

Collection #
M 1079
OM 0536

**LEWIS KINSEY HARRIS
COLLECTION, 1862-1868**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 4 OM folders, 2 Oversize (flat file) folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1862-1868

PROVENANCE: Gift; Camilla Warrick, Terrace Park, OH

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0178

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lewis Kinsey Harris was born in South Bend, Indiana on May 16, 1838. He served the Union in three different regiments. In April 1861, he enlisted in the 8th Indiana Infantry, serving his three months service. After his return from the 8th, he served with the 36th Indiana Infantry from September 1861 through June 1862. He enlisted again in August 1862 in Co. F of the 69th Indiana Infantry Regiment. He became part of Co. B in January 1865. He mustered out with his new company in Mobile, Alabama on July 5, 1865. In the late 1860s, Harris spent some time living in Nashville, Tennessee working for a plow company. After he returned to Indiana, he worked as a blacksmith in Richmond. He married Mary Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Shaw in February 1871. Together they had four children with two sons and one daughter living into adulthood. Harris took an active role in civic affairs during his life. He died on December 28, 1918 at the National Home for Disabled Veterans in Dayton, Ohio. His body was returned to Richmond, Indiana for his burial.

The 69th Indiana Infantry served in many battles throughout the Deep South during the war. Notable actions included participating in Sherman's Yazoo Expedition in 1862, and the Siege of Vicksburg in 1863. Like many regiments, the 69th suffered from desertion, disease and heavy casualties throughout its tour. Impressively, flag-bearer Eli Allman carried the regimental colors for his entire three years of service without once being wounded. Late in the war, while moving to join up with another unit, the 69th lost 24 men in Companies B, K, and G to a mass drowning while crossing Texas's Matagorda Bay on May 13, 1864. These and other losses forced the regiment to reorganize into four new companies: A and B merged into Company A; D and F merged into Company B; C, D and H reformed into a new Company C; and E, I and K became the new Company D. After several actions in Alabama, the regiment took part in the final battle of the Mobile Campaign, leading the successful assault on Fort Blakely from April 2 to April 9 in the closing battle of the war. Following the fort's capture, they returned to Mobile, remaining there until final discharged on July 5, 1865.

Sources:

Civil War Database.

Ancestry Library Edition.

Carolyn Sue Bridge. *These Men Were Heroes Once: The Sixty-Ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry*, West Lafayette, IN: Twin Publications, 2005.

"Captain Harris, GAR Veteran, Called By Death," *Palladium-Item*, Richmond, Indiana, Dec. 30, 1918, accessed through newspapers.com.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains documents related to Companies B and F of the 69th Indiana Infantry Regiment. Documents are chronologically organized and separated according to type of information presented. The majority of the muster and equipage rolls present were witnessed and dated by Lieutenant, later Captain, Harris and thus, are largely restricted to his term of service (1863-1865).

Box 1 contains the bulk of the collection materials. Military orders, general and special reside in folder 1. Folders 2-6 contain information regarding equipage records for military items, including ammunition, firearms, clothing, rations, and others, received by the regiment monthly between 1863 and 1865. These papers provide a general overview of the company's supply and distribution patterns. Ordnance Supplies are documented in Folder 7. Additional equipage listings, ordnance supply records, and several larger muster rolls are found in oversize folders, organized chronologically in combination with Harris' company assignment. A short record of men from Co. B lost in the war is included in the same folder as morning muster reports of the Co. B. The largest and most extensive muster rolls in Harris' collection are in flat file storage. The two folders offer complete listings of the soldiers under review and cover the years 1863-1865.

Note: Men who joined the regiment after its initial mustering in 1862 are present in company musters, but records for service in the 69th are rarely carried over into the subsequent regiments which these soldiers later joined to fulfill their pension quota.

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General & Special Military Orders, 1863-1865

Clothing and Equipment Ledger, alphabetical by soldier, 1863-1865

Clothing and Equipment Ledger, organized by month, 1863-1865

Clothing, Camp, and Garrison Equipage, 1864

Monthly Regimental Camp and Garrison Equipage Receipts, Co. F., Mar. 1864-Jan. 1865

Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, Jan.-Mar. 1865

Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, Apr.-July 1865

Monthly regimental Camp and Garrison Equipage Receipts, Co. B., Jan.-July 1865

Ordnance Documentation and Invoices, Sept. 1862, May 1864-July 1865

Quarterly Returns of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores, 1864-1865

Muster Rolls for the 69th Indiana Regiment, Dec. 1863-Dec 1864.

Muster and Muster-Out Rolls for the 69th Indiana Regiment, Jan. 1865–May 1865.

Morning Muster Reports, Co. B (1865); Lists of Men Lost (1865)

Muster Out Document, 1st Sergeant James S. Bolander, Co. B, 69th Indiana Infantry, June 5, 1865

Military Forms, blank/unused

Harris' Plow business documentation, Nashville, Tennessee, 1866-1868, n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

OM 0536, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

OM 0536, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 7

OM 0536, Folder 3

OM 0536
Flat file FF 16-d, folder 1

OM 0536
Flat file FF 16-d, folder 2

OM 0536, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10