

Martin Anthony Schuster's

"The Spanish-American War"

By Martin Anthony Schuster of the 6th Missouri Infantry, Co. A as reported in his "Private Book."
Contributed by his great-granddaughter, Patricia Meis

General:

This is an account of the experiences of the 6th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, Company A, as seen through the eyes of one man. His account covers the period of the Spanish American War and the U.S. occupation of Cuba.

History of the 6th Missouri Volunteer Infantry:

The unit was organized under President McKinley's second call for volunteers on May 25, 1898. Between July 20 and August 6, the unit was mustered into service at the Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. At the time of mustering in, the unit consisted of twenty-seven officers and 1,265 enlisted men. The unit left St. Louis on August 11 and 12 in three sections, bound for Camp Cuba Libre, near Jacksonville, Florida. The unit arrived on August 15. The unit was at Camp Cuba Libre until November 7, when it left by train for Camp Onward in Savannah, Georgia. On December 21, the unit boarded the transports OBDAM (1st battalion) and ROUMANIAN (2nd and 3rd battalions) for the journey to Havana, Cuba. From Havana, the unit marched to Camp Columbia-Quemados, Mariano, Cuba.

From February 20 to 27, 1899, the unit was engaged in a "practice march." On April 8, 1899, the unit boarded the Ward Line Steamer HAVANA for the journey back to the United States, arriving on April 10, 1899. As the fear of disease was ever-present, the unit was quarantined on Daufuskie Island until April 16. The unit went into camp at Savannah, where it remained until its muster-out on May 10, 1899.

At mustering out, the unit consisted of fifty-three officers and 1,357 enlisted men. During its term of service, the 6th Missouri lost one officer and twenty-three enlisted men who died of disease. One enlisted man died as the result of an accident, one was court-martialed, twenty-four deserted, and thirty-two were discharged on disability.

Brief Biography of Martin Anthony Schuster:

Martin Anthony Schuster was born on February 4, 1871. He enlisted with the Missouri State Guard and then was mustered into U.S. Service Co. A, of the 6th Missouri Volunteer Infantry in June of 1898. He survived Typhoid Fever before going to Cuba as part of the U.S. occupation. He received his discharge papers

and arrived home in Missouri on February 13, 1899. He married Anna Margaret Schubert on January 16, 1900. The couple had two children, Glessie Louise Schuster and Jerome Schuster. Anna died the 20th of June 1939 and Martin died on February 9, 1952.



Mr. Schuster's Diary:

February 15, 1898-Battleship Maine was blown up.

April 21, 1898-Spanish-American War was declared.

May 1, 1898-Admiral Dewey destroyed Spanish fleet at Manila Harbor.

1898-Enlistment & Army Life

June 13 - Signed to enlist in Co. A.

June 15 to July 1-Drilling 2 hours every day in hall and on streets of Brookfield, Mo.

July 2 - Enlisted in Missouri State Guard.

July 2 to July 11-Drilling every day.

July 11 - Left Brookfield for Jefferson Barracks on 3 special cars. Brookfield people gave great sendoff. Arrived at Jefferson Barracks July 11 10:30 p.m. Marched out to our camp in weeds 5 feet high & wet, where we had to sleep first night.

July 12 - 2 hours drill in weeds.

July 13 - Put up tents for Co. M besides drill.

July 14 -15-16-17-18-19 - Three hours drill.

July 17 - Two of our men deserted and two men, Roberts & Robertson, went to town and got full & forgot to come back. I had loaned money to each & it never was returned.

July 20 - 6th Missouri Volunteer Infantry mustered into U. S. service Co. A, had 98 men.

July 21 - 22 - Drill 3 hours in square & one hour in company.

July 20-All noncommissioned officers appointed, myself a corporal in Co.

July 23-Camp inspection, no drill.

July 24 - Sunday, got pass from 7 a.m. Sunday to 2 a.m. Monday & went to Union Station, from there to Hermann, Mo. on visit to folks to say goodbye. Arrived at camp 12:40 a.m. Monday.

July 25 - 4 hours drill, heard we were to start soon for San Francisco, Cal.

July 25 to August 10 - Drilling 4 hours every day except Saturday and Sundays.

July 26-Received our guns and belts, the old Springfield.

July 23-We got our first uniforms.

July 29 - I was first time on guard, rain all night.

August 2 - Presentation of flags to 6th Missouri.

August 11-We received our first pay.

August 11 5:30 p.m. - Broke camp and got ready for train to take us to Jacksonville, Fla. Cars did not come until July [meant August] 12, 5 a.m. Night was very cold and damp. Train left barracks 8:20 a.m. August 12 over the Iron Mountain going south through Missouri all the way. People came to depot and gave us baskets filled with eating, and farmers drove their wagons along the track and pitched in watermelons.

At Columbus, Ky., we crossed the Mississippi River and layed over from 6:30 to 11 p.m. when we changed cars. From there we had sleeping cars. That night & next day we passed through Kentucky and into Mississippi. At Tupelo, Miss., we stopped off for a short drill up & down the streets.

Next day we passed through Alabama, where we saw the first troop of wild hogs. They carried nearly train & all of us away. Then through the finest pine country and into Georgia where country is all level and large cotton fields. Lots of fine pine the only wood there.

August 15 - Arrived at Jacksonville, Fla. at 9 a.m. We went to our camping grounds. Set up our tents and rested. Scott Burger thought pineapples grew on pine trees and therefore thought there should be lots of them on account all trees were pine trees.

August 17 - We started to drill again in good earnest.

August 18 -19-20-21-5 hours drill daily.

August 23 - Got pass & went to Jacksonville to look around.

August 24 - Corporal Singleton was arrested for mutiny and was reduced two ranks.

August 25 - Drill & rain all mixed up.

August 26 - 3 hours drill. Rain again.

August 25 - 4th Illinois started to rebel and tried to break out of camp. Half or nearly all of Co. A 6th Missouri had to go on extra guard. I was detailed as Corporal of Special Guard around camp and had to take care of all. Three relieves, 36 men in all.

August 26 - Singleton released from guard house.

August 27 - 3 more Corporals lost their stripes, Cpl. Hurst, Stark, & Chapman.

August 28 - Singleton again arrested. Captain Goldman told me to arrest Singleton and take to guard house. Obanon [O'Bannon?] & Hart got into fight. I placed them under arrest also.

Jacksonville Camp Life

August 29 - First trial or hearing of evidence in Singleton trial. Afternoon we had Brigade Review at Panama Park.

August 30 - Drill & rain.

August 31 - Squad drill. Rain afternoon.

September 1 - Drill forenoon. Afternoon went out for rifle practice & rifle range. Singleton set free. American Tobacco Co. distributed 15 oz. worth tobacco to each soldier.

September 2 - Drill in Battalion formation. Charges & retreats.

September 3 - Inspection drill by regiment review and battle.

September 4 - Got passes and went to town with some boys and had my picture taken.

September 5 - Squad drill. Battalion drill. Street drill & regimental review in afternoon.

September 5 - Rope pulling match between Co. M & A Co. A winners best 2 out of 3.

September 6 - Drill & rain like always. Rope pulling between Co. B & G Co. B wins best 2 out of 3.

September 7 - Drill, rain, and orders to move camp.

September 8 - Drills in sections & battalions. Hot air about moving camp.

Panama Park Camp Grounds

September 9 - Regimental drill & review at large grounds.

September 10 - Inspection. No drill. All kinds of sports.

September 11, Sunday-Myself and several other boys, Gus Burns among, went on a steamer down the St. Johns River for a pleasure trip. Very nice scenery. Saw old Spanish fort, also St. Johns [masked?] battery & fort and stopped off at Mayport. Saw lighthouse and gathered lots of shells. On trip back our ship broke and we had to get off and walk a ways, then we got on another steamer and got back all OK except that Private Barr got full.

September 12 - Company drill & rain.

September 13 - Drill, battalion formation.

September 14 - The hottest, driest, & darndest drill we ever had. We started out at 7 a.m. and had to drill steady till 11 a.m. First Major Dickenson commanded, then Captain Goldman. When he was tired Captain Healey commanded. All took a hand at it. It was only good for the officers as it was only different alignments. Several men fell out. The hot sun and hot sand was terrible.

September 15 - Another long drill. After that we had a ball game, Team 6th Missouri & 4th Illinois. 4th Illinois won 6 to 0.

Camp Cuba Libre-Jacksonville, Fla.

September 15 - Kirkpatrick & Mettler released from guard house.

September 16 - Long drill. Hot day & rain.

September 17 - Inspection & rifle practice at rifle range. I kept tally for Co. My score was 21, best score was 24.

September 17-Rose & Mettler deserted.

September 18, Sunday-Worked nearly all day getting names signed on clothing list at 3rd Division Hospital.

September 19 - Drill, battle formations 4 hours on large grounds.

September 20 - Change of orders of the day: Roll call 6:15, mess 6:30, fatigue 7:00, sick call 7:05, drill 8 to 10 a.m., guard mount 3:30 p.m., regimental parade 3:45 p.m.

September 21 - Drill & parade & rain.

September 22 - No drill. Rain. Review afternoon & went to St. Augustine, Fla. for sightseeing. Had lots of fun. Was in old Spanish Fort [Marrion?] at old city gates, at oldest house in U.S., was on small [porge?], was at barracks and all over town. Bought some nice pictures. Some of Co. A went on excursion down the river.

September 23 - Camp inspection by Gen. Alger.

Panama Park-Jacksonville, Fla.

September 23 - Inspection of camp and general cleaning up around camp so it looks nice when the general comes. 3:30 I went on guard for 24 hours but had to stay on 4 hours overtime on account the [heeb much?] inspection of Gen. Alger.

September 25 - Alger drove in fine carriage along main road around camp. 3:20 division review.

September 26 - No drill for Co. A. Private Busby died 7 a.m. 9 men from 6th Missouri are taken to 3rd Division hospital.

September 27 - Boys all want to go back to Jefferson Barracks. 2 hours drill & review. Lieutenant West was sick for 4 days and was taken to hospital today. We were to move to St. Augustine, Fla. Sgt. [Wreim?] returned from trip there. He reports wagon road very bad and no water to drink for about 28 miles.

September 28 - Maior Dickenson starts for Washington to have regiment moved.

September 29 - Nearly everyone sick. Only about 30 men able for duty.

Camp Cuba Libre-Jacksonville, Fla.

September 29 - Very little drill. All companies are nearly 2/3 sick.

September 30 - Signed payroll & went through muster roll. No drill. Report that Mettler is arrested & taken to Fort Leavenworth. Capt. Goldman is acting Major of 2nd Battalion.

October 1 - Inspection of arms & quarters. 6 men went to St. Augustine. 3 men taken to division hospital. Detail of garrison & Illinois for nurses.

October 2 Sunday morning woke up, found myself laying in water. Rain & storm all night. Sunday morning cooks could not get to kitchen for water & storm. Several tents blew down. Storm blows about 60 miles per hour and it is pouring down. Not a man has a dry stitch of clothes. Our tent is going down so I had to fix it. Captain's tent went down. All is wet. Trees are breaking down. Everybody wants to go back home. Report is we are to start for home soon.

October 3 - Storm lasted 42 hours. Now sun is shining nicely and we have short drill. No review. One of the band men died.

Camp Cuba Libre-Panama Park

October 4 - Battalion & regimental drill review and rain. All got wet. No news but lots of hot air, going home.

October 5 - Drill, morning 2 hours, afternoon 1 hour and review.

October 6 - Drill and extended order changes.

October 7 - Asked Lt. Millburn to be relieved from dress parade but he said we would be exceeding his authority. I fell in line, then he came and told me to fall out, but then I did not want to.

October 8 - Saturday inspection. I fell in at lower end back rank. Lt. Millburn inspection. Said my gun was always in good condition. He knew he did wrong. All or nearly all the boys went to town. I felt too sick to go.

2:30 p.m.-I am the only corporal in camp and I had to go on guard mount but was nearly too sick to stand up. Got relieved at 7:30 p.m. by Corporal [Brummley?]. I went straight to A Regt. hospital. My fever was then 102 2/5. Got a few quinine pills, went to my tent but could not sleep all night.

3rd Division Hospital-Jacksonville, Fla.

October 9 - Went to hospital. Fever 104 1/2. Dr. Lieberman ordered me to be sent to division hospital but I layed there all day with no medicine. Evening a few quinine pills.

October 10 - Fever 103 3/5. Ordered again to be taken to division hospital and gave Sgt. [Murry?] a chackin up for not sending me the day before.

4 p.m. - Fever 104 2/5. Felt very bad. No medicine and no attendant. Cpl. Burns in bed next to me.

7 p.m.-Called for priest, then Dr. Lieberman called to see me. Then Dr. Baudway and Capt. Goldman all tried to keep me from sending for a priest, but Cpl. Burns advised me to send and I did.

10 p.m. - Father Sullivan and another father called and gave me all attention and last sacraments. I had about given up all hopes.

October 11 - Fever still worse and again ordered to division hospital and at 11 a.m. was taken there. I called for Corporal Wright and while being in wagon wrote a few lines with lead pencil to Mother and also sent \$40.00 which I gave to Cpl. Wright to tend to.

11:30 - Arrived at division hospital. Was taken to Ward 25 but was taken out to Ward 9 where the Sisters were nurses. They gave me a cold drink at first, then Dr. Brooks came and tended to me, pronounced Typhoid Fever 104 1/2. Priest called ["called" believed to mean "visited" here & in following references].

October 12 - Fever is getting worse.

October 13 - Still worse. Priest called.

October 14 - Fever 105 2/5. Priest called.

October 15 - Fever 105 1/5 all day.

October 16 - Fever 106 2/5, highest point reached. Ice on my head from 2 p.m. to 7 a.m. October 17. Ice baths every 2 hours.

October 17 - Felt easier. Priest called. Also Burns, Wright, Lane, Monroe.

October 18 - Fever 102 3/5. Had a small glass of milk, first in 3 days.

October 19 - Fever less. Milk diet.

October 20 - Felt much better. Got very good care. Sister wrote a letter for me to my sister Mary and Mother. I signed my name. All I could do.

October 21 - I had 6 letters under my head from few days before. Had not read them for I was too weak.

October 22 - Little better. Man next to me died. Also Ramm of Company A died.

October 23 - Another man in my ward died and was taken to Dead House.

October 24 - Fever less. Got 3 letters.

October 25 - One glass milk, one glass beef tea.

October 26-Wright and lots of boys called. Millburn called. Lt. West is across in a ward not far from me.

October 27-Feel much better. Got my overcoat. Was taken over to another ward where Lt. Chapman was.

Josiah Simpson Hospital-Fort Monroe, Va.

October 27 - Dr. came to examine me and passed me to be sent on train to Josiah Simpson Hospital.

October 28, 3 p.m.-Little fever. Was carried on the train. Left Jacksonville for Fort Monroe at 5:30 p.m.

October 29 - Fever again 102. One glass milk.

October 30, Sunday morning-Arrived at Fort Monroe, carried into Ward No. 7. First thing fresh bath. 3 days more on milk only.

Nurses at Ward No. 7 Miss Wood, Miss Shaw, Miss Sudcliff, Miss Auldstub.

November 2 - One boiled egg and milk.

November 3 - Wrote the first letter since I took sick and got up a little.

November 4 - Wrote 4 letters and was up half a day.

November 5-6-7-Up all day.

November 8 - Ate at table in ward. Rain, cold weather.

November 9 - First time out of ward. Walked to [get my pep?] and nurse Miss Sudcliff took my picture with Kodak.

November 10 - First time ate a light diet hot.

November 11 - Another train of sick soldiers. Several of Co. A on train. Also Lt. West, Obannon, Hurst, Treepier, Shafer, James. Total 142 on train.

November 12 - About 780 soldiers at this hospital. Cold weather.

November 13 - Went to barber shop for shave.

November 14 - Went to heavy diet dining.

November 15 - Heard we are going to Cuba.

November 16 - Shafer, Hurst & James went back to regiment.

November 17 - Cold, rain.

November 18 - Regulars get paid.

November 19 - We all get paid. Nice weather.

November 20 - Went to chapel for service. Episcopal preacher there.

November 21 - Went first time out of hospital grounds. Went to Newport News. Stopped off at Hampton & Phoebus. Bought satchel [and?] box cigars.

November 22 - Called for 30-day furlough but could not get it.

November 23 - Very much rain & cold. Some got furloughs.

November 24 - Cold rain & snow mixed. Had a good turkey dinner.

November 25 - Letter to Cpl. Wright.

November 26 - Cold. Went to Hampton.

November 27 - Played tricks on some boys.

November 28 - Spain signed terms of peace.

November 29 - Cold, clear.

November 30 - Muster roll call for all.

December 1 - Went to Old Point Comfort and went on Battleship New York and had a fine time. Went all through the ship, then came over to [Phoebuss?] and had tintypes taken.

December 2 - News: 2nd Division is going to Cuba.

December 3 - Cold, rain storm, real cold at night.

December 4, Sunday-Stayed at ward.

December 5 - Went to Hampton, bought box of cigars, pocket knife, papers, and then reported for duty.

December 6 - At ward. Cold.

December 7 - Nice weather. Some boys go home.

December 8 - Went to Hampton, had pictures taken.

December 9 - Loaned money to Chapman.

December 10 - Put application for discharge.

December 11 - Went to chapel for service, 10:30. Congressman Landes of Indiana called at ward. I got acquainted with him. Gave him a note to Champ Clark. They are good friends together.

December 12-13-14-At ward. Rain.

December 15 - Went to Hampton.

December 16 - Sleet, rain, & snow.

December 17 - Payday at hospital. Chapman draws private's pay.

December 18 - Ed Knight paid me 200 dollars.

December 19 - Chapman & myself went to Newport News. Had several drinks. Went to a theater, then went out again and Chapman was run in by a cop but was released. The next day Clover & Miner got run in for trying to drink up all whiskey and shooting holes in the air. Were taken to Hampton and fined \$24.00 & 15 days each.

December 20 - Chapman had trial but got dismissed.

December 21-Went to Hampton to get Clover out but no success.

Camp Onward-Savannah, Ga.

December 22 - Lt. West went on 60-day furlough.

December 23 - Reported again for duty. Evening-Ordered to Savannah. 7 p.m. started from Old Point Comfort for Norfolk, Va. in charge of 6 men. Arrived at Norfolk 9 p.m. Stayed there till 12:15 a.m. Went all over town. Started from there

to Pennies Point on steamer and from there on railroad. 6th Missouri Donahue Co. B in my lot. [?]

December 24 - Traveled through North & South Carolina and Georgia. Arrived at Savannah, Ga. at 9:40 p.m. December 24. Started for camp but heard 6th Missouri had gone so we went to hotel overnight December 24. Stopped at Liberty House. Reported adjutant next morning. Took streetcar for old campgrounds of 6th Missouri, then came back to Provost Headquarters where we stayed till sailing.

December 25, Xmas-Went to church 3 times.

Provost Headquarters, On Guard at Savannah, Ga.

December 26 - Walked all over the city of Savannah, Ga. It has very nice large streets. Some are paved with bricks. Its population is about 65,000, 30,000 white and 35,000 colored. Has lots of saloons and brewery but many low nigger dives.

December 27 - I took a corporal's place in Provost Headquarters so he can go to theater. Had lots of fun while on duty. One prisoner of the 9th Illinois Regiment was brought in. He had 2 one-gallon jugs and 2 bottles of good port wine and 2 bottles of whiskey and 10 cents in pocket. We all helped ourselves.

December 28-Transport Chester sailed today but refused to take us along. Frank [?]luman came along today from hospital. He is the only one of Co. A 6th Missouri here with me. I am advancing money so he can get something fit to eat and sleep in a good bed. He is very weak from sickness.

December 29-Went about town again, saw more.

Savannah, Ga.-Getting Ready to Sail

December 29 -[More] cotton in bales here ready to be shipped than I ever seen in my life. Savannah is building a fine post office, all of which marble stone from its porch. President McKinley viewed the soldiers parade.

December 30 - Got on board of transport Obdam. Large vessel, 420 feet long. 1st Battalion of 3rd Nebraska and Headquarters and 60-odd men from other regiments all formed in line at Provost Headquarters and marched down to dock where we all piled in our ship through a mass of howling people, men, women, and children, all wishing us good speed to Cuba.

3:40 p.m.-Left dock down the Savannah River. A little tugboat is pulling the Obdam by a heavy rope. The river is so narrow at places that the tug has to zigzag from one side to the other, pulling and puffing to get through. All along down on the right side all mills & factories are blasting their whistles as far as they can see us. About 10 miles below Savannah the Obdam came near running

into the left bank of the river and the little tug had all she could do to hold her back. Sometimes the tug was nearly under water.

Well at last we are out in the open ocean. All is low swamp land on both sides of river. We are now under our own steam, the tug is returning. It's now 6 p.m. and we are having our supper, corned beef & hardtack & coffee. Every man got a hammock to sleep in. I got mine next to stairway [outer?] row. All is very nice and everyone seems to enjoy.

9 p.m.-Tattoo & Taps. All go to their hammocks, but lots of the boys are getting sick. 10 p.m.-I feel very bad. I got up and went up on deck to middle of ship and sat down on floor. Took a little whiskey and lit a cigar and am getting to feel better. One Nebraska boy came along and groaned and kept wishing he was home and that he was dying. I had him sit down beside me and gave whiskey and cigar and so he is feeling better but still wishing for home.

December 31 - Well I woke up and feel fine. Sun is just coming up but we can see no more land. Nothing but the heavy water and the ship we are on. 7 a.m.-Had breakfast. Same thing. 9 a.m.-Lots of porpoises and jellyfish and flying fish. Porpoises are having a race with the ship. There are the nicest little sailfish but I can't get any.

10:30-Bought 5 meal tickets for \$1.25 so that I can get something [decent?] to eat. I can get the same food and at the same table when the officers eat. 3:30-Wind from south and a few waves. 4 p.m.-Sail ahead looks just like an eggshell. It must be about 30 miles. 6:30 p.m.-Miami, Fla. lighthouse in sight. 7 p.m.-Officers, doctors, nurses, and men all are on deck singing and having a real good time. It's nice and warm. Nothing like New Year's Eve in Missouri.

8 p.m. - Signaled to lighthouse and got answer by 4 skyrocket. Obdam answered with red, white, and blue lights. Miami is firing lots of fireworks. 9 p.m.-Now we are on the way 30 hours and seeing the last of the American coast for some time to come at least. So goodbye Sweetheart and all I love.

10 p.m.-Steamer passes us to east. Showed U. S. colors by lights. 10:30All go to sleep. I am feeling fine.

January 1, 1899 - All up and well. 6 a.m.-Can see just a little speck of Key West, Fla. So this is new year 1899. On water sun comes up nice and warm. 9:30 a.m.-Passed the Key West lighthouse and seen the last rock [riffles?] of coast of Florida. 10 a.m.-Steamer southwest of us. 12 o'clock New Year Dinner. Three kinds of meat, 2 kinds of pork and cold beef, potatoes, beets, bread, butter, coffee. All taste fine. 3:45-Three-mast ship in sight.

First Land Seen of Cuba

January 1 - Large clouds come over us and the wind blows very brisk. Water is getting rougher and it's starting to rain. We are now in the Gulf of Mexico. All men are sitting and lying on deck telling stories, while I am writing this sitting at the front point of the ship. The sun is hidden by the clouds, so it is very pleasant up here.

4:30 - First of Cuba land in sight, just a dim outline over the water, real dark grey. Also a steamer came in sight. 5:15 p.m.-Mountains of Cuba can be seen in 4 different directions. One to the southwest must be real high. 6 p.m.-Three-sail steamer passed us 1/2-mile to right coming from Havana. 6:30 p.m.-Light can be seen and a better outline of the lay of land. Light from Havana lighthouse. 6:50 p.m.-Can see light from Morro Castle. 7 p.m.-Morro Castle has searchlight on us. Water is very rough. We went around in a circle till the pilot came out in a little skiff-5 men with him-to pilot us in past Morro into the harbor. 8:15-Passed under Morro and very slowly went into harbor. 9:20-Cast anchor opposite the old wreck of the Battleship Maine. Since we are in harbor it seems much warmer. 9:50-All go to sleep. Lots of hurrahs from shore.

January 2. 6 a.m.-All up, breakfast. Ship pulls up to dock. First thing we see on shore is lots of timothy hay & provisions and soldiers all over it and mules & wagons all mixed up together. Four other transports are here unloading. The old wreck looks old and dreary. Lots of old stone forts can be seen from harbor and blockhouses can be seen on every hill around harbor. 9:15-Ready to get off ship. Cubans and Spaniards fetch lemons & oranges to us. The last breakfast on ship was not much. The boys that could not buy their meals got 1 hardtack and coffee.

Passing through Havana - Going Out to Camp Columbia

10:15-All are off from ship. There are 3 U. S. warships in harbor. I went over to wagons and found some of our boys on guard there. I rode out to camp on a hay wagon, 12 miles west of Havana to Camp Columbia. First we came through very narrow streets with no sidewalks. Then the streets are better and nicer houses but the fine gardens beat all we ever have at home. 3:30-Got out to camp and all the boys were glad to see me and all were enjoying life. Went to see Capt. Goldman and Lt. Millburn. West was not there yet.

January 3 - Got up at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast-Bacon, meal, tomatoes, sugar, hardtack, and coffee. I did not have to drill for the first few days. Our camp is as nicely located as one can wish for. Only water is very scarce here but that will soon be overcome as we are getting water pipes laid now for it.

From our camp west we can see a mountain, very high, about 18 miles, and one still farther, about 32 miles. The ocean we can see. It's about 4 miles down to shore, and camp is located between the main military paved road and the railroad. Trains are running every hour, regular rattletraps, and the engines don't

hardly pull 3 cars. The bands are playing in all corners. Our drill ground is small, right at the edge of Marianao, a town of about 9,000 or 10,000 inhabitants.

4:30 - Watching dress parade. Boys are all shooting craps and playing cards. I wrote 4 letters home and got 5 letters from friends.

January 4-5-6-7-8-About the same thing every day. I got a pass to go to town, as did about 30 men from Co. A. Some got drunk on Cuban honeyjack and landed in guardhouse. Sergeant Jimmie Pettyjohn & myself went together and while in Marianao seen some of the boys in a fight, all drunk. [Ahlard?], [Bereuter?], J. F. Smith, Orosetto and several others all fighting. All would have gone to guardhouse but for us. We intervened with the lieutenant of the guard. We tried hard to get all to go home but with no success, so 5 had to go to the guardhouse. Sayers did not come home until next morning.

January 8 - Myself and 5 others are going to church. Priest spoke in Spanish. From church we went to the Hotel Orienta and ate our dinner, a good dinner for 25 cents each. Then we walked around, but there was nothing going on but cock-fighting.

January 9 - Rained so much that all is wet and we can't hardly get to our kitchen.

January 10 - Lieutenant Millburn goes to Havana on duty with 10th U. S. Infantry. 2nd Battalion went bathing today. Collected \$4.00 from boys for Y.M.C.A. tent. I feel very bad from that 8-mile walk to the beach.

January 11 - Formation drill in field.

January 12 - Captain asked Corporals Wright and Lamme to resign for neglect of duty, 2 men missing from each of their squads, not in line for roll call. They promptly resigned.

January 13 - Guard drill. Lamme was to post guard No. 1 but did not know, so captain made him go back in ranks. Something new every day.

January 14 - Lots of boys got passes and went to town. I stayed home intending to rest, but at 1 p.m. I was called out to take charge of 14 men and 3 wagons and go to Marianao to haul lumber for tent floors and had to work them men till 8 p.m. and had all kinds of trouble to watch so none of the men skipped off.

January 15 - Boys could not get passes without they repeat General Orders.

January 16 - Received 4 letters, one from doctor that Mother was very sick.

January 17 - Went to beach under Capt. Haley who let us go chase up and - join the beach until lots of the boys simply refused to go farther. All were tired. I had to fall out of ranks on account of the heat and came home later.

January 18 - Formed in firing line over in field and made a charge on a house up on a high hill about 1 1/2 miles distant, Capt. Haley commanding firing line while making charge up the hill. Four boys were overcome by heat and one died from the effects of it.

January 19 and 20 - Little drill for it rained most the time.

January 20 - Newton, [Crolee?], & Brown send in an application for discharge by mail.

January 21 - Newton wrote out application for the boys and got himself and others in trouble. Capt. Goldman is hopping mad and after evening roll call called me up to his tent. All the boys thought I would lose my stripes but they got fooled. Capt. Asked me whether I was in with the boys to sign up those papers. I said yes I have signed one of them myself. Then he said it was reported to him that I urged all the boys to do so, and whether I did not know it was not right to deny the truth of the report, and then told him what I had done all day and how I came to sign the paper and that I did not urge anyone at all. Then I was excused. 65 of the boys had signed the paper. Newton took all of them to Capt., but Capt. refused to receive them and said all the boys must hand in their own application, so they did. Corporal [Boyer?], [Freepun?], & [Crumley?] had to resign, and you can hear all kinds of talk among the boys.

Short of Clothing List-Capt. Goldman in Trouble

January 21 - Capt. Goldman told J. R. Monroe that he lost a clothing schedule and if he don't find it he will have to pay \$300.00 out of his pockets, but he made out a new list and had all the boys give in on a list what they drew in last drawing. He saved himself through boys' ignorance.

January 22, Sunday-2nd Battalion, 6th Missouri Co. A. in it, starts for a march - through the western part of Cuba out as far as San Antonio de los Bafios. Will stay out about 8 or 10 days. 8:40 Sunday morning-We start under fine weather out to the military road, then west through Marianao over bridge and into fine farming country. Lots of fine coconut trees, banana patches and pineapple gardens. Marched 7 miles. 12 noon-We rest for our dinner of hardtack & coffee beside an old ruin of a Spanish farmhouse. The road is as good as any in the U.S. After resting for one hour we started on west on the same road. All along the road on either side were fine farmland but all the houses burned down, which at one time must have been fine large houses with stone walls all around the house 3 feet thick and from 6 to 10 feet high and on top set in mortar were broken pieces of bottles & sharp points of glass and large iron gates in front of the houses. All the

fences we seen were of rock. Lump rock as big as man's head and some smaller. All set tied together. The fences are all 4 feet high and 2 feet thick and some look like if they had been set up several hundred years ago.

Well we rested twice in our afternoon march and covered in all today about 17 miles. 4 p.m.-We came through a town of about 1,000 population. At one time this town had over 3,000 pop. but the Spanish soldiers burned all the large buildings and killed the Cubans. Close around this town ([Caisinitos?]) we could see 4 Spanish blockhouses, 3 right close to the road, all shot full of holes by Cubans. 4:25 p.m.-We pitched our camp 1/2mile from town. Our night's camping ground is in a field. Nearby are banana bunches and lots of coconut trees. There is also a well on the ground but the water is very bad and warm. I with my squad are on detail to get wood for cooking, but we are having a hard time finding anything that will burn.

After supper we went back and took a look at the town, which was nothing but ruins, and the Cubans had built up huts of palmetto leaves and coco leaves where they lived in from far. Those huts look like haystacks. After we came back some of us that had no supper ate cold pancakes and coffee, and we also had bought us some sardines and bread. After that we all played cards or lay down in the grass, and as we only had 1/2 candle to a tent we could not have light very long. Myself with two others were in a tent together but had to change about smoking to keep mosquitos out of the tent and then they nearly ate us up.

January 23 - All got up at 5 o'clock very much refreshed after our night's rest and ready for a 15 to 20-mile hike, but some of the boys had been up all night in town and got dead drunk on cooneyacht [cognac?] and had a bad headache and puked all over themselves and swore.

7 a.m. - We started on the 2nd day hike toward the high mountains with the band playing. Road was good and everyone was happy. We passed some more of very fine land and more burned houses. 9:15-We came to a town by name Puerto del Mairial, about 7,000 population. It was in fair condition. We made a short stop, then we went on. 3 [?] miles further we came to a town about 1 mile east from the mountains by name of Toledo. That is where the fine military road stopped. From there we turned south into a small narrow washed-out road, big rocks in the way, so that our wagons could not get over them.

1/2-mile west of Toledo is the place where Cuban General Maceo had taken is position and let the Spanish advance into an open field, when he withdrew into the mountain passes and poured a hot rifle and cannon fire on the Spanish and exploded the mines he had laid in the field. The whole field was laid with dynamite mines and a large dynamite gun on top of the mountain fired shell after shell into Spanish ranks, so that the Spanish had to retire in disorder leaving about 4,200 men dead and wounded on the field. Another half mile further south

is where General Maceo met his own death a few months later by a trick played [on] him by his own doctor as is well known.

Well our road is bad and we have to help our wagons along, tear open rock fences so they can come through the fields. This was the most tiresome march we had. One place the road was so bad and narrow that we had to form in columns of twos to get through, turning south then west and so on for about 7 miles with high rock fences all grown over with vines and the hot sun beating down on us and going up a rocky hill. About 11:15 a.m. we came through a town by name of Palo de Cuba, about 800 population. When we were near the town we formed in columns of fours and, band playing, we marched through the town and all white, brown, and black people, men, women, and children, some dressed and some half-dressed and lots of boys and girls from 3 years to 15 years old with not a stitch of clothing them, all came out to the main street and followed on either side and back of us. It was something neither we nor they had ever seen. All were singing viva el Americano, viva el Cubanos. 1/2-mile beyond we stopped for a well-earned dinner.

In the Orange Grove-2nd Battalion 6th Missouri Volunteers Infantry

Our battalion turned in at a Cuban farmer's gate. His house stood back about 75 yards from from the road. The space in front of house he had in sweet potatoes but they were done taken up. Coconut trees gave us some shade where we stacked arms and cooks made arrangements to cook our dinner, which was coffee and pancakes. But here the boys cared little for dinner, for all took off for the orange grove to the right and back of the Cuban's house. There were at least 200 trees and every tree had an average of 5 bu. oranges, all ripe and the sweetest we had ever tasted. The old Cuban farmer told us to take all the oranges we want as they were no value to him, but not to step on the tobacco plants that were planted all through the grove. It was from there 10 miles to the nearest railroad station over bad road and at that place oranges were only worth 10 cents per bushel and the farmer had no way of hauling oranges so they went to waste. Well, our 360 men ate all they could and took about 20 bu. along on the wagons.

At about 1:15 p.m. we started our afternoon march, which was 10 miles, and at 4:30 p.m. we marched through San Antonio de los Baños. Our band playing, all men in good step in columns of fours, we marched through the main street and out at the other end, and at edge of town on a high hill we pitched our camp for a two-day rest. All men were tired, and after putting up our dog-tents none cared to go out into town that night and all took their well-earned rest after marching 19 miles over rough road.

I was called for guard duty as corporal of first relief and was out all night in a chilly rain. Our guardhouse was 2 of our wagons with a tarpaulin over them, but it was not needed for we had no prisoners. We had 8 guards, 2 on each side of

camp. Cubans stood around with mouths and eyes open to see us manage everything. Those little tents looked like a little white city. Cuban officers called on our officers.

January 24 - All got up early and after breakfast 9 a.m. guard mount, then nearly all the boys could go to town. All boys were well and therefore all were in good humor and all had money in their pockets which they were willing to exchange for all kinds of drinks, eating, and relics. I with Corporal Wright and several others started out to see the town. After walking around a while we stopped in a restaurant for our dinner, to which we drank several bottles of vino (wine) and then we started for the tobacco dry house. Cuban owner, he showed us all around in his house. There were 9 rooms about 12 X 20 feet, all filled with some green and some dry tobacco drying. He buys the tobacco green on stock [stalk?] from farmers and he dries it and sorts it and sells to the factories.

From there we went to a cigarette factory where we found about 100 men, women, and little girls all rolling cigarettes by hand. Most were girls of from 10 to 20 years and several old ladies about 65 to 70 years old. By 10 hours steady work they were able to make about 35 cents per day on average. The owner of the factory showed us all through the place and gave us each packages of cigarettes, one of each kind he was making, so that when we came out we each had about 8 packages.

From there we went to a school. There were about 50 children from 6 to 15 years old, some dressed very well and some very poor, and 3 or 4 without anything on, but all barefooted. The teachers were Spanish, [I] suppose man & wife, about 30 years old. When we came to the door the man invited us in and had all the children rise and salute us and told them at the same time that we were American soldiers that had liberated their country from Spanish rule. Then he unfolded a Cuban island map and showed us where all the big battles were fought and where our troops [landed?] first. We could talk very little Spanish and he very little English.



From there we went to a newspaper office where we were recieved very nice and they gave us each one of their extras of which I took some home with me for remembrance.

From there we walked out to the cemetery, but the gate was locked and we could have not got in but just at the time several Cubans came from the woods and brought a skeleton of a dead man they had found, and the keeper opened and

then we went in with them to look around. The graves were all in rows & numbered, about 5 feet deep and 30 inches wide of stone and cemented and stone corners with 4 iron rings, 2 on each end. In the back left-side corner was the boneyard, a place about 10 X 20 feet and 8 feet deep, half full of human bones. Graves are rented by the people, and when they quit paying rent the bones are taken out of the grave and thrown in the boneyard. Then the grave is made ready for the next one.

From there we again went through to the other end of town. There is a small creek running through the center of the town. The water is dammed up and let into a narrow stream which drives a water wheel which works a pump that carries the water into a large barrel where it is filtered and taken over into another barrel from where the town is supplied with water. From this place the stream runs a little further down, where it goes underground into a solid rock. A little further is a cave in where you can hear the water running but can't see it. That is the last seen or heard from the stream. Its origin is out in and from a mountain spring. If they had their water works above the town they would not have to filter it as the water is clear spring water, but it running through the whole length of town and people throwing things into it makes it dirty.

Eight blockhouses around the town. The town has about 15,000 population. All streets are decorated with American and Cuban flags, the stores are all overstocked with goods, and nearly all the boys bought something to take along home. If you call for a cigar they will hand you cigarettes. If you want a cigar you will have to call for a cigaro tabaco.

At 3-30 we went back to camp, as we have dress parade at 4 p.m. At dress parade there were lots of Cuban officers on little ponies to look on and several people and one rich Spaniard with his daughter, he on a large black horse and his daughter on a fine white horse. The Cubans say he is the richest man in Cuba. He is worth 16 million dollars. After dress parade the Cubans came along to camp and watched us eat our supper. While eating, 2 young Spanish ladies and an older lady and one man came over to where myself and Wright were sitting and started to speak to us but as we could not speak much Spanish it was no chance to lead conversation, but we could notice that they invited us to call at their house. Then they left and all the boys went to tents.

January 25 - A battalion of the Carolinas came in late last night in camp @e to us.

Visiting, a Spanish Family. Four Generations

January 25, Wednesday-Well, we went to town again and as good luck would have it we passed down a street and found the house where the Spanish people live that were out at camp last night. They invited us in, and as we had a man from Co. C with our crowd that could speak Spanish very well, we could get along right nice and had a very pleasant afternoon. There were four generations at the

house, one real old lady about 90 years old, then another lady about 55 or 60 years old and her two daughters, one of which was married to a Cuban officer and they had one child, a little cute girl about 5 years old.

The house was furnished in the richest style, fine carpets and furniture and a good piano. One of the ladies played and sang for us, very nice, all Spanish. Back of the house they had a fine garden with all kinds of flowers and fine plants and hammocks to rest in.

4 p.m.- Dress parade. The Carolinas joined us and that made a very nice lot of men, Missourians all dressed in their blue and the Carolinas all in brown (khaki), and it seemed everyone from the whole town was out to see us, for the whole hill was full of people dressed in their best. They had never seen a dress parade like this.

Well, in those two days the Missouri boys, officers and men, spent at least \$450.00 in American money in this town.

January 26, Thursday-Broke camp at 6:30 a.m. and going through corner of town, the band playing, all men in step. We are in a narrow road again, going east toward Havana. After marching 6 miles we came through a town by name of Llinanas, about 8,000 people, mostly Cubans, some nice stores. About 2 miles further east we came through another town by name Monicas, about 300 population. 1/4-mile further we stopped for dinner, which was bacon, hardtack, & coffee. From here we came through some fine farming land, lots of bananas.

After dinner we marched about 7 miles and came through Reglade de Parisa, about 4,000 population. Little further we came through a Spanish town by name of Santiago de las Vegas, population 9,000, most all Spaniards. 1/4-mile further we pitched our camp for the night, 3 p.m. Early supper and band and all go up to town. Band gives a concert to people. Spanish Singing Society sang for us. Met two old Spaniards that had been over in Florida U.S.A. They could speak some English and liked us very much. All came home to camp about 9 p.m. No parade, no drill.

January 27-Broke camp 7 a.m. Had rain all night. Everybody and every thing is wet. Most of us were laying in water all night but the sun is out good and hot and we will soon be dry. From here we have better road again going east. We see some fine residences and very fine black soil, the best land we seen so far in Cuba. Marching 5 miles we come to a town by name of [Rincan?], population 250, with a blockhouse at each end of town. Here is where we crossed the San Antonio Railroad. Capt. Goldman is sick and goes home on train. Lieutenant Grenshaw is in command of our company.

After marching 3 1/2 miles further we stop for dinner and at the same time pitch camp to stay overnight. From here we can look north and see a few tents on top

of the hill of Camp Columbia. It is about 7 miles across from here. The town close by is Colean, population about 275, only 3 small stores & shop. Looking east we can see the mounted hills. It looks only a little ways off but it's over 3 miles. After dinner we can all go down to the hills. Dinner too bad to eat, no sugar in coffee and no bread.

3 p.m. - Wright and myself start out together to see the hills. I bought 3 boxes sardines & bread, Wright some canned fruit and good water in our canteens so we will have a good supper on top of the highest hill.

4 p.m. - On top of the hill after a three-mile walk and up a very steep hill, so steep that you nearly have to hold yourself so you don't slide back. Nearly up, we came to barbed wire fencing drawn on posts 4 feet high, wires every which way, some loose, mostly drawn tight and about 20 feet broad all around the top of hill. After passing around to where the hill is joined to another we found an opening to go inside, where it is hollowed out and made into a cave, and rifle pits and room to mount cannons on top, which were taken away by Spanish.

After looking around we crossed over to the other hill, which was not mounted but nice and grassy where we sat down to eat our supper. It was nearly sundown. Oh, but the beautiful scenery. Right below us was Havana Harbor, across which we seen Havana all lit up by electric lights, and the nice cool breeze from the harbor below. Looking to the right or southeast we could count about 20 such round top hills like we were on, all mounted. To the south, far inland, we could see hilly and rocky country for about 20 miles. To the west and northwest we could see the mountains we had passed a few days ago, 32 miles from Havana or from the hill where we were then.

Words cannot describe my pleasure of that I have the chance to see all this. it is worth money to have a view of such sceneries, but from wherever you are looking down on Havana Harbor so peaceful you can always see the cause why we we have a chance to be here, it's the old wreck of the Battleship Maine, where so many young man lost his life. Well, of what we think and talk while we are sitting here, there is one thought. If we would have had to take Havana by force it would have cost us many lives.

January 28, Saturday - Now up and for home to our camp. 7 a.m.-We broke camp' and started east to Havana. Two miles further we come to a suburb, La Habana, about 4,000 population and blockhouses on top of every hill and in every hollow. The road is nice and broad. 10 a.m.-We come to the outskirts of Havana. We pass from one street into the other and Cubans are driving their carts alongside and past us and lots of people on the sides of the streets, all hollering Viva el Americanao & viva Cuba. 11 a.m.-Pass in review of General Lee, who is glad to see us look so well after making our march. Just then a heavy rain came up and we all started on a run for our camp a mile further. All of us got thoroughly wet before we rolled in our tents. I found 8 letters waiting for me after one week's

absence. Capt. Goldman was taken to Division Hospital. January 29-I will stay in camp and write some letters.

January 30 - Drill 8:30 to 10 a.m. Parade in afternoon.

January 31 - The greatest and last general review of the 7th Army Corps and some Regulars from Havana. About 28,000 men in line passed in review of General Lee and all his staff officers and some high officers from Havana Parade Ground east from our camp.

February 1 - Sergeant Wrenn told me an order had come to Capt. Goldman for my discharge direct from War Dept. Wash. D.C. Hurrah, I can go home, and I am the envy of every boy in the company. All ask how did you do it, how did you get it.

February 2 - Turned in my gun & belt, haversack, canteen & dishes and got receipt for same of Sgt. Fox and turned my Squad No. 4 over to Sweringer as he will be the next corporal.

February 3 - Clerk Sayers made out my discharge papers and Capt. Goldman signed them. Then they went to Col. Hordeman. He signed them and then went to Brigade Headquarters.

February 4 - Payday for 6th Missouri. Heard nothing of my papers and did not get my pay today.

Febru February 5 - Papers came back.

February 6 - Went with Capt. Goldman to paymaster at Quamatos but I could not draw any pay on account of mistake in writing it out, and after reclassifying I had to go to Havana to get my transportation papers and then come back to get my pay. Well, while in Havana I tended to my business first, then called on Dr. Brunner for my health certificate but found him out, so then I walked around to see the sights of the City of Havana of 225,000 and came back to camp in evening.

February 7 - Papers all fixed up and my pay drawn, which was \$122.70 in full. Corporal D. Brown & myself go to Havana. We went all over town. I bought several articles, but everything is high-priced. For instance, handkerchiefs that sell at home for 10 cents cost here 40 cents. I bought 4 for \$1.25, they are worth 40 cents. I bought cigarettes and cigars to do me several months. In all we had a nice time.

February 8 - Stayed at camp forenoon and wrote letters and afternoon I went to Marianao and walked all over the place and chatted with an old Cuban. He could speak a little English. I told him about life up north and he told me of things in Cuba in time of peace.

February 9 - Went to Havana and seen the funeral of the Cuban General Calixto Garcia, who died in Washington D.C. and was brought over here to be buried. The Cubans were out in force and bands playing and all houses decorated. A big time but a sorry day for Cubans.

Afternoon and evening I stayed at camp and watched the 6th Missouri for the last time in dress parade pass in review. After supper I went down the line and shook hands with all the boys that had been my comrades for so long. Several were nearer crying than laughing. Wright had tears in his eyes. So this is the last night I will sleep on a cot in a tent in military camp.

February 10 - Woke up early, said goodbye to my tent-mates. They were all up to see me leave. I went over to Quamatos and took train for Havana. Arrived at depot, I took [cab?] to ticket office where I got my health certificate. That over, I went down the street on a slow walk and stopped at a restaurant and had a last meal in Havana, then I wanted to buy some cognac to take along home but the Cuban was afraid to sell it to me for it was against the law to sell to soldiers. From here I went down to wharf and had a skiff man take me over to the Steamship Lincoln on which I sail for Miami, Florida. The ship is very nicely finished. It is a small passenger and mail steamer.

Took up anchor and are ready to leave from near the wreck of Maine. 10:40 - We passed out of Havana Harbor, passed old Morro Castle which looks like if it wants to fall to pieces. 12 a.m.-We have dinner on ship. There are with myself 18 ex-soldiers, 10 ex-nurses, one doctor, and about 20 excursionists going home. All are friendly and all speak to each other except one nurse ex who thinks herself above all. Well, after dinner all take a last look at the dim outline of Cuba as all of us may never get to see it again. 1 p.m.-All is sky & water now. Our ship is going fine but the water is very rough yet for [from?] the storm yesterday and all passengers are scattering out, I suppose to their bunks, for some are getting sick. I feel fine and so I will light a cigar and have a smoke and watch the waves hop.

What's that coming down the steps? Why, that is the ex-nurse from so high up. Why, she is seasick and throwing up and puking all over the fine carpet and all over the fine banister and down she comes with a hump and no doctor near to help. Well, I guess I will help her up and lead her to the side so she can let it go overboard. Really she is ready now to make friends with a common ex-soldier like me. Here, miss, a little good whiskey. Take a little, it will do you good. Go on, it will be good for you. She takes a little and then a little more and still a little more. Maybe she will take it all and then I won't have any left. This is a nice [call?] fresh air I said. She answered yes, but I feel very bad. Oh, I said, just stay here in middle of ship. You won't feel the rocking so much and you will soon be all right. Well, she was and at supper she spoke to everybody and was on equal terms with all, but I pity the poor porter that had to clean it all up, what she left on the stairway and carpet. 9 p.m.-All retire to their bunks.

February 11 - Arrived at Miami wharf at 4 a.m. but we will have to wait for daylight. 5 a.m.-The revenue officer is on board ship and all of us are searched from head to foot and we have to open all our grips and satchels. He looks through but finds nothing he wants. 6 a.m.-All get off and all are very hungry for all we got for breakfast was a cup of coffee of the worst kind, so all are looking for something to eat but can't find nothing as the main town is over a mile away. So I get my ticket for St. Louis, half-fare for \$18.90.

7 a.m. - The train leaves for Jacksonville, Fla. The sun is up and very warm and now we are once more traveling on a decent train through old Florida with its [cedar?] trees, pine trees, and other trees with the Spanish moss hanging from the limbs and palm leaf fans and pineapple fields, but it's too dusty to have a window open. Even then the dust comes in. 12 a.m.-Made a short stop at Royale Ponciana, Fla. where we get a little lunch and on we go. Royale Ponciana, Fla. is the finest place I ever seen. The Royale Ponciana Hotel is a ver large building. It has over 600 separate rooms for guests besides all the parlors and dining rooms. The Royale Palm Walk is something grand to see, over a half-mile long and all the fine flowers. One mile further is the largest and finest pineapple patch in Florida. It covers about 200 acres but it seems hotter right here than in Cuba.

6:30 pm. - After riding all day we now come through old St. Augustine where we stop 5 minutes. It is getting dark now and also cooler. 7:45Arrived at Jacksonville, Fla. where we get off for supper. Stop for 20 minutes. This is as far as we travel over the Florida & East Coast Line. From here we go to Montgomery, Alabama over the [Plant?] Line System. 8 p.m.-We left Jacksonville, Fla. and as I am very tired I will try and sleep a little. I can now sleep no matter what and how it shakes.

February 12, Sunday - The first thing I seen after waking up looking out of the window was snow on the ground and still snowing. An old farmer sitting across from me said that this was the most snow Alabama had in 18 years and it seems real cold. That is quite a change from yesterday, from hot summer into cold winter inside of 24 hours. I went to sleep in the sunny south of Florida and woke up in the winter cold of Alabama.

8 a.m. - Arrived at Montgomery, Ala. where we had 20 minutes for breakfast, then changed cars onto the Louisville and Nashville R.R. 8:25Left Montgomery. Still snowing. Arrived at Birmingham, Ala. 1 p.m. where we had dinner. From where we started for Nashville, Ten. the train is 2 hours late. 8 p.m.-Arrived at Nashville, Ten. Ate supper and started after changing cars for St. Louis two and half hours late. 5 miles from Nashville we got stuck and had to wait for double header. There also was a wreck ahead at Nashville, Ten. Some of discharged soldiers of the 4th Missouri got on the Train and had lots of whiskey and made it pretty lively. Also 4 girls got on with some young chaps. The girls act outlandish, all in for a good time, and at last our train is moving again. It's dark as pitch, snowing and the wind cold as ice. Here we pass Trenton, Ten. where the wreck was. We

are now 5 hours late. This train is due at 7:15 in St. Louis and it's 12 p.m. now and we have to cross Kentucky, Indiana, and part of Illinois. Well, I will try and sleep if these chaps don't make too much noise.

February 13 - Woke up just as we come to Belleville, Ill. Lots of snow on the ground and bitter cold. This is where my soldier coat comes in handy after carrying it along for 3 months without using it. Arrived at Union Station St. Louis 11:45. From there I went direct to European Hotel. Got me a room there, went to Union Market where I got me a great big steak and all that belongs to a good dinner and also a bottle of Anheuser & Busch. From there I went and got me a pair of shoes, hat and several other clothes and also good warm underwear for I nearly froze to death. After that I went to my hotel and changed and got ready to go and see my dear sweet girl in south St. Louis. At last I was near enough to go and see her, for it was on July 24 that I seen her the last time and this was Feb. 13th.

It was near 12 p.m. when I came back to my room for my well-needed sleep & rest.

February 14, Tuesday - I slept very long. After eating I tended to some business and then I went out to take my dear girl to matinee and stayed at her house all evening. Then I went home and stayed another night at hotel.

February 15 - Went out to see my girl again. From her house I went to Union Station for my old home, Hermann, Mo.

February 16 - At home, seen all the folks....

October 1899-Engagement to M...

September 6 -President Wm. McKinley was shot in Buffalo, N. Y. at Panama Exposition in Music Temple on Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Leon F. Czolgosz, a Russian pole, two shots, was taken prisoner on the spot...

September 14 - Saturday morning 2:15 Pres. Wm. McKinley died at Buffalo, N. Y. Theodore Roosevelt took oath of office in Buffalo, N. Y. Sept. 14th at 4:30 p.m.