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Chas Derickson of
Mercer tells me
reminiscences of his
company at Washington.
They were sent in reaching
Washington in fall of
62 to Meridian Hill
where they went into camp
that night orders came
for 2 companies to be
detached to guard
Soldier's Home. They
marched at once & 2
camped between
present home & cem-
etary. Mr D. a boy of
17. His father
captain of his company
next morning colored
man came before
Capt. was up

to invite him to break-
fast with Mr L. Boys
first knew that morning
that they were to guard
the Home. Their cousins
they spend in watching
around to see the
Prest etc "never seen
a president before" says
Mr D.
Relations with family
very good. Mr D. says
Aunt Mary the colored
cook often ~~calle~~ came
out on cold mornings after Mr L. had
breakfasted & gave
boys near house a
cup of coffee &
biscuit. One morning
when he had been
on ground & was relieved

she called him in
2 ~~se~~ grass to give you a
breakfast off the very
plate & fork &
knife the President
of the U.S. eats off."
& he had it.
Mrs L frequently
sent the boys a
special treat & on
X mas & Thanksgiving
sent them a turkey
dinner. One when
a barrel of apple
butter had been
sent her, it all
went to the ~~regiment~~
company
Mr L. was very fond
of company - [illegible]

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the boys eager to be sent
into action asked
to go fast & were sent
to Fort Spencer 7
& miles out 7th St
They took one ration
& not finding their
regiment & being hungry
Sargent Quarter Mag
Sargent D walked
back to town to
secure provender -
near the Soldiers Home
he met Mr L. in
carriage
"Are you of Co. K.?
Yes" & said
Yes
You must come
back tonight. I am
going to see you
sent back at once

Mr D. went on to City
& ordered provisions
sent out, then went
into the old camp
where the staff were
still up - expecting
to walk out in the
morning - about
midnight back came
Co. K.
Mr D. tells of seeing
Mrs L. often standing
in her night gown
& night cap at
the window in
the morning.

Tells of Mr L. coming
to camp & asking
for the ambulance

the drive to town in - Mrs
L. wanting the carriage
starts off on seat with
driver - wheel comes off
horses run - L. jumps
out to their heads
& holds them while
driver repairs damages
- soon after this, Tad
sent for Mr D. to come
& see him - he was
not well & wanted
company - Mr L. at
that time had the
revolver. Tad
takes D. into his
father's room
Mr L. talks about
the runaway &
says the worst

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fight he every got was
when a team of oxen
ran away with him
& he on the hounds
bounced up & down -
the oxen had stepped
into a bumble bees
nest - while talking
Mr L. sent Tad
for spy glass to show
Mr D. the house at
Alexandria where
Ellsworth was shot -
said "Poor boy he
was too rash"

Mr L. had no fear
one night an orderly
came up to soldiers
tone with voice

for Mr L. demanding
immediate reply
Mr D. was on guard -
He found front door
open walked up
stairs - Mr L's bed
room door ajar - knocked
- Who's there? Come in
sargent - there are
matches on mantle
light the gas - he
& Mrs L in bed - gets
up - reads - answers
good night.

Grant gave orders
that none but dog -
tents be furnished
soldiers - Mr D. wanted
new tents for the Co.
at W. House &

contended order did not
apply to soldiers in the
field town, goes to
& with his
requisition - says he
cant sign it - must
see Genl Halleck - goes
to H - not allowed
to see him but sent
to a member of staff
who declares that
it D. can't be done &
that D. can't see
H. D goes to his
captain who & suggests
they see L. capt
says you may if
you wish. D. goes
to Mr L. &
the guard shay

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lets him in. Mr
L. "sits down on
his shoulders" (Mr D
imitates him) looks
at paper - says he
knows nothing about
& then writes "If
the requisition I
can be granted
without injury to
service let it be
down" D goes to
the top. lofty aide
on Halleck's staff
who says "who has
had the audacity to
go to the president
with a matter of this
kind" D. says
it was not audacity

"We are all friends
down there & can
get what we want."
goes to other general
a rough old fellow
& will cap over
his eyes who looks
at a dies & says
"God. you'll be
wanting pianoes
down there next"
& signs requisition

Tad great favorite
wants to be an
officer of co. K
& gets an appointment
of 3rd Lieut

& appears after
at drill time on
his pony
fond of Yokum
the company
teamster & one
night - the two go off
& Y. has no
permit - is arrested
& put in guard
house - Tad goes
to his father & 2
gets him to write
the following:
"Guards & Patrols
let Phillip Y. pass
at any time of day or
night" Y. is
so proud of this

he won't let it get
out of his hand

Tad makes trouble
securing furloughs
for several of his
friends in the
company. The rest of
co. mutiny &
capt secures a
withdrawal of
furloughs much
to Tad's disgust.

M.D. describes how one
morning after battle of
Fort Spencer M.L.
comes to camp Lasher
capt to drive in
ambulance with

him to battle field
him is brought out - old
chain harness etc
boys sweep it out &
he gets in by thinking
one leg over the side
like a farmer boy
getting into a
farm wagon -

Eating beans.

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