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MSS.48. Civil War collection

Appendices

Appendix 1. Transcriptions of Baggett letters.

1. T.C.(?) Baggett, near Mobile, Ala., to Lindsay(?) Baggett, 1863 March 22.

[page 1] March the 22 of 1863

Dear Wif and Children i feel thankful that i am Blest with this opportunity to Rite to you theas
lins leavs me in common helth hoping thes. Lins may find you all ingoying the same. Sinse i hav
Just Red yore kind letter of the 2 march i wos hapy to hear from you i wos vare sara to hear that
you wos so low[?] i Wont to hear from you all Wors then i did Before i hope and trust that when
i hear from you A gain that you wil Be ...[illegible word] so that you can Be up and About i hav
Bin in the horspital 4 weks i ...[illegible word] to mi camps the 21 of this instan.. and Reported
for dute the mezels[illegible words] for 4 or 5 days But thank god i think that i am
over them i fel that i am Blest the mezels has Bin fatol in this arme ther wos 15 dide with them in
the horspital Whil I was thare turn over [page 2] the Boys in mi compane is all wel mat & dock
& John Luorin is all Wel Buck Casper is at the horspital yet he has Bin vare Bad But he is Better
Linsea you can kep the cotton A Whil longer hit wil Bring moor then [illegible words] i
han't drod any mone yet i think We wil drow Before long We all sind the parol the other day you
can tel docter Coston i wil send him som mone as soon as I can you stated that the chilrin
Wonted me to send mi likeness to them Dear Childrin hit dos me good to think that you dont
won to forgit me i Wont you all to Be good Childrin obay yore mother and do Rite and ther Wil
Be A Way for you to liv til i git hom i wil send hit to you as soon as i Git the chanc to Git hit
takon i Wil hav to Go to the sitty of mobile A Bout 4 mils i think i wil send hit Before A grate
Whil turn over [page 3] We hav Bin Giting a Bout A nuf to ete for the last three or 4 days But
ther is tims that we dont git near A nuf ther was 5 or 6 Regmets the other day sed that tha intedid
to stak ther arms if tha didient git moor to ete and not dril any moor 1 But old Ginrel Butler got
on his Big Blak hors & Raird Round amost them told them to Be good yoys (?) and he wod hav
plente to ete the next day We hav Bin doan som Bette... eve sinc i can hear from the armies all
Round and tha all sa that ther Rashings is short hit is advertist in the sitty of mobile ...[illegible
word] Bred or Blood I Wod be glad if We cood mot nevver draw any moor old Red Beif the
...[illegible word] Boys is fat as Bacon hogs on corn bred hit dont look like men cood look so
Wel on so littel Corn is worth 5 dollers per Bushel Bean one doller and 50 egges is worth one
doller [page 4] eggs is worth one doller per doson yarn socks is worth one 50 thear is 2 or three

men dezerts from hear evre week and tha wil keep dezertin as long as this Wor last thear ant any prospect hear for a fite Wish tha wod fite or quit one or tother Linsea fif you nede iron to ...[illegible word] plows you can take A tier off one them old Buggy wheals i must clos this letter Rite to me and let me no how you al air giting along fair Wel til i hear from from L C [?] Baggett

To Linsea Baggett [illegible words] you can Rent the new grond and do as you think Best. But tr and tend all the stubul in corn

2. T.C.(?) Baggett, Tullahoma, Tenn., to Lindsay(?) Baggett, 1863 May 12/16.

[page 1] 16th

May 12th 1863

Dear Wif and Childrin: i Again sete mi self to drop you A f ... [missing piece of letter] theas lins leavs me in good helth at this time hopin t[hat] theas lines may reach you and find you all ingoying the same of gos Blessing i hant got any thing interestin to Rit you at this time We air still at tullahoma tenassee We ar all doing Well We git plente to ete hear We git Bacon corn mel an one mes of Biskcit onst A day and We git moor Ris then We ete i hav got so i cant ete rice i ete A Big Bate one day With suger on hit and hit made me as sick as A hors and i Wish you had mi part of the ris turn over [page 2] Tullahoma, Tennessee, i hant any Wor nws moor then i recon you hav herd of tims is still at this ... [missing piece of letter] thear ant any prospect of ... [missing piece of letter] fite hear at this time We hav to work on Brest Works evre other day i hav Bin Washing mi clos to day am A rite good hand to Wash But you Better no i hate to do it i wish that i Was thair to ete them shelots and eggs that you spoke of in yor kind letter But oh i ant oh hom ther is no plac like hom if hit is gods will for me git ...[illegible] agin i can no Beter of the comferts of hom Better then i hav in all mi lif i think i will liv A Better lif and Be a Better man Linse i think the tim long of hearing from you and them swet childrin of howrin But i still hope i will git a letter from you soon perhaps i wil git one to day [written on top of page 2] i red yor kind letter of the 9 may you dont no how glad i was to hear from you.

Appendix 2. Excerpts from M.D.L. Stephens diary.

1862

March 28: "We were up and had an officers drill at 8 A.M. Men at 10 A.M. Officer at 2 P.M. Men at 4 P.M.I have been at work and lost sleep till I am almost worn out."

April 5: "Col. Orr returned from Corinth reports a battle in progress 12 miles North of Corinth."

April 7: "hear news every day of the great battle near Shiloh Still fighting so we learn."

April 8: "More news of the great fight of the 6 & 7 at Shilo we have doubtless Suffered greatly but have whiped the enemy."

April 9: "election for Colonel of our Regt took place this fore noon – Col J.A. Orr was elected unanimously. The election for Lieut Col took place in the afternoon... I was elected by a large Majority."

April 11: "A very disagreeable day. lying around Camp doing nothing the field and Staff is as follows Col J.A. Orr Lt Col M.D .L. Stephens Major H.E. Topp Surgeon Coffin Ast Surgeon Anderson Q.M. S.L. Bowling Comissary S. Myres Adjt Campbell. "

April 19: "too rainy to drill Knocking around camps doing nothing. studying Tactic & reading Byron . . . We had a meeting of the Commissioned officers at night in the Col tent to come to some understanding about a uniform for the officers of the Regt."

April 21: "We are still drilling in the squad and Company drill the men are improving rapidly."

May 7: "Over at town paying my Taxes . . . we all made up a fishing party. Consisting of Mr Gregory & Mrs G-- Mrs Fiser & Miss Mattie Mrs Sadler & the Miss Stocker Mrs Stephens & myself. We had a nice time of it . . . The last night with my little family Oh! this cruel war when will it end, I have been in the field for one year..."

May 8: "Set out at 3 P.M. for Camp it was a hard struggle but I went. I turned my back upon all the fond ties of affection reached Pontotoc at 8 P.M. spent the night at the hotel...Pontotoc looks like a deserted village. no business doing all gone to the war."

May 14: "Up at 4 A.M. went up and drew our guns knp sacks, haversacks &c at 8 we were ordered to hold ourselves ready f or orders . at 2 we were ordered to Brickenridges Corps. 2 miles South west of Corinth to en camp. Maj Topp & myself rode out and laid off the Camp."

May 15: "We ha v e a nice encampment but very scarce of water."

May 18: ". . . moved 2 miles north of Corinth in Brig Gen Hawes Brig. have a nice encampment in a beautiful grove. but no water."

May 19: "heavy cannonading from 4 P.M. till night."

May 20: "Raining. heavy cannonading on the right . . . Drilled Cap Holmes Company in the Skirmish drill . . . firing still going on . no general engagement however today."

May 22: "moved at 4 P.M. on the Mobil & Ohio road reached our position by 10 A.M. we halted and took a rest. Some skirmishing just in front of us at 11 and on to 2 P.M. at which time it was ascertained that the enemy had retired . . . some rather disappointed at not getting up a general fight "

May 23: ". . . some hot skirmishing on the left . We marched out the Regt to fire at a Target. Col Orr I regret to say was somewhat intoxicated. The boys all did very well, firing with precision."

May 24: " I went to Corinth soon in to morning to get Cars to send off our sick we sent 154 to Saltillo today . . . We are having a great deal of sickness in our Regt not less than Six hundred cases."

May 26: "Knocking round camps all day. We have but 300 men fit for duty in the Regt."

May 29: "just at dark our Regt. together with the 4 Ky & 19 Ten were ordered to 20 Mile creek. 25 Miles South of Corinth on the M & O road."

May 30: "reached 20 Mile creek bridge a little after sun up. found the bridge safe and everything quiet. The enemy came in behind us and Burnt Boonville Depot and 30 baggage cars . . . We are scattered a long in the bushes in 20 Mile bottom. I have a squad of a 100 men with me."

May 31: "In line of battle expecting the enemy any moment. Past off without a fight. spent the day passing from Bridge to Bridge on the rail road . . . We took a Suspicious looking fellow up & have him a prisoner. took up a white man & a negro at night . We will deal very stringently with them . . . the sick soldiers still crowd the road the army is falling back to baldwin & perhaps further."

June 1: "The road is still crowded with poor sick soldiers. Suffering for something to eat. No one knows the horrors of war till we feel & know it. I am quite puny from exhaustion I have no

blanket and nothing to eat Mitch sick. We have a rough time of it sure.”

June 2: "Rained some last evening & some at night. I past an awful night on the wet ground am very sick this morning. We are all out of rations a great many sick in Rgt. We were ordered in the afternoon to prepare to burn the Rail Road bridges.”

June 3: "We are still piling wood on the bridgesWe put the torch to the bridges at 2 P.M. feel very bad nothing fit to eat.”

June 4: "We were ordered to our position in our Brig _[?_] We took up the line of march out of the bottom. which by the way was one of the most disagreeable places I have ever been in....We are 1½ miles west of Baldwin now My head aches so bad.”

June 5: “Fine day. Col Orr was arrested to day. under charges prefered by Gen Bragg. I am some better today took Blu Mass last night and Quinine today.”

June 7: "Set out for Tupelo at 4 A .M. sent our sick in wagons aheadWe had but 230 able to make the march.”

June 8: "Fine cool morning we set out at 4 A.M. after a long tedious walk of about 12 or 14 miles we halted 2 miles west of Tupelo in a clearing near Harrisburg & rested till near sun set when we moved 3 miles farther west in a beautiful grove...”

June 11: "Col Orr was restored to his command this evening.”

June 18: “I went up to Hd Qts. with a requisition for Endfield Rifles there to Maj Watson nice 120 Rifles...Col Orr off with his wife at night.”

June 24: “I have been quite sick all day. of Diarrhoea. Orders to leave for Jackson in the morning at 6.”

June 28: "Past a horrid night on a pile of brush . . . slept at hotel on the floor with Col Orr.”

June 29: "Up soon fixing to get off We started at 10 AM took dinner at Watervalley. got to Grenada in the afternoon. waited till 9 P.M. set out for Jackson.”

June 30: "At Canton reached Jackson at 10 A .M. . . . Militia called out. We rested all night in the Cars. hot hot.”

July 1: “On the cars on the road for Vicksburg. reached 4 mile creek at 10 A.M. We were ordered to town immediately. Walked through the dust to town 4½ miles were ordered on picket up the river. I am officer of the day. walked up and down the line of pickets for 3 miles. till after 1 oclock. slept on a pile of wood. past the worst night since I have been in service. Saw the enemies gun boats & transports.”

July 2: “Withdrew my pickets at day, joined the regt in the cliffs above town as we past through town they threw shells at us. one fell very close to meheard that McLelland & his army had Surrendered at Richmond.”

July 4: “At 12 M the yankees fired a salute”

July 5: 11 We are in the rail Road in a cut protected by hills. cheering news from Va they commenced shelling us furiously continued till 11. we moved to a more secure place . the shells fell thick & fast all around us. no one hurt”

July 7: “spent the day in the mines[?] near the Depota dirty set of fellows we are we have been lying in the dirt for 4 days.”

July 8: “Water very scarce. we are digging wells.”

July 10: “hot shelling in townpast a restless night the Muskeetoos were so bad.”

July 11: “took some suspicious character in the river last night Col Orr gone with him to Headquarters [?]”

July 13: "Regt still increasing men coming in from Hospital every day. past a miserable night with the musketoes."

July 14: "drew a months pay from Capt Bolling up to 1st July . . . some firing up the Yazoo."

July 15: "heavy firing up the river . . . The Arkansas came down through the Yankee fleet."

July 16: "Nine of the yanke gunboats went down last night terrible firing."

July 20: "Terrible shelling at night."

July 22: "Heavy shelling this morning one of the Federal gunboats past down. the firing lasted about 2 hours. we lost 5 at gun boat & 2 at battery. ordered off of picket at five to go below Warrenton to relieve Col Hynes."

July 23: "Raining. we set out for Warrenton at 7 oclock . . . went through town down to 'Magnolia Cottage ' when the rain was continuous & we returned to camp at night weary and worn."

July 25: "Lying round camp quite puny. Kept my bed most of the day."

July 26: "Ordered to move to the rail Road at 10 to day to take the Cars. went up to rail Road and lay around all day did not get off returned to camp at night."

July 27: "Took the cars at 12 for Camp Moor above New Orleans. past through Jackson at night past Magnolia just after sun up. I am very sick & have been for 3 or 4 days. have suffered death this trip . . . "

July 28: "Reached Camp Moore at 10 A .M. at Tangipaho station 80 miles above 'New Orleans' a nice place for an encampment & a large creek of pure clear water . . . we did not leave the cars . all day."

July 29: "I set out for home on a 20 days sick leave at 12 M."

August 1-31 entries consist of social visits and a slow recovery from his illness.

Appendix 3. Transcriptions of Gibson family letters.

1. J.S. Gibson, Constantine, St. Joseph County, Mich., to Rachel M. Gibson, Linden Post Office, Lycoming County, Penn., 1864 September 4.

[page 1] Constantine Sept 4th 64

Dear sister

It has bean five weeks sinc I herd from you I was thinking that you hadent got my last letter it is raining now for the first for a long time I hav just came back from uncle samuel they are all well. I am working for Mr R.F. Rice in constantine helping to repair a house he is Joseph H. Grier Father in law Constantine is quite a place there is about tenn stores two taverns two flowering mills plaining mill foundry one factory just Built 4 chirches & I received a letter from Robert too weaks ago he was well then he says they will get through there about the 6th of this month and will go to Blairsville [page 2] to help build a bridg there had a letter from Asher and one from his wife they are well Asher is going to try to get a furlow to cum home this fald to se his wife she says that little Ema is begining to talk sum General Sherman has taken Atlanta at last I suppose they had some hard fighting Amri Grier was kild near atlanta on the 20th of July he belonged to 105 reg Ill infantry William Hall wosent kild but taken prisenor that is all that his friends know about him I suppose that there having quite a time about the draft in Williamsport I will be very

apt to be drafted this time I want you to rite to me and let me know all about it I dont know any more to rite about now sow I will close for the present I send my love to Mother Brothers an sisters

Your affectionate bro

J.S. Gibson

direct to Constantine

St Joseph Co

2. A.D. Gibson, Nashville, Tenn., to Rachel M. Gibson, Linden, Lycoming County, Penn., 1864 December 23.

[page 1] Nashville Tennessee

Friday Evening

December 23d 1864,

Dear Sister,

You may have come to the conclusion that I have forgotten you. I have ben under the imperssion that you had not answered my last letter, how easy would it have ben for you to have written another what formality I have written two letters to Bro James he has not answered either yet you know my address now and you should I think at least have sent me a few lines, but the name of soldier has become a common phrase and those comfortably situated at home have an idea that the soldiers are comfortable too, far from it I cannot describe the hardships that some of our brave soldiers have had to undergo during the last campaign, and for what, to protect the homes and families of all true and loyal people [page 2] and our Nation, then who on earth I woud ask should be rewarded those who remain at home? or the soldier who stands in front of the enemy. There has been a great work done by the Christian Commission and the Sanitary Agencies, in giving aid and comfort to the Soldiers - there never can be too much done for the soldiers of our Nation, and I do not see how a friend can forget their friends who are in the army. I do not wish to be understood that every person can go to war - by no means, some have not the constitution to endure camp life. I never want to see John Edmund or even Robert go James is on the soft side he can remain at home without fear of a Draft now- Johns health is too poor to ever go into the army, I do not know how Edmunds health is of late - he could not endure the hardships of a campaign - I hope this Summer will finish the war and compell every Rebel to lay down his arms or leave the Nation, there surely cannot be manny men left in Susquehanna now and If another Draft is made where will the Substitutes come from [page 3] one week ago we had some excitement in this city. the Rebel Genl Hood had the city of Nashville besieged as he thought his main line of works were about 3½ to 4 miles from the city. he could have shelled the city from some of his batteries but did not, perhaps on account of his ammunition not being very convenient they have been careful of their ammunition, finally Genl Thomas made a move on the whole line of Rebel works on Thursday the 16th and drove the Johnnies back two miles - on Friday he drove them back six miles capturing several thousand prisoners and all their artillery this day the Rebs retreated in great confusion- our men driving them the fighting of to day was very severe - from the last Reports Gen Thomas had his Head Quarters at Columbia 45 miles from Nashville and Hood moveing his disorganized army to the Tennesse River as fast as he could - the weather has been very wet the roads almost impassable for man or beast - this has ben one of the most glorious Victories for the union we have had this last year - the weather is now

very cold, and has the appearance of winter, I received a letter from Mrs Gibson last week all well our dear little Emma is well and becoming mischievous - I had a very pleasant visit while at home - our dear little girl became [page 4] very much attached to me before I left - my time was taken up so much with her I did not have our Photographs taken have written to Mrs Gibson to have them taken as soon as possible - I will have some new pictures taken here if I remain here all winter, what does John think of Mrs Gibson and our little girl - Mrs Gibson sends her love to all the family - wishing all good health - my Love to Mother Brothers and Sisters wishing all good health and hopping after this Rebellion is over we would like to make a visit to the old home - a mountain would be a great sight for Mrs Gibson - my kind Regards to all the friends - give me all the news when you write - and hope you will not delay in answering this letter, Sunday will be Christmas we have no Turkey or extras for dinner - but will have Real coffee sugar and fresh Beef - have a good cook and a good warm kitchen to eat in with white plates cups and saucers - our table is neat and clean - which gives things the appearance of home somewhat - my health is better than it has ben Is John W. Riddell at home this winter? where is Mr W.W. Cooper I suppose he would vote for Mr Lincoln? I hope I may hear from Mrs Heilman soon - do you ever hear from Mr R. Wier of Baltimore - give me all the news when you write and a long letter - From Your Affectionate Brother

A D. Gibson

Address

Post Office Box 1201

Nashville

Tenn.

Do not use AM Sergt or 104th Reg as my letters would go south to the Reg in Shermans Army

3. A.D. Gibson, Nashville, Tenn., to Rachel M. Gibson, Linden, Lycoming County, Penn., 1865 January 9.

[page 1] Nashville Tennessee

Monday Evening

January 9th 1865,

Dear Sister

Your very welcome letter of the 1t of January was received Saturday evening - which was read with pleasure, it has been a long time since you had written, this is my birth day has been raining all , which makes every thing very unpleasant out side of the house; however I have passed the day very quietly in the office, we are having a great deal of rain here - how disagreeable the winters are here compared with the north, I could not be induced to live in such a climate as this, I would like to see Robert, he is not considered a citizen of your Township in case of another Draft he would not be held liable - I think John should have remained out west and by the time another draft would take place in Penna he would have become a citizen of the West, and would be more likely to escape out [page 2] west than at home, I hope you may not have an occasion for a Draft, and that your quota may be raised by volunteering; or by substitutes, If you can, does not Bro Edmund fear the Draft or can he be exempt in case he should be drafted? has Bro Edm ever had any Photographs If so I would like to see one very much indeed, I would like to see him when I return home If my life is spared, I am well satisfied that John would like Illinois after he had travelled over the State more, What is Mr Torbert engaged in out in Kansas and what part do

they live in, I never heard that they had gone to Kansas, it must be rather a dangers place to live in now, What has become of Rev AW Gibson, I think If Dr S Gibson would move West and locate in some pleasant town he would do well in his profession, If his health is not too poor, Mr Elliott received a very high price for his farm, who paid such a sum for it? land is very high at present - times are good business of all kinds in a most flourishing condition every person is making money except the soldiers - I hope they may have an opportunity [page 3] after they return home again, I am very glad to hear that Mother enjoys such good health and that Mary Ann and Eliza Jane are in good health which is a great blessing My Love to Mother, Sisters and Brothers wishing all good health and happiness, Remember me kindly to all the friends - Received a letter from Mrs Gibson Saturday Evening she was enjoying good health and our Dear little Emma was well, she is commencing to speak some words quite distinctly, I will not say any thing about the pictures - and hope to supprise you in a short time, my health is some better than it has ben - Mrs Gibson wishes to be kindly remembered to all of the family - I hope you may be punctual in answering this and give me all the news when you write, ask Bro James If he has heard of Mr Allrights whereabouts lately, If he is in the army yet - Send me a Williamsport News Paper occasionally - Will send you a Nashville Paper, for this time close and once more ask that you answer without delay. From your Affectionate Brother AD. Gibson,
4. A.D. Gibson, Nashville, Tenn., to Rachel M. Gibson, Linden P.P., Lycoming County, Penn., 1865 March 19.

[page 1] Nashville Tenn.
Sunday Evening
March 19th 1865

Dear Sister

It is with pleasure that I reply to your very kind letter of Jan 29th which should have been answered long ago, have ben away on duty. I would have enjoyed a good sleigh ride last winter no doubt - while you had such fine sleighing, and safe bridges, we have no sleighing here but rain and mud all winter which made the winter very disagreeable, If I remember saw no ice in the Cumberland River during the winter, There has been a great flood in the Cumberland River and many houses in the lower part of the City was filled with water, finally the river has fallen and dry land once more is in sight, there has been a great deal of damage done by the flood - however a few weeks of dry weather will give an oppertunity to repair all bridges, and whatever damage that has been caused - To day has been war m and pleasant every thing begins to grow flowers can be seen in some of the gardens - and green leaves are shooting out - [page 2] the peach trees will be out in blossom in another week, military operations are quite active at present - thousands of new troops have arrived at this place during the last month, Illinois has raised her quota of troops without having to resort to the Draft, some of the new Regiments number as high as the 154th Regiment - This summer will wind up the rebellion, If you can form any idea from the reports we have been receiving from the South, I hope the Rebellion will not last long, now - did your Township raise her quota without a draft? If so Bro John and Edmund are clear this time, and no doubt but that Bro Robert is clear also, have not heard from him for some time John owes me a letter would be pleased to hear from him soon, I must say a word in behalf of Mrs Sue Torbert, such trials and hardships are severe - pioneers have to undergo many trials and difficulties, Kansas was a paradise while we were there compared with the time since the war

broke out – hope they may get along ~~prosperously~~ in safety hereafter, Did Rev AW Gibson ever go into the army? – and how long did he remain there, can it be possible that I am the only Gibson who [page 3] is in the army from the three families in Susquehan at this late date I do not wish to hear that any of my Brothers have enlisted, am satisfied that Edmund and John could not endure the hardships of camp life that I know from experience – I have gone through the hardship of camp life and am inclined to believe that my health has not been impaired any by it - although some one must go forth in defense of our Glorious Union - and their men who are undergoing the privations of camp life and the dangers of the battlefield will be honored by the nation for ages –

Received a letter from Mrs Gibson last week they were all well our Dear little Emma was learning to talk quite fast – hope Bro John Received the Photograph that Mrs Gibson sent to him, I sent one to Sister Lettitia some time ago – hope you will send one of Bro Edmunds Photographs when you write – Tell Bro James would be pleased to hear from him when he has time to write – My Love to Mother Sisters and Brothers wishing all good health, Very glad to learn that Mother continues in good health – Mrs Gibson wishes to be kindly remembered to all the family – [page 4] hope Bro John will write soon – And send me a Williamsport paper – How does Cos Robert Gibn and W H Gibson get along – that R.R. G. judge he has a beautiful place – since he has built the new house and barn who keeps house for Cous W.H. – How does James Gibson get along does he farm the ~~homestead~~ old place – no doubt but there has ben many changes taken place since I left – my Kind Regards to all the Friends – do not delay in answering this – give all the news in your next -

Your Affectionate Brother
AD, Gibson

Address

A D Gibson

Post Box 1201

Nashville Tenn,

5. Lucina and A.D. Gibson, Mendota, Ill., to Rachel M. Gibson, Linden, Lycoming County, Penn., 1865 December 31.

[page 1] Mendota Ills Dec 31st 1865

Dear Sister,

A long time has elapsed since you letter was received and a great many changes have taken place within that period in affairs at home as well as in the History of our Country, only think at that time all was war confusion and excitement, but now Victory and Peace is sounded from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and there is still as great a contrast in our own privet homes, a few months ago Husbands and Brothers abroad fighting for the Salvation of our Country, but now we are seated by our own fire-sides enjoying The blessings and comforts of a happy home, and a free Country. Who but a Soldiers family can fully appreciate this? They have sacrificed Society [page 2] home and evn life to bring about these great and noble changes. many have returned to there homes wounded on the bloody battlefield having lost an arm or a leg, or both, that his Country might be saved. But we have been greatly favored during this struggle and have ample reason to feel very greatful to our Heavenly father, for sparing the lives of both my Husband and Brother. They have gon through the war without receiving any wounds, however the health of each has been injured.

As the day of strife and carnage has passed away and all the attendant horrors of the battle field we can only bless God that Victory has at last crowned our Liberty.

I have no apology to offer for not answering your letter before. I have put it off from time to time until this late hour I can only ask your pardon for such negligence and hope in future to be more dutiful.

I must now say a word or two about our little Emma she is now almost three years old, and is a great talker a she has already learned the whole alphabet we think that is pretty smart [page 3] for a child of her age we will send you her Photograph as soon as she gets over the whooping cough. Mr Gibson has a very severe cough. Symptoms are very much like the whooping cough, he is using Dr Jaynes Expectorant which I think relieves him some. I hope he will soon recover. Then Bro Robert is married and we have a new Sister, well give them my complements and tell them I wish them all the happiness imaginable. I will now close by wishing all health and prosperity Emma sends love to her Grandma.

I am Truly your affectionate Sister

Lucina Gibson

Mrs Gibson has left a few lines for me, to add a few words, hoping you have had a pleasant winter and a good time during the Holidays – hoping to hear that Mothers health is good – and all the family – our Winter has been very dull no snow – have had a few days of very cold weather, my health is not very good have had a very bad cough this winter, our little Emma having the Whooping Cough – I have caught it from her – it annoyes me – a great – deal - I am uneasy about it for fear that it may effect my Lungs – I am using Dr James Expectorant freely, hope by care I may recover soon hoping you may answer this soon and give all the news – wishing Mother Brothers and Sisters good health – will answer Bro Johns letter soon –

Your Affectionate Brother

A D, Gibson

Appendix 4. Transcriptions of Edwin F. Redfield letters.

1. Edwin Redfield to brother Victor, 1861 May 30.

Jasper May 30 1861

Dear Brother

I have got the Sore eyes and have on a pair of Gru? spects so if you can not read this you will know the reason [?word] you get some one to read it to you that I could not write [?word] but enough of such. I shall most likely by the time this reaches you be sole owner of the Press and book store . Mother wants you to come and work with me if I bye it but she is not willing for you to come when Mr. Hughs is herr she dont like him a bit She was awful mad at me for a while because I took sides with the South but she is first rate natured now She think that if I get by myself and have you with me she shall be happy Our Boy William has been here only four months and because his folks wait him he is going home While you have been with Billy nearly two years and I think he had ought to let you come and help me awhile. If you can come you

will have the best chance in the world to get a good start in the world and then what a chance you would have to read for Brother I have got a great many more books now than I had when you were here. I am almost ready to have a song book printed and have already received order for it from Kentucky please answer this by return mail

Edwin

2. Edwin Redfield to brother Victor?, 1863 June 10.

Address written in ink on piece of paper cut from an envelope:

Edwin F. Redfield.

McMinnville Sparta

Tennessee

Whartons Brigade of Cavalry

Care of Capt. Rice

Verso – written in pencil:

June 10th. Capt. P. H. Rice came in a few moments ago. Said he had a letter from you to me but had misplaced it some way. So you see I have my usual luck, all my letters lost

You must write it over again and send it by Parson

Yours Edwin

3. Edwin Redfield, Hoovers Gap, Tennessee, to brother Victor, 1863 June 11.

[note written in pencil in different hand] Send me some wafers If you Please

Hoovers Gap Tenn

June 11th 1863

Dear Brother

I mailed a letter to you yesterday. Capt Rice came in last night and said he had a letter from you but had left it at home or lost it

I saw a Silante "Intelegenser" this morning which stated that Tob[acco] had gone down very low and now prices ranged from 50 to \$2 per pound. I knew that you would want to buy all you posobly could at the present prices so I set about fixing up some way to help you

I spoke to Will Shurly and he agreed to let you keep his "one hundred and ninty" for a while till I could pay him here that is if you had not already paid it over to his father. Well that will help you some then you [page 2] can keep the \$211.00 I sent you and get 200.00 from Parson Glenn that with what you can borrow from others and what you have in the store wud enable you to lay in a good suply and when you get it dont be in to big a huray to sell If you sell at all make a big proffit Tob of a comon quality is worth \$2.00 per plug here. I wish we were paid off so I could do more for you but that will throw 400.00 into your hands at once and I will manage to pay that myself when it becomes due. now is the best time to buy you will have it all.

If you have already Paid Shurly there is no help for it I supose Do the best you can

[page 3] Keep me fully posted and I will do all for you that I posobly can

I have 1.25 [? word] in green back [? word] which at 3 for one will bring 3.75

amount owed me in Regt.

2.00

amount due me for wages

1.00

Total \$675.00 [\$6.75?]

All of which is at your service "when I get it"

If you are certain you can get \$3 for one for green back I will let you have it, but I can get more than that even if I get a chance to go beyond the lines again

I wish to goodness they would pay us off now so I could help you more.

I have spent a great deal lately have had a chance to eat out in the cunty [county?] a good deal and have spent on an average one dollar per day. We are in here now where I cant spend it? it want to. I expect it is a good thing for me [page 4] but I get awful tired of camp fare. You know I am a great lover of good things.

Who do you think I saw yesterday. Amos L. Griffith he was captured about Woodbery by some of the 4th Tenn M/D. Moer owes me one hundred nine dollars. I expect he could let you have some if you could see him

I will send a note enclosed to Mr Shurly

All of you must write your letters over and send them on I have only got one from you and one from mother in 3? months

Mr. Shurly. Sir I have made arrangements with Bill to keep that mony a little longer and will pay him here for it. I have agreed to pay one hundred of it in a Confederate bond

Yours

E. F. Redfield

Co. G. 3rd Confederate Rgt.

[note written on side of page 2] I expect you will get both my letters at once Do all you can for our Firm look out that them mountern fellers dont come down and carry off your goods EFR

4. Edwin Redfield to mother Clarissa, 1864 November 24.

Nov. 24th 1864

My darling Mother

I am well but have not heard from you and Victor in a long, long time. I wrote you several letters while I was in Tenn last sumer. If you had only been there so that I could have seen you. But Mamma and Vic why cant you return now. go to any plac just so it is in Tennes I intend to settle in Nashville when the war is over. cant you go there now? You could get our things together and Victor could open a little store. Ah Mother if it is posoble do please go and then I would have a home to go to. I really dont know what I should do if the war was over now no home. Please go. I wish to follow the same bussiness that I comenced before the war. I have spent every leisure moment trying to improve myself. Write very often direct your letters care Gen Robt Anderson Wheelers Corps Cav. What has become of Grandpa? God bless you

Your devoted Son

Edwin

[Postmark on verso: "...Point Comfort Jan 18"]

5. Edwin Redfield to mother Clarissa, 1864 December 23.

Dec 23rd 1864

My darling Mother.

I received a letter by flag of truce from you dated July 24th with the exception of this I have heard nothing from you since last spring. I have been well and the only draw back to my happiness is that I am seperated so far from all I hold dear in life - You and Victor.

Mother please return to Tennessee as soon as posable. There is so much that I want to write that I dont know where to commence on a little flag of truce letter but I trust we may live to meet

again and then I can tell you which will be much better than writing. Tell Vic. that he must improve every opportunity and learn all he can and you dear, dear Mother please take good care of yourself and dont get old looking Look on the bright side of everything. I still have your miniature. I have carried it all the time and worn out for or five cases. it has been a great comfort to me.

George D_ was well the last time I saw him "Frieton" is well and sends love. Mr Stons famly are at Cedar town [?word]. I have not seen any of them since I saw you. I have not heard from Jasper. please give all my friends there my love if you comunicate with them. God bless you.

Eddie

6. Edwin Redfield to brother Victor, 1865 January 13.

January 13th 1865

Dearest Brother,

I have not heard a word from you since July. Why is it. do you write?

Vic do please come home again if posable - you and Mother, so that I can have a home to go to whern the war is over, and then it will be so much more pleasant for both. you and Mother among our friends in dear old Tennessee. If you have any way of writing to Jasper, give my love to friends there.

Be certain to procure two copies of the "Geneology" now while you have the chance I have enjoyed excelent helth have not been sick a day in two years. I dont suppose you and Mother will know me when we meet. Ah wont that be a happy time. I dream of it very often Victor take good care of our Mother. You must take care of her for both of us, and never leave her no matter what may happen

I can learn nothing in regard to the goods you stored in C_. I left part of a box of Tob[acco] with Mr Christian. he lives near by? Mr. Moers. I hope you have left someone in charge who will take good care of our things I would not like to be entirely penniless, though I dont expect much else

If I have any friends that far north, please give them my respects. I pray that when next I hear from you, you and Mother will be in Tenn again and may I hear soon

Your brother
Edwin

7. Edwin Redfield to mother Clarissa, undated.

Darling Mother,

I met a mutual friend of ours this evening Miss Maggie, I can't learn to call her anything else altho she has been married some time. You don't known how much good its done me to see her and hear her talk about "Aunt June" she is a true friend of yours mother.

Oh Mother my own darling Mamma. how I long to see you once more shall me ever meet again the war can't last always so I live in hope.

I have written twice to day and left the letters [page 2] with citizens to mail for me. I gave Miss Mag your address and she will write to you. I shall leave this with her to send.

I have but a very few moments to write the Command is moving on. I have stoped by the road side to write this Tell Victor to be a good boy, learn all he can and above all things take good care of you

As for myself dearest Mamma I promise never to do anything for which my mother need be ashamed honor is all thats left me now. home friends, gone all gone now. be sure that I shall

guard it with jelous care

[page 3] I fear you cannot read this but try hard and if you cant make it out keep it till you come back home and I will read it for you

I cannot write more

God bless thee

Eddie

Appendix 5. Excerpts from the Davis-Bills letters.

John J. Davis to wife, Malinda S. Davis, Friendship, Dyer County, Tennessee, 1861-1864:

1. 1861 December 11, Camp Trenton, Tenn. We drill once a day & nearly every night...a fight is expected at Columbus.”
2. 1861 December 23, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “...some Ladys were in camp to day weeping on account of what we poor soldiers have to undergo for their protection. My Dear I much need your prayers that I may be kept from the many temptations to err that all are more or less incident to in camp.”
3. 1861 December 29, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “I went to preaching at the Baptist Church to day was at preaching this evening at camps.”
4. 1862 January 8, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “...building winter quarters which I think if the weather is good will finish in 2 week from now....we have a good situation 4 miles from Trenton on the railroad...to Columbus...It will be 10 weeks before we can get our guns.”
5. 1862 January 11, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “...drew our shirts & pants & one plaid linsey overshirt was drawn by all our camp to wear on dress parade 5 dollars for the pants & 2 dollars & 8 2/3 cts for the shirts.”
6. 1862 January 25, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “Report of a battle being fought at Cumberland Gap in Ky near Tenn line with 10000 Yankeys vs. 4500 southerners We were defeated Genl Zollicoffer killed The report is generally believed.”
7. 1862 January 27, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “I received...the Butter syrup & candy all of which was very very thankfully received....It is reported in camps to day that 8000 Lincoln troops are at Huntingdon, Tenn about 30 miles from Trenton it is not generally Believed.”
8. 1862 February 2, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “I am well as common....Tell your father I want that knife as the Regt has to be armed with knives Government has to furnish every man that can not himself.”
9. 1862 February 7, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “I am well as common.”
10. 1862 March 1, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “...was detailed to go to Trenton next morning to load bulk pork on the cars.”
11. 1862 March 10, Trenton, Tenn. “I have been here 5 days Guarding the foundrey Hills Regt. has orders to leave tomorrow....We do not know where we will go the general belief is to Fort Pillow.... We have gained a great victory in Benton Arkansas....Genl Price killed & wounded 5000 including prisoners routing them in great confusion.”
12. 1862 March 16, Camp Trenton, Tenn. “I have received my Gun & cartridge box & 16 rounds of ammunition We have about 30 Guns to the Co we have now nearly 1000 in our company....we had to go out this evening and drill 3 hours in Battalion drill Just like it was

monday I am sorry that it has become necessary to violate the Lords day in such a manner...Monday morning We were called in a line of Battle this morning an hour before day but no enemy came the report was that the Lincolnites their cavalry about 500 would be here in few minutes I was not alarmed those only that had guns went out..."

13. 1862 March 24, Camp Trenton, Tenn. "...went a cut a mess turnip sallad this morning had a fine mess for dinner....It is now believed that we will not leave Tenn The yankeys are giving back where we meet them with an equal force."

14. 1862 March 28, Camp Trenton, Tenn. "We are drilling about 6 hours a day."

15. 1862 April 2, Camp Trenton, Tenn. "We have had quite a panic here yesterday The Lincoln troops came to Union Cty Scared Pickett (Irish) Regt (the only infantry there) away it is said the Officers were drunk....Col Hill returned Brought 6000 cartridges and all are now more quiet we are still drilling about 6 hours a day....send me a pair of socks by the first chance."

16. 1862 April 3, Camp Trenton, Tenn. "My Dear take good care of yourself be more than cautious in your conduct."

17. 1862 April 5, Camp Trenton, Tenn. "The train waiting for us We packing up our things We had our orders to cook five days rations last night it is thought We are going to Humboldt but it is unknown."

18. 1862 April 18, Corinth, Miss. [p.1] "Wife I have the utmost confidence in your prayers & while in the first at the fight while we were lying down & the cannon balls & bomb shells were flying over our heads I was trying that God might protect me....I have heard more talk of peace lately than ever though nothing reliable yet I think the signes of the times indicate it....[p.2] it is rumored that Nashville is taken from the enemy it is thought to be true northern papers state that at the fight at Shilough they lost 7000 (?) killed 24000 (?) wounded & 8000 taken priseners We all got our knapsacks that we left on the road but our coats & Blankets that we left on the field was never heard of more." [second page of copy missing]

19. 1862 May 16, Corinth, Miss. "I wrote you to send me \$1.00 in silver to pay for my washing 1 dollar in silver is worth 2 in paper with the negroes....We have hard fare no coffee has given out we only get 1¼ pounds of Bacon to the man per week the ballance of the meat we get is pickled Beef it is not fit to eat My dear if you send us any thing more to eat do not send any cooked meats they will spoil I have seen a good many cooked chickens spoiled that were sent here....Do not let the yankeys have my tobacco burn it first."

20. 1862 May 23, Corinth, Miss. "I received you very kind & gladly received letter which was of more worth to me than many boxes of Provisions....have taken fresh cold having to lay on the cold ground without cover does not suit my health....I have ten dollars in one bill I can not get it changed to buy anything I am out of chewing Tobacco change is scarcer than I ever saw it."

21. 1862 June 30, camp near Tupelo, Miss. "We have the most cheering accounts from Virginia in a recent fight at or near Richmond in which we have gained one of the most glorious victories ever gaind by our arms the northern army was completely routed....the Evacuation of Corinth was a military necessity It had become impossible to get water to supply the army and the worst water I ever used I have been compelled to draw another pair of pants I need 2 pair of cotton drawers my calico shirts are giving away."

22. 1862 December 21, near Murfreesboro, Tenn. "Wife the 47th Regt is to be consolidated with the 12th regt. A detail will be made consisting of Commissioned Officers to go to West Tennessee to get recruits for our Regt. It is generally believed here that the Abolitionist are

leaving West Tennessee and that Nashville will be evacuated if not already I feel hopeful that our (Cheatham's) Division will go to Nashville or thereabouts....I have now plenty of clothing except 1 pair cotton drawers 1 or 2 plain cotton shirts and I should be glad to have 1 or 2 more pairs of socks I am not wearing any flannel this winter....I never have been able to learn whether the Abolitionist has taken any thing from you or not if they have left you your meat & bread it is better than I expect....The health of the army is better than ever before I believe....We are comfortably situated with Brick chimneys to our tents & plenty bed clothing & plenty to eat."

23. 1863 January 8, near Shelbyville, Tenn. "We have had a great battle such a one as but few of us have ever passed through we left our camps Monday morning on Wednesday morning the fight commenced in earnest the fight lasted all day our company had 28 men had 9 wounded....a spent grape shot struck me on the breast but did not hurt me we drove the enemy back and remained on the Battle ground 3 days....I heard to day the enemys loss was 22 thousand our loss is 8 thousand killed wounded & missing....some times we have tents then nothing but the cold ground to sleep on with a single blanket apiece 2 of us sleep together lay on one & cover with 2 our feet to the fire if it rains or snows all the same we have plenty of meat & bread but not much of anything else but we are willing to endure all this to secure our rights."

24. 1863 March 27, in camps near Shelbyville, Tenn. "I had taken deep cold had an attack of Billious Fever & diarrhoea....Dear Wife today is the day set apart by president Davis as a day fasting humiliation & Prayer which I have duly observed....One of the best evidences I see of a speedy peace is that Christians are becoming more humble and seem to feel more the need of humility & prayer....Everything is selling very high eggs is \$1.25 @ \$2.00 per dozen Butter \$1.00 @ \$1.50 per pound milk \$1.00 per canteen full everything in proportion."

25. 1863 April 1, camp near Shelbyville, Tenn. "...tell me to what extent you have been injured by the yankeys....It is generally expected we will have a battle in the vicinity of this place so soon as the weather becomes settled and the roads dried our army is good health as usual and fine spirits and confident of success Do not let our dear children neglect their book I do not expect they have any chance to go to school."

26. 1863 August 1, in camp near Chattanooga, Tenn. "Wife the present is the gloomiest times we have ever had....the prospects of recognition by France & England has not been without its effect some has went so far as offer to bet five to one that we would have peace in 60 days at least a cessation of hostilities but I feel it would be vain to build upon such delusive hopes....President Davis has issued a proclamation setting apart the 22nd August as a day of fasting humiliation & prayer I hope this will be generally observed....a death ocured last night in this Regiment from cholera I fear it will become prevalent I sent you a finger by Mr Strange it is neither fine or nice but I hope you will appreciate it because it came from me."

27. 1864 February 6, camp near Dalton, Ga. "I was sorry to hear that you had taken the oath but I am not hurt with you for doing so as I know you did what you thought best....I am sorry to learn that you are all so mean subjugated....I wish you could have been here yesterday to seen our Army it was general review I saw more sodier than I ever saw at one time before We were drawn up in 3 lines of Troops in 4 ranks each line fully one mile long General Johnston & his staff rode around each line stopping at each Brigade....after which we were wheeled into line by companies and passed in review before him....We are well pleased with Johnston and believe him to be the man for the times....Wife if it is your desire to dip snuff I am willing if you think it

will afford you the least pleasure for your lonely hours....the health of the army never was good as at present.”

28. 1864 February 25, bivouacked near Demopolis, Ala. “... on the night of the 19th...we started for this place We took the cars and came to Montgomery Alabama & then took steamboat to Selma Ala the took the cars to place....General Polk came around to see us yesterday & told us he was doing all in his power to get us back in his command and says he will lead us in to west Tennessee if he gets us (Cheathams Division) back in his command he said further that he thought this would be the last year of the war....Wife I must tell you that if the fortunes of war should throw this command in reach of my home I intend to come but if I have to come home without a furlough I would stay but a few days as sure as God spared to come back I would come....Wife the thought of leaving my command with out leav is to me a painful thought but I have been away from you now nearly 2 years long enough for any man to separated from his family nothing but to save my family (that I love so much) from subjugation could keep me from you so long.”

29. 1864 April 24. “I have just learned that we could get a detail to guard conscripts to the army but I think...we would not get to stay at home any length of time.”

30. 1864 May 6, Atlanta, Ga. “We had to walk to Tupelo before we got a train we took the train at Tupelo Sunday evening last you can see we have been a long time on the road.”

31. 1864 June 2, in line of battle near Hope Church, Ga. “Wife we walked to Tupelo about 140 miles the weather was very warm on the 6 day May I reached camps which was the 13th day from home I found the command all in winter quarters....Wife we have not seen a day not even an hour since we left Resaca 15 miles this side of Dalton without hearing the guns of our Pickets the like of skirmishing was never known before....just now while I am writing a bullet whisyed ove my head which is a common occurrence....in our present position we have good breastworks the enemy is also behind their breastworks A few days ago they charged Cleburnes Division when they lost 750 killed besides the wounded his loss was small this was an open field fight they advanced within 40 steps of our lines holding a white flag in their hands was ordered to halt when they demanded our men (Cleburns) to surrender saying that they were surrounded which was answered at the instant by the report of our guns....The knews from Virginia is encourageing Lee has gained a decided victory over grant....Camp life is very hard after spending so happy atime at home I have not pulled off my shoes but two nights in 22 days.”

32. 1864 July 13, in line of battle near Atlanta, Ga. “I was very glad to hear you had received my little letter...I sent it by a Mr Farris a one armed discharged soldier I paid him one dollar to carry it he will bring answers for the same price he said he would return in a short time and continue the buisness for a living....Since the date of that letter I have done some of the hardest fighting I ever did in my life my company was on pickett it was the 22 june about 11 oclock the enemy advanced to drive in our pickets in order to fortify near our breastworks [a long account of this fight follows]....I do not know how much I shot but I know that my arm was much bruised & blackened....Wife you forgot to tell me anything about your wheat crop you certainly do not have to eat corn bread as much as I do We are drawing plenty of rations but little of anything else...We have drawn Whiskey several times but that is worth nothing to me....We have good news from Va It is reported that Grant is falling back from the vicinity of Petersburg & Genl Early’s Corps advancing on Martinsburg It is rumored here that Dick Taylor & Kirby Smith is at Tupelo on their way here with 22 thousand men I hope this is so....[June] 28th they sent a flag of

truce asking privilege to bury their dead which lay thick in front of our lines it was granted & they were nearly all day with a large detail completing the unpleasant task in many places they did not dig any holes but would draw several together by hooking their picks over them and throw some dirt over them without touching them with their hands The sight was horrible....We have made 9 different stands since we left Dalton We have marched 2 nights all night and fortified several nights without sleeping a bit....I think preparations are making to fight the enemy if they cross the river which they seem to be slow in doing Everything of importance have been removed from Atlanta in case Johnston should have to fall back beyond that Point.”

33. 1864 July 14. “...last night I heard that Harrisburg Penn was in our hands I hear also that a scout had arrived from the rear of Sherman’s army and says they are falling back....Genl Bragg is here from Richmond Jeff Davis also is said to be here....While it pains me to know that I have not provided for you so bountifully as I might have done yet I believe we live as agreeable together as some that have had negroes to wait on their Wives...”

Correspondence, 1864-1866 referring to John J. Davis’ death:

34. 1864 August 18, Mrs. Sarah D. Greenwood, Barnesville, Ga., to Mrs. J.J. Davis, Friendship, Tenn. Describes Davis’ wounding in the arm, erysipelas, care, and death at Flewellen Hospital No. 1.

35. 1864 August 18, W.T. Bennett (chaplain), on the front near Atlanta, Ga., to Mrs. J.J. Davis, Friendship, Tenn. Reports Davis’ wounding and death from gangrene. “It was my good fortune to talk much with my dear departed brother after he was wounded. I attended him to the hospital, stood by him while the surgeon operated upon his broken arm, conversed with him of his prospects, both in this & the eternal world, and in regard to the life to come, he seemed to have a full assurance of faith that heaven would be his home.”

36. 1866 August 23, Will D. Somers, M.D., Collierville, Tenn., to Mrs. John J. Davis. “The immediate cause of his death was what we term “Phlebitis”....He was nicely buried on the day after his death and his grave distinctly marked by a good wooden head-board...Enclosed with this letter I send you a handkerchief which he left on his bed when he died.” [Somers states Davis died August 14 but Chaplain Bennett and Mrs. Greenwood wrote it was August 18.]

Correspondence and miscellany, 1876-1878 and undated:

37. “Compliments of J.H. Bills to Miss Frankie Davis I would be pleased to call this evening at 2 o'clock. April the fourth 1876.” Reply: April 4th /76. Mr Bills my daughter is not at home. M.S. Davis.”

38. 1877 November 11, unidentified author (woman?), Morgan Mill, Erath County, Tex., to Frankie Davis. Complains of not getting mail from Frankie and her grandfather, Nelson Parrish.

39. 1878 April 7, J.H. Bills, Friendship, Tenn., to Frankie Davis. “I wish I could have been there to share with you the pleasures of the literary entertainment....”

40. 1878 April 14, Frankie Davis to J. H. Bills. “Mr. Bills I think you misconstrued the meaning of my letter in regard to your letter being so unexpected it was not my intention to lead you to believe that I was not agreeably surprised. I was sorry you was disappointed in your anticipate pleasure in Miss Laura’s company. I am glad you had the good fortune to meet with some one with whom you spent your time so pleasantly...”

41. 1878 April 22, John H. Bills, Friendship, Tenn., to Frankie Davis. “I am sorry to hear of so much sickness death etc. If it is worse there than in Crocket & Gibson counties it is, indeed, bad enough. And recent letters from middle Tenn. Tell the same sad story. I sat up last night. All

night long, with my old friend & Brother (Odd Fellow) Charlie Bradshaw of Eaton. I think he can't possibly live many days....I was at three sabbath schools & a singing yesterday."

42. 1878 September 13, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis. Notes Frankie's sister is worse and so Frankie may not be able to return home.

43. 1878 October 14, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis. A declaration of love and a poem.

44. Undated and incomplete, J.H. Bills to Frankie Davis. Offers an acrostic based on her name.

45. Undated, "Take Me Home to Die". Handwritten lyrics to song "Take Me Home to Die or The Last Request" by I.B. Woodbury, published 1850.

Appendix 6. Transcriptions of Gilliland letters.

Note: The transcriptions are based on those of Casey White and Dr. Michael E. Ellis, Missouri State University.

http://www.nps.gov/stri/learn/historyculture/upload/Gilliland_William_Letters.pdf

1. William B. Gilliland, Camp Buckner near Talladega, Ala., to Martha Jane Gilliland, Bennettsville, Alabama, 1863 April 24.

"My Dear & much beloved Companion it is alone through the kind dealings of Almyty god that I am blest withe the presant opper tunity of writing to you to lety you no that I am in Resonabel helth and I hope when these few lines comes to hand that they may find you & the Children all well & doing well I have nothing Strange to right to you at present Dear wife I want to Se you all very bad I want you all to do the best you all can fo I think that I will come back Soon but I can tell when we are cooking our Rasheons now for 2 days and we leave this plais at 7 oclock in the morning to go to Tinisee I have some of my Kneighbors with me dear wife I will rite to you as soon as I get to where I have to stay then I want you to rite to me and let me no how you are all gitting a long Dear most dearly beloved wife & children [page 2] I want you to remember me & Dear children I want you to mind what your mother sayes to you & be good children to one a nother till I come home a gane & then I can tel you all labout it bud I watn you to forgive me for leaveing before you got back from mill but I want to Sea you verry bad but I don't no when I will git the chance but bee a good boy til I come home agane Marthy I want you to draw all of the money you can Dont write to me till you here from me agane So I must close for this time for it is late in the nite so I will close for this time by saying farewell to you all in Bonds of love Wm B Gilliland to his beloved wife & lille children in love to all"

2. William B. Gilliland, Shelbyville, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 May 1.

"Gilliland A few lines to Marthy Jane

May the 1st 1863 Shelbyville Tennessee

I am in the tolerabel helth & i am tollarble well satisfide as much so as could be expected for me to be to be away from hom & exposed to all of the privations of a camp life & i truly hope that this will reach your hand in due time & find you all well & doing well dear companion I do want to se you & the god blesed little children may god bless you all withe all the blessings boath spiritual & temporal that his all seaing eye seas that you do stand in nead of to make you happy while in this world & in the world to come & bless you withe th best of helth til i come home a gan if ever i do i want you to rite as soon as you git this & let me how you are gitting along give

me all of the nuse you can about every thing & how you are giting along withe your crop & i want you to let me [page 2] no all about the cildren how thay are doing tell them that i want them to be good children & mind what you say to them tel little James to be a good boy Marthy i want you to kiss little frank for me bless his sweat little hart i dont no what I would give to sea you & him & sea you kiss him & kiss you my selfe I want the connection to rite to me i have not forgot them i want to no whether you have herd from John or not i cant here from him i found James nelums here he is well we are not in the same ridgement but i se him every day i have nothing interesting to rite to you so i will close by saying god bless you all direct your letters to Shelbyville Tennessee Wm B. Gilliland 22th Ala. Regt. Co. E in keer of Capt Mardica Wm B Gilliland to Marthy J Gilliland & family in bonds of love fare well”

3. William B. Gilliland, Shelbyville, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 May 17.

“Shelbyville Tennessee May the 17th 1863

My Dear & dearly beloved Companion it is alone through the kind protection & mercy of all mity god that I am blest withe the privelige of riting to you to let you no that miself & mack Donald is as well as common at this time & i truly hope these few lines may find you & the dear children & the connection all well & doing well i can say to you that i have bin verry sick withe something like the flux but i am up & about & able to doo duty i feel weak & bad i have something like the gravel that hurts me very bad at times but i am gitting along better than i expected i think that i am doing fine & and as well satisfide here as i cold be any whare to be in this trubble som war & exposed to all of the privations of a camp life i dont think that this war will last verry long for all of the men that i have heard talk a bout it is tierd of it now & they are deserting & leaveing here every day more [page 2] or less i saw James Pellums this morning he is as well as common & sends his love & best respects to you all thomas Smith is her & well he says that Jasper Webb left to go home & got to a private house in lincorn county & thare died mi be loved wife I can say to you that I do want to See you & my dear little cildren the worst i ever did in my life o when i think of you & them & think of the situation that we are now plased in & the distance that we are apart it grieves my hart but i do hope & trust & pray that we will be permitted to se each others fond fases one tim more in this life & that before long i want you to rite to me & let me no how you are gitting along & how you are makeing out for something to eat & how your stirs is doing & how you are gitting along withe your crop how your stirs works & how your cows is doing & how your wheat looks & i want you give me all of the nuse you can about the connection & all about every thing you can turn over [page 3] my Dear & mutch wife i can not express the love that i have for you & the loving little children in a letter for you twine around mi hart in love my dear little children i want you to be good to your mother & minde what she says to you & be good children & be good to one another & good to your aunt lithy & to every boddy & love your creator & pray to him & ask him to bless you & me withe every nedy blessing boath temporal & spiritual that his all seaing eye seas that we do stand nead of to prepare us in life for living death for dying. Marthy i want you to rite to me as soon as you git this withe out fail for i want to here from you so bad that i dont no what to do i have rote too letters before this & i have got no answer rite & be shure all the nuse you can & tel Wm Webb & Stepen & Louis & Washing Harris all to rite to me & give all of the nuse they can about every thing [page 4] Dear wife i want you to git some of the boys put them big puncheons over the well in the place of that oald plank for fear it brakes & lets some of you fall in & i want you to have the well cleand out & i want to no whether you have heard from John Webb & John Walker

or not & what my <Z?>ell is doing i must quit I will close by saying may god bless you all
farewell for this time in love Wm B. Gilliland To Marthy Jane Gilliland & friends in bonds of
love

A few lines to father mother & W<elde?> i drop you these few lines to let you no that i am in
common health at this time & i truly hope these few will find you the happy sherers of the same
like blessing for which we should be thankful dear father & mother i want you to pray for me &
mi famly & tel all the old frends to pray for me To John Webb &
Jane Webb in bonds of love Wm B Gilliland”

**4. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 May
30.**

“Camp Near Shelbyville

Tennisee May 30th 1863

Dear Wife and Children it is through the mercies of god I am permitted to take my pen in hand to
in form you that I am in tolerabel helth at this time and I hope when these few lines comes to
hand that they may find you all injoying the best of helth I have bin very sick last week and a
part of the week before but I am now abel for duty I want you to rite to me how you & bud is
geting a long with your stears & crop how they perform I received your kind leter bareing dait
the 18 instant which gave me grait satisfaction to here from you and to here you all was well and
doing the saim I recived your letter the 26 it come in 8 days I want you to rite often as you can
[page 2] I will now give you the situation and the description of soaldiers fair as fare as I have
tride it wi are in the bend of duck river one Mile below Shlbyville in the shadyest grove of beech
poplar and hickery a Butyfully plais for to camp I think I cold get a long with the duty of a
soaldier if I cold keep well and cold get a plenty to eat but we have the porst beef her to eat you
ever sean in your life it we are alowed 1 pound of it per day and 1 ¼ lb corn meal some times we
git 1 days rashins of flour it only lasts 2 meals when we get Bacon we only get ½ lb to the man a
day we get rise and peas once and a while I want you to make all you can of corn and potatoes &
tobaco and when you have eny thing to sell so you must excuse me for this time so nomore at
present but remains yours truly untill deathe

To Martha Gilliland

W.B. Gilliland”

**5. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 June
14.**

“Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn, June the 14th 1863

My dear & mutch beloved wife & little childring & connection all it is alone through the murcy
& kind protection of allmity god that i am blest withe the presant oppertunity of dropping you a
few lines in order to let you no that mi self & Mcdonald is as well as common to day & i truly
hope these few lines may reach your hand in due time & find you all the happy sherers of the
same good blessing for which we should be thankful to the grate giver of all good my dear wife i
can say to you that i received your kind letter dated May the 18th which give me grate
satisfaction to here from you one time more & to here that you was well but i was sarrow to here
that mother has bin sick but i am in hopes that god will restor hur to perfect helth a gane Marthy i
can say to you that i do want to sea you & the dear little children the worst i ever did in mi life
May god bless you & then with the best of helth til i come home a gane is my prare [page 2] dear
wif i can say to you that i am glad to here that you are gitting a long withe your crop so well &
that you was making out verry well for something to eat for i was a ferd you could not manage

the steers it has relieved mi mind a grate eal to here that your wheat looked well & that you was gitting a long every way as well as what you are & I am in hopes that you will continue to do well til i come home a gane if i am spare to come home a gane i think i will git to come before verry long but i dont no when nor how that will be i some times think that this un just war will have to close soon then a gane i think it will last some time yet i want you to make all you can of every thing that will do to eat sutch as corn & peas & potatoes & everything bud make all of the tobacco you can for it is worth too dollars pr plug bud i am glad to here that you are a good boy & that you are doing all that you can to keep your mother in good hart about me that is rite [page 3. These following pages may not be from the same letter because he writes the letter "I" differently.] you rote to me you wanted to know how I was making out for close I dont want you to make me eny close for I have to draw my close so you may rest continted about that I dont want you to make eny close at all you rote to me you wanted to know what we got to eat we get 1 half pound of Bulk pork to the man a day & 1 pint of corn meal & of beef we get 1 pound of that a day in the plais of Pork when we draw flour we get 1 pound & ¼ of a pound to the man we draw somedays 1 mess of peas a week & 1 mess of Rise the Saim that is our rashins in full you can See how Rich we live here in the armey it is hard living here but we make out we have to by some times a litel meal to have bred to eat now I will give you the description of produse Buter is worth 2 dollars a pound Milk is worth 50 cts a quart out in the cuntry chickens is worth from 2 to 3 dollars a peas turkeys is worth from 3 to 5 dollars a peas [page 4] tell litel James you no to be wonted his pap to come home tell him that he don't want me to come home worse than I want to come tell him that I will be home some of these days and I will fetch him some thing pretty for him tell him I want him to be a good boy until I come home now Children I want you all to be good children and Mind you Mother & work and make all you cam if you love mi you will do as I rite to you to do Now may god bless you all with all Spiritual & temperl Blessing is my prare for christ sake now Marthey I want you to rite how all of the connection and how Mack family is makind out & all the rest I want you to rite how Littice is making out I can say to you that my ancel has not hert mi eny since I have bin here So No more at present but remains your hisband until death

To Wife & children & friends

Wm B. Gilliland"

6. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 June 26.

"June the 26th 1863

Camp Near Shelbyville Tenn

Dear Wife and children it is with the graitist of pleasure that I Seat my self to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am in comin helth at present & I hope when these few lines comes to hand they may find you injoying the graitst of helth I received your kind which gave me grait satisfaction to here from you & to here you was all well & all of the connection was well I recived yours of the 11 of June which was the 2 leter I have receive from you I am glad to here you are geting a long so well with your crop & that your wheet is good & you got it took keer of I am glad to here bud is geting a long with his crop & steers bud I want you to go it and do all you can & try to mak all you can to eat for your Mother & sisters & litel Brothers & for me a gainst I come home My dear children I want you all to be good children & mind your mother untill I come home I think through the merseys of god I Shall be per mited to get home after a while but I do not know when [page 2] I have Seen James Nelums this morning he is as well as

comin and Sends his love & respects to you & the connection all and wants you all to rite to him I Saw Cravin haris here & he wants Washington to rite to hin he is in the 26 Ala Regt in company I he was well and so fat I did not know him and passed him by as a strainge I also seen Franklin Oswald[?] the other day he was in tolerabel helth I have rote to the boys at war trais to know if they had herd from H.J. Gilliland and I have not got eny answer from them and when you rite to me a gain if you have herd eny thing a bout him I want you to rite for I want to here from him tell W. C. Webb to not think hard of me nor none of the connection for not riting a seperate leter to him a bout Jasper I have not herd eny thing more than you have all redy received for the old man that told us a bout him has forgot the mans name where Jasper died at and we aint find out eny more a bout him unless it Shold be by chance thes things is hard but gods will mus be done and let us not complain [page 3] I want to Se you all very bad you statid in your leter that the children was all taking on a bout me I dont want them to do that at all for there is no use in that nor I dont want you my dear to think long of my absence for if its gods holy will I will soon return home & may his will be done with us all and may we be resined to his will we are expecting a fight here we are fixin for it ever day a therowing oup Brest works I dont know when we will fite but it is thaw we will fite Shortly we have a heap of very hevvy duty to perform such as gard & working on Brest works I am a detail 1 day to the Brest works and the nxt day I go on guard we get a plenty of Bred to eat now we have no rite to grumbel a bout our rashins such as it is and we aut to feel thank full that it is no worse with us than it is I feell thankful that it is no worse I will say to you wheet crops is very good here corn crops what I have seen looks fine it is raining & has bin 2 days we have had a heap of rain here all this month [page 4] My dear Wife & children I caint rite to you how bad I do want to Se you all and I hope I will be sparn and you all blessed and I shall be enabld to get home soon I want all of the connection to remimber me in there prares and I want to se them all and I want them to rite to me Simeon McDonald is riting this for me he is as well as comin we are in the saim Mes I want you all to do the best you can I must come to aclose for this time by saying I sill Remain yours in Bonds of love untill death

Wm B Gilliland

To Wife & Children

Friends I want you to rite to me and not fail Rite oll of the nuse you can and how ever thing is going So Farewell for this time”

**7. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863
July 14.**

"We have just taken a long & very hard march we retreated out of middle Tenn. it taken us about ten days part of the time we was in line of battle part of the time marching & it rained about one half of the time the weather was verry warm & a great many of the men give out som fainting & som geting over het it was an awful march & we marched 2 or 3 Knights all night....we done about 6 or 7 days on 2 days rashins ..."

**8. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863
July 25.**

“Camp of 22d ala Regt near Chattanooga Tenn July 25/63

Mi dear companion I seat miself this morning too adress you a few lines which will in form you that I am well at this time hopeing this will find you and the children all well and doing well I rvd your kind letter of the 10 of this inst which was a greate satisfaction to me to here from you I have but little to write at this time we air doing vary well considering the hard ness of

times the rations air short you wanted to know how I got a long on the march well I stood it mity well tho it was a hard march and many give [line indecipherable because of fold] the march and done with out rations a good deal of the time but now we air gitting Enough to make out on the health of the soldiers is vary good here at this time you say you want to see me vary bad and this I dont doubt but I dont suppose you want to see me eny worse than I do you & wish it was so that I could git a fur low to go home to spend a few days with you but I dont so no chance now but I will say that I will come [page 2] as soon as I can you said something a bout coming to see me but I rather you would not come all tho I want to see you so bad this is no place for a woman you said you wanted me to come home to eat Butter with you but as I cant come if you have it to spair I wood be glad you would send me som by Brother H P Gilliland if he comes this way tel him I want him to come by and stay a day or 2 with me and I would like for you to send me a pair of socks if you can conveniently <?> but dont put your self to no trouble a bout it I saw neloms this morning he was well as comon I was sorry to here of your Mothers sickness but I hope her health will be restord in a short time write as often as you can and let me know how you <is?> gitting a long nothing mor at present your husband as ever until Death Wm B Gilliland”

9. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, Bennettsville, St. Clair County, Ala., 1863 July 31.

“...we are living on third rashings now we draw about a quarter of a pound of bacon to the man a day when we draw beef we get a pound to the man for a day we get about anuff of bread ...”

10. William B. Gilliland, Picket line near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863 August 30.

“On Picket Line Aug the 30th, 1863

Near Chatanooga Dear and affectionate Wife it is a gain through the merseys of god I am permitted to Seat my Self to drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well and I am in as good helth as I have bin in Some time and when these few lines comes to hand I hope these few lines comes to hand they may find you and the Children & all of the connection well I have nothing very good to Right to you at present we are one one Side of the river & the yankeys on the other They have bin Shelling Chatanooga Severl times they have killed 3 men & wounded one litel girl & shot one or 2 shells through the hossipitel we aint se eny of them oppisit ous her but they are fireing on our pickits a bove & below us once and a while but they dont do eny harm to our picket the report is there is a Briggaid of yankeys at Trenton some 18 Miles South of us on the Saim Side of the river we are and they rumer is they are crossing the river a bove but I dont know whether they are crossing up tere not I dont know whether we will have a fite here or not it is the jeneral opinion that ~~they~~ we wont fite here the men Say if they have to go in to a batel they wont fite for they Say it wont be eny use for we are all redy whiped the men is leaving here jus a bout as fast as tey come in or a litel faster [page 2] My Dear Children you all [illegible word above] express you want to Se me so bad but I know you dont want to Se me eny worse than I do you I think through the merseys of I shall be enabeled to Se you all a again in a short time for I think this thing will Shoreley com to a close for it looks like that we caint stand it much longer my dear I received the Biscuit & pies & buter & money you sent me by Simeon & I was very glad to get it and all so to here from you all once more and to here you was all well & to here the connection was all well but was Sory to here that Mother Webb had a nother one of them bad risings I hope that peas on earth once more may bee restored both Nationaly & privatly & that god will Smile on us as a nation once more if it can comport to his hevanly & devine will is my

prare for Christ Sake James Nelums is not well at this time but he was beter yesterday than he has bin he was in his Quarters I think he will be abel for duty in a day or too Mack has got here and is on duty with me he does not know what they will do with him yet but I dont think they will punish him if they do I dont think they got the weigh ever thing was and the weigh he come back I was glad to her from you brother Steven and to here was a going to rite me & the other boys a good leter I want you to comply with that. My dear Wife I want to se you the worst kind and you must excuse me for my short leter So I must Come to a close by saying I Remain your affectionate Husband untill death W. B. Gilliland.

To M. J. Gilliland in bonds of Love”

**11. William B. Gilliland, Camp near Lafayette, Ga., to Martha Jane Gilliland, 1863
September 15.**

“.... we have been doing Sum mity hard marching for the last too weeks day and nite ...you sent me fifty of Chattanooga money you wanted to now whether It was good or not it pases verry curent up hear ...you must Save ever thing you can that will do to feed Stock on..”

**12. H.F. Gilliland, 58th Alabama Infantry Regiment, Hollywood, near Mobile, Ala., to
Martha Jane Gilliland, 1865 February 2.**

“This february they 2th 1865

Camp of they 58th ala regt at hollywod near Mobeal ala on they Bay my Dear & Much Belovd Sister Marthy J Gilliland & Childrin one & all Sarah Jane & Nancy & John & littel Jams & frank all as one Marthy thank god i am this Morning blest with they presant opertunity of dropping you a few lins Which leavs me Well & Marthy i trust to god that these lines may soon reach you & find you & all they Childrin all Well & doing Well Marthy <????????? fold in letter> the relation <????> then can say to you that me & all they rest of they Boys is hear at Mobeal & we air all well Marthy i can say to you that i want to see you & they childrin they Worst in the world tho i am away hear in this Crewel war & i cant tell When i Will hav they chans to com to see you all but marthy I hop i wont Bee long till we Will hav they pleasure of seeing each other a gain Marthy i no that you & yore littel childrin seas a lonsom & desolat time tho I hope that god Will bee with you in yore lonsom ours of troubel & that he may spar you to [page 2] live & bless you all with good health & strength and Bless you all With all they eartly Blessing that his all seeing eye seas that you stand in need of While in this life Marthy i hope that god Will spair you to live to rase yore littel alfant Childrin god Bless them all i prey marthy tell they childrin that i love you all & wishes you all Well & to do Well marthy tell all they childrin to be god childrin & try to prepar to meat their father in heaven Where parting will bee no more Marthy i Want you to excuse me for not riting to you for we hav bin Marching & fiting nearly all the time [rest of line cut off by fold] i hant got a letter from lisabeth in a long time marthy i dont want you & they children to forget me & i want you to rite to me & let me no how you air gitting a long i am very ancious to hear from you all marthy they is a grait talk of pease hear at mobeal now tho i cant tell when we will hav pease tho i hope it wont bee long till pease will bee made Martha i think that i will git a ferlow to com home in a few days We air campt rite on they edg of they mobeal Bay & We can see they yankey gun boats evry day i Will close rite soon Direct yore letters to me in Co. H. 58th ala regt hoaltsclaws Bregade mobeal ala. H.F. Gilliland to Martha Jane Gilliland & all they childrin in lov to all franklin Gilliland to all”

Appendix 7. Excerpts from the George W. Gordon letters.

1. 1862 January 28. A.H. Brown, M.D., Columbia, Tenn. Gordon's family doctor reports that he has suffered a fever and rheumatism and has just recovered sufficiently to return to duty.
2. 1862 March 17. G.W. Gordon, Prison 3, Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, to children. "...I am very well except a cold. We have suffered a good deal from cold the weather has been very cold & damp. We are treated pretty well. and ought not to complain under the circumstances. I was separated from my company in St Louis. They being sent to Chicago. Lieut Akin & James Whooten and others left us with Gabe and other cooks at Donelson & I hope got Home safely all my Boys were well except Wm Welsh who died at Chicago."
3. 1861 (sic) May 15. G.W. Gordon, Prisoners Depot, Johnsons Island near Sandusky, to daughter: "I have not been so well since my arrival here as I was at the other places of imprisonment....I want you to say to your uncle Tom that when the sheep & sheared & wool wash to have it sent to Jackson at Pulaski & if he can get cloth for the negro there to get it....when you write, let me know the crop looks. Wheat, Rye, oats, &c &c and all about vines, lambs, Colts, negros Children and all family affairs."
4. 1862 May 29. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island near Sandusky, Ohio, to daughter: "I have written and written to you and my other friends in & about Columbia untill I can't count the number of letters. Yet I have not received a single letter from any of my family or friends, by mail since I have been here. except one from Lizzie Roy, which I received a day or two ago & was very happy to get it. You certainly have written, but your letters I reckon contain something Contraband....I have not been well since my arrival here. still not very sick. I am a good deal better & hope to continue improving."
5. 1862 June 30. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky, Ohio, to James Akin: "I received your letter and answered it. I could not and can not write as I wish. My purposes are fixed, come weal or woe, and I could write you my reasons, very satisfactory to myself too. But am not permitted to give my views at length....I have good grounds for my opinions which I shall give if ever I meet you. I would like to get, is all all (sic) convenient \$25 or 30 to buy some clothing. I have plenty of Southern funds. But wont answer me here. I am beginning to need some clothers, and can get them much more advantageously here if I had Federal money. Asks for US money to buy clothes.....Walter behaved well on the battlefield at Donelson & so did poor noble brother Henry."
6. 1862 July 14. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky, Ohio, to H.B. Titcomb: Thanks his friend for US funds. "The health of the prisoners good generally....Lt Love who has been little unwell is up again....we are all in fine spirits and full of hope....I get very few letters now from some cause. Tis quite warm here, but we have the privilege of going into the lake some times to bathe."
7. 1862 July 17. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky, Ohio, to daughter: Responds to complaint of no letters for 3 weeks "...it is not my fault. I have written & written again. But my letters has to pass through other hands here after I write them, & I suppose instead of being mailed they are burnt or Cast aside as so much trash....I am forbidden to write but a page there fore must wind up...Tell your Uncle to give our hogs arsenic for cholera. Did Gabe carry my uniform Home with him? I am glad Jack remained where duty calls him."
8. 1862 July 23. H.B. Titcomb, Columbia, Tenn., to G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky,

Ohio: "Hogs are dying everywhere. Arsenic and every other remedy has been tried without any appearant effect....I almost fear that you have misunderstood the views of many of your friends here. I spoke in one of my letters to you of some of your letters causing regret amongst your friends, one cause was that some sentiments you expressed were so industriously spread about that they increased the difficulties that surround your family and place."

9. 1862 August 5. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Ohio, to daughter: "We are dayly expecting to receive orders concerning of Exchange. There is great anxiety about it among our prisoners. We hear no item however where we are to go from here some think to Richmond. And some to Vicksburg. But no matter where so we are released, we wish again to be in Dixie & rejoin our Brothers in arms. There are many noble & gallant officers here, some few I fear however not of the true grit....give my love to all the Children-& friends- tell the negroes howdy....P.S. Sullivan & others of Maury, all well"

10. 1862 August 7. G.W. Gordon, Johnsons Island, Sandusky, Ohio, to daughter: "I am sorry to hear of your apprehension of trouble. Tis the consequence of of (sic) war. And Oh! my God such a war!....I am sorry to hear of your uncle Hugh's arrest, but I have been expecting to hear of troubles to you all. But bear all, suffer all is my advice. How can any man who is a man hesitate now. I thank God I have no compunctions of conscience for my past course or for my present....I must & shall go where duty to a bleeding country calls. I am in fine health & spirits at present, and all my Maury friends here are well. Tom Porter, Joe Love, Sullivan, Moore, &c &c all well. I hope we may leave in a week or so. dont know when we shall go. I should like to have Gabe with me in Dixie. Did he carry my clothes, uniform &c home? Give my love to all children & to your uncles & remember to all friends and God grant it may not be long before I can meet you all upon our own soil free & happy once more and may that Great & Good Being take care of you is my prayer."

Appendix 8. Transcription of David McComb & Co's letter.

[page 1]

David McComb & Co's
141 Main Street, Memphis, Tenn.

Memphis, Tennessee, April 30th, 1863

Bro Washington

I regret that the witnessing was not correct in the deed forwarded to you. It was an oversight of Judge Swayne, as well as ourselves. Had it been returned immediately to us it would have been back ere this. William McCloy was here about the time your letter in reference to it came to hand & I supposed had gotten it. I however did not see him except at a distance on the street, & his stay at our house was for only a few moments, he having to depart on the cars. He was here a second time, & called at our house a few moments again, when I was not there. I concluded however to call for the deed, & found he had not called for it, & I now enclose it perfected. I hope the delay may not inconvenience you seriously. While on business I will say that the sequestration act of our government appropriated all the double drays &

proceeds. So that until this unrighteous aggression ceases there is no chance for you to be paid for them. I hope that time will soon come, & that we may once more be rid of the grand army [page 2] of murderers, who have troubled us with their presence since the 6th June last.

You asked me for my "views now" & I will give you them, confining myself to what I know to be true, so far as I may allude to incidents as facts.

First then, I view the Lincoln administration as the most corrupt, and entirely devoid of truth, & desperately wicked.

I view the party in power, & sustaining that administration, as judicially [sic] blinded, & embodying the elements [sic] of that destruction which awaits the diabolically wicked, & believe [sic] that the time is not far distant, when it will be more odious to be called & [sic] black republican, than ever it was to be known [sic] as a Hartford conventionist. I view the course of the administration, as clearly proving that the apprehensions of the south were well founded, & that, (what I used to doubt) the design of northern politicians [sic] was to bring about abolition, & hence, that there was no alternative left but to secede.

I view the more than heathenish practices of the Grand Army now in our midst as proving that our (once) fellow citizens are more wickedly, corrupt & debased than I suppose the Hottentots are, & could not have been convinced that any portion of the American people (not even Indians) were so utterly devoid of humanity, & so entirely given over to debauchery, as these members [page 3] of the Grand Army are.

I view, all therodomontade of the fanatics [sic] who have been advocating abolition, as the cropping out, of a wickedly selfish design [sic] to interrupt [sic] the relations which god in his providence had established between the colored [sic] & white races, in this country; & I think that the negro stealing grand army whose officers have sent home many of these unfortunate citizens of African decent [sic], has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the world, that those pretensions of sympathy for the slave, were insincere.

I view the course pursued [sic] by the grand army, as wickedly disregarding the comfort & interests of these poor color'd people, & cannot but think that a just god will bring retributive justice, upon such utter want of integrity as we witness daily, toward those to whom so much had been promised.

I view the attempt to force these poor creatures to become component parts of the Grand Army, as an evidence of the treachery with which they have been treated, & feel confident that the traitors will yet suffer therefor [sic], & many thousand more will perish in the diabolical attempt to do this great wrong, to this poor people. I think the supporters of an administration whose acts have so belied their pretensions & whose proclaimed designs are so desperately wicked, will share in the calamities that must [page 4] follow such treachery towards these helpless colored people.

I view the war as carried on, a most desperate attempt to sustain a great wrong, & believe [sic] that the disastrous [sic] results to federal arms, go to prove that a just god will not smile upon the wrong doer.

I view the desperation, that adopts the use of fire, with the sword, as evincing a weakness coupled with wickedness, that cannot go unpunished.

I view the diabolical wickedness of men connected with the Grand Army who have witnessed the ravishing of respectable ladies as too damning to go unpunished. This we know to have been done, & in one case the Husband of the Lady thus outraged, has gone into the Confederate army

to be avenged.

I view the destruction by fire or otherwise of private property as unjustifiable, & can but think that such conflagrations as we witnessed opposite this city, when Hopefield was wantonly burned, are lights on the back of the canvass, [sic] which serve to bring out the hedious [sic] deformities of the body politic which sustains these atrocities. [sic]

I shall feel that the south would be terribly humiliated, to be forced to a union with a people who could [page 5] be guilty of such enormities, & can only pray that we may soon have peace upon principles that god will approve & bless.

You advise me to give in my adherence [sic] to the U.S. if not to Lincolns administration. Allow me to ask you, where are the United States. Is Vicksburgh, [sic] Charleston, or Richmond in the United States. Does the popularity of the Confederate loan in Europe, indicate a want of confidence there. When the fleet of Ironclads now preparing for the ocean, are ready for sea, do you think that the blockade will hold; & if it does not, do you suppose that wants which are even now supplied through the blockade, will not be so fully supplied, that the rebellion will grow more formidable?

Do you think that the rebels, who are now better prepared to carry on the war for twenty years, than they were to sustain themselves last year, can be induced to agree to a peace that will not give them Independence, & full remuneration for all their losses?

I view southern triumph as certain, & only a question of time, & am altogether more confident now than when I last wrote you. I am still suffering with rheumatism so that it is painfull [sic] for me to write. I write but little now. May we all be taught of god, & love righteousness. [Signature cut out]

Appendix 9. Transcription of John Linfor letters.

Note: All Linfor's letters are to Martha E. Patten unless indicated otherwise.

1. 1861 November 6. Salt River Bridge, Missouri.

[page 1] Salt River Bridge Mo
November 6 1861

Miss Patten der frend i take the plesher of answern your kind leter i receved it this morning and was glad to her from you or aney of the folks that thinks well to right to me you said that you would rote befor if you thought i would answer it i will answer aney ons leters that will rite to me i alsware thought we were frends we parted as sutch and i all ways expect to keep so but aney thing more we never ken be but i hope that you will not get mad and wont right aney more to Jack i let your father see the leters that i got from you and was plesed to see them the one leter from you girls 2 weeks ago[page 2] And Hereatas unoune frend receved his leter and the best of it was he had to let me redde it for he cud not make it out Your farther is well and sends his best lov to all of you and he wishes he was home to go a naborn once more with his girls and i would to like to dance with a girl once more but i dont think i will very sone for we cant get aney furlowes but if tha dont giv me one i will make one my self you said that you and Sulley was to a dance and i hope that you in gowd your self i would like to know how the boys was dance with sum feller for me if you plesse i wuld like to know if Bill and the bay horses travel the rodas as

usall if i was home tha wold hav to move we herd of all the wedingns and i think there wont
[page 3] be aney more boys left You tought w wos skert but you wos mistaken the outhr
morning me and John Terl went tetworic? a cecesh camp befor day light we espect to have brush
evrey day i would like to have one we had two ofecers taking prisners but tha got ofe we have
sun prisners in camp and atacking sum every day
You wanted my propule but we are in a wild cuntrey that we kant get aney think atall so no more
at present Henry Lee sens his respects to you hoping that these few lines will find you in good
helth as it levs all of us at present
good night from John Linford to Martha E Patten
right as soone as pusble
[page 4] Tbrc? to John Linford
Hanable Missiouri
Cmpy E 26 Regment
ills Volenters

from John Linfor
from John Linfor
from John Linfor

Hanable
Hanable Missio

2. 1861 December 20. Salt River, Mo.

[page 1] Salt River
Mo
Dec 20 1861

Der frend
i take the plesher of riting to you hoping to find you in good helth as it levs me at presant Your
father is well he saes that he never enjoyed bether helth than he dos now we have got all the
billengs up but the one for your father he sayes that he wants you [page 2] t get foster and his
wife to cum and stay on the plase untill your Mother and one of you girls cums down to see him
if you cant get him get sum one els
ther is not mutch news here at present mrs Jagues is here and she likes it very well
the wether is very fine at present so no more from your frend John Linfor
[page 3] right sone and send your mother down her ife you think that you ken spere her give my
respects to henreta and all from
John Linfor to M E P

3. 1862 October 2. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] U.S. Stemer. Autocrat
Cario Ill Oct, 2, 1862

Der mat

I now take the plesher of righting a few lines to you to let you know that i arived home safe and well

We had a good time and a quick passage we got here yester day morning earley I sent my Lickness and the ring to you yesterd for i cud not whate untill i did do it the ring ant so nice as i wanted to get but i hope that you will excep it as a toekin of my Love for you the leters you will have to [page 2] get engraved on it for i cud not get it don in Cario aney place plecto send tell me how you like it i wish that i had time to get them in Ottawa but i did not for we did not get in until eliven oclock then i thought that i shud have time but gust as soone as i got ofe the wagon my father had hold of me and i must go with him to see all the folks in town i thought for he troted around at two forty rate i cum ny not a seen you in my hurey witch i woud not of don for a prity for mat was arfter me and sent after me to hurey [page 3] we cum ny mising the trane, aney way how that was my intenson but mat hured me to mutch but i hope we shale mete agane but i am afrade it will be a long time first i think we will leve here sone i dont kere how long sone for this place is lonsom now i am a frade that you have spilte one of Unchel Sams boys for solgern but i gees that i shall i gees he well be all right in a few days i hope that you will excuse my blunders for my mind is rather un seteld at present M i expect you will laff at me but gust think how long i have to live a retird life [page 4] Well i beleve that i have rote all i can think of at present plesse to right often and all the news good or bad dont be afraid to right aney think for we are all right you know

But i must close for the present asking you to remember me in your Drems
So no mor from your Ever tru Lover John Linfor

Giv my respects to your Father and Mother

from John Linfor to Martha E Pattan
O i got your leter that you sent bart yesterday
good by Mat remember me

4. 1862 December 12. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Vicksburg, Miss.

[page 1] U.S. Stemer. *Autocrat*
Vicksburg Dec. 12th. 1862

Dear Frend

It is with plesher that i take of ansvern two of your most Welcom leters that came down on ower boat dated the 12th and 16th i have rote one leter to you sinc i left Cairo and received fower dated November the 9 12 16 and 22 You will have to excuse me for not righting oftner for i had no chance for we have scouted the cuntry prity well day befor yester day we road from daylight untill 9 oclock at night onley stopt 20 minits at no one how far we traveld i dont know But i knowd that i was tired But as sone as i got home [page 2] ther was two leters from you for me witch made me feele all right We have been after a rebel forse for a week but we had no fights with them there intension was to take Natche the night we landed there but as soone as tha herd of the marenes tha left. you told me not to Laf at your leter i cud not think of it but i think it was a Joke when the yoke broke one woud think that there where no men in Illinois the way you have to run arownd tha must be a quer set i think i expect to here of you renting a farm and going

on your own hook next

I hope that you will not take no offence at what i Say right for i meene none

[page 3] I wish that i had of been home to tacking that ride with you to putnam with you but i am afrade that you will have to excuse me for two years yet for i think the Brigade will last that long for tha are agoing to recrute it up i think that is what we came to Vicksburg fore

Well Mat i sopose it will be about Cristms about the time you receive this and i hope that you will have a good time for i dont think Cristms coms as far south as this for the wether is to warm well i beleve that i have rote all i can think of at present so no mor from yor evr tru and efectnant frend

John Linfor to Martha E Patten

[page 4] Give my respects to your

Father and Mother

With this i send my Love to you hoping we will soone meet againe

Good By Mat

5. 1863 January 17. Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.

[page 1] Benton Baracks Jany 17/63

St Louis Mo

Dear frend

i take the plesher of righting to you agane i route 4 weeks ago but i donot think you got my leater ore you woud ofe roate

i am intirly well at presant and i hoape this will find you the same

i have reinlisted agane for thre years in the Mississippi Merean Brigade in a Cavrily Company i think it is far beter survis than i wos in at least i like it beter than the oald [page 2] for we do not have to camp out on the feald ower home is on the boats Mat Vader is with me Your father knows him i woud of liked to of cum home to see my frends if i have aney left befor i inlisted but it cud not be . so i shall rest and wate for those thre long years to pass by for there is no dependang on furlows

this is the plae survis tha put old worn out solgers to surve that cant martch aney the Brigade ~~we are~~ is about half made up as sone as it is full we will leave for Dixey [page 3] then i shall bid good by to all frends and relactions and hoape tha will forget there is sutch a fellow as me

i am mutch oblige to you for the lickness that you sent to me by your father if i ever get it i shall be apt to keep it but never mind i thank you all the same

you must answer this and tell me your mind whot you think of my reinlisting i expect to catch a blessing from all but i cant help it i am far enuf ofe & the wether is very cold so no more from your ever loving frend

John Linfor to

Marthey E Patten good by

[page 4] John Linfor Com A

1 Batn of Cavy

Miss Mrn Brigade

Cre of Cap Crandall

[written in another hand] John Linfor
Mr John Linfor
Compy A
1 Batn of Cavy
Miss Mran Brigade
Care of Capton Crandall
Benton Barcek
St Louis

[written in another (third) hand] Mr John Linfor
Compy A
1 Batn of Cavly
Miss Meran Brigade
Care of Capton Crandall
Benton Bareck St Louis

[also 5 attempts at spelling "Mississippi" in same hand as the second address]

6. 1863 February 9. Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.

[page 1] Benton Baracks
Feby 9 1862 [1863]

Dear Frend

it is with plesher that i take to answer your kind leter of 28th and wos glad to here that you wos well i am quite well at present You wanted to know how i spent my cristmas and new years on Cristmas i wos in St Louis and new years in Bentn Baracks you saied you wos over to my? folkes on new years i hope you will excuse me hut i would like to know how tha receve you for i get but few leters from there and tha never [page 2] mension your name but never mind i hope i will get clear of the scoives? after a while and then we will have a good time i am sorey to here of you feling so bad about my inlisting but i think it is for the beter for i shud of been with my Reg befor this and i knew as soone as i went back i shud of got sick agane You saied you would send me your lickness i think you had beter whate a? little while for i think i shall get a furlow in the spring i am a going to try for one for i want to see [page 3] you so bad i hope to God we will meet soone but you must right as often as you can do not whate for me to right for you must reckerlect that we are as bad as prisners sum time we cant get a chance to right i must com to a close for i am on gard to day and it raning grat gunn but i do not kere for i have a horse to carey me thru [illegible word] i dont have to play horse myself now so no more from your ever loving frend John Linfor to

Martha E Patten

Wright soone Ma if you plese

[page 4] John Linfor Co A

1 Batl Cav M.M.B.

Benton Barracks Mo

[Written in other hands:

In pencil: Corinth Miss 1862 Camp Glendal Feb 11

In ink: Grand rapids Illinois March the 11th 1862]

7. 1863 February 25. Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.

[page 1] Benton Barracks. Mo

February the 25th. 1863

Dear friend Martha

i now take the pleasure of answering your two last letters which favored me [obscured word] it gives me much pleasure to hear from my friends especially from you i hope you will write as often as you said you would and i will write as often as i can You must of had fine times at the wedding ceane as there was so much fun i would of liked to of been there any way i would like to of seen Jane i wish you would write what [page 2] you think of the fellow any way I think he must of been so pleased to think that he was so lucky to get married he could not think of eating if he was a soldier he might be excused for we dont get to speak to the girls onse in 3 months except cescesh damsels i was seven months without speaking to a uinon wooing

But please to tell me what sort of a fellow Jane has got what trade ore what he does for a living i wish them well health and happiness and any thing else that may chuse to have i wish that i and rat was there to take you to school or me with the horse that i ride now

[page 3] I am very much obliged to you for thinking of sending me sum stamps but i hope i shant be that troubled to you i think we shall get paid this week then if had a wife to send my money to it would be better than spending it as we cuses do and then go with out for 4 or 5 months sum of the boys is signing the pay rolls now i wish i could get to talk to you for i cant think what to right so i will close hoping this will find you well from your Ever Loving friend

John Linfor to

Miss Martha E Patten

Wright sone

Remember me

Mat

Please excuse mistakes

[page 4] Give my respects to all of your folks and tell your father that i will write to him

Good by

8. 1863 April 10. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

On Bord Flag Ship [different hand to below]

On Bord Flag Ship

Autocrat

of Cairo. April 10, 1863

Dear friend

i again take the pleasure of answering your kind letter dated March the 11 and i hope this will find you well as it leaves me at present we landed here this evening we have been down to

Vicksburgh and we lost to boats of ower fleett a trying to run the block ade ther is 8 boats in the fleate we left Vicksburgh on the first of Apris now i think we are agoing up the Tenessese river [page 2] we are having fins times we live well and have good beads we are allays oute of the storms on borde i hope you will excuse my pore righting for i beleve i am geting out of practise but i will right oftner and do beter i am glad to here of you geting the chance of going to school i see that you improve in righting

You talk a grate deale about goin to work oute i hope you wont have to do so long for it ant what it is crackt up to be i wish i cud be home for a while but it cant be so [page 3] But never mind the time ma cum befor long we must whate you must right as often as you can and i will do the same but we are moving around so mutch

you dont know how mutch good it doose me to heare from you i am never alone but i am thinkin of those i have left behind you saide you wanted me to send you my lickness i cant send it at presan but i will befor long i look as natcherl as ever i woud like to see your lickness i will have it that if you will send it befor long

[page 4] with this i will bring my leter to a close hoping it will find you well give my respects to all inquiring frends

i will send you enuf money to right to me and you must right well you must you know So no mor from your ever tru and loving frend

John Linfor to
M E Pattan

~~Plese to to keep~~ plese not say nothing about what i send you

remember me Martha [circled]

John Linfor
C. A Cav Miss
Marane Brig
Via Cairo

[in same hand as first line of letter] Martha Ellen

9. 1863 May 3. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Fort Henry, Tenn.

[page 1] On Bord. the. Autocrat
Laying at Ft Henry
May 3 1863

Dear Frend

I now take the plesher of answern your kind leter dat April 19th witch fowend me well i wos glad to here from you and here that you are well I thank you for that presant mutch i expect you think that i ought to right oftner but we are moving arownd so mutch it is hard to get a chance to send of ower mals we hav been up this river as far as we cude [page 2] cuming back we got into a small fight the rebls put nine canon shot into ower boate killed one man and woned one the musket shot cant go through to hurt us but we gave them a grat chase of twenty miles but tha

are good at running You sayed that you was loking for me every day i think that you will have to look a graite maney mor days

Onley three years you know if a fellow livs i have a very nice bisness now excused from all duty except tending to extrly and sick horses

[page 3] plese to right how your father gets along i expects he dont like it becaws i dont right to him Darnit i dont no the reason i gees that I am to lasey

tell him i will get mad sum day and right him an old Camp leter for i cud and tell him lots of fun but i must close hoping we meet soone so no more from your Ever tru and Lover John Linfor to Martha E. Patton

right soone

good Byy

this is sundy and i wish i was you know wher

[page 4] John Linfor

Co A 1 Bat of Cav

M. M .B Via Caraio

Battllion

Battllion

10. 1863 May 7. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Mound City, Ill.

[page 1] Flag. Ship. Autocrat

Laying. ofe. Mound City

May 7 1863

Dear Frend

it is with plasher that i take of answer your kind leter dated April 29th and i wos glad to here that you wos well

i am well now i have been sick a few days but i am beter agane

You wanted me to right as soone as i got your leter i got it one hower ago you wanted to say what i thought about your agoing away i dont know what to say for it is so long since [page 2] i

left home but i think you will do beter away from home awhile being as you are agoing amungst frends excuse me. that is if you be a good girl and take kere of your self

I am mutch oblidge to you for your lickness you have changed very mutch i shud not of knownd the likness if in a strange place you must have grown very mutch you look sum older and mor

like a woming and withall good looking

i have change sum in my looks sum older sum slimer and darnd Uugley i will send you my ugleyness one of thes days

[page 3] We have sined the pay roles to day for 2 munths pay and i think we will get pay in a few days we will lay here for a few days then i think we shall go down the Mississippi river agane we gust came down the Tenneese river last night

i roate last sunday to you we wher at fort Henrey the

You must right often and i will right as often as i can

With this i will com to a Close for this time so no mor from your ever tru and Loving frend

John Linfor to

Martha E Patton
Good. By. Mat. I hope to meet you soone

11. 1863 June 15. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Millings Bend, La.

[page 1] Flag Ship Autocrat
June 15 1863

Dear Frend

it is with plesher that i take to answer your kind leter dated may the 22 i wos glad to here from you and to here that you wos well i am well at presant

We are laying at Millings bend Louissana about 25 mils above Vicksburgh

All the Brigade has gon out to atact the rebs at Ritchmand 9 mils from here i sopose you want to know why i ant along the reason is sum one has to stay to take [page 2] ~~ehere~~ cere of what is left we have been up and down the river twice since i rote to you and have had one hard fight but we came out all right but i expect to get a lick one of thes times for i have been in 8 hard fights and never got scratchd yet.

ther is sum hard fighting at Vicksburgh every day one week ago to day the 26 Ill came down with us from Memphis all of Co E look well beter than i had ever seen them befor tha have gon to the reare of Vicksburgh

i see James Plus yester day at Yungs pint

[page 3] You sayed ther wos to be a sum persons Baptised i am glad to here of it for the Lord knows there had ourt to be sum outhar excitement becids war plese to send ther nams if i know them

well i must close for the present i will right more after the fight so no more from your ever

Loving Frend John Linfor
to M E Pattan

12. 1863 August 4. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Vicksburg, Miss.

[page 1] Stemer. Autocrat
at Vicksburgh Aug 4 1863

Dear frend

I now take the plesher of righting a few lines to you hoping tha will find you in good helth I have not been very well i had the ague for two weecks but i think i am geting beter i hant had a chill for fewer days it is very worm and sickley here at present there is a grate maney of the boys sick at presant We are transporting trups up and down the river to diferent pints we have gust came up last from Natche we tuck down a regmnt there [page 2] and are a going to tacke sum mor down to morow then i think we will go on down the river the have been sum talk of us going up to Cariao i hope we may for darne me if i dont want a furlow to see if i have aney frends living for i seldom here from them and but little at that i think sum times i will stop righting at all but never mind i may onley be a fit of the ~~blus~~ blus i have this morning i sopose one weeck with the girls might fetch me all right agane but i will be dand if a fellow ant as bad as a girl in a nunery here i wish this war woud stop ~~or~~ so a fellow might engoy the life he livs [page 3] if I am so unfortchnet as to live thru ~~#~~ this war i think that i shall pay up last time o

i do long for one good talk with you for i i woud say things that i cant right But enuf of this kind of talk

plese to answer this and send all the newse good or bad right often if you have not the mens to get the meterls say so and i will make that all right

i wish you woud let right if you know hoo Bill goes to see for i woud like to know whats is a going on

But i must close for i have atced the fule enuf so no more at presant from your ever Loving frend John Linfor to M E Patten

[line cut off]

[page 4] John Linfor

Co A. Cav. M.M.B

Via, Cario, Ill

Stemer Autocrat

[address repeated in another hand]

13. 1863 October 7. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] No 2)

U.S. Stemer. Autocrat

Cario, Ill. Oct 7, 1863

Der Mat

I take the plesher of righting a few lins to you hoping tha will find you in good helth I am quite well at presant Well we are still at Caro runing arownd adoinng nothng for for Government

But i think ower fun is about over as soone as all the boys gets back from furlow tha have stopd giving furlows now i wos lucky in geting mine when i did

Well mat tha are bownd to put us into land survis in a short time

[page 2] well i sopose that we will have to do as tha plese the boys is put ofe at Vicksburgh from the outhr boats and we are expecting orders every day to go down to them Well hurah for Dixey aney place befor this lonsom place i did not think it was half so lonsom befor i left for home

But ther is a good time coming if we live to meet agane it ma not be so long a we ma think for i sopose that you have receved thos presents befor this time and the leter take good kere of the solger and dont let him brake gard for he might get into trubel cum see if looks like that citecan that you have

[page 3] W Mat take cear of your self I had a drem last night that you wher very sick but i hope you are not i have no more newse to right worth mension the wether is wet and cold at presant

With this i must close by askin you not to for get me giv my love to your Father and Mother the same to yourself ples to right the newse a bout the Weeding

So no mor from your ever true and efectnant Lover

John Linfor to

Martha E Pattan

remember me and

bee true
I beleve you will

14. 1863 October 21. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] U.S. Stemer Autocrat
Cairo. Oct. 21 1863

Der, frend, Martha

I now take the plesher of righting a few lines to you hoping tha will find you in good helth i am well at present this is the third leter that i have rote to you and received no answer as yet but i expect to here from you one of thes fine days or i shall think sumthink is the mater i received a leter from Salley two ore thre days ago she says that tha had a very nice time at Miss Woodruffs and Mr Shaplans partys [page 2] Well Mat we are having a very easey time fiting the Battles of ower Country in Cairo no one yets hurt i wish that we coud stay here during ower turm of inlistment evin if it is lonsom

i think i shud stand a good chance of geting home safe But i think that we will be apt to leve some i think that we shall stay on the river for a while yet for the Gerrelers is geting bad on the river the water in the river is rasing fast ther will soone be enuf for us to go down agane the wether is raner prity mutch all the time here Well Mat i have rote all the newse i can think of at present

[page 3] With this i will close hoping to here from you soone So no more at present from your ever true and efecnant Lover John Linfor
to Martha E Pattan

Giv my respects to your Father, and, Mother

Good By Mat
for this time
right soone

15. 1863 October 27. John Linfor, U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill., to David Patten.

(Note: A David Patten served in Company E of the 26th Illinois Infantry Regiment with Linfor but deserted on August 18, 1862.)

[page 1] U.S.Stemer Autocrat
Cario, Ill. Oct 27/63

Dear Frend

I take the plesher of righting a few lines to you hoping tha will find you well i am well at present We are having fine times here and lots of fun we run around town when we like and as long as we behave owerselve we are all right the company drills about thre howers a day all the boys has been home and allmost all of them has came back and about all of them that where sick is well [page 2] Well Dave i have not mutch newse to right but this is a devel of a place for fun ther is sumthink going on all the time the 58 Ill is stashnd here them and the mareans dont get a long very well together i dont know how long we will stay here but thers not

mutch talk of us leving at present I woud gust as soone stay here as aney wher else if it dont get to cold the wether has been cold for a few days Well i beleve i have rote all the newse hoping you will answer this soone i have receved one leter since i have been back [page 3] With this i send my love and respects to all of your family

So no mor from your Well wishing frend
John Linfor
to Mr David Pattan

John Linfor
Co. A, Cay. M.M.B.
Via Cario Ill
Stemer, Autocrat

16. 1863 October 30. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] US Stemer Autocrat
Cairo Illinois
October the 30th 1863

Der Mat

I receved your mutch welcom leter of the 12th yesterday and i wos Glad to here that you was well I am quite well at present i have had the Ague good and strong since i have been back But i think it is broke up now But i am sort or slim and week at present But if we stay here i shall sone recrute up agane but there is no teling how long well stay here one of ower Boats cam up from Vicksburg last night but tha left all of the Solgers [page 2] Below on land we are the only Cavlry Compny that is on the Boats now

What tha are agoing to do with us is hard to tell yet tha wher agoin to put us into band survis wither or no but as soone as Genrl Ellet cam back from home things apers quite diferant But one thing tha wont Discharge us this winter

Well i sopose Old Mrs Lee thinks she has a good Joke ons us, well i sopose she was young once hereslf i woud like to know what she has to say aney how well no one kers i gess that we are able to bear it i woud like to know she thinks about me for not agoing to see her agane befor i left

[pqge 3] I am glad that you like the ring and Lickness so well as for the money that i send you i think that you are ineteld to sum sernn we ant maried but i hope that we shall be

We might of don the thing up Just as well as not when i was home as well as having so many peepel disipinted You mus of got on a big spre after i left you in Ottawa

I woud like to know if you see my Father soone after i saw you in Ottawa for when we parted i thought it woud brake his hart i tell you i made me feel bad for a long time time i had to leave him in a hirey the hardest parting i ever had [page 4] the wether is quite cold this evining it has been raning all day and snowing this evining Mat (?) sens his respects to you Giv my respects to your father, and, mother

With this i will Close

So no more from your fred

John Linfor to
M E Pattan

In this i send my Love to you Eyer shall ramane true
to Martha E Pattan

Good By Mat

17. 1863 November 5. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] U.S. Steamer. *Autocrat*

Cairo Ill Nov 5, 63

Dear Frend Mat

I now take the plesher of answern your two leters Dated October the 18th and 25th and was glad to here that you was well i ant so well as i might be for the Ague has taking a liking to me and dont want to leave Well Mat i hant no newse to right every thing is the same as wos two months ago You look for me to be Dicharged mor than i do myself you will have to forget that not think about it so mutch for ther ant prospect [page 2] of being Duscharged yet We are again to run the river again Just take the time easey for the day will cum when we will meet again if i dont get hurt beleve me i am as lonsom as you are i like a bird tacking from the nest O thes Furlows is bad things for a young man for jus lots of the boys got Maried that went home on furlow them that did not is about the same as maied we keep finding them out every day I wish that i had been in Ottawa the day that you took thre Women out with you i pity the Women that parted with her man for fear she might not get a nother I woud like to know how Cris made out with his Law sute [page 3] So Adline Riddle is back again the por Girl i pity her for not having a Beau at the Fastable being as she got no super you said that you got thre you aught of let her had one plese hou was your Beau if it is aney of my Bisness i sopose Adline was Disipinted in not geting a kiss at all

tell her not trubel herself for when she gets one all hands will know it for you gave me the last one and are agoin to have the first one againe You said that Salley had started to School but did not sa where i have not herd from home for a long time i see why is the reason

[page 4] With this i will close hoping to here from you soone right as often as you plese and enjoy yourself as mutch as posabes

this is from you
Affectnate Frend

John Linfor

Giv my respects to your Mother and Father and the rest of the famley

Also to Adline Riddle

Good By Dear Mat
And think of me

18. 1863 November 8. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] U.S. Steamer Autocrat
Cairo Illinois
Novembr 8 1863

Dear Martha

I now take the plesher of answern your mutch Welcom leter of Oct the 29th and was glad to here that you was well I am very well to day and i hope you are the same Well Mat this is Sunday evning and i wish i was you know wher wher i was six weeks ago for i feele firstrate this evening leter than i have for two months i was not well when that i was home or i shud not of run of to bed so mutch i wish i was with you to night i think that i shud engy myself [page 2] You askt me cum and stay at the Old Mads Heall as you call it i shud be very happy to do so if it was in my power to do so i woud do the feeding, chop the wood and make myself usefull ingenrall but i have to feed for my Unchl for a while yet I think Dear i will be home to do the chors sum time I shall have to be excusd from Compnying you to the Corn husking politey asking you to get sum one els if you have a mine to (excuse me i mene no ofence) for i have another engagement the same evening O Mat if i was home you woud not have to ask me so maney tims and be disipinted as many O Mat you dont know how mutch i think about you you are all ways in my thoughts in my mind [page 3] by day and dreams by night i thought that i new what Lov was niver untill I [obscured word] came back i hope this war will sone be ove so as we can com home to the Girls that Lovs us dear Well Mat i have rote enuf of this kind the wether is very nice here and when it rans we are under cover i have not been out in the rane for 8 months Well Dear i will have to bring my leter to a close so i will Bid you Good By
Giv my Lov and Best respects to your mother and Father and all this is from your Loving frend until Deth parts us

John Linfor to
Martha E Patten

Remember me
and right often
Good Night and Good By for a while

Mat Vader is well but he dont know the wider or wont now

[page 4]
John Linfor
Co A Cav M M Brigade
US Steamer Autocrat
Via Cairo Ill
[This address information is repeated in another less legible hand]

19. 1863 November 10 (18?). U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] Steamer Autocrat
Cairo Illinois Nov 10 (18?) 1863

Dear Martha

I now take the plesher of answern your kind and Welcom leter Dated October the 31th and was glad to here that you was well I am well at present Well i beleve that i have received all of your leters We have changed Post Masters on ower Boat so we get ower Mals regler now the outhur fellow yust to send half of ower male down the river i received thre of your leters at once from below Well Mat how do you get a long keeping Old Mads Hall by this time i shud think that your Father is making a long stay in Putnan Couy [page 2] Well Mat there is a good inducement to reinlist here into the Vetren Volenters fower hindred and two Dolers bounty for thre years for Old Solgers we can reinlist and stay wher we are but we woud have to stay 3 years aney way If i thought that i had to stay my thre years out i beleve that i woud reinlist i woud get \$300 for the ten munth that i have servd

But Dear i promest you that i woud not reinlist agane so you need not be afraid of me lenthing my time for i want to get home to Bad for that i shall see you first aney way i want to Brake up the old mads hall i am tird of this way of staying in the world alone

[page 3] Well I beleve that i have roat all that i can think of at present i expect a leter from you to day With this i will close Giv my Love and Best Respects to your Mother and all the famely ples to right if you know wher the 26 Reg Ill is if you know

With this i send my Love to you for i am yours until Deth parts you and me

John Linfor to
Martha E Patten

Good by and think of me

20. 1863 November 17. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Cairo, Ill.

[page 1] Cario Illinois
Nove 17 1863

Dear Mat

I take the plesher of righting a few lins to you hoping tha will find you in good helth

I am quite well at present We are a packing up ower things now to go down the river to wher i dont know We leve ewer Boat to day and go down on one of ower outhur Boats the John Raine so we will Bid Good By to Illinois for a while

Well Dear i have not mutch time to right But you must right as often as you can and i will do the same

[page2] Well Mat if you dont here from me for a time dont get oneasey for ther is a better day a coming With this i will have to bring my leter to a close

Giv my respects to all from your ever true frend and Lover John Linfor
to Martha E Patten

21. 1863 December 1. U.S. Steamer *John Raine*.

[page 1] US Steamer John Raine

Decembr 1 1863

Dear Martha

It is with plesher that i take of answern your most welcom leter Dated Nov 9th and i was glad to here from you i am quite well at present and i hope this will find you the same not quite so spunky as you was when you rote to me Well we are having a good time scouting all over the contrey we take a scout of about 20 or 30 mils from the river and back then move on up the river and take a nother ther not maney rebs very near the river we are picking up all the Muls and horses we [page 2] can to mount the Infntny to scout with us ther is thre Compnys mounted now Well Mat i sopose you are picking corn or doing sumthink else out of dorse i wish that i was home to take your place out of dorse for when we go out we get into an old sadel and sit there all day then go back into ower house agane ther is two compnys of Cavly on this boat so we are prity well crowed i hope owe boat will be down befor long Well Mat it is 25 days to Cristms and i hope that you will have a good time i sopose you recklect the last Cristms we spent to gether i woud like to spend another the same way [page 3] Well i beleve that i have rote all the newse i can think of and my fingers is so cold i will stop here so no more from your ever tru a efechnent Frend John Linfor to

Martha E Patten
Remember me and right

plese this short leter

22. 1863 December 21. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, 65 miles below Vicksburg, Miss.

[page 1] US Steamer Autocrat

Dec 21, 1863

Dear Frend

I take the plesher of answern your most welcom leter Dated November 28 and was glad to here that you was well I am well a present Well Mat i don't [illegible word(s)] when will get this leter for ther is but very few Boats the river down here we are 65 mils below Vicksburg the Cuntry is full of rebs we are scouting allmost every day yester day we took a nice sunday ride and took thre prisners i a Lutenet towo days ago we took two prisners from the same place we have not had aney hard fight with them yet but i expect we shall befor maney days [page 2] about five days ago the rebs came down to the river to looke at us tha cuses shot tow of ower men we went out after them but tha made tracks for the woods last night most all of the boys lade out expecting a force to crorce the river above us Well i think that was a nice Joke on Bill i thought notchink woud parted [? obscured word] them by this time i wounder wher Rat and Riley will have to go now do you know he was the Solger I am glad that i am a Solger if that is the way the girls servs the citicens i wou like to know how long a fellow has to serve befor he is all right i think when my time is out i will be runing Rat and Riley or sum outhor horses and [page 3] bugy and see how things gose

Well i beleve i have rote all that i can think of at present so with this i will close by asking you to
right sone

so no more from you ever true and efectnent Frend John Linfor to
Martha E Pattan

Rember me
in your dreams
my Love

Giv my respects to your
Father and Mother

23. 1863 December 25. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, near Grand Gulf, Miss.

U.S. Flag Ship Autocrat
December 25th 1863

Dear Frend Martha

I now take the plesher of righting a few lins to you as it is Cristms evning as i cant find aney
thing beter to pass my time away this evning this is the drisest (?) Cristms i ever saw i do beleve
just the same as aney outhar day we are tide up to a Island nere Grand Gulf in the woods Well i
sopose that you are a having a good time about this time in the evning i hope so aney how I
sopose that you recklect wher we wher thre years ago this this evning i beleve that i do
[page 2] i hope that i shall se a nother sutch a nother sutch a time that is if i dont get knock over
Well ther is a good time coming We left Rodny last evning for this place there we had sumthink
to do every day for the rebs are numeres there we had thre or fower skumerses with them this
week we had sum wounded and sum tacking prisners night befor last tha charg on one of ower
picket posts and killd one wounded two and took nine prisners, but i think that we ceep even
with them in prisners fighting is geting a coming pass time with us all most to coming for we
have lost a grate maney thes last two weecks in kild wonded and tacking prisners
[page 3] The wether is fine and worm i have not seen aney snow this winter
Well Mat i beleve that i have rote all that i can think of at present so i will close hoping this will
find you well as it leves me at present So no mor from your ever tru and efectnent frend John
Linfor to Martha E Patten

Giv my respects to your Father and Mother

Good By and rember me

Note: The 1864 letters have selected extracts only.

24. 1864 January 11. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*. “we are near grand Gulf now Well Mat i have
been in a nother fight since i rote to you last at Port Gibson on the 30 of December and have
tacking sevrel prisners between Vicksburg and Natch since i last rote”.

25. 1864 January 20. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*. “we are at Grand Gulf at present We have had sevrel skermishs with the rebs this last week we have tacking sum prisners and tha have tacking sum of ower boys and we have had sum killed and woonded the Cavelry is out to day and i think tha will have a fight befor tha cum back Well Mat i gess that i shall get a chance to stay my there years in the army for i dont see aney siens of the war closing all most all the old Regments that i have seen are reinlisting for thre years mor tha are geting \$175 and 30 days furlow...i reckon that it is prity cold in your cuntry the way that the ice has been coming down the river for a week the winter has been very fine here so far...You must send me all the newse that is going on for i do not get aney leters from aney one elce if it was not for you i think that i shuld forget the prerey intirely”.

26. 1864 January 28. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*. “Well Mat i ant killd nor wonded yet but i dont know how soone i ma be ther was a Lutemat died yesterday of a wond out of ower Cavlry he was wounded at Grand Gulf about two weeks ago we are laying nere Rodny on the Luisania shore. we are having plenty of scouting to do and lots of fun in ower line of bisness”.

27. 1864 February 24. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Bruinsburg, Miss. “Well i have not mutch newse to right For ower boys is scouting so mutch and uising up so maney horses that it keeps me so bisey atending to them that i dont get aney chance to go along this morning they started out on a two days scout but Old Jack as tha call me had to stay and take kere of the sor backs horses Ower boys has tacking a grate maney prisners of late tha capsterd an hole Company the outhar day arms horses and every thing without firing a gun ower boys is out almost all the time but tha have been lucky have not had aney fights of aney acount You said that most of Company E is at home and reinlisted agane Good Luck to them i like to here that tha are not duschreg yet for i think that we shall wip the south yet and befor long...i dont think that i shall tacke aney more furlous for the last one cum nere killing me i have just got over it now i am in for fighting agane aney way to get thrugh with this trubel maby you woud like to know how maney fights i have been in i have been in fifteen since i have been out prity hard ons becids little ons i have seen ledd clocer then i wanted to since i saw you last so cloce that a fellow had to shut his eyse to keep the bullets out but no mar of this for i dont sopose that you chere about hering sutch talk for you are in a pecebl Land and a a amongst pecebl people but i am a solger and i have to right the newse” .

28. 1864 March 4. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Bruinsburg, Miss. “...we had a man shot last night There is a neger regmnt here garding coton on the Levy so sum of thes black Devls goes out to a house where there is onley wiming at and tacks what tha want and two of them trys to do worse to one of the wining the Devels So we have to gard them from the basness of Negers evin if tha are scesh and tha are the spunkest kind Last night one of the gards opened the dor to go out and a man when he opened it frunted him with a pistle and shot him thru the brest You saied that you where talki ng about going to Calaffornia i have not mutch to say about it i think that you will change your mind befor next fall...I am sorey to say that there is a grate deal of sickness in the Brigade the smal Pox and Veryloid is the cause of it”.

29. 1864 March 26. Vicksburg, Miss. "Ower boats has gon on an expdisen down to Read River so all ower Horses is left here to liten the Boats to carey trups down on them ther is twenty of us left here to take kere of the horses We have been here 15 days and i expect that we will be here thre or fower weeks longer befor the Boats coms back...I sopose that you know by this time if Bob has inlisted if he has it is goodenuf for him he will learn sumthink it is good for Boys to travel tha know what home is to them, i wish that he had cum down to me i think that he woud be beter ofe a Brother is a grate frend in the armye Thou i have as good a frend as a brother Vader thinks as mutch of me as he woud of a brother and i do the same of him".

30. 1864 April 2. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Vicksburg, Miss. "We are back on the Boat agane...Ower boys was out on a scout yesterday about 10 mils from Vicksburgh to where there is a Negrow reg camp the rebs cam on to the negers the day befor and had a fight with them tha tuck sum prisners and kiled them right ofe tha split there heads open and there white ofecers tha hung right up we have got sevrel recruts this spring i gess that tha dont like it very first rate but i sopose that the large Bounty fetcht them out, i think that it is mene the way we old solgers is treted about the bounty after serven so long for \$100 whilst the lubers stayed at home so long and now gets \$300".

31. 1864 April 11. U.S. Steamer *Autocrat*, Greenville, Miss. " I have not mutch newse to right onley i am well and not mutch to do to day being as all the boys has gon out on a scout to day The helth of the Brigade is very good at present and we have got a grate maney recruts this spring so we are prity strong againe".

32. 1864 May 4. U.S. Steamer *E.H. Fairchild*. "We are laying at Vicksburgh to day We have been down the river the last ten days My Companey is moved on to the Fearchild".

33. 1864 June 1. U.S. Steamer *E.H. Fairchild*. "It is with plesher that i take of answern your welcome Leter dated May the 17th i receved it just as we where leving Vicksburg for up the river so i had no chance to answer it then when i shall get this started to you i dont know for we cant start ower male so handy as we cud on the Autocrat we are at Gutreches Landing this morning...I have been left back at Cocksbury tacking cear of extry horses agane the Boats has been up Yazoo river for a long time Well i not mutch to right as i dont get aney time to scout aney for i have so maney sor and lame horses to atend to".

34. 1864 July 7. U.S. Steamer *E.H. Fairchild*, Grand Gulf, Miss. "I received a leter from George Green about a week a go and i am Glad to here that he has got enuf of rebeldom Well i sopose that I ought to think as mutch of him as i did befor the war but i cant see it in that light the fact is i dont like rebes nor niver shall for i have seen to mutch of there black deeds when i see the fameleys that tha have drove from ther homs ther is two famleys on ower boat now that is drove into ower lines and i have seen hundred with in the last month of wimen and Chilaren half naked drove from ther homs by the rebs i think if i had been Gilty of been in ther ranks i woud never of showed my face where that i was known, George may be a very good frend of yours and you may not like the way that i right if you do not i cant help it

I answerd one leter that he rote but i dont think that he got it probely he woud not like it aney way Plese to excuse me if i have committed any ofence by righting about those that are rebs and where so for i have to say whot i think for if ther wher none we woud not have to be here in this hot Cuntry... It wos rather a sorfull forth for the MMBs for we had one of the hardest little fights that men ever gets into On the 2 of July we left Vicksburg ower brigade and two Neger Regments for Rodny, Miss on the 3 went out about 12 miles and campt all night had sum skurmishen during the day On the forth ta came down apon us from right left front and rear then it was fight boys the rebs wos mad and ment to wip tha charged the Cavly and the on the negers the negers fort well tha had it hand to hand negers and rebs all mxt up but tha where to mutch for us so we left the musters of the feld”.

35. 1864 August 13. Vicksburg, Miss. “ We are one the boats now but we have been ofe and on so mutch for six weeks... We are a going into Land Survis from this out where we will go and what kind of survis we will go into i dont know but sumthing new the boats is tacking away from us now

Well Dear i think Girls must be cearce the way the boys fights about them you say that you wish that i woud cum home so that the fighting woud sotp whate 16 months i shall be along sum fine morning and catch you all asleep”.

Appendix 10. Transcription of unnamed soldier’s diary.

No entries for January 1-February 28.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1: Start in company of Cap Duncan to go to the regiment Arrive at Springfield 1 o.c P.M. put up at the American

MONDAY, MARCH 2: Leave Springfield at six oclock AM arrive at St Louis at 12 put up at the Everett house for Accomodation

TUESDAY, MARCH 3: Go aboard of the Nebraska. Leave St Louis for Memphis about midnight The boat is very heavy loaded Snowing & blustry

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4: Meet with several old acquaintances among others was G W Chills called to at Cape Giraud and searched for contrabands arive at cairo dark

THURSDAY, MARCH 5: Leave cairo 7 oclock pass Columbus & arrive at Island 10 at day light land & take a commissioner aboard to examine for contraband goods

FRIDAY, MARCH 6: Land at Memphis at daylight this morn go to head quarters find that the 32 is at Collierville take the cars at 12 oclock

SATURDAY, MARCH 7: Find the boys all in fine spirits all well except Govenes (?) have a good time generaly with the boys

SUNDAY, MARCH 8: Report to the cap for duty he refers my case to the colonel . cont. on picket . Yates broke out with the small pox send him up to Collier

MONDAY, MARCH 9: Report for duty go on guard cold and rainy Sign the muster roll for our pay The pay master pays off reg(?) ordered to march as soon as paid off

TUESDAY, MARCH 10: Paymaster finishes paying the regiment nothing of importance going on the firs brigade passes on their way toward Memphis

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11: Strike our tents at sunrise to go to Bunting Station distance 16

miles go on the R road arrive at 3 o'clock only apart of our train gets through

THURSDAY, MARCH 12: The boys are all very stiff and sore from the effect of marching on the R road. Colonel has a strong camp guard to keep the boys from straggle hear that P W Wright & G Linden (?) have deserted

FRIDAY, MARCH 13: On picket to day the 33 moves out of the fort and we take possession. Cos A & G stationed between the fort and Memphis

SATURDAY, MARCH 14: Nothing of importance going on the boys are policing their quarters get orders to march immediately toward Memphis countermanded until morning

SUNDAY, MARCH 15: Leave Buntan station at 8 o'clock march to the suburbs of the city & go into camp Go down to the hospital to see Lieut Seymour (?)

MONDAY, MARCH 16: Nothing of importance going on in camp Our recruiting officers return QM ...?... comes back

TUESDAY, MARCH 17: On guard every thing quiet Frank Seymour & G Squires came over to see us

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18: Very unwell have a row (?) in Co. F resulting in the stabbing of Sergt Weeks Burn & Southrell come over to see us they are well

THURSDAY, MARCH 19: Still unwell go on fatigue to the city after forage Billy King comes back to us he still goes on crutches

FRIDAY, MARCH 20: On Dress parade before the General. make a tolerable appearance Cap Duncan leaves us to return home again

SATURDAY, MARCH 21: Every thing going on quiet rumored that port Hudson is captured & the enemy are evacuating Vicksburg orders to be read to march at moments warning

SUNDAY, MARCH 22: All quiet this morning give all the Catholics passes to go to church in town Orderlie Burns gets tight

MONDAY, MARCH 23: On camp guard move our campground Commences to rain ..?...us as soon as we get tore (?) up rains all day and night

TUESDAY, MARCH 24: Nothing of importance going on Co A has 3 men on extra duty for going to town WW English starts home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25: On camp guard fine day Colonel has one of Co M bucked and gaged for getting tight

THURSDAY, MARCH 26: Cold but clear the boys broke guard to go see the 41st and 14th drill for the prize bugle 41st carries off the prize

FRIDAY, MARCH 27: Nothing of importance going on except it is raining like all the world Colonel take of the guards

SATURDAY, MARCH 28: Ordered to make out the payrolls on guard cold and blustery

SUNDAY, MARCH 29: Still cold and raining everything quiet Catholics goes to town to church very disagreeable this evening

MONDAY, MARCH 30: The Weather has moderated some but is still blustery on guard again T L Heard detailed to go to the hospite no word on sergt Gill

TUESDAY, MARCH 31: Nothing of importance going on battalions drill this afternoon Orders to appear on review to morrow

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1: Battalion drill Orders to be ready(?) to appear on review to morrow

THURSDAY, APRIL 2: to day we was on a big review the division makes the best appearance that it ever did No drill this evening

FRIDAY, APRIL 3: On dresparade at Division Hd Qr agains the 3 Iowa S. Simsun dies this PM 6 oclock

SATURDAY, APRIL 4: On guard go before the cort Martial docked one months pay for being absent with out leaf

SUNDAY, APRIL 5: Preaching by the chaplain weather is fine

MONDAY, APRIL 6: all quiet

TUESDAY, APRIL 7: on guard have orders from the colonel to shoot the firs man that attempts to run our b..?..

No entries for April 8-9.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10: Sergt Doughtry returns to the regt

SATURDAY, APRIL 11: On guard raining and unpleasant Coll John & Coll Dick. Skirmishing

SUNDAY, APRIL 12: Sermon on slavery by the Chaplain the boys swear that he is more than an abolitions

MONDAY, APRIL 13: On dresparade at division HD Qers along with the 76 T 76th are very well drilled

TUESDAY, APRIL 14: Get a pass and go to town have a good time generaly

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15: The Colonel makes us a speech he accuses us of persacuting him rongfully

THURSDAY, APRIL 16: Weather is very warm have drill several of the 14th boys over to see us. orders in reference to consolidating

FRIDAY, APRIL 17: Making preparations to furlough men The 12th & 33 & 41 sent out on a scout on guard

SATURDAY, APRIL 18: WW English comes from home he says that all is quiet in the state Gill (?) on extra

SUNDAY, APRIL 19: Preaching by the chaplain Mc Burnett over to see me break guard and go home with him

MONDAY, APRIL 20: Hear that Our scouts have got in to a mes of rebels down on cold water

TUESDAY, APRIL 21: The cap marches the company out and has a picture taken hear that our men have had to fall back

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22: No news of importance from the front to day more men sent out Go up town to arrest a horse thief

THURSDAY, APRIL 23: No news yet from our cold-water friends Charlie Morton pays us a flying visit he says that our boats are still running the blockade at Vicksburg

FRIDAY, APRIL 24: Our men return from cold water they bring in several prisnors

SATURDAY, APRIL 25: On guard have a big hail storm an rain hear that J Seymour & Eli Austin is down at the river on the hospitle boat

SUNDAY, APRIL 26: P.O. & Bird goes down to the river to see the boys. Our boys start home on furlough have meeting ..?..

MONDAY, APRIL 27: Nothing of importance going on plenty of the boys on extra

TUESDAY, APRIL 28: Nothing of importance going on Adjt looking for his wife to come down

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29: All quiet news encourageing from Kentucky an Missouri Sergt NR Gill dies at the Hospitle

THURSDAY, APRIL 30: Thanksgiving day preaching at Brig H.D.Q Bury N R Gill

FRIDAY, MAY 1: On guard The Adjt is looking for his wife

SATURDAY, MAY 2: All is quiet
SUNDAY, MAY 3: The Colo. Adj & chaplains wives arrive
MONDAY, MAY 4: The Colonel takes of the guards on dresparade before the division Hd Qrs
against the 14th
TUESDAY, MAY 5: Nothing of importance going on change our hours of drill the firs Missouri
boys over to see us
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6: Court Martialing of Sgt Risley of Co G Weather cool Hear that they
are fighting in Virginia
THURSDAY, MAY 7: Great excitement and anxiety about the fight in Virginia
FRIDAY, MAY 8: Hear that Hooker has been defeated nothing definite
SATURDAY, MAY 9: Orders to embark as fas as transportation can be furnished supposed that
we will go down the river
SUNDAY, MAY 10: No orders yet Hear that Richmond is taken visit cemetery orders to embark
tomorrow morning at 7 oc
MONDAY, MAY 11: Strike our tents go aboard the boat about 3. PM We are on the Argonaut
leave the landing about 9 oclock
TUESDAY, MAY 12: Pass Hellena at 9 oclock Meet one of the Navy? fleet at the mouth of St.
Francis hear that our other boats was fired in to
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13: Pass Greenville Lake providence Milikens bend and land at youngs
point. below the mouth of the the yazoo unload our Q.M. stores rains raining
THURSDAY, MAY 14: Still raining land & move out back of the levee and camt in an old
field. The filthiest place that I have been in yet
FRIDAY, MAY 15: Strike our tents and march 8 miles over the wors road I ever saw Camp
opposite warrington. the boats pas Warrington burn the place
SATURDAY, MAY 16: Have orders at 4 PM to get ready go aboard the boat immediately all a
board by dark push off for Grand gulf arrive abou 12 M
SUNDAY, MAY 17: Unload & goin to camp This seems to have been a very strong place I have
not been able to go up to the fortifications
MONDAY, MAY 18: Heavy fighting up on the big black all the troops except our brigade is
ordered up the river
TUESDAY, MAY 19: Fighting i n the rear of Vicksburg No news that i s reliable. The Adj buys
abox(?) of Marion sweet
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20: Hear that Grant is in possession of Haynes bluff
THURSDAY, MAY 21: The Adj goes up to youngs point to see about some of the sick boys Co
F gets back from Allo..(?)
FRIDAY, MAY 22: Still fighting at Vicksburg no news of importance Col goes up to Vicksburg
SATURDAY, MAY 23: Go out in the country about 8 mile a forageing get some very interesting
Southern pamphlets
SUNDAY, MAY 24: Report for duty & am on picket for the firs time since leaving Memphis
heavy cannonading heard all day
MONDAY, MAY 25: Start out on a scout with one days rations star at 9(?) P M Go as far as big
black turn round and come back on account of the bridge be ing burnt
TUESDAY, MAY 26: The Col & cap return from above no news of importance The Adj returns
brings a hors with him

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: Quite a little storm of wind and rain blew several tents down among the rest was mine

THURSDAY, MAY 28: Nothing of importance going on heavy fighting up the river

FRIDAY, MAY 29: On guard at the commissary rain very heavy

SATURDAY, MAY 30: All quiet Some of the furloughed boys get back they bring favorable reports fro above

SUNDAY, MAY 31: At meeting both in the fore and after noon hear avery interesting sermon

MONDAY, JUNE 1: More of the furloughed boys coming in No news of importance go out a scouting very warm

TUESDAY, JUNE 2: On picket, no news of importance

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3: Gets a pas to go out scouting for the purpos of bringing in contrabands Stay for the night on the Patterson Plantation

THURSDAY, JUNE 4: Start at sunris visit the Leavenpo..(?) plantation and all the res between ther and fort Gibson

FRIDAY, JUNE 5: Detailed to take charge of one company of contrabands feel very sore an tired after yesterdays rid

SATURDAY, JUNE 6: Get permission to go out on an other scout Start at sundown and rid till midnight stop 3 hours on Dick Archers plan

SUNDAY, JUNE 7: Start at 3 oclock ride 10 miles to Chamlins plantation stop and take breakfast an then clear his place of mules & horses & contrabands

MONDAY, JUNE 8: Then sta back visiting all the plantations between there and fort Gibson stay all night at Col Humphreys place get to camp about 12 M

TUESDAY, JUNE 9: Stay round i n camp resting orders that we will move as soon as transportation can be furnished. Col A K Johnson assumes command of the 3rd brigade

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10: All our contrabands is at work orders to go up the river rains all day Have a gay time getting our darkies aboard

THURSDAY, JUNE 11: I & Levi Berg stay behind to bring the horses Get aboard the boat & start about sundown

FRIDAY, JUNE 12: Land at daylight find the fifth cam about a ..?.. mile below. The 32nd moves out on the lines No news of importance

SATURDAY, JUNE 13: Laying round in camp Receive orders to move up to the Brigade Draw two days rations

SUNDAY, JUNE 14: Get the men together and start about 8 oclock the men move very well according to their practice

MONDAY, JUNE 15: Have orders from Brig HD Qrs to turn all our contrabands over to the pioneer corps

TUESDAY, JUNE 16: Go back to the company and report for duty

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17: Laying round in camp writing letters &c. The Adj receives an order to muster his contrabands

THURSDAY, JUNE 18: Nothing of very great importance going on short cannonading in our front No damage on our side

FRIDAY, JUNE 19: On picket considerable of firing on both sides

SATURDAY, JUNE 20: Six hours cannonading No damage done to our side that I know of

SUNDAY, JUNE 21: Very unwell lay in camp all day

MONDAY, JUNE 22: On picket again the rebs make a charge on the 14 & drive them out of there rifle pits and fills them up

TUESDAY, JUNE 23: The 14th has 3 men killed 5 or 6 wounded and as many mor missing. Col Cam is missing

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24: No news from Cam yet it supposed that he is wound and a prisner in Vicksburg the boys are on duty again

No entries for June 25-July 3.

SATURDAY, JULY 4: Vicksburg surrenders at 10 oclock The regt ordered to for the Division Ordered to the rear in pursuit of Johnson

No entries for July 5-9.

FRIDAY, JULY 10: Leave Warrenton and go to Division Hospitle Stand the trip much beter than I expected I would

SATURDAY, JULY 11: Geting along slowly

No entry for July 12.

MONDAY, JULY 13: John goes to Vicksburg & meets with the boys of the 101st & stays all night

TUESDAY, JULY 14: The old Dr sends John to the regt for staying out last night

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15: Sending all the convalescent to their Regiments going to bale out this institution

THURSDAY, JULY 16: Make arrangements to stay here as long as the boys remain in their present camp

FRIDAY, JULY 17: Wrigte a letter to paul Mending slowly

No entries for July 18-21.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22: Hear that the boys are coming back rains

THURSDAY, JULY 23: The Division gets back from Jackson more rain get a couple of letters

FRIDAY, JULY 24: Al l quiet The Divis has orders to move into the city tomorrow morning at 7 o.c.

SATURDAY, JULY 25: Move in to town and ordered back to our old camp the boys are ..?.
.ring considerable

SUNDAY, JULY 26: More rain some talk of sending all the sick home on furlough

MONDAY, JULY 27: All is quiet No news attall from any quarter

TUESDAY, JULY 28: Rains feel very poorly on account of having a very severe cold

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29: Move inside of the lines go in to camp where there is neither shade nor water

No entries for July 30-August 1.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2: The chaplain preaches to the boys Spend the day in my own tent

No entries for August 3-5.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6: Geting out of all patience waiting for sick furloughs

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7: Went over to corps Hospitle & was examined for a discharge pass the examination

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8: Hotel 's ...?..

No entry for August 9.

MONDAY, AUGUST 10: Commence making out my discharge

No entry for August 11.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12: Send my papers up to Di H.D. Q. for approval by Division Surgeon

No entries for August 13-14.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15: Orders to embark for Natchez 15 of the sick boys get off on furlough

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16: Land at Natchez at 3 o'clock Move out 1½ miles and go in to camp have a very nice situation

MONDAY, AUGUST 17: Cleaning up our camp Very well pleased with our situation

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18: Quite a heavy rain lays the dust and fills the cisterns with fresh water

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19: More rain & cool weather Not very well to day have the diarrhea very badly

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20: Nothing of importance going on The Adj goes up to Vicksburg to see L. Thomas about recruiting Negroes

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21: Still raining and cool

No entry for August 22.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23: The Maj. gives the men permission to go to town to church to return by one o'clock

MONDAY, AUGUST 24: The adjt. returns from Vicksburg no news did not see Thomas

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25: Laying round in camp thinking of the time when I left home a year ago

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26: To day has been fine and cool seems all most like fall of the year Cap Duncan returns to the regt

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27: Laying round weather fine & pleasant some prisoners brought in this morning cap trying to burn a bridge

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28: Go to the city on a pass spend the day loafing through the town See nothing very interesting

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29: To day has been cool & pleasant pass the time off reading a novel beginning to get impatient about my papers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30: Move our tents back so as to make a colorline in front The chaplain preaches at Brigade Hd. Qrs Weather cool

MONDAY, AUGUST 31: Muster for pay at 3 o'clock furnish one hundred & 20 men for picket No news of importance

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: The brigade starts out on a ten day scout Not feeling able to march all day & remained behind

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2: The time drags off very slow since the regt left Amuse myself writing letters and then tearing them up

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3: The Colonel returns he says that he is enjoying better health than usual Brings but little news

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4: Nothing of importance going on in camp Hear considerable cannonading across the river supposes that it is the force that left this place on the first

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: Lt. A. M. Wright arrives in camp brings me some letters from home reports that all are well at home

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: Hear that the Brig is on the other side of the river and will be in in the morning

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7: The boys get in to camp about 12 M all in fine spirits but

somewhat jaded Cap & Lt Burnett get back to the Regt

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: Some of the 14th boys over to see us. W. Criswell just from home
No news of importance

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9: Division Sergn examine the boys for the invalid corps
Examined again for a discharge

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: General Grisham takes command of the post. Cort martial sits
to try the case of R H Babit

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: Weather very warm nothing of interest going on G H English
receives the appointment of Lieut. Col. of the 32

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: Still continues very warm has some appearance of rain A privat
of Co B was Bueried yesterday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: Tend the Catholick church find the servi very interesting as well a
amusing quite a number of Soldiers in attendance

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: The Rebs attack our pontoon train on the other side of the river

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: All is quiet

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16: No news from my papers yet

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: Cap H. Davidson elected Major. Treats to the able have a gay
old time commish all drunk

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18: The boys came in off of picket nothin New

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: The 12 Wisconsin appears on dresparade be for the Generals
head quarters

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: The Chaplain preaches us a sermon Orders for no one to leave
camp expecting an attack

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21: No news of interest

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: Orders to sign the pay rolls The boys are on picket Arres a negro
carrying the rebel mail

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23: My Discharg papers come approved having my final
statements made out

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: Visit the 14 to let the boys know that I am going home
conclude to start tomorrow if I can get off

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: Go to town with the calculation of being off but was disappointed
the boat had left me go to the 14

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26: Stay in town waiting for a boat go out to camp for dinner No
boat this evening

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: Several boats down but none going up Lt(?) Mose Burnet hear that
Rosencrane has been driven but nothing reliable

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: Get aboard of the Imperial lay at the landing untill 4 oclock
taking on wod

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29: Arrive at Vicksburg at 9 oclock lay there untill 4 oclock. start up
the river hear that the R Compd(?) was burnt at the foot of milikens bend

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30: Raining hear that there is Gurrellas about 20 mile above run
all night

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1: Weather cool pass the boats that started out ahead of us land
several times today for wood

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2: Leave the mouth of white river 12 M pass the Ohio Belle and arrive at Hellena at 12 M take on more wood
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: Leave mad...?... ..? .. Arrive at Memphis at 3 oclock leave Memphis same time for fort pillow 12 A
No entry for October 4.
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5: Pass Columbus Arrive at cairo at daylight
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6: Arrive & Leave Cairo at eleven oclock arrive at dark lay over until 3 oclock tomorrow morn
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7: Leave Centralia at 3 oclock arrive at Decater at day light Leave 2:30 arrive at springfi eld & stay all night
THURSDAY; OCTOBER 8: Leave springfield 9:30 arrive at Alexander 5 oclock brakfast at the hotel the start home
No entries for October 9-19.
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20: At town in the state
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21: ~~Go to Palmyra~~
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22: Go to Palmyra Attend a s..?.. go up by the soldiers and society
No entries for October 23-November 18.
THURSDAY, NOV EMBER 19: Start a fishing turn round & come back from Jacksonville
No entry for November 20.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21: The copperhead camp broke up
No entries for November 22-December 31.

At the end of the diary under "Memoranda" are listed names with amounts of money. The names include S/P Van Winkle, John R. Palmer, John H. White, John B. Scott, I. R. Cox, W.T. Nall, Bud Doty, G. H. Doolittle.

Appendix 11. Excerpts from DeBenneville Randolph Keim notebook.

Pages 2-3

October 31, 1862. "Leave [Jackson, Tenn.] on the morning train to attend a review by Gen. Grant of the troops at Bolivar...Returned to Jackson with Gen. G. in the evening."

November 1, 1862. "Quiet cotton speculators & speculations."

November 2, 1862. "Join a wagon train for Bolivar....Rough road sand broken bridges- Bivouac at Clover Creek."

November 5, 1862. "Column in motion by 7 oclock A.M. - Immense destruction of property along the second day's march -- Pass the Corinth Column moving towards Grand Junction - I n the afternoon we reach La grange - A skirmishthe enemy takes flight towards Holly Springs - Excellent view of the country for a high bluff--The enemy to be seen hastening away on three roads -"

Page 6

December 20, 1862. "...Troops on 3/4 rationsInformation received that enemy was concentrating at Jackson & Vicksburg with a view to concentration at the latter place if necessary. Determined to fall back to the north side of the Tallahatchie, on account of long line

of communication – Rail road to Grenada to Memphis could not could not [sic] be repaired – ““
Page 7

December 26, 1862. "Troops on 1/2 rations on account of the destruction of Rd to Columbus."

Page 11

January 2, 1863. "Reached Jackson from Hollysprings - Called on Gen Sullivan, was kindly met. Entertained by Lieut Col Melancthon Smith - Wrote account of the brilliant movement against Forrest - Weather shocking – No communication cut by rail with Columbus Ky."

Page 19

April 21, 1863. "Reached Jackson before day and Corinth on an Extra train by 9 A M. Through the kindness of Maj Gen Oglesby commanding during Gen Dodge's absence I am afforded facilities for overtaking the Expedition....Pass the rebel fortifications - Travel the corderoy from Pittsburg landing used by our troops...Reach Hamburg landing on the Tennessee River 20 miles at dark - Embark on a steamer for East Port"

Pages 19-20

April 22, 1863. "Arrive at East Port at 4 A M....Streights command preparing to move forwardPoorly provided."

Page 20

April 23, 1863. "Set out with Streights command for Gen Dodge's Headquarters - Fighting in Front - The - troops cross Bear Creek and move forward – Skirmishing - "

April 25, 1863. "Occupy Tuscumbia with a skirmishIntroduced as a Doctor, and requested to remain at the house of an old lady & daughter for their protection."

Page 21

April 28, 1863. "Rumors of trouble in our rear - The fierceness of the Enemy's assault upon our rearguard - Reached Tuscumbia -"

Page 23

May 12, 1863. "Examined the Fortifications [Grand Gulf] their great strength. Impossibility of reducing them from the river"

Page 24

May 15, 1863. "Pass through RaymondGen Lee & myself scour the country sketching the roads -"

May 16, 1863. "13th Corps in Position opens the Battle of Baker's Creek or Champions Hills - The 17 comes in about 10 A.M. Severe fighting Midday I return to the hospital oppressive heat. Assist in moving the woundedAt 4 return to the field....Lose my horse obliged to walk, a saunter over the field melancholly scenes"

Page 27

May 29, 1863. "Return to Chickasaw Bayou - meet a rich southern widow a boat ride -The consequence of persisting - not a good oarswoman -- overhauled by a Gunboat - Red tape and much explanation – Released"

June 6, 1863. "Reach Memphis at 2 AM. Anniversarial Celebration held in commemoration of the occupation of Memphis a year ago. Very good affair."

Pages 27-28

June 8, 1863. "Made the acquaintance of Gen A W Ellett Commander of the Miss Marine BrigadeEmbark at 11 AM on Flag Ship AutocratFound on board four ladies Mrs Polk & daughter & Mrs Welsh & daughter, part of a large number of ladies and gentlemen recently

banished from St Louis on account of their secesh proclivities Entire number 22. We are to put them off at Greenville Miss.”

Page 30

June 20, 1863. “The enemy firing R R iron -- Peculiar noise.”

Pages 31-32

June 25, 1863. “...Up early visit to the Mine...The mine ready - Its explosion - a simultaneous bombardment - The assault upon fort Hill - The 45 Ills & 24 IndNight fighting - Effort to bring up Artillery - The place not sufficiently reduced - Necessity of another mine - Engineers go to work.”

Page 32

July 1, 1863. “Get out of bed to witness the explosion of a second mine at 1 PM same place as first - A number of men buried - A Negro thrown over into our advance works – He is unhurt.”

Page 33

July 8, 1863. “Reach Memphis at 9 AM. Enthusiasm and despondency upon confirmation of the surrender [of Vicksburg].”

Page 36

"The preceding pages are merely designed as notes for my guidance in the writing of a work, which I will probably entitle “Campaign notes of an Army Correspondent”.... My diary hence forth shall less crudely present facts, where anything is to be accomplished thereby – A diary is rather a note book of everyday life, than a comment upon men and things, it is rather designed to recall than to fully set forth events, brevity should be its cardinal feature, the memory to fill in the details.”

Page 37

July 14, 1863. "Arrived in New York this afternoon at 2:30 P.M. - Put up at the Astor. The Draft Riot raging having commenced yesterday”

July 17, 1863. "Invited by Mr James Gordon Bennett to visit him this PM at Fort Washington"

Page 38

July 28, 1863. “Called at the war Department - Visited the theatre this evening. Met Col Whitely Chief Herald Corres Wash D.C.”

July 30, 1863. "My object in visiting Washington was to secure the necessary documents to write a history of Grant's Campaign against Vicksburg -Staunton very disoblging - Abandon the project. Left Washington for Readingcalled on Miss Mollie Wright a daughter of Gen Wright - She is a fine lady.”

Pages 39-40

August 21, 1863. "Arrive in Memphis - Take quarters at the Gayoso Hotel.”

Page 40

August 26, 1863. "A Magnificent dinner to Gen Grant held at the Gayoso house -"

August 27, 1863. "Recovering from the effects of last nights dissipation.”

Page 41

August 31, 1863. “W R McCracken employed by Mr Knox in St Louis for Steele's Expedition up White River called today - A disagreeable and incompetent man.”

September 4, 1863. "Left this AM 8 oclock by Rail for Corinth Arrived at 3 P.M. Visited the 1 Alab. African Regt. The regt is well disciplined and instructed.”

Pages 41-42

September 14, 1863. "...Received a letter from Mr Cadwallader at Grant's Headquarters - No movements in prospect."

Page 43

September 23, 1863. "Mostly in looking about the City [New Orleans] - Effects of the war very perceptible"

Page 46

October 17, 1863. "Arrived at Cincinnati [sic] at 9 AM - Visit Pikes Opera house this evening - Laura Keene performing the Soldiers daughter"

∴

Page 49

December 10, 1863. "Sailed on the Steamship St Mary for Texas -"

Page 50

December 17, 1863. "Went aboard the St Mary - No communication from here with the Rio Grand - Return to N.O. Off at 1 PM - Meet the Steamer Blackstone out of coal - Take on her troops and return to the bay."

Page 53

January 7, 1864. "Coldest day that has been known in N.O. for many years."

January 15, 1864. "Left for Memphis on the JC Swon--Much Excitement about guerrillas on the river."

January 17, 1864. "Finished Marryatts Peter Simple - A very entertaining work."

January 20, 1864. "Finished Madame de Stael's great work Corinne or Italy - A remarkable work for a woman."

Page 54

January 22, 1864. "...Small Pox prevailing largely in the city [Memphis]"

January 26, 1864. "Last night I attended a large and brilliant complimentary dinner to Gen WT Sherman."

Page 55

February 3, 1864. "Left Vicksburg on train for Big Black River at 11 AM -"

February 3-5, 1864. Notes on Sherman's expedition to Meridian.

February 6, 1864. "Remained all day in Jackson [Miss.] - Great deal of burning"

Pages 55-56

February 7, 1864. "Leave Jackson at 7 A.M. The Pontoon boats were undestroyed by the EnemyArrive at Brandon - Many of the buildings fired by Citizens to delay our march..."

Page 56

February 8, 1864. "Set out from Brandon at 7 A.M Pine Forests - Enemy form in front of a house near line creek -A woman accidentally shot - Insubordination in the Enemys ranks - He is obliged to retire--Probable force of the Enemy 15,000 6 Prisoners taken."

February 11, 1864. "Make 12 miles during the day - much delayed by swamps."

Page 57

February 12, 1864. "...Arrive at Decatur. The Enemy 200 Cavattack train of the 16 Corps & kill 24 mules but no men"

February 15, 1864. "Raining in torrents Enter Meridian - the enemy gone, with stores &c - orders

issued to destroy railroads.”

February 17, 1864. "Inactive – Cold - Destroying railroad"

February 18, 1864. "Inactive – Snow - work of destruction going on."

February 20, 1864. "Meridian Evacuated. All public buildings destroyed by fire..."

Page 58

February 25, 1864. "Camp tonight within 3 miles Pearl River - bridge nearly completed - Crossing commenced at 7 PM. pontoons sink at midnight"

February 26, 1864. "Bridge repaired - Across by noon - Chambers in Canton at midday 16 Corps in PM 17th at dusk Capture 17 locomotive 35 cars & some stores."

Page 59

March 18, 1864. "Call on Bingham Editor of Bulletin [Memphis]."

Page 60

March 24, 1864. "Call at the office [New York]. Understand it is wished I should join the Army of Potomac. Do not desire the position..."

March 26, 1864. "Call on Mr Geo W Childs publisher [Philadelphia]. At his request consent to furnish some biographies to his book in press entitled "The Lives of the Union General."... James B McPherson Maj Gen 6000 words; AL Lee Brig Gen 1250 words. Jer C Sullivan Brig Gen 1250 words other names to be forwarded me at Cairo..."

Pages 60-61

March 28, 1864. "...Left for Pittsburg at 4.10 PM. Terrible smash-up in a cut 7 miles west of Altoona 4 cars completely demolished Miraculously no one killed - Had my knee badly injured being lamed thereby."

Page 61

April 14, 1864. "Rebels...attack Paducah - brisk fight - Leave for Cairo after fight."

April 15, 1864. "At 1 AM learned particulars of massacre of our troops by Forrest Chalmers & Lee at Fort Pillow, on April 12th..."

Page 62

May 14, 1864. "Put up at St. Cloud Hotel in Nashville - Attacked by rats during the night."

Pages 62-63

May 15, 1864. "Ride to Cavalry Camp i n company with Edwin Adams Tragedian..."

Page 63

May 20, 1864. "Secure pass –Sherman’s opposition to correspondents."

May 22, 1864. "Leave for Chattanooga on Hospital trainBeautiful scenery"

May 23, 1864. "Reached Chattanooga at 6 AM 151 miles - Beauty of the river at Bridgeport...Left for Kingston on freight train – Ride on top of Car – Heat – Reach Kingston 100 miles at 3 AM 24th."

Page 65

June 14, 1864. "Left for Nashville having 4 days delay finding baggage gone estray - found last night."

Page 66

June 24, 1864. "Sent sketches of Maj Gen CC Washburn 9 ms pages & Maj Gen Frank P. Blair pr 13 ms pages to Mr Childs, Phila."

Pages 67-99 are blank.

Pages 100-140.

“Extracts taken from a work entitled "The Siege of Vicksburg" by AS Abrams, one of the garrison, published in Mobile [actually Atlanta]”
Pages 141-144, endpapers.

Chart of letters/dispatches sent/received and authorities on Pennsylvania History

Appendix 12. Transcription of J.C. Baker letter.

J.C. Baker to Mrs. J.C. Baker, care James Hannah Esq, at C.J. Seldon & Co, Memphis, Tenn., 1862 November 12.

[page 1] November 12/62

My Dear Lou

I take a desperately slim chance to get this to you but none there present themselves now, and if the mails go through on time this will reach you by a lady from C[blank space]se near the church who was here three days and left without my knowing it had I seen her she would have taken it to you herself I have no doubt. I mail this to her at our first stoping [sic] place in this state G[blank space], in one wher(?) asking her to deliver it. The last two sent you may or may not come to hand, one of them was sent by an old Steam Boat Captain and will be left at Mr H's on Madison Street. I hope you have received the money I sent you by Mr Cleaves to the care of Col Varden as he promised very faithfully to have Col V to carry it out to you, that(?) people are so very unreliable now that it is very difficult to tell in whom you can place the least Reliance. With your last I sent a letter to Mrs Temple from her Husband, he is very anxious to be detailed for special duty at this place and I have seen Col Tresvant and John Segwood both of whom have promised to get him the first situation that is vacated indeed Col Tresvant said that if he continued in command that he would displace some of the able bodied young men without families and give their places to old men with families this you can tell Mrs T and when she writes to him, can give him the information; to day or tomorrow I will write to him myself. I am sorry to see that Genl Sherman is getting [sic] so unreasonable in orders, another degree of oppression inflicted upon the unarmed citizens, and helpless women and children will place him side by side with Butler of New Orleans I refer to his order sending out of the city Ten families of those engaged in the Confederate cause for every boat fired into by our Guerilla companies and the more recent order making the person responsible for the killing, nearest to whose residence the body of the dead yankee may be found, this last I consider the weakest and most unjust act that could be enforced by any commander, in which the innocent will certainly be made to suffer for the guilty, besides affording the means to the low and unprincipled of seeking their vengeance on any person against whom the [sic] may have any animosity, and not the ~~moral~~ [page 2] the courage to meet openly and honorably, they may not even have courage enough to kill a Yankee but find one that has been killed by other hands and carry it to the premises of the person who they wish to be revenged upon, and thereby subject him to all the rigor of this unholy and unjust order From what I had heard of Genl Shermans since in your place I had expected better treatment, and better judgment displayed in the punishment of offenses against his soldiery, but I fear I have already said too much and will desist. I have heard that Mr Costen has been arrested again and I am not at all sorry for him, his self

conceit ruins what little of common sense he has, and experience may teach him to remain in his place which ought certainly to be not very high or responsible; Yes he endeavors to make a different impression ~~and is trying~~ by assuming a position he is not entitled to.

I see our lady friend occasionally, she has concluded to retire to a more peaceful avocation than smuggling since her last unsuccessful attempt; is now living with a quite [sic] family of no pretensions and is making soldiers clothes. Her profits if any in the end were small and repaid her but poorly for the risk she took I am sorry to loose [sic] so good a medium of communication. I wish you could come down in "Dixie" and see how things are down here. Imagine if you can how poor people are to live here, when flour is 50\$ per Bbl, coarse dark and ~~dirty~~ muddy [sic] at that. Bacon 75cts per pound and scarce. Sweet potatoes 2\$ per Bas, corn meal 1⁵⁰ and Beef poor blue and tough at 25cts as to vegetables they are altogether out of the question. Butter 75cts per pound and Eggs 50cts dozen. Salt 100\$ to 125 per sack The commonest scrub horse you can find will bring 225\$ to 300\$ and a good Saddle Horse here last week for 700\$ I have a very good horse that my friend Mr Southworth bought at Chattanooga ~~for~~ and sold to him to me at 200\$ I could get 310 for him. Then for clothing where shall I commence as to style the only one among the men is the ragged and the women are wearing dresses that were in style when they left school. Mens hats and shoes suffer most Seedy ragged Hats that they would have blushed to seen on the heads of their carriage drivers, are now highly prized; caps of every imaginable material from rabbit skin, to that made of their wives cloaks and silk dresses. Shoes and Boots just imagine a gentleman buying a second hand pair pretty well worn at 30 per pair. mine are about gone and I am now wearing a pair of common Brogans with an iron heel. ~~which~~ such are selling for 16 per pair [page 3] as to womens shoes there is no price, to [sic] high to be asked for them such as we used to sell for 1.50 & 125 [sic] will bring from 8 to 12\$ and I heard of 20 being given for a pair of cloth gaiters. but the poor country women are the greatest sufferers it is distressing to see them pattering around with a great pair of Stoga Shoes heavier and uglier than any of our servants ever wore before this war and those who cannot afford the price for the few that are smuggled in, are truly to be pitied just think of nice girls of considerable property going around town with their bare toes on the ground poor things endeavor to hide their ragged red shoes ~~by~~ with their dresses but fail to do it going up steps or geting [sic] out of their carriages, and if the blockade continues much longer home knit stockings as well as home spun dresses will be at a premium. Notwithstanding all of this destitution and suffering these people exert(?) upon each other as quick ~~and~~ as a Yankee would It has been very dry this fall and summer the dust is intolerable as bad as you ever saw it at home in the middle of summer. The weather has been remarkably pleasant so far we have had but few unpleasantly cold days; which is all that has saved our poor soldiers who are very poorly clad. I have not seen a well dressed company since I left home. We have heard nothing from Ray, Bev or John Watkins since they left Knoxville for Kentucky John's Battery was in fight at Perryville and behaved very gallantly. they lost but 2 killed and one wounded names not given. Bev's company was not in the fight neither was Mr Temples.

I hope your Pa has been down to see you before this time, and brought you something to eat, for I know you will deny yourself many little things that are almost indispensable to health and comfort. Have you called on Mr Chas Jones I think it likely he would pay you something on his note, as there appears to be a complete revolution in the conduct of those who have been left at home he may have changed too, and as it is not possible for him to be worse pray than before it

is possible that he may be a little better and I would advise you to try him. his residence is on second Street on the corner of Washington west side I think you are a little to [sic] sensitive about borrowing money of [sic] your Uncle William. I know that he hasn't the best feelings for me but at the same time he knows that he is entirely safe in lending you money, and you should regard it as business transaction, and not entirely as a favor. If he were giving it to you it [page 4] it to you or the children it would be a very different matter. I have a hundred dollars in Lease (?) money that I will try and send you if I find that I will not be able to come to see you this winter. I am sorry that I did not go, before this as I learn that it is much more difficult to pass either line at this time.

I cannot tell you how much I want to see you and the dear children, and without some change, I fear that it will be some time before I could come and see you at home with any kind of satisfaction. I sometimes think I will start right off, and take the consequences whatever they may but when I consider the chances of being taken before I could get home to see you and the children, I conclude it is better not to take too great risk. Should they imprison me, for being connected with the quarter masters Dept and aiding and abeting [sic] the cause of the Confederacy, I would most likely be detained until the end of the war as no provisions have been made for the exchange of citizens and certainly would not take their oath, in which event I should be as much deprived of seeing you as I now am, and be unable to render any pecuniary assistance whatever. Yet I still hope to see you this winter if I can get there. If I do not I trust that a kind Providence will afford you and our dear little children that care and protection that is not in the hands of an earthly husband and father and that he may spare us all to see, peace ~~and~~ happiness and prosperity returns to our loved country, The refugee to his home and the bosom of his family, no more to be separated whilst life may last.

With much love to you and many kisses to the dear children. I am as ever your affectionate husband

[written vertically across page 3] I got your letter sent by Mrs [unclear] write often your letters [unclear word] By [unclear word] come direct without [unclear word]