

## Homer M. Limbird collection

### Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

These materials pertaining to Homer Martin Limbird's service in Company L, 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry, during the Philippine American War (1899-1902). The bulk of the collection consists of letters written by Limbird to family members in Gardner, Kansas, between June 1898 and October 1899. He describes his experiences in camp in San Francisco and in engagements with insurgents in the Philippines. Two diaries also cover Limbird's experiences in the Philippines in 1899. In addition, the collection contains newspaper articles concurrent with the conflict and later articles pertaining to Limbird's service. Researchers are advised that some of the language in these materials may be considered offensive.

Date: February 12, 1898-October 13, 1964

Callnumber: Homer M. Limbird Coll. #864

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 228938

Item Identifier: 228938

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KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



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Some of the fellows feign  
tooth ache or that "they want to  
meet a special friend" and thus  
get a head of him.

Some have gotten as much as  
a four day furlough and had  
a good time. I never <sup>try to</sup> get  
excused unless absolutely necessary.

Bill Howall don't drill at all  
because he hasn't "got a belt  
nor leggings". He could easily  
get them if he wanted them.

He don't even know how to  
go through the manual of  
arms. It is pure laziness, but  
don't you let this get outside  
of the family.

I hope this will find you all  
well, as it leaves me.

I think as you say I have had  
enough of army life, but I don't  
hate it - only I think I am satisfied  
and would even be content with  
teaching school. Yours as ever <sup>truly</sup> Homer







(Red Cross headquarters.)

Camp Merriam.  
San Francisco, Cal.  
Aug. 28, 1898.

Dear Ones at home: - I just finished eating dinner and will now try to write you a few lines. I am on the wharf at the Red Cross, where I eat dinner. I thought I wouldn't go up to Harry's today. They told me to come up every Sunday and as often through the week as I wanted to, but I don't like to impose on people too much.

They are all well as usual and have as good an appetite as usual. Our diet is pretty

light sometimes, but we usually get all we want to eat. Last night we had rice, "Shrimp Gullion," coffee and bread. I didn't eat the "Shrim", as I call it, so my supper was some what light.

We read about the poor boys in Chichamanga and on board ships returning from Cuba, and think we are treated well indeed. We have pretty good grub as a rule. Once in awhile the cooks get careless.

Sunday is welcomed gladly, for two reasons— we can go where we please— from 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. and we— most of us— get at least one good meal. The camp is almost deserted

on Sundays.

Will and I went up to the Division Hospital to-day and took a good bath.

They have a regular bath house in the basement and all soldiers are allowed to bathe there. The water in the bay is too cold for bathing.

When we came back the Major Doctor told Will to report to him in an hour.

He said he wanted Will in the Pharmacy Department at the Presidio.

It may be that Will will get assigned to the Hospital Corps at the Presidio.

I hope so, because he would never make a soldier in his life and he would be better satisfied there.



<sup>Will</sup>  
I took the trip on the West  
boat last Thursday. We went  
about thirty miles - all together.  
Went to Times Pt., Alcatraz - The  
U. S. prison, Angel island and Ft.  
Mason, then up to the uptown  
wharf.

We have given up all hope of  
taking a "boat ride" and our  
next move - I think - will  
be for Kansas. Col. Funston  
and Lieut. Col. Little are  
scrapping all the time and I  
think that will hurry up the  
mustering out.

I got a letter from Henry  
Friday. He had been to the  
Epworth Seage Convention at  
Bonner Springs and told about  
his enjoyments. He said he  
had gotten a letter from you -  
Ralph or father he didn't know  
which it was from.



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It was too bad that Henry should be laid up that way and have to pay so much out; But probably he didn't have to pay - as he was in Bethany Hospital. He could have been earning some money this right along. He said the lace work was still in his side and would probably be there some time yet.

Will, John and I went to a free social at the first Baptist Church, Friday night we had a fine time. Plenty of cake, coffee and pretty girls. We were introduced to the young

## Homer M. Limbird collection

ladies and of course had to entertain them awhile.

The people of California are not so bad after all.

They say they have done less for the Kansas boys than any of the others. An old lady asked me to take a four o'clock dinner with her to-day - (at the social). I guess I cannot go, as I may have to go on guard to-night.

We have quite a camp now. All of the troops, Hospital corps and head quarters are now in a bunch at the Presidio. About 6000 all together. It is quite a sight to see the Artillery and Cavalrymen drill. The Cavalrymen would

make bad circus riders.

They have to perform nearly as many antics.

They ride bare back, backwards, double, jump off and on when the horse is rearing and have the horses trained to lay down when ever they want them to.

Quartermaster Sergeant Young was taken to Ft. Leavenworth last Friday. He denies all the charges against him, but all think him guilty. I had a spite at him myself. He cursed me once without reason and like wise all the boys had a grudge against him and are now glad of his punishment, but I feel sorry for him.

He will have to wear different stripes for a year.

I will send Three Photos and  
you can give Rose, <sup>and</sup> Florence <sup>each</sup> one  
and keep one. I think they are  
pretty good.

We just had a snapshot taken  
of us as we sit writing. The lady  
has promised me a picture of us  
if they are good.

Well as my vocabulary has  
run out I will close, hoping  
to hear soon.

Your loving Son & Brother  
Homer

P. S. Ralph you must take  
my place and make the  
evening pleasant for Miss  
Hall and your self.

You can have my  
consent. You Yaw.  
Best Bye  
Homer







## ARMY CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT

Auxiliary to the International Committee Young Men's Christian Association

HEADQUARTERS, ASSOCIATION BUILDING,

Corner Mason and Ellis Streets, San Francisco, Cal.

WILLIAM B. MILLAR, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY.

CHAS. A. GLUNZ }  
FRANK A. JACKSON } Secretaries in Charge at Philippine Islands.  
REV. H. C. MINTON, D. D., President.  
R. H. CHAMBERLAIN, Vice-President.  
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H. J. MCCOY, Treasurer.  
MRS. C. S. WRIGHT,  
President Mothers' Club of the Christian Commission.

*In Camp Merritt*

*San Francisco, Cal., Aug 9, 1898.*

Dear Ones at home: - As we do not have any drill this after-noon I will write a few lines. I am well and have a good appetite once more. It is a pretty day to-day but the wind is blowing pretty hard, which makes it quite bad at meal times, blowing sand into the victuals.

Alpha is still over to the Presidio hospital with the measles, but will be out in a few days. The rest of the boys are in good health.

To night is the night we blow off down town, so we rest up this P.M. for to-night. We take the street cars - way paid - and get a good supper afterwards.

The pavillion covers a block, so you see we have a big place to drill in. I guess there will be a sham battle and all the different things we perform.

Harry's wife came out Tuesday P.M. and brought me a lot of things. She is a nice woman. She brought some crackers, jelly, clam juice, tea and a box of nice caramels, also a big loaf of nice bread. Her sisters husband - Dr. Baker - told her to see the Chaplain - Baker was acquainted with him. - and tell him to look after me especially. So she and I goes over to the Chaplains tent and sees him.



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*In Camp*

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She tells him about my being sick and tells him to look after me. I was well then and tried to tell her so, but she said I was sick and did not want to give up. The chaplain promised to see that I was taken good care of and gave me something for my stomach. He is a fine man, over six feet high and thin as a rail. He has done a great deal of good for the boys.

Harry's wife wanted me to come up and stay with them for two or three days. It is a good thing to have cousins when you are away from home such a long way, especially if they are the right kind. I shall never forget the kindness they have done me already.

Well from the appearance of things we may be taken back to Kansas and discharged. One of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeants heard Gen. King say to Col. Funston, "There is no hope for the boys whatever, now." If that be the case we will be discharged within a month or six weeks.

Nearly all the boys say that if there is any show of going to Manila they don't want to be discharged, but if there is none, the sooner they get their discharge the better.



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*In Camp*

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If I could get my discharge and transportation money here, I believe I would stay for awhile. Larry says he believes I could get a job with the firm he is working for. I would also like to see more of the tree California. As for the Pacific, I think I have seen enough of it, still I would like to take a little trip out on the Pacific.

I think if I should be discharged soon I would be satisfied with enough soldiering, still I kind of enjoy it. I want to get into something higher for a life work this.

We are going to move over to the Presidio tomorrow and will probably be stationed there till discharged. We want have the saw to contend with over there, but will be nearer to the Ocean bay. I expect I will go up to see Harry's next Sunday and have dinner with them.

Give my love and best wishes to all

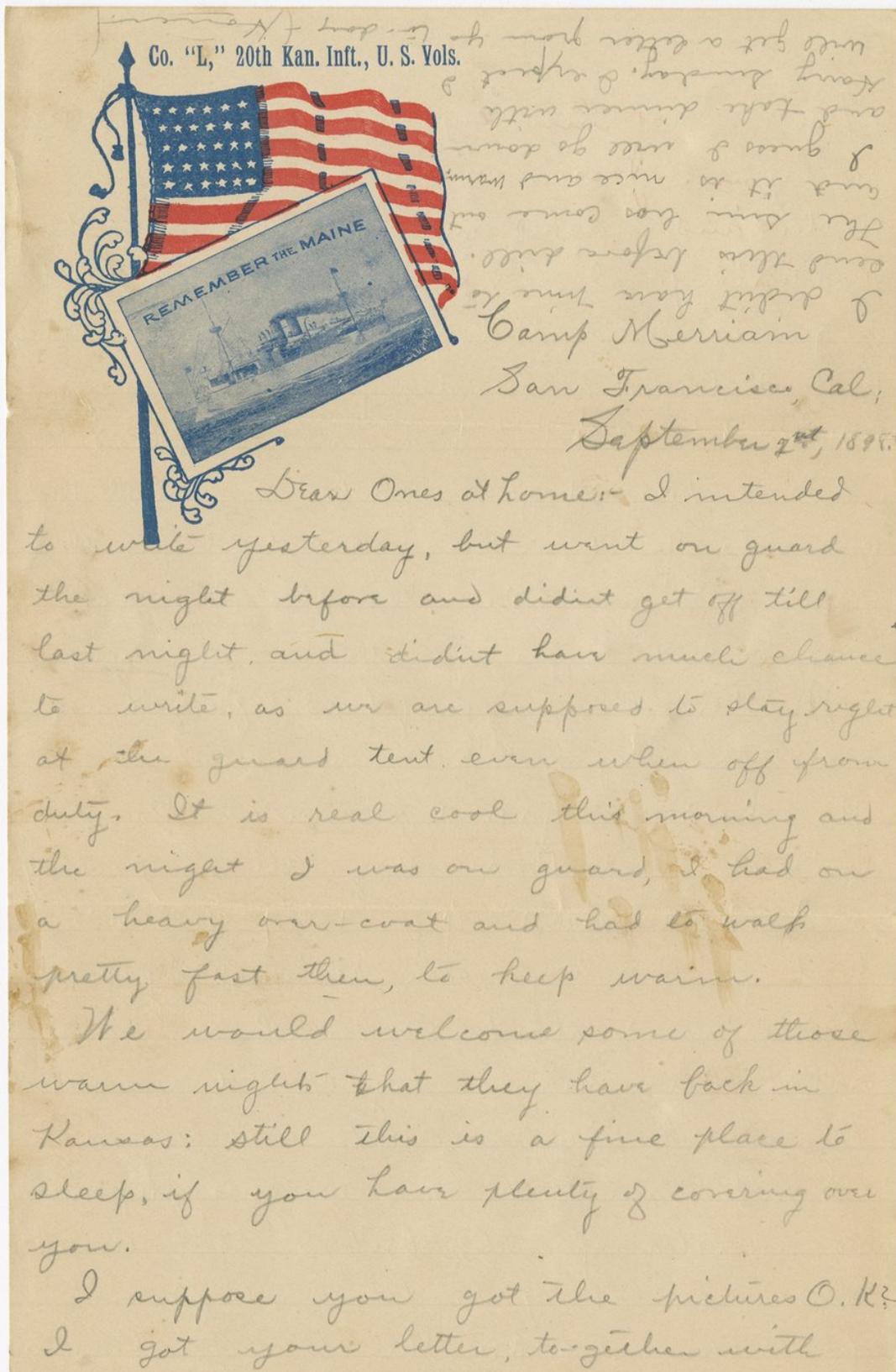
Your loving Son & Brother

Homer L.

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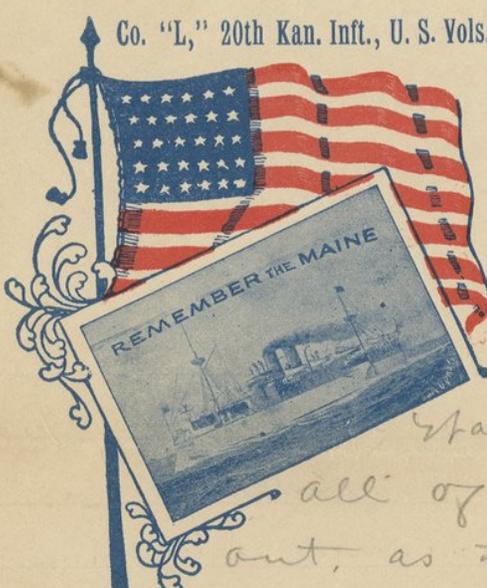
Jesse, last Sunday after I had written to you. Jesse wrote a real good letter and asked me questions about soldiering. I expect Jesse feels hurt because he didn't get to come out here, but I have an idea that he would have wished he was at home, had he come. The Major Doctor ordered that cook be put in the guard tent for the relieved guards also that the cooks have hot coffee for them at any time.

We dont have a very hard life of it now and can enjoy life some better.

We had a grand review on Presidio heights last Wednesday. All the Cavalry, infantry and artillery at the Presidio took part. They were reviewed by Gen. Miller and about 8000 soldiers were out. There was a big crowd of a "few thousand" citizens out to watch us.

Some said the review was preparatory to mustering out, but I dont think we are likely to be mustered out for a few weeks. The Board of Commerce

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sent a petition to Washington asking that all of us be mustered out, as the war was over and no more fighting to be done.

No I havint heard from Gertude about four weeks. I wrote to her about two weeks ago and she hasint written since. The last time she wrote the' Aunt Lib was getting along all right and I think she had bean over to visit Rhea's folks.

I dont like the Tenn. boys any too well, but they think Kansas boys are All Right and cheer them whenever they get a chance. They are great fellows to yell and make the woods ring with their hollering. When they play " Dixie," our band plays " Hot Time." They cheer us and then we cheer



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them. These are several comes over to our tent ever few days, for a friendly chat.

All the boys are all well and able to drill every day. Bigelow is cleaning up his gun, as he thinks probably he will have to go on guard to night.

We signed the pay roll Wednesday but may not be paid for several days yet. Ill but the guard house will be full then. There are only two regular prisoners now, and they are in for about a month.

The papers are full of politics now and war news is somewhat scarce.

The war department officers are having quite a squabble now arent they?

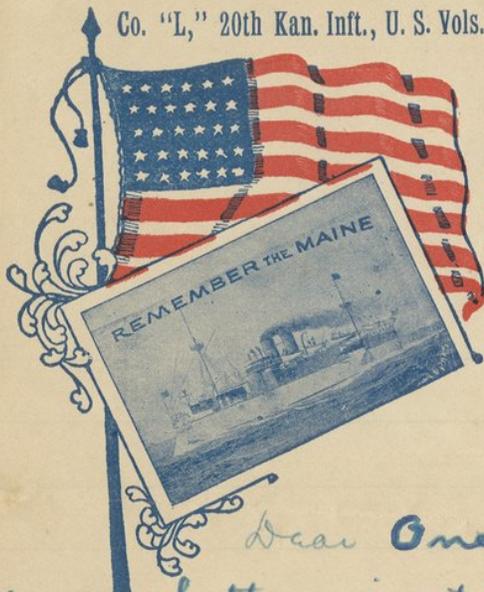
How are all the relatives getting along.

Well as drill call has sounded I will have to close. Good Bye  
Write Soon - Yours - Homer.





Co. "L," 20th Kan. Inf., U. S. Vols.



Camp Merriam  
San Francisco<sup>Cal.</sup>

Sept. 6, 1898.

Dear Ones at home: - I recd.  
your letter just after I sent mine.

How often do you receive  
letters from me? I have written  
two letters a week every since I  
have been here and from the way  
you write you havaint got that  
many. Did you get the Roster and  
Photo I sent? I get two letters a  
week from you, and am looking  
for one to-day. I thought I would  
wait till you wrote, but I didnt  
get one this A.M., so thought I  
would write.

It is nice and warm to-day,  
with a slight breeze. Our battalion  
(with band) went down about 3 miles



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from camp, on a nice street, and had dress parade, for practice. By the time we got through, we had quite a crowd, watching us.

I got the stamps, also the \$2.00, I wrote once that I had got the money.

We expect to get paid this week, but we have been expecting that for the last two months.

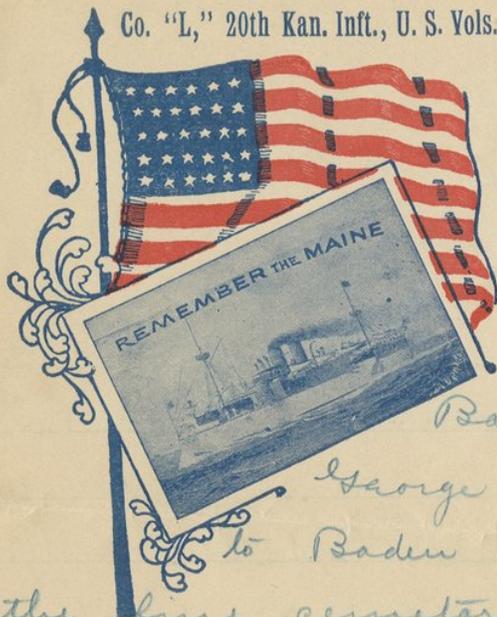
I got the items and showed them to John Thomas, John is in the Signal Corps, now, practicing signals with flags.

I was very sorry to hear of Mrs. Speer's death. It must have been a hard blow on Mr. Speer and the whole church, but she was a good christian woman and thus it ought not be so hard.

I went down to Harry's last Sunday and he and his wife had gone over to the Supt. of Baden packing house - about 14 miles from Frisco. The street cars run right out to the house. I staid and went

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to church with the Baker and after dinner, George B. and I went over to Baden for a ride and see the fine cemeteries. We eat supper with the Supt. and came back with Harry. The Supt. said he would give me a job should I get discharged here.

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, and the 10<sup>th</sup>, California are to be mustered out this week. The rest of the troops here are to be held until further orders; so we won't know what they are going to do with us for at least two weeks yet.

We are all well and Will is still working in the hospital. He says all that depends on him be assigned now is his signing the transfer papers.

If he does sign and we are mustered out soon, he will be



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held, as he will have to join the regular army. He is happy to think he has got into that job and says he is going to sign up.

I have had a great deal fruit while here and think it good for me. Bakers have fruit every Sunday. I would like to go down to the southern part of the state to eat all the fruit I could for once. The Ninth of Sept. is admission day for Cal. They are going to celebrate in grand style in Golden Gate Park. Monday was Labor Day but we labored just the same.

I saw in to-day's paper that <sup>the</sup> Kans regiment has the smallest percentage of sickness of any of the regiments.

The Seventh has had the Typhoid fever for some time and many have died. Give my love to all the relatives and tell them to write. I must close for this time.  
Yours - Homer Limbird.

Co. "L," 20th Kan. Inf., U. S. V.



Richard Limbird, Esq.  
Gardner,  
Kansas.



