

Collection Number: MS-392

Title: Hiram Ketcham Civil War Diary

Dates: Nov. 13, 1864 - June 30, 1865

Creator: Hiram Ketcham

Summary/Abstract:

The collection consists of an original Civil War pocket diary written by Hiram Ketcham of Buchanan, Ohio, and a typed transcript. The diary begins with Ketcham reporting for duty at Circleville in the 12th District of Ohio after being drafted into U.S. Service on September 27, 1864. Ketcham was assigned to Company G of the 67th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry (O.V.I.). He wrote of his travels to the battleground, camp life and news, troop movement, fighting at Fort Gregg near Petersburg in April 1865, the surrender of Lee's Army at Appomattox C.H., and eventually his journey home at the end of the Civil War.

Quantity/Physical Description: .25 linear feet, 1 diary and transcript

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

(Box Number, Folder Number), MS-392, Hiram Ketcham Civil War Diary, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The collection was donated in Feb 2009 by Ms. Bonna Sims and Mr. Gailard "Red" Ketcham, the great grandchildren of Hiram Ketcham.

Alternative Form Available: Bowling Green State University has the typed transcript available online at <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/ms/trans/page52574.html> .

Processed by: Toni Vanden Bos, Summer, 2009

Arrangement: The diary entries are chronological.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Hiram Ketcham, at the age of 39, was drafted into Service of the U.S. on September 27, 1864 to fight in the Civil War. Leaving his wife and children behind, Ketcham reported to Circleville in the 12th District of the State of Ohio. He was assigned to Company G of the 67th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry (O.V.I.). In March 1865, Ketcham was located near Petersburg, Virginia, where his Regiment participated in an assault on the Confederates. On April 2, 1865, Ketcham's regiment lost 66 men in the charge at Fort Gregg near Petersburg. A few days later, on April 9, 1865 Ketcham received word of Lee's surrender at Appomattox C.H. From Appomattox C.H. in the days following the surrender, Ketcham wrote accounts of the environment and his observations. Discharged on June 28, 1865, Ketcham returned home to Ohio by train.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of an original Civil War pocket diary written by Hiram Ketcham of Buchanan, Ohio, and a typed transcript. The diary begins with Ketcham reporting for service in early November, 1864. Ketcham was assigned to Company G of the 67th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He often wrote of camp life, including illness, deserters, rations, marching orders, picket duty, drills and inspections, letters from home, weather, and attempts to handle home affairs via letter post. From time to time he also wrote about specific soldiers in the camp. In late March, 1865, Ketcham was camped near Petersburg, Virginia, and on April 2, 1865 he wrote a detailed account of his Regiment's movements and its loss of over 60 men in the charge at Fort Gregg near Petersburg. Writing from Appomattox C.H. in the days following Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865, Ketcham described the environment and activities he witnessed, including the exchange of prisoners. The following entries in the diary describe marching through the countryside and observing the aftermath of the war. The final entry in the diary, dated June 30, 1865, leaves off with Ketcham waiting for the western train on the Central Ohio Railroad that would take him home.

Subject Terms:**Persons/Families**

Ketcham, Hiram, 1825-

Subjects

United States. Army. Ohio Infantry Regiment, 67th (1861-1865). Company G.

Material Types

Diary

Collection Inventory

Hiram Ketcham Civil War Diary			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Transcript (please use for reference in place of original)	
	2	Diary	Nov. 13, 1864-June 30, 1865