

Kentucky

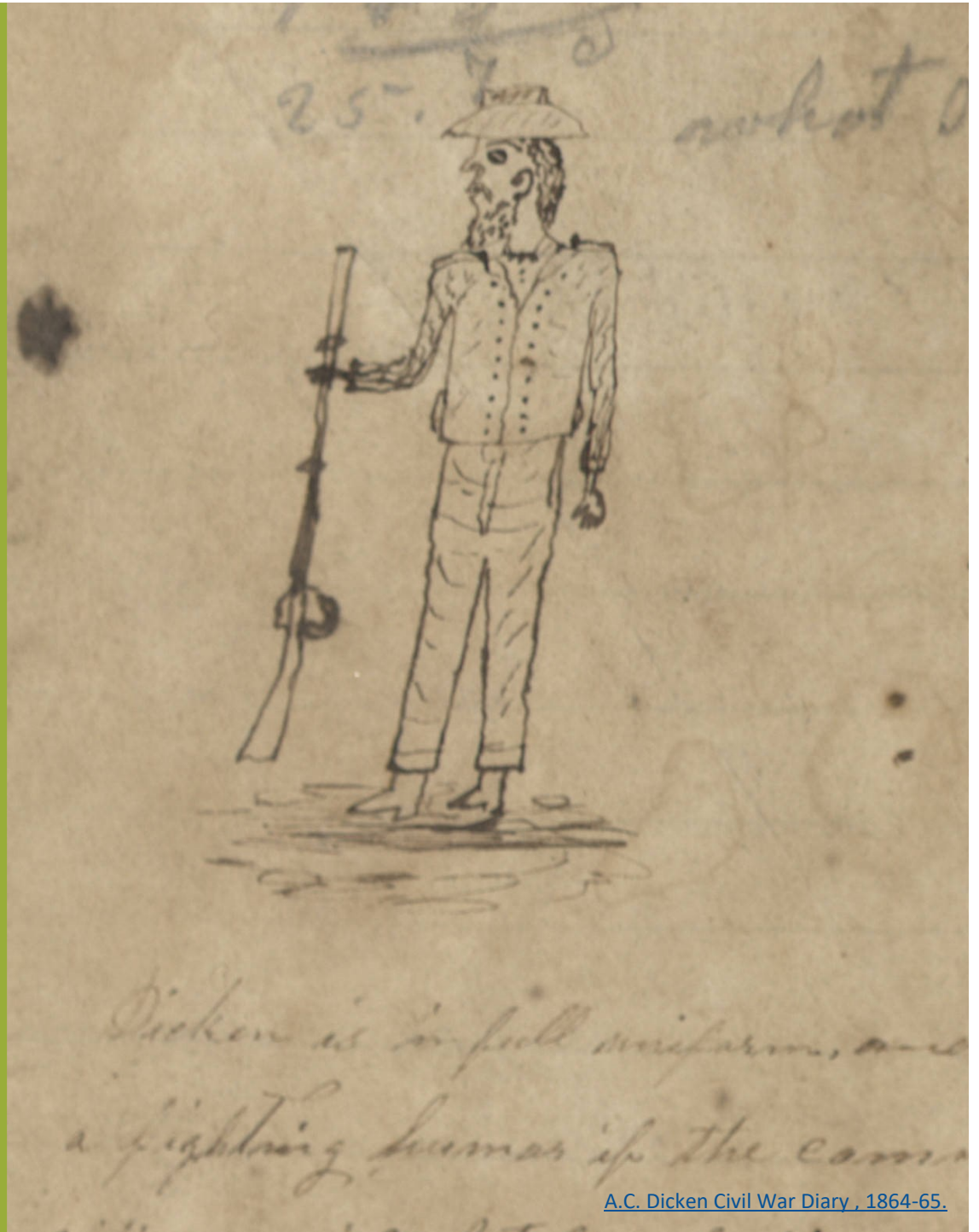
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EDUCATOR PACKET

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

A SOLDIER'S ESSENTIALS,
WAR OF 1812 TO WORLD WAR I

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[A.C. Dicken Civil War Diary, 1864-65.](#)

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

A SOLDIER'S ESSENTIALS, WAR OF 1812 TO WORLD WAR I

THEME *Military Life*

OBJECTIVE *To learn about the items carried by Kentucky service members.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

War of 1812

Often called the Second War of Independence, the War of 1812 once again pitted the U.S. against Great Britain. Impressment of seamen and infringement of commercial rights prompted President James Madison's call for war. Also, the U.S. objected to British alliances with American Indians that obstructed its expansion westward. Kentucky contributed approximately 18,000 troops to the war and suffered a high proportion of the nation's casualties. The war ended in a negotiated settlement in 1814. Prominent Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, already Speaker of the House, played an important part in negotiating this treaty.

Mexican-American War

In 1845, the annexation of Texas by the U.S. strained diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Mexico. When diplomacy failed, war broke out in 1846. Drawing on a strong military tradition, Kentuckians from all walks of life volunteered. Approximately 5,000 volunteers from the commonwealth served in four regiments during the two-year war. The war focused national debate on the extension of slavery into the southwest, in the name of Manifest Destiny. Internal divisions over the expansion of slavery led the nation toward the Civil War.

Civil War

In 1861, following many years of debate and futile attempts at compromise over the issue of slavery, sectional tension finally erupted in civil war. A month after the outbreak of war, Kentucky chose a policy of neutrality. Four months later, Kentucky abandoned its neutral stance to support the Union, but this hardly resolved the problem of divided loyalties within the commonwealth. Kentuckians served in both the Confederate and Union armies. An estimated 125,000 Kentuckians fought for the Union, including over 24,000 African Americans. During the Civil War, more American soldiers died from battle wounds and disease than in any other conflict. Technological advances changed the nature of warfare, making it deadlier than ever before.

World War I

Fragile alliances among European countries collapsed in 1914. The international war drew in the U.S. in April 1917. Some 84,000 Kentuckians served in the war and about 2,400 died. The contributions of men and women left behind led to the first widespread use of the term "homefront." Deadlocked in trench warfare, the conflict caused death and destruction on a scale as never seen before. The war brought down empires, created a new and unstable world order and entangled the U.S. irreversibly in world military affairs.

ARTIFACT LIST

1. [Powder Horn, ca. 1830 \(1987.79.01\)](#)
2. [Texas Die, ca. 1843 \(1983.02.02\)](#)
3. [Jesse Hyde Civil War Diary and Typed Transcript, 1862-64 \(SC1274\)](#)
4. [Gas Mask and Bag, ca. 1918 \(1976.100.03\)](#)

VOCABULARY

Artifact	<i>something made or modified by humans usually for a purpose</i>
Battlefront	<i>the military sector in which actual combat takes place</i>
Homefront	<i>the location of civilian activity during war</i>
Impressment	<i>to force people or property into public service or use</i>
Powder horn	<i>a flask for carrying gunpowder</i>
Whittle	<i>to pare or cut off chips from the surface of wood with a knife</i>

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ARTIFACT OBSERVATION

Use the table below to help analyze the artifacts. Consider listing things such as the size and shape or make a guess at what the object is or was used for. What do you wonder about the object?

I See...	I Think...	I Wonder...

ARTIFACT INTERPRETATION

Answer the following questions in 3-5 sentences.

What do these artifacts tell us about the life and times of the people who made and used them?

Do you think all these artifacts are essential? Why or why not?

Using a teacher approved resource, research and compare and contrast the artifacts carried by military personnel in the past with those carried today.



Powder Horn, ca. 1830 (1987.79.01)



Texas Die, ca. 1843 (1983.02.02)

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE.

Ninth District of Kentucky.

Greenupsburg, April 7th 1864.

Transportation furnished from
Louisville by Nashville Tenn
My order of Gen. S. D. Bruce
will cover
I will
act
Supt. Jesse Hyde
1st Ky Infantry
You are relieved from recruiting
and will proceed to join your
Regiment without delay
The Quartermasters Department
will furnish the necessary transportation
Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servant
Wm. C. Chiles
Capt. & Postman



Gas Mask and Bag, ca. 1918 (1976.100.03)