



Keyed Bugle, ca. 1846

Captain Frank Chambers' Company, Second Regiment of Kentucky Foot Volunteers, used this bugle during the Mexican-American War. Today bugles are typically used in ceremony, but during the nineteenth century they served as a means of communication on the battlefield. The movement of a company and regiment could be directed simply by heeding the sound of the bugle call. This particular instrument is a keyed bugle based on a Bavarian design. Manipulating the keys opened holes in the instrument and helped the bugler change notes. Unfortunately, the keys have been lost over time.

Donated by Herbert Heffner, 1939.98

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."