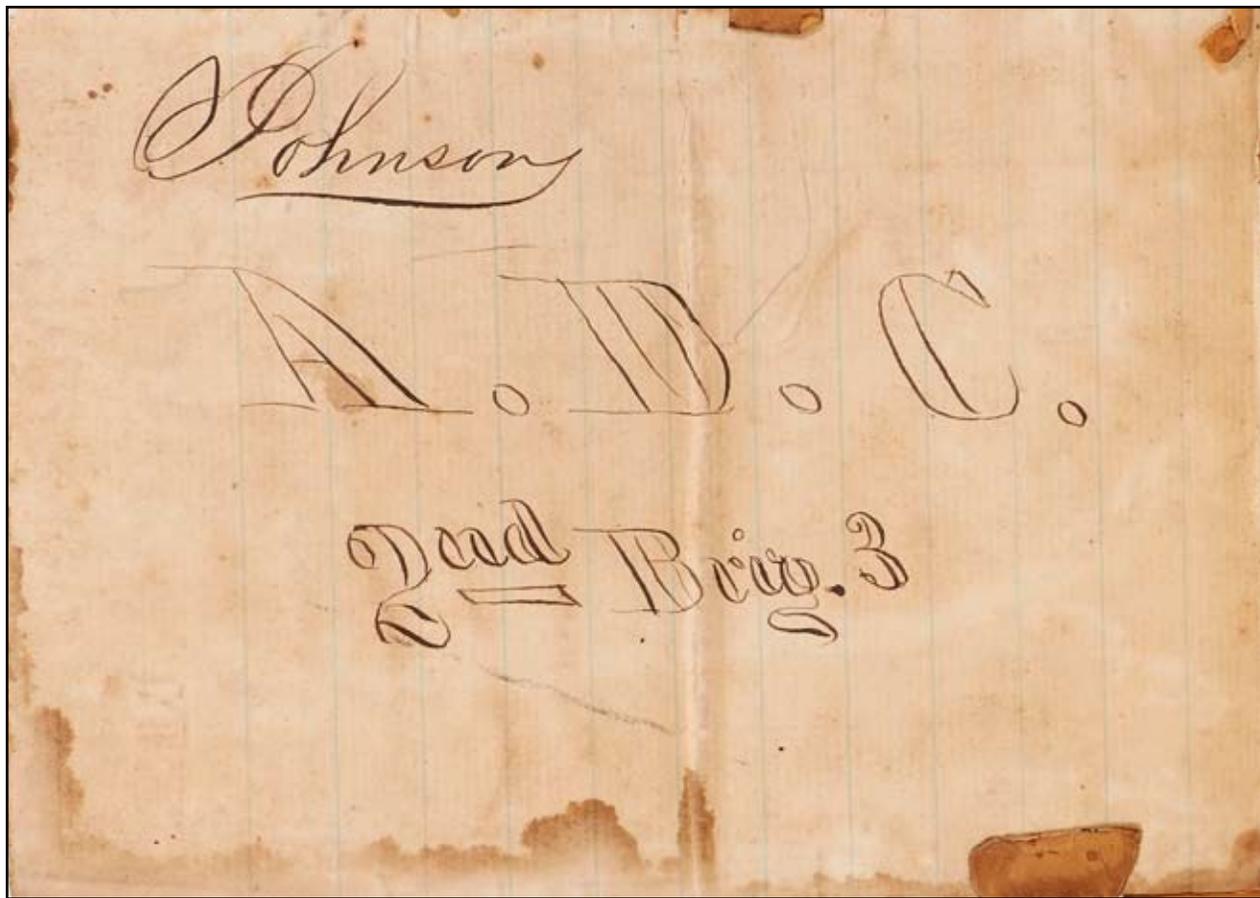
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("Johnson, A.D.C.")

Manuscript Diary of a Union Soldier, 59th Illinois Infantry, giving a detailed account of the Regiment's last Campaign through Tennessee, North Carolina, and Texas (March 1865 – January 1866)
(1865-1866) \$6000

Oblong octavo (6¼" x 4"). Dairy notebook consisting of ruled laid-paper leaves (manufactured by Platner & Porter), with over 110 manuscript pages written in ink and pencil (including a 25pp. travelogue chart at the back with hand drawn maps). Several intermittent leaves bear Platner & Porter's "Congress" paper blind-embossed stamp. Bound in flexible paper-covered card wrappers with yap edges, the back wrap is detached but still present, very good. Signed by the owner on the front pastedown: "Johnson - A.D.C. 2nd Brig. 3" [Aide-de-Camp, Second Brigade, Third Division].



A diary account of a Union army's march through several Southern states, primarily Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas, in the final months of the Civil War. The diary was written by a soldier from Illinois (59th Infantry) serving as aide-de-camp in the Army of the Cumberland, Fourth Corps. Johnson's regiment participated in several of the major campaigns in the Western Theater: including the battle of Pea Ridge (March, 1862); the siege of Chattanooga and battle of Missionary Ridge (October-November, 1863: it led the charge up Missionary Ridge in the Lookout Mountain campaign); and it fought with conspicuous valor at the battle of Nashville (December, 1864). After the battle it pursued Confederate forces into Alabama, where it eventually set up quarters at Huntsville. The journal account begins there, chronicling the regiment's final campaign into the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina, and along the Guadalupe River in Texas. Johnson opens with an introduction wherein he states his design:

“... I have often wondered why my letters had so little in them that would tend to give an insight into the everyday life of a soldier. Many exciting and interesting incidents are daily recurring ... but which are never told for the reason that they seem so commonplace to me that I think the good people at home living where war is almost unknown would hardly be interested in them. Thus many incidents pass from the memory of the soldier which if he devoted a few moments each day in noting them down, would keep him out of mischief ... and in some future day if he should be among the survivors of this war, it would be gratifying to the veteran to turn over the pages of his diary and ... read of his hair breadth escapes during the great rebellion – For this reason I have come to the conclusion to keep a diary during this coming campaign.”

The diary proper thus commences on March 15th, when the IV Corps is ordered to march from Huntsville, Alabama to East Tennessee to block the mountain passes and prevent a potential retreat by Lee's army into the Smoky Mountains: “I was awakened at 12 ½ a.m. by the orderly who told me that the Colonel (McC) wished to see me ... we had orders to be at the Depot by 7 o'clock and take cars for East Tennessee ... at 10 o'clock we were on our way 'rejoicing' ... Although we could see a long and arduous campaign before us, yet we left our comfortable winter quarters without a sigh.”

As promised, Johnson records the everyday events of the march, including his observations on the topography of the landscape and the towns where they camped or passed through. He also recounts notable events and battles from the beginning of the war: “By 6 o’clock we were passing into the shadow of grand old Lookout Mountain [at Chattanooga] ever to be remembered in History as the scene of Genl. Hooker’s ‘Battle above the clouds’ [The Battle of Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863] ... There are several fine Hospitals on the mountain and the Regular Brigade of the Army of the Cumberland is now camped on the Mountain.” He also includes considerable detail about setting up camps and the social life at the camp: March 18th: “We arrived in Newmarket [New Market, TN] about 8 o’clock p.m. ... Found Head Quarters in a fine house and the Colonel deeply engaged in a game of checkers with a very fine looking young lady and Capt. G. holding an interesting ‘tete-a-tete’ with another fair damsel. I reported the arrival of our train and was introduced to Miss Dick by Capt. G. The Colonel did not introduce me to his partner but I don’t feel at all bad over it. When there are so many good looking men about, we boys must know our places.”

At another evening event Johnson makes further observations touching on his position in the regiment: “Busy all day putting up tents ... The Colonel and most of the staff are quartered in the house but I prefer a tent. The family living in the house are rather aristocratic ... The two young ladies are very sociable, play and sing ... one could have little difficulty in ‘killing time’ in their company. I think one of our Staff officers is a little spoony toward one of them already. I pity him, for it is evident to me that they both are rather superficial, something like a small “notion” dealer, they keep all their goods in the show window. But as the darkeys say “I’ve no use for dem kind” so I will let the matter drop.”

Johnson then describes the march from New Market to Bulls Gap; Bulls Gap to Greeneville, and the last leg into the Smoky Mountains in much greater detail: from Greeneville to Warm Springs, North Carolina (present day Hot Springs). Along the way he recounts news of the progress of the war, prepares charges “against one of the 71th” [Ohio] “for straggling” and comments frequently on the character and loyalty of the Southerners who provided lodging for the Union officers and staff at their homes:

“... reached Greeneville ... made Head Quarters at the house of Mr. Brown who has a large unfinished mansion the work on what was suspended at the breaking out of the war. He is a first rate specimen of a ‘whipped’ southerner. One of the most influential men in the country, has worked night and day for the C.S.A. forcing poor men into the army and doing everything in his power that would give aid & comfort to Rebels and bringing friends of the Union to grief. Now he sees that the cause for which he has done so much is a failure ... and now he repents ... He is an educated man and one of his greatest griefs is that he cannot educate his family ...”

From Greeneville the IV Corps was ordered to march to Warm Springs “immediately to reinforce Col. Kirby’s Brigade of the 1st Division.” This part of the journal features an accomplished pencil drawing at the back: a panoramic view of the Smoky mountains, likely drawn from Paint Rock Pass or Hot Springs, both of which are described in much detail by Johnson: “... the scenery is unsurpassed for its wild beauty. The mountains are covered with a greater variety of evergreen than I have ever seen before ... The road seems to hang in the air in some places, so nearly perpendicular is the cliff ... When we reached the bottom of the Mountain we could see our wagon train way up the ridge among the clouds ... we go through Paint Rock Pass ... a large creek that rises in the Mountain and tears through the pass with a noise like thunder emptying into the French Broad River a few steps from the Pass ... we arrived opposite Warm Springs N.C. at 1 p.m. and went into camp ... About 9 p.m. I was ordered across the river with a company of the 93rd Ohio to get information in regard to roads, forage, etc. ...”

There follows a break in the narrative, when the IV Corps was ordered to New Orleans, en route for Texas where it remained during the rest of 1865, forming a part of Sheridan’s Army of Occupation. According to another account, the IV Corps “was sent to Texas as part of the U.S. Army detachment dispatched to persuade French Emperor Napoleon III to withdraw his troops from Mexico”. According to Johnson’s manuscript chart at the back, the IV Corps arrived at “Indianola – Matagorda Bay” on July 9, 1865: “R.R. unfinished running from Indianola to Lavaca ... Arrive at Green Lake, Tex. About four miles square. Go into camp. No timber or forage, except grass.”

The diary proper continues on August 10th, when the IV Corps is ordered to march to San Antonio. Johnson provides considerable details about the harsh conditions: "Our Regt. to start in advance one hour today – to select camp ground, put out pickets, etc. Brevet Brig. Gen. P. Sidney Post [Philip Sidney Post] visited the Regt. this am looking well and hearty, but walked lame from wounds rec'd at the battle of Nashville ... All ready for marching at 2 p.m. ... at 5 p.m. I got overheated and became very sick for a short time rode into camp. A great many men gave out on road. Going to camp at 8 p.m. in edge of woods near Guadalupe River ... August 11th 1865: Many men did not get into camp until this morning. One man of 51st Ind. Vols. died on the road from the effects of heat. Some men nearly blind this a.m. a great many sent to hospital ... we march west 10 miles, brings us to Victoria a small village situated ½ mile north of Guadalupe River ... Corps H'd Qr's at Victoria ..."

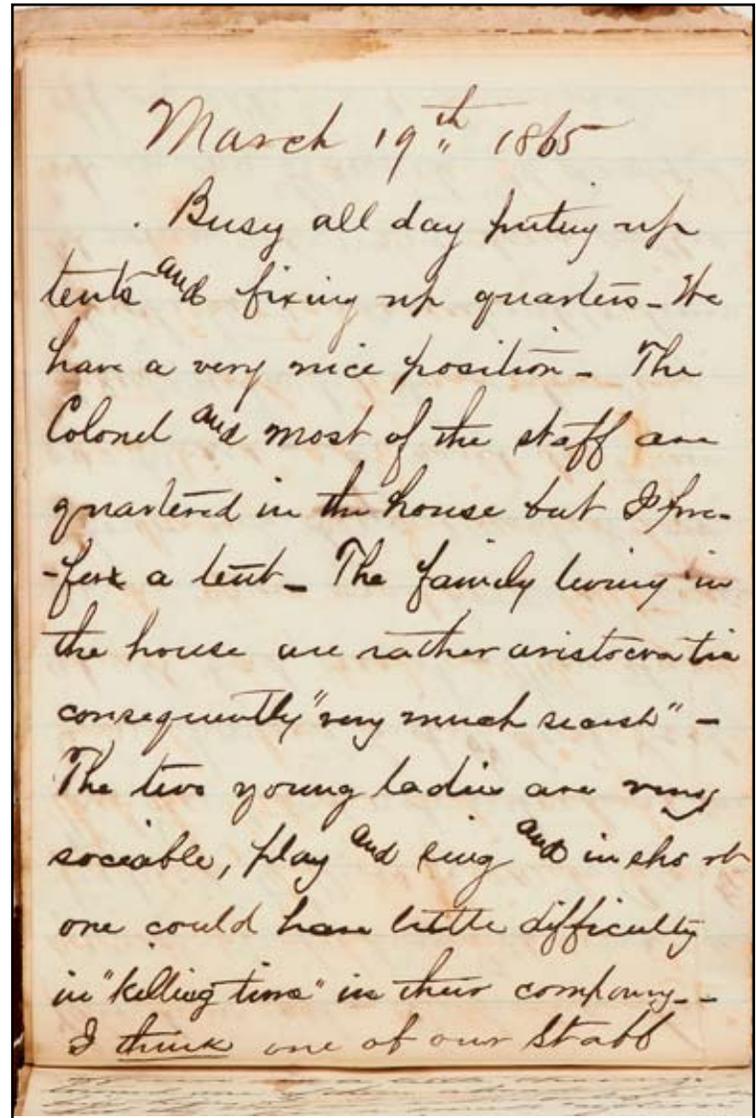
The regiment continued its march along the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, passing by "several Mexican huts" and meeting "a great many Mexicans with teams going to Indianola or [Port] Lavaca to haul rations through." It eventually reached New Braunfels, just outside of San Antonio, where it was stationed until being mustered out of service in December and ordered to Springfield, Illinois for final payment and discharge.

The final entries give an account of Johnson's journey home to Kansas, Illinois, on board a steamer traveling up the Mississippi River: "... am on my way home after four years and a half absence ... Daylight found us [at] Memphis Tenn. ... During the afternoon we pass Forts Randolph and Pillow, both strong places – the latter noted for the cold blooded murder of negro troops under the Rebel Maj. Gen. [Nathan Bedford] Forrest – when the negroes had surrendered. They were cruelly murdered by Forrest's men. We stop this p.m. and take on wood off of Missouri's shores. I felt almost like I was at home again, when I stepped on the shore of the noble state of Mo." (The 59th Infantry was originally organized as the 9th Missouri Volunteers).

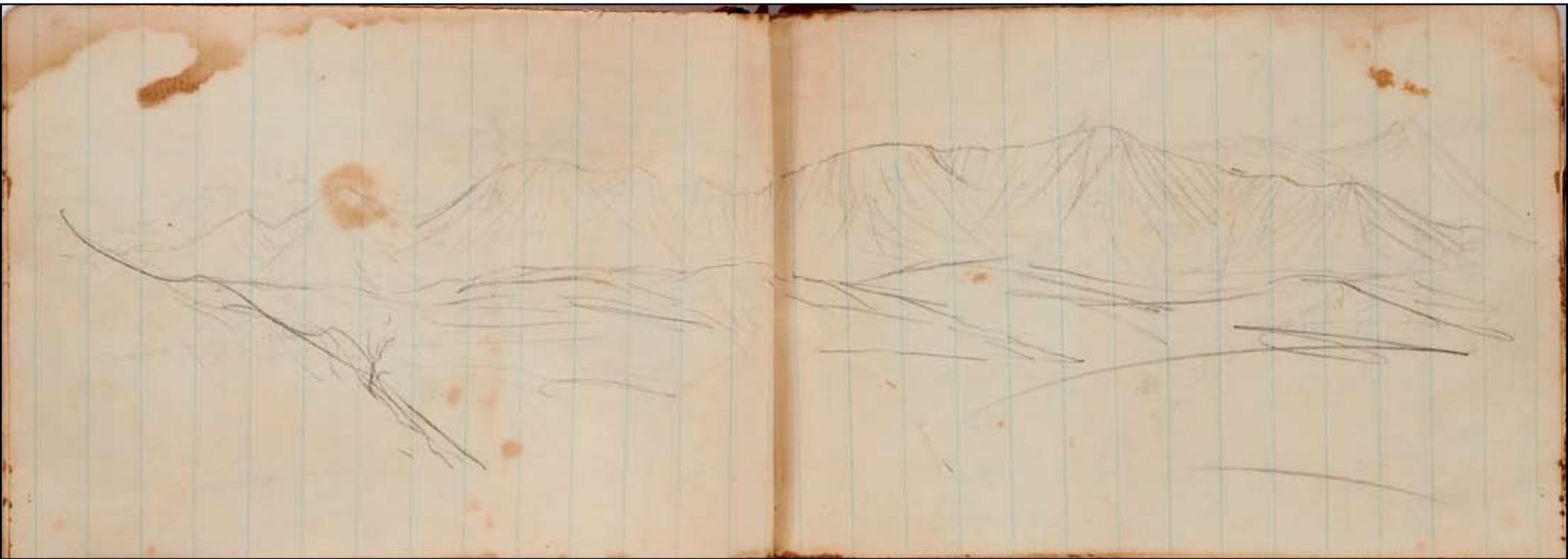
Upon his arrival to Springfield in January, Johnson concludes his diary with an account of the last few days spent with his men: "We remained in Camp Butler all these three days finishing up all reports and awaiting the

pay master and final mustering out officer ... In the p.m. Adj. Gen. A C Fuller of Ills and Gen. Julius C White, commander of our Brig. at Battle of Pea Ridge, visited us and ... bade us all good-bye. At night the Ex-Officers of the 59th held a farewell banquet in St. Nicholas Hotel ..."

A remarkable and historically important diary that provides a common soldier's account of this celebrated regiment's final campaign of the civil war. Probably worthy of publication, a description of this length is insufficient to convey the depth and texture of this textually significant journal, illuminating the daily lives of the soldiers of the Illinois 59th and associated regiments in the Army of the Cumberland. [BTC#402044]



March 19th 1865
Busy all day putting up
tents ^{and} fixing up quarters - We
have a very nice position - The
Colonel ^{and} most of the staff are
quartered in the house but I am
- have a tent - The family living in
the house are rather aristocratic
consequently "very much scared" -
The two young ladies are very
sociable, play ^{and} sing ^{and} in short
one could have little difficulty
in "killing time" in their company -
I think one of our stables



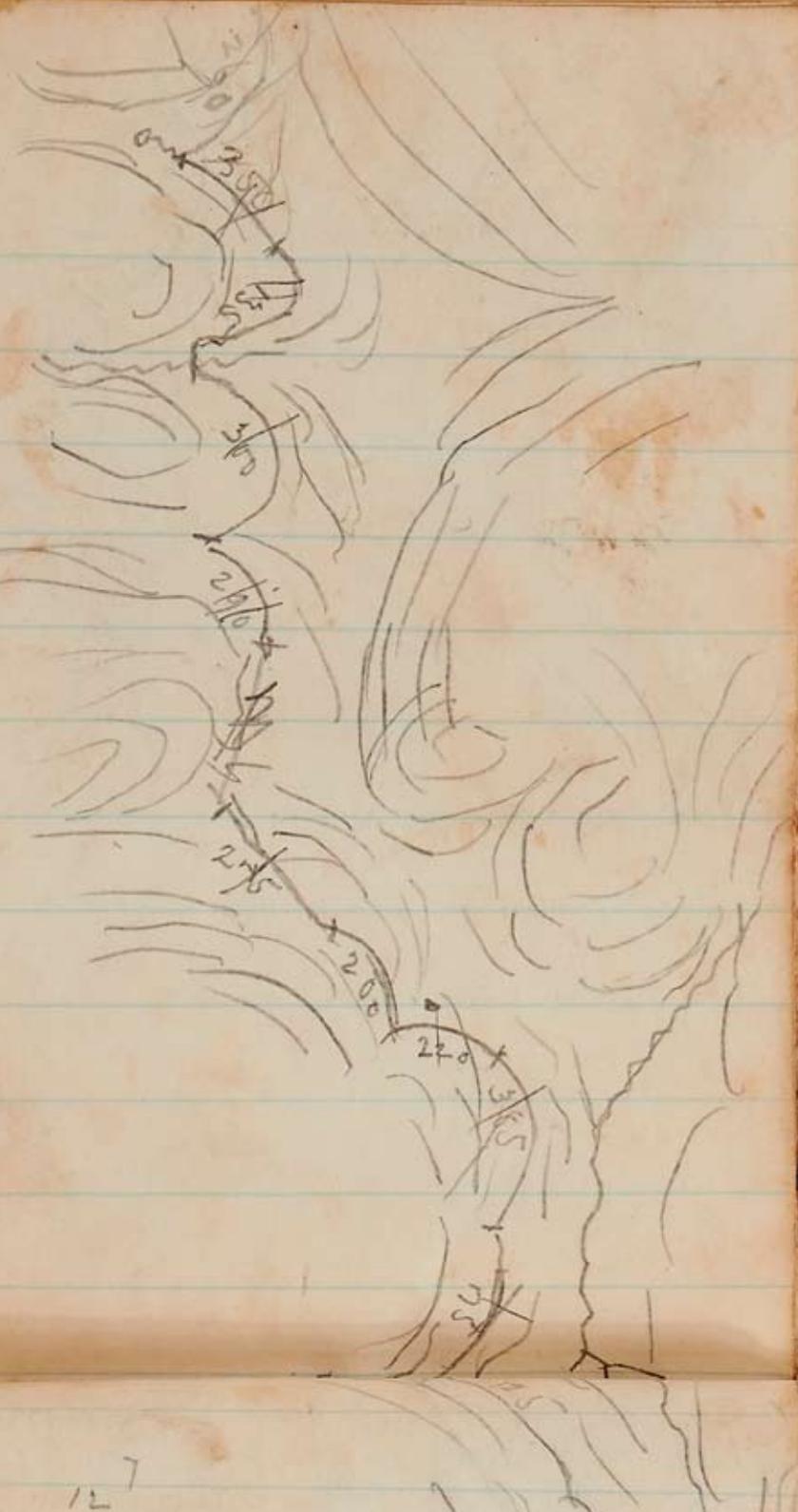
Date	Hour	Weather	Distance	Route	Remarks
1889 11/4					
	10	Cold + cloudy	30 2	Arrive Camp No 2	Bad, rough road. Large creek + plenty of water - Bulls Gap lies about one mile east -
	8.15	Cold with cold wind	3		Rough, rocky country road water scarce
	7.5	Cloudy with cold wind			Bad country road - little water - no forage - Broken country Cold + cloudy - drizzle
31	6.30		25 2	1221 camp 2	Road very poor - Hard
		Clear with cold wind			water plenty Russellville 1 m back Broken country -

31	6.30		25 2	1221 camp 2	Road very poor - Hard
	9.45	Very Rainy	1		Road poor - broken country cloudy - light rain falling -
	8.35	Cloudy + cold breeze	3		Good country road - some mud in con- sequence of rains - Morristown one mile back. RR crosses Road at the town - small creek crosses road west of town - York scarce - Coal breeze cloudy without rain - <u>Reluctant</u> <u>on Co 7, Ross & Morristown</u>
	8.45	Rainy + cloudy	2		Good country road - weather cool - cloudy with occasional showers - Coalman's Ridge on N of Road 1/2 off - Good pasture - no water - RR near
30th	5.30		14	1221 camp 1	Good country road - Poor bridge at Mossy Creek crossing - Good water in plenty along route - A splendid spring of sweet water 1/2 m back - Train come up promptly
29th	6 am	Warm + cloudy - Rain during night			

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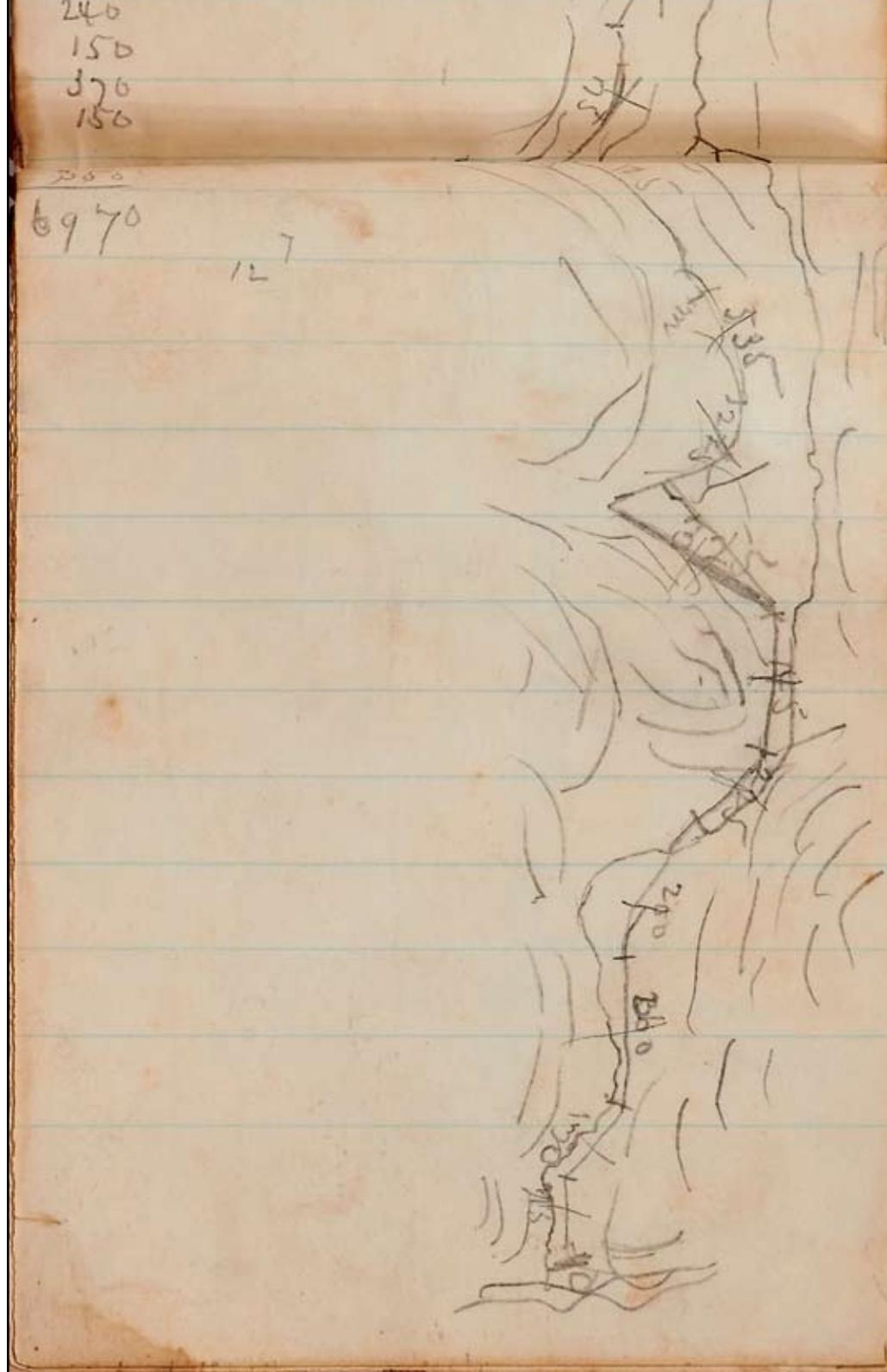
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No thanks to an army of Fleas who
were no doubt in league with the
enemy I passed a sleepless night ^{and}
was glad enough when I heard the
bugler sound Reveille at 4 o'clock
AM -

April 7th

The Brigade was "en route" at 6
~~AM~~ this morning - Near White House
is a piece of road to which the "Rocky
roads to Dublin" is smooth as a floor
comparatively speaking - The ascent
a mile, not very steep ^{and} over a

is a piece of road to which the "Rocky
roads to Dublin" is smooth as a floor
comparatively speaking - The ascent

a mile, not very steep ^{and} over a
good road - The east slope is much
steeper ^{and} longer, winding around the sides
of the mountain peaks for a distance
of five miles - The scenery is unsurpassed
for its wild beauty - The mountains are
covered with a greater variety of evergreen
than I have ever seen before - Several
kinds of pine, cedar, holly, Laurel, Fir &
etc - The road seems to hang in the air
in some places, so nearly perpendicular
is the cliff - At one place about half
way down the descent we catch a
glimpse of a valley several hundred

March 19th 1865

Busy all day putting up tents and fixing up quarters. We have a very nice position. The Colonel and most of the staff are quartered in the house but I have a tent. The family living in the house are rather aristocratic consequently "very much scared" - The two young ladies are very sociable, play and sing and in short one could have little difficulty in "killing time" in their company.

officer is a little "chooney" toward one of them already. I pity him, for it is evident to me that they both are rather superficial.

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The Campaign proper commenced

March 15th 1865

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I was awakened at 12 1/2 A.M. by the orderly who told me that the Colonel (McG) wished to see me - I thought something extraordinary "was up," so I dressed in a hurry ^{and} reported - I found that we had orders to be at the Depot by 7 o'clock ^{and} take care for East Tennessee - Deville was provided immediately, orders were circulated ^{and} at 5 o'clock everything was ready to start - The Brigade moved onto the road, reaching the depot at the appointed hour, commenced loading and at 10 o'clock ^{we were} ~~were~~ on our way "marching" - Perhaps some of ~~us~~