

A.S. Bloomfield Letters

IN CAMP 6 MILES

SOUTH OF NASHVILLE, TENN.

Dec, 3rd, 1862.

Respected Brothers: -

I received your welcome letter with Father's last evening. Was very glad to hear that all are well at this time. You seem to think we might enjoy ourselves while we are at the Springs if the rebels only leave us alone. I know that is what people think at home, but I know a company, regiment or brigade feel better when they are going out on a skirmish or a reconnoitering expedition, and even when our outposts are driven and the enemy threatens us with an attack. These things used to frighten us but now they all seem to enjoy such fun.

You asked why we were not allowed to sleep in that tavern. The officers had their quarters in it. One part was used for the hospital, another for the commissary [sic] stores. We had plenty of tents and could sleep nearly as comfortable then as in a couch. Besides privates do not care to get too close to the officers. I would not mind much if I was at home helping you make that apple butter, but as for husking corn I have nothing to say, but I imagine you will have something to say about that yourselves if you are not more than half done. I hear of a great deal of sickness in Ohio this winter. We have heard of the boys being exchanges but none have returned yet.

You and the rest of the people in the north seem to think that the negroes, if armed, could do a great deal. There you are mistaken. I believe that our brigade could whip an hundred thousand negroes. They are a pack of indolent cowards and as ignorant as a stump. They would kill ten times as many of themselves as they would of the enemy. The rebels need not fear them as an army. I do not believe that the fighting will end without one side killing off all the rest.

Try and make the best you can in going to school. Always remember there is a better time coming. Tell Father that I will answer his letter another time. We have had some fair winter weather. The streams are quite low yet. The railroad has been opened for several days from here to Louisville. There is plenty of forage out a few miles. We have to send out a very strong guard with the trains and it is very seldom they get away without a skirmish.

About a week ago Edgerton's battery was out and fired several hundred shots. The rebels had a battery playing on his. They were well aimed but they had nothing to fire but solid shots. One took an axle off, another struck a wheel; another knocked a trunion [sic] besides a great many shots came very close.

Edgerton arrived in camp in the evening with the pieces of his battery without a man having a scratch.

This battery belongs to the 5th. brigade of our Division. I have very good health at present, as have also the rest of the boys from our parts.

Your faithful and confidential brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON MILL CREEK,

NASHVILLE, TENN.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Dec-25-1862.

Respected Sister: -

I wish you a happy Christmas. I do not know of any thing more important than that one thing, - happiness - to make this day pleasant at home or in the army. This is the second Christmas for me in the army. The first one we tried in various ways to make the day a memorable one and partly succeeded; but how different is today passing. I do not see a soldier trying to put on any style. They are all going around as usual doing the regular camp duties. Our battery has all gone out after forage, but the casions [sic], so there are but few left in camp; but the worst is I have promised to have a kettle of beans cooked for them by the time they returned.

I received your letter four days after you wrote it and was glad to hear the news. But you said before you had filled one page that you had no news to write, when you had already written the best news that I ever received from home and as good as I ever want to receive. I suppose you wrote it unconscious of the importance the few words were to one far from home and friend.

Well, maybe you have forgotten what you wrote on the first page of your last letter. It was these few and simple words "we are all well". So you see a letter can have the best of news and only contain this short sentence. Now, after this do not say I have no news to write after you have put that sentence in.

There is no one thing of so much importance to one away from or at home as good health. Who could not enjoy themselves with that blessing. Even a soldier can almost do it. Well I have not told you how my health is. It is good with the exception of cold. All the rest have had very good health so far. I think we are getting adapted to this kind of life. We have had very pleasant winter weather. But little rain has fallen.

I am sorry to hear that our old red school-house is not so well patronized this winter as heretofore, but bear in mind that there is a better chance for those who do go there.

I suppose you have read of the various little skirmishes and squabbles around Nashville, and that we apprehend an attack, etc. etc. This may all be so. I know it is the cause of us forming some very good habits. One is getting up every morning at five o'clock. Yesterday morning our whole corps was ordered to be ready to march at day break and to have their men supplied with three days rations in their haversacks, only taking what blankets they could not do without. All knapsacks, tents, etc. to be packed in the baggage wagons and sent inside the fortifications at Nashville. So off we started at the appointed hour, but did not get out more than two miles when, after a long halt of about three hours, we were ordered back to camp to stay over night. When morning came we were ordered out to guard the forage train. I will bet the rebels never catch General Rosencrans [sic] or General Wilich [sic] in bed. Well, I do not know if any one saw any rebels yesterday or not, but the privates have it all fixed to suit themselves and bore their officers. We tell them that old Rosey (as we call him) just had this big show to keep them from going to Nashville, or having a spree at home in their own camp.

I think it is having the desired effect for everything is quiet through all the camps in hearing of our battery.

You spoke that the paroled boys thought they would return to the battery soon. In my opinion they will not be exchanged until another general exchange is made in this department, which may be several months to come. The papers seem to think (or rather their correspondents do) that the rebels are concentrating their main army in this vicinity.

David Yarion is all right and seems to enjoy himself much better than I had expected.

One week from today and we will enter into a new year. What will 1863 bring around, is a question in the minds of thousands of soldiers. I hope it may bring victory, peace and more than one hundred thousand discharges for soldiers in this department. Discharges are going to be plentiful and easy to get some day. Then is when I am going to have one.

This very delicate sheet is very nearly full. Write a long letter. I have set an example for you. My respects to all.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON MILL CREEK,
FIVE MILES FROM NASHVILLE.

Wednesday, Dec, 10- 1862.

Respected Sister: -

I received your welcome missive yesterday and read it with much pleasure. From what you both say I think you are having rather dry times. I can hardly say that of this division of the army, at least. I think all of the rest are in the same fix. Our division fell back one-half a mile to a better position. I understand the whole lines have fallen back. We have been expecting an attack for about a week and to avoid surprise we are routed out every morning at three or four o'clock, and have to harness. The report is that the rebels are advancing with a heavy force. Now, they are getting rather saucy. We cannot go outside of the pickets for foraging without fighting all the time. There was heavy skirmishing on the Franklin pike all day yesterday, and I have heard that they had a heavy skirmish or a light fight in Edefield, which is on the opposite side of the river from Nashville. I do not understand our movements. It seems to me our men are getting scared.

The report is that they are coming in on us on all sides. I think we can give them a warm reception. We received orders when we went into camp today not to fix up as we will move again in a day or so. Some say we are going nearer the City.

It seems that our army has done but a trifle in the last two months, in my estimation at least. I still live in hopes that something will turn up in a few months for the better.

After Tattoo, Thursday evening, Dec, 11th.

We have not moved our camp yet. We were out foraging today. Every thing went off very quiet, but it was all owing to the rebels keeping off gun shot. We draw over coats today. We have plenty of good and warm clothing now. One of the rebels who came up to our lines today with the flag of truce was Col. Terry. Some Terry was killed by the 32nd. Indiana at Green river over a year ago. Gen. Wilich [sic] told him that he was the old dutchman that whipped them there. The 19th. are encamped about 20 rods from our battery. Well girls I cannot think of anything more at present to write. Write as often as convenient.

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT THE BLIND ASYLUM AT NASHVILLE.

Jan, 16th, 1863.

Respected Parents, brother and sisters: -

I believe the last time I wrote was on Christmas. From that time up to the present are the days that will be noted in the history of this war. The next morning after Christmas, our division commanded by General Johnson, Sheridan's division, and Gen. Sill's division. These three divisions were under the command of General McCook. We took the Nalinsville [sic] pike which is on the right of the Murfordsville [sic] pike. There was a force larger than ours of the Murfursboro [sic] pike which moved at the same time. Our advance had not got out but a few miles when the skirmishing commenced and was kept up all day. Our men took one piece of artillery and some prisoners. There was artillery, infantry fighting on all sides. We encamped near Nalinsville [sic], which was quite desolate. It is my opinion that our soldiers made it more so. This happened on the 26th. It rained the most of the day. The next day we advanced about ten miles and the skirmishing was about as warm as the day before. In the morning there was a heavy fog which did not clear away until about noon and then it rained the rest of the day. We suffered very much from cold and rain. We encamped near a small town at night. Here they showed [sic] us some fight. Planted a battery in town, and done some firing but hurt no one. Our men threw a few shells into the town. At this point we were nearly opposite Murforborough [sic], laying about twenty miles west of it. The next morning,

Sunday the 28th. our brigade and a brigade of cavalry went out to reconnoiter [sic] and to see which way they had left. The cavalry had but little skirmishing and picked up several stragglers [sic]. We also ascertained that the rebels had gone for Murfreesborough [sic]. The day was clear and pleasant.

Monday, 29th.-This morning we received orders to march at day break and took a dirt road for Murfreesborough [sic] which was very badly cut up. Our cavalry had some very heavy skirmishing. They made one charge in which there was a Major killed. Our division moved up after dark with one mile of the rebels [sic] lines and about six miles of the town. It rained this evening and was very disagreeable. We were not allowed to have any fires, of course we had no coffee for supper.

Tuesday, 30th.-This morning our lines were connected with the force on the Murfreesborough [sic] pike. We advanced about one miles [sic] when we came to the rebels [sic] line. Johnson's division was held in reserve. Now you will recollect that McCook had the extreme right of the battle line. I cannot say who was on the left, as you will learn this from the official report. From what I can learn our lines were between five and six miles long extending about an equal distance from both sides of the pike. The pike runs about direct south bearing to the east a little and our lines were nearly straight across this pike.

About noon there was sharp firing done. I witnessed a most splendid fight. There was an artillery duel. Our men got two batteries in such a positions [sic] as to have a cross fire on the rebels. The latter had the highest ground and was sheltered by a few scattered trees. The rebels [sic] guns were twelve pounders, our were six. In the course of an hours or so the infantry made a charge and took their guns. Every thing was favorable on our side through this day's fight. Our right you will understand fights their left, and from what I can learn we drove their left nearly one mile. Cannot say what [illegible line of text] heard firing in that direction all day. Our men lay on their arms all night in battle line. This evening Johnson's division was thrown on the extreme right. The three brigades lay in the rear of each other, our being the farthest back. We took this position after dark. We could hear cars running distinctly all night and it was evident that they were reinforcing or evacuating. We are not allowed to have any fire to night [sic] so of course we make our supper on crackers and raw fitch.

Wednesday, 31st.-From some negligence of our commanders we were allowed to sleep until daylight, or rather day break. I suppose it was because we were in the reserve, but before sun up we saw what was the matter. Our advance was not over thirty rods in front of the reserve. It appears that the rebels had thrown the greater portion of their force around on our right with the expectation of surprising us. They had slipped up to

our lines as close as was possible [illegible line of text] that were never moved, and No. 1 piece did not get more than ten rods. I cannot describe it to you as it was. I believe our whole battery was in the hands of the rebels at one time with the exception of two casions [sic]. I understand that four of our pieces have been recaptured. I and Charlie were drivers on a casion [sic]. We retreated nearly one mile with it, the bullets were whistling on all sides, but none struck us. We got into a piece of woods where we had to leave it. We unhitched and mounted our horses. When the rebels attacked they had a brigade of cavalry in our rear. No. 3 piece, which is the Randolph squad was the only one I saw do any firing. They fired three shots. The rebels then opened on them with one piece. Some say it was No. 1 piece of our battery. The third shot struck the limber chest, killed Conrad Lash and three horses. Richard Rodgers was shot through the knee joint, Vac Stanford wounded in the arm, Howard Tupper in the thigh, Elic Roe in the hip. Lewis and Robert are safe and sound as near as I can learn. One of the 49th. Ohio boys says he saw one of our battery get shot trying to spike a gun. Edgerton's battery lay just in front and were action to the front. They fired three shots. Edgerton was wounded and taken prisoner. Edgerton is well known all over Ohio. He was a professor of elocution and was the best reader in the state. General Wilich [sic] was wounded and taken prisoner. He stood until the rebels were onto him trying to rally his men. Major Drake of the 49th. was killed and Col. Gibson had two horses shot from under him. There is no use of me trying to tell you what this looks like. It was equal to the Bull Run fight. It was a perfect surprise and caused a stampede. Our men were driven around three miles in less than two hours. They captured all of the wagons belonging to McCook's corps, also his headquarters. General Sill was killed. But before night our men drove them back, recaptured most of the wagons. Our battery as well as the whole division was completely scattered. Three or four of us got together and wandered around in search of the rest for a day and a half. We were then ordered to Nashville. From what I can learn concerning our battery we went in one hundred and ten men and came out with about eighty. Ten or fifteen are wounded, so there are about thirty we cannot account for yet. It is said that they took seven batteries from us on the right. New Years [sic] morning the fight commenced early and the roar of artillery was deafening. It continued until Saturday evening. We have not gotten any definite reports from the battle field yet. It is reported that they have skedaddled. Old Rosy is a long winded old fellow. They say he is following them up with ten thousand cavalry. We have not had any mail for two weeks. The railroad communication has been cut off. The river is up so that boats can run up this far. I cannot say where David Yarion is. There are about forty of the boys here with Lieutenant Day. I do not know how long we are to stay here, but hope that we may join the rest soon. Write soon, and direct your next letter to Nashville, in the care of Captain Early, 5th. Michigan Battery.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON STONE [sic] RIVER, FOUR MILES
SOUTH OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

Jan, 25th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received two letters from you since I wrote my last. None of us have heard P. Secrists yet. It was very startling news to all of us. You wonder what kind of a Christmas and New Years we spent. Well if you have received all of the letters I have written, you know how they were spent. When I wrote last there were about twenty of us at Nashville, but we were ordered back to the battery and started one week ago today. On the second days [sic] march, when within five miles of camp we met one of our Lieutenants going back to Nashville with two wagons and ten men. He detailed twelve of our crowd to go along wit him. I was among the number. We stayed until last Friday. We were waiting for ordinant stores. We get two new guns, new harness and forty five horses, besides other things. It is the calculation now to have our battery fitted out with four guns. The infantry that were detailed to fill out our battery have been called back to their regiments. We will have about one hundred men when the parolled [sic] boys get back. We are looking every day for them. We did not succeed in getting a single thing at Nashville that we went after. They are going back again in a few days. The boys that we know were wounded and left in the hospital on the field are getting along fine. A. Wise and Henry Sears, are missing and maybe wounded. Howard Tupper was seen to fall, but his body was not found on the field, so it is supposed that he was wounded and carried off by the rebels. I suppose that you have seen all of the particulars concerning this battle. Our loss is not as heavy as I expected that it would be. It was only a little over one thousand killed and six thousand wounded. We have two thousand taken prisoners. From all accounts the rebels lost more men killed than we. Our men took more prisoners than they, but the rebels captured about one thousand of our wagons and burned them. I do not think there has been a battle fought, where there were so many horses and mules killed as in this one. From the rebels [sic] actions they have given up all hopes of holding their negroes. They would not take any of them prisoners, but shot them down when their cavalry got in our rear and were making charges on the stragglers, they would run clear past the soldier if they saw a negro, and kill him and let the soldier go. The rebels left twenty five hundred of their wounded in Murfreesboro.

There is no use of my trying to describe this battle field. It will never be done by living man, and I think I did not see the worst of it by any means. Our brigade of five regiments will not number two thousand men now. The loss of the 19th. Ohio was heavy. I cannot say as the war is any nearer to a close but I know one thing that my time will soon be half out. Things look pretty dark just now. We are going to move our camp tomorrow. We are now in an open stubble field and there is plenty of mud. It rained most of yesterday but is quite pleasant and warm today.

How does it come that they can raise such large parties yet. If the young men are so plenty yet I would be in favor of having our army increased a little, say six hundred thousand. I guess the north could stand it. I hear the people say that have just come from the north that they would not know that there was a war in our country if it was not for the papers. The people of the north have but little idea of the evils of the war. I wonder if it would not be a good thing to make the north more in earnest in their work? If the rebels were to make their way into Ohio and Pennsylvania and shell Cincinnati and Pittsburg and burn them to the ground; this is just the reason that the rebels fight so well.

No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN FIELD HOSPITAL,
MURFREESBORO, TENN.

Jan, 26th, 1863.

Respected Parents: -

I suppose you have heard that I was sick. I told Lewis Maxwell to write to you when they brought me away and let you know how and where I was. I think I have been here ten days. I was quite sick for five days before they brought me here. My disease was the diarrhoea [sic] and fever; the fever is broken now. The doctor said I was getting along so well he would not give me medicine today.

I can sit up two or three hours at a time and can walk around a little. There is one of the boys with me who belongs to the same detachment that I do.

You must not fret yourselves any about me. We have good messes and get pretty good food I guess for the sick.

The whole army is advancing except one division left behind to garrison the fort. Our brigade had the advance the first day and had to drive them out of a gap. Our brigade lost some officers and a few privates. There was quite a number wounded. Our battery did some firing. The wounded were brought to this hospital.

It has been raining every day since they started. There are two other boys out of the same brigade in the same tent with me. I cannot say how long I will have to stay here, but I guess you can send the answer to this on here. Direct: -

General Field Hospital near Murfreesboro, Tenn. Ward A. Tent 4.

I cannot think of any more at present. Hope these few lines may find you all in better health than I. Oh, yes I received a letter from Celestine about twenty minutes before they started away to the hospital.

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT NASHVILLE,

Feb, 10th, 1863.

Respected Father: -

It has been nearly three weeks since I have written home. I have been putting it off thinking we would be put back to camp. When I wrote last we were out to the front but we were there only two days when our Lieut. got his papers and requisitions to go back and draw the things he wanted. Twenty-five of the boys were detailed to go along. We have been gone sixteen days with fair prospects of staying a week longer. We have two new brass, twelve pound smooth bores as good as are used. Also a battery and forge wagon, and new harness. We are now waiting for horses. We want forty five. We expected them here day before yesterday on the fleet that came up. They arrived on Sunday. It consisted of seventy five river steamers. They were escorted by four gun boats. They also brought fifteen thousand reinforcement for this army. Some were from Western Virginia. They say there were nine batteries along. I only saw four. The remaining part of the boats were loaded with army supplies. Among the batteries is the 9th. Ohio. I found William Hickman with them. He looks almost as old as you. We are

expecting more boats up in a few days with artillery horses on. The railroad is to be finishing to Murfreesborough [sic] this evening. I cannot say what is going on out to the front but I guess it is pretty quiet. I suppose you will learn all the particulars of the fight at Fort Donaldson [sic] before you receive this. From what I learn it was very hot there for several hours. I think the rebels had better give up for this makes the third time they have been whipped at that point. Major Cotter has not gotten back with the exchange boys. We look every day for them. No doubt you have heard that Levi McGregory was killed in the fight at Murfreesborough [sic]. The last forty days have been the easiest time I have experienced since I have been soldiering. I weigh more than I ever did before. We have plenty of rations and nothing to do. I think from all of the preparations going here and elsewhere that our men intend to make a desperate blow between now and next June at the rebellion.

Old Rosy has exchanged nearly all of the six pound smooth bores for twelve pounders. He has also a splendid pontoon frame consisting of about one hundred wagons each wagon made expressly to carry one pontoon. There are enough to pontoon the Tennessee river. There are also several wagons loaded with timber all ready to set these up in order to cross small streams. I have heard some say that they thought this army was going to make a junction with the north [sic] Carolina army when we move.

I think they had better send that famous army of the Potomac army to the west and let some of the western boys go there. General Bragg told his men before they went into the fight at Murfreesborough [sic] that they were going to fight a man that had never been whipped. After the fight he told his men that they had the old dutch fool whipped, but he did not know it. He is a kind of a man for a General, at least his army has full confidence in him.

Father I believe we have found one good loyal man in this City. His name is John Trimbull. He is a United States officer and is appointed to attend to the confiscating of the rebel property in this City. He is the best lawyer in the state and is worth \$150,000.00. He freed all of his slaves last Christmas. He says they were worth fifteen thousand dollars. He was in the State Legislature when the rebellion broke out and was the only one out of twenty five that stood by the stars and stripes.

He is full blooded southerner and is sociable and common and is in every way a gentleman. He sends us corn bread twice a day. He also keeps us supplied with the latest papers. He takes the New York Tribune. It is raining this river. The river is middling low at present.

No more at present,

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP FOUR MILES SOUTH OF MURFREESBOROUGH [sic], TENNESSEE.

Feb, 24th, 1863.

Respected Father: -

I received your letter dated the 26th. of Jan, last evening. I was glad to learn that you are not discouraged yet. I know that our army is injured very much by disloyal men in the north. Yes, women too. I wish all such people lived in Tennessee or some other state where the army has passed through. They might change their opinion, and if they did not they would not dare open their mouths. You say you suppose soldiering has lost all of its novelty [sic] for me by this time, and has become a solemn reality. I will have to admit that it has, but nevertheless I am not in the least discouraged yet, thought it has lasted longer than I thought it would at the time of enlisting. I am still in hopes that the day is not far distant when the last gun is fired in this ward. I look at the cause today the same as I did eighteen months ago, and when my three years are out I shall come home and see my relatives and friends, and then I shall be ready for another three years if any help is needed. When I hear of such men as Dave Stallsmith acting as he done in the north it makes my blood boil. I am almost ready to centure [sic] the people at Randolph as a pack of cowards afraid to raise their hands against one poor miserable treasonable impudent wretch that dare oppose the cause in which over one hundred of the sons of the town have laid down their lives to uphold, and whose bodies only mark the place where a yankee [sic] was burried [sic]. One rebel in our rear is worse than two in front. How long are the people of the north going to let such men run unpunished? I can tell you just how my feelings run. If I were at home I should feel it as a duty that I owe to the rest of my comrads [sic] in the field to shoot such a man and I would do it as quick as I would tread upon a spider were it not for the penalty of the law. As long as we have laws they must be obeyed, or they cease to be laws. I hear of such men in almost every county, and in different states, and I hear of some getting their first dose. I hope to God they may all get what they justly deserve, and that nothing less than an ounce ball. Last Sunday was General Washington's birthday. Every division in this army fired a salute of thirty six guns. When I wrote last I wrote at Nashville. We were gone four weeks and just returned yesterday. We got all that we went after. We now have four guns. The paroled boys arrived at Nashville a few days before we started back. They came out to camp with us. They are all well and as a general thing in good spirits. We

are going to get two more pieces and have the battery filled up. The pay master is here now and is paying off our brigade today, but from some cause or other our battery is not going to get any pay this time. Uncle Sam owes me ten months [sic] pay. Our men are putting up some very strong fortifications around this place. They are bomb proof and in my estimation they are big little things. There is a report in camp that Vicksburg has been taken. I do not count on the news being reliable, but I hope that it may be so. I have always been in hopes that our men would make that canal do the work at that place. There was a forage train out from our division today. They came in loaded with corn and fodder. They were out eight or ten miles and were not disturbed by the rebels this time. They also brought in several good horses and mules. There are no prospects of our moveing [sic] for fifteen or twenty days. I do not think there is any force this side of Chattanooga. There has been an order issued in this division that five of each company can have a furlough at once. I am thinking before any one gets started home the order will be countermanded. I do not think there is any use of any one coming down after those bodies. It is difficult to procure a pass from Nashville to the front. When we were up to Nashville I saw hundreds of northern men there trying to get passes. General Mitchel and Rosy are pretty strict with the citizens. The weather is quite mild at present. The frogs are making the air ring with their music. I think we will hear stirring news from the river forces soon as I think they will make a desperate effort open the Mississippi this spring. We thought one year ago that it was possible to open it last spring, but you see we did not do it. You spoke about sending papers to me. I would like one once in a while. I received Thomas' letter yesterday.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, TENN.

March, 3rd, 1863.

Respected Brother and Sister: -

Gertie I received your letter that you wrote on the 22nd. of last month, yesterday and was glad to receive such late news from home. Received one from Thomas some time ago. This must do for an answer to both. I do not think it has been so cold here as it was at Camp Wood last winter. Winters pass off here and we hardly know it. Today is one of our winters here. It occasionally [sic] snows a little and a chilly wind is blowing. One year ago day before yesterday we crossed the Cumberland at Nashville, and by the fifteenth of this month peach trees were in full bloom. They are more backward this spring. I can

see an improvement in your writing. I am in hopes that both of you have made good use of school this winter. Thomas, I suppose the conscription act is passed and more troops are to be raised. I think they will be raised by draft, and they are made between the ages of eighteen and forty five, so you will come on the list. Now I do not know that there is any disgrace to be in in the draft, but I do think it is a disgrace for one to run from the draft. Now, if it should be your luck to get drafted, do not get homesick before you start. Go cheerfully and what ever you do do not get down hearted. More die in the hospitals than on the battle field. After this battle Rosy issued an order that every company should vote five out of each company for mounted infantry. I do not think they will ever have to leave. It was given to those who had made themselves conspicuous in this battle, and for their meritorious [sic] conduct. Following received the vote in our company. Martin and John Marquet, brothers; Vacquor B. Stanford; Alexander Roe; and Cyrena Whetstone. They all deserved it especially the two latter. There has also been an order issued allowing furloughs. Five per cent may be absent at once. Our brigade has been numbered different. It is now the first brigade, Johnson's division. General Wood's division has been out on a scout and captured several hundred rebels. We were held in readiness to reinforce them if they got into too large a nest of them. I cannot say how long we are to stay here. It is reported that we are going to move in the direction of Knoxville. Our men have lost their best Gun boat "The Queen of the West" but I notice that the rest are very active, in the various rivers of the southern states. I thought when I enlisted that I would not have to stay three years, and I continue to think so yet.

The 6th. of this month the batties [sic] time was half out. I understand that we are to have four James Rifle guns and we are to turn over our two howitzers. Our battery then will be a very good one.

Gertie, it does not take much coaxing to get Tommy to go over to Coopers and set up since Jennie has gotten home, does it? Let us know what is the go with the young folks around there. No more nonsense at present. Write as often as you may find it convenient.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

March, 10th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your letter written some two or three weeks ago. Since I wrote home we have been soldiering for certain. Last week our brigade and battery were out foraging. We were out eighteen miles and got our wagons loaded, and got started on our way back to camp a few minutes before sundown. We got the forage inside the rebel pickets. We did not molest them nor they us. Not a shot was fired on either side. We halted on our return, made coffee and rested a while and then went on our way feeling like new men. We arrived at camp between one and two o'clock in the morning. That afternoon we received orders to draw two days rations and have them in our haversacks and to be ready to march at six the next morning. The next morning our little brigade started. We had less than two thousand men, battery and all. It should contain over five thousand. We had one company of cavalry. We took a road running nearly south and about two miles to the right of the Murfreesboro and Shelbyville pike. The road we were on was a dirt road very badly cut up. We had gone nearly ten miles when our advance came into contact with some rebel cavalry and skirmishing commenced. We drove them about four miles and about one mile passed a small village by the name of Middletown. At this place their force was encamped. It consisted of five hundred cavalry. They fought hard. They were the most stubborn lot of men that we had ever met with. Our loss was two wounded and none killed. The rebels left eleven dead on the field, and about fifteen wounded. No doubt others made their escape. The 32nd. and 39 Indiana made several charges on them. Our battery fired ten shots. Not a man was hurt in the battery. At the same time there was a force on the pike that routed them and drove them from a very strong position on a hill. We fell back about four miles and encamped in a cedar thicket for the night. It rained nearly all day and the men with horses were much fatigued. It rained nearly all night. We were awakened at three o'clock, or before, and we started off in the rain, mud and water. Among the rest of the disadvantages, it was uncommonly dark. But occasionally [sic] things were lit up by a streak of lightning which made it only so much drearier after. I think the mud and water would average about a foot deep. I believe with all this misery and suffering that on such occasions there are more jokes cracked than on any others. Such things are adapted to make one think of the days he was better off and of pleasant parlor fires, etc.

As a matter of course it quit raining, as soon as we got camp. Yesterday we got orders to march. We struck tents and made all preparation necessary and then the orders were countermanded, and here we are yet. It has been raining for twelve hours and no prospects of its quitting. There have been two divisions out reconnoitering [sic] for five days. Day before yesterday we heard over two hundred shots of artillery. The rebels had appeared in the vicinity of Franklin with quite a force. Six divisions have left this place for there, and I should not wonder if there would be some warm receptions in this

vicinity. John Fox, was here all night the night we were out. I did not see him. He had just returned from the hospital. He was wounded in three different places in this fight.

Gertrude said in her last letter that Father had received one from Uncle William Bloomfield and that he wanted to hear from me. I have written him two letters and have not received one in return. Maybe I have not directed them right. Please send me his address.

We are being mustered today for our pay. We may get it tomorrow if we do not march. Madison has gone from my tent seemingly a little out of humor because he did not get a letter from some one – I wonder who it is that writes to him.

It continues to rain and much more had fallen this spring than last. I heard that Wilson Britton is in the service. If so what regiment, division and brigade, is he in. No more on this occasion but promise you another soon.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

March, 20th, 1863.

Respected Sisters: -

I received your welcome letter which was mailed on the 12th. of this month. You seem to think that if you was down here you would have something to write about. I guess the history of our proceedings for the last three days will be as interesting as any thing I can think of at present. On the 18th. which was my birthday, this division and Sheridans' [sic] moved camp. Our division lies west of town, our battery being nearest the town. Our tents are within ten paces of the railroad, on which five trains run each way every day. It seems a little like civilization to hear the cars whistle so frequently. The reason of our moving back is not satisfactorily settled in my mind. All the forces at this point have been drawn in near the fortifications which are very numerous and of such strength that I think fifty thousand can hold the place against one hundred thousand. There is a prevalent belief in this camp that the rebels are getting reinforced. The papers also intimate that they will evacuate Vicksburg and come here. The 19th. was spent in our camp for a few weeks stay. We also cleaned up our harness guns, and etc. for

inspection. Today the 20th. has been a day that will not be forgotten by the thousands of this army. It had threatened rain all day but it now eight o'clock and we have only had enough to lay the dust so it rather assisted us in performances of the day, than hindering us. Our division was reviewed by General Rosecrans and it was by far the finest review I ever witnessed, though the regiments are very small, and the three batteries are only four gun batteries. Among the prominent officers present were Gen. Rosecrans, Gen. McCook, Gen. Garfield, Gen. Johnson. Col. Gibson is the acting Brigadier Gen. from the 1st. Brigade. Every thing went off very satisfactorily to me and I think to all of the rest. Gen. Rosy is a very good natured looking man. He is six feet in height, roman nose, black hair, light complexioned, beard all over his face, is rather a portly man. Looks as though he was about forty-five years of age. Dresses very plain and wears the regulation hat. He spoke about Bill Bates and Addis Britton being at home. I am in hopes that the conscription will catch them before they get out of the state. I heard of a row in camp. It was that some dutch resisted when the U.S. officer came to get some deserters. There is a class of men in Stark county who ought to stretch he [illegible] About one on each lamp post in Canton would be a good riddance to the county.

I cannot say that I like a soldiers [sic] life very much but I am ashamed of the way men act who are home enjoying all the comforts of life. What effected [sic] me the most of any thing I have read was the letter to Cyrus Maxwell. He used to talk very patriotic as well as others, when it was fashion to raise men for the army by volunteering. He used to say that he had a notion to go and went so far as to ask advice of others. As soon as there was a talk of a draft he began to cool down. What does he say now after the conscript act has passed? He says he thought he would be a fit subject, but he had made up his mind that he would not go without they come and took him by force. I am sorry that men can get out by the payment of two hundred dollars. I hope to God that some of such men do get brought out and had to march the road over about three times between Louisville and Alabama. There has a train just come in with four new guns for our battery. We are to turn over two that we have got. So we will have a six gun battery again; four twelve pounders and two six pounder James guns. They are giving furloughs. About two hundred of our brigade started today. Five would have gone from the battery but their paroles were not made out correct. The married men get to go first. I thought that Miss Louisa B. stepped out quite sly though I may not know all that is going on at home. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

March, 31st, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your letter dated the 22nd. of this month. I have not received the letter that you said Gertrude had written me. Here comes the Sargent of the guard and I must go on guard Off guard again.

While on guard the mail came and I have the letter that Gertrude wrote. This will have to do as an answer to both. Have not received the letter that Celestine and Ella wrote. From what you say I think you have been enjoying yourselves some of the time, especially when you were sugaring off. I do not hardly think they could surprise our camp and take us all prisoners. You would need a heavier force. I have no doubt but your horses could cope with any that are in the United States service. I am sorry to hear that Thomas has been unwell. From what I have heard I suppose there will be no one shed tears when Charley family moves. What was the trouble if it is no secret? You say there is nothing going on. That may be so but I think there are a good many parties going off. You wanted to know what L. B. Maxwell was about. I hardly understand what you want to know. You say you heard so many different stories what he was. He is acting Sargent in R. Roggers [sic] place since the fight. He was corporal before the fight and his post in an engagement was gunner. I cannot say when we are going to move, but we are preparing. We have drawn our shelter camps. Every man has to carry his own tent. This place is being very strongly fortified. I have seen six of the guns that have been placed in the finished fortifications. Four of the [sic] are twenty-four pounders, are rifled and will shoot five miles. They are ten feet long and weight nearly three ton. The others are eight inch howitzers and are use to throw shell and grape. I think we will soon be fixed here so we can entertain the rebels with plenty of union music when they come. We can carry on all of the parts.

It has been quite cold here for several days. Snowed a little yesterday and today. It was just one year ago today since we crossed Duck river at Columbia. And one year tomorrow we started for Shilo [sic]. I must tell you what the first thing would be that would draw your attention. If you would come into this place on the cars you would see five monstrous piles of crackers. They are higher than our house and I think if the five piles were together they would make a pile as large again as our barn. Every man that gets off the cars goes around them looking up with his mouth wide open. Nearly every house in the place is filled with government stores. There is a pile of meat larger than our house besides flour, hay, corn, coffee, rice, sugar, salt, tea, vinegar, etc. etc. They

say there are ninety days rations here. There are two trains used here now in drawing the rations back from the station inside of the fortification, which are about one mile and a half from town in a north west direction.

If one family of ten persons had these rations to eat they would last them 2465 years. We have some infantry detailed to fill up our battery. I see in todays [sic] daily paper that a soldier was shot in Indianapolis for desertion. That is what will bring some of them to terms. The report is now that furloughs are played out. There was some talk of our division going back to Kentucky. General Ruseau's [sic] division is going.

I learn this evening that General Johnson has command of this post so it is likely we will be left there for some time. It is very cold and wintry this evening. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

April, 11th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received the letter that Celestine wrote me which she mailed at Alliance on April 1st, some four or five days ago, and I also got that one she spoke about which Cena sent hers in. It was the first one you wrote after you heard I got out of the fight safe. Our brigade and battery has been out on picket and gard [sic] for five days and just got in last evening. We have a very pleasant time. It did not rain any and it was warm like spring. We were out four miles west of this place. The brigade is stationed there all the time. Sometimes a whole division. It is to avoid a flank movement. Things are very quiet here at present. There was a man around this camp selling Union songs and postage stamps. He claimed to be sent on this mission by the government and that he had been throughout the eastern armies. He said he hailed form Portland, Maine.

A few days ago General Rosecrans had him arrested for a spy and after a search of him they found a draft of the fortifications of this place in his boot sole. He was put under guard. A few nights ago he undertook to break guard and was shot dead on the spot. Old Rosy has sentenced three men in this army to be shot publicly. One for killing his orderly Sargeant with a bayonet. One for desertion, another for deserting and going into the rebels [sic] lines and returning as a spy for them. One was shot yesterday, the other

two are to be shot on the fourteenth. Rosy is just the man for me and for this government. I am glad to hear that Thomas is all right again. It would be a curious match if Billy and Het were to get married. I cannot believe that they will. You spoke about the copper heads. One thing they had better keep out of the soldier's clutches. There is no use for them to kick up a muss for this army is for the Union and they cannot make us dis-union. I saw the particulars concerning the row in camp. We have been paid off today for two months. I shall send some money in this letter. You can give it to Father. I do not think we will be paid again for six or eight months. Spring is very backward here. I must write some to Cena. No more at present,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

April, 11th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your long looked for letter. I often wondered why you did not write some to me, and I suppose you wonder why I do not write to you. I was surprised to see how you had learned to write. You say that anything would be news to any one would be news to you. We are having pretty good times now. We are drawing soft bread and today we got a mess of potatoes and half a pickle a piece. There are some of the soldiers' nick-nacks. Our sutler [sic] has apple butter but we have to pay four dollars a gallon for the poorest kind. Apples when they are to be had are ten cents a piece. When we leave this place and start out on another march we had to leave our tents, but we have gotten what we call dog tents. The government calls them shelter tents. Each man has to carry his own. We can button two together and then they are about the size of a large table cloth and not any thicker.

You spoke about the sugar cakes you sent me. They were very good. I wish I could have been at home this spring to help make sugar. Yesterday one of the trains that left here was captured between here and LaVerne [sic]. There was one hundred and fifty thousand dollars captured. It belonged to one of the brigades in this division. It is afternoon and there as no train arrived yet. I am almost afraid to send money in this letter. There is almost always a calm after a storm and they will not be apt to make another dash on this road again for some time. What little news we get in the papers of late is very good. I am beginning to think we can see the end of this war. The health in

general is very good in this department. Lewis says you have grown so much that I would hardly know you. Write again. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

April, 19th, 1863.

Respected Sisters: -

I received your welcome letter dated the 13th. of this month. One week ago today I wrote a letter and put twenty dollars in it. Am going to put six more in this one. Four of us sent a box to William Walker with our over coats in. We sent it by express. Some of you can get mine when you hear that they have arrived. You need not look for them before the first of June. Vegetation [sic] is about twelve days later this season than last. The apple trees are in full bloom. This part of the army is uncommonly quiet at present. Our fortifications are progressing finely. We are daily expecting to hear of the capture of Charleston. If reports are true half of the rebels are in very destitute condition. This army was never in a better condition. Plenty of rations here and at Nashville to last us six months. I am afraid the Mississippi will not be cleared this year. It is no easy matter to get the rebels out of the port. They can fight as well as any men. The north may think they are slow down at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. So it does seem but let some one go and examine the strong fort and they can see some of the disadvantages we have to labor under. I am as well as common.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFORSBOROUGH [sic], TENN.

Monday, April, 27th, 1863.

Dear Sister: -

I received your letter that you wrote on the 19th. about two hours ago. I am well at present. There are no prospects of moving yet. Our mounted infantry went out to McManville [sic] day before yesterday and surprised a small rebel force, capturing them. One hundred and thirty-five of them were sent north today. They were objects of pity every one of them. I think the yanks are getting the upper hand of the rebs in every state and all the way along the line. It is raining very hard at the present time accompanied by heavy thunder and vivid lightning. The trees are all leaved out. Grass in an article unknown to one that does not get outside of the picket. As for gardens I have noticed but one, which we call old Rosy's garden. It contains fifty acres or more. He has contrabands cultivating it and the vegetables [sic] are to go to the hospitals. It seems to me that there have been an unusual number of deaths since I came away from home. Cena, I am very much pleased with your letter, but there is always a chance to improve. Next time you write do not put in the word "well" so often. I makes [sic] hundreds of mistakes but you are younger and now is your time to improve. We are living very well. Have pickles nearly every day. They are given to the soldiers to prevent scurvey [sic]. We have tea about once a week, also potatoes. Our orderly sargeant [sic], Erlin F. Shaw, of Franklin, Portage county, and Major Cotter, have gone home to recruit for the batteries in this corps. I suppose that the people think at home they have to pay higher prices for thing and of course lay it to the war, but the ones that grumble at prices at home ought to live in Nashville. These two sheets pertaining to things around this place may be more interesting to Father and Thomas than you so will excuse me for not writing more for the time. Give my respects to all enquiring friends.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

The space inside of the forts is over one mile each way. I have not represented one half of the croops [sic] and turns in the breastworks. They are over eight miles in length if straightened out. The ditch will average eight by ten feet. The breast works are in most place ten feet high. Ten feet on top and twenty feet on the bottom. Every shovel full of dirt is well hammered down with wooden malls. The inside of the breast works where the infantry stands to fire is built up square with rolls of cedar brush and canes which are in rolls about ten feet long and seven inches thick. They are bound together with telegraph wires. They look very nice and it keeps the earth from washing, and if balls were to go through the slivers will not fly so bad as though they were timber or plank. Those little wings that I have marks on the inside of No. 12 and 21 forts, are square pieces of dirt from eight to fifteen feet in height, and ten feet thick. They have those rolls of cedar brush all around there. They are about four feet higher than the breast works that they shoot over. They are built to catch the balls from the enemy's guns. So you

see it will be impossible for them to get a cross fire on the forts that will take effect until they knock down these piers. Those things inside of the fort are this shape, [hand drawn images placed here that look like crosses] and are bum proof stockades. The outside line is heavy oak timber hewn on three sides. They are about ten feet high. The timber is twenty four by thirty inches. They are set up end ways and firmly secured by heavy timber. The top is first covered over with four inch plank and then about three feet of dirt. In the sides are port holes for infantry to fire through. It would be almost impossible to dislodge infantry from them. They are but little higher than breastworks. The size of them are on an average, forty feet each way. The timber is all cut for two miles each way. The lay of the ground is but very little more rolling than it is for two miles around home. There is about one-tenth of the surface that nothing grows on being lime stone rock. There is a space here of six miles square that there is no more than rails enough to fence it. There are a few pens of an acre or so each that we keep cattle and mules in. The government is running one of the steam mills here and are using the rails for fuel. The rails are all cedar and would be worth fifty cents apiece in Cleveland. Old Rosy has about fifty acres plowed near the convalescent camp for garden. He is going to put the contrabands to work on it to raise vegetables [sic] for the hospital. He believes in keeping all hands at work on something. There are two pretty strong stockades on Stewarts Creek. One at the pike bridge and one at the railroad bridge.

They are seven miles from Murforsborough [sic]. At Lavergne [sic] there is a strong fort but small. It would enable one brigade to hold twenty thousand for a day at bay. There are similar forts at every bridge on the road. On every train there is one car for the guards. They are planked up on the sides and ends with three inch oak planks with port holes to shoot through. I saw one today that looked like a lamb monitar [sic]. It had a wooden turret, that is a little higher than the car. It was large enough for one piece of artillery. Today there was another saw mille [sic] came down on the cars all ready to put up. It will be running in a few days. The one that is up runs day and night. The man that has the engineering to do at this place says the work has only fairly begun. I think the help at this place would be good if there were not so many dead horses and mules around. There are also several slaughter yards.

There are five thousand inside of the picket lines. Would not be surprised if there were twice that many. Please take care of these two sheets. This is a rebellious document but I trust that it will get in no hands but those that are laboring for the same cause that I am.

A. S. Bloomfield.

[hand drawn image of breastworks with the following notations:]

- No. 1 – Nashville and Murfordsborough [sic] pike.
- No. 2 – The N. and C. R.R.
- No. 3 – Salem pike.
- No. 4 – Pike running east.
- No. 5 – Lebanon pike.
- No. 6 – Town of Murfordsborough [sic] formerly contained 8,000 inhabitants. Buildings principally brick. Two steam flouring mills. One seminary, one brewery, and a court house.
- No. 7 – Stone [sic] river. The stream twenty yards.
- No. 8 – A small stream that flows from a large spring.
- No. 9 – [blank]
- No. 10 – The rail road building, but poor shells.
- No. 11 – Fort nearest town, which has two heavy eight inch howitzers, and places for any quantity of light artillery.
- No. 12 – Heavy guns.
- No. 13 – Fort on the highest ground, mount 4-32 lb. rifle pieces.
- No. 14 – A magazine in a rocky gulley.
- No. 15 – New station for government stores. 30 x 500 ft. with a switch for cars.
- No. 16 – An unfinished fort.
- No. 17 – Fort on the same ground where the rebels had a small one. No [sic] yet finished.
- No. 18 – Similar works nearly finished.
- No. 19 – Steam saw mill. Circular saw put up by the Pioneer Brig.
- No. 20 – New building to put supplies in. 40 x 200 ft. At this point there is a side track on both sides of the road, and about one acre of platform made out of cedar poles.
- No. 21 & 22 – Fortifications nearly finished.
- No. 23 – A six mile pike which fords the river.
- No. 24 – A shape of our battle line on the morning of the 31st. of December, 1862. The right was driven clear across the pike and changed our lines to nearly parallel with the pike. The heaviest of the fight was along the left on the bank of the river.
- No. 25 – Tan Yard. The rebels left one and a half million dollars worth of leather hardly dressed.
- No. 26 – General McCook's head quarters.
- No. 27 – A very poor rebel fortification. Mostly leveled.
- No. 28 – The camp of Battery A, 1st. Regiment, O.V.L.A.
- No. 29 – A small fortification.
- No. 30 – Convalescent [sic] camp of several thousand.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

May, 6th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received the letter that you wrote on the 30th. of last month. I cannot see how it takes mail longer for mail to reach you from here than it does for mail to reach this point. I will try to answer your questions as well as circumstances will allow me to. As for the high prices for cotton goods south of our lines you know as much about it as I. At Nashville calico is only fifty cents per yard. A good pair of boots, ten dollars. As for hoops the wealthy wear them. The poor are as a general thing very poor and do with out. The negroe [sic] population fare better than the poor whites because they are nearly all in the employ of the government. The wealthy portion of the people have as a general thing gone north to the Union and south if of southern principles. John Fox was telling me about his Fathers [sic] sparking up Eliza R. He did not seem to be very much set up about it. Our battery and brigade just came in from picket duty yesterday. We were out five miles west for five days. There was also a batallion [sic] of the 4th. Ohio cavalry with us. During the five days on post ten rebel deserters came inside of our lines besides quite a number of refugees. One day two small companies of the cavalry went out over ten miles to where they knew the rebels had the cavalry out post station, and tried to capture them. There were thirty on the post. As soon as our men got into sight they lit out. Their horses were fresh and ours somewhat jaded. After a tramp of ten or twelve miles which enabled most of them to escape, our party captured three and came into camp without a scratch. They were pitiful looking objects, They having scarcely a piece of garment on them that had any wool in it.

Some were barefooted other hatless. I saw one with a shirt on made out of a piece of carpet. He said he left a pair of boots in camp that he paid fifty dollars for. The government charges us four dollars for boots of the same quality. Another had a very poor quality of rubber coat for which he said he paid eighteen dollars. We can get better for three dollars.

Their rations are cornmeal and sow belly. We are getting what I call good rations now, though some will grumble. All but those who make themselves miserable are in good cheer. Troops seem to be active everywhere but in this department. We are not altogether inactive. We had our big spree last New Year.

The papers tell nothing definite as what General Hooker has done yet, only that he has possession of Fredericksburg. He captured five thousand prisoners, sixteen pieces of artillery. I think, before the fourth of July, our men will have possession of Vicksburg, Fort Hudson, Charleston and maybe their whole City of Richmond, and who knows but the whole southern confederacy [sic] surrounded, and it can be only a question of time. Today is a very wet disagreeable day.

No more at present,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBOROUGH [sic], TENN.

May, 11th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your welcome letter of the 6th. about three hours ago. The exciting news that you received has reached this part of the world. I think we get news from the Louisville about one day later than you can get it from Cleveland or New York. This morning's Nashville Union came out with a dispatch in it stating that our flag floated over the rebel capitol, that Hooper [sic] had crossed the Raphohanack [sic] and was close on the rebels heels. Hooker had eight days rations with him.

Stoneman's raid was one of the most successful dashes that our cavalry has ever made and from all accounts they did as well, if not better, than one could have expected. Yesterday at eleven o'clock a telegraph dispatch came to Gen. Rosecrans stating that our flag floated over the rebel's capitol. It was sent around to every division. I suppose you think it would raise quite an excitement in this army, and so it would a year ago. There was but little cheering, but one could look in any direction and see groups of soldiers conversing on the probability of its being true. Hardly a man believe it. I think it will revive the spirits of the eastern army to gain a decided victory. Wont [sic] the copperheads draw in their horns a little now? One thing that proves to me that our men are getting the better of them is the fall of gold. The news continues good from Mississippi and Louisiana. Glad to hear that you are having a good spring for doing spring work. Invest that money in whatever you think best. I send \$10.00 more in this letter. We have signed the payrolls again but cannot say how soon we will get the green backs. I do not spend all of my money, if I do not send it home. I have over a hundred

dollars in my pocket. Did you ever get that money that W. Hatcher owed you. Charley got a letter from you today. I think there will be some prospects of the rebels whipping us when they commence and partly finish one of the greatest railroads in the country, but is right to the contrary. What few roads they have are in poor condition and always were. They have poor rolling stock on the road (the old stock from northern roads), and worst of all to them, they are about worn out and cannot import or make any more. One of the engines used on this road is the old Capital Slater off the C. and P. R.R. One of the first engines I ever saw.

Dr. Joseph Woods is in charge of No. 5 Hospital of this place. Edward Savage is hired by the government and is in the same room. Work still goes on lively around the forts. There is a large spring, or rather basin in the rocks near here which our men are blasting out for the magazines [sic]. A few days ago eleven dead rebels rose to the top and some of the men rather turned up their noses at the thought of drinking butternut tea.

There are several think [sic] that makes me think that this army will not advance for a long time. One is that Burnside's will take possession of eastern Tennessee and get in supporting distance with his army and then we can work in unison with each other. Another thing is very probable in my mind that a very small force of mounted men, say thirty or forty thousand can harass and tear up railroads and burn bridges in their rear until they will have to fall back on the south side of the Tennessee river to Chattanooga. I know one thing our division teams were ordered to load up eight days rations today. This looks a little suspicious. Old Rosy is one of those generals who keeps his plans to himself. David Cavinder has come from home. I remain your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

May 14, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your welcome letter you wrote on the 8th. stating that you had sent me a box. You seem to think the box might get here at the same time as the letter, but I do not look for it before the 20th. of this month. What put you in the notion of sending a box? I shall feel very thankful for it if I ever get the box. I received Father's letter and answered it on the 11th. and put \$20.00 in money in it. I also received a letter from Uncle William Bloomfield yesterday. I think from what he says about southern Illinois that there is not a

strong Union feeling there. He seems to be a little discouraged about affairs [sic] in general. This army has been very anxious ever since they left their homes that the rebels might be driven out of their capitol. We hear a great deal about the splendid army of the Potomac, and about twice every year they get ready and start for the rebel stronghold, but they have always failed to occupy the place. This time they fall back and say they were whipping them all the time, and had not more than one third of their force engaged. I believe that General Rosecrans will lead the army yet and will take Richmond. I wonder why they do not fight like the western army? Go in for all that is out every time. They have plenty of men and get a very good proportion of them killed. It always seemed to me that they fought by note. Things are progressing admirably here. Every day adds strength to this place. There has been several new forts commenced lately. I do not think Rosy would fear the whole rebel army. I cannot say as there are any signs of moving at present. We have battery drill nearly every day. It is quite cool and pleasant today on account of a very heavy shower of rain last night. The health of the old soldiers is uncommonly good at this time. Some of the new recruits and drafted men are sick. They all thought they would die or get killed when they left home and it seems to me they try and make it come out true. I suppose the conscription act will be put into force in Ohio soon. I put \$15.00 in this that you may hand to Father. I must go. Water call has been blown. We have the following calls: Reville at early dawn; ten minutes later assembly for roll call; 3rd, feed call; 4th. breakfast call; 5th. sick call; 6th. water call; 7th. stable call; 8th. guard mounting; 9th. noon roll call; 10th feed call; 11th water call; 13th stable duty; 14th supper call; 15th six o'clock roll call; 16th feed call; 17th roll call at 8:30; 18th taps. I have left out one, that is dinner call. There are this many every day and when we have hay to feed there are two more. For violating any of these rules, that is being absent, we have the pleasure of standing six hours guard at night. Second offence, double dose of guard duty. You may think this is pretty strict, so it is. But is very easy to live up to the rules if one tries, and such ones can always get leave of absences for six or eight hours. No more tonight.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

May, 28th, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your letter dated on the 14th. of the present month over a week ago, but delayed answering because I had expected another in a few days. It seems that Hooker is getting back to Washington as fast as he can. There is a rumor in camp that Grant has taken Vicksburg with twenty seven thousand prisoners and a large amount of artillery. It was not confirmed in today's papers, but without doubt there has been heavy fighting there for the last few days and which will result in a victory or defeat. The soldiers are very anxious to hear the news of the different departments, but there is one particular change in them here. When they first came out they would be cheered at the report of the first little victory rumored in camp which half of the time turned out false. This is all played out. We believe the reports when they are officially reported. I think they had better saved the powder that they burned in Ohio for firing salutes, for a rebel victory. I think the rebels lost the most men but then you know they do not value mens [sic] lives as much as we do. I had heard the news that R. Osborne was married. We have not received that box yet. It is very dusty. There has been no rain for several weeks. I believe that it is over two weeks since I wrote home last. I never put it off longer but once before. It is just one year ago today since we had our fight before Corinth. I saw John Fox last Sunday. He was well and has gotten to be a Corporal. I see our government is going to organize two hundred thousand negro troops within the next sixty days. I think they may save a few white men's lives. There is to one corps in this department. General Wilich [sic] got back day before yesterday. No more at present.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP DRAKE, MURFREESBORO, TENN.

June, 1st, 1863.

Respected Sister: -

I received your welcome letter that was posted on the 26th. The paroled boys have not returned yet. We daily expect to hear of the surrender of Vicksburg. This army may see some active service soon. Day before yesterday there were eight thousand cavalry and mounted infantry with two sections of artillery left this place. We suppose they are going to make a raid into Dixie. Some think they are going to try and destroy the bridge across the Tennessee River at Bridgeport. There are fair prospects of our moving but cannot say in what direction. We may attack the forces at Tallahoma [sic] but I cannot think so. This army is not so large as many suppose. I have not received that box yet. Did you send it by express or by freight. If by the latter I do not smooth tale and never tells any

thing on the wrong side. I shall have some thing more to tell you some day about Major, C. S. Cotter of General McCook's staff, but he laboring for a good cause and may God speed him. Our battery is in the best condition now that it ever was. We had several nice showers and things begin to look green again. I have not seen a field this year that was being farmed to any kind of crop, not even an enclosed pasture field. I shall wait and see what tomorrow morning brings forth.

Tuesday morning, June, 2nd.

All quiet and not so much prospects of moving as I expected. Well I must bring this to a close as breakfast is ready. It [end of file]