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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 & Raid 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] egges 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 comfersts 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 for 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 have 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 muskeetoos."

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 impresson 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 been 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 1st 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 dangerous 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 surprise you in a short time, my health is some better than it has been - 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 been 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 opportunity to repair all bridges, and whatever damage that has been caused - To day has been warm 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? specs 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 suppose 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 sepperated 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 grapeshot 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 soldier 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 whisied 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 & mutch beloved Companion it is alone through the kind dealings of Almity 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 Strainge 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 mutch 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 trully 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
git1 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 makeing 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 straing 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 sepearte 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 rcvd 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 hosspitel 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 jinerl 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 apparent 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 daily 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 judically [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 colored 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. Transcriptions 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

usaul 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 outhur
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 respecks to you hoping that these few lines will find you in good
helth as it levs all of us at presant
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 Regiment
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 engoyed 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 plect to 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 plese 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 respts 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 marenas 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 Illinoise 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 place 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 was glad to here that you was well i am quite well at present You wanted to know how i spent my cristmas and new years on Cristmas i was in St Louis and new years in Bentn Baracks you saied you was 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 Baracks 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 Baracks. Mo

Febuary the 25th. 1863

Dear frend Martha

i now take the plesher of answern your two last leters witch fowend me [obscured word] it givs me mutch plesher to here from my frends espeshelay from you i hope you will right as often as you saied you woud and i will right as often as i can You must of had fine times at the weedding ceane as thear wos so mutch fun i would ofe liked to ofe been theare aney way i would like to of seen Jane i wish you woud right whot [page 2] you think of the fellow aney way I think he must of been so plesed to think that he wos so lucky to get mareyed he cud not think of eating if he wos a solger he might be excused for we dont get to speek to the girls onse in 3 munths except cescesh damsels i wos seven months without speeking to a uinon wooming

But plese to tell me whot sort of a fellow Jane has got whot trade ore whot he does for a living i wish them well helth and hapiness and aney thing else tha may chuse to have i wish that i and rat was there to take you to chool or me with the horse that i ride now

[page 3] I am very mutch oblidge to you for thinking of sending me sum stamps but i hope i shant be that trubel to you i think we shall get payed this week then if had a wife to send my money to it woud be beter than spending it as we cuses do and then go with out for 4 or 5 months sum of the boys is sining the pay rolls now i wish i cud get to talk to you for i cant think whot to right so i will close hoping this will find you well from your Ever Loving frend

John Linfor to

Miss Martha E Patten

Wright sone

Remember me

Mat

Plese excuse mistaks

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

ofe Cairo. April 10, 1863

Dear frend

i agane take the plesher of answern your kind lete dated March the 11 and i hope this will find you well as it leavs me at presant we landed here this evening we have beene 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 rebbs put nine canon shot into ower boate killed one man and wonded one the musket shot cant go thruh to hurt us but we gave them a grat chase of twenty miles but tha

are good at running You sayed that you wos 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 extry 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 1 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 plesher 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 sayd 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 outhur 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 ~~it~~ 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 adoin nothng for for
Goverment

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 turn 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 sone 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 inteteld to sum sertn 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 fater, 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] Stemer 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 receved 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 receved 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 Couty [page 2] Well Mat there is a good inducement to reinlist here into the Vetren Volenters fower hindred and two Dolders 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 afriad 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 beter 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 punky 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 outhur 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 Lutenat 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 outhter 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 opend 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 ansvern 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 was 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 campd 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 was 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 oclock 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 policeing their quarters get orders to march immediately toward memphis countermanded untill morning

SUNDAY, MARCH 15: Leave Buntan station at 8 oclock march to the suburbs of the city & gointo 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 (?) i n 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 Dresparade before the General. make a tolerable apperance 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 amoments warning

SUNDAY, MARCH 22: All quiet this morning give al l the catholicks 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 an night

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

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

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

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 catholicks goes to town to church very disagreeable this evening

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 31: Nothing of importance going on battallions 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 incourageing 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 agains 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 in 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 possesion 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: All 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 oclock 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 dus 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 Negros

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21: Still raining and cooll

No entry for August 22.

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

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 hom a year ago

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27: Laying round weather fine & pleasant some prisners 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 oclock 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 leters an 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 suppos 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 attact 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 springfield & 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, NOVEMBER 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 DeBennville 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 Keane 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 abetting [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]

Appendix 13. Excerpts from Frank M. Guernsey letters, 1862-1864.

Transcriptions of letters written by Frank Guernsey to his future wife, Fannie Doty, of Weyauwega, Wisconsin. Note: Without access to the original letters, it is unknown whether the spelling errors are those of Guernsey or the transcriber.

November 4, 1862. Camp Howe, Memphis. Describes trip down to Memphis, sees Fort Pillow and a contraband camp at Columbus.

November 9, 1862. Camp Howe, Memphis. Guernsey's unit has "not yet met the enemy, excepting the rebels that live here and they are mostly women, and as such are out of reach of punishment....They begin to think here that the rebellion is a bad job and nearly played out." He thinks his unit will be in a big fight soon. He remarks on confiscating property, "I dont want you to understand that we steal any thing. We onley take it."

November 21, 1862. Camp Howe, Memphis. A Federal expedition returns to Memphis, having "sacked one town of Secessionists....We make a point to punish all Rebels severely."

December 5, 1862. Camp near Wyatt, Mississippi. In pursuit of General Price.

Undated. Camp, Holly Springs, Mississippi. "We are in pursuit of Gen. Price and making forced marches every day except today."

December 10, 1862. Near Oxford, Mississippi. Guernsey is "getting disgusted with the way this war is carried on." His unit is reviewed by General Sherman.

December 18, 1862. Near Oxford, Mississippi. Union troops have been repairing a railroad as far as Oxford. "Confiscating or stealing is all the go down here and the one who can steal the most from the enemy is the best fellow." He refers to the poor medical care in the regiment.

January 9, 1863. Near Jackson, Tennessee.

January 12, 1863. Near Jackson, Tennessee. "If there ever was a place under heaven that a man needs good advice it is in the army and then he must be a saint to escape untainted." The chaplain has been in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, recently and tells Guernsey "that the public sentiment at the north is so strong for peace that some terms will be entered into before long or there will be a counter rebellion."

January 20, 1863. Near Jackson, Tennessee. The health of the regiment is poor.

January 23, 1863. Near Jackson, Tennessee.

January 29, 1863. Near Jackson, Tennessee. Guernsey is expecting orders to go to Memphis, which is "a fine place to camp as we have more advantages there." He hears of "grumbings of the north and of the dissatisfaction growing" and mentions the "imbicility of our officers. It was hard for me to believe at first that we had such consummate scoundrels in command of our forces..."

February 10, 1863. Navy Yard, Memphis. Guernsey's regiment is now quartered in a real building. "It was formerly used as a Depot building and machine shop," but "of all the God-forsaken Cities in America, I believe this is the worst." He mentions incidents that men in his regiment see on provost duty. "Robbery and murder are of frequent occurrence. It is not safe for a man to be on the street unless he is armed to the teeth."

February 19, 1863. Navy Yard, Memphis. "We are having quite an interesting time with the Rebels on the opposit side of the river, they come down on the Arkansas shore to make observations of our movements..." Hopefield, Arkansas, "was as large as Weyawega and there is not a house or any building left standing." About himself in Memphis, Guernsey states that "I came very near getting in a scrape the other night myself, all of the non-commissioned staff

(myself included) borrowed Commissioned Officers' coats and went up town to the theatre," but they were recognized and nearly arrested.

February 27, 1863. Memphis Navy Yard. "We received orders to have part of our Regmt. fall in and proceed up the river to attack a camp of Rebels."

March 20, 1863. Memphis. There is a rumor that the regiment will be sent to Wisconsin "to enforce the conscription act....If we do go I pity the poor fellow who tries to resist the conscription for our boys are soldiers." People in Memphis, or "Memphisites" call the Union troops "blue pants."

March 21, 1863. Memphis. Guernsey has been sick. "Our hospital matron has been a sister to me....She is a young woman but is doing a great amount of good."

March 26, 1863. Memphis. He is still in the hospital. "They are expecting a big fight at Vicksburg soon."

March 29, 1863. Memphis. His regiment has moved from the Navy Yard and is "now encamped in a beautiful grove just in the suburbs of the city," but the regimental hospital is moved from "comfortable buildings to tents."

April 8, 1863. Head Quarters, District of Memphis. Guernsey "to use a southern phrase was mighty glad to hear from you." He is boarding with a family named Smith, "very fine people but like all other southerners are more or less tinctured with secessionism." He states that he will not accept a discharge. "I don't want to leave the service until the stars and stripes float over every foot of secessia in triumph."

April 12, 1863. Memphis. A preacher from Wisconsin talks to the men "of what he had witnessed while going through the army as a colporter." Guernsey describes how he witnesses the shooting of an officer in a theater and is nearly arrested for doing it.

May 3, 1863. Memphis. "I am getting so tired of this life of inactivity it seems that I would rather brave all the dangers of the siege of Vicksburg than to lay in camp as we have been doing for the past three months."

May 10, 1863. Memphis. "I have just returned from a chase after some of the 14th Ills. boys, they had been troubling some niggers." He hears the rumor that Richmond has been captured. "This evening Glen and myself went out to protect the property and person of a poor white woman living near camp."

May 17, 1863. Memphis. He writes that some troops were being sent down to Vicksburg. This caused his regiment on provost duty some problems. "We had a great time when they left a number of the 14th Ill deserted and were roving around the City."

May 24, 1863. Memphis. He reports smallpox in the regiment ever since it had been stationed in Memphis, and that "the Rebs sixteen thousand strong were marching on this city."

June 5, 1863. Memphis. Guernsey describes a scouting mission. "The anniversary of taking of Memphis was celebrated with becoming style....We think here that Grant has got a sure thing on Vicksburg."

June 21. 1863. Memphis. "Yesterday the Rebs come a grab game on some of our Cavalry and took quite a number prisoners." He mentions civilians attempting to smuggle arms south.

July 1, 1863. Memphis. "We are getting a little impatient with affairs at Vicksburg....everything in this department is staked on the issue at Vicksburg."

July 3, 1863. Memphis.

July 9, 1863. Memphis. "Glory be to God, peace on earth, good will to men. We have been overwhelmed for a few days past with such glorious news that our camp and the City have been almost in an uproar ever since." He refers to the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. He reports a rumor that his unit will escort a government wagon train to Salt Lake City.

July 19, 1863. Memphis. An officer's commission is "a good thing to have not only on account of the pay but the advantages derived from it."

August 2, 1863. Memphis. Guernsey receives a promotion to 2nd lieutenant.

August 21, 1863. Memphis. "The Quartermaster told me to day that the Regt. was going to be mounted on Mules in a short time and that we were going into the field."

October 18, 1863. Guernsey returns from leave in Wisconsin.

October 25, 1863. Memphis. He attends service in the Catholic cathedral. "The ceremony was grand and imposing I tell you. They have a magnificent cathedral here."

November 1, 1863. Memphis. He discusses re-enlistment. "I have about made up my mind that if I stay in the Service two years longer it will be about my share, though when I enlisted I made up my mind to see this thing through..."

November 7, 1863. Memphis. Regiment goes on a reconnaissance mission, marching to the Charleston Depot "where they took the cars for Germantown," but were too late for a skirmish. "The battle had been fought and the enemy were in full retreat, leaving one Genl and part of his Staff and quite a number of men as prisoners in our hands.....I guess that the Rebs will not venture again so near our lines, they got used so roughly this time."

November 20, 1863. He refers to a brigade review. "We fell in about eight oclock and marched

out about one mile from Camp to the City fair grounds, a very pretty place smooth and clear from all objects that would hinder our evolutions."

November 25, 1863. Memphis. He is leaving Memphis for Moscow, "to take up some Rail Road track."

December 12, 1863. Moscow, Tennessee. He writes about a fight at LaGrange. He "heard a heavy cononading, and the first thing we knew was orders to get on board the cars....They were fighting about a mile from where we got off the cars, the enemy were just across the river through a little piece of woods."

December 18, 1863. Moscow, Tennessee. He hears rumors that the regiment will go to Jackson, Tennessee, "where there is quite a force of enemy fortified."

January 4, 1864. Grand Junction, Tennessee. "We left this place on the 28th of Dec. to escort a train loaded with rations through to our Brigad which was in Mississippi in pursuit of Forrest."

January 11, 1864. Grand Junction, Tennessee. His horse "was taken from a man in Memphis who offered one thousand dollars and another horse for the privilege or keeping him. The first opportunity I have I am going to have our Photograph taken and send you."

January 15, 1864. Grand Junction, Tennessee. All the horses in the regiment have to be turned in. Guernsey's colonel says that the regiment will go to either Texas or Mobile, probably Texas.

January 23, 1864. Lafayette, Tennessee. Guernsey's camp is "not a very pleasant place, there has been so many soldiers encamped here that the country has been overrun and almost ruined. there is not a fence in sight consequently we have to cut our wood, a job which a soldier dislikes very much...there was once quite a little town here, but all there is left now is two houses."

Appendix 14. Transcription of Charles M. Yocum letter.

Charles M. Yocum, Hayesville, Ohio, to Lucian S. Yocum (brother), 16th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer W.S.A., Memphis, Tenn., 1862 December 31.

[page 1] Hayesville Ohio Dec 31st 1862

Dear Bro.

Your kind letter of Memphis date was recd on Monday (day before yesterday) accompanied by a Christmas gift in the shape of a brothers picture. How I priz [sic] that gift for no other could have been so acceptable. Quam Ego magni aestimal donum fratris [How much I value the gift of my brother]. You may get your friend Jim to translate the above. But I sent it home to Mother as Pap brought one up since vacation and I thought she would like to see it. I have two of the others. You are right when you say it is not a very good one but it looks as if you

have improved very much in corporal developments. I tell you it pleased Pap. I would like to return the compliment by sending you mine as a New Years gift on a card in Photograph style but I cannot as there is no artist in the proud city of Hayesville but Lucian I will send you one soon. You seem to apprehend a severe conflict at Vicksburg. I fully concur with you and if you ever receive this letter I believe it will be after one of the hardest fought battles in modern times. Reports say the Rebels have about 100,000 troops there and that they are fortified 8 miles from the city. Sometimes I think the fortunes of the battle will be against us. A few days will decide [page 2] I am glad you feel fully satisfied to enter the contest but you tell me "do not be disturbed if you should be one of the unfortunate" Oh! Lucian how could I help it. A Brother is too near. Nature must have her sway. Had I it in my power I would shower blessings upon you. I only hope you may be prepared for the eternity before us. I and Pap both recd letters from you last Friday and I observe you are beginning to entertain some fears concerning the results of Lincoln's Proclamation. You seem to think it will unite the enemy more, and that they will fight with greater energy. Now Lucian let me have your attention a moment on this point. You remember Patrick Henry said that "people form the wealth and constitute the strength of a nation". This every man must admit, and must admit also that the producing class is the great portion of that strength. Now what class of society or rather what element of the South will this proclamation affect. Manifestly the producing element – for we all know that the slave is the producer in the South. His labor grows the cotton that clothes and the cereals that feed the Southern Army. He is in fact the support and gigantic pillar of the Rebellion. But, Ah! Not at all because he chooses to be. No he is at heart loyal to the Gov! And it is a noteworthy fact that no negro has as yet been found who was really a traitor. Yet the South has been using him as a powerful instrument in carrying out their infernal designs. [page 3] They have used him as the great fundamental moving power – the master-wheel so to speak of the machinery of the Rebellion. Now the question arises would it be policy in the Gov to destroy that machinery by the removal of the master-wheel. Certainly says every loyal man. Can the destruction of one of the essential parts of a piece of machinery strengthen that machinery. Nay verily. This would not be good logic. If it will not strengthen the machinery would it not surely weaken it. _ You may give the answer. The Northern sympathizer with his infatuated brain says it will. But let us illustrate. Suppose Jeff Davis by some proclamation to the laboring millions of the North could induce them to flock over to Secessia. Would it not weaken us. The heart-rending agonies and cries of an immense army would soon answer in expressions of despair. If the comparison is applicable and I think it is I cannot see how any one can believe the contrary. Besides they will be easily induced to accept the terms of the proclamation for they are loyal. You say that many have enlisted since the proclamation. "Suffer not yourself to be betrayed with a Kiss." An open foe is better than a secret enemy. They were wolves in sheeps clothing. Their lips uttered friendly words but their hearts were black with imbittered enmity. A good many in the North are opposed to the proclamations who sympathize with the rebels, but I cannot see why a soldier [page 4] would oppose it. This feeling is brought to bear on the minds of soldiers by the distribution of Northern secession newspapers. Another view of the subject allow me to take. Whenever a man is severely hurt he is sure to holler enough. The South is now secretly crying enough. They have been hit in the right place. I am reminded of one of our orators, I do not remember his name. He said when he was a boy he was a great fighter. (And then to be a great fighter was to be a great man). He could whip all his school-mates but one. That one was too much for him. He began to

study and contrive how to whip for he was determined to be bully. So finally he heard of this superior having been out on the ice and falling severely bruised his shin. Now thinks he is my chance. So the day appointed for fighting he challenged this fellow, who thinking he could easily master him accepted and after commencing awhile recvd a violent kick on the sore shin and was glad to cry enough! enough!! enough!!! Now let us make this simple illustration. Kick the Rebellion on the sore shin and they will cry enough. And that is what the government is now doing and see now they are screaming. They are so badly alarmed that they are shipping all of their negroes to the gulf states. And this is what I like to see for this will be as good as an army fighting for the Union. They will soon have to draw a portion of their forces to keep the negro from rebelling. Oh Lucian it will all work like a charm. Cheer up and take renewed courage and may God bless you is my supplication.

Another thing. The proclamation cannot be objectionable to anyone For there are[?] a provision that if they returned to the union slavery would not be disturbed. So says Sam. Men will[?] who is in the army. Lucian tomorrows sun will rise upon a more happy people and tomorrow will be the beginning of a new and happy era in the history of our country. Lucian show this to my friend James and tell him when he writes to me to tell me how he likes the sentiment. I suppose you and Jim from the way you write about others that you will always love others as I hope you will. Invoking a heavens blessing upon Abraham Lincolns head I remain your affectionate brother and Goodbye to both you and Jim.

Appendix 15. Transcriptions of Moses Edwards letters, 1862-1865.

1. Moses Edwards, Camp Lincoln, Keokuk, Iowa, to sister Elizabeth, September 23, 1862.

[page 1] Camp Lincolln
Tuesday Sept 23rd/ 62

Dear Sister,

I have just now got off of duty and I though [sic] I would write you a few lines to let you know that I am enjoying very good health since I have come in to camp. John he is all sick-- several of our company is not able to be on duty several has got sore eyes and the others has not taken good care of them selfs - eat to much of green fruit we are to be examined tomorrow perhaps part of the companey to day they are very particular about Reed soldiers here some greate large stout men is geting off you may look for several of [page 2] Of our Company may come home they will not have them if they haint sound camp life agrees with me so far very well I am very carefull about eating appels and etc(?) we have fine wither since we come in to camp we had a very muddy time geting to Eddyville the next day we done very well the next day. Bill Long had a fitt last night he is very well to day dont tell that he was mutch sick there was an accident happened the other night when Elder Hare was holding meeting one of the soldiers of the 30 Reg was shot shot [sic] in the leg by some man Tom Barker is all full of of [sic] fun he has nailed above the door a cows horn and he told the capt that he was not going to be partial so he nailed [page 3] one his doore I don't know hardly what to write there is a company here from Tilint (?) creek

Josep Lewis is here and several others of the welch is in the company they was in the Barrack that we now occupy they stay down in town now the 21st Reg went down post his [sic] last week we was out on drill run when they pased down on the cars but we was not very close to them we was higher on the River bank when they passed down we drill north of town or City I can live very well as our ration is one loaf of bakers bread per day coffee & meet had Cases once since we came in to Camp so I will come to a close in hopes to get an answer soon give my love to all of the folks-----

[page 4] I have not recd no news from home since I left Woolf from Albia is here he come to the camp every day this few lines to from your Brother

Moses Edwards

PS

I will try to give you my address a little better this time

Camp Lincolln

Keokuck, Iowa

Care of Capt Noble 36 Reg Iowa Vol

2. Moses Edwards, Camp Lincoln, Keokuk, Iowa, to sister Elizabeth, October 3, 1862.

[page 1] Camp Lincoln
Keokuck Oct 3rd/ 62

Dear Sister

I received your kind letter last Tuesday and I was glad hear from you and to hear that you was all I am well at present hoping that these few lines may find you the same but I think Bill yarned a little when he said that I was fatter than when I left Jeff [unreadable word] can get off I will go to the Assosiation on Flint Creek but I dont think we will get our uniform and our pay the company that Joseph Lewis was in is gon [sic] to Muscatine or disbanded I did not see him after the day he was up here We have turned our old cook off last night he will start home in the morning his name is Reiling (?) Jeffs father

[page 2] The cavalry boys went down past here last Tuesday some of our co seen them but I dont think that any one was close enough to speak to them Alin George was discharged but perhaps you know more than I do about them We had quite a mery evening last Wednesday the news come that Jeff had laid down his arms and a grate victory on the Potomac some was talking about coming home others said that they would not go home before Monday any way but I that several Mondays will pass before they will come home and the war will be ended most all of did not believe any of it, but if it had ben so they would a joyful time we are missed of now we will try that mode of living for a while the old fellow that we had was to dirty did not have our food seasoned so that it was fit for a war to eat.

[page 3] We had quite a wet week of it we had a heavy shower this morning witch made jump up a little before we wanted to but it was time for us to be up there is several of the boy sick but going we have two in the Hospital John Epperson is geting over his stubborn spell he wanted to come home the worst in the world they boys made so mutch fun of him that he sais that he will do his duty if it will kill him dont say mutch about this I think that camp life will agree with me very well but it is to soon to tell mutch about it yet but it is rather a hard place to live so many

tentation [sic] but I hope that I will help clear of then and hope you will pray to God that he may guide me and make my pathes strait and I will try to do the same for you I haint forgot our family [page 4] and the neighbourhood if I have left you I think of you evey time I pray or try to pray so I think I will bring my letter to a close for this time pleas tell me how Thos Barkers Charly is geting along. Tom is trubled a rite smart about when hears from him it dose him so mutch good that he tells me several times through the day that he has herd from him the first word he said this morning was poor Charley he sleep with me Elisha Renworthy & John sleep in the same bunk.

May God guide and protect us while here below and finally save us through cris sake. Amen these few lines from your affectionate Brother.

Moses Edwards

about love I think I know enough about

3. Moses Edwards, Camp Lincoln, Keokuk, Iowa, to sister Elizabeth, October 26, 1862.

[page 1] Guard House Keokuck Oct 26th 1862

Dear Sister

I now teake my pen in hand to let you know how we are geting along and because I have not mutch to do at the present I am down in Town I am seargent of the guard I only have to call the guards up and start them to their postes as Provost Guard I am not a seargent but am acting as one now One of our corporals left he got his nephew to go in his place his name is Collins he lives in Breman he is a brother to the one that Father knows so him leaving puts me first Corporal one of our men died Thursday his name was William Taylor he lived between Bleaksburgh and Albia several of our men started home with him Saturday his wife was down here there is sitesmart sickness here Hen Andrews had the measels he is about well we have not mutch sickness in our Companey we have several wemen in the Barracks with us. L. Davis soul sleeper has got his family in barracks R. Judds got his wife with him and another from Business Corner he is got his. Mis Lambert was down here she left here last Friday a week ago. Lieut Lambert Jim Moneyhou is coming home Tuesday I dont know how many more will go several wemen comes to visits their Husbands they keep this women down in Town like white folkes.

[page 2] We drawed part of our colothing to day I was up I got a dress coat Pants & socks I did not need the socks but I though [sic] I would take them I dont know wither we will draw all this week or not I dont know wether our over coats is in Town or not but we will get them before long for we need them very mutch but the weather is get more pleasent today than it was the last part of last week it was so cold that we did not drill for we was so lightly clothed.

Doc Ivens is Hospitall Stewart and Elder is Clerk that man was recruiting with Lambert Chas Batchelder is down her teaking the boyeses eougley faces or what you may call us [unreadable word] Judge Noble was down here the 26th Regimmint passed down last Thursday from Mt Pleasant they good harty looking men and in good spirits cheering every thing they met. The 30th Regiment left here yesterday they was going to Benton barracks we feel kind of loansom now for they was here with us They had a Brass Band with them I was not to meeting last Sunday for I went down to the River to see some of the sick and wounded Soldiers that come up night before on the Boat but I went to one of the barraks at night and Monday night the

Chaplain of the 30th Reg preaced so I was down here to day but I went to hear a sermon at the Methodist Church we dont have so mutch preaching in Camp now as they was before Elder Hare got the appointment they was several fishing for to be Chap.

[page 3] Well sis I don't know hardly what to write to you but I might as well write something so as to keep me awake for it is now between two and three O clock for I must not go to sleep now for my relief is on now wel tell Mary Magdalen & Ann that them haselnuts did not go so bad Mr Barker John helped me finish them last Sunday dont think hard of it because it was Sunday for Sunday is not respected mutch more than any other day we went out on drill last Sunday in the afternoon we go out on dress peade every Sunday I sent a letter and 3 pr of gloves with John Epperson you got them from him if not he has got them yet let me know in the next letter that you or Father writes if he is very sick. Lark Harlow & A Bailey is at home sick they have not come back yet.

So please excuse my letter for I jump from one thing to another if I don quit I will not anything to send you in the next Remember me Rev T Jones family without naming & Mr O Thomas and his family and to all of my old friends John Thomas sends his love to you all and may God bless you all and pour out his Holy Spirit upon you all and this is my prayer. A-n.

Thes few lines from your effectionate Brother.

Moses Edwards

P.S

Write back some time when you have time and if you dont have time before long mak a letter

4. Moses Edwards, Camp Lincoln, Keokuk, Iowa, to sister Elizabeth, November 1, 1862.

[page 1] [Written upside down on top of the page] Write back soon if you please and if you dont please do Mary how how [sic]

Camp Lincoln Nov 1st 1862

Dear Sister

I now embrace the present moments to write you a few lines I dont think I have mutch news to send you this time I am enjoying good health at the present and John Thomas the same although several of our company is sick in the hospital with the measels They get over it very well by going to the Hospital soon enough but some dont like to go till they get very bad one died out of the thirtieth Regm died with the measels they settled on his Lungs there is a grate many dies here in the hospital 11 died one day but that is not many when you consider the number of sick that is in the hospitals I suppose [page 2] that they will average two or three each day there is four Houses or Hospitals in Town and one up here in the Camp I told you in the last that we received our clothing but we only got coat pants & sock we dont know wether we will get any more before we get to St Louis we got our Guns Monday and all our equipment but but [sic] our napsacks canteen the Captin said to day that we would not get any more of our equipment till we will go to St Louis we have had a nice wether this week but it looks rather kind of dark this evening so I will close for this time give my love to Jennie Hannah & Mollie Jones and tell Mary I have not forgot to tell her that I am not so forgetfull give my love to Lizzie Thomas all of the girles these few lines from M. Edwards

[page 3] Dear Brother Evan

I though I would write a few lines to for fear that you may think that I have forgot you the first thing is that John Thomas says that if you dont write to him it will be hard on you when he comes home I dont know what to write but I will pick in to something I want you to haul rails fast so when I come home that you will have a farne fenced in I dont want you to loaf around and do nothing because I am not there to see to it I think I shall put Morga in for Boss Lark was telling me about that he seen you hauling rails money is very scarce with me now or I would send you a fife. They cost 100 dollar a piece if I draw money before I leave here I will send one to you if you will be a good boy [page 4] I wish you would tell me how you are geting along at Sabbath School and how many schollars you have in your class I miss it very mutch I did not hardly think that I would miss it so mutch but there is grate many school in Town we were talking about making a class up of our boys at the Presbyterian Church and put Josiah Young for teacher he was Deacon in Bachelders church but we did not have clothing fit to go hardly we are on guard and we cant tend very regular I hope that you and all of the children are making good use of the sabath school and I hope that your teacher T A Davis will enliten you and put you on the rite way and teake notice what Mr Jones tells you I hope that you will teake up the cross and pray for your Parents Brothers & Sisters and may it be our happy lot to all meet in heven these few lines from Moses Edwards

5. Moses Edwards, Washington TP (township?), to sister Elizabeth, November 15, 1862.

[page 1] Washington T P November 15th/ 62

Dear sister Lizzie

it is with mutch pleasure that I now seat myself down to write you a few lines in hopes they will find you enjoying the same state of health as they leave me I left Camp Thursday morning got to Burlington about two o clock. I went to Wm Williams I thought Ann was there but but [sic] she does not stay there now I come out about 10 miles and staid all night I got to Henrys about eleven yesterday I got here to late to see James he started yesterday morning for California I come the Timber roade and they went the other so I did not get to see Jim and his Family if I had only took the other rode I would seen them I wish I took the other road so as to see him [page 2] I have not seen Ann yet she is sowing for some of the Neighbours Josep & Jane went to town with him Henry got Hurt about three weeks ago the Horse run off or some way the waggon wheel run over his brest and broke some of his ribs he has not been able to anything scince he is geting well fast now he is helping to kill a beef this morning.

Thos. I think favours Marge a rite smart I am favours Lizzie your cossin if I am any judge I will leave for Camp next Monday if Providence will permit we have several sick boys in Camp but not any very sick Robert Turner died last Monday morning he was sent home I suppose you herd of it his diasas was the conjection of the Brain he died very suden he was out on drill with us on Wednesday and Sunday night he died he was a very [page 3] Good man he did not have mutch to say but minded his own buisness sis he is the man that led singing at Georgetown some times The same night one man by the name of Wm Humphrey out of Varness Co John Epperson is in the Hospital he is got the Measels I am a thousand times obliged to for send me the chicken Plums & Butter for they go down without mutch forcing we live fine now some of the boys is back and forth all the time and they bring molasses or something back with I had not eat as meales vitels in House since I left Eddyville till I started out here Your Cossins sends their to you

and all of the Family so I will quit by sending my love to Mary Hanna and Jennie and Lizzie Thomas and to all of the old folkes these few lines from your Brother Moses Edwards

6. Moses Edwards, Camp Curtis, Helena, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, January 24, 1863.

[page 1] Camp Curtis
Saturday Helena Arkansas Jan 24th 1863

Dear Sister

I received your kind letter of the first of January and I was glad to hear that you all was enjoying good health. Well I dont think I have much news to send you this time. the fleet that left here last Sunday one week ago got back here day before yesterday and they have got off of their boats and piched their tents I have not seen only Chas Davis and another man of the 56 Ohio Reg I want to go up and see them this evening if I can get off I would be up their now if it was not a raining we have a grate deal of rain here the fleet was up White River about 120 miles they captured two guns and several prisones the Fort was evacuated and the prisones they got was detailed for guards two of our sick boys that was left behind come to the Reg this week James Stewart is got discharged and two more that you are not acquainted with Rev Roland Jud was left at St Louis he has enlisted on a Gun Boat we got Marching orders a little before noon we are to get reddy by eight O clock Monday A.M we draw twenty days rations today and to have three days of them cooked up we have no ida wich way we will go perhaps to Vicksburgh I dont know wether it is any of our buisness to know only I know it ourn to get ready for the call. we dont care much about leaving this quarter for we may not get as good quarters when we leave we may have some shooting to do we are ready for we enlisted for that [page 2] Purpose I tell you the thirty sixth will make the butter nuts get up an dust our pickets brings in some prisoners every day but I tell you I dont much like the way they do here they teake the oath and then let them go so the oath dont amount to a row of pins. and they let men go in and out through the guards by geting a pass from the commanding officer of the post. and you see the Rebels gets to hear all the news that they want. they pretend to be Unio but I think that Union men down here is as scarce as hen teeth I wrote to Father Monday and I have not much to send now I will quit now for I have no time to write now for we will half to pich in to cooking Sunday evening were are geting ready to start by six o clock in the morning. well I tell you if I did not have a Turkey. four of had an oysters supper the other night and one last night and we had some corn bread last week we draw homeny and it was rather fine for homeny and we put a little flour in with it and it went very good if your frind dont like it (corn bread much for I had not had any since I left home I just tell we live fine. we sold the over pluss of meat last week for twelve dollars and then we bought some dried fruit with it. well that is enough about that for this time for all we have very good quarters here I am not sorry to leave here for this is a very unhealthy place to stay we will leave five sick behind us well I will close for this time by sending my love to all without naming so give my love to all of our Family Moses Edwards

7. Moses Edwards, Helena, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, April 17, 1863.

[page 1] Helena Arkansas

Friday - April 17th

Dear Sister Elizabeth

It is with much pleasure that I now teake my pen in hand to write you a few lines after doing a grate large washing for myself I think by the time I will get to come home I will know the lick it is done with well Lizzie today finds me enjoying very good health. I was for few a days back I did not feel very well but I am all rite now. tell Mother not to be uneasy about me when I write that am not very well for when I write I tell the strait thing as far as I know and I dont tell a falsehood. we got up to Camp last Tuesday we are on a nice hill back from Town water is unhandy we have it to haul from the River. I suppose you have herd of the death of Ira Hawkins he was our fifth Sergt. maby Father is [page 2] acquainted with him he was a carpenter he worked in Albia by Nobles shop. last Friday David W Potts died he was a brother in law of I T Young he lived South of Albia. You have herd of the Potts school House he lived there he was a proffesor and a very good youg man the Companey will feel his loos. the health of the Camp is not improving much. there was two men here night before last the Youg Men's Christin Association of Chigo & St Louis had them employed they distributed several tracts & papers & they have left a enough Testaments with the Chaplain to supply the Regiment. also Hymn Books. The Regiment was payed four months pay yesterday. I dont know how I will send it Home. Capt Noble is coming Home and Jim Woolf is. I dont know wich will go first but I will send it as soon as I get a chance I dont know the amt I will send yet for I want [page 3] to get me a turnip [slang for watch] so as I can know the time of day, for I need one very much. perhaps Mother will not like it much but I cant help it I have put up as long as I want to without I Received Fathers letter of the Third of April last Tuesday I was glad to hear that you had so fine a wether up in Iowa we have fine wether here now it is tolerable warm at noon but it is good and cool of nights I saw the Albia paper it stated about the Union meeting at the church I herd that old Turner wanted to know what we would do with the negro I think that somebody will find room for him. well I need not say any more at present. I would liked to herd them I guess you have rite smart talk up there with the Copperheads but I hope you will not have trouble We are under marching orders now they may be countermanded before long [page 4] I was glad to Here that Uncle Abraham had not quite geiven up to return to this country. I would like to see him & Aunt very will I hope that Father when he writes to them dont forget to send my love to them. Sis I dont think I have much more to write this time. there is not many Soldiers here now they have gon down below. I arto had to write this letter to Annie but tell her that the next will be hers. I think I shall get my eoughly face teaken and send it to you I am going to send one to S. I. Evans my cossin but dont look for it till you see it. if you write to Mary Jones send my kind regards to her and to Mr Jones Family. O S (?) Thomas Family and to all of the welch in the neighborhoo [sic] without nameing so good by by [sic] sending my love to our Family and I suppose you are over of them these few lines prove

Moses Edwards

[page 5] April 18th 1863

Father wrote that he herd that the thirty-sixth had throwen down there arms but there was nothing of it. I bought a wach last night for twenty Dollars I think it is a very good wach I will send home twenty-five Dollars with James Woolf. I dont think I have any more to write now.

M Edwards

Sis the youg man you seen in Albia by the name of Mahan he died last Sunday he belonged to Company A you and Mary Jones was talking about that is as near as I can discribe him to you

8. Moses Edwards, Helena, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, June 30, 1863.

[page 1] Helena Ark
Tuesday, June 30th/63

Dear Friend

It is with much pleasure that I seat my self this beautiful morning to answer your kind letter I received a letter from Ambrose the same day that I got yourn he is well and wants you to write to him We are going to have inspection and be mustered for pay to day. We got two monthes pay since I wrote to you before for the last ten days we have had great deal of wet wether but yesterday and today is fine. only reasonable warm. Will I hardly know what to write for I have not much news. I will tell you one thing I would like to be at home the fourth to see how Guilford folkes lookes once more but no chance this fourth We hear grate maney reports of differen kinds from Vicksburgh we herd the [page 2] day that Grant had the place and seventy thousand prisoners but I dont think there is any thing of it I would be very glad if it was so they have a notion of playing hob in Pensylvania them Estern fellows will have to open their eys and do something one or old Lee will get the upper hand of them. Well I will tell you about the promotions in our Companey Webb Capt Lambert first Liut. Hulburt second and we have all been elevated one noch. I tell you the Companey was down on Capt Noble one thing he done was he recommended Hickenloper for first Liut when he knew that the Co was not willing for him to ride over Lambert & Hulburt but thank God It did not go as he wanted and more than that Hickenloper would teake the position wether the Co was willing or not I dont know wether he will serve as orderly or not he is away from the Co [page 3] I think that John Loyd Eesys is some pumpkin if I know anything about it I would like to see him step around there now I suppose he feels large enough for to common boys.

Well will I think I have wrote nearly every thing I will look for a good letter from you the next time after being up home.

John Thomas is well and send his best respect to you write back soon if you pleas these few lines from your sober friend

Moses Edwards

To William A. Davis

9. Moses Edwards, Helena, Arkansas, to brother Evans, July 26, 1863.

[page1] P.S. Please excuse me for writing on Sunday Dear Brother Eva

Helena Arkansas
Sunday July 26th 1863

Dear Brother Eva

I received your letter and Siss Friday and I got your letter of the eleventh this morning it had got off of the track it had been down to Vicksburgh young man I dont hardly know what to commence on. last Tuesday & Wednesday our Brigade was out on a scout. the first place we went to was near Sterling witch was about ten miles we did not go to Town but the Cavalry did

they did not see any body but one old man and a few women then we struck out for Lagrange we got within two miles of the place and then stoped to Camp over night we did not go to Lagrange but put out for Helena this morning. Old Mormeduke had a force of cavalry so our Officers was rather afraid to venture in with the force we had we did not have any artillary with us so if he had artillary with them they could make us git. [page 2] I had been anxious to go out on a scout for some time J tell you it lookes kind of loansome out there the farms gowing up wild with weedes on the largest plantation I saw I dont think they had twenty acres of corn in and not an acre of wheat. the corn had to suffer where we stoped for dinner the first day we eat all of the rostenears [roastnear – slang for corn on the cob] up the second day we stoped by a field that had the largest peace of corn I had seen we about cleaned it out we took three loades into Camp with there is any amount of fruit such as appels peaches & blackberries and most any kind of fruit this is a grate country for it for frut grows without near as much care teaken of it as it dose in Iowa. we have very warm wether down here now it is rather to warm to march we have rite smart of Feaver & Ague here now it has been rather worse in our Reg than at present John Thomas had a chill the other day but he has got well he has left the Regt and is detailed as a nurse in the Post Hospital I have not since he has been detailed I will see him today.

[page 3] Eva the news is still favorable on our side & I hope it will still continue to be so till Rebeldom is put down and peace once more restored. Our leading Officers expect an attact on this place before long Homes Mormeduke Price and others are geting rather into dose quarters in Arkansas and they want to get across the Miss River at some point Thursday our gun boats shelled them above and below here. Blunt is coming onto him from the rear so they are in a tolerable warm place there is several soldiers coming up from Vicksburgh they belong to the 13th Army Corar the same as our Brigade belongs to. I tell you them Irish in Monroe & the Priest is going to work up that settlement up I hope they will not prosper as they intend to do or it will be rather hard to live in old Guilford. I hope that the Welch will not loose Mr. T. Jones for if they do it will be as bad as ever about welch preaching I wish I was at the welch church now to hear preach this morning for it is just about time for meeting to commence now

[page 4] Also I would like to at Sunday school very well although I can read the Bible here as well there I finished reading the book of Exodus this morning my good fellow J think if you would read the good book and not be quite so wild It would be better for you in the future and mind what Lewis Jones tells you in sunday school we have no meeting this morning there will be preaching in the Grove at three o clock and at seven in our own Camp well it has been my luck to be on duty of Sundays for a while back I suppose you enjoyed yourself fustrate at the show and the Fourth I have like to had been there very well but I would rather be here than there for I wanted to be in a battle to see how it went it went off very cool with me and most ofmy fellow soldiers for all the balls would talk about a man head but that was nothing as long as they passed by give my kind regards to Mr Mrs Jones and all of the girles and all enquireing friends I am glad to hear from Home often for this is the only way we have now of talking to each other give my love to Father Mother and all of the Children and a small portion to your self now may God bless you M.E.

10. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, October 19, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark

Monday October 19-63

Dear Sister L.

It is with much pleasure that I seat myself to write you a few lines in hopes they will find you all well the same as they leave me at present. Well Lizzie I dont know what to write hardly for all I have commenced we have fine wether here and have had since we came here nights is geting to be rather cool. we are very well fixed we have no doors for the Barrak yet we have some four hundred brick to build a chimney. most all of the Soldiers is building winter quarters. The man that W.A. Davis worked for is dead Daniel Jones he died at Clarendon when we was on the way to this place I did not know it till last Friday I went over to teak a letter to him. They was camped over two milles from us a cross the River so turn over. [page 2] The First Iowa has moved down the River over one mile they was camped very close to us before they moved. I have sent some money by James Wolf it will be left at Sam Noble's in Albia the amount is twenty-eight. I think it is nothing more than rite for Mother and you to pay something to Rev T. Jones you can give him five dollar \$5 of this money toward his salery I dont know how Father will like it. I suppose Mother and you and all of the rest of the Family get along very well in the church I received Father's letter over two weeks ago I was very glad to get that letter for all I came very near not geting it. it was sent in a mistake to the other Brigade I am of the opinion that there will be a brake up there before long but I hope every thing will go on smooth I guess that James H. Cowan and Hannah is very well satisfied about this time it runs very strong in my mind that they will get Marred. [page 3] Our over coats dress coats and blankets came here about two weeks ago they did not come up any to soon I did not have any ida that I would see them anymore [unreadable word] I would come home it is very good for us now that they was not shiped home. I will tell you something about yesterday witch was Sunday I was to meeting at eleven o clock down in Town at the Methodis church the first sermon or the first time I had been to meeting in a church since I left Keokuck. It makes rite smart difference or at least I think so they had very good singing the preacher was a citizen of the city his text was As Moses lifted up the serpent so was the son of a man raised up. that is something near the words the citizens that were present were few only about one dozen men three or four dozen women. good maney of the women down here is dressed in mourning. they dress reasonable fine here considering [page 4] Tuesday 20th It has been cloudy all day I think we will have some rain before long Sinclare of Companey D died last night in the Hospital. James Honeyhou came back to the Co from the Hospital to day. I have put up two papers for Eva and Morga. The cavalry was called out last night at midnight they thought that there was a force marching on to Benton I dont think it amounted to any thing. I will quit in hopes that a large mail will come in the evening Thursday 22ond It rained most all day yesterday and it is raining hard now I guess we may look for wet weather from now on there has no mail come for us yet so I will close give my best respects to all requireing friends. these few lines from your Brot.

Moses

P.S. If you see Mrs Barker, you can tell her that Tom is well John is well.

11. Moses Edwards, Helena, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, November 2, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Monday Nov 2nd 1863

Dear Sister

I received your kind letter of the 14 Saturday wich I was glad to get and hear that you was all well but Mary I hope she is well be now. I will tell you something about yesterday. at ten in the morning I went to the Presbyterian Church the Chaplain of the 13th Ill Cavalry preached from the words. God thou seest me in the afternoon at three in Camp he preached to us from the words. From everlasting to everlasting thou art God. he preached very well he was very sober and earnest he is quite old. being that yesterday our Chaplain is year was up or yesterday one year ago that he commenced his service in Reg the Colonel thoughed it proper while on Dress parade to have a prayer offered and hymn sung by him and the other Chapl made a few remarks suitable for the Occasion at six in the evening Chap H H Hare pread down in the City.

[page 2] I never got my napsack some one took care of it for me. I lost it the night we crossed White River that evening it rained very hard teames was crossing all night. they would stall very often. there is where Gen Steel speakes of making road. you wanted to know if I had sockes I can draw socks wherever I want them but they are no account I drew a pare last week my heels have found the way out already but one thing my boots was new. I had in my napsack when it was lost Blows Gum Blanket shirt gold pen your likeness two Testaments and several other things. I lost my day book it was nearly full I had in it how we had past the time since I left Home. It allmost made me cry but I thoughed it was no use to cry for spilt milk. Daniel Joness Regiment left here last week it is at Duvals Bluff now they are sending the troops around to garison posts. The Cavalry & Infantry that went away from here last week came back last night. The Infantry went out [page 3] fifty milles I have not herd how far the cavalry went. the Rebs have gone to Shreavesport La. before they left Archadelphia they burnt the principal part of Town. Powder Mill and Arsinal was also burnt. Archadelphia will not do them much good now. After they got them started from Pine Bluff they went on their trip in a hurry our men tried to break off their retreat but was to late I think the Rebs is about to playout in this State. I will send you this weekes paper if it has any accout of this Expedition in it. I was glad to hear that you had brick and was ready to build it (the chimney) I hope you will get the House fixed so that you can about half live in the old thing. I suppose that the young folkes about Georgetown is having a good time I will close for this time give my best respect to all enquireing friends these few lines from your Brother

Moses

[page 4] Tuesday morning I am well this morning and I hope you are enjoying the same blessing. The weather is quite warm this morning. the sky is cloudy and look very much like rain. we are behind about geting news here but we will be fixed after while they have men working on the Telegraph line now. Liut Hulburt and twenty men out of the Regt is guarding it while others is puting it up I have no news of any importance to write so good by for this time

Moses

12. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, November 24, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Tuesday Nov 24th /63

Dear Friend W

I received your kind letter few nights ago I was sorry to hear that you had not gotten my letter of October 16th perhaps you did not wait long enough it teakes letters very long to come and go. everything is quiet about here or nearly so. two weeks ago the guerillas captured a train of six waggons the train was loaded with clothing they are at work on a Fort here every fifty men is teaken out of or Reg every day I guess they wont quit fortifying till they get this place fortified well for fear you dont get my letter I will tell you some thing about Sergt Jones he died at Clarendon when we was on the march to this place. I did not know any thing about it till I went to teak your letter to him I was rather struck when I herd he was dead for he was [page 2] was so harty when I last saw him his Regiment 126 is at Duvals Bluff they left in a few days after I went to see them I did not go to see the Captain about your papers I think the best way for you to do is to write to the Capt I think his name is Johnson he us to be orderly the distance between here and the Bluffs is from fortyfive to fifty milles I hope you will get your papers without any truble I dont know what you will do about your money if you dont write to some of his relation if he as any near. Well Will something else now. we got payed off last Sunday they settled up for our clothing till the first of November. I drewed 45,20 I had not teaken up the amount due me fore clothing so they forked the greenbackes over John drewed 31,70 he has been off over one week the squad he went with is guarding the train frome here to the Bluffs Pine Bluff distance forty five milles So Turn. [page 3] Will we have fine weather down here nice and dry. to day is rather the coolest day we have had yet but if we had such days as this in Iowa now it would be considered excelent. by all reports you have ressonable cool weather up with you. J. Cowans came back two weeks ago all rite. I would like to been in Ottumwa Ambrose was down to see you I have not herd from home for three weekes I dont think I have any more news to write you this time Yes Orderly Hickenloper is going to start for Albia in the morning to recruit for Co K no more at prest write soon these few lines from your friend
Moses Edwards

P.S. The health of our Co is very good at present we have one in the Hospital

13. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, November 27, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Friday Nov 27th 1863

Dear Sister L

It is once more with pleasure that I have teaken my pen in hand to communicate a few of thoughts. I received your letter little while ago I thank you very mutch for such a full letter. although all of the news was not very good. Mrs Lambert got here this morning the report that you had up there about Lambert being dead is all faults report Mrs L looks very well she was telling me that she had seen you Anna & Eva out several others of the neighbors. Well I suppose you have grate times up there among your selves and especially Jones girles I hope that things will go on smooth now after so mutch setting up Eva seems to be rather bluffed off. If you have not quit corrisponding with Mary please give her my kind regards the next time you write to here. I guess it is all so about Peat & Gennet I hope [page 2] She understands herself. Georges is not very sound on the goose. poor Alen I guess was all rite on the war question I was down to the First Iowa Monday they are all well or nearly so. I thinke I wrote to you before that Sud Hasard

was dead Betty will fell very bad about it Orderly Hickenloper has left but he has not left the Bluff yet. very likely Eva will want to enlist but I will tell you a thing or two this thing of boys enlisting is not what it is cracked up to be. he is not mutch over seventeen yet so he had not better be in to big a hurry about it if he knows what is good for him he might stand the service very well when they get sick grate many of them dye but if they get over a spell of sickness they do very well and make very good Soldiers I got a letter from Ann Evans this morning. they are all well. also one from Ambrose etc we have fine weather down here at present dry and rather cool of nights. we have good deal of duty to do. they are at [page 3] work at a Fort south East of Town it will teake any amount of work to finish it. they are going to make another not far from where we are Camped I dont think I have mutch news to write I did not have mutch at first. well yesterday was thank giving day they had meeting at all of the Church in Town at ten and in the evening and in our Brigade Chapel at ten and in the evening I was not at Church for I was on duty (on camp guard) I will quit by giving you a little advice not to quarrel that is if you do but stick up for your rights. That is the way we work it down here. give my best respect to all enquireing friends and to our Family and a portion for your self. these few lines from your Brother

Moses

P.S. I wrote to Father & Mother last Monday so I cant scare up mutch news please write son I get all the stampes you send M.

14. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, December 21, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Monday Dec 21st/63

Dear Friend Will

Your kind letter came to hand this morning and read it with the greatest of pleasure. Will I am just the same this morning or this time as usual I have not much news to write. I am well and my weight is 162 lbs John is gon out on a forageing detail he left this morning on a five days trip. every thing is tolerable quiet around here at present. our boys are coming in from Benton They dont think it is worth holding well another thing is they have run out of forage and they had to depend on us here for forage so they are all going to come in. last week the Rebs tore up half a milie of the Rail Road track. They tare down the Telegraph wire once in a while. a scout went out near Archadelphia the other day and feched in three hundred prisoners I think that Rebeldom is about to play out. [page 2] We got the Hawkeye of the fifth it contained very good news from Genl Meade & Grant that is the kind of news we like to hear down here I suppose you are the same up North I dont care how soon we will have the Rebs flaxed out sooner the better with me. it would astonish you if you only knew how ignorant some of the citizens is and not only some but most all of them when you come across one that knows something you may be asured that he has come from the North I will tell you what happened in the camp of the 77th Ohio the other day a woman was hunting for her husband she had forgotten the name of her man so she was trying to find him by describing he had some stripes on his arm and around his coat collar etc I think when people gets that far along that civilization is about played out. Will you was speaking about me talking to the Captain the Regiment left here long time ago so I will not have a chance to see him I will give you the Address [page 3] Something about Home and the vicinity I would

like to have been Home when you was up. I was sorry to hear about Sarah & Hannah Jones leaving the Settlement but I guess they will be better satisfied. They had ritesmart fusing with the girls before they left I never herd weather it amounted to anything or not the last I herd from them they was going to try to make up with each other it was news to me to hear of their leaving I did not know that Ambrose was still waiting on Hannah I am rather afraid that he will get his nose broke by her leaving I hope the girles will enjoy themselves well this winter I would like to have seen them very well I would like to be up North for a while to see some of the girles. but I will close for this time from your true friend Please answer soon
Moses Edwards

PS

if you want to write to that Capt I will give you his Address Duvalls Bluff Arkansas good maney of old Sol are re-enlisting in vet service

15. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, December 28, 1863.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Tuesday Dec 28-63

Dear Friend Will

Yours of the fifteenth ist came to hand this morning I was glad to hear that you was as well as what you are. I will tell you what I think about you volunteering. you can come in our Company for we lack twenty or more of being a full Company. Orderly Hickenloper is at Albia now recruiting for K Sergt J.T. Young got a letter from him this morning he had been Home two days he thought it rather a poor show for recruits. I will go back to what I started on now about you volunteering If it was me and did not have my health better than you have had since I saw you I would never go in the Service unless I had to and another thing is about you you have tried it on and you know something about it. If it was not for one thing I would not care how soon the draft wold commence and that one thing is that we can say after the war is over that Iowa did not draft. [page 2] Last week I received a letter from my sister Lizzie they were all well. but I suppose you here oftener than I do. There is something in the wind. I think we have not had any newspapers for three weekes I dont know what is the reason we may know or hear after while. I have not much news to write this time. Christmas went off very quiet in Camp there was not but a few boys in Camp that was intoxicated the M. E Church is holding protracted meeting down in the City. they are still working at the Fort its name is Fort Davidson forageing partys go out most every day John Thomas went out this morning a forageing. The Arkansas River is raising last Saturday & Sunday we had a very heavy rain. I hope we will hear good news before long there ritesmart excitement in Camp and has been for some days that Peace will be declared before long. some of the boys is jokeing and say that they will return Home next week. Will without jokeing I think this war will come to a close before for I dont see how they can hold out much longer. [page 3] They are rakeing up all of the negrose and puting them in the Regiments the fourth Arkansas is now making up now (collard) they have one white Ark Regiment here now I think Arkansas will be all rite before long Mr Rogers of Benton has got the appointment of Millitary Governor of Arkansas and has sent it in to Washington the report amongst the Citizens is that he has allways been Loyal.

these few lines from your friend
Moses Edw

Moses Edwards sargent
36 Reg Co K
Little Rock
Ark

**16. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, January 25, 1864.
[incomplete]**

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Monday Jan 25th/ 64

Dear Friend Will

It is with much pleasure that I seat myself this fine morning it feels as if spring was on hand the first twelve days of this month was cold. The coldest spell Citizens say that they have had fore twelve years Will I think that was quite a joke on Ambrose or the marry one of the two I rather feel sorry for him if he had set his effection on so much and her play off that way on him. Its a wonder he dont write to me he has not wrote to me since they left I wrote to him the second of last month but not got a scrath from him yet. From all reports from the North you have had a severe winter Yours of the eleventh came to hand last night. I guess I might as well tell you that Arkansas is a free State. They have been holding a Convention for nearly two weeks (the Citizens) as an old saying they are doing the thing up in a rag they have abolished slavery and that is a good lick [page 2] But one vote cast against throwing Slavery in the shade I have got a paper that has got the Constitution I wish I had another copy I would send it to you I am going to send the one I have Home. There is an excelent speach in it made or delivered by Col Fishback of the First Arkansas Regiment at the Convention I suppose you will get a chance to read it in some of the papers the Constitution is all rite if I am any judge of the thing it goes in for free Institution of all kind free speach free press and so on what they never had before down here I want you to read Fishbacks speach when you go up Home it tell out in plain talk what and how they use to carry on their treasonable work they raised up the young ones to hate the people of the North. They have got their State officers appointed it is supposed that Mr Rogers of Pine Bluff will represent this this [sic] State in Congress he is an inteigent looking man bares a good name with the Citizens in general there is good maney citizens moveing inside of our lines –

17. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, March 1, 1864.

[page 1] Little Rock Ark
Tuesday March 1st 1864

Dear Sister

It is with much pleasure that I seat myself to write you a few lines. in hopes they may find you a all well. The same as they leave me at present. I received a letter week before last from hone last two mails I have not received any letters. Last week we had fine weather. Sunday & yesterday we had rain, sleet and some snow. sleet & snow is froze on the ground to the

thickness of two inches. It is nine O clock now the sun is peeping out some little and looks as if it was going to be a fine day. everything is quiet around here at present duty is light guard is very light fatigue is not so light. forageing parties go out most every week the health of the Company is still good. I will close for this time for I have no news to write John got Eva's letter last week. My love to all of the family these few lines from your Brother

Moses

18. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, August 10, 1864.

[page 1] Headquarters Co K 36th Ia
Little Rock Ark, Aug 10th 1864

Dear Friend

William A. Davis

Yours of date July 6th came to hand last week. I have delayed some in answering it please forgive me this time and I will promise to do better in the future weather I will or not. For all I have put it off I have not much news to write yet for there is not a grate move that I know anything of in this Department. The Army is not doing anything worth nameing. General Sherman is in possession of Atlanta if all reports be true which I have not dout but what they are. The Eastern Army I guess is still on the move and doing very well They suffer for the want of water it is very bad time of the year for to do without water I know that from experiance. One year ago tomorrow we left Helena [page 2] The Fourth went off kind of dry down here although it was not so dry with with [sic] some of the Soldiers. quite a number were intoxicated or dizzy headed. There was something wrong with them they were sort-er funny. I dont know what was the reason that there was not more of a stir perhaps it it is all for the best. I was glad to hear that you enjoyed your selves so well on the Fourth. The weather has been quite warm for something near two monthes within the last two weeks we have been blessed with nice showers of rain that keeps the ground some cooler. The health of the soldiers is not increaseing much this warm weather quite a number are dieing. The health of our Regiment or what few of us that are here is about as good as common. We have present in Camp 259 besides what are in the Hospital Lieutenant Hulburt is acting Quartermaster since he came back Our old Q.M will return the first of the month. Capt. Porter of C "A" has been exchanged and is Home on a leave of absence Capt did not look non of the best when he returned. [page 3] I have not herd anything of any importance since I last wrote The last I herd from them they ware at Tylor Texas. Last Sunday we was paid six monthes pay some of the Boys took sort of a high on the strength of it. James Wolf is going to start Home the last of this week very likely he will take our money for us that will suit us very well. I dont think there is more news to write from here at present Therefore I will close for this time. These few lines from your friend

Moses Edwards

P.S.

There has been a late Order issued that no goods can be shiped South of Cairo which I think is a very good Order. The things has been runing the bush-whacker were supported from the North. They could come inside of our lines and purchas any amt of good they wished by certifying that

it was for the use of the family I dont know as they always had to do that. there was to much speculating going on. But it has played out at last Buley for that.

19. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, October 2, 1864.

[page 1] Camp 36th Iowa Inf.
Little Rock Ark Oct 2nd 1864

Dear Sister Lizzie,

It is with much pleasure that I embrace the present opportunity of writing you a few lines. Last week has been very wet raining more or less every day it is clouded up some little this afternoon yesterday the sun shon nice and dried up the Quarters we need not look much for any other kind of weather for the rainy season is about to step in. Lieut Col F H Drake returned yesterday he able to go around by the aid of one cruch he looks fleshy and harty he was in Camp for a short time this morning he made a short speach to the boys he got so full that the could not speak he seamed to be very tender hearted. After him Capt Vermilion & Lieut Morrison followed I was down in town at the time at meeting Lieut Col Stephens of the 77 Ohio preached Eph 5.14 Awake thou that sleepest--The Col is not a slow speaker. Next Saturday and Sabbath the Methodis will hold a Quarterly meeting. The last letter I have received from any of our Family was from Father which was written on the sixth of last month a dispach came to day stating that mail had came to the Bluffs it will be here to night if nothing turns up to the contrary. Jim Rees wrote a letter to John Thomas and in my case I took the liberty of tearing it open & reading it and answering it Jim is in the 56 Ohio they are all well [page 2] and doing Provost duty in New Orleans. They are fareing very well they have been there for some time. I will quit until the mail comes if it does come I will finish it in the morning.

Monday morning. Part of the mail came very late last night I did not get any. part of the mail was not distributed on the account of it being so late. I will finish up so it will go out to day if it does not leave to day it may not leave for nearly a week. I must not let the sermon I herd last night at the Pres. church pass without word. A citizen minister preached from Luke 15:18. I will arise and go to my father. I think it was a very appropriate text for the congregation the house was mostly filed with soldiers although it suits most any congregation or people but more especialy the soldier for I think there is many that have erred far from the path they use to profess while at home and have took to the vice and folly of this world. I hope what was said in our hearing last night may be the means of turning many from the error of his way. you may if you have not read Hickenlopers letter in the Albia Union It will give you a few facts about how matters and things are about Little Rock. I have often thought to myself as H has in his letter what way we might look for success seeing how wickedness and vices are carried on. But still we are blessed with victory after victory over our enemys I thank God for it. I will close in hopes this may reach you enjoying good health as it leaves me at present. My love to you and all of the family. Moses Edwards.

20. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, October 15, 1864.

[page 1] Camp 36th Iowa Inf
Little Rock Ark Oct 15 1864

Dear Friend William A. Davis

It is with pleasure that I embrace the present opportunity of writing a few lines after somewhat of a delay I thought I would wait for a while so that I would have some news to write but nothing more than when yours came to hand. Mail came last evening I got a letter from Lizzie Thomas and one from my sister Lizzie by the way they write Eva is not enjoying very good health I wrote to him a while back to enlist and come in our Company for one year Then he would go out the same time as we would being that his health is not good he had better remain at home for this is no place for an unhealthy person. The welch are selling out around in the old settlement from what I can hear the idea of makeing that a large welch settlement is gon by the board. I dont have much idea that Father will cry much when Thomas J John leaves. There is no use talking the Irish are bound to have that country and that before many days hence. The war news is cheering at present and has been for some time Generals Grant & Sherman are working along fine some of the soldiers talk as if they would mustered out in the spring for my part I dont quite think so I kind of think we are good to serve our time out but I hope not. I sort of feel kind of ticklish about the election but it is [page 2] all working off all rite Lincoln will get a large majority Little Mc I think will get more votes than some are aware of for there is quite a number that keep it still but they will slip in a vote for Little Mac. Fremont dont run worth one cent I say bully for him. I have no news to write from here as war news most of the Army that is here are puting up winter quarters for nearly two weeks we have been busy in puting our winter quarters we have them to do yet. then we will be fixed very comfortable for this winter. The rumor here once more is that our Prisoners are exchanged I only hope it is true. I here hardly nothing of the draft L's letter did not say a word about it. I was sorry to hear what you wrote about a certain person I hope that he will change his course for the better. It may be that I have answered yours before but if I have forgotten if I did it dont make any difference. The health of the boys is very good we have two in our Co that are sick one at the Hospital the other nearly well. Captain Lambert and the Major returned last Tuesday Capt had been sick for some days while away he was only in Eddyville three days. I have no more news to write this time so I will close in hopes to hear from you soon from your friend
Moses Edwards

To W A Davis

21. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to William A. Davis, January 14, 1865.

[page 1] Camp 36th Iowa Inf
near Little Rock Ark. Jan 14th 1865

Dear Friend William

Your kind letter came to hand a few days ago I was glad to hear that you was maneuvering so well. I was rather sorry to hear of Eva's leaveing home but he was not satisfied when there so leave him cut out and commence makeing a start for himself. I presume the business that he is at now suits him very well. The 1st Iowa Cavalry have been here for some two weeks the boys look stout and harty their Camp is some four miles from ours. We have been called to mourn the loss of one more of our Commissioned Officers Capt John Lambert Died on the night of the sixth of this month of Pneumonia he died very sudden New Years in the afternoon he was out to the

company he said he felt harty as ever he did and looked better [page 2] than he had since his return from Tyler after returning to Town that evening he did not feel very well from that time on till he died he kept getting worse all the time he had been on Detached duty for some time in Town. This will be sad news to Mrs Lambert he was expecting her down before long I hope she will hear of his death before she starts. We are still out here guarding a saw-mill the duty is not very heavy on the boys now they are puting in their leisure time a chopping cord wood they get two dollars per cord for chopping it. Gen Runnolds has superseded Gen Steele he is makeing quite a change in and about Little Rock a person when in Town now does not see so many drunk as there use to be I tell you it was most outrageous the way Gen Steele let them run their saloons quite a number have been shut up. [page 3] There is a rumor that our Expedition is fitting out now so as to be ready to leave here by the 1st of next month There is not much show for us to go on it I wish out Prisoners Boys will be here then the Thirty Sixth would allmost shure to go. I am in hopes this next campaign will prove to be more successfull than the last Spring Campaign did. a few days ago several Rebel soldiers came in and gave them up they are Missouri soldiers their were over two hundred of them. The War news is excellent from all Quarters. O may it keep so untill this Rebellion is wiped out of existance so that we can return to our homes and enjoy home and its pleasures once more. Will I have not hugged a girl since I came out in the Service. There is quite a number of good looking or bad looking Ladies in and about Little Rock [page 4] I guess by the way Ambrose writes that he is going in on his nerve that is all rite wish him success I have no more news to write at the present time I have not herd from home since the 17th of last month. These few lines from your true friend
Moses Edwards

P.S. Write soon soon soon

22. Moses Edwards, Little Rock, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, February 16, 1865.

[page 1] [letterhead] U.S. Christian Commission Rooms,
Little Rock, Ark., Feb 16th 1865

Dear Sister Lizzie

Your kind letter of date Jan 31st came to hand on the 15th Ist. I was truly glad to hear that you were all well. You will please excuse me for not writeing sooner as we have been quite busy moveing last Saturday we recd orders to move to Town one company came in that evening so as to hold the Barracks Sunday we moved in we are in the barracks formerly occupied by the 28th Wis. a very nice camp we kind of played off the same trick on them as they did on us last November The camp is at the South West edge of the city. We commenced doing duty yesterday we do Picket & City guard. There will be ritesmart fatigue duty They commenced on a new Fort this morning. I would much rather be here than out at the mill. we will have the same priviledge now as we use to have. Mr Bachelder was up in Camp yesterday distributing papers he thinks of starting home on next Monday he may preach for us on next Sabbath.

I will tell you about the late Promotions in our company. Hurlburt to Captain Hickenloper to 1st Lieutenant and Edwards to 1st Sergeant [page 2] it may be that you do not know the later named gent its myself just. Capt Hurlburt has been relieved as Quarter-Master and Lieut Hickenloper has took his place. I was glad to hear that Eva was getting along so well. "who knows but what

he will make a man some day". it may be best for me not to say to much for Mrs Lambert tells me he is larger than I am. Mrs Lambert is boarding at Woodalls where Capt died. I was over to see her Monday evening I do not know when she intends to start home. Miss Woodall is talking of going North with her.

There is quite a stir here. troops are moveing hither and thither. Tuesday the 33rd Iowa left the 28th Wis left several days ago and several other Regt 29th Iowa left over one week ago. They rumor is that they are going to New Orleans or near there. The Camden Expedition proved to be a failure we do not get to know the movements of the army as we were accustom to when Gen Steele was comdg this Dept.

Monday and Tuesday were quite wet raining all the time yesterday and today is fine. The health of the Regiment is very good non reporting sick in our Company. I will close for this time promiseing you that I will write more lengthey a one next time weather I do or not. My love to you and all the Family and all enquireing friends These few lines from your affectionate Brother Moses Edwards

(Tell Mrs Davis we had a good harty laugh about her sending the miniature)

23. Moses Edwards, St. Charles, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth, June 4, 1865.

[page 1] Camp 36th Iowa Inft Vols.
St. Charles Ark. Sunday June 4th 1865

Dear Sister Lizie.

It is with much pleasure that I seat myself this fine day to pen you a few lines in hopes they may find you and all of the family enjoying good health the same as they leave me at present. Yours of May 19th came to hand last Wednesday evening I was sorry to hear of the sudden deaths that have lately taken place in the neighbourhood of Georgetown and Stacyville. I am sorry that I have the same inteligence to convey to you this time of one of the men of our company who parted with this life on yesterday. his name was John Day he use to live in Albia. since he came in the service his family moved to Indiana. He leaves a Wife and six children to mourn his loss. it will be sad news for the family. for their prospects to see each other soon was very good. for the War is over and all troops will soon be mustered out. Wesley A Cain is at the Hospital he is doing very well. he came up to the company this morning. we have not any present

[page 2] sick in the Company. We are haveing very nice weather here at the present. looking very much like rain just now. a good shower would cool the air and make it much more healthy. The River is still falling. As I have nothing much to write about I will tell you where some few of the boys have gone to today. Rev Lewis Davis went out in the country some six or eight miles to preach or try to. Capt Hurlburt Thomas Thornton John Thomas Charles Read Benj Kimbrell and several others of "K" went. I do not know as they intend all on going to meeting. They wanted to be a going some place for a person will get tired of staying inside of our line all the time. For I have not much idea that an of them would go out of their way much to hear him speak. I would not wonder if the old fellow is not over here this afternoon to play a game of marbles. he acts out his belief for he does not esteem one day above another. well that is enough concerning Lewis. The citizens are allowed more priviledge now than is has been granted them heretofore. they can trade as much as they please now. There is quite a number of women come in dailey

[page 3] and poor things they are as ignorant as all get out. grown up women can not tell the difference between one and a five dollar bill. I will not say anything more of their ignorance. O yes I must tell you they bring in butter. butter milk hnions etc. Last week I think I drunk the first butter milk since I left home. O yes we had a good mess of green beans for dinner to day that we brought from a citizen yesterday.

The first of this month was observed by the troops of this Place. all the fatigue was done away with as far as practiceable. at one o'clock there was meeting in our camp Chaplain 126th Chapl Hare But Brig Genl F. M. Drake were the ones that done the speaking at night their was prayer meeting, I will close now for their will soon be preaching and the mail boat will soon be up.

Monday 5th

Still fine and warm weather does not look as much like rain as yesterday. The steamer Rowena went on up in the afternoon. mail came I rec'd a letter from Ambrose. letters come very quick now that is if they do not lay over. Ambroses letter was finished to day one week ago. and I read it last evening. [page 4] The 2nd Missouri Battery have taken their guns down to the landing so as to be ready to go to St. Louis to be mustered out. I do not have much idea how soon we will be at home. Capt Hurburt and others think we will be home by the 4th of July and their is others that think August will about find us there August is my guess. Nicholas Pfendler came back yesterday. he went up with Charles White Thos Barker and others with horses to St Louis so Nick took a French furlough and went home he was there some eight days. he was at Stacyville on the night of the 19th May. I do not think he will be punished. I will close in hopes to hear from you soon. My love to you and all the family.

Moses Edwards

P.S.

I guess this is the last epistle that I will write to Miss Lizzie Edwards please do not think hard of me for doing so for it is your own doing. so no more nonsense if you wish to term it so.

Moses

P.S.

The boys that were out in the country yesterday said that there was quite a congregation there quite a number of young women were present Capt H. did not go. They said it was a very good meeting. Please excuse my P.S.

Moses

24. Moses Edwards, DeValls Bluff, Arkansas, to brother-in-law William A. Davis, July 7, 1865.

[page 1] DeValls Bluff Ark.
Friday July 7th 1865.

Dear Brother,

Yours of June 6th came to hand on the 23rd inst. you will please excuse me for not answering it sooner. for the last week and better I have been busy makeing out Pay & Muster Rolls and good deal of other writing and now I have not much news to write. I can tell you we are not "Mustered Out" yet and more I see no very bright prospect at the present. The darkest hour is before day that may be our condition at the present time. Several Regiment have already

been mustered out in this Department. The 12th & 15 Kansas Inf. 35th Missouri a Delaware Battery and several others I could mance over. [page 2] Last Sunday Gen Oliver & Staff arrived here. Monday his Division came they have been carrying things high. This Div formerly belonged to the 15th Army Corp. They call themselves Shermans bummers Wednesday one Brigade left for the Rock. Yesterday another Brigade left. I think the ballance of them leaves today. I am in hopes they will leave or be put on duty. our boys have had duty put on them reasonable thick since they arrived by tryng to take care of those that got a little more of the overjoyfull in them than they could well navigate with. They put in about a dozen Commissioned officers. one ranked as high as Major. I think that Gen J.J. Reynolds will jerk the straps off of them if he does it will be a serving them rite. I do not know how many enlisted was in. [page 3] I presume that them bummers have found out that there is soldiers about besides them. They have done very good duty while in the east but I tell you that some of them are demoralized. I received a letter from Ambrose this morning you are having plenty of rain if not to much for your own benefit. we have had very warm weather down here for some time now. Yesterday we had a good raind it purified the some. The health of the Regiment is as well as could be expected for the time of the year. Your old Regt. the 126th Ill is to be mustered out in a few days. The boys that were here on detached service were relieved and went to the Regt or Little Rock to be mustered out. The last I herd of the Regiment it was at Pirie Bluff Ark some fortyfive miles from Little Rock. [page 4] Will I must quit and go to dinner. Nothing of any importance went off here the Fourth. Over one half of the Regt was on duty. Provost guard and other kinds of guards. I guess they had a very good time at Albia the Fourth. From your affectionate brother.
Moses Edwards

25. Moses Edwards, DeValls Bluff, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth and brother-in-law William A. Davis, August 8, 1865.

[page 1] Camp 36th Iowa Inf. Vols.
DeValls Bluff Ark. Aug 8th 1865

Dear

Brother and Sister,

It is with pleasure that I seat myself this fine morning to answer your kind letter of date July 24th which came to hand on the 4th inst. I am in hopes that you have moved into a house by yourselves where you will be very apt to be better satisfied. I see that you have enough rain if not to much in Iowa this season. we have a good deal of rain down here but not like you have the River has raised several feet. the Arkansas is high boats run up to Fort Smith now but it has been quite low. The 40th Iowa Inf. came here last Saturday evening they was mustered out on the 2nd of Aug. they left the same evening on the Steamer Tycoon for Davenport where they will be payed off. I would not care if we was on our way home as they are. but we are sort of unlucky fellows. "Some way". [page 2] A communication was sent up or to War Dept. last week requesting that the Regiment be mustered out Gen'l Drake approved it also Gen Shaler commander of this Post and Gen'l Reynolds I think it left here the last mail if that gets us out two or three weeks before our time is out it will pay them for their trouble. If Gen J.J. Reynolds

would only say that we was a surplus Regiment their would be no use of doing what I have just been writing about. Our Regiment is the only white troops their is at this Post. the 113th U.S. Colord Inft is here or scattered about five Co. at the Cavalry Depot some two miles down the river. two Co. at the mouth of White River one Co. out some five miles out on the Prairie where they are putting up hay. so after all it only leaves two Co. here in Camp they keep up one picket post is about all the duty they do.

Our boys are on duty every other day the duty is very light when on. guard duty is run very loose. doing duty twelve months ago this way, it would hardly be considered done the men think the War played out so the guard is the same.

[page 3] I have forgotten wheather I told you in my last that Mrs. Lambert was at home in Eddyville or not. she has been there for some time. Miss Woodall did not go up North with her as she had been talking of I do not know what was the reason. The health of the Regiment is not quite as good as it has been. several sick but not scerious. The bummers or the 15th Army Corps that is in this Department is to be mustered out I think some of them leave this week. they are mustered out by a Special order that Gen'l Logan was luckey enough to get. I see in the papers that some of our troops had a little trouble with the Mexicans at Bagdad the paper did not state altogether what it ammounted to. It was quite a shocking affair that Col Chevingston had with the Indians, if they murdered the Indians as the paper stated the Col should be turned over to them that are left where they could take revenge out on him. I notice that there is some little trouble in several places but do not amount to much. I will close for the present in hopes to see you before now and Christmas.

Moses Edwards

[page 4] P.S.

O yes Will what do you think of the negro sufferage. I presume you are all sound

Moses

26. Moses Edwards, DeValls Bluff, Arkansas, to sister Elizabeth and brother-in-law William A. Davis, August 19, 1865.

[page 1] DeValls Bluff Ark.
Saturday Aug 19th 1865

Dear Brother and Sister

I rather think this will wind up my army correspondence with you. Order for mustering out the Regiment came last Wednesday the next day the mustering officer came we was working at the muster out rolls yesterday. we may get through with them tomorrow. we may get ready to be mustered out by next Wednesday. I think we we [sic] will be at home by the 10th of next month. A few days back I have been a little unwell with the chills & fever but for the last two days feel very well. the weather is turning some little cooler the last few days. I will close so as to go at some other work.

From Your Brother

Moses Edwards.

[page 2] This is our division badge (style)