

## George Dousman Letters

Antioch July 26th

Mr [sic] Levi Bickle

Dear sir - I have just come in and am entirely alone but something or another has suggested my mind to write to you The sun is just setting and if I do not be as expeditious as possible dusk will over take me before I get my letter finished as in this part of the world night soon follows sunset These are exciting times I can securely compose myself enough to write. Antioch is all in a ferment Patriotism is blazing high The new call for troops the attack [sic] upon [sic] and capture of Newberg by the rebels [sic] have created an excitement [4 illegible words] Drums are beating pipes are squeaking [illegible] whistles are screaming men are hurrying to and fro [sic] on the sidewalks with a settled conviction that something must be done and a determination that something shall be done

Our union is at stake Our cuntry [sic] is in peril and the people of Antioch duly appreciate the fact The company that was started here but three days ago is now almost ready to go into camp at Wabash about sixteen miles west of here Our government or rather the heads of our government have just found out that it is time to get in earnest They begin to know that the putting down of this rebellion is no fools [illegible] consequently it is the special duty of every able bodied man to shoulder arms and rush to the rescue of his cuntry [sic] The contry [sic] whose priviliges [sic] he has enjoyed and whose protection he claimes [sic] Tell Amanda to send that fellow of hers to the army let him be [illegible] [illegible] or not if he would idle and fool his time away at home when his cuntry [sic] stands in need of his aid he does not deserve to be a cuntrymen [sic] of this cuntry [sic] and would not fight to defend her should circumstances make is [sic] necessary So Amanda send him to war if you can and if you can not withdraw your affections My health is good at present and the people in general are well The weather is fine and has been far quite a number of days Harvesting is over but it was a long and tedious job several heavy storms just before the wheat was ripe enough to harvest caused it to fall I have seen hundred of acres of it [illegible] as flat as if it had been [illegible] It is getting dark and rather than hunt up a candle I will bring my letter to a close Write back when you get this and let me know how you all flourish

Yours be

Geo. B. Dousman

Undated Partial Letter

[beginning of letter missing] but it will probably be two months or more before we will be mustered in to the service We have not got our clothes yet but will get them this afternoon We drew our blanket last sunday [sic] and our tents wer [sic] furnished so as soon as we wer [sic] on the ground

Provision is plenty bread beef ham beans potatoes shuger [sic] coffee tea molasses and cracker are furnished so by the [illegible] Such thing as chicken turkey apples pears sweet potatoes and roasting ears is furnished by the [illegible] breaking guard atn [sic] of the girls of Antioch (God bless them) sent us occasionally a bucket of pies cakes cookies [3 illegible words] (I do not know who) sent me a plate nife [sic] and fork so that I can live as well as the Captain I do not know how long we will stay here or where we will go to when we leave We may stay two months and we may get orders to march in less than two hours but if we leave here verry [sic] soon we will go to Indianapolis and if we stay here a few weeks or months we will probably go to Teen [sic] Washington or Arkansas There is no one who knows not even the officers

The boys are all in good spirit [illegible] few have them sick Stephen Myers was sent home sick last Sunday but is better and will be back to camp on the 18th of this month My health is good never was better The boys say that in three weeks more I will be so fat I can not see I fret in my time [illegible] well When we are not drilling I am either sleeping or siting [sic] around whistling  
O the Girl The pretty little girl  
The girl I left behind me

I will now have to bring my letter to a close you will have to excuse my poor writing but confusing and broken paper [illegible] if you was in Camp twenty four hours it would be a wonder to you how we can write at all Write back immediately  
[illegible] Geo. B Dousman  
Capt [sic] [illegible] Comp  
75th Reg Ind Voll [sic]  
Wabash Ind  
I still remain as ever your affectionate Brother  
Geo. B. Dousman  
Ind

Leabnan [sic] KY  
Aug the 29th

Mss [sic] Mary E. Bickel  
Dear sister your letter has been received after a long day I had given up the idea of hearing from you We are now encamped at Leabnan [sic] [illegible] Co KY I have not got a verry good situation for writing I have to sit down on the ground with my back again a tree and write on a board across my knees

We have verry [sic] good times so far I was out on picket yesterday and last night I had just got in This morning and found three letters here for me the first I have received but are from Amanda since I have been in camp I will make my letter as short as possible to give you our situation I am now in the 75th Regt We rendevoughs [sic] at Wabash

from there we went to Indianapolis was there a few days from there we wer [sic] ordered to Louisvill [sic] and from there we went to Leabnan [sic] where we are now Leabnan [sic] is verry [sic] pleasantly situated in a fine conty [sic] and is the place that Morgan took about six weeks ago The breast works are up in town [illegible] and the town under martial law I do not know what the object is in bringing us here There is three Regt here now and several companys [sic] of cavaly [sic] The 2nd Ohio Batery [sic] is here allso [sic] I do not know what the object is in keeping us here unless it is to form a division There is a report that our men a building fortifcations [sic] up the [illegible] road about three miles east of here if that is the case there is expectations of a fight The weather is rather warm We can not wear so [illegible] cloths [sic] here as coolly we could to [illegible] I could write a great may things if I was better situated I have got so that when I talk I talk and talk and then do not get one half told and the same way so here I write I may sit and write and then must get the half wrote and besids [sic] the rest I am not well today and have poor paper to write on I was out on picket last night and yesterday Pickets line so well that I am sick today yesterday we stole and marched [illegible] [illegible] all the apples pears peaches and [illegible] that we want Last night the boys stole one of the fattes [sic] sheep you ever saw and shot two or three hogs that they did not get There are a great many rebbles [sic] here but they have to lay low I have nothing more of [illegible] Write again Direct in this way

Geo. B. Dousman

Comp H 75th

Reg Ind. Voll [sic]

Yours respectfully

Remember Geo. B. Dousman

L.O.M Bickle

Shepardsville [sic] K.Y. Sept 9th

Dear mother I have received your kind and welcome letter of Aug the 31st I received it the day we left Lebanon and have not had an opportunity to reply since We have made some strange movements since we left Lebanon On the 5th of Sept we received orders to strike our tents and get ready to march somewhere no one know where Soldiers never know where they are to go to Well after we had struck our tents on the 5th we wer [sic] marched out to a large meadow and formed into line to await marching orders from head quarters but there we lay all night and the next morning I volunteered to go out on picket The pickets wer [sic] sent out at seven o clock [sic] and had to go two miles east of Lebanon and while there I wrote a letter home but did not have time to conclude it when we wer [sic] withdrawn and sent back to the Reg We wer [sic] there untill [sic] about three in the afternoon when the orders came to march We wer [sic] formed into line and marched to depot and whil [sic] there awaiting the cars I received your letter We got on the train about four and started for Louisville At ten o clock [sic] in the night we arrived at Camp Rousseau and the general ordered us to halt The next morning the rebles [sic] got in ahead of us and burnt the bridge across salt river [sic] and about noon the same day they threatened to attack us We wer [sic] all drawn out in

line of battle four Regts [sic] of infantry three of Cavalry and two Batteries of Artillery wer [sic] all ready to shoot but the enemy choose rather to put of [sic] the attack We remained at Camp Rousseau untill [sic] nine this morning when we wer [sic] sent here I do not know how long we will stay here probably we are just waiting for a train from Louisville or it may be that we will have to rebuilt the bridge across the river

You wanted to know if I wer [sic] coming home verry [sic] soon You need not make any calculation on seeing me for two or three years I do not think the war will end before that time and there is no chance of getting home before then You allso [sic] wanted to know how I liked to be a soldier We [sic] that is a question That is seldomly truthfully answered but what I write to you mother you can rely on as being positively so As far as my experience has gone I like it verry [sic] well but we have not had any hard times yet When I enlisted I a duly considered the trials and hardships of a soldiers [sic] life consequently if we have hard time I will not be disappointed We have plenty to eat such as sheet iron crackers pork rice coffe [sic] and shugar [sic] and sometimes beans It would surprise you to know how little a soldier eats We waste at least one half our rations We do not get to sleep on feather beds or anything of that kind but the ground is verry [sic] good to sleep on I have slept on the ground ever since I have been here You was afraid that I could not read your letters but never fear that I could wread [sic] it right along just keep on writing so and let me hear from home as often as possible I have wrote as [illegible] as I can under the present circumstances I have to write in a hurry for I know not what instant I will be called

I will write again when I get time Postage stamps are not to be had here so I will have to send this without

I remain your dutiful son

Geo. B. Dousman

Camp Rousseau KY Sept the 16th

Dear friends I just wish to write a few lines as there is no telling when I can get a chance to write here again We came back here last night and have been in line of battle all morning We were called before some of the boys had their breakfasts and wer [sic] under arms untill [sic] ten o clock [sic] expecting an attact [sic] this is the same place we wer [sic] called out one week ago last Sunday and we will be likely to have a fight here soon but how soon none knows we may have it before night and we may not have any at all I have not time to write more so good-bye

Write soon

Geo. B. Dousman

Comp H. 75th Regt

Ind Voll [sic]

Camp Rousseau

K.Y.

Shepherdsville K.Y. Sept the 18th

Dear friends we have not had any mail since I last wrote to you but I thought that I would write again to let you know where we are and where we have been I wrote you on the 16th at Camp Rousseau On the evening of the same day we wer [sic] ordered to replace forty eight hours rations and be ready to march on the next day Our guns wer [sic] examined in the evening and our full allowance of cartriges [sic] dealt out We loaded our guns and lay on them untill [sic] morning on the morning of the 17th we wer [sic] called into line and marched to the R.R. Tour [sic] companies of us wer [sic] then ordered to get on and started to Mumfreesville [sic] The train started about seven in the morning We had a very pleasant R.R. ride About two miles from Camp Rousseau we struck the mountain The R.R. wound itself along the side of the mountain now flunging [sic] into a deep cut where the rocks towered hundreds of feet above our heads and then running across [illegible] of trussle [sic] work so high that the tops of the trees wer [sic] below us and at last we rushed headlong into a tunnel so dark that we could se [sic] our hands before our eyes Emerging from the dungeon of a railroad we came our [sic] upon a plain and open cuntry [sic] and more

We ran on as far as Elizabethtown and wer [sic] ordered to get off while we wer [sic] waiting here the news came of the surrender of Munfreesville [sic] and that the rebles [sic] had attacted [sic] our forces at this place Sheperdsville [sic] and that our whole brigade was ordered there or here rather After we had got this intelligence we took the cars again and ran back as fast as possible thinking that our men had all left Camp Rousseau and wer [sic] down at this place fighting as hard as men could but immagine [sic] our surprise when we came into camp to find our men all there our tents wer [sic] all torn down and packed and our men as much surprised to see us and we wer [sic] to see them They said that they got a report stating that we wer [sic] all cut to pieces and taken prisoners but that was not the case We had marching orders howeve [sic] and our tents wer [sic] all packed up consequently we had to sleep out in the rain last night

It was our first experience allways [sic] [illegible] our tents with we never had to sleep out in bad weather before before [sic] last night

This morning we all took the train for Louisville I suppose but the General ordered us to stop here and await further orders When I first started the business (soldiering you know) I did not think that I would ever have to leave on account of the rebles [sic] but this is the third time that we had to skeedadale [sic] and besides that I would like to have a chance of trying my new gun on some of the rebles [sic] There was a fight last night about thirty miles from here and we wer [sic] ordered out to help them we pace [sic] our knapsacks in the evening and lay on our guns but about midnight tho [sic] orders was contramanded [sic] and then there was some tall swearing [illegible] I do not beleive [sic] there is a man in the Reg who does not want to have a pop at old [illegible] I wish that I could get to go home for when we get [illegible] here we have to pay for it and whisky can not be had at all The town here is under martial law and no spirited liquors are allowed for sale I have not saw a man under the influence of liquor

since we left Indiana There are a great many good things here that you had not got in Ind such as pears peaches grapes [illegible] We had ripe peachs [sic] as soo [sic] as we arrived to Indianapolis And since we have got out here on picket we just naturaly [sic] line them and we allways [sic] forget to pay for them too somehow or another I have sent you by express thirty dollars I gave it to Collins and he sent it to Plymouth It will be there before you get this if it goes on through I have wrote all for the present and remain yours truly  
Geo. B. Dousman  
Comp H. 75th Regt  
Ind Voll [sic]

Undated Partial Letter

[beginning is missing] old had lived in the morth [sic] some two years His sister younger than she is told me that she went to school at Adrain [sic] Mich had been to Elkhart and Gosher [sic] a great many times She had a brother in the reble [sic] army but said she would not own him as a brother I asked her if I should kill him if an opportunity offered itsself [sic] It was a hard question for her to answer It placed her between two equal fires and she did not know which to avoid but at last she said that should do I thought [illegible] if I could aid the cause of the Union by it I should shoot him She then turned round and walked of [sic] but I plainly saw a drip start from her eyes and roall [sic] down her cheek as she turned away But no wonder that tears [sic] did [illegible] her fair cheeks Think if you please imagine your own brother in the circumstances I'm the reble [sic] [illegible] taken up arms against his own native land and not only that here was a whole Reg of men right before her door who wer [sic] sworn to take her brother her only brother dead or alive and she holding a friends [sic] connection with one of them I have not saw her since and never expect to although I may accidently The old [illegible] invited me but I could not leave my fort so that matter ended

You may want to know I like it in camp There are a great many boys who write home and do not tell you the truth Some say that they like it and some say that they do not like it but there are very few who tell the truth But you can rest assshured [sic] that I will tell you the truth Now then there is just one thing lacking and that is our officers If we had good officers it would suit me to the letter All that is wanting in our officer is competency they never we [sic] drillers and consequently cannot drill us

I would like to see my friend all of them but I do not expect to see them until the war is ended All the old soldiers in the Reg say that it is the best thing in the world for me that I can not get to go home They say that I will soon get over the whale of the nation but if I go home now in the cors [sic] of two or three months I would want to go home more so than I do now [illegible] They certain I do not want to go home [illegible] as had as I did two weeks ago If I would but hear from home I would be all right

I gave Collins thirty dollars to send home he sent it to Plymouth and said that he would write to father when father gets his letter he can get our old fast and [illegible] to Plymouth and get it

I want all of you to be good girls and boy Tell mother to buy all of you some new play thing Do not forget [illegible] to Direct to me Geo. B. Dowsman [sic]  
Com H. 75th Reg  
Ind Voll [sic]  
Your brother sincerely  
George B. Dowsman [sic]

Louisville Oct 5th

Dear friends

We are now all in a hustle and I have not got the time to write but a verry [sic] few lines We have been off on a march for the last six days and have just returned today We have orders to more [sic] tomorrow morning at six I would not write now at this hour of the but to let you know that if you do not hear from again for two or three weeks you do not need be surprised I think that we will go to Bardstown about thirty five miles from here They are fighting there now and have been for the last three days and I think that we will be there at this time tomorrow night and if we are we will go in on our [illegible] When we started uppon [sic] our late march I expected to find three or four letters from home when we got back but not one was here It seems strange that I did not get any for you shurely [sic] have wrote I have not had a paper either for three weeks but should have one every week I am well and in good spirits but am a little tired and foot sore after our long march This letter is wrote in a hurry and by candle light so if you can not read it do the best you can and do not be alarmed if you do not here [sic] from me for several weeks But however write as soon as you get this Do not fail to write We have our rations for [illegible] days to [illegible] [illegible] No more at present

Yours affectionately

Geo. B. Dousman

Comp H. 75th Regt

Ind Voll [sic]

Louisville K.Y.

Frankfort K.Y. Oct 10th

Dear friends

I thought that I would write you a few lines this morning to let you know where we are I do not know if I will have time to finish my letter or not as we are all prepared to march at a moments [sic] warning and it may com [sic] in a moment We are now at Frankfort the capitol of K.Y. We did not go to Bardstown as I supposed we would We have now come to the [illegible] of war we have marched 10 days in succession and expect to go soon again The rebles [sic] are as [illegible] here as can be wished for We had to drive them out of Frankfort yesterday morning Their loss was six killed but we do not know

how many wounded our loss was three wounded on [sic] of them mortaly [sic] The fight was between the cavalry the infantry had not come up yet

I am not verry [sic] well and have not been since we left Louisville the last time I could not keep up with the Regt and fell back I have had the diareeah [sic] miserably ever since we have been marching and my feet are so sore that I can scarcely walk at all and besides that my back has given out but but [sic] when I get over this it will go better next time I will close my letter for fear I will not get to send it I will write again as soon as I get a chance and write better than this is done

Yours Truly

Geo. B. Dousman

Direct Comp H. 75th Regt

Ind Voll [sic]

Frankfort K.Y.

Frankfort K.Y.

Oct the 14th

My Dear Mother I received your letter of the 6th It afforded me great pleasure to hear from home again I sent a letter home yesterday It is not all together likely that I can get to send this leter [sic] as we are all prepared [illegible] [illegible] and just awaiting the [illegible] [illegible] in all probability [illegible] [illegible] befor [sic] the mail [illegible] [illegible] but however I will [illegible] run the risk of sending it I have nothing special to communicate this evening as I wrote yesterday but if I do not get to send this now I will leave it open and send it when we stop again and by then [illegible] I can let you know wher [sic] we will have moved to I was rejoiced to hear that you wer [sic] all well Ellethea said that you had sent me some stamps I have received stamps from [illegible] and they are nearly all [illegible] [illegible] but you need not [illegible] [illegible] any until I write [illegible] It will not cost any [illegible] to send a letter [illegible] [illegible] prepared as to [illegible] It is getting dark and I will not have time to finish this letter by daylight today so I will lay it by for candlelight It seem strange [illegible] comprehension that that money has not come to hand as it is verry [sic] seldom that anyting [sic] is miscarried or lost by express Collins is at home sick but he says that he has a receipt for the money But I have not got as much confidence in the man as I once had allthough [sic] he may be all right [illegible] circumstances To [illegible] us lack of [illegible] Go to [illegible] to [illegible] to Collins and get the receipt I am verry [sic] much [illegible] to Father but his offer of sending me money I have got at present but twenty five cents but I shall try it awhile without money before I send for any Mother you expressed a wish that I never would get in a battle Well I suppose it would not be natural for a mother to anything else but do you suppose that I would have enlisted and came all the way down here if it wer [sic] not to fight the battles of my cuntry [sic] I do not know as I or any other man has any particular desire to get into a battle but I shall not [3 illegible words] Ooh let me like a soldier [illegible] [illegible] a letter from Amanda [illegible] writes a verry [sic] [illegible] letter [illegible] [illegible] not said anything [illegible] [illegible] my poor writing I suppose god can read my letters by this time I always write in hurry because I



have to My paper is run out and I have written more than I had expected to Yours affectionately Geo. B. Dousman Comp H. 75th Rept [sic] Ind Voll [sic]

Scottsville K.Y. Nov the 16th

Dear friends

The mail has come in but no letter for me I would have wrote sooner but I felt certain that I would get a letter this mail We are now a long way from the railroad and do not get our mail every day We came here last Tuesday and have had but two mails One the same day we came here and the other about an hour ago It is the same way of sending mail matter off I may not get to send this for two or thre [sic] days and I may not get to send it at all as there is a rumor in camp that we will march tomorrow I do not know when we will leave here We may leave tomorrow and we may not leave for a month or two but I do not think we will stay here verry [sic] long Scottsville is about 28 miles from Bowling Green the nearest railroad point We left Bowling Green on the 11th and came here on the 12th There was nothing interesting to be seen on the march here as the cuntry [sic] is generaly [sic] poor and barren thinly inhabited and the road led through the woods a great portion of the way Scottsville is the county seat of Allen Co and is 12 miles from the Tenn line It is about the size of New Paris I do not know what the object is in bringing us down here There are no rebles [sic] here and to my knowledge never has been This would be a good place to take up winter quarters as the water and wood is both good and convenient but I think it is doubtfull [sic] of us taking up winter quarters I think our next march will take up to where there will be something to do and I hope it will be the case Not because I want to get into a fight as am anyways anxious to pitch into a battle but because there is some excitement about it The boys have had nothing to do but to lay aroun [sic] and think of home and the consequence is they are troubled with a disease called home sick and it takes all the swearing my conscience will allow me to do to keep some of them in the right kind of spirits You can not hear anything but home home home All the melancholy songs and hymns that ever was sung are sung here Such songs as the Star Spangled Banner Red White and Blue and all those lively and patriotich [sic] songs are decently played out

Home is more convenient and more comfortable than a camp but for all that I have enjoyed myself about as well any body can I have made up my mind that I would keep up my spirits and carry my head high let it cost what it may The evil is hell Two thirds of the boys went into the business with the intention of having a big time They did not contemplate the hardships and difficulty of a soldiers [sic] career and now when they find the matter altogether different it takes them where they [illegible] Others went in with the intention of making money probably a fortune but if they come out as well as they went in it will be all right A hundred dollars [sic] bounty and thirteen dollars per month sounded pretty large in some mens [sic] ears but when they get down here and want something good to eat or at least something a litte [sic] more paetable [sic] than government grub and have to pay one dollar for a can of straw-berrys [sic] or peaches 75 cents for tomatos [sic] a bottle of [illegible] or pickles 25 cents per pound for cheese

and about the same for dried beef [sic] Common sized cakes that sell in In for a penny sells for two cents a peice [sic] here Small apples about the size of small walnuts sell for a cent a peice [sic] You may think that you would do without such thing rather than pay such exorbitant prices but let me tell you you have plenty to live on to what we have You have no idea of what you would do I can not write while on a march so if you do not get letters from me as often as usual you need not be uneasy but write to me as often as you can conveniently [sic] We get mail matter occasionally [sic] while on march I would like to have some postage stamps I have not got one and no money to get any I wrote a letter to Grandfather yesterday but do not want to send it without paying postage I never knew what it was to be hard up until [sic] I run out of money I expect to get some money in a few days but the mail is so unregular that if I get it at all I may not get it for several weeks and if we leave here before I get it I may not get it at all Huntington Co pays a bounty of 10 dollars to each volunteer from the county and I have sent my George Snyder and told him to send it to me I would like to know if you have heard of that money that is sent you yet Collins told me he would have it fixed up immediately but he is so careless that I begin to not trust or trouble him much He is not with us now but is to town in charge of the Provost Guards The weather is very [sic] pleasant here now it reminds me of October in Ind It is considerable warmer than it is north and we are not as far south yet as we will be I think our next march will be to Chatanooga [sic] Tenn and when we get there we will have something to stop us Something in the shape of about one hundred thousand rebels [sic] Some of our generals offer to bet several thousand dollars that this war will be closed in the next four months But they do not feed many of us such food as that we have heard men talk so before We have heard them say so a year or more ago How in the name of nature can they tell how long the rebels [sic] will fight

I am well with the exception of a cold and a slight diarrhea [sic] Now do not fail to write as soon as soon as you get this Direct all your letters thus George B. Dousman Comp H. 75th Regt Ind Voll [sic] via Louisville [sic] K.Y.  
I still remain as ever Yours Truly Geo. B. Dousman

Camp near Murfreesboro

Tenn Jan the 29th/63

Dear Mother

I used to get letters from you but it has been so long since I received the last one that I have made up my mind that you do not write any more

You cannot [sic] imagine what a gratification it is for me to get and read your letters consequently you cannot appreciate the disappointment and lonesomeness I feel since I do not get any more I would rather get a letter written [sic] by your own hand than from any other friend I have Of course I like to and it is a joy to me to get letters from any of my friends but put them all together sisters brothers uncles aunts and all they do not

amount to mother A good cheering letter written by a mothers [sic] hand casts a smile of gratitude on the face of the most rough soldier in the army Ellethea it appears has made up her mind not to write any more If it was not for Amanda I would not get any news at all from home

I do not feel like writing today but however I thought that I would try and scribe [sic] off a few lines to you as nearly all the boys have gone out guard a storage train and it affords a better opportunity to write than when they are all here I have not been well for about two weeks When I last wrote to Amanda I was getting better but it did not last long until I got worse again I have not been so bad but I could wait on myself at any time But a man cannot be at a ....worse place than in a crowded tent when he is not well When I am well I am as noisey [sic] and lively as anybody The boys are good to me of course

They make my bed for me very frequently when I could make it myself and yesterday one of them went out and caught me a quail and got me some flour and fixed me up as good a dish as I have eaten for a long time and it was the only thing I have eaten for several days I am entirely out of money and it goes pretty tough to live on Government grub when a man is not exactly well

I could buy bread chicken canned fruit vc [sic] if I had the money to do it with I have sent for money several times but I was well then and did not care much if they sent it to me or not

George Snyder owes me for a ten dollars [sic] County order and Sam Palmes gave me a note of nine dollars which I have not collected

If I had some of it now it would come handy There is consider-able talk of us being paid pretty soon but it is only talk yet and maybe that is all it will be for some time

If I could go about I could find a great many old aequaintances [sic] here as nearly all the Regiments from Elhart [sic] County are encamped about here I have not seen but one man since I have been Here from Elhart [sic] County that I knew and that was John Thomas in the 20th Regt Noah and John ....belonging to the same Regt deserted and are now in the military prison In the first place John went home on a sick furlough and shortly afterwards Noah was sent home with a lot of wounded soldiers and he soon took sick after he got home Then when we wer [sic] at Indianapolis I saw both of them just on their way back to the Regt They went as far as Bowling Green and then forged a parol [sic] and said that they had been captured by the rebles [sic] and for this offence a court martial sentenced them to serve the rest of their time out at Three dollars per month and started them for their Regt again But the boys insted [sic] of going to their Regt deserted wer [sic] caught and will probably have to serve ten or twelve years if not a lifetime disgraced in a military prison

The weather has been rather cold and disagreeable for the last few days. It does not get as cold here as it does in Ind but what little cold there is it is very disagreeable. A snow and rain mixed together and cloudy nearly all the time. This is the first day the sun has shone all day for a month or more.

I am making my letter rather long but if you get tired reading I hope you have not forgotten [sic] that I told you save all of my letters and tell Amanda to do so too.

When you write to me take your time and write everything. The least little thing in the world from home interest me. If you do not know what to write about I can tell you of thousands of things. Here some of you have been writing to me for the last six months and I cannot form any kind of an idea of what sort of place you live on whether it is barrens prairie thick woods swamp or lake. How you have it rented. If for one third one half or if you have to give all or if you pay cash rent or bought the place. Neither can I tell how big it is or if there is any road close to it what kind of a house stable hogpen [sic] chicken coop or anything at all about it. Some of you said that you butchered. You did not say how many hogs you killed if they wer [sic] fat or lean and in fact you did not say if they wer [sic] hogs at all or not. You never said how your corn turned out or if you had to husk it out. If I wer [sic] at home I could publish a paper on just what you cannot think of or do not want me to know. If you do not get that money until the 25th of next month let me know and I will atend [sic] to it.

One more thing I want to know that is are you doing anything with that house and lot at Huntingtion [sic].

My paper is getting short and you will get weary reading so good night.

Your Affectionate Son  
Geo. B. Dousman

Camp 75th Regt Murfreesboro  
Tenn Feb the 18th/63

Dear Mother and Sisters

Your letters of the 11th were recei-ved [sic] day before yesterday. I do not feel like writing today but I will write enough to let you know that I am a little better and that I have received several letters from different friends but have not been able to answer them.

I also received the money and med-icine [sic] you sent me for which I am very thankful. You sent me two boxes of Holloways pills and also a lot of others but did not send me any di-rection [sic] for the use of the. I have the directions for the use of the Holloway pills but not for the others.

I guess you need not send me any more money as I think we will draw a part of our pay soon and if we do not get any pay I have money do [sic] me at Huntington which I might as well collect and use as to let it stand out and you send me

Do not forget to let me know im-mediately [sic] if that money does not get to Plymouth by the 25th of this month

If it comes you will get a letter informing you of its arrival

Mother you said if I got sick I would better come home There is no use of thinking of any such a thing as coming home unless a man is disabled then a man can get a discharge but to get a furlough is an impos-sibility [sic] I do not expect to see home until my time has expired

You need not hope for the war to close very soon for it is no nearer a close now by fighting than it was when it first broke out

The weather has been rather on the wet order It rained harder last nigth [sic] than I have known it to do since I have been in Dixie

I am getting tired and must close Write soon

Yours Affectionately  
Geo. B. Dousman  
Camp H. 75th Regt  
Ind Voll [sic]

Antioch March No 5 1863

I take my pen in hand onst [sic] more to 'rite [sic] to you to let you know that we are all well at this stage of time and I sincerely [sic] hope when this coms [sic] to your hand it will find you all in the same state of health I can inform you that I received a letter from you we wer [sic] all glad to here [sic] from you but sorry to here [sic] that some of your folks wer [sic] sick there is nothing better then good helth [sic] I am truly sorry to say to you that your son George is laying very sick at Murfersburrou [sic] Jeasee Myers received a letter from Steve stating that Bent here lost the youse [sic] of his arms and legs and could not move Steve stated that he thought Bent could not live long any more if he did not get better the deeiuze [sic] was caused by sleeping on the damp ground if I had money anuff [sic] I would go down whare [sic] he is and fetch him home if he is still a live it is a bout [sic] eight hundred miles from here down to where Bent is - Bent was a boy that I allways [sic] thought a heap off [sic] and respect him very mutch [sic] even if I only had the meens [sic] to go with my eyes should not close in sleep till I would start and go where he is but as it is I am not able to for the want of money you state in your letter that you wanted me to go and see Coffrath about some land I havent [sic] seen him yet but as soon as see him I will let you know Sol Myers said if you wanted to com

[sic] back here that he would Build a House on his land for you and you could help him  
tend his farm this is all at this time Rite [sic] soon Excuse this Riting [sic] for I am so  
nervis [sic] I cant [sic] Rite [sic] tele [sic] Maneley I will Rite [sic] to her before long  
Good Bye for a white [sic] from Broather [sic] go [illegible] [illegible]

Poem

Tis eve one brightly beaming star  
Shines upon the eastern heavens afar  
To light the footsteps of the brave  
Slowly marching to a comrades [sic] grave

The chill north wind has sunk to sleep  
The sweet south breathes as low and deep  
The martial clang is heard the tread  
of those who bear the silent dead

And whose the form all stark and cold  
Thus ready for the loosened mould [sic]  
And stretched upon so rude a bier  
Thine soldier thine the volunteer

Poor volunteer the shot the blow  
Or swift disease had laid him low  
And few his early loss deplore  
His battle fought his journey ore

Alas no wives [sic] fond arms caressed  
His cheek no tender mother pressed  
No pitying soul was by his side  
As lonely in his tent he dide [sic]

He died the volunteer at noon  
At evening came the small platoon  
That, soon will leave him to his rest  
With sods upon his manly breast

Hark to their fire his only knell  
More solemn than the passing bell  
For ah it tells a spirit flown  
Unshriven to the dark unknown

His deeds and fate shall fade a way  
Forgotten since his dying day

And never on the roll of fame  
Shall be inscribed his humble name

Alas like him how many more  
Lie cold upon the Potomac shore