



# M.M.A Diary of Cadet Wilmer Harris

*Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society*

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## Summary

RECENT MUSEUM ACCESSIONS: An MMA Diary, by Jim Laarman

Mrs. Elizabeth Harris Coggill sent a copy of her father's 1898 diary to the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. Dr. Wilmer C. Harris had faithfully written down his experiences while attending the Michigan Military Academy (MMA), Orchard Lake, Michigan, as a 17-year-old junior cadet.

Dr. Harris, born Oct. 6, 1881 in Ovid, Michigan received his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago, his masters from the University of Michigan, and his doctorate back again at the University of Chicago. He taught history at the Ohio State University, the Ohio University, and Butler University. He was president of the Ohio District Teacher's Association and managing editor of the Ohio Teacher Magazine. Apparently his preparatory education while at the MMA was quite substantial!

Having lost his father when only a boy of 13, Wilmer's devotion to his mother and sister was very apparent in his diary writings, at least until he had others to which to write.

He repeatedly mentioned ice skating excursions during early winter on Orchard, Pine, or Cass lakes, depending upon the relative smoothness of the ice. He mentioned being invited by the commandant's son, Fred Rogers to sail with him on both his iceboat and catboat.

Disciplinary activities were often discussed, as were school hops and dances, his health, his guitar and mandolin club meetings and songs played, gymnastics with Indian clubs, saddled pommel horses, and escalading or wall scaling activities. After the Spanish-American war was declared, he continually revealed target practice scores using live ammunition.

There are many references to pranksters (Charlie Coy was reduced to the ranks for removing someone's door knob), sneaking illegal boat trips on Orchard Lake, inspections, grades, the weather, mail deliveries, drills such as stacking arms, standing guard, and forced marches around Orchard Lake; playing cards, checkers, chess, late evening swims, sit-up calisthenics, lectures (such as "Helpfulness"), baseball and football games, bike and big wheel rides into Pontiac (I was tired) for a hair cut, candy, and Ice cream soda, or riding and walking the rails.

He confided to the diary that he was often disciplined for having long hair and a dirty gun, mentions taking a few baths, described his first shave as only inflicting four slight gashes and being refused his first kiss on the grounds that she did not want "to make herself too common at least not to do so yet a while anyway." (No he did not marry Miss Pauline but rather a later friend Miss Mary McDonald). One favorite card game played in the boy's rooms was nosey, where the loser gets hit on the nose with the card deck. A typical debate topic for Wilmer's debate team was "Is Life in the Country More Beneficial to the Young Man than in the City?"

Also included in the year long records are brief mentions of vacation episodes during summer and holidays in his hometown of Ovid, Michigan: parades, fireworks, social life, and a hunting trip where he once used a railroad handcart to return back home on.



## January 1898

**Saturday, January 1:** At 4330 Chamberlain Avenue, Chicago, Ill. Rather tired and stayed in the house all the morning. In the afternoon went to see Mrs. Leslie Carter in *The Heart of Maryland* at the Columbia Theatre with Mama and Lena. Enjoyed it very much. Mrs. Carter has very long red hair. Had our dinner at Gunthurs and the service and store are very fine. Took supper at the Cafe Brauer which is nearly as good as Gunthurs. Came home early and went to bed.

**Sunday, January 2:** In the morning all of us went to the First Church of Christ on Drexel Boulevard. The Christian Science service is very simple. A man and woman stood up at the pulpit and read alternately, the man reading from the Bible and the woman from *Science and Health* written by Mrs. Eddy. There were 185 members admitted. The building is very large and quite handsome. Took dinner at Berry's Restaurant. In the afternoon stayed in the house and read paper. Miss Leonard called in the afternoon and then we all went down in the parlor and visited.

**Monday, January 3:** Went down town in the morning shopping and buying supplies for my use at school, pencils, paper, underclothes, this diary, etc. Went to Blackall's for dinner. Went around in the store till suppertime and took a lunch at the Troy Bakery Lunch Room. In the evening went to the Columbia Theatre to see the extravaganza *One Round of Pleasure* and enjoyed it very much. The singing and dancing were very good as was all/also the costumes and scenery. Reached home a little before twelve very tired.

**Tuesday, January 4:** Stayed at home all the morning not doing much of anything. Went downtown in the afternoon. Had a lunch at lunch Mrs. Clark's Restaurant and went to see about the trains running to Orchard Lake. Then went around to the different shops and bought some tooth powder, rubber cord and a few little things. Went down with Lena as Mama stayed at home. Came home early and went over to the St. Lawrence Restaurant near our house for supper. Went to bed rather early.

**Wednesday, January 5:** Got up early and had breakfast. Had a lunch put up for my journey. Lena and I went down to the depot, for this morning I came back to Orchard Lake. Train started at 9.00 o'clock. Reached Durand at 6:30 and Pontiac about 8:30. I am now at the Hodges House to stay all night in Pontiac. I enjoyed my trip very much. Came through Olivet, Lansing and several other places which I was glad to get a glimpse of in Michigan. Am rather tired and think I should go up to bed.

**Thursday, January 6:** Woke up this morning and ate breakfast at the Hodges House. Took the train for Orchard Lake and arrived here safely at about nine o'clock. We had recitations to-day but no drill. This afternoon I drew my gun, equipment, and sabre out of the Quartermaster's Department. Was put on duty as Corporal of the Guard, but as there was no punishment squad to look after did not mind it much. Wrote a letter home this afternoon. This evening received a letter from Rosa. Received Josie's Xmas gift to me of a pretty red flag with M.A. on it in white letters. Not M.M.A. as it should be.

**Friday, January 7:** Arose this morning at the usual hour of 6:30. Cousin Louise sent me a large photograph of a company of people on Pleasant Lake shore with myself included. I was there last summer and it was taken then. It was sent as a Xmas present. Also received *The Outlook* and a note from Mr. Cranson about the mail. This evening I attended the first meeting of our mandolin club with my guitar and got along fairly well. Just started to read *Florida Enchantment* by Gunter. Very good book.

**Saturday, January 8:** This morning went down to Lyon's room quite a while. I played my guitar and he his mandolin. This afternoon Lyons and I went skating on Pine Lake and found a sheltered place on the other side of the lake and practiced fancy skating. I borrowed a pair of skates from Smith as my own are too small for me. Went over to the barber shop late this afternoon and had a hair cut and shampoo. Cleaned my gun this evening before call to quarters. After 7:00 I took a bath. This morning took some physic.

**Sunday, January 9:** Passed instruction safely. Prof. Smith gave us the talk in chapel this morning. This afternoon Lyons and I went over to Cass Lake. When I came back I studied my lessons for tomorrow. After supper, read till call to quarters. Since then I have been writing letters to Josie, Louise and Mama. The Tactical Officer inspected my gun and room this morning for which I was thankful as he seldom reports me. Cass Lake is a good lake for skating. Am going over soon again.

**Monday, January 10:** Was left guide of the company for battalion drill this morning. Got along fairly well for this first time. Had sabres in cavalry this afternoon. After cavalry went ice skating on Orchard Lake with Avery Lyons. The ice was not as good as on some of the other lakes around here. This evening received a large blotter for my table from Mama. Very acceptable. The Tactical Officer caught Smith my roommate reading a letter instead of studying this evening during call to quarters.

**Tuesday, January 11:** Out in the Officer of the Day's house being on Sergeant of the Guard. There were only three on the punishment list so I had it pretty easy. Lyon took my place as left guide of the company this morning for the first time. Ferguson is Officer of the Day my stomach is out of order this evening but did not bother earlier in the day. Ate an orange just before dinner. I think that helped it. Smith rec'd a letter from Miss Sellieck. Will ever the wonders cease!

**Wednesday, January 12:** Had a hard rain this afternoon but lasted only a short time. Received the *Ovid Register* from Mama. Wrote a letter home this afternoon. Reported two men for being late at drill formation. Our company book has fourteen reports to-day which is a great many for our company. Had spurs for the first time in cavalry this afternoon and curb bits also. Am reading a book called *Captain Tom*, a story of the siege of Paris by the Prussians. It is very exciting.

**Thursday, January 13:** No drill this morning but everyone whether they had skates or not were required to go out on Orchard Lake. Most of us had them and the skating was fine. It rained yesterday afternoon and froze at night which made the ice fine. No cavalry this afternoon or drill and all went out on the ice again. My right foot went in about a foot of water but no serious damage besides getting a little wet. Studied about one hour and a half this evening on German and history. Did not report a single man for late to-day as there were none.

**Friday, January 14:** Was on Corporal of the Guard to-day and as there was no cavalry this afternoon I had to watch the punishment squad from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. I marched them around the area in a squad and there were only about a dozen. This morning we had a musical gym drill. The band played and we were to make movements with our guns in time to the music. It will look very pretty when we get it properly learned and the whole battalion does it together. Fine skating to-day but could not go.

**Saturday, January 15:** Went out and put up the flag at reveille. Went skating on Cass Lake nearly all of the morning. Saw Swift and Hale and a lot of others at a little house on the shore which Lyons who was with me and I agree is a fraternity house. They gave chase and we had quite a scrap. In the afternoon went skating with Lyon on Pine Lake but the ice was getting covered with snow so I gave it up. In the evening we had an entertainment in the chapel. A man who whistled was very good. He

whistled one and played another on his guitar. *Fishers Hornpipe* and *Yankee Doodle*. A magician and a couple of good singers and mandolin players completed the program.

**Sunday, January 16:** Inspection this morning in full dress and white equipments. Got reported for torn glove. Prof. Winters read an address by Dr. Hollis out of a book in chapel. Stayed in my room all the afternoon. Wrote a letter to mama and got some of my lessons for tomorrow. Lieutenant Winans inspected our company this morning and the Tactical Officer inspected some of the others. We are not allowed to skate on Sunday or I might have gone. Attended Christian Association this evening.

**Monday, January 17:** Have cavalry in the morning now instead of the afternoon. Had sabres to-day. My marks for last week were German "G+", Latin "G+", Medieval History "G", Geometry "G", Algebra "G-", English "E". I consider them pretty good marks on an average. Went to Gymnasium drill for the first time this afternoon this year. It is not as hard as it was last year and I can do nearly all the things. Had a postal from Lena to-day written on the train going to Las Vegas/New Mexico. She has probably reached there by this time. Had a postal from Mama who is still in Chicago.

**Tuesday, January 18:** Had sabres in cavalry this morning. Had a letter from Mama to-day. She is still in Chicago and Lena is in Las Vegas. Bet with Avery Lyons that I would get a letter this noon a nickel and won it. Had gymnasium drill to-day as usual and got along fairly well in it. In fact to-day has been a specimen of life at this academy. Nothing happened outside the usual of work and every thing has gone smoothly.

**Wednesday, January 19:** Had sabres in cavalry but have been having since Christmas more practice in horsemanship or making the horses mind. Had a letter from Lena to-night. She has arrived at Las Vegas and thinks it a beautiful country. Had my first lesson in fencing to-day. Each company has it once a week and it was my company's turn to-day. Bought 15 cents worth of candy to-night the first I have had this week. Practiced playing my guitar with Lyons mandolin to-night. Got along all right.

**Thursday, January 20:** No sabres in cavalry to-day. Got kicked by another cadet in the face while we were mounting the horses. To-day we threw our horses and tried to get them used to pistols. I had about the friskiest horse in the squad and when the pistol was shot off she jumped all over. When the Colonel heard I was kicked he and several of the professors ran down to the cavalry barn but I met them and disarmed their fears. Had a letter from Mama to-day. Had to make up a lesson to-day. When we fail now we have to study in recreation time which is very disagreeable.

**Friday, January 21:** No drill this morning, went skating on Orchard Lake instead, but it was not very good. No cavalry either. Was on Corporal of the Guard. Had a squad to march around. This evening there was an entertainment up in the chapel. Capt. Parnell read an essay on the political situation in New York, it was very good. Capt. Schmich gave an oration about the Atlantic Cable. Lieut. Brown read an essay on the preparations for the siege of Detroit by Pontiac and Steers read an essay on the nomination of President Lincoln. All did very well and it was interesting. Received *Register* from Mama tonight.

**Saturday, January 22:** Sat in my room nearly all the morning. Lyon went to Pontiac to-day. This afternoon went skating for about an hour on Pine Lake. The ice was very good but it began to snow. Had my seat changed in the mess hall this noon. I now sit next to the chief in a corner of the hall. It is very cold and windy and snowing out to-night. Received a letter from Mama with one from Lena enclosed. I made a checkerboard on an old newspaper to-day and checkers out of paste board. I played Smith my room-mate and beat him.

**Sunday, January 23:** Inspection this morning in black equipments and blouses. Passed safely. Wrote a long letter to Mama and one to Lena late this afternoon. No chapel this morning. Finished reading *Quo Vadis* which is now the most popular book of the day. It is very exciting and intensely interesting. Took a bath this evening. My marks last week were German II "G", Medieval History "G+", Latin "G-", Algebra "G" and English "E". Geometry is not yet posted. Have been in barracks nearly all day as weather has been so bad. On Corporal of the Guard.

**Monday, January 24:** Had sabres in cavalry this morning. I happened to get Prince Rose, one of the most excitable and meanest horses of the squad. I did not draw my sabre at all as it was all I could do to manage her without she kicked and reared so. Got along fairly well in lessons. Made a checker board on a piece of card board to-night. It is much better than the one I made before. Had the horse and parallel bars in gymnasium today. Lyons is now rooming with a plebe and has his room fixed up fine now.

**Tuesday, January 25:** Had very windy, cold weather today and quite a good deal of snow. Had sabres in cavalry this morning. Had a fair horse but he got excited and we had a little excitement. Had a letter from Mama to-day with one from Lena enclosed. Mama is still in Chicago. Had to make up a lesson in Latin to-day for yesterday. Had a wrestle with Lyons and put him down surprising him as much as myself.

**Wednesday, January 26:** Battalion drill this A.M. I was left guide. Had my last drill in cavalry this afternoon. We had the horses jump and they jumped several feet. We had no saddles or sabres. The waiter brought me brown bread for my supper to-night. The Colonel has ordered that I have it and I don't get any more pancakes. Tomorrow I have four examinations and this evening have been studying for about two hours on the studies I have for tomorrow. Don't get out of any this time and have to take all six.

**Thursday, January 27:** Took four examinations today, two this morning and two this afternoon. We have two hours for each. The Colonel called me over to his office to-day and gave me instructions to diet and said he had received a letter from Ma telling about it. We had no drill to-day. Had a letter from Lena this evening. She says she is busy teaching all the morning but in the afternoon can go for a walk on the mountain. Think I got along fairly well in my lessons.

**Friday, January 28:** Had an examination in Latin and English this morning. In German my mark for the semester is 8, and there are only two ahead of me. Most everyone is in the seventies. This afternoon I watched the punishment squad from 1:30 till 5:30 and got heartily tired of it. It snowed so they walked in the gallery of the gymnasium. There was a kid squad and they were not easy to keep in order. I put in six or seven reports and hope it will teach them to behave. There is a hop in the mess hall to-night but I did not go.

**Saturday, January 29:** Did not have reveille till about 8 o'clock this morning because there was a hop last night. Laid around all the morning. Took a little walk with Lyons after dinner but we did not go far as it was so cold and there was quite a little snow on the road. I played checkers with Lyons and beat him nearly every time. Had a letter from Mama this noon giving good advice about my stomach.

**Sunday, January 30:** Got reported for yahning in ranks at inspection this morning. The major called out before the whole battalion to report me. Had guard mount also but I was not on. This afternoon I was down in Lyons room nearly all the time. Wrote a letter to Mama and another to Lena this evening.

Went to the Christian Association to-night and the topic was mostly about getting other cadets to come to the meeting.

**Monday, January 31:** I was on Sergeant of the Guard to-day and passed the time reading, doing my duty, studying and trying to keep warm. Durkee was Officer of the Day and we got along together very well. He put in twenty reports. Had a letter from Mama. She says she is quite lonesome. I did not get up to my room till 9:30 last night so I am writing on Tuesday morning before breakfast. I have dropped Medieval History and now have 18 hours a week.



## February 1898

**Tuesday, February 1:** Had battalion drill this morning. I got along all right. Prof. Curdy went over our examination papers in class to-day to tell us the mistakes in German. Lyons, Smith and about half a dozen others were over in the Commandants office to-night. Yesterday someone threw an oyster and hit the Tactical Officer at mess. We had all of Smith's mess all over to-night to find out who did it but he did not find out - everyone says they know nothing about it.

**Wednesday, February 2:** Had a fever last night and did not sleep much. This morning felt weak and out of sorts. I think it is an attack of the grip. I got excused from drills to-day and felt better this evening. Had a letter from mama this noon. Wilhelm Bloom sent me a paper with an account of the death of Sherwood Robinson my old school mate and playfellow. I was much surprised to hear of it and very sorry. He died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis at Harper Hospital last Sunday night.

**Thursday, February 3:** Had a meeting of the guitar club for the first time to-night in Chapel. Prof. Hogg of Detroit. I think we shall have a good club if we keep on. Went to escalading drill for the first time this morning. Escalading is climbing over a wall. One fellow stands at the foot of the wall and puts his hands together and then you run and step into his hands and he throws you up till you can grab the top of the wall and scramble over.

**Friday, February 4:** Had a letter from Ben A. Cratz this morning and one from Lena to-night. She says mama is going down to New Mexico this week. Mama sent me the Viavi medicine for my stomach trouble this morning. This evening we had an athletic contest in the gymnasium which was quite interesting. Swift was voted to be the best as he won the highest number of points. The games were parallel bars, high jump, etc.

**Saturday, February 5:** No entry written.

**Sunday, February 6:** Did not have to go to inspection this morning as I was on Sergeant of the Guard till almost eleven o'clock. We had guard mount in the gymnasium but the men do not have to walk guard duty. Had Chapel as usual. Wrote a letter to Lena, to mama and a note to Wilhelm thanking him for sending me the paper. Took a bath this afternoon. Began taking the Viavi cure to-day.

**Monday, February 7:** Had to climb much higher wall in escalading this morning. We had to make a pyramid and then the rest of us went up on ropes. Had fencing this afternoon instead of gymnasium drill. I fenced with Avery Lyons. Passed "G+" in Algebra last week, "G" in German and "G-" in Latin. My other marks are not yet posted. Took my medicine regularly to-day and rubbed the corate in for 15 minutes.

**Tuesday, February 8:** Tried to get into the artillery squad to-day and went over to see the Major about it this morning, but he said no he wanted me to stay in the escalading. Got caught reading *Bleak House* by Dickens this afternoon by the O.D. Had a rough house inspection this morning. The O.D. came in while we were away and tore our beds all up and emptied our drawers on the floor.

**Wednesday, February 9:** I acted as instructor of indian clubs in gymnasium drill this afternoon and got along very well. Received a letter from mama this noon and one from Lena this evening. Wrote a letter

to mama and Lena today. Had five wrestles with Lyons this afternoon and was winner in three of them and so was called the best man as we agreed upon.

**Thursday, February 10:** Had a meeting of the mandolin club this afternoon from 4:00 p.m. till about 5:30 so we did not go to gymnasium drill. We played several very pretty pieces and got along quite well. Prof. Holbeck came up to me this afternoon and asked me if I would join a squad of indian club swingers to swing clubs on the 22nd of this month in the gymnasium. I told him I would.

**Friday, February 11:** Went to Detroit to see *For Fair Virginia*, a play at the Empire Theatre. It is a war play and is rather pathetic in parts. The boys did not like it very well. There were four acts with only two scenes. One scene going for three acts. This morning when we woke up we could not find our shoes. Every shoe was missing. Nearly all the others were in the same fix and at last they were found in some pillow cases.

**Saturday, February 12:** Went out skating this afternoon and had quite a ride on Fred Roger's ice boat. It went quite fast and I enjoyed it very much as it was the first time I ever rode on one. We went back and forth across Orchard Lake. My marks this week are Algebra "E", Geometry "E-", Latin "G+", German "G", English "E", which are very good. Smith, my room-mate, is in confines till Friday morning for neglect of duty.

**Sunday, February 13:** Was on Corporal of the Guard at Guard Mounting this morning and was chief of the second platoon. Got through with my duties all right. Was reported at inspection this morning for long hair. Was on Sergeant of the Guard to-day and will be very glad to be through with it as usual. Wrote a letter to mama to-day.

**Monday, February 14:** Had a letter from Tom Headin this morning and was very glad to hear from him - he has found a fraternity at the University of Ill. Went skating this afternoon on Orchard Lake for almost half an hour. The ice was fairly good but had a crust of snow on it. Had a letter from mama this evening. She reached N.M. Thursday last. Practiced indian clubs at P.M. drill.

**Tuesday, February 15:** Was on Corporal of the Guard to-day and had a disagreeable time as usual looking after the punishment squad. There are four men walking all available times now and I had to turn out after evening meal to watch them. We are going to have an indian club squad on exhibition on Feb. 22 in the gymnasium. I am in it and practice every day in gym drill.

**Wednesday, February 16:** Had a letter from Lena this evening. Mama and she went on a burro party. They had a great time as Mama's burro found out that she was sorry for him and would not go. Gym drill and escalading as usual to-day. Smith my room-mate is Sergeant of the Guard.

**Thursday, February 17:** Had a meeting of the mandolin club this afternoon from four o'clock till nearly supper time. I got along as well as usual and the pieces we played were very pretty. We are now having quite a good deal of company and platoon drill in the morning and only have the escalading for a few minutes at the end of the hour.

**Friday, February 18:** Had battalion drill this morning and I had an easy time as I was not guide and in the middle of a set of fours. Smith and I were amusing ourselves this evening by putting our fingers on his telegraph instrument and getting a shock. We could not get a very big one but I am not used to it and it was enough for me.

**Saturday, February 19:** Have been in my room nearly all day reading *Ten Years Among the Mail Bags*, which is a very good book by Holbrook. Received a letter from mama this evening. Ben Cratz came back to the school to-day. The school he went to has only three left in it and he thinks it is very liable to break up altogether now.

**Sunday, February 20:** It has been snowing nearly all day today. We had dress parade this morning instead of inspection. We had Guard Mounting at 10 o'clock and I was right guide, a position I do not like at all. I wrote a letter to mama and Lena this afternoon and finished it up this evening. I am on Sergeant of the Guard tomorrow.

**Monday, February 21:** Have been on Sergeant of the Guard all day and a cold miserable day have I spent. Crum was O.D. and he is about the most disagreeable man in barracks so it was not very pleasant. Had a letter from mama this evening. I did not go on duty this evening as I procured a substitute. There is a hop in the mess hall tonight.

**Tuesday, February 22:** No school to-day. Old cadets have a gymnasium drill this morning and escalading. I was in the latter and fell and landed on my right foot and hurt it. I got some liniment over to the Matron's this evening and will rub it on. Dress parade this afternoon but I had to be excused from drill and marching. I was to be in an indian club drill but had to be excused from that also. Had a dance in the gym this afternoon. Mark Beattie arrived here yesterday and went back to Ann Arbor. He's the same as was.

**Wednesday, February 23:** Went on the sick list to-day to be excused from marching and military duty on account of my foot. It is better to-day. Wrote a letter to Mrs. Robinson in reference Sherwood's death to-day and had Prof. Winter help me write it. Wrote a letter to Mama and Lena this afternoon.

**Thursday, February 24:** Tried to go on the sick list and get excused from drill to-day but the Tack would not let me off. Went and saw Major Rogers and he gave me permission to be excused from escalading. Twenty or thirty plebes had escalading for the first time to-day and they fell all over themselves. Had a letter from Lena this morning.

**Friday, February 25:** Had battalion drill to-day. This evening had an entertainment up in the Chapel. Harold Jarvis of Detroit sang and a young lady sang from the same place. Prof. Winter spoke a couple of funny pieces which everyone applauded and he was encored ever time he spoke. Jarvis sang very beautifully as he always does and the young lady had a fair voice.

**Saturday, February 26:** Was on Corporal of the Guard this morning and had to march the punishment squad around the area for three long hours. The other Corporal of the Guard who was to have gone on this afternoon went to Detroit and a member of the punishment had to march the squad. Smith was on Sergeant of the Guard to-day.

**Sunday, February 27:** Inspection in blouses and black equipment this morning. No guard mount. Wrote a letter to mama and Lena to-night and another to the Viavi Company. I filled out a paper and sent it to them for advice about my stomach. Felt quite a good deal better to-day and Lyons expects to get up tomorrow.

**Monday, February 28:** No escalading for me this morning, had company drill the whole hour. This afternoon we had fencing instead of gymnasium drill. Wrote a composition on the disaster of the Maine

this evening for my English class. Had a letter from Mama this evening. Had "E+" in Geometry and Algebra last week.

## March 1898

**Tuesday, March 1:** Drill same as usual this morning but no escalating for old cadets. Had a drumming letter from the Outlook Company this noon. I am left guide of the company now as the first sergeant and regular left guide are on the sick list. Lyons is still down with the grip and does not expect to get up this week.

**Wednesday, March 2:** Company drill this morning. Had a letter from Lena this evening and wrote one to mama and her this afternoon. Have been reading *The Sign of the Four* by Conan Doyle all the evening and think it an intensely fascinating story. My marks for last the last month if I remember correctly Algebra "E-", Geometry "E", English, Latin and German "G".

**Thursday, March 3:** To-day has been almost like a spring day as it has been quite warm only snow is on the ground. We had a meeting of the mandolin club this afternoon as usual and the pieces we play are very pretty and we are improving at every lesson. Have not felt very well today.

**Friday, March 4:** Battalion drill this morning with some of the musical gun drill. This evening we had battalion formation in the Chapel. It only lasted about half an hour. Some of the seniors gave it. Needham and Keys gave orations -very fair- and Reynolds, Bondman and Patton read their essays. Fitzgerald and Head play together on the mandolin and piano. They played the Serenade, a very beautiful piece.

**Saturday, March 5:** Have been practicing my guitar with Avery Lyons quite a while to-day. He had his violin out but cannot play it very well. We went for a little walk part way around limits this afternoon but the roads were so wet and the snow was melting, the walking was not very good. Had a letter from mama tonight.

**Sunday, March 6:** Wrote letters to Mama and Lena and one to Heachem. Did not do anything in the afternoon but stay around in my room and read. Had inspection in full dress in the morning in the gym. The Tack inspected and reported me for long hair. Chapel same as usual. Have not felt very well.

**Monday, March 7:** The weather has been fine to-day and the snow is melting quite rapidly. Had company drill this morning. I was left guide. Practiced nearly the whole hour on stacking arms. Had to go up to Prof. Curdy's section room for Algebra. Smith sent to Chicago for some Artillery and Cavalry Tactics bound in leather- received them today.

**Tuesday, March 8:** Drill same as yesterday to-day. Had a letter from Mama this morning. She wishes to leave Las Vegas. Getting tired of the monotony I guess. This evening I studied the whole time up to tattoo -just two hours lacking five minutes. Smith and I are going to make some lemonade to drink before we go to bed. I shall prepare it now.

**Wednesday, March 9:** Had a letter from the Viavi Co. this noon. They say they are sure they can cure me. I am not to eat graham or whole wheat bread with meat, potatoes and vegetables as it is very liable to produce gas. Lyons was taken very sick last night and has been unconscious till a late hour this morning.

**Thursday, March 10:** We had a meeting of the Mandolin Club this afternoon and expect to play tomorrow night up in Chapel where we are to have some kind of an entertainment. Went up to visit

Lyons this evening - he is better and his father was here to-day. He is going home soon. Stomach not very well to-day. It has been better lately.

**Friday, March 11:** Had a letter from Lena this evening. Good news. Probably going to Chicago for Easter vacation. This evening we had an entertainment up in the Chapel. I played in the Mandolin Club and we played without any serious break. The orchestra also gave a selection. We were both heartily encored. Prof. Fite talked to us about mathematics and the Colonel spoke to us to tell us to calm down about war with Spain.

**Saturday, March 12:** We had a celebration over in the gym this evening. That is the only name I can call it. At nine o'clock queerly dressed figures began to issue forth towards the gym. Once there they pranced around, had a dress parade and when some effigies of Spaniards were held up, everyone rushed at them and with bayonet, sabre and sword - some hacked them to pieces.

**Sunday, March 13:** We had a very light fall of snow this morning. I was right guide at Guard Mount this morning and did not make any mistakes. This afternoon I wrote to Mama and Mr. Dunkle to inquire about Dick. I took a bath and drew a picture of a Cuban this evening. Smith is much interested in drawing at present.

**Monday, March 14:** Have been on duty as Sergeant of the Guard all day to-day and have just reached my room to go to bed. Newell was an Officer of the Day. I like him very much. We were sitting out in the sun this morning when the Colonel came along. He made us go inside the shack because he said we ought to be studying. It was very pleasant out in the sun.

**Tuesday, March 15:** A little colder to-day but we had several showers - one this evening. I had a letter from Roy Risley this morning. He says he is very busy. Lena wrote me a letter which I received this evening. They are now in Texas. We had a practice march around limits this morning. Our company went around quicker than any of the others.

**Wednesday, March 16:** Had a fierce but happily short shower this morning. Today I wrote a composition on George Neworth(?), the hero who saved the ocean liner "La Champagne". Wrote a letter to Mama and Lena this afternoon. We had battalion drill this morning. It was pretty warm out on the parade ground. Am getting anxious for vacation.

**Thursday, March 17:** Had extended order drill this morning, and as I did not have it last year I got all mixed up. I am going to study my tactics before the next drill and try to learn something about it. This afternoon we had a meeting of the Mandolin Club as usual. There was only a small attendance but we practiced two new but pretty pieces. One was the *Darkie's Lullaby* and the other a Mexican dance.

**Friday, March 18:** Charlie Coy, my old room-mate was to-day reduced to the ranks for taking the door knob off one of the doors. We had an entertainment in the Chapel this morning. Lieut. Winans read us an essay on the formation of our army full of statistics but quite interesting for all that. We had battalion drill this morning as usual.

**Saturday, March 19:** It has been rather warm to-day. I went out for a short walk down the railroad track this afternoon alone and a short rain caught me. Then I came back to school. I finished reading *Titus, a Comrade of the Cross* today and thought it written in a very interesting manner. Had a postal from Cousin Rosa to-day. She wants to know where mama is. Sent a return postal card.

**Sunday, March 20:** The Adjutant came out to-day with some very good roasts on some of the cadets. I was reported this morning at inspection for dusty gun as was nearly all of the company. Went up to the Christian Association this evening. Guard mount and inspection on the parade ground this morning. Stimson who was 1st Lieut. of Company B resigned his office this noon. I guess he got tired of it and a little discouraged. Newell, our second Lieut. was promoted to first Lieut. this noon also.

**Monday, March 21:** Battalion drill this morning. Instead of gym drill this afternoon we had to go around limits. I had a letter from the Outlook Company this noon saying that unless I renewed my subscription for another year I had no right to give a friend a three months trial subscription. I made a mistake before. The weather is very fine now.

**Tuesday, March 22:** Battalion drill this morning. This evening Smith went over in D Company and moved over in the sixth division. I am now rooming alone and am chief of this floor. This evening I caught an old cadet visiting. I made him go to his room and he threatened to half kill me for it, but I am determined to have order on the floor if possible. Had a letter from Lena and Aunt Delia this noon.

**Wednesday, March 23:** Had a forced march around limits this morning. It was very muddy and the walking was very unpleasant. Gym drill as usual this afternoon. Have got along all right to-day with my duties as chief of floor and have not had a falling out with anyone. I like it quite well rooming alone and only hope I shall not be put in with anyone I don't like.

**Thursday, March 24:** Battalion drill this morning. No gymnasium drill this afternoon. We did not have a meeting of the Mandolin Club this afternoon. I went up and so did two or three others, but not enough came to play so after waiting quite a long while we decided not to rehearse. Appointments to-day. Two a corporal and several got lieuts. Reported a plebe across the hall for answering a non-commissioned officer in a very impertinent manner to-day.

**Friday, March 25:** On Corporal of the Guard to-day. No gymnasium drill to-day but had to watch the punishment squad for an hour and a half. However I did not have to walk around with them but just gave them in charge of an old cadet private in the squad and I stood in the middle of the area and shouted at them.

**Saturday, March 26:** Took a walk down to Pontiac to-day. Bought some candy and oranges down there. Got a ride nearly all the way back with the laundryman. He told me to go to school and not quit as he had done and was now sorry he had done so. I walked down by the rail road track. Had a letter from Headin this evening. He has had his Easter vacation and having a fine time at school.

**Sunday, March 27:** Inspection in rooms without arms this morning. We were to have Guard Mount and Dress Parade but it rained so we did not. Took a shower bath over in the engine house this afternoon and liked it very much. Have been reading *David Copperfield* nearly all day and think it a very touching story.

**Monday, March 28:** Our company was so poor in battalion drill this morning that the Major made us fallout of the battalion and had the Captain give us some movements. Received a letter from Mama to-day and one from Mr. Dunkle who is taking care of Dick. He says the horse is getting very fat and enjoying himself very much playing with the colt. No drill this afternoon. Had to go up to Detention period in Geometry today.

**Tuesday, March 29:** Lyons came back this morning and packed up his things and left in about an hour. He is not going to return but intends to travel. He had a big gold watch chain and gold watch, gold nose glasses hung on his coat and patent leather shoes looking quite sporty. I had next to the highest average mark in German last month of anyone in the class "G+", Latin "G+" and Algebra "G". Battalion drill this morning, none this afternoon.

**Wednesday, March 30:** Some inspectors from the University of Wisconsin visited the school to-day. For drill this morning we had half an hour's battalion drill and then we were given 10 minutes to get our full dress on and go out to Dress Parade. We had some pressed meat last night which the waiter informed us was horse meat and they had received about two hundred pounds of it.

**Thursday, March 31:** Was on Sergeant of the Guard till two o'clock and then I went on Officer of the Day from two till eight o'clock. School was dismissed this afternoon at one o'clock and those going to Detroit could go on the special two o'clock train. I went to Chicago and could not go till eight. I took a sleeper. Had a very hard day of it. Newell was Officer of the Day in the morning. The fare from Orchard Lake to Chicago was \$9.40.



## April 1898

**Friday, April 1:** Arrived in Chicago early this morning after passing a rather restless night. Came up to 284 Rush St. Met Lena at the train. Talked with Mama and Lena all the morning and in the afternoon went down town and bought a cot for me to sleep in. Mama was taken quite sick very suddenly at about 5 o'clock but soon felt better. She has a bad cold. Played cards with Lena this evening.

**Saturday, April 2:** Went down town in the morning. Ate dinner at Mrs. Clark's restaurant. Bought myself a suit of cits clothes of a dark blue, shirt, shoes, tie, collars, etc. In the evening Lena and I went to see Thomas Keene play *Richard III*. It was very fine and the first play of Shakespeare I had ever seen. Took my guitar to get it mended, it was split open at the back. At Lyon, Healy cost \$2.00. At this place \$.50.

**Sunday, April 3:** Did not go to church in the morning but went over to a Congregational church to Sunday school. In the afternoon Lena and I took quite a walk up to Lincoln Park and saw the five statues of Lincoln. Saw Potter Palmer's which was very fine. Went to hear Mr. Moody at the Chicago Ave. church in the evening. Church crowded to the doors. He preached about a half hour and was very fine.

**Monday, April 4:** Went down to hear Mr. Moody in the afternoon. The church was crowded. He spoke strongly against the Sunday news papers. A very weak amen was given when he asked who thought the way he did. Went down to hear Professor Vaught, the Phrenologist in the evening. He illustrated his lecture with drawings and called many men from the audience to the chair to be examined. He said most of them lacked self esteem and it should be cultivated.

**Tuesday, April 5:** Went down town in the afternoon and got my guitar which had been left to be mended. Mr. Kitchen - the first alley east of Wabash on Congress St. Think 21 is the number. He is cheap and good. Played carols in the evening. Went around to Sweet Wallach & Co. and got some pictures which had been left to be developed. They were done fairly well.

**Wednesday, April 6:** Went down town in the morning. I went over to the Library in the morning and read up about Phrenology. Took dinner at Mrs. Clarke's Restaurant. Went up to see Prof. Vaught in the afternoon and was given a "start right" examination. It cost \$3.00 and included a book on Phrenology with a chart with all the faculties marked. He measured my head and used a steel instrument also. Size of brain: 223/4 in.

**Thursday, April 7:** Went down town and bought an overcoat; \$17. Went to Atkins to get it. In the evening went to the Phrenologists' club which meets every two weeks. The topic was the faculty of Benevolence and many were the views given on the subject. Some said Rockefeller gave to charity from selfish reasons. The Prof. said that without benevolence we would not be kind. Took a lunch at the Cafe Brauer at noon.

**Friday, April 8:** In the evening Lena and I went over to hear a song service at a neighboring church. It was very fine. On a card which was in all the seats it said all people in the immediate vicinity and not belonging to other churches were cordially invited to attend this church. I thought it specified pretty closely who they wanted to attend.

**Saturday, April 9:** Met a cadet named Pope who invited me up to his house tomorrow to dinner while I was out marketing.

**Sunday, April 10:** Tried to go to St. James Church in the morning, but it was so crowded we did not stay. Went to dinner at Pope's house, one of the new cadets. Had a very nice dinner. His mother, a widow, is to be married and her intended was at the table late. He drank a big glass of wine and when coffee was brought in he smoked two cigarettes at the table by permission of the widow. I was offered the same privilege but refused it. After we went out to see Lincoln Park. The animals and flowers are very beautiful.

**Monday, April 11:** Went down town in the morning - took dinner at Mrs. Clarke's Restaurant. Went and exchanged my spring overcoat for one that fits me better. It cost \$1 more (\$18). We all went to the Chicago Opera House to see the vaudeville. It was very good, especially the trained foreign birds and a tight rope walker and a man who walked around on a big white ball and then stayed on while it rolled down three steps. Went down to the train in the evening to go back to school and got lift.

**Tuesday, April 12:** Got up early and took the train for Orchard Lake at 9 o'clock. Reached Durand at about 6:30 and then took the Detroit and Milwaukee for Orchard Lake. Met a cadet on this last train and when we reached Pontiac we went and got a carriage which took us out to school safely. The train boy brought around a package which was described as very "racy". It cost a quarter and was sealed. We opened it and it was quite harmless. 12 hrs. late.

**Wednesday, April 13:** Extended order drill this morning. Prof. Smith called me over to his office this morning and said I ought not to read so many books and ought to study harder. No drill this afternoon. Ben Cratz and I took a walk off limits after school for about two hours. After supper we went down the rail road a ways and waited at the depot a while. Wrote to Mama to-day.

**Thursday, April 14:** We had a lecture in the chapel this evening by Prof. Fox on the English Public Schools. Illustrated with a magic lantern. He said boys advance much faster in their studies than we do here. They have a great deal of patriotism for the school. When they are nineteen and have not covered the specified ground they are told in substance that they were not intended to be scholars and so must leave the school. Fagging is in existence yet and seems to work very well. Mandolin Club today- no one came but three of us.

**Friday, April 15:** Practice march this morning. Took a walk with Slufer this morning after breakfast along the shore of Orchard Lake and another with Cratz this evening down by the depot. Forbes, the cadet I reported for disrespect before vacation received his punishment of five hours this noon. Everyone is much excited about the war here. Two cadets across the hall from me have a phonograph in their room and we all like to go in and hear it often.

**Saturday, April 16:** On Corporal of the Guard this afternoon. The baseball team played the Pontiac team and we beat them. We took the punishment squad out and set them on guard out by the game to keep the spectators back of the line. This morning I went walking around Pine Lake with Pope and got caught in the rain. Went walking with Cratz this evening after supper and got late to Call to Quarters.

**Sunday, April 17:** I forgot to mention on the last page that yesterday I got a room mate. His name is Chas. Sweet, a sergeant of our company. He is a very nice fellow and I am sure we shall get along very well together. I have been studying nearly two hours this evening and wrote a letter to Lena. Was

reported twice at inspection this morning and the Major threatened to reduce me if I did not have my gun clean next Sunday.

**Monday, April 18:** Had a long practice march for drill this morning. We went nearly half-way around Orchard Lake. Got along fairly well with my lessons. Potter, an old cadet who graduated here last year and is now at the Univ. of M. is here for a little visit to the school. Went in General Athletics Squad to-day.

**Tuesday, April 19:** Had a letter from Lena this noon. Was a Corporal of the Guard to-day. We had company drill in the gymnasium this morning. We are reading stories by Chas. Lamb in English now. Today we had *John Gilpin's ride*. I had a lesson in German to-day - nearly perfect. We are reading *Wilhelm Tell* and I think it very interesting material.

**Wednesday, April 20:** I have been practicing the "Three Card Month" game and think it quite amusing. Had a letter from Mama to-day and answered it this evening. I have shredded wheat biscuit and baked potatoes every day now. My stomach has been quite bad lately. I was Left Guide at drill this morning. Took an examination on the pronouns in Latin this afternoon - think I got along very well.

**Thursday, April 21:** "War is declared". When the news that U.S. had declared war against Spain reached here this afternoon great excitement was exhibited among the cadets. After supper the band and senior class marched around the area, yelling and making speeches. Some of the cadets expect to go soon. I went on the sick list this afternoon on account of my shoe hurting me. We all hope school will break up.

**Friday, April 22:** Senior meetings are being held to-day and many of the cadets declare their determination to go to the war. Received a letter from Charlie Miller of Ovid this noon. He wishes me to send him some circulars of the school and expects to come here next year. I am afraid he will not come on account of the price. I played "Nosey" till after ten o'clock this evening. In this game the one who is beat gets hit on the nose with the cards.

**Saturday, April 23:** Our ball team played the team of the Detroit School for Boys this afternoon with a score 32-9 in our favor. Rob Patrick was in the other team I saw and spoke to me. He used to go to Ziegler's. Had a hair cut and shave to-day. Cleaned my gun for nearly an hour today. Sweet has been showing me some tricks of cards to-day.

**Sunday, April 24:** Was reported this morning for dirty gun. Quite a crowd were out to witness dress parade this evening. This afternoon Cratz, Paleaster and I went out for a row on Orchard Lake. The Col. nearly caught us but we had a good time. Answered Charlie Wilbur's letter and wrote to Mama today. My lessons were all "G+" last week except "E-" in English.

**Monday, April 25:** Artillery drill this morning for the first time. I am number one. The hardest position after gunner. Had charge of a squad at this afternoon's drill. Had to go up to Detention period to-day because I did not hand in a Geometry proposition last Thursday. My stomach is not very well now.

**Tuesday, April 26:** Was on Sergt. of the Guard to-day. Crum, the senior Captain and captain of my company left for war to-day. We formed an escort for him and accompanied him to the edge of limits. There we halted and he made a little speech. Then he was quickly driven out of sight still waving his

handkerchief in farewell. Received a letter from Lena to-day with an account of Mort Dunnet's death in it.

**Wednesday, April 27:** Wrote a letter to Mama and Lena this afternoon, also took a bath. Artillery drill this morning and we fired the cannon with blank cartridges. We now have Guard Mounting at 7:30 every fine morning and I have to go on nearly every day there are so few corporals. Have all my examples in Algebra for to-day.

**Thursday, April 28:** Artillery drill this morning as usual. We fired the pieces several times. I was on Corporal of the Guard Mount this morning as right guide and on a regular tour also. I had quite a large punishment squad to watch and reported four men. Took a walk with Cratz this noon after dinner and another after supper this evening.

**Friday, April 29:** Had our last artillery drill this morning as the cannon are to be shipped to war tomorrow. This morning we had another Cuban celebration. Everyone dressed up very fancy and went over to the gym about eight o'clock. The horse, which is usual for gymnastics was saddled and then a dress parade was held.

**Saturday, April 30:** Pope was in my room nearly all the morning. In the afternoon, Fitzpatrick and I went down to Pontiac on bicycles. We had a good time there and then started back. Almost half way we met three girls also on wheels. They said they were tired so we all sat down on the grass. After talking a little while we saw the Col. coming down the road on horseback. Fitz and I immediately jumped on our wheels and went off. The Col. soon came up and asked us if we had said anything to the girls. After giving us advice not to have anything to do with such girls he rode on.

## May 1898

**Sunday, May 1:** Wrote letters to Headin, Roy Risley and home to-day. Was not reported at inspection and did not work half a hard on gun as I did last Sunday when I was reported. The Rev Washington Gardner preached a sermon in Chapel this morning. Quite a crowd was out to witness dress parade this morning. Stayed and read in my room all the afternoon.

**Monday, May 2:** Drill at half past ten this morning till 1 o'clock. We were each given twenty loaded shells and the marched over to the banks of Cass Lake where we were given "Lie down and fire". The guns kicked quite a good deal. Had to go up to Detention Period this afternoon for Geometry. Marks for last month - German "G+", Latin "G", Algebra "G+", English "E" Geometry "G-".

**Tuesday, May 3:** I forgot to mention on my page for Saturday that Mark Beattie came here Saturday for a few hours visit to his old academy. The corps of cadets have gone to Pontiac to see *A Bachelor's Honeymoon* this evening, but I did not go. We have had four drills to-day: Guard Mount, Company drill, Athletics and Dress Parade. Had a letter from Lena this noon. Was chief of second platoon at Guard Mount this morning.

**Wednesday, May 4:** Wrote a letter to mama this afternoon. Drills same as yesterday. Nothing unusual happened. Stomach quite bad this evening. Cadets report that they enjoyed the play fairly well last evening. The cadet with the phonograph has reproduced a selection by the M.M.A. band which is very good. Sweet on duty to-day.

**Thursday, May 5:** Stomach quite bad all day and lessons also. For afternoon drill to-day we played "duck on the rock", a game which I used to play along while ago. Prof. Saunders gave us a little talk about the Whitehead Torpedo in Chapel this morning. They are about 16 ft. long and 17 in. in diameter, in the general shape of a cigar. Quite interesting.

**Friday, May 6:** I went into the target shooting squad this afternoon. Those who make 17 out of a possible 25 go into the General Athletics squad. I made 17, this being my first attempt this year. Among them a bull's eye. I am in confine to-day and stay in till Sunday morning at reveille. I had four confines for dirty gun. Am now reading Poe's *Weird Tales* and I think them "weird" enough for anyone. Did not pass in the Algebra examination.

**Saturday, May 7:** Cleaned my gun for two hours this morning and took it all apart. Was on Corporal of the Guard this afternoon and saw the ball game between M.M.A. and Pontiac with a score of 14-15 in favor of the M.M.A. Had a letter from Mama this morning. I am not out of confine till tomorrow at two o'clock. This evening a whole lot of us cadets were in my room playing mandolins, guitars, etc. We played into the phonograph but it did not take very well.

**Sunday, May 8:** Was not reported for dirty gun at inspection this morning but told that about two hours more work would make it clean. Quite a crowd out to dress parade this evening which was in white duck for the first time this year. Wrote a letter to Mama this evening. Took a walk off limits with Pallanter, a cadet from Detroit this afternoon. Was on Guard Mount as old guard this morning.

**Monday, May 9:** Prof. Smith called me over to his office again to-day and told me to study harder because I got deficient in the Algebra test last week. Cadets walked guard for the first time this year this

afternoon. Had my lessons quite well to-day. Was left guide at battalion drill this morning and got along with only a couple of mistakes.

**Tuesday, May 10:** Had a letter from Mama to-day. No Guard Mount to-day. Prof. Winter says that the skill of a poet lies in his being able to suit the meter to the story he is telling. Some regular soldiers from Island Lake visited the Academy to-day and seemed much pleased with it.

**Wednesday, May 11:** Had battalion drill this morning. Had a scrap with Newell, our 1st Lieut. this evening and came out with a black eye. Otherwise safe. He is quite tall and about nineteen years old. It was so windy to-day we had no target practice. The fellows wanted to put me in training but I declined.

**Thursday, May 12:** At target practice to-day we shot at 200 yards. I had five shots and missed the target every time. Not much worse than most of the others though. Had a scrap with Keys this morning and came out safely. Had a letter from Mama this noon and answered it this afternoon.

**Friday, May 13:** Made 13 out of 25 at target practice to-day. The gun kicks a great deal. The Colonel told us to-day that if we wished to go to Island Lake Monday, we could do so by having school on the next two Saturdays.

**Saturday, May 14:** On Sergeant of the Guard to-day and felt very glad when I was through. Received a postal this morning. A new Army officer arrived this morning.

**Sunday, May 15:** Did not have to go to inspection this morning for I was Sergeant of the Guard till 10 o'clock. Took a walk with Holmes this afternoon. In the Christian Association this evening we had a discussion about capital punishment. I said that a man had no chance to reform when he was dead and while there was life there was hope, so we should give a man a chance to repent.

**Monday, May 16:** On duty as Sergeant of the Guard all day. Got permission to attend target practice in the afternoon and made 11. Made a "bullseye". Had quite a hard tour.

**Tuesday, May 17:** Had a reception in the mess hall this evening for Maj. Rogers who goes away tomorrow to fulfill his duties in the regular army. Heard one of the cadets give the following pun: No wonder the Maj. is going to leave when all the trees are leaving. Had ice cream, cake, coffee and refreshments. The cadets presented him with a fine \$36.00 sword. Made 13 in target practice.

**Wednesday, May 18:** We did not have any drill at all to-day. In the afternoon the companies had their pictures taken in full dress and white duck trousers. Had a letter from Mama saying Lena had gone on to Ovid and she expected to go there the last of this week. Wrote a letter to them this evening.

**Thursday, May 19:** The regular Left Guide of our company was on duty so I was left guide of our company at Battalion drill today. I got called down a good deal because I did not know my duties in battalion formation very well. No afternoon drill. Had pictures taken of dress parade and battalion drill. Stomach very bad this evening.

**Friday, May 20:** Had a heavy rain last night. The non-commissioned officers had their pictures taken this morning and the target practice squad this afternoon. There were others taken of different squads - but I was in those mentioned. On Corporal of the Guard to-day. Watched punishment squad about an hour and a half. No call to quarters this evening till 8 o'clock. Took a walk and smoke.

**Saturday, May 21:** Went to Pontiac on Shipper's bicycle this afternoon. Had my hair cut and got an ice cream soda. Looked up about the university at Ann Arbor in the morning.

**Sunday, May 22:** We do not have any afternoon drill now. In the morning we have Battalion drill on Monday and Wednesday and target practice on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Some one took my Algebra paper and I have to write it allover again. Studied German in Boardman's room to-night. Avery Lyons has enlisted and expects to start for Manila to-morrow.

**Monday, May 23:** Battalion drill and practice march for A.M. drill. New cavalry officer has come to teach cavalry. Lieut. Winans who was our Commandant the first of this year has received an appointment of major.

**Tuesday, May 24:** Target practice this morning and I made 7 out of 25. We have no afternoon drill. Have three days of confine which will keep me in my room till Friday morning. Received a letter from Lena this noon. "C+" in Algebra last week.

**Wednesday, May 25:** Battalion drill in the morning. Wrote a letter to Mama and Lena in afternoon.

**Thursday, May 26:** Had to attend bayonet exercise at morning drill. Getting very tired of confinement.

**Friday, May 27:** Prof. Hinesdale of Ann Arbor visited our school to-day and gave us a little talk in Chapel at consultation period. He said among many other things that he thought the present methods of teaching did not bear directly enough on our practical life. Also that there is in every school a certain amount of restraint between the teacher and pupil which was probably the fault of both. He cited as an instance the "flogging" school master in "Horace". No call to quarters till 8:30 in the evening. Went in swimming from tattoo till 9:20.

**Saturday, May 28:** Played tennis with Mayer this morning - quite a little while. In the afternoon just stayed around in my room. Had a letter from Lena saying she would probably be here to see me next Saturday or Sunday. Getting anxious for vacation. My stomach has been better the last few days. Sweet and I played chess all this evening.

**Sunday, May 29:** The Major did not even look at my gun at inspection this morning and I was not reported for anything. I was Corporal of the Guard to-day but had to attend dress parade as every available man had to attend, the O.D. and all. A man on sick list took down flag. A minister preached the sermon in Chapel this morning. He deplored the lack of reverence in children of present day. Attended Christian Association in evening the topic was Christian Growth. We had a very interesting meeting. Wrote home.

**Monday, May 30:** Decoration Day and no school or drill all day. Chapel exercises at 9 o'clock where Mr. Burns, who preached yesterday, delivered the address which was very good and enjoyed by all. He thought the day was being celebrated as a holiday too much and losing its significance. In the afternoon I took a walk. They are building an electric from Sylvan Lake here. Received a letter from Heachan this morning, he reports a fine time at school.

**Tuesday, May 31:** Went to target practice and made 6 in first 5 shots and 15 in last five. Had an *Ovid Register* sent to me and was interested in reading. We now have sitting up exercises for about five minutes every morning at reveille. They seem to brighten us up wonderfully. We are beginning reviews in all our studies.





## June 1898

**Wednesday, June 1:** Was guide at Battalion drill this morning. We had extended order most of the time. Wrote a letter to Mama and Lena this evening and studied my German lesson with Boardman. In confine all day and find it very tiresome.

**Thursday, June 2:** Was on Sergt. of the Guard till about 2:00 o'clock when Lena came and I was excused from duty. We took several photos around the school and we went up to the Orchard Lake Hotel in the evening and she stayed there. When I came back to barracks I found that one of the biggest fights of the year had taken place between Keys and Riebel. Keys came out with the worst looking eye I ever saw. It started by Keys saying that Riebel had torn his bed up. Received a letter from Mama this morning. She reports that she enjoys Ovid very much.

**Friday, June 3:** Lena stayed till noon and I was excused from drill on her account. The Colonel called me over and gave me a talk. I walked off my remaining punishment of two hours so I could go to Detroit tomorrow. Lena and I took several pictures. Did not go to any duty in the morning. All night Guard to-night. I am not on.

**Saturday, June 4:** Arose early and took the 5:50 train for Detroit. Got my breakfast and then went up to the shoe makers where I met Lena and had my shoes fixed. We then went over to the dentist and I had a large cavity filled. Did errands all the morning. In the afternoon we took a ride over to Belle Isle on the boat and took a picture of the Yantic, the naval reserve boat. Saw Mr. Cranson, the Wollams, and Arthur Mayer. Lena went at 4:30 and I at 5:40 p.m. Had a good time.

**Sunday, June 5:** Passed inspection safely this morning. My gun was not looked at. Was not on at Guard Mount. We had a minister preach the sermon at Chapel this morning. Did not do anything this afternoon. Wrote a short note to Mama and Lena in the evening.

**Monday, June 6:** Was left guide at Battalion drill this morning and went on Guard Mount. I had my detail walk half an hour after dinner. Watched the punishment squad in the afternoon an hour and a half. Went in swimming at 9:00 o'clock in the evening and swam about four strokes. Am trying to learn.

**Tuesday, June 7:** No drill this morning. Had a letter from Mama this noon. Received one day confine for not wearing a blouse at some time or other. Am going in swimming same as last night.

**Wednesday, June 8:** Battalion drill in the morning. I was Left Guide. The Commandant made me a little speech and thanked us for our attention during his stay here. We cheered for him.

**Thursday, June 9:** Company drill this morning. Had a letter from Mama and Lena. They do not wish me to get a revolver. I took a walk around limits this afternoon. In a German test we had yesterday I passed "G". The average of the class was "F". No call to quarters till 8 o'clock this evening. I did not go swimming. Have a headache.

**Friday, June 10:** No drill today. Went over and saw the Prof. in English and he said my average was "85" but my work in writing was so good he would raise my mark to "90" and mark me exempt from the examination. I have "86" in Algebra, "83" in Geometry, and "81-2/3" in German. To-day is our last regular school day.

**Saturday, June 11:** Base ball game in the morning here with the Detroit High School team and we beat them badly. Clayton, a plebe senior private on Officer of the Day.

**Sunday, June 12:** Rev. Dr. Clark delivered the Baccalaureate sermon in Chapel to the graduating class this morning. This afternoon plebe corporal appointments came off and immediately after supper the newly appointed corporals were marched over to Pine Lake, taken out on a pier and thrown in the water clothes and all. The Col. gave me quite a talk this evening and tried to cross-question me. I told him that I was simply a spectator and had nothing to do with it. Took a long walk with B. Cratz this evening. Traded a drawing by him for one of my photographs.

**Monday, June 13:** Examinations all to-day in German and Geometry I passed "80" in German as a final average. Don't know my mark in Geom. The German exam was the hardest I ever had. Out of 11 in the "class, only 6 passed. No drill to-day. Received a letter from Mama this noon. She is coming home with me Wednesday and we are to meet at the Hodges' house.

**Tuesday, June 14:** Had examinations in Latin and Algebra this morning. Have a general average of "80" in Algebra. Packed a big box this afternoon ready to be sent by freight. This evening I borrowed Steere's bicycle and went to Pontiac rather expecting to meet Mama there but she had not yet arrived. Dress parade this evening.

**Wednesday, June 15:** Exercises for commencement at 9:30 this morning. Senior dress parade at 11:00 and dinner at 12:30. After dinner I packed my trunk. At 2:00 p.m. we had exercises in Chapel and Prof. Hudson of Ann Arbor gave a lecture on Russia. He said Russia had established their Trans-Siberian railway through a part of Chinese territory to cut off a curve of 500 miles and received permission to have garrisons in China to protect it. In time the Prof. expects to see China in the hands of Russia. Siberian railway was built because the Czar went on a trip to Siberia and wanted to establish a communication with his remote provinces. I came down to Pontiac on the new electric railway which has just been completed and arrived at Ovid at 8 o'clock. Mama and Lena had gone to Detroit so I stayed alone in our house till four the next morning, when Mama and Lena arrived.

**Thursday, June 16:** Got Dick up in our barn and took a ride up to the Hadley farm. Dick's scar where he was kicked this spring was a bad thing but it may get to looking better.

**Friday, June 17 through Thursday, June 30:** No entries written.

## July 1898

**Friday, July 1:** Made ice cream and bought a shaving brush and some shaving soap so I can shave myself.

**Saturday, July 2:** Shaved myself for the first time and only inflicted four slight gashes. Took a bath in the afternoon. Read Barrie's *Little Minister* in the hammock. Went down town in the evening and rode on the "Ocean Wave". Got home about 10:30. Met and was introduced to Miss Rogers on Main Street this evening.

**Sunday, July 3:** No entry written.

**Monday, July 4:** Went down town in the morning and stayed all day to see the great celebration. A parade a mile long took place at 10:00 o'clock and a speech in the school house grounds at 11:00. In the afternoon a ball game, greased pole, bicycle racing, foot race, etc. took place and in the evening we saw the much advertised display of fire-works. Most of the people out were farmers and we had a fair crowd.

**Tuesday, July 5 through Friday, July 8:** No entries written.

**Saturday, July 9:** Took a girl home for the first time this evening. It was a Miss Luella Rogers who stays here vacations and goes to boarding school in Alma. I met her on Main Street alone at about 9:30 p.m. and walked up to her house. She is quite a pretty girl with dark hair and eyes and is quite plump. I passed through it safely and made a date with her to go out riding tomorrow afternoon at 4:00.

**Sunday, July 10:** Went to church and Sunday School in the morning. Chas. Wilbur came down at 2:30 and we played our guitars for an hour. Then I hitched up and went down after Miss Rogers. We drove around about two hours and had a good time.

**Monday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 12:** No entries written.

**Wednesday, July 13:** Met Miss Rogers down town again this evening and went home with her again. Sat on the steps for a short time. Heard her grand"ma" cough, took it as a gentle hint, and left.

**Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15:** No entries written.

**Saturday, July 16:** Went down to the guitar club at Mr. Kaufman's with Chas. Wilbur and stayed till half past eight. We had a fairly good practice.

**Sunday, July 17:** Went to Church and Sunday School in the morning. Rather late in the afternoon Roy Risby came up and we took a walk up the rail road track. There we met Fred Smith who had a revolver and we each shot it, I for the first time. Met some other boys down town. We all put in and had a swell lunch of olives, cheese, etc. on boxes back of Rose's store. In the evening went around with a crowd of boys.

**Monday, July 18 through Saturday, July 30:** No entries written.

**Sunday, July 31:** Hired a livery rig and went over to (?) with Gerard Ritan and Roy Risby. In the afternoon we went over to Caledonia(?) Park and heard the band play. In the evening we went to the Baptist Church and were introduced to some young ladies whom we took home. I took Miss Gelushe and sat in the hammock after arriving at her house almost an hour. Then I found the other boys and we arrived home about 10 o'clock.

## August 1898

**Monday, August 1 through Saturday, August 6:** No entries written.

**Sunday, August 7:** Went to Church and Sunday School. In the afternoon Roy Risby came up and we took a walk up the rail road. He took his revolver along as he is afraid of his step-father who turned him outdoors and his mother is trying for a divorce. We shot the revolver for a while and then his step-father came along and said if we did not stop he would have us arrested for shooting on Sunday. We knew he would keep his word, so stopped.

**Monday, August 8:** Gertie and Louise went home to-day.

**Tuesday, August 9:** No entry written.

**Wednesday, August 10:** This is the day of the annual Sunday School picnic at Long Lake. I went with Gerard Retan and Roy Risby. We bought our dinner and then played in a nickel slot machine. I was at one time 55 cents behind and then won 75 cents at one turn, winning 30 cents and quit at that. In the afternoon we separated and I went around with our minister's daughters, Persis and Pauline Martin. We had soda and went into a little show. I rode home with Pauline on the train and then took her home. Had a good time.

**Thursday, August 11:** Went to Prayer Meeting in the evening with Lena. Then I went down town and after having a soda, met Miss Kate Plunkett and went home with her. Coming back as I was going along, met Miss Rogers and went home with her. Went up to Rose's where Roy works and found him through for the day, talked a while and went home.

**Friday, August 12:** No entry written.

**Saturday, August 13:** This afternoon I took Miss Pauline Martin out to the Hadley Farm. We gathered some apples for her. Went around in the orchard and then drove down the lane. We got back about 6 o'clock. We had a very pleasant time. She goes to Olivet to school - has dark hair and eyes and is quite plump. In the evening I went down town and talked and walked around with the boys.

**Sunday, August 14 through Thursday, August 18:** No entries written.

**Friday, August 19:** This evening I went to a little party at Miss Martin's. We talked and I took along my guitar. An electric battery furnished some amusement. We had ice cream cake and grape juice for refreshments. I took Jessie Bruce home. Had a pretty good time at the party.

**Saturday, August 20:** No entry written.

**Sunday, August 21:** Heard Dr. Dobbs at M.E. Church. Mescito granted the Jesuit priests all Southern California, but John Fremont had planted the American flag three days before, thus saving the gold for us. He classed McKinley with Bismarck and Gladstone as one of the great men of the world. Went to Christian Endeavor and asked Miss Martin to go to church with me. We went to Baptist Church and heard Uncle Boston (Boston Smith) give a lecture on the chapel cars which carry the gospel to out of the way places.

**Monday, August 22:** No entry written.

**Tuesday, August 23:** Arose at 5 o'clock and went out to the Austin farm and painted the new granary red. Had a hot time of it. In the evening took Miss Martin to hear Dr. Dobb's lecture "A 1,000 miles on a camel's back". It was very good but only 9 people attended. A first class dromedary will travel 200 miles in 20 hours. A good one 100 miles in 10 hours. A camel and dromedary are alike only the dromedary are young and swift and are ridden. The camel carries the baggage and is old and strong. Lena went north this morning driven by hay fever.

**Wednesday, August 24 through Saturday, August 27:** No entries written.

**Sunday, August 28:** Took Pauline to church at the Methodist Church and afterwards sat on her porch with her young sister Persis and herself.

**Monday, August 29:** Went up to the Hadley farm with Pauline. It was quite warm. Had to go to see about some oats. Enjoyed it of course.

**Tuesday, August 30 through Thursday, September 1:** No entries written.

## September 1898

**Friday, September 2:** Went to Round Lake. I took Pauline and Roy took Kate Plunkett. We all went in a surrey. Took hammocks along. The girls furnished a good dinner and we spread it on the lawn. Roy and I went in swimming where I was so unfortunate as to lose my gold ring that Mama gave me for a Xmas present several years ago. We sat in the hammocks with the girls till it was cooler and then went out in a row boat. K. Plunkett got so scared Roy had to walk back to the resort with her. Started home about seven o'clock and we had a lovely moonlight ride. Maybe I didn't have some fun in that back seat! Cost me \$2.08.

**Saturday, September 3:** Wish I was where I was yesterday. In the evening went to see Farmer Andrus, the ugly horse trainer. He said a horse's brain was divided in the middle, so if they got used to seeing any scary thing on one side they would be afraid if they saw it on the other. He took four horses. First fire crackers under them, beat a drum, tin pans etc. And when he got through with them they were not afraid. Thought his performance quite wonderful.

**Sunday, September 4:** Dr. Martin came home last week so Pauline and I went to her father's church in the evening. Roy went home with Kate Plunkett. Went home with Pauline and had a great time with her younger brothers and sisters. Got rid of them at last and then enjoyed myself.

**Monday, September 5:** No entry written.

**Tuesday, September 6:** Went out to the Hadley farm to see Dunkle about bringing down the wheat. In the evening went to Christian Endeavor and walked home with Pauline.

**Wednesday, September 7:** Took a drive up to Shepardsville with Pauline. Let her drive part of the way. Dick went fine. A man is tuning our piano. Wrote a letter to Lena.

**Thursday, September 8:** Took Pauline home from Prayer meeting this evening.

**Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10:** No entries written.

**Sunday, September 11:** Went to church and Sunday School in the morning. In the afternoon met Roy and we took a little drive. Then met Gerard Ritan and went up to Jackson's after melons. Went to church with Pauline in the evening.

**Monday, September 12:** Took a drive with Pauline up to Elsie. Bought her some orange cider and candy. Had a very pleasant drive. In the evening met Roy at 9 o'clock and we had a long talk. Went with the Ovid Guitar Club up to Campbell and played awhile.

**Tuesday, September 13:** Packing and getting ready to return to Orchard Lake. In the evening took Pauline home from church and stayed with her on the porch till about 10 o'clock. When I left found Roy waiting for me and we stayed out till about 11 o'clock. Went home and took a bath.

**Wednesday, September 14:** Lena came home on the 3:00 train this morning. I packed up and left on the 9:00 for the M.M.A. Went as far as Durand with Pauline and Persis who changed there and went to Olivet College. I reached Orchard Lake about 1:00 and am now chief of the second floor of the 4th Div., rooming with Holmes from Burr Oaks, Michigan. Asked Pauline why she wouldn't let me kiss her

good night last night and she said she did not like to make herself too common and did not think I would think as much of her in the end if she did. She thought she ought not to do so yet a while anyway. Said no one else could have kissed her.

**Thursday, September 15:** Was on duty as Sergt. of the Guard all day. No Corporal of the Guard was detailed so I had to perform his duty with my own. Wrote to Headin and Mama. For studies I have Chemistry, Solid Geometry, Caesar, and English 3. Drew guns and experiments yesterday.

**Friday, September 16:** We had Company drill this morning but none for old cadets in the afternoon. Had an athletic meeting in the Chapel this evening. All are expected to contribute \$3.00 for the athletic fund.

**Saturday, September 17:** No entry written.

**Sunday, September 18:** On Sergeant of the Guard all day with Keys on O.D. A young lady sang a solo very sweetly in Chapel this morning and our Chaplain preached. Wrote home. Got reported for rusty gun at inspection.

**Monday, September 19:** No entry written.

**Tuesday, September 20:** Received a letter from home this noon. Answered it and wrote to Pauline this evening. Having Company drill every morning now.

**Wednesday, September 21:** No entry written.

**Thursday, September 22:** Rain and darkness all day. No drill on that account. Had a letter from home. Having hard propositions in Geometry and Chemistry.

**Friday, September 23:** Was taken sick just before dinner with head ache, etc. Took some Bromo Seltzer. Got excused from further duty the rest of the day. No drill for old cadets on account of the weather.

**Saturday, September 24:** Went down to Pontiac with Racquet in the afternoon. Took a large overcoat button along and had it made into a hat pin for Pauline. Went down on the train and back on the electric car. Bought a half pound box of Alligretti's candy which was very delicious. Went in Lyon's uncle's office to inquire how Lyons was. Was told he was back from the war and at present home in Bay City in poor health, had throat trouble.

**Sunday, September 25:** Felt quite sick when I woke so went on the sick list and was excused from military duty. Went to Chapel. In the afternoon wrote letters to Lyons, Roy Risby, and home. Read *The Gilded Age* by Mark Twain for a little while and then went out for a walk. In the evening attended Christian Association. We had quite a large meeting and the Chaplain led it.

**Monday, September 26:** Went on Sergeant of the Guard all day with Keys on O.D. Had quite a hard tour. Keys sent in nearly fifty reports. Received a letter from Lena in the evening.

**Tuesday, September 27:** Bayonet exercises for drill which is very tiresome. My lessons are getting harder all except English. Received a letter from Pauline this noon and a note from Persis. Went out



sailing in Fred Roger's boat with him and B. Cratz. There was very little wind and B. Cratz had to tow us in by a rowboat which we had brought along.

**Wednesday, September 28 through Saturday, October 1:** No entries written.

## October 1898

**Sunday, October 2:** Mark Beattie called at the school for a couple of hours. Wrote to Pauline.

**Monday, October 3:** On duty as Officer of the Day and found it a hard position. Rec'd. a letter from Roy.

**Tuesday, October 4:** No entry written.

**Wednesday, October 5:** Mama came out to see me on an excursion of one day. We went down to Pontiac in the afternoon and saw where Oscar and Maggie used to live. In the morning I partook of my first debate. I was for the negative of "Were Ancient Nations More Heroic Than the Civilized Nations of Modern Times." My side was beaten. I bought a pair of shoes in Pontiac for \$2.75. They are pretty good ones.

**Thursday, October 6:** Today is my 17th birthday and I celebrated it by eating a fine angel food cake which Lena brought and sent by Mama.

**Friday, October 7:** A reception over in the Acad. Building. We amused ourselves at card tables and looking at the Col.'s war relics of old guns, etc. Ice cream and cake and coffee for refreshments.

**Saturday, October 8:** Borrowed a bicycle and went down to Pontiac in the afternoon. Nothing much going on there except the usual Saturday crowd of farmers. In the morning we had a good practice of our Mandolin Club. Our foot ball game with Pontiac ended up with a row when the Pontiac team commenced slugging. A free fight was prevented by the faculty. One of our men had to have a doctor.

**Sunday, October 9:** A band concert in the grove this afternoon and a large crowd. Several old cadets came back to visit us. Our Chaplain, Rev. Burns, preached about Ian McClaren this morning and advised us to read his works.

**Monday, October 10:** Took a march around limits with our company this morning. Received a letter from Lena in the evening.

**Tuesday, October 11:** It rained at drill hour this morning so we old cadets did not have any drill. Received a letter from Pauline at noon thanking me for the pin and again apologizing for answering so soon.

**Wednesday, October 12:** No entry written.

**Thursday, October 13:** Old cadets had signaling for drill today by the Morse Telegraphic code and numbers. I was given a plebe mess and now sit at the head of the table as chief. Wrote a letter home before breakfast.

**Friday, October 14:** We started on signaling again today but it began to drizzle so we were dismissed. During Release from Quarters I sat over in the library with Hess listening to his stories. He is from Canada (Toronto) and once attended a school run just like the English schools.

**Saturday, October 15:** Our foot ball team played Jackson beating them with a score of something like 35-2. Rec.'d letter from home and the *Register*.

**Sunday, October, 16:** Passed inspection safely. Preacher told us that if we wished to succeed we must have no bad habits. Had a fair crowd out here in the afternoon for the Band Concert. Wrote to Lena and Pauline.

**Monday, October 17:** Had no drill today. All old cadets took an examination in Tactics at the morning drill hour. I think I passed pretty well for it was not hard.

**Tuesday, October 18 through Thursday, October 20:** No entries written.

**Friday, October 21:** Appointments came off this afternoon in the gymnasium and now I am highest ranking First Sergt. I am in Company "A"; I moved over in the 3rd Division and now room with Badger, the Senior Captain on the ground floor chief's room facing the lake. Lecture in Chapel in the evening by a man from Mess on the Warships of our Navy. Not excellent.

**Saturday, October 22:** No entry written.

**Sunday, October 23:** Passed inspection safely. Went to the Cadets Christian Association in the evening. In the morning Rev. Burns preached on the "Blues". Advised us never to give way to homesickness.

**Monday, October 24:** No entry written.

**Tuesday, October 25:** Letter from home this noon.

**Wednesday, October 26:** First snow of the season. Had a debate this morning. Topic: "Is Life in, the Country more beneficial to the young man than life in the city"? I had the negative and my side won. Am studying hard now. Chemistry more interesting. We are now taking up experiments on oxygen.

**Thursday, October 27:** Went down to Pontiac on a wheel this afternoon and bought a pair of patent leather shoes for \$7.00. Was pretty tired when I got back. Received a letter from home.

**Friday, October 28:** Had an informal hop in the mess hall this evening. Took a girl from Detroit, a Miss Spain whom Prof. Saunders asked me to look after. I danced about half the program and had a fair time. Took Miss Spain home over in Pine Lake and ate fudge on the lake shore till it got to be one o'clock. There were several other cadets and girls. Wore my chevrons for the first time.

**Saturday, October 29:** Pretty tired. Marks for the week pretty good -Geometry "E+", English "E", Chemistry "G+", Caesar "G-". Received the *Ovid Register* last night and read it to-day. Some of the cadets went to Detroit and got drunk. They were put in close arrest.

**Sunday, October 30:** Passed inspection safely. Went to sleep for a while in the afternoon. In the evening went up to the C.E. and thought it a very interesting meeting. The Rev. Mr. Burns did it. Topic: "Helpfulness". There were none of the customary long pauses and tedious waiting for voluntary speeches but things went off briskly.

**Monday, October 31:** No entry written.

## November 1898

**Tuesday, November 1:** Received a letter from Mama and Roy this noon.

**Wednesday, November 2:** Studied very hard all day. Worked about 3 hours on Caesar and prepared for a test in English on grammar and Addison & Steele.

**Thursday, November 3:** Passed "G+" in the test in English which was quite satisfactory. Most of the class were below that mark and some few got "E". Company drill in the morning. I am acting as guide of the battalion when we all march together generally. Wrote to Mama.

**Friday, November 4:** My new sword and new brass breast plate came to-day and they are fine. It is made by the Henderson & Arnes Co. of Kalamazoo, Mich.

**Saturday, November 5:** Went to Detroit. Met Lena. After dinner at Murrays, went to Whitneys and saw "Murder the Dame (or Dane?)", a thrilling melodrama. Went for supper at the Russell House Cafe and then we walked down to the depot and Lena started for Boston. The corps of cadets went to Detroit also to see a game between our team and Kenyon Mil. Acad. Our team was badly beaten.

**Sunday, November 6:** Got reported twice at inspection. Hard luck.

**Monday, November 7:** No entry written.

**Tuesday, November 8:** Letter from Pauline to-day.

**Wednesday, November 9:** No entry written.

**Thursday, November 10:** Had charge of the battalion at a.m. drill for a few minutes. Gave them manual of arms. Got along very well.

**Friday, November 11 through Monday, November 21:** No entries written.

**Tuesday, November 22:** Went into Detroit with the battalion to see *The Serenade* by the Bostonians. We had a special train. The play was fine and I enjoyed myself very much.

**Wednesday, November 23:** Started for Ovid at about 2:30 p.m. Gerard Ritan was on the train so we came on together. Roy was at the depot to meet us and then he walked up home with me. The house looked very pleasant and I was glad to arrive.

**Thursday, November 24:** Put on my cit.'s clothes to-day; went out and cleaned Dick. Roy came up to dinner of turkey, pumpkin pie, etc., which was the best I have tasted in a long while. In the afternoon we talked a while and went down town. I stayed at home in the evening.

**Friday, November 25:** Stayed at home all the morning. Took a walk with Roy in the afternoon. Started for school on the 6 o'clock train, Mama going to the train with me. Took the electric car out to school where I arrived at about 10 o'clock.

**Saturday, November 26:** Everyone was very sleepy to-day. In classes some went sound to sleep. Of course, no one knew anything, so the profs. were wise enough to do most of the talking. Stag dance in the mess hall this evening, but I did not feel like attending.

**Sunday, November 27:** Passed inspection safely this morning. Wrote to Lena, Mama and Pauline this afternoon.

**Monday, November 28 through Thursday, December 1:** No entries written.

## December 1898

**Friday, December 2:** Had an informal hop this evening. Badger was sick and could not go so - took his girl Miss Beth Corliss of Detroit. I liked her pretty well and had a much better time than before. Cake and ice cream for refreshments. It let out about 12 o'clock.

**Saturday, December 3:** Had to get up at 7 o'clock. Was invited down to McLaughlin's on Pine Lake, where the Detroit girls were staying. Badger, Needham and others went also. We had fudges and dates stuffed, and then took the girls over for the 4:30 car which they took for Detroit.

**Sunday, December 4 through Thursday, December 15:** No entries written.

**Friday, December 16:** Came to Ovid on a special at 12 to Chicago reaching here in Ovid on the 3 o'clock train. In the morning at Chapel, all the professors gave us a little farewell address and the Colonel also. He told what the M.M.A. had done. Won the championship of the Northwest in football. Divided honors with West Point at a competition drill in Washington taking first prize, etc.

**Saturday, December 17:** No entry written.

**Sunday, December 18:** Went to Church with Mama. Heard Dr. Martin preach a sermon on the Bible. His daughter Persis was home from Olivet, sat in front of us.

**Monday, December 19:** Wrote a letter to Lena to-day.

**Tuesday, December 20:** Roy called and we went down to the Baptist Y.P.S. at that church in the evening. He was elected Vice President. Saw Pauline get off the train just coming home from Olivet.

**Wednesday, December 21:** Bought a fountain pen at \$1.75 for Lena's Xmas present. Attended A. M. Eaton's funeral at the M.E. Church this afternoon. There were some fine floral pieces. The factory boys gave a wheel without a hub.

**Thursday, December 22:** Went with Lyman Whittemore out to DeWitt's swamp for an Xmas tree for the church. It rained and the trip was not very pleasant though had to be made.

**Friday, December 23:** A Christmas tree was held at our church. Sherbet and cake were served but Mr. Plunket forgot the dishes for our class so we were left out. Met Pauline and her friend Gertrude Robinson, who spends the vacation with her. Gave Pauline a book on the tree - "Penelope's Progress".

**Saturday, December 24:** Had a note from Pauline thanking me for the book and inviting me down to her house in the afternoon. Went and had a fair time. Sat around and talked. Had my presents in the evening. A fine bath robe and book *The Sorrows of Satan* from Mama.

**Sunday, December 25:** Went to Church and Sunday school. Took Pauline down to Katie Plunket's in the evening. Roy was there. We had a pleasant visit. Hattie is at home. We saw their presents and talked. We went to church but there was a union meeting and standing room was at a premium so did not stay.

**Monday, December 26:** Went over to Church with Roy, Harry Briggs, Gerard Ritan to hear the Juniors give an entertainment - "The Man Who Spoiled the Music". It was pretty good for such young children.

**Tuesday, December 27:** No entry written.

**Wednesday, December 28:** Went down to Martin's to a party. Had a fine time. Persis is all right. They drew everyone's silhouette and cut it out and rimmed them around the wall. Then we guessed who they were and Minnie Drake took first prize and Miss Whiloch the booby. Took Hattie Plunket to supper.

**Thursday, December 29:** Roy came up. We went downtown. Went hunting; tramped a long distance but were not rewarded with game. Only scared a partridge. Rode home 3 miles from the Burton swamp on a hand car.

**Friday, December 30:** Mr. Plunket gave a party to his Sunday school class - went. Had a pretty fair time. Took Pauline and Miss Robinson home. She is a nice girl.

**Saturday, December 31:** Roy came down in the morning. We went out to Woodworth's in the afternoon, skating a lot - had a fine time. Went to his house afterwards and was treated to some good cider. Mrs. Sutfin, his mother, said that one clove to the pint would keep cider sweet. It was not to be told all around.

**1899**

Put on glasses January 3, 1899, eyes tested at Smith's. Sturgeon Av., Detroit, Mich. Glasses \$6.00.



# Biography

WILMER CARLYLE HARRIS

OCTOBER 6. 1881 TO AUGUST 27. 1963

Wilmer was born in Ovid, Michigan. His father was William Folwell Harris {1818-1895}, who was born in Ovid, New York, in the beautiful Finger Lake area, where his family were early settlers. Wilmer remembered travelling to Ovid and nearby Romulus as a boy with his father, to visit relatives. He was fond of his father, and it was a blow to the 13-year-old when he died. In the summer of 1906, as a young man, Wilmer made a nostalgic trip back to Ovid and Romulus, followed by visits to Boston, Albany, New York, etc.

His mother was Isabel Martin Harris {1846-1922}. She was born in Caledonia, Shiawassee County, Michigan. She and William were married in the bride's home, The Parsonage, by her father, Reverend John Martin, a Baptist minister.

Wilmer's sister was Lena Harris Doty {1873-1933}. She was eight years older than Wilmer, and he remembered how well her beaux treated him when they called on her. Lena was very active in the DAR through our ancestor, Capt. Joseph Folwell. Lena married Wirt Doty of Detroit, and they had one child, Margaret de Folville Doty. Margaret recalled in later years how much she enjoyed her uncle Wilmer when she was a child, as he would play games with her. Margaret married Marcus Duffield, a writer for the "NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE". They had two children, Timothy and Katherine.

Wilmer's mother and sister were enthusiastic travellers here and abroad, and he sometimes accompanied them.

As a boy, Wilmer attended the Clay School in Detroit, and sang as a choirboy in Old Mariner's Episcopal Church there.

He attended the Michigan Military Academy in Orchard Lake, Michigan, near Pontiac in 1898. The Academy set high standards, and official Army reports credited it with being "the leading military institution of the country, outside of West Point."

During World War I, Wilmer's mother and sister thought that he should join the Army, which he did. He was a Private in his mid-30's, and it was not easy keeping up with 20-year-olds on long marches. Fortunately the war ended before he was shipped overseas.

Wilmer received his B.A. degree at the University of Chicago, and his Master's at the University of Michigan.

He worked at American Standard in Detroit until he became very ill with typhoid fever. After recovery, as he was not strong; his mother insisted he take up teaching. He received his Doctorate at the University of Chicago, where his thesis was on "The Public Life of Zachariah Chandler, 1851-1875", a Michigan Senator and politician.

An early position in 1905-1906 was a Brees Military Academy in Macon, Missouri, where he enjoyed the hilly country. In later years, in Athens, Ohio, he would build a house atop North Hill, overlooking Hocking Valley.

In 1913, he taught History at Grinnell College, in Grinnell, Iowa.

After that, Wilmer taught History at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He boarded with the Harrington family of whom he was very fond, at 1330 Forsyth Avenue.

In June 1919, he was interviewed in Columbus by President Howe of Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. He was offered \$2,300 to \$2,500 a year and accepted. He moved to Indianapolis soon after and boarded in Irvington, a suburb, at 5825 Julian Avenue, near Ellenberger Park.

The summer of 1919, Wilmer took the train to San Diego, California for a trip West and to visit Mary McDonald, whom he had met at a DAR party in Detroit during the previous Christmas holiday. She was in California for her asthma, and they fell in love there.

Upon his return from California, Wilmer bought Mary a platinum and diamond wedding ring at Arnold's Jewelry Store in Indianapolis, after showing it to Mary and her mother for approval during their visit to him. Afterwards he took them to lunch at the Washington Hotel. The couple were married December 27 1919, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Detroit. The bride and groom made their home at 48 North Bolton Avenue in Indianapolis. In the summer of 1920, they honeymooned in the British Isles, visiting cathedrals and historic sights.

Wilmer's last position was at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. After his death, his widow Mary established the "Wilmer C. Harris Scholarship Fund" at Ohio University in his memory for highly qualified history students, to further their education. She often received letters of appreciation from these students. Mary became a member of the Ohio University Trustees' Academy in connection with this. In October 1985, Elizabeth and George Coggill attended an enjoyable Trustees' Academy weekend in Athens, representing Mary. In her honor, they received recognition by the President of her generosity and a lovely glass bowl, handcrafted by an artist in the area.

As a relief for Mary's asthma, for several summers Wilmer drove Mary and the children from Athens to Seaside Heights, New Jersey, where we enjoyed our cottage by the ocean. Driving back and forth from Athens, Wilmer admired the fine farms in Pennsylvania and Ohio, which inspired him, after his retirement in 1937, to buy the farm in Pataskala, Ohio, 16 miles east of Columbus on Route 16. Wilmer also found time during his busy schedule at Ohio University to drive the family into Columbus for teeth-straightening, shopping, movies, etc.

Wilmer worked very hard in his Athens study to keep his class lectures fresh and up-to-date. He also took trips abroad to make them more interesting, so his classes were popular. In the summer of 1931, he joined a tour with John Haynes Holmes, a well-known Unitarian minister of the Community Church in New York City. Mary and the children remained in Paris. The tour visited London where they stayed at the Strand Palace Hotel. They visited the University of London, where he heard a speech by Prime Minister Ramsey McDonald, Lambeth Palace, a Winemaker's Guild, and the Knights of St. John, etc. Russia was next, where they visited a collective farm. The tour stayed at the Grand Hotel in Moscow and the Hotel Europa in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) where Wilmer happened to see the poet, George Bernard Shaw in the lobby. The tour also took him to Poland where he brought back native Polish costumes to little Charlotte and Elizabeth. He brought Joe a fez and a wooden ball and stick.

In June 1935, he travelled to Italy, Egypt, the Holy Land, Iraq and Iran. He stayed at the Metropolitan Hotel in Cairo. Charlotte remembers her father giving a talk on this trip at Camp Interlochen in Traverse

City, Michigan, which was very well received by the whole camp. He brought Charlotte a mother-of-pearl- covered New Testament from the Holy Land and a leather purse to Elizabeth from Egypt, plus a pink and silver gown worn in the harem.

Wilmer was President of the Ohio Teachers' Association and Managing Editor of "Ohio Teacher Magazine", as well as Head of Ohio University's History Department.

For several summers, Wilmer drove his children to Camp Interlochen and also to their grandfather McDonald's farm in Ypsilanti, Michigan. He took Elizabeth to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, where they saw Sally Rand, the famous fan dancer of that era. Another time, he took Joe and Charlotte to Ann Arbor to see the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge Assembly Line and Henry Ford's Greenfield Village. So, in spite of a busy schedule and often being tired, he took time for his family.

Wilmer most ably took care of the family's finances. It was a special interest for him. He studied his investments carefully, enjoyed following the stock market and successfully invested in it. His family gratefully appreciate his efforts and talents. If circumstances had been different, Wilmer would have liked to to have gone into banking or business.

Wilmer's farm, purchased in June 1937 after his retirement, was a former County fair grounds with a small race track around a little lake, a grove of trees behind the farm house, and a large dairy barn. It consisted of 125 acres. Wilmer managed a real farm with its herd of Guernsey cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks and a fine team of matched purebred Percheron (Ted and Fred) horses, who came in second in an Ohio State Fair pulling contest. There was also our mare, Brownie. Our pets were Buck, our pony, Suzie, our dog, and Flossie and numerous cats.

Wilmer studied farm journals. He became very knowledgeable about the latest farming methods, and the farm prospered.

However, at the beginning of World War II, farm help was scarce and Mary's asthma became life-threatening. So reluctantly, Wilmer decided to sell the farm in 1943. He, Mary, Joe and Charlotte moved to Clearwater, Florida and then to St. Petersburg. The last move was to Gulf port, Mississippi in 1948 to 3815 West Beach.

Wilmer and Mary were to spend 15 years together in Gulf port. They enjoyed their pleasant home overlooking the Gulf. Wilmer thought it one of the most pleasant places he had lived.

On August 27, 1963, Wilmer suddenly died in his home of a cerebral hemorrhage and was buried in the Harris family plot in Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkely, Michigan, near Detroit. He was joined there by his wife Mary, in 1989, and by his son-in-law, George Coggill in 1988.

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ELIZABETH HARRIS COGGILL  
1995