Amos W. Abbott Letters

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Ann Arbor Nov 13th 37

Dear Brother

I have got through with the recitations of another week, but not through with its work. Before I have hardly had time to think of it another week has passed by, and Friday night has come again. It seems to me that time never passed so rapidly as it does now. I find that pretty much all of my time is employed through the week, although I do not have to study as hard as when I first came here. I am getting the run of things (that is as far as studies are concerned) so as to take them more to advantage. My Saturn comes to me without as much coaxing

as it first required. I find time or perhaps I should say I take time to be out a part of two or three evenings during the week. I think that I can accomplish more to go out some, than to shut myself up to my studies all the time. Monday evening is spent at singing school, and Friday evening at one of the Literary Societies. My old singing teacher Thompson is teaching the singing school here and he has a much larger class than when he was at Romeo. I manage to get my lessons in advance on Saturday so as to come out even with my class after taking Monday evening. I have just returned from prayer meeting this evening, where we have had a very good meeting. There are nearly twenty professors of religion in my class, and the most of them seem to be living and working Christians. There is not another class in College in which so large a proportion are

professors of religion. It seems to me that I could not ask to be more pleasantly situated than I am at present. In the first place the family where we (that is myself and two room mates) live, are very accomodating people, and quite often we get a dish of "something good" sent up to us. And as to room mates, we all recite in the same class, all belong to the same church, and are all, I think endeavoring to prepare for future usefulness. One of my roommates is preparing for the Ministry, but the other one does not seem to be fully decided, although I think he probably will. As far as my class is concerned, I think it will compare favorably with any class in College, either intellectually or morally. I find there isn't so much fun in belonging to a class that is well prepared, for the Profs seem to think we can do almost any given amount and so we (some of us at least) find no lack of

employment. I believe there are no news at present. Money matters still continue tight, especially as far as I am concerned. Please write soon as convenient. Give my love to all the family and believe me as ever

Your affectionate Brother

W. B. Abbott

W. B. Abbott

P.S. I think it will take at least ten dollars more to keep my credit good until next January.

W. B. A.

Ann Arbor Mar 12th/59

Dear Father

I was almost surprised upon looking at the date of your last letter, to see how long it was since you wrote to me. I have been rather busy, since you wrote & with my studies and time has slipped away rapidly. In fact I find the only safe way for me is when I receive a letter, is to answer it directly. or

I have been getting along well since I last wrote to you. My health has been good

and although my studies have kept me pretty busy, yet I believe I have got along with them in at least a passable manner. I passed my semi-annual examinations all right and have got fairly into my studies for this term, and the prospect now is that I shall have plenty to do for the remainder of this year.

I have just had the privilege of hearing two somewhat distinguished men lecture. Last evening I heard Fred Douglass and this afternoon Bayard Taylor. Both lectures quite good. Douglass is quite light-complexion, medium height, and rather slender has a good voice, and is a pleasant speaker, and withal quite humorous,

Taylor is just in the prime of life (about 34), good size but not large. His manner is rather independent, but is not the most polished of speakers. His lecture was not great in a literary point of view, but he has good power of description and exhibits keen observation

In regard to money matters my pockets are getting nearly empty and will have ere long to be replenished from some quarter or other.

Seben wrote me a few days ago and as I ought to write a little to him, I must close. Give my love to all the folks and believe me still

Your off son

Amos

Ann Arbor July 14th 1859

Dear Bro Franklin

I rec'd yours of the ~~[illegible]~~ week, I don't remember when it was written or when I rec'd it. but I do remember that it was a good while ago, and I am a little inclined to think that you rec'd one since I. No matter who wrote last. It is about time that some one did some writing and perhaps I might as well do it.

Commencement is over and gone and with it all the stir and incident to it. I have passed all my examinations and come out with a clean ticket. The last examinations were the most

severe I have ever known, as some of the boys, who have been "sent up" and "conditioned", could testify. They were all, however, quite easy for me, either through luck or previous hard study, or perhaps both. I suppose my hardest study is now passed. It is considered that the Sophomore year is the hardest; although it has not been harder for me than any Freshman.

The lectures before the different Societies were generally very good. The Baccalaureate Sermon by Dr Tappan, Sunday afternoon, was most excellent. It is spoken of in the highest terms by all whom I have heard say anything about it.

The speeches of the Graduating class were mostly good.

The number of graduates this year was not so large as last year, there being only 38 this year. Old Mr Sethrop was in town yesterday. I saw him a few moments on the side-walk, and intended to call on him in the afternoon, but before I called he was gone back to Detroit. He said he was at Kirke's a few days before and they were all well.

I had a letter from Elon a week or two ago. He seemed to be enjoying himself well. Give my love to all the folks and remember me as ever

Your Bro

Amos

W. F. Abbott

Fort Wayne Detroit
Oct 14th 1861

Dear Bro Franklin:

Having a little time between drills I take the opportunity to send you a line assuring you of my continued good health and fine spirits, although in regard to the "spirits" perhaps it is unnecessary for me to speak as you know that I am not in the habit of having the "blues."

The boys are mostly well; only two or three cases of diarhoea. Some few of them are now laboring under slight attacks of the blues, for fear they will

not all get home before leaving for the South. Lieutenant Barrows offered me a pass to go home yesterday morning, but I told him I preferred to wait until I drew the remainder of my clothing, that I might take home with me all my superfluous clothing. It is not certain that I shall go home at all as our officers are now under command of the colonel, but I shall probably go home sometime next week. We have been assigned our position as Co A. in the regiment. This, you know, is considered the post of honor. Our drill and arms will probably be somewhat different from that of the other companies. It is reported that in addition to our regular arms we shall be supplied with sidearms. Last Friday eve the 8th reg left on the two boats Ocean and Mayflower

We (our Co) marched out & saw them off.
We all cheered them until we
hoarse we could'nt talk.
Last Sunday morning Col Broadhead's regiment of cavalry passed
the Fort on the same boats.
Many of our boys expressed the wish
that they also could go now.
(One hour and a half later) Having written
the above, I heard the order "Company A!
fall in!" and I was obliged to leave my
writing instanter, and now just after dinner
I am permitted to resume it for a short
time until the next drill. Since commencing
I rec'd your letter of yesterday, and
you may be assured that it was with pleasure
that I saw the well known hand
writing on the back. Enclosed with your
I also rec'd one from Elon. No harm
done in opening it.
By the way, Bro, if there should be
any mistakes in my letters, please
excuse them and try & imagine how

I am situated. Please imagine me sitting at the window of the barracks in the third story and on the side fronting the yard. My desk is the window sill and my seat an old gunbox. At my right and having the same desk Mr Lowry is also writing. In the room (about 25x35) are 20 or 25 pretty much all of them talking. Out in the yard (my window is up) are all sorts of people; soldiers of all sorts, women and boys trying to sell apples and cakes, occasionally a drum beat &c &c. Just now there are three or four around me, some of them talking to me. But I must close lest I be called off before finishing.

Love my love to all the family and believe me still

Yours aff. Bro

Amos

P.S. Please tell Ollie that I am awaiting patiently for that letter.

Amos

W. B. Abbott

Jeffersonville Ind

Sunday night 12 o'clock Oct 27th /61

Dear Bro Franklin:

You will perhaps be surprised at seeing my letter dated at such a time for although I used to write much at night I have not since coming into camp. And now you must not expect more than a very short letter since the time of writing is quite short.

We left Detroit for this place last Friday about 11 o'clock, proceeding by the Mich Cen R R to Michigan City, from there by rail to Jeffersonville via La-Fayette and Indianapolis. Nothing of much importance occured on the route. At every place the inhabitants turned out to greet us as we passed. Much enthusiasm was

exhibited. Even along the country the people came out of their houses, the men swinging their hat and the women waving their handkerchiefs. At the stations I saw many (even in Indiana where we were entire strangers) who, with their eyes wet with tears, gave us their parting blessing as we sped on our way. From thousands with hearts loyal to their country and their God, was breathed forth the earnest and heart-felt "God protect you". And I believe that God will protect us for the sake of the thousands noble and true, who are daily raising to Heaven, their prayers for our safety. All along, (through Mich especially) I was forcibly impressed with the evidences of the love and patriotism of the people.

We reached this place Sat night about 8 o'clock and as our tents were not pitched we remained in the cars until the next (this) morning. As soon as light

we anchored up the river (Ohio) about two miles D our present camping ground. Today we just fairly got settled down and this eve came the word to pull up stakes and start. We leave early, per the morning. The boat is now waiting for us. We have got our guns and ammunition and clothes, ago. Destination, some part of Ky. It is quite uncertain when or where my next will be dated, so that I cannot tell you where D direct. still your letters will probably (some of them at least) reach me if you direct D me. "Co A 9th Reg. Ohio Inf." Write often. My love D Julia, Frank and Alice and the rest of the family. Tell them also D write. Good bye for the present.

Your off bro

Amos

J. C. D. Abbott

West Point. Hardin Co. Ky.
Oct 29th 1861

Dear Bro Isaac:

There seems to be a little misunderstanding in regard to whose turn it is to write. However I can say that unless my memory is very treacherous, I wrote to you since I received one from you. Be that as it may, it is undoubtedly time that one or the other should write, at least if we are to keep up any correspondence at all. I saw Elon at Marshall as I was on the way here and he spoke to me about writing to you, saying that you seemed to think that the responsibility of stopping our correspondence devolved upon me.

As far as I can remember, about

the last of our writing was a little before I left for Missouri, but probably it will not be necessary for me to go back with the news as far as that, as probably you have been somewhat posted up in regard to my matters by others of the family. Suffice it to say that about two years ago I went to Ohio and about 3 months ago returned safe and sound, having seen various things, among others some veritable border ruffians.

After staying at home six weeks I enlisted in a company called the "Romeo Union Guards". Two or three days afterwards (Sept 19th) we left Romeo and went to Fort Wayne, Detroit, and stayed there about 5 weeks, going through with the regular round of such scenes as to break the monotony of Post life.

Oct 25th, very early in the morning we pulled up stakes and started for "Dixie's land." We had considerable to do before we started, the principal part of which

was waiting. About noon, we left on the Mich Cen R R, proceeding to Mich city, where we turned our course southward toward Jeffersonville (Ind) via La Fayette and Indianapolis. We reached Jeffersonville Sat night (Oct 26th) a little after dark, and "camped" in the cars all night. Our trip ~~(through Mich, especially)~~ was very pleasant. At every station along the Road, were crowds assembled to cheer us on our way. At several places apples and other eatables were distributed among the soldiers. At Jackson especially the people showed their good will by the amount and variety of provisions, which they gave us. As long as I remember Jackson I shall remember that day and those people with gratitude. All thanks to them. May peace and prosperity ever attend them.

Not only in Mich. but also in Indiana we found crowds at all the stations, and even along through the country way of the people left the ~~country~~ houses and came to the

Road swinging their hats and waving their handkerchiefs, at one house, too far distant for us to see the people, they raised a pole with a white cloth on it.

Sunday morn, before light, we were called out served with coffee and hard bread. As soon as light we left the City (Jeffersonville) and marched about two miles up the river to our camping-ground. That eve we had orders to leave for Kentucky early in the morning. That night was spent in distributing the arms, cartridges, cartridge-boxes, &c. Before light our tents and camp equipage were all packed and a little after sunrise we went aboard two of the river-boats and started down the river. After we had gone two or three miles we entered the canal at Louisville (the river is too shallow) and although it is only three or four miles in length we did not reach the lower end until about 2 o'clock P.M. From Louisville we proceeded down the river about 25 miles to the position we now occupy.

Beside our own reg. there is here now one Ind reg (the 37th) and about 500 Kentucky "Home guards". Directly opposite on the Ind side is a small battery of three or four guns. On this bank is a small temporary battery of 4 small guns. The boats which brought us, brought also 6 or 8 field pieces. We expect to fortify ourselves and remain here awhile at least. It is reported that a company of mounted rebels were this morning seen on the bluffs above us, watching our movements. My love to Sophia

Write soon Your aff Bro

J. C. Abbott A. W. Abbott

P.S. Direct to me "Co A, 9th Reg Mich Inf." West Point, Hardin Co, Ky. Care of Capt Wilkinson, A.W.A.

Muldrough's Hill Ky
Monday afternoon Dec 16th 18

Dear Sister Julia:

This forenoon yours of the 8th, together with the letters from Allie and brother Franklin reached me, and although, as always, I was much pleased again to hear from home, yet I must say that I was quite perplexed to find, that although of late I have written three letters, two of which had had more than time to reach you when your letter was mailed, yet you had rec'd nothing from me and had been kept in suspense and anxiety all this time. My last was mailed last Saturday (the 14th), but thinking that perhaps that also would fail

D reach you, I concluded D close
no time in again writing home,
knowing how exceedingly unpleasant
such doubt and anxiety is.

You suggest that I probably begin
D think by this time that a soldiers
life is a "hard one." I thought so be-
fore I enlisted. Before I enlisted,
I anticipated and made up my
mind D meet all, as if necessary,
much more, than I have yet seen.

I enlisted because I saw that our
rights, all that is dear D us as a na-
tion, were in danger, and, much as war
is averse D my feelings, I do not wish
D return until they are again rendered
secure, and the enemies compelled
either D submit or flee. The dangers
of a military life are indeed many
and I know not what lot may await
me, yet if I fall, whether it be by
disease or the missiles of the enemy,
I only wish that it may be truly

said of me, Like a true, Christian soldier, he fell at his post.

But perhaps you have been writing for me to say whether or not I am now sick or well, although undoubtedly you have come to the conclusion, ere this, that I am not now very sick. On the contrary I am feeling quite well. For several days I have been gaining strength remarkably fast, and the prospect now is that I shall be strong enough for regular duty in four or five days. And here I must say that I feel under deep obligation to Mr Everts for his kind attention during my sickness. He has had charge of those in the "sick-tent" for four weeks, and for about two weeks he sat up most of the time every night, giving medicine and waiting upon the sick.

By the way I omitted to mention in my last that I rec'd two papers

the "Tribune" and "Argus" for which receive my thanks; shall always be glad to get them especially the Argus.

Perhaps you have already heard that Lieut. Nye has been promoted to the captaincy of company E. Hallock his position three or four days ago. We all regretted to lose him, yet for his sake, could not wish to keep him, when he could have so much better position.

Troops are continually pouring down the river towards Bucknor, and a battle is anticipated soon. It is reported and pretty generally believed that 40 or more from Cache Co of our reg will be sent on in a few days.

Do not know whether they will let me go, but will if permitted.

I know nothing definite in regard to the number of men on either side, yet we do know both forces are large, and it is expected that there will be such a battle as has not been very lately.

But let it come. If Breckinridge is defeated thoroughly, this war will undoubtedly soon come to a close. If we should be, (which I do not anticipate) it will only arouse the loyal States to greater exertion and vigilance.

The weather now is remarkably fine; rather cool for a few nights but sufficiently warm during the day to be pleasant. Very much like the Missouri winters, yet really I cannot bring myself to feel as it were winter. Grasshoppers and flies are to be seen in the warmer localities, and by looking under the leaves one can find worms which although stupid, show signs of life. The weather is quite favorable for our sick boys. Nearly all of them are doing well, and the present prospect is that we shall soon be able to muster very nearly a full company.

By the by, I am sorry that you missed that meeting of the "Ladies Aid Society." You "missed" something and I fear that I "missed" much more.

But perhaps another box may be sent. In a letter ~~[illegible]~~ two weeks ago I requested Franklin to send me a pair of strong Stuga boots No. 8s., in the box, as they here, are both dear and poor. He need not send them however, except there is an opportunity soon, as Spring will be here in a little while. Ere this reaches you Franklin will have rec'd the money ($25.00) which I sent him. If my former letters are rec'd he will know how to dispose of it. The principal thing is to settle with Washer.

I have ascertained from the boys that there are several letters missing of those sent about the time mine were, and it has occured to me that as it was known to be just after "pay-day" when soldiers send home considerable money, the Post Masters or mail agents

have been trying to "play sharp," but they were taken in at once at least, for the most of our boys sent in one package by Express. Most of my letters have been rather full. Hope there will be no more missing mail, at least not before next "pay-day".

Next time that you fail to receive letters from me, don't wait more than a week at the longest. Think that among you all, I ought to get letters from home pretty often. Tell Frank that I sympathize with him in his troubles with his "felon". Hope he will "cure" the next one before it gets so far along. Give my love to the Franklin and Frank and Allie and the girls. Good-bye for the present.

Yours as ever

Amos

Mrs. J. A. Abbott

Muldrow's Hill. Ky.
Dec 27th 1861.

Dear Bro Franklin:

To-day the package of boots, mittens and paper reached me all safe and sound. It came a little too late for Christmas, but in plenty time for New Year's. It is said, you know that it is better to be born lucky than rich and I am a little inclined to believe that I am among the "lucky" ones, for things generally seem to be in my favor lately, among which was my failing to have anything in that last "box" sent from Romeo. My package has arrived, yet that box has not yet been heard from and it is sup-

moved to be last, consequently I should have been unlucky, had I had anything in it. Some of the boys who had been anticipating some very "nice" things, are beginning to feel a little disappointed, while I am (as the saying is) "right intown."

The boots are a good fit. The boys say they are better than the $4.50 or $5.00 boots which they buy here. The gloves and paper are also good: better than we can often get hold of here. I prefer, when it costs no more, to do my trading in Mich. rather than in the "plaguey secession hole" of West Point. There are no "secessionists" here now, but before the Federal troops came here they were very plenty. However the presence of our troops seemed to be, with them, a very strong argument, for they all became speedily convinced of the "error of their ways"; and turned "Union men". Undoubtedly

they are honest (?) yet I fear, if Buckner should gain the day here, they would again find arguments in favor of "secession".

Thus goes a great majority of the world.

But I will not stop to philosophize on it now. We know that it is so, and must take it as it is, rather than as we would have it.

My health is still improving. I think you may all throw off all anxiety about my health for the present. When I first went to Ft Wayne, I weighed 156 lbs: yesterday I weighed myself and was astonished to find that I weighed (only) 160 lbs.

Three weeks ago I was (as they they say) "poor as a crow", but since then have been getting "fat and strong" very rapidly.

Have been writing for the Cotyaland about a week and have several days works more before I shall be done.

Wouldn't care if there was twice as much to be done, it agrees with me so well. Perhaps you would like to

know now we spent Christmas in camp.

But to commence back a little, about dark Christmas Eve, just as we (in our tent) were ready to eat supper, we heard several guns discharged, and in a few moments several more, and then soon our drums commenced to beat the "long roll", and we all knew what to do then; we made all speed to "buckle on our armor" and "fall in" to the ranks. We were then marched inside the Fort and drawn up in "battle array" ready to meet the hosts of all "secessiondom" should they come.

Happened to be in the first section of our Co and the duty assigned us was the very honorable one of "guarding the gate". As this was supposed to be the most dangerous position, we were consoled by the very comforting assurance that "when we were all shot down, our places would be filled by section No 2".

Well we stood waiting in the cold, about two hours, but "Mary secesh" presented himself, so we concluded to back and "try it over again". We went back and had a good sleep, although we heard guns at intervals during the night. There would have been no need of alarm had they only considered that the night before Christmas is the commencement of a grand jubilee among the "niggers" and boys which lasts until New Year's.

Christmas we were excused from all duty except guard. The most of the Company joined together and got up a "big dinner" of baked pigs,

chicken pies, &c. Those in our tent, as we did not consider ourselves sufficiently strong (?) to bear so rich (?) food, concluded to get up a dinner by ourselves. So Mr Events being the Chief Cook and I Prince Assistant, we got up a "big dinner" of boiled chickens and "pan-cakes"; as good a dinner probably, as you would have got up at home and you had as little to do with it as we had.

But enough of Christmas. The boys are all improving, except two or three who made "hogs" of themselves during Christmas and are now "paying the penalty" of a certain violated physical law.

But I must close. Events has been visited by one but I just stopped and says it is at least 11 o'clock, and that I ought to be in bed.

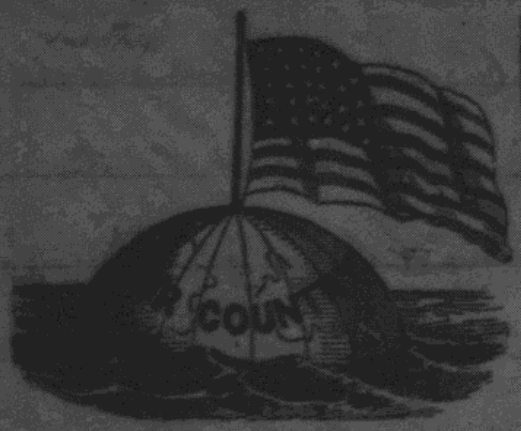
My love to all the family. By the way I suggest to them that I was a little disappointed at not receiving a letter from home to-day, as Friday is my mail day.

Give my respects to all inquiring friends. Good night.

Yours as ever

Amos

W. E. Abbott



UNION.

Elizabethtown Ky.
Feb 23rd /62

Dear Julia.

Just now the letter written by you and Allie came to hand and also one from Bro Franklin. It would be useless for me to assure you that like all the letters from home, they were very welcome. It is always with pleasure that I see the letters with the well known Ma. twisting on the back but now more than usual since I had begun to think your letters had been lost as I had rec'd nothing from home in nearly three weeks. But my luck in regard to letters seem to have changed

just now, as with those from home
came also one from C. L. Whitney and
directly after some papers from
Ann Arbor. In Franklin's letter
came also one from Missouri from
very good friends too I spare you;
also some postage stamps. Several
days ago came the "Independent" and
"Argus" both of which were well read.
I have not heard from Elon since
the Fusiliers left Mich. I have
written but have not heard one word.
Shall endeavor immediately to find
out something of him from his officers.
I very much fear that he too has
fallen a victim to the diseases and hardships in-
cident to a soldier life. How long!
O how long! shall it be necessary for
thousands and hundreds of thousands
to expose their health and their
lives just because a few discontented
and disappointed office seekers

following eagerly the example of this notorious predecessor (Sweifer) & Hem-ted to draw after them a third part of the sons of the greatest and best government that earth ever saw.

But even now the Sun is again beginning to shine upon us; the black and threatening clouds of secession are fast being dispelled.

I believe that so on our Government will stand forth triumphant over all her foes, and that where she has once been great, her greatness will be doubled and redoubled, and here our sons have left home and friends and the comforts of home, will feel amply repaid for all that they have sacrificed.

All that has come to us of late in regard to the operations of armies seem to point to the speedy consummation of this war. The evacuation of Harlem

Green, the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, the surrender of Savannah, the proclamation of the Governor of Tennessee, the laying down of arms by the rebels at various points, the address of Toombs, Cobb, and other of the Southern leaders, to their terribly deluded victims, all go to prove most conclusively to my mind, that they will not nor and can not much longer hold out in their rebellion.

They have compared themselves to the noble patriots of 1776 and use their example as a proof that they may succeed, forgetting that the "God of Battles" fought with the patriots of 76, while now as a God of right and justice he must be against them.

Probably ere this reaches you, you will have seen Corporal Lowry, and he will tell you in regard to our situation &c. Tell Allie I will try to write to her soon. My love to you all

Good bye for the present

Yours as ever

Julia A. Abbott

Amos