Source Set 1:

- Alexander Graham Bell’s design sketch of the telephone, ca. 1876.
- “Eight Men Stole This Engine, Hanged as Spies!” (New York Tribune)
- Huexotzinco Codex, 1531.
- *Humorous Incidents of the Civil War: The Experience of a Young Private Confederate Soldier*
- William Clark’s compass on chain and William Clark’s magnet

Answer the following questions:

1. As a group, identify whether each source is a primary source or a secondary source. Explain why.


   A. A student would like to use this source in a research paper about the lives of Confederate soldiers. What are the dangers of using this source in regards to historical interpretation? Pay careful attention to the fact that A.C. McLeary wrote this account many years after he participated in these events.

   B. McLeary writes, “I did not try to keep a diary, as some did.” Is a diary or a book like McLeary’s a more valuable historical source? Are they both of equal value in their own rights, and if so, why?
Alexander Graham Bell’s design sketch of the telephone, ca. 1876.
http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field (DOCID+@lit(mcc/004))
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Humorous Incidents of the Civil War

The Experience of a Young Private Confederate Soldier

I AM requested by the Daughters of the Confederacy to write a part of my experience as a Con-federate soldier of the Civil War. When the war began I was not old enough to know what to be mad about, hence I did not get into my fight-clothes until the first of July, 1863. I will not try to tell of all the Yankees I killed; but I can safely say, as "Bill Arp" did when he got back home: "Well, I killed as many of them as they did of me."

We lived near town (Humboldt), and while the Yankees were stationed there some of them were at our house almost every day. In fact, we had a guard who stayed with us three or four months. He was a great protection to us. He and I and many others played checks a great deal. I beat all I played with except one, a Captain Young.

After they left Humboldt I joined Bennett's company of cavalry. We soon raised a battalion, and afterwards we were consolidated with the Twelfth Tennessee Regiment, and after Hood's Middle Tennessee raid we were consolidated with Forrest's old regiment, and in May, 1865, we surrendered at Gainesville, Ala., as that regiment.

I was eight days on the road coming home. The last night I camped out was at Old Denmark, Tenn. The last "grub" issued to us was some meat at Macon, Miss. Brother Sam left Rock Island (Ill.) Prison at the same time I left Gainesville, Ala. He got home the 19th of May, 1865, and I got home the next day, the 20th. When in sight of home I fired my pistol six times to let them know I was coming…

The worst fright I got during the war was on a steamboat which we had just captured on the Cumberland River, five or six miles below Nashville. Our regiment was sent to blockade the river when Hood's army arrived and be, an to take their places. When we got in sight of the river we saw a transport boat coming down from Nashville. We at once left our horses and ran for the river to stop that boat. We had a fine time capturing all kinds of boats on the Tennessee River a month or so before, and we were now very hungry and ready for the good things to eat that those boats carried; but in running over those rocks and vines I sprained my ankle so badly I did not see how I could live much longer. After the boat ran by, Col. D C. Kelley came back to me, sent for my horse, and they put me on him. I rode to a house near by, got my ankle fixed up, and while I was there another boat ran by; but we had two cannons ready, for the third one, and it surrendered. I rode to where it landed. Colonel Kelley was sending the boys back up the river, to be ready for the next boat coming…

With all that I have written, it is only a small part of my experience in the Civil War. I did not try to keep a diary, as some did, and I have tried to write everything truthfully, though I may have made some mistakes as to dates, etc.; but it is all as I remember. I have written it more to give the young people an insight into what we young private soldiers went through in both good and bad times.

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/uncall:@field(DOCID+@lit(AWM-4196))
William Clark’s compass on chain and William Clark’s magnet

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