

Bullch

Copy of a diary kept by L. E. Bulck, Co. E, 9th Regiment, V.R.C., during the trip from Washington to Springfield, with the body of the assassinated President Lincoln

a

1865

April 21 -

Left Washington at 8 A.M. and for the first time took my place as sentinel. A very cold stormy wet day. Arrived at Baltimore at 8:30 A.M. A large crowd awaited our return and greeted us with a splendid procession. Left at 3 P.M. At York a large crowd met us at the depot and presented us with a large wreath of flowers. All the buildings were draped in mourning, and many appropriate mottoes were spread for our gaze, such as "Give honor to whom honor is due," "The Nation mourns," and many more. Arrived at Harrisburg at 8:20 P.M., where two regiments of infantry and one of cavalry and two bands met us at the depot to escort the remains to the State House. It rained very hard all the time, and we were wet to the skin and for a time were quartered in the Senate chamber. Then went to a hotel called the Buchler Y House - took supper - the distance being 96 miles from Baltimore to Harrisburg. Left Harrisburg at 11:15. Nothing of importance occurred, only at Lancaster a very large crowd had assembled, but hardly a man appeared. Arrived at Philadelphia at 9:20 and put up at the Continental Hotel, the distance being 108 miles.

April 23 -

Sunday - all uproar. Philadelphia is turning out a large number of people. Made a call on B. Gibson and family, who received me very kindly. Took a stroll around town. Had a very pleasant time.

April 24 -

Arose at 12 and after a long march started for New Jersey. Arrived at Jersey City at 10. A choir awaited us at the depot with a beautiful piece of music. I was left with four others to guard the cars, while the rest went on over the river. The weather was very fine, and the shops being closed left a very sad appearance, and the crepe displayed showed how deeply the citizens of that town felt the loss of their chieftain. The distance being 106 miles. Crossed the river at 6 P.M. and at ten o'clock went after some supper which we found at a Dutch Hotel which needed perfumery to allow a man to breathe.

April 25 -

A pleasant morning but I am very tired as have been on guard all

night. I am eager to get away from this place. At 10 minutes past 4 we started enroute for Albany. At Yonker about 40 young ladies all dressed in white awaited us, who being surrounded with the red white and blue was the most beautiful thing I ever saw. At West Point the troops turned out in force to welcome us with drums and cannon and bands. Arrived at Albany at 11:10. A hearse was waiting and a large crowd. We proceeded to the Capital and at 1 o'clock left to take lodgings at the Donovan House. Found them very good.

April 26 -

Weather warm. Took a stroll around town. At 1 o'clock we marched to the State House where we formed in procession over the principle streets of the city. The hearse was drawn by four gray horses. The streets were crowded and many sympathetic feelings were displayed. At 8:30 we took the train for Buffalo. All along the route great sadness prevailed and many tears were shed. At St. Johnsville 36 young ladies dressed in white made a grand appearance. At Herkimer and all the other stations due order was kept. Minute guns were fired, and bells were tolled. Arrived at Buffalo at 7:10.

April 27 -

Quite a large crowd awaited us and we took breakfast at the depot. Then marched to the State House. We left the body at the State House and went and put up at a Hotel called the Mansion House. Went to bed and at 6 were called to supper and at 10:19 started for Cleveland. Great attention was paid by all people on our road, and many a tear was shed as the hearse passed by. A young lady dressed in a robe of red white and blue waving a flag caused many a remark by those who saw it.

April 28 -

At 7:30 we arrived at Cleveland, where a splendid procession awaited us. Marching to a place prepared for the reception of the remains we left the same, and went to the Mendell House where we received a splendid breakfast and then retired to a room which was very neatly furnished. Left Cleveland at 12 M. for Columbus Ohio.

April 29 -

Arrived at Columbus at 1:30. Streets very muddy. After a short march left the remains at the State Capitol and went to a Hotel called the Weel House, took dinner, and then a stroll down town. Many changes have taken place since I was here before. New buildings have been erected on every street. The hearse was drawn by

six gray horses. Left Columbus at 10:10. Arrived at Indianapolis at 7:19.

April 30 -

Weather very wet and disagreeable. Quite a large crowd had assembled nevertheless standing in the storm. The hearse was drawn by six gray horses. Left Indianapolis at 12 M. At Michigan City stopped for breakfast and the table was spread with all that one could wish for.

May 1 -

Arrived at Chicago at 12 M. Found a very large crowd awaiting our arrival. A very beautiful hearse was in waiting covered by an arch of canvas and flags - the most beautiful thing of the kind I ever saw. A young lady came forward dressed in white and covered the coffin with flowers. The hearse was drawn by ten black horses. We left the coffin at the State House and returned to the Tremont Hotel; had a splendid dinner, the distance being 208 miles. A very large crowd but everything is still.

May 2 -

A very pleasant day. The streets are still crowded to overflowing by people eager to get a glimpse of him who so short a time ago was the pride of our nation. Took a stroll around town. Was quite amused to see how blocks of buildings were raised. Found Westly Tinisley of whom I had not heard in some months. Left Chicago for Springfield & which place we arrived at 9.

May 3 -

On the way near Bloomington a young lady was found dead - supposed to have been killed by the pilot engine. Springfield is a very pretty country town situated near the railroads and in time will be a large place. A crowd awaited our arrival. A splendid hearse drawn by six black horses stood at the depot. We marched around several squares and to the Court House and then put up at a Hotel called the Chenery House. Afternoon we visited the President's former residence and also the place purchased for him.