

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Skinner, Artemas H.
Collection

1999.59

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
September, 1999

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Collection Information

Abstract: Artemas H. Skinner papers consist of a diary depicting his life as a Musician in the 1st Brigade Band, from January 1, 1864 through November 11, 1864, and detail through daily entries his life with the Brigade, and the boredom and horror of the Civil War.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print for available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Gift of John P. Skinner (grandson of Artemas H. Skinner), of Worcester, April 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, gmGPC, etc.)

United States. Army. Band. 6th Corps. 3rd Division. 3rd Brigade – Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States. Army. Band. 6th Corps. 2nd Division. 1st Brigade – Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Personal narratives.
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Hospitals.
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Biography.
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Diaries.

Diaries. (lcsh)

Biographical Information

Artemas H. Skinner was a resident of Princeton, later Worcester, a musician in the Civil War. He was mustered into the 22nd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, September 23, 1861 as a musician, and mustered out August 11, 1862. Military records show him being a resident of Princeton at this time.

Skinner was mustered into the Band, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Division, 6th Corps, November 11, 1863, for a second period of service. He is recorded as a resident of Worcester at this time. By the end of 1863 he is shown as being in the Band, 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 6th Corps. In his diary he identifies himself as a player of the flute.

In addition to band duties, Skinner's unit also did hospital duty in assisting in the care of the sick and injured. The unit also was peripherally engaged in several skirmishes and battles. Skinner was discharged and mustered out of the service November 11, 1864.

Following his discharge from the military, Skinner returned to Worcester. He was employed as a pattern maker at L.J. Knowles & Bros.

Scope and Content

The papers consist of a single diary (typescript) written by Artemas H. Skinner, a musician in the 6th Corps, 2nd Division, 1st Brigade Band, from January 1, 1864 through his discharge November 11, 1864. Skinner's unit was apparently headquartered in the Harpers Ferry area, and the entries mention the brigade's movements through the Harpers Ferry area, Northern Virginia, and Western Maryland. The diary provides a detailed account of the daily life and activities of Skinner and others in his unit. Skinner's entries in the diary provide insight into his feelings about the boredom, deprivations, and horrors of the war.

Series Description

The papers consist of a single series.

Series 1: Diary. (Typescript copy) Kept by Artemas H. Skinner and providing detailed accounts of the daily activities of himself and other members of his unit from January 1 through November 11, 1864, as a member of the Band of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 6th Corps.

Artemas H. Skinner Papers
1999.59
Series 1, Diary

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.59.1.1	Diary. Daily record of band member Artemas H. Ward between January 1 and November 15, 1864, while serving with 6 th Corps Band in the United States Army at Harpers Ferry and surrounding areas. Includes experience playing, as well as additional duties in hospital, includes writings of marching, other transportation, skirmishes, personal privations, etc. Typescript. 61 p.