

FINDING AID to the

**ALBERT SWANE UNDERWOOD, 1834-1865
CIVIL WAR DIARY TYPESCRIPT, 1864-1865**

MSS 49
(.2 linear ft.)

By

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September 2000

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SCOPE AND CONTENT STATEMENT

The collection contains a typescript of a Civil War diary written by Albert Underwood, a private in the Union Army.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

Albert Swane Underwood was born in Annapolis, Parke County, Indiana on October 7, 1834. He enlisted in the Civil War on February 25, 1862 and was a member of the 9th Indiana Light Artillery. He died January 27, 1865 from injuries he received from an explosion on a boat called the Elipse. The explosion occurred in the Tennessee River at Johnsonville, Tennessee when he was returning home from the war. Of the seventy members of the 9th Indiana Light Artillery aboard the boat, forty survived.

PROVENANCE

The diary transcript was donated by Alice Rice Bratcher to the Duggan Library of Hanover College. Ms. Bratcher was the grandniece of Captain George R. Brown. Captain Brown was one of the forty survivors of the 9th Indiana Light Artillery. Ms. Brathher's father found the diary in 1922, at Crawfordsville, Indiana when the family moved into the home of Captain Brown.

The original diary was given to the Indiana Historical Society, located at 140 North Senate Ave., Indianapolis, Indiana. 46204. Richard Johnson of Oxford, Indiana gave Alice Rice Bratcher permission to reprint the dairy on March 18, 2000. The original diary was transcribed by Mr. Ralph Williams, a teacher at Waveland, Indiana.

RESTRICTIONS AND PERMISSIONS

Richard Johnson of Oxford, Indiana gave Alice Rice Bratcher permission to reprint the dairy on March 18, 2000. He owns the copyright to this transcription. Materials from the collection may be copied based on the policies and costs determined by the archives. Permission to publish whole documents from the collection, or publication of these materials on the Internet, or any electronic environment, requires written permission of the Indiana Historical Society or Richard Johnson.

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SERIES 1 Diary, 1864-1865

Fd. 1 Diary, 1864 Jan. 1-1865 Jan. 11
 1v. : 91 p.

Pages 3-7 of the diary lists the 9th Indiana Light Artillery's (which included Albert Underwood) tour of cities, states, and the dates of these tours during the Civil War.

Page 8 is the account of Albert Swane Underwood's death and explains how the diary came into the possession of Captain R. Brown, the uncle of Alice Rice Bratcher.

Pages 9-88. Albert Underwood's diary describes encampments, encounters with the Rebel Army, and the weather with its extreme conditions and its effect on the men while traveling and moving from camp to camp. There are entries mentioning a lack of food and water, contrasted with periods of plenty of food and water.

He describes what one does to pass the time while waiting on the war. He picked berries and visited friends, cemeteries, the countryside, museums, theatres, and various churches. He rode his horse, shopped, cooked, wrote letters, attended singing classes and read at every opportunity. He read numerous books and the newspaper when it was available. He tried to keep up with politics and elections locally and nationally.