Army Life in Lakeland, Florida, during the Spanish-American War

Hal Hubener
Lakeland Public Library

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol20/iss1/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tampa Bay History by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.
ARMY LIFE IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA, DURING THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR
by Hal Hubener

Florida had a major role in the Spanish-American War. Both Tampa and Key West were embarkation points for the campaigns in Cuba and Puerto Rico, and troops were stationed in other Florida cities, including Lakeland. With a population of around 1,000, Lakeland was only half the size of Bartow, the county seat of Polk County, but Lakeland had one advantage over its rival—it was one of the most important railroad towns in the Plant system. Promotional literature cited Lakeland’s cosmopolitan population, absence of extremes in wealth and poverty, and abundant lakes with fresh water. Located forty miles east of Tampa, Lakeland had a sense of self, demonstrated in its community picnics, town baseball team, and active social clubs. Like the rest of Polk County, Lakeland was emerging from an era in which the only major industries had been citrus and cattle, and even citrus had suffered devastating freezes in 1894 and 1895. Because of those disastrous years, agricultural diversification became necessary. By the end of the century, Lakeland had become one of the most important strawberry export centers in the state and a leader in turpentine, tobacco, vegetables, and peaches. The area also witnessed a burgeoning new industry in pebble phosphate that reportedly existed in “practically inexhaustible” supply with a potential value that was “beyond computation.”¹

In May 1898, Lakeland was selected for several reasons as a site to quarter troops. First, the sheer number of soldiers already in Tampa—64,000—had created an abundance of problems, including insufficient water supply and lack of proper sanitation and hospital space. By several accounts Tampa also experienced hotter temperatures than inland cities. Moreover, fear that Spanish gunboats were prowling the west coast of the state led commanding officers to avoid concentrating troops in one location. As a result, the following units camped in Lakeland: Tenth United States Cavalry; Second Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers; First U.S. Cavalry; Seventy-First New York Volunteers; and the First Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. In addition, ill and wounded soldiers from the Third U.S. Cavalry recuperated in Lakeland. Yet another regiment, the Ninth Cavalry under Lieutenant Hickcock, considered the city as a camp site. Hickcock actually scouted land near Lake Parker, but the Ninth was directed elsewhere.² Estimates vary on numbers, but between May and August 1898 perhaps 9,000 soldiers, along with horses, mules, and wagons swamped the Polk County hamlet, which one soldier described as “slower than the resurrection.”³ Those encampments created a unique chapter in Lakeland history, and the experiences of each military unit provide insight into that hectic period.

TENTH UNITED STATES CAVALRY

composed of African-American troops, the Tenth U.S. Cavalry was created by an act of Congress in 1866. Designed to increase and fix the military peace establishment of the United States, the law provided for four new regiments, two of which were “composed of colored men.” These two units included the Ninth and Tenth Regiments, whose black troops were commanded by white officers. By 1898 the Tenth had earned recognition for its bravery during the Indian Wars and its members were called “Buffalo Soldiers” by Native Americans against whom they fought.⁴
Reaching Lakeland over a three-day period from May 14 to 16, the Tenth camped in the area where Lakeland Middle Academy (formerly Lakeland High School) stands today. John J. Pershing, later head of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, was a twenty-seven-year-old first lieutenant with Troop D, Tenth Cavalry, in Lakeland. He arrived from Chickamauga Park, Georgia, on May 16 and departed June 7. Even though he had been associated with the Tenth for a short time only, he had already acquired the name which followed him throughout his illustrious career – “Black Jack” Pershing.

Historians of the Tenth in Florida have focused on the friction between the black soldiers and white citizens, particularly in Tampa and Key West. In Lakeland conflict also erupted, resulting in the loss of life in one instance. After arriving in Lakeland on May 16, several members of the Tenth went to town and were refused service at Dr. Forbes’s drug store. They became abusive and left but later returned, entering the barber shop next door and requesting a shave. Refused service again, they went outside and shot out the windows of the barber shop. Several local citizens emerged from homes and stores to ascertain the cause of the shooting. One of them, Joab Collins, was struck by a stray bullet and died shortly thereafter. Two Buffalo Soldiers, James Johnson and John Young, were arrested and taken into custody by Polk County Sheriff Tillis. The sources of such clashes included racism, segregation, and resentment by black soldiers at serving their country while being denied service by their countrymen. For many whites in
Lakeland, the mere presence of black troops was insufferable; the fact that the Tenth had been named Provost Guard, with the power to arrest both white and black soldiers and to demand that passes be produced for inspection, added insult to injury. (The Tenth had been named Provost simply because it was the first regiment to arrive in Lakeland.)\(^7\) Some conflict between white and black troops grew out of natural competition or one-upmanship. One reporter labeled the Tenth troublemakers because of their desire “to initiate the Johnny Raws from Massachusetts.” But the white Seventy-First New Yorkers had made the same remark about the untested Massachusetts recruits. Some of these expressions were nothing more than legitimate fun.\(^8\)

Moreover, in many instances the races worked well together. Black teamsters often taught white soldiers the complicated task of hauling baggage with a jerk-line team of mules, and in the kitchens, black cooks supervised white soldiers generally without incident. There were also examples of fraternizing between the races. In his war memoirs, one white soldier told of learning gambling games from black soldiers. Already familiar with poker, he learned “craps” from members of the Tenth. He also watched with fascination as black teamsters played a skillful but dangerous game in which they circled one another cracking whips at each other’s feet.\(^9\) Musical entertainment and sports also provided common ground. The Tenth Cavalry band performed “delightful concerts” for the Seventy-First New York, and white soldiers watched baseball games played between black teams.\(^10\) White soldiers also interacted with black townspeople. The Massachusetts Regiment attended Sunday services at an African-American church, and black women prepared meals for white troops. One Ohio soldier recalled going to an old “colored lady’s shack” on Sunday mornings. “She would bake us some of the finest ‘hot cakes’ I ever tasted,” he recalled, “with ‘lasses’ and coffee. The price was 20 cents.”\(^11\)

SECOND REGIMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS

The Second Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers arrived in Lakeland at 8:30 p.m. on May 16. Their journey to Florida had begun at Camp Dewey, Massachusetts. From there they traveled by train to Newport, Rhode Island, where a steamer conveyed them to New York City. Their original destination was Tampa but orders were changed. Instead the Volunteers found themselves arriving by train in Lakeland after a 100-hour trip. The morning after their arrival the troops left the depot and marched to the north side of Lake Morton, where the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce (formerly the Lakeland Public Library) is located today. Newspapers and books referred to the setting as Camp Morton, Camp Lakeland or Camp Massachusetts. Soldiers jokingly referred to it as Camp Little-To-Eat.\(^12\) One report described the site as “most picturesque” and “one of the healthiest spots in this state.”\(^13\) A history of Company L added that the camp was “an ideal one, situated on the picturesque banks of Lake Morton in a grove of tall white oaks, whose drooping branches were festooned with great bunches of beautiful Spanish moss.”\(^14\)

However, some accounts were less enthusiastic. One noted that after leaving Lakeland the regiment went to Ybor City which was “more satisfactory ... being a great deal cleaner and an ideal camping place.”\(^15\) Ironically, milder weather was one of the reasons given for Lakeland’s selection over Tampa, but according to one newspaperman, Second Regiment soldiers in Lakeland “stood around perspiring and watching a thermometer climb to 125 degrees!” Describing Lakelanders, this Massachusetts reporter wrote: “These natives, by the way, are a
constant source of interest and delight to the officers and men with their quaint dialect and ways which are much different from ours.” According to this northerner, “The people here are nice, that being the word that best expresses it, that is the people who use them right. But Lord help the man who attempts to ‘mash’ or speak lightly of their women,” he explained. “In such cases, their action is quick and usually certain, the usual medium being a revolver bullet.”

Daily life soon became a routine for the Massachusetts Volunteers. They set up camp quickly and uneventfully, except for an occasional scorpion. Swimming proved a favorite activity for the men. It was said to “alleviate greatly the inconveniences of camp life.” The following schedule indicates a typical Massachusetts Volunteer’s day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reveille, First Call</td>
<td>4:45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>march</td>
<td>4:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assembly</td>
<td>5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breakfast</td>
<td>5:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surgeon’s call</td>
<td>6:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first sergeant’s call</td>
<td>6:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drill (except Sat/Sun)</td>
<td>7:05-8:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drill for recruits</td>
<td>8:35-9:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dinner</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guard mounting</td>
<td>5:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retreat</td>
<td>6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assembly and roll call</td>
<td>6:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supper</td>
<td>6:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tattoo</td>
<td>6:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taps</td>
<td>9:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reveille and retreat roll calls were held under arms in canvas uniforms, except on Sundays when blue uniforms were worn. Company commanders were required to make complete inspections every Saturday, and they made daily inspections of the men’s quarters and kitchens. The senior medical officer undertook daily inspections of the camp and insured that proper sanitary regulations were followed, while other medical officers inspected tents to enforce daily raising of tent walls and airing. They also checked food and drinking water and enforced rules governing proper disposal of water. There were also restrictions on the use of lakes. Second Regiment soldiers were permitted to bathe between 4 and 8 a.m. and between 4 and 6 p.m., “provided due regard to public property and town ordinances [was] observed by the bathers.”

The city’s first casualty was a Massachusetts soldier, Company I Private Wesley Brass. Ill for several days with pneumonia which he had contracted in Massachusetts, he died on May 21. An historic marker, erected in 1948 on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Lake Morton...
Drive, mentions him by name. A memorial service was held in a small Episcopal Church along Lake Mirror, after which the body was escorted to the depot to begin its journey northward. Every company in the regiment marched behind the carriage, and citizens lined the streets as the cortege passed. On May 30, the Massachusetts Infantry broke camp and went by train to Tampa.

FIRST U. S. CAVALRY

The First U.S. Cavalry arrived in Lakeland during the evening of May 16. Brigadier General Young was the commanding officer. One unit of the First, the Rough Riders, included Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, although it is not known if he was in Lakeland. The cavalry camped between Lakes Morton and Hollingsworth. Each morning and afternoon the cavalry band played “The Star-Spangled Banner” and other popular tunes. On the morning of June 1, Tom Tiger, chief of the local Seminole Indians, visited Lakeland and toured the First Cavalry camp. The illustrious chief was enthusiastically received by both soldiers and citizens. The Tampa Tribune gave the following account of his visit.

He says that he is anxious to enlist in the army with his tribe of red men as scouts. He was dressed partly in citizens clothing, but the deer skin leggins and other wearing apparel peculiar to the Seminole warrior were noticeable. He looks to be a man of at least 60 years and measured about

The regimental hospital of Massachusetts troops.

Photograph courtesy of Lakeland Public Library Special Collections.
six and a half feet in height. Tom was a great attraction for the small boys, and they followed him all over town.\textsuperscript{22}

The majority of the First Cavalry left Lakeland on June 7, but some men who were ill remained until August. At least nine regulars died in camp. One newspaper suggested “an epidemic of measles” as the cause of death.\textsuperscript{23}

\textbf{SEVENTY-FIRST NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS}

On May 17, at 4 a.m., the Seventy-First New York Volunteers arrived in Lakeland from Tampa. The regiment camped on the northwest side of Lake Morton, between Walnut and Lime streets, and between Florida and Massachusetts avenues, where today the law firm Lane-Trohn stands. Soldiers named the camp “Wabash” after a popular song.\textsuperscript{24} A New York newspaper described it as “the best camp in Florida. There is not a sick man among them. The tents are pitched in a lovely grove, from whose rustling branches hang graceful wreaths of Southern moss. At the very feet of the camp ripples a splendid lake, with waters clear as crystal and fit to drink.”\textsuperscript{25}

According to another reporter, “Lakeland had the advantage of any town in the state,” in terms of the abundance and quality of the lake water.\textsuperscript{26} If the soldiers had remained in Tampa, they would have bivouacked on burning sands at sea level. “Now their tents are pitched in pleasant places and on the highest elevation in the State,” a New York paper assured hometown readers.\textsuperscript{27}
The New York Volunteers’ commander, Colonel Francis Greene, had a reputation as a disciplinarian. “Not a man was permitted to leave the train on the way down,” a New York reporter wrote, “and even the pretty women of the South who sought the cars and tossed nosegays to the soldiers at nearly every station had to be content with bright glances from the windows of the cars and fleeting outstretched handshakes.” Once in camp, Colonel Greene did not allow newspapers to be sold until the afternoon, since papers “distracted the boys from working.” Curiously, soldiers with full beards and mustaches were not forced to shave, but men who had only recently decided to start growing facial hair were “punished while they slept.” Coal tar was rubbed on their faces. Coal tar, it was said, was fatal, so shaving became a necessity. On Saturday, May 28, the entire Seventy-First formed a line at the base of their camp at the foot of Tennessee Avenue and marched to the railroad station. Cheered on by citizens who lined the street, the Volunteers bade farewell to General Greene, who had been promoted from colonel. On that same day Private Hobsmith died of dysentery contracted while en route from New York.

Three days later the regiment broke camp at an early hour. With heavy wagons filled with provisions, tents, and ammunition, the soldiers streamed toward the depot. A train took them to Tampa, where they awaited orders to go to Cuba. A number of local young ladies gathered at the station to see them off. There was a custom among soldiers to remove buttons from the uniforms and give them to civilians as souvenirs, but it was noted that when the New York Volunteers left,
buttons were in short supply, so the ladies “did not have the honor of obtaining so many [that] morning.”32

**FIRST OHIO VOLUNTEER CAVALRY**

The First Ohio Volunteer Cavalry received orders to leave Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, on June 30, but the order was immediately countermanded. Two weeks later the men boarded trains for Tampa, only to be diverted to Lakeland. They arrived on July 15 at 6 a.m., the day after the fall of Santiago and the same day as the surrender of Spain.33 Upon deboarding in Lakeland, the soldiers cooked breakfast in Munn Park, or as one source described it, “on the commons near the station.”34 Then they marched to camp, located in what later was called the Dixieland area (today known as the South Lake Morton District) between McDonald Street and Lake Hollingsworth Drive, and between Pennsylvania and Ingraham avenues.35

According to Sergeant Gordon F. Miles, Lakeland provided a perfect campground with pleasant breezes and an abundance of fish in the lakes. He did have a couple of complaints, though. One was that the insects were “exceedingly ill mannered.” He added that “Lakeland is a nice little place, but slower than the resurrection, for you cannot buy a single thing there on Sunday, as every business house, including drug stores, are tightly closed and one cannot buy ice cream even at a hotel.” Nevertheless, the Ohio sergeant emphasized, “The people here are far superior to the Georgia ‘Cracker’ and are very hospitable to our boys.”36

The weather was no warmer than it had been in Georgia, drills were less frequent owing to the sandy soil, and in general the men had more freedom.37 Adjoining the camp were an orange grove, banana trees bearing fruit, and watermelons “plentiful as Ohio corn.”38 “The favorite pastime is swimming and fishing,” wrote one observer, “at which the boys spend so much of their time that there is hardly enough left in camp for the necessary details.”39 But not everyone agreed about the pleasant surroundings. One man noted the complete absence of song birds, while vultures were everywhere.40 With the exception of those who were ill, most of the regulars enjoyed themselves. However, Sergeant Miles related one man’s unfortunate introduction to Florida. The soldier rode his horse through a nest of yellow jackets, fell off, and fled to one of the lakes. He returned two and a half hours later with over one hundred stings on his body. “He had the boys chewing tobacco and rubbing the chews on him for an hour,” wrote Miles.41

The First Ohio had more illness than other regiments. On August 29 the *Press-Post* noted that fifty-four Ohio men were suffering from malarial and typhoid fevers. But the typhoid cases did not originate in Lakeland; they were due to consumption of tainted water at Chickamauga. Many accounts of illness suggest confusion or misdiagnoses. One soldier, Second Lieutenant Paul Loving, became weak and emaciated from what ultimately proved to be typhoid but which was originally described as due to impure water at Lakeland or a result of “one of those treacherous fevers indigenous to the southland.” Concern about illness led to some curious prohibitions. Ohio soldiers were not allowed to eat watermelon due to the great amount of sickness.42

The practice of “throwing horses” began July 30. The men were told to exercise great caution because the horses had become very valuable after three months of training. According to one report, “A slight injury means unfitness for service, and as the value of a cavalry horse is not
estimated in dollars, the loss would be considerable. A better place for such work could not be asked, as the sand furnishes a good place upon which to throw them.”

By the end of July, the First Ohio was “still anxiously awaiting orders to move.... ‘To the front! To the front!’ [was] the continual cry,” according to an Ohio newspaper man. Impatience only increased through the month of August. On a given day the troops would be ordered to prepare to break camp, and then the order would be countermanded. One day they would be ordered to Puerto Rico and the next to some northern camp. Rumors flourished in that climate of confusion, and journalists noted “a constant state of gloom both in the sky and among the men.” The First Ohio finally left on August 20 and reached Huntsville, Alabama, on August 23.

CAMP LIFE

The sudden influx of troops created a number of logistical problems. Basic necessities were often in short supply. Ice had to be ordered from Tampa. Horses were scarce too. “Every farmer in the country has sold his horse to the officers now here,” reported one paper. Mail delivery also became a problem; the postmaster was reportedly “laboring under many difficulties.” In August a shortage of milk occurred, and troops scoured the country looking for that beverage.
As soldiers waited anxiously for orders to leave for Cuba, they complained about a number of irritants. Mosquitoes were especially bothersome, and the men were issued mosquito netting.\textsuperscript{48} The “deplorable condition” of the streets made movement difficult. The \textit{Tampa Tribune} reported that “the long dry spell has caused the clay to become soft and the heavy wagons have ground the pavements into dust. When the rains come they will be in still worse condition for awhile, than they are at present.” Polk County was dry in other respects as well, since local option prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages. Nevertheless, beer was not in short supply. A carload of the liquid refresher arrived by train two days after the first troops were settled.\textsuperscript{49}

One problem for which there was no solution was the weather. In May alone over a dozen men were hospitalized because of heat exhaustion and “fever caused by over exertion.”\textsuperscript{50} One private was called from Lakeland to Tampa, because his brother, a soldier with the Third Ohio Infantry, had suddenly lost his reason due to excessive heat.\textsuperscript{51}

Even though the majority of the soldiers adapted to the warm climate, most of them had difficulty satisfying basic needs, especially food. Business was described as “on the rush.” “Every man and boy that can muster sufficient capital together to purchase a dozen lemons and a pound of sugar establishes a refreshment stand,” declared one newspaper. “In every nook and corner in town there many be seen shops and stands of different kinds.” Reporters minced no words, referring to those stands as huck stores and calling the people who operated them as hucksters.\textsuperscript{52} The pejorative labels, however, do not accurately represent the situation. Lakeland women who realized that the soldiers were “hungry all the time” turned their family kitchens into restaurants. They sold lemonade, custards, and pies. Although some made money from these enterprises, the soldiers had money and seemed eager to purchase the commodities. Often lost in the criticism of the townspeople is the fact that many of them turned their homes into makeshift hospitals and provided nursing care and nutritional meals.\textsuperscript{53} With respect to food, soldiers often supplemented their meals with whatever happened to poke its nose into camp or whatever they could catch in the lakes. Fish, rattlesnakes, raccoons, alligators, and turtles often provided tasty meals. Quail, rabbit, and deer were also available. Regional differences in tastes led to conflicting opinions about camp food. New York soldiers complained about the superabundance of beans, while Massachusetts men “did not get enough beans to fill a teaspoon.”\textsuperscript{54}

In addition to the usual complaints, the Volunteers groused that they did not receive the same treatment as enlisted men. Many resented the fact that they were unfairly restricted to camp and that meals were often limited to salt horse, beans, and hard tack (a kind of saltless bread or biscuit). However, one veteran saw the situation the other way. He explained that many regulars did not re-enlist after serving their term, but instead joined the Volunteers, where advancement was more rapid and where their superior experience obtained for them the rank of sergeant or even a commission.\textsuperscript{55}

Despite difficulties, the troops found a way to cope. They could find comfort in religious services, held by the respective chaplains. For amusement, every company had a mascot, generally a pig, raccoon, dog or goat, that was “stolen en route.” Even rifle drills could provide comic relief. Soldiers in the New York Seventy-Second had engaged in little or no practice shooting guns, so their experience was instructive to themselves and amusing to the veterans. Leisure activities, such as baseball, also took the edge off camp life. Games were played between
the First Cavalry and the Seventy-First Infantry, and between the Twelfth Cavalry and Twenty-First Regiment, New York Volunteers. Swimming and fishing were also popular pastimes, as was music. The Seventy-First New York staged an impromptu performance with skits that “pleased the officers,” and concerts were offered by Troop D of the Ohio Volunteers and the Tenth Cavalry band. Officers from the Massachusetts Volunteers formed a club in town and entertained the troops by singing and playing banjos.\(^56\) Local organizations also provided leisure activities. Lakeland Masons invited the Masons of the First Ohio to attend lodge with them. Such fraternal ties proved useful in other ways, as one Massachusetts Volunteer pointed out in a memoir written after the war.

The banker of the town was a man by the name of Neuenkamp, a German of good education, who had been a consul at some South American port at one time. I had taken the precaution to establish my credit at this bank so that in case of need I could obtain money through it on my personal checks. My Masonic associations also helped me, as Mr. Neuenkamp was master of the Lodge at Lakeland.\(^57\)

Despite the confusion and shortages, it is perhaps a minor miracle that a small village could respond as well as it did to what amounted to a military invasion. Though unprepared for the onslaught of thousands of soldiers, Lakeland provided for the troops more effectively than Tampa, which was plagued with problems such as an inadequate port and rail facilities, bureau-
ocratic incompetence, inadequate food supplies, and the lure of seamy attractions. Tampa and Key West certainly played more important roles in the Spanish-American War, but Lakeland acquitted itself well.

1 For information on Lakeland in the 1890s, see newspapers in the files of the Lakeland Public Library’s Special Collections Unit; U.S. Census of Population: 1950 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), 10.

2 Tampa Tribune, May 17, 18, 31, 1898; Springfield, Massachusetts, Republican, May 18, 1898; unidentified Massachusetts newspaper in the Lakeland Public Library’s Special Collections Unit, Record Group 1101; letter from Major General Edward F. Witsell to Lakeland Public Library Director Serena C. Bailey, February 18, 1948, ibid.; Gary R. Mormino, “Tampa’s Splendid Little War: A Photo Essay,” Tampa Bay History 4 (Fall/Winter 1982), 46; Columbus, Ohio, Press-Post, August 30, 1898.

3 Columbus Press-Post, July 22, 1898.


5 Unpublished note from the late Herbert J. Drane (Lakeland Congressman), Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections, Record Group 1100; Witsell letter.


7 Ibid., Tampa Tribune, May 18, 1898; Charles Johnson Post, The Little War of Private Post (Boston: Little, Brown, 1960), 54.
8 Unidentified Massachusetts newspaper, 1898, Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections, RG 1101.


10 *Tampa Tribune*, May 29, June 2, 1898.


13 Unidentified Massachusetts newspaper, Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections, RG 1101.


16 Springfield Republican, May 24, 1898.

17 Ibid.

18 Ibid., May 22, 1898.

19 According to an unpublished letter, dated September 24, 1949, and written by Serena C. Bailey, the marker incorrectly reflects the spelling of the soldier’s first name; it should read “Weslie.” Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections.

20 Unidentified Massachusetts newspaper, May 22, 1898, ibid.; *Tampa Tribune*, June 2, 1898.

21 Unpublished note from Herbert J. Drane; Springfield Republican, May 24, 1898.

22 *Tampa Tribune*, June 2, 1898.

23 Unpublished note from Herbert J. Drane; *Ohio State Journal*, August 21, 1898.

24 Letter from Mrs. James W. Passmore, daughter of Herbert J. Drane, to Esther Perry, June 9, 1947, Lakeland Public Library, Special Collections, RG 1100; *Tampa Tribune*, May 29, 1898.

25 *New York Journal and Advertiser*, May 18, 1898.

26 *Tampa Tribune*, May 19, 1898.

27 *New York Journal and Advertiser*, May 18, 1898.

28 Ibid.

29 *Tampa Tribune*, May 19, 1898.

30 *New York Journal and Advertiser*, May 18, 1898.

31 *Tampa Tribune*, May 29, 31, 1898.
32 Ibid., May 31, 1898.

33 Ohio State Journal, July 1, 17, 1898; Columbus Press-Post, July 3, 1898; Columbus Dispatch, July 20, 1898.

34 Columbus Dispatch, July 20, 1898.

35 Passmore letter.

36 Columbus Press-Post, July 22, 1898.

37 Columbus Dispatch, July 20, 1898.

38 Ohio State Journal, July 25, 1898.

39 Columbus Dispatch, July 20, 1898.

40 Ohio State Journal, August 21, 1898.

41 Columbus Press-Post, July 22, 1898.

42 Ibid., August 19, 28 (quotation), 1898; Columbus Dispatch, August 2, 29, 1898; Ohio State Journal, August 21, 1898.

43 Ohio State Journal, July 31, 1898.

44 Ibid., August 21, 24, 1898.

45 Columbus Press-Post, August 19, 1898.

46 Tampa Tribune, May 22, 1898.

47 Columbus Press-Post, August 19, 1898.

48 Ibid., July 28, 1898.

49 Tampa Tribune, May 20, June 1 (quotation), 1898, p. 1.

50 Ibid., May 21, 25, 1898.

51 Columbus Press-Post, July 31, 1898.

52 Tampa Tribune, May 29, 31, June 1 (quotation), 1898.


54 Columbus Press-Post, July 31, 1898; Amrine letter; Richard Harding Davis, The Cuban and Porto Rican Campaigns (New York: Charles Scribner, 1898), 73 (quotation).

55 Tampa Tribune, May 24, 1898; Davis, The Cuban and Porto Rican Campaigns, 79.

56 Tampa Tribune, May 18, 22, 24-26, 1898; Columbus Dispatch, July 1, 1898; Columbus Press-Post, July 28, 1898.

57 Pierce, Reminiscences of the Experiences of Company L, 16.