

S.W. Hawkins Letters

Background Information

THOMAS S. W. HAWKINS, b. September 03, 1839; d. January 23, 1863, Stone [sic] River, TN.

Thomas S.W. Hawkins was born September 3, 1839 in Crawford or Orange County, Indiana. He enrolled in the Union Army, August 31, 1861 at Paoli, Indiana and served during the civil war. He was assigned to Company I, Regiment 38 Indiana Volunteers as second lieutenant. He was wounded at the battle of Stone [sic] River Tennessee on December 31, 1862. He died of his wounds on January 23, 1863.

His mother, America Hawkins applied for a Dependent Mother's Pension from Valeene, Indiana on January 30, 1891. This application was filed by her son John Hawkins of Petersburg, Indiana. After John's death a year later, America appointed another person to act as her attorney. The application stated that Thomas S.W. died as a result of his wounds suffered in action at the Battle of Stone [sic] River, Tennessee. While he was in the hospital, the rebel forces captured the hospital and [sic] he was robbed of his property, watch, cash, sword and clothing. The union troops soon recaptured the facility, but evidently his property was not recovered. As a result of the application, America received a Treasury Certificate in the amount of \$105.42 on August 10, 1894.

An account from Maude Hawkins says he was buried in National Cemetery in Chatanooga [sic], Tennessee, but there is a memorial marker in the cemetery in Paoli, Indiana.

In a May 15, 1963 letter from Dennis Jones (son of Pearl Hawkins Jones) to Maude Hawkins, he writes: "The information on Thomas Hawkins is interesting. This was one of the worst battles in the civil war. The north had 4100 men and lost 12 906. The south had 3400 men and lost 11 739. Nearly one out of every three lost. (This is the way Dennis wrote the numbers.)"

Thomas was shot in the arm or shoulder on December 31, 1862 laid in a building on a pile of straw for 24 days and perhaps died of blood poisoning or gangrene. Why didn't they cut his arm off? Perhaps there were so many wounded that first or second day of battle, they couldn't get around to them. Nearly 13000 is a lot of men. (This information from the history of the Civil War.)

There is a "General Affidavit" for pension and a "Declaration for Dependent Mother's Pension" filed in Orange County, Indiana on June 27, 1890 – January 27, 1891 by

America Stephens Hawkins on behalf of her son, Thomas S. W. Hawkins. (Pension Claim 49992)

Thomas S. W. Hawkins' sister, Sara Harriet Hawkins Graves married Judge Charles B. Graves. One of their sons, Orlin Graves, worked for the Department of the Interior. (He is pictured to the right—1896.) He apparently obtained a record that stated Thomas S. W. Hawkins was wounded at Stone [sic] River and buried at Paoli, Indiana.

[image-Orin Graves]

Sarah Harriet Hawkins Graves wrote a letter in 1910 to an attorney in Paoli, Indiana inquiring about her brother's grave. Indeed, a visit to the Paoli Cemetery in the Spring of 2001 revealed the marble headstone of Thomas S. W. Hawkins inscribed exactly as the letter reveals. Although the headstone is damaged and broken into pieces, it is clearly legible.

[image-letter from an attorney in Paoli, Indiana to Sarah Harriet Hawkins Graves]

[image-Tombstone of Thomas S. W. Hawkins in Paoli, Indiana Cemetery.
Inscription reads: T. S. W. Hawkins, of Co. I 38 Regt. IV, Wounded at Stone [sic] River,
January 1, 1863, Died January 23, 1863, Aged, 23 Y 4 M and 29 Days.]

General Affidavit

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

State of Indiana, County of Orange, SS:

In the matter of Thomas S.W. Hawkins Son: of America Hawkins pension under Act
June 29-1890

ON THIS 29 day of January A.D. 1891 personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for the aforesaid County duly authorized to administer oaths, William D. Moore aged 56 years, a resident of Helix for the County of Orange and State of Indiana [3 illegible words] to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declares [rest of line is illegible] as follows: that I was (NOTE- Affiants should state how they gained knowledge of the facts to which they testify.) a comrade of Lieut [sic] Thomas S.W. Hawkins of Co I 38 Ind vls [sic] was well acquainted with him and was present when he was wounded at Stone [sic] River December 31 1862. I also was detailed to look for the wounded after the Battle I found him in a Hospittal [sic] or large building in Murfreesboro Tenn [sic] he died about the 23rd of January 1863. The said Lieut [sic] Thomas S.W. Hawkins wounded in the Shoulder

His Post Office address is Helix Orange County Ind. he further declare that he has no interest in said case and is not concerned in its prosecution.

William D Moore

Late Capt of Co I. 38 Ind. Vols

(Signature of Affiants.)

[2 blank lines]

(If Affiants sign by mark, two persons who can write sign here.)

Dependent Mother's Pension Form Declaration January 1891

[stamp: U S PENSION OFFICE JAN 31 1891]

Declaration for Dependent Mother's Pension.

(Act of June [illegible], [illegible])

(To be presented before a Court of record, or [illegible] officer [illegible] having custody of the seal.)

State of Indiana, County of Orange, SS:

On this 27 day of January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety One, personally appeared before me, Wm B [illegible], a Notary Public of the county of Orange Ind Court, a Court of record in and for the county and State aforesaid, America Hawkins, aged about 80 years, a resident of Valeene, County of Orange, State of Indiana, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the mother of Thomas S.W. Hawkins who enlisted under the name of Thomas S.W. Hawkins, at Paoli Orange County, on the 18 day of September, 1861, in (Here state rank, company and regiment in military service, or vessel, if Navy.) Company 'I' 38th Regiment Indiana Volunteers as 2nd Lieutenant of Co. I of said 38 Regt Ind vol in the war of the rebellion, who died at U.S. Gen Hospital No [line], on the 23 day of January, 1863, from the effects of a wound in arm, incurred at Battle of Stone [sic] River, on the 1st day of January, 1863. That said son left neither a widow, nor child under sixteen years of age surviving. That she is without other present means of support than her own manual labor. That she has never applied for a pension. The number of her application is [blank]. That she makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the act of June 27, 1890.

She hereby appoints John Hawkins, of Petersburg Pike County, State of Indiana, her true and lawful attorney to prosecute her claim. That her post-office address is Valeen [sic] Orange, County of [crossed out] [blank] State of Indiana.

X her mark

America Hawkins

(Claimant's signature.)

Attest: Absolom D White

Rutha E. White.

Affidavit for Pension Claim

TRANSCRIPTION

State of Kansas, County of Greenwood SS

In the matter of Pension Claim No. 499992 of America Hawkins, Mother of Thomas S. W. Hawkins, late of Company "I'38' Regt. Indiana Vol. Infty. [sic], personally appeared before me, A Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid; and duly authorized to administer oaths, America Pinnick whose age is 59 year and whose post office address is Quincy, Greenwood County, Kansas and whose residence is one and a half miles north of Quincy, Kansas

And who after being duly sworn says in relation to said claim; that she is the sister of Thomas S. W. Hawkins, deceased and that at the time said Thomas S. W. Hawkins enlisted, about twenty miles from Paoli, Indiana in which she believes was the place of his enlistment that he visited her subsequent to his enlistment and told her he had enlisted, and to the best of her recollection in Co. "I" 38" Reg. Ind. Vol. And that said Thomas S. W. Hawkins never served in either the military or Naval service of the United States, prior to such enlistment August 31, 1861. This affidavit was written by W. J. Hawkins of Quincy, Kansas from oral statements made by affiant to him on the 30th day of December 1895 at Quincy, Kansas and that such oral statements were made by said affiant without the use of and she was not aided nor prompted by any written or printed statement or recital prepared or dictated by any other person.

America Pinnick
(signature)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of January 1896 by the above named affiant, and I notify that I read said affidavit to said affiant before she executed her same. I further certify that I am in nowise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in it's [sic] prosecution; and that said affiant is personally know to me and that she is a credible person.

A. B. Affiant was called away after making statement and didn't return till the 6th as above.

WJ Hawkins
Notary Public
Term expires, February 12/99

US PENSION
JAN
29

1896

OFFICE

(Official Stamp)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas S. W. Hawkins (d. 1863) was a resident of Paoli (Orange Co.), Indiana. He served with the 38th Indiana Regiment, Company I, and was promoted to second lieutenant. He died on 23 January 1863 from typhoid fever related to wounds sustained in battle at Stone [sic] River (near Murfreesboro, Tennessee).

The 38th Indiana Regiment (1861-65) was mustered into service at New Albany (Floyd Co.) on 18 September 1861, and departed for Elizabethtown, Kentucky, three days later. It passed the fall and winter at Camp Nevin and Camp Wood near Munfordsville. [sic] In February 1862, the 38th Indiana took part in a campaign against Bowling Green and Nashville. The regiment served throughout Kentucky and Tennessee, participating in battles at Perryville, Kentucky, and at Stone [sic] River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They also fought at Chicamauga [sic] in September 1863. The regiment moved through Tennessee and Georgia before re-enlisting in December of that year. After a veteran furlough, they returned to Georgia, where they joined General Sherman's army against Atlanta. The 38th Indiana campaigned through Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia on their way to Washington, D.C. They were transferred to Louisville and mustered out in July 1865.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence written or received by members of the Webb family, who were residents of Orange County and Washington County, Indiana. The majority is between Mary Ann Webb and Thomas S. W. Hawkins, a soldier in the 38th Indiana Regiment. Hawkins discusses his daily activities, those of his regiment, including battles, and his views on slavery and the southern states. Mary also received letters from her cousin, Ben Webb, and from Lieutenant William Leonard, who wrote concerning Hawkins' death and a watch he bequeathed to Mary.

There are also letters from John W. and Henry C. Webb, while in Illinois, to their family, a letter from Henry to John, and a letter written to Mary (Webb) Gifford from her parents. A number of the letters in this collection contain decorative letterheads and/or printer's crests.

Camp Nevin, Ky,

Oct./ 1861

Miss Mary A. Webb

(Patriotic Stationery – Eagle perched on ribbon with red, white, blue crest.)

Dear Cousin,

Please allow me to introduce you, as a friend, and correspondent my esteemed friend Sargeant [sic] T. S. Hawkins. Whom I can recommend as being a man worthy of respect and one who proposes through friendship of your Cousin to become a correspondent through the war with great esteem.

Affectionately

Your Cousin

Ben Webb

Miss Webb

With pleasure I hasten to inform introduction to you by my worthy friend your cousin.

Though it is not likely that you ever saw me. Still I hope that this introduction may meet your approbations.

You may be sure that a soldier is elated with joy to hear from the ladies. That is evident from the fact that they are debared [sic] from the Society of Ladies, in which I is one, take great delight. My time is not my own this morning consequently. I shall have to make this as short as the subject will allow, but time for delivery appears and an answer I hope will enable me to write the next in better order. When noticing my handwrite, consider a bad pen and where I am, and that perhaps will be excuse enough, for the presant [sic] to continue my subject. Should this meet your approval. You will please to me the honor, to write,

Direct to Thomas S. W. Hawkins

Company I of the 38th Regiment

of Indiana Volunteers,

Yours with great respect,

T.S.W.H.

Saltilloville [sic], Washington County, In
Nov. 2nd, 1861

Mr. Hawkins—

Though I have never seen you I shall with lend you my attention. I as ordinary a person as I may through a correspondence add anything to increase your joys I shall with a cheerful longiness [sic] agree to, your being introduced to me by my sincere friend and cousin gives me full assurance that you are worthy of my respect and you enlisted to uphold and bear that beautiful [sic] banner of glowing emblems is proof enough that you are one who will give due respect to those from whose society that enlistment has debarred you.

[Patriotic Stationary – “LIBERTY AND UNION NOW AND FOREVER.”
American Flag Graphics with Poem imprinted underneath:]

Flag of the free hear's [sic] hope and home!
By angel hand to valor given,
they starts have lit the welkin dome,
And all they hues were born in heaven—
Forever float that standard sheet.
Where breathes th [sic] foe but fall before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our fee [sic]
And Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us.

Published by JAMES GATES, Cin. [sic]

Camp Nevin
October 7th, 1861
Miss Webb

I confess the gratification with which I received your kind and beautiful letter of the second inst. And feel my unworthiness to become a correspondent with one of your Rank. Though there is a sincere feeling of friendship between me and my advocate. And as he is your cousin and a man that I would think anything else of sooner than the doing of an injustice to you on such an occasion. I entertain some hopes of a continuation our acquaintance by a friendly correspondence. At least till I with your consent have the liberty of making good the same in a more suitable manner. And as that heart never beat that is truer than the Flag for which to many of us have left the

quiet business of life to sustain and care if necessary through bloody conflict-than mine.- Of course it is a pleasure to hear from one whose heart takes delight in expressing those patriotic sentiments which would fire the mind of any true union loving man.

But while I indulge in the hope of the desired effect of our introduction I anxiously await your answer. -

Yours most Sincerely,
T. S. W. Hawkins

[Patriotic Stationery—Eagle perched on ribbon with red, white, blue crest.]

Camp Neven
December 3rd 61

Miss Webb

Yours the 14th came to hand on the 23rd but owing to sickness and bad weather. I have been unable to answer sooner. I feel greatly embarrassed to answer after so long a delay, but desire to offer this as the best the present finds me able to do and beg its acceptance.

As I haven't written any far so long I expect to make an awkward out though I shall state that the main thing that has drawn our attention of late is sickness. There was a time not long since when we could boast of the health of the 38th, but sickness came at last, and has marked us its way, we have lost two men out of our company and your cousin has been very sick. So bad that I entertained but little hopes of his recovery, but is getting so as to set up again.

As I cannot hope to interest you at present, I must stop by asking you to look over in differences. Write again and believe me yours most Sincerily [sic],

Thomas Hawkins

[Patriotic Stationery (Red Ink)

Graphic of Woman holding a flag wearing a dress made like a flag.

Poem: "If the MEN of our country cannot uphold this Flag, WOMEN will help them!"

Jno. [sic] R. Nunemacher, New Albany, Ind.]

Camp Greenriver
December 18/61

Miss Webb

I received yours the 13th a few evenings since was very glad to hear from you again. I did not expect that you would write anymore, I often thought if the rustic letter I sent you before, and expect you had a hearty laugh at its inappropriate commodity, not that I expect to do much better at present. I wish I could write so that I could have some considering in its being interesting. Sickness is giving away a little I think. Some of those that were very bad have died. Some have gotten well, your cousin is recovering fast. Military life has to fare compared to the present; was rather sedentary but of late it has assumed an active appearance, but a few minutes after I received your letter till we were ordered to be ready for march by five o'clock next morning and knowing it was but about ten miles to the enemies [sic] pickets it left every fellow in fast perparing [sic] for the march even those that were in tents sick. Some at least were that fully determined to be in the first fight. eight came next morning all ready to march, when we cut out for green river. arrived here between eleven and twelve. we picked and layed [sic] of a camp attached arms and knapsacks. but the not very distant roar of canon, indicated that there next was tired, but it wasn't long, till we were ordered to that front. It was not long till the ragged 38th started with a roar of yells that would frighten an enemy that were not used to such.

It turned out to be a small affair, and was over before we got there. So we returned to camp and were busily engaged in sticking tents, which when done, all was quiet again. So it is at present, encamped among the craggy hills, of the most mountaineous [sic] part of Kentucky, I have yet seen with green river serving as a temporary line between the union and the rebel forces. we are subject to be called into immediate action any hour for which all seem to be anxious. This morning as usual, is a nice frosty one, and the sun is rising it seems with more than ordinary splendar [sic] and sends fort [sic] its rays of warmth, which seems almost to make the soldiers for a moment forget the cause in which he is engaged, but the magnifficient [sic] show of many thousand bayonets glittering in the sun's rays, does not only indicate to him his position, but makes him feel with a proud heart that we are able to start the war storms of almost the whole world, we are situated close the foot of a high hill, which I want to ascend asunday [sic]. I believe that I can get on that and see old Ind. which would be one of the most glowing scenes to me that could be pictured before the human mind.

Yea – more too could I but view the vicinity round about Saltilloville [sic], I should like to be there in about seven days hence. To see what a fine Christmas the Ladies would have, but here among the demise Secesh of Kentucky, I expect to take my Christmas maybe shooting at Bucker –

There are some very good looking ladies here, but they have very grim appearances. I don't think they are friends to our cause.

Well as I have another letter to answer this morning, and do not know the exact limits of my time for writing, at present, I must come to a halt, if you have pretty-enduring patience you may succeed in reading this. my fingers have been very cold and couldn't do better.

So no more, only pleasure to write again as soon as you get this.

Remains your interested friend,

T.S.W. Hawkins

I am not in any means in favor of playing quits.

[Patriotic Stationery (Red Ink)

Graphic of Woman holding a flag wearing a dress made like a flag.

Poem: "If the MEN of our country cannot uphold this Flag, WOMEN will help them!"

Jno. [sic] R. Nunemacher, New Albany, Ind.]

Camp Wood

December 29/61

Miss Webb

Being the same place surrounded by hills rock, and ordinary circumstances. I hail it a happy privilege [sic] to answer yours of the 26th.- which I had the pleasure to read a five minutes since. Though I can do little else than bother you instead of interesting you as I wish to. It surely has been a very dry Christmas here, all sitting around thinking of their hearts [sic] greatest treasure at home. I know myself for one, to indulge in the happy meditation though as I never saw mine. I could with difficulty picture out what might be her movements on that day, my but by reading your last reminded me very much of what your cousin told me in giving me an idea of whom I was addressing. He said you were happy at home when plenty of work to do. I quickly drew an idea that you were busily engaged perhaps expecting one of those clever fellows you spoke about. Please do not think me giving anything by the Lake. For it is Christmas times. Though dry still we can momentarily relieve the tortured mind by imagination with the greatest difficulty I succeeded in gaining the top of the hill before mentioned. Since by close inspection it did not prove to be as nice a place as a distant view seemed to indicate. After a tiresome scout, over rocks and water, thorny bushes of fifteen or twenty minutes, I gained the top, but it were only the eyes of imagination that could picture anything desirable [sic]. In regards to the troubles of the age, all seeing to be quiet at this place.

We were out as pickets yesterday, had a very nice time, it is with us here like with a person living in town. A trip to the country being a pleasure trip. True it is told by such we even from the citizens find out the condition affairs in this country a few weeks before we came here. one old gentleman's history I could not help but believe stating that the rebels were two so wreched [sic] as to rob the dead and dying and women and children were permitted to keep little else than life which is most allways [sic] sweet though most darkly gloomed with fear. I cannot at all doubt their suffering condition from the fact when we first arrived at this place. the appearance indicated that they might have been or were driven from their homes. and were living in the road like animals, if nothing else would make a man fight that shurely [sic] would on the day of our arrival we saw about twenty women and children at the extent of the field in which we are encamped who had seemingly ventured out so far to welcome as deliverers the armed columns that were approaching. Well it appears I am about out if you have pretty good patience you may read this. I hope you will possibly all the improprieties or anything of I was going to say of rough nature but you would pass it all by. it would add in bringing this a does that a letter from a friend has a great democracy to cheer a soldier's "gloany hows" [sic] and if you could witness the cheerfulness with which I received yours. you could not doubt its hearty reception.

Please excuse handwriting and believe me your most sincere friend.

Thomas Hawkins

[Patriotic Stationary – "LIBERTY AND UNION NOW AND FOREVER."
American Flag Graphics with Poem imprinted underneath:

Flag of the free hear's hope and home!
By angel hand to valor given,
They starts have lit the welkin dome,
And all they hues were born in heaven—
Forever float that standard sheet.
Where breathes th [sic] foe but fall before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our fee [sic],
And Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us.

Published by JAMES GATES, Cin. [sic]

Camp Wood
January 20/62

Respected Lady,

Your kind letter of 13th came to hand a few days since, and this evening beneath my little cotton roof comfortably seated by my little stove with friendly comrades around me. conversing on subjects of latest interest thus I am situated, my mind busily engaged to bring about Subjects that I hope to interest you when this comes to hand, there has been quite a still time in camp for some time till last friday [sic] evening, when it was supposed that we were to be attacked by the rebels some distance south of us, well it "accasianed [sic]" quite a stir among the boys, some yelling others lounging and singing. captains shouting fall into ranks boys, so it was, throughout [sic] the camp till all were on the march then naught could be heard but, the cheering roles of marshall [sic] musse [sic], but after all, it turned out "nothing" not a rebel was seen, but one of the most maginfficient [sic] scenes was presented that shurely [sic] ever met the eye of man, at least ten to fifteen thousand bayonets, glittering in the settling rays of the sun were beautiful to behold, well the sun soon dissappeared behind the gigantic forests, and hills west of us and darkness shut down and scenes of excitement and quiettude [sic] once more to same extent prevailed.

I heard this evening that a telegraphic dispatch came to head quarters giving information of fighting at summerset in this state, and hince [sic] that our ranks received orders to prepare three days rations though we have not received marching orders, but that strangely indicateds [sic] that our strongest wishes will be realized and we are on the march toward bowling green [sic].

Well, I must turn my attention again to your last letter, I fear, in my awkward way of expressing myself, I will offend you, but you must not take offence, at anything that is of an offending nature, even and attribute them in all cases to errors of the head and not the heart. I expect that I am the only one that will be made a prisoner of since leaving "Hosier," still my captor will not be resident of "Kentucky." I think most of the boys were already prisoners before leaving that state, Though as I said in a former occasion, I saw some very good looking ladies but that only made me think of those at home. Well, I think if you have fairly good patience maybe you can read this. I haste to send you such a letter if that it may be called – but I can't do better at present, for time is short as I have some preparation to make, at least we may be called to some other place tomorrow, consequently, I have written in haste. Therefore I hope you will look over defects and write again soon to your interested friend,

Thomas Hawkins.

[Patriotic Stationary – "LIBERTY AND UNION NOW AND FOREVER."
American Flag Graphics with Poem imprinted underneath:

Flag of the free hear's hope and home!
By angel hand to valor given,
They starts have lit the welkin dome,
And all they hues were born in heaven—
Forever float that standard sheet.
Where breathes th [sic] foe but fail before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our fee [sic],
And Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner steaming o'er us.]

Camp Wood
February 10/62

Miss Webb.

Thinking you wouldn't bid me a silent farewell. I have after waiting a reasonable time for a letter from you concluded that you did not receive my last, which I started to you on the twentieth of January. When I wrote to you before, we were under strict orders to hold ourselves in readiness for marching but things turned out differently and, we are here yet. Though somewhat tired of so long a stay in one place, we are generally in good spirits health and pleasant quarters. There has nothing come under our notice for some days past worth mentioning here. So, I shall be able to write but a short letter but being very interesting to us in camp.

I could not well omit the mention over a very pleasant little scout we took a few days since across the river into the land of dixie the object of our expedition being to hunt straw merely. We did not see any rebels, but heard of over a hundred about four miles distant from us. Citizens generally met us with smiles of welcome, and said that they were in hopes of better times in their respective neighborhoods, But leaving our scout and moving on down to the present day, everything seemed to be very quiet. This morning a column of Troops came through camp and ever since ten o'clock has been a continued train of men wagons and artillery and even now, though dark, the wagons are rolling on southward [sic], I suppose will stop shortly after crossing the river.

But as it is not my object to give a history of passing incidents here.

and my mind being somewhat confused, I shall add no more at present.
only Please to write soon to.

Your friend,
Thomas Hawkins

[Patriotic Stationery (Red Ink)]

Graphic of Woman holding a flag wearing a dress made like a flag.
Poem: "If the MEN of our country cannot uphold this Flag, WOMEN will help them!"
Jno. [sic] R. Nunemacher, New Albany, Ind.]

Camp Wood, Ky
February 13/62

Miss Mary

Yours of the 5th came to hand yesterday evening which was very Hapily [sic] received. I had become impatient owing to the delay of mine of the 20th January a fact you will be aware of before this reaches you, having written but a few days since, and nothing anyway of importance to write I shall not be able to write much that will be interesting at present. The force here is being greatly increased with men and pieces of artillery. What the consequences will be I am unable to say, but some grounds to suppose, a move, shortly.

Your Take was quiet pleasant, but as "Hostilities" bring about "Captivities" in our case, our correspondence must be considered "Hostilities" but if I should fall victim, I hope you will not compel me to "ground arms" as belligerents generally do, but if U.S. will give me a furlough 'ere that point arrives, I shall ask an armistice for the purpose of convening to Settle matters more pleasantly.

Well I must quit for the present, when I write again, I hope to have something interesting to write.

Normalarily [sic] remain yours in bond of Trust friendship.

Please write soon.

T.S.W.H.

[Patriotic Stationery
(Looks like statue of liberty holding a flag. Red, white and blue)]

Nashville
March 7th, 1862

Miss Webb—

Yours of the 19th came to hand yesterday evening and with pleasure I seat myself this morning to answer, though I don't know when I can send it, as we have been traveling some of late, and have out run the mail.

Yesterday evening was the first mail we have received for along [sic] time. I think it will come more regular, for awhile now.

I expect you have thought me a poor soldier and that not without reason for I admit that I have complained some of hardships which soldier in this cause and day should not do. When we hear, the exclamatory tone, of gladness expressed by citizens as we pass along the road, we can blend with tears of joy that they feel themselves freed from a yoke of oppression and hail us their deliverers.

beside feeling an inexpressible interest in the many devoted prayers for our welfare and preservation, sent up to the same of peace by kind hearted friends at home. we can well exclaim, amid the hardest storm, who wouldn't be a soldier.

though we have not lost all desires for a domestic tranquility and often think of home and long once more to be there, we think it better to be merry than sad, but we have had good reasons of late to be cheerful. since the 15th of February, we have been travelling a good portion of the time and today finds the 38th camped about three miles southeast of Nashville, Tenn [sic] - something like one hundred and twenty five miles south of camp Wood at green river over which distances we pursued the flying rebels, but were not able to catch them. It looks a great deal like rebellion would have to take a start, someplace besides this or else it certainly cannot exist much longer. During our march, we found various objects of attraction, most of which were signs of destroyed property, burned bridges and houses, deserted towns and plantations, remaining enough however to convince one that the inhabitants were once happy and living in all the splendor that wealth and art could bestow. Why could they not realize their happy condition and remained? There are many ears Doubtless would respond. Secesh - that lurking master that has robeth [sic] me of Husband, that has robbed [sic] me of son, Brother and Hapiness [sic] which I can never possess [sic] again - is what has destroyed not only our happiness but cutting close to the vitals of a countries [sic] institution under which unmolested all people can be hapy [sic].

But you must excuse me, I set down to answer your letter, and have run somewhat astray. I'm speaking of the management of public affairs, "me thought" I could hear you talking. I don't offer with you whatever, those high officers only get from twelve to twenty five dollars a day, and it is reasonable. to suppose that some of them would like more all the time. you spoke of being "able to conquer yourself" now it is a familiar and oft repeated expression here. If we get home shall we be any account? to that I have heard not a decisive answer. but if we call get home together, expect we will be denominated mad men. "Friend Then" is well. Please excuse my imperfect letter and write again soon.

Yours Truly [sic],

T. S. W. Hawkins

[Patriotic stationery—embossed crest]

Camp Morehead

April 12/62

Miss Webb,

You [sic] kind letter of the 17th came to hand a few days since, and with much pleasure I acquainted myself with its contents.

I am greatly at a loss at present for anything to write that would be of interest to you as there is nothing of note transpiring in our immediate vicinity. We left Nashville some three weeks since and made a stand [sic] of one week at Franklin since which time we rolled out for Columbia [sic], near which places we are at present encamped, it appears that our lot is to move along slowly, and keep peace among Tennessee [sic] secesh. - of which we haven't met with any trouble.

We do not altogether like the idea of remaining behind but have to be content. After remaining six years from home, I ought to give an experimental answer to your question insolong [sic] a stay ever as six years one is apt to loose [sic] some of the charms of childhood. Lay, but what I had reference to, by remarking, "We have not lost all desires etc.- was merely this, that one, having been well and properly raised at home, would be, and think very fickle minded to give way to habits here that they would in after years look back at with regret, consequently self conquering would not be necessary, except, in a christian [sic] point of view.

There are many citizens here that seem lathe to give up their principles and are hard to reconcile to their former brotherhood, but with the most of them, one may reasonably hope that time will give light to their darkened and misled minds, but there are others who seem determined, and who, now - as the editor of the Nashville Union says "Deserve a cell in Fort Warren," and probably will soon have to take up quarters, there. it is about seventy five miles from this place to the late battle ground, we have great reasons to rejoice after the victoryes [sic] gained there notwithstanding like many other dearly brought. For the present I shall close. Please take no offense at my simplicity. Yours with much respect [sic], please write again soon.

Thom H -

and Please excuse my hasty letter.

[Patriotic stationery—Eagle perched on mountain summit overlooking sea.

Two flags crossed by eagle's perch, a tattered 13 colony or confederate flag and a un-damaged American Flag.

Inscription—Majestic Monarch of the clouds defends the Banner of the free—
While lightning lances drives the traitors [sic] flag in shread [sic] is riven.]

Camp Morehead

Columbia, Tenn.

Apr 13/62

Co. I. 38 Reg. Ind. Vol.

Dear Cousins -

To kill two birds with one stone is a good business, and as I am in debt to each of you a letter shall write you both in one and you will please excuse brevity as of late it seems I am compelled to be brief. All is excitement and anxiety in camp as we have not as yet received a full account of the late battle. The particulars of which we all will have received before this reaches you. As the 24th Reg. was in the battle and the brigade was cut to pieces being attached [sic] while at breakfast I dread to hear the detail especially on Bro Geo.'s account. I much fear that he has been slain and I have not heard from Will since the battle of Winchester in which his brigade I learn from the papers was engaged if either of [sic] both of them have fallen, my prayer is for an opportunity to avenge their death and should that opportunity offer, I will profit by it to the shedding of blood and laugh at the dieing [sic] groans of acursed [sic] traitors. I am sorrow that I was not by Geo. side or that bloody day that if he died I might have fallen by his side. Why after coming this far through Ky and most through Tenns. [sic] in the front of the army we are left to inactive service is something I do not exactly understand though it may be for the best yet without honor to the Reg. We are serving as military guard for Columbia and may be here for some time and we may be under marching orders at this moment.

My health is good an [sic] I am heavier than I ever was before weighing 144 lbs [sic] 136 being my usual weight, yet I am not the man I have been I think from the fact that I do not have exercise enough. Being of an active temperament, confining myself to the narrow limits of camp does not suit me.

his ho. There is the home for dry parade and I must be off farewell.

B. Webb.
Bro. Mary Webb
Saltilloville [sic], Indiana

Camp Solomon, Tenn.
June 30th, 1862

Miss Webb,

With great pleasure I improve the present opportunity of replying to yours of June 7th, which came to hand a few days since while at Shelbyville having no line to remain there, I was unable to reply sooner than the present. We have been employing the most of our time for the last two months in marching. We took a wild goose chase to Chattanooga and back to Shelbyville and from there we went to Athens, took the cars and came up through Huntville [sic] to Stevenson.

We are now encamped in Tennessee [sic] in the angle formed by the State line and the river, have not been in any engagement yet, but the prospect for the future is very good, and the Rebels are just across the river. There has been some little cannonading across the river, but none since we arrived.

We are so near out of the world down here that we get, no news that can be relied upon and what little we do get of any kind is of so unfavorable a nature that we are, glad of reasons to doubt its correctness.

We have had so much marching today that we came to the conclusion that it was our unhappy way of serving our country. The time has been when we hailed marching orders with cheers of gladness but that time is certainly past, and instead we are glad to hail the welcome camp. Being very tired of marching a railroad ride was a considerable treat, much better than walking the same distance. But was not so pleasant after all as one might have anticipated as we rode on the tops of the cars immediately under a burning sun and whose of fire from the smoke stack rendering it anything but pleasant.

We are all enjoying a very good health at present. Ben had been sick, but wanting so as to be about when I said him lost, but not able to come with us so he remained at Shelbyville, -

As to slavery, in the south, I find my sentiments very beautifully expressed in the Huntsville "Reveille" in an earnest appeal to the Traitorous citizens of surrounding country "to return to their allegiance." It contains the following, [illegible] "Or in more

plain language, if it becomes apparent, to the eye, of the Federal government, that negro slavery prevents your return, with the constitutional guarantees of such property in your favor and that the peace, happiness and future prosperity of the nation depends upon the same. Slavery must fall, in those states that refuse to accept of the conditions of return. - he further adds - We do not desire it. We are not fighting for the Abolition of Slavery. Your domestic institution concerns us not. Then do not force us in the brink of the red Rubicon if you do, we will cross it; and if and crossed Slave and master must both fall."

I would gladly hail once more, the Industrial Shores of Dear old Indiana, the very name Strikes a thrill of pleasure, to the heart, and this industrious people. Glorious thoughts carries the souls away, and wings of wonder, hope and anxiety.

O! bear, me away to my childhood home. Where my early friends are dwelling, Oh! bear me away, ere death shall come. With grief my bozom [sic] swelling, but I must stop, the sounding bugle, the rattling drum, and hum of a busy camp, all day, this is not the place for solitary reflections. This evening is a muster, the preparations for which limit my time, so must close. Please write again from M. J. W. Very respectfully your.,

T. S. W. H.

Rec'd not until the 12 July.

Collumbia [sic], Tennessee
May 25th, 1862

Yours of May 12th came to hand 21st. Having been on the march for the last ten or twelve days rubbing up guns and clothing has kept us so busy since being started that I am improving my earliest names to favorable for answering.

During our lengthy march, we visited Florence, Alabama via Pulaski and Rodgersville, and from Florence we came back through Pulaski to Collumbia [sic], near which place we are making a temporary stay, but shall make a short move soon. We did not personally encounter any rebels, but our approach, frightened them, away from Florence and Rodgersville [sic]. they were not in much force at either place. the most of our journey was through accounting that offers little inducement to agriculture and seemingly less to civilization. in fact it appeared on reaching this place, that we had emerged from a pagan to a christian [sic] land, what few people we have found in a great portion of our travel had not seen a newspaper. [illegible] I believe since the Rebellion broke out, they were entirely ignorant of many battles, that has been fought,

and had they not heard [sic] the commons at Pittsburg Landings, they would have known little of affairs there.

But I must turn attention to your letter, which met with a hearty reception, and struck pleasure to an anxious heart. It found me well and in good spirits, but not seeing as fine times as we have experienced.

Still, as good as circumstances make it reasonable to know that you have so pleasant a time in old Hoosier, and could drink deep of the same cup if permitted to join your class under such circumstances.

But I am of the opinion that we shall never have peace, as in days gone by, for I am inclined to think that we may ever look on the Southern People as our enemies. And to be ready for them shall have to keep our weapons of war close at hand.

I sincerely hope it may not be so, but the People are so embittered against us that it looks like an utter impossibility to ever reconcile them to a brother-Hood that alone, can ensure happiness to Americans.

Well, without I could write something of some importance it would be impudent to detain you longer, so I must close.

Remaining as ever, your sincere friend,

T. S. W. H.

Please excuse defects and Write soon, again.

Camp Negley, Tenn.

May 1/62

Much Esteemed,

Yours of the 26th, April came to hand and was gladly received the 29th, being on guard [sic] at that time. I had not an opportunity to write sooner than this morning it does seem strange that my letters are so long on the way whilst yours can come in a short time as three days and perhaps is only accounted for by the irregularity with which our mail leaves camp. I think. It should like very much a transfer to the regiment you mentioned. And was I at liberty to visit Oakland, on any of your singing days, all the means of mordern [sic] locomotion could not move me toward that place with speed sufficient to

make me content. But as such a thing is impracticable at present with me, I must say that I wish you apology. Time and (myself) wait patiently in hope of better days.

I think your singing exercise anything but "tiresome"- nay - could I when done with this world momentarily waken up before being handed down to my long resting place my last moments would be ripe with Joy could I hear the Ladies sing some familiar [sic] air to which I oft lent a listening ear, in days that would but can't recall. I heartily join with you in wishing this war to cease, but have come to the conclusion that we shall have to stand another winter campaign [sic] and from the experience I have had in the same just passed. I cannot look forward with pleasure at the approach of another still - every bitter has its sweet is the old adage [sic]. - So spring, has come with, all of its attendant beauties and loveliness which is wearing away the dread picture wrought upon our minds by the privations of winterwarfare [sic] and again a spirit of Life and cheerfulness is taking the place of a kind of a downcast I wish it wasn't my disposition and lastly we are a pretty [sic] lively, Set!

We have a beautiful camping ground to which we have lately come. We started from Columbia [sic], last thursday [sic] morning for this place a distance of forty miles. The first day was a beautiful sunshine and we had a pleasant march. The road heading somewhat rough we out travelled ourselves and when night came we had nothing but the tree tops for as shelter between us and the clouds that were fast gathering over us, consequently we lay down with the expectation of being startled by torrents of falling water sometime during the night, but it held up till morning when it set in a slow but steady rain lasting till about three in the evening, when it commenced getting colder and met us no more. The thought of camping out without tents was anything but pleasant.

As I make such a desperate attempt at writing, at present, I shall come to a close. by subscribing myself yours very respectfully.

Thom H.

Please write soon. Direct to camp Negley. 38th and the letters will come direct.

T. S. W. H.

[Patriotic Stationery – Blue Ink

A Roman Dressed Figure in a waiving [sic] his wreath over his head.

American Flag in background. Embossed Union Insignia.]

Camp at Battle Creek, Tennessee
August 10th 1862

Ladie [sic] Friend,

Quite happy was I to receive your kind letter of July 19th which came to hand, August 7th.

We are still occupying the same camp as before. Every thing seems to move long with a monotonous gloom and we kill time (or time kills us) by drilling four hours a day, as hot as the sun shines, there are no movements indicating a fight soon. The Rebels still occupy the opposite bank of the River, and appear very friendly indeed. It looks like if was not for officers the men would come together and make friends yet, and despite of officers they are deserting the Rebel Ranks and coming into our camp every day.

The cars have got to running through to Nashville and we feel again connected with the world. You can only imagine the contrast, between that feelings and the one prevailing previous to their running through, for we have been here near two months, and your letter was the first to greet me, since.

As to your letter not interesting, I can't do better, than, to assert, that they are, of the utmost interest to me. And, when they fail to reach me at the exacted hour, I find myself enduring a suspense. I often think only experienced and endurable by a soldier. I am sorry, that I can't write something this morning worth sending to you. But we here, almost give way and curse destiny and think ourselves no more elligible [sic] to a state of free agency, we once enjoyed, for here, we are hemmed in by gard [sic] lines so ignorant of what is going on a half a mile from us, as we are of what is going on in christendom [sic]. Well as for all I can write this morning, I think it would be more interesting to stop at present than to continue. I am thankful to be permitted to remain your sincere friend.

T. S. H.

M. A. W.

Received August 25

Bowling Green, Ky
September 11th, 1862

Dear Friend,

Your kind letter came to hand the 7th inst. was gladly received; but owing to our being on the march, at the time and since I improve the few present moments in replying.

We left Battle Creek about three weeks ago, came over the mountain about forty miles this side, and went into camp, camped there two weeks or better took the line of march, for Nashville, where we arrived Saturday morning last, remained there one day and proceeded, to this place, making one hundred and sixty miles or over in the last week; the last march has been quite an interesting one, the road which is covered with dust two inches deep or over, - was lined for miles with wagons, troops, contrabands, beef cattle, and mules, which raised a cloud of dust that almost defied human existence and it being so very dry, that water was an object of particular consideration. So scarce it was that, for miles the road would be strown with stragglng wreches [sic] serching [sic] every spot, where there were the feintest [sic] hopes of finding a drop of water and what seemed to be the most cruel of all, cruel inhumanity our General, rode long before and places gards [sic] at citizens [sic] wells to keep men from taking their water, - this may be right if so, there are many that will hardly, get forgiveness for cursing him for it; but to take it all round, we did well after all. We were not kept so close but what, we had opportunities to forget as the Boys call it. And we swept all the fruit and vegetables generally that were in our reach. - I was diverted at an old Lady - as we were marching along this side of Nashville - throwing rocks at the Boys for killing her chicken. She appeared to be in a raging fit of anger, at which the boys merely laughed and went on with their chicken catching, on stoping [sic] at this camp, there [sic] colonel gave the men the privalege [sic] of going into the cornfield just by, but didn't say keep out of the Sweet potato pach [sic] just over there but however it was but a little time till the potato pach [sic] was over in camp. So it is soldiering, it's a life that might all be bitter, if we would suffer to be so.

I hear of the lame table fate of many of the new recruits just into Kentucky. I had no detailed account of it, and don't know that the report I got is true. - hope its [sic] not. - if tis, its [sic] truely [sic] a lamentable affairs. As its [sic] getting late, I must stop, I do not offer this indifferent thing as an answer to your letter but merely to keep coming your ever redeamed [sic] and anxiously expected letters. Taking circumstances into consideration, I hope you will excuse indifference for in no other case could I expect it -)

Please, write again soon to your humblest of all, Friend,

T. S. W. H.

[Patriotic Stationery

Eagle Perched on a summit with "THE CONSTITUTION" draped over the rock.]

September 30, 1862

Louisville, Ky

Much Esteemed Friend

Your kind letter came to hand just now and being under order tomorrow at 7 in the morning and not knowing where I might have another opportunity, I shall send you a few lines though hasty, and unsatisfactory will serve to let you know I am still able to act my part in camp.

I hope this will find you surrounded by more pleasant circumstances than those of which you spoke. I have a heart too full of sympathy [sic] to give you any idea of my feelings for one in your circumstances.

We have the pleasure here of announcing the death of, old Nelson, the old, wretch that managed the affairs at Richmond, Ky. with which you are better acquainted than I (was killed by Davis of Indiana.) I shall send you my picture the first opportunity with great pleasure. we stopped here with the hopes of getting to rest, but tonight gives strength to the old maxim (no rest for the wicked), I have been hard at work making out payrolls, to get our money while here, and just got them done today, so you see, we are sold in that score. I can assure you that, we have had a hard time since I wrote before, we were moveing [sic] along at the Heels of Braggs [sic] army, had them as we, thought nicely surrounded, and considered them ours - but to down so bright hopes, we more, all led, round the first path that would permit, and were part through day and night, to get to Louisville to before Bragg might get whiped [sic] by the army there at this place now a general's business is that which I have no business medling [sic] with, but find the American that would take under consideration, the generalship that has been displayed in the Ohio department of late and call, into question the Loyalty of the day, and we find one that certainly aren't deeply interested in the affairs of troubled, America.

There are, a great many troops here, both new and old. I believe they are all leaving about as fast as practicable, yesterday our (Rosencrans [sic]) Division had a great review through the streets of Louisville. Some of the boys have taken fine furloughs, and gone home. Since we came here with that exception there are but few got to go. I

did hope to get a few days to see a few of my closest friends, but I didn't so much as get, to cross the river as to what we may do yet depends on this march. - I do not know, where or how far we will go, before stopping again, this evening we elected Capt. John B. Glover, Maj. of our Regt. in place of Griffin promoted. Please excuse haste and inproprieties [sic], and write again soon. -

With great pleasure, I am as ever your friend. -

Lieut. Thos. S. W. H.

Will you please send me your miniature - I will send you mine as soon as I have an opportunity to get it taken, time will not admit of it, at this place.

[Stationery
Embossed Crest with "Harrison" in the center]

Camp near Crab Orchard, Ky
October 19th 1862

Much Esteemed Friend.

I am truey [sic] hapy [sic] of this privalege [sic] once more, also hapy [sic], to hear, that you were enjoying health, and passing cheerfully times [sic] weary hours.

We are as ever being draged [sic] out of one day into another and enjoying ourselves well under the circumstances however unfavorable, we, may have to consider them, have been on a prety [sic] steady march. Since we left Louisville, stoped [sic] two days ago, at this place, but have been under marching orders since yesterday morning and expect, to leave at any moment. On the 8th inst. we went into the Battle with fifty men, now our little Band (company) numbers but about thirty, after thirteen months hard soldiering in Tennessee and Alabama, we come nearly home, to fight our first Battle, it was our first, worst, and hope twill be our last, out of fifty men, we had five killed and twenty two wounded, during our engagement, we did not change position were lying down behind the crest of a ridge. would raise to our feet, fire and ly [sic] down again, in this position we fought till all our ammuniton was expended, when we were called off. For three or four hours, the scened [sic] was terrific, the elements above us seemed tearing to pieces with bursting shells. The old Flag at the head of our company was well riddled with Balls.

Though I was aware of there being two or more Regts. [sic] against ours. I was satisfied that we were giving them half, for there couldn't be more coolness displayed in times of Battle, than was by our Regt. and the dead Rebels found next day was evidence enough [sic] of the fact that our shots told well.

But, I must turn attention to other things and bring to a close. If I could only wield the pen to copy what I have witnessed in the last few weeks, I could give you an interesting letter, but this is impossible so I can but trust to time for an opportunity to give them verbally.

Owing to circumstances under which I am bound to labor, I fear it will be some time before I can get a picture taken, though shall not loose [sic] any opportunity and will forward immediately.

When we were at Louisville, I had not time to do any thing, was busy working on Pay Rolls, expected our pay there but got the Rolls Ready and had to leave.

As I am so very poorly situated to write for the present, I shall add no more except, it is only through the medium of circumstances that I would ask you to receive this indifferent letter.

and

Hoping to hear from you, soon again,
I am as ever your. -

Lt. T. S. W. H.

Mary A. Webb

Edgefield Junction Tennessee
December 1st, 1862

Miss Mary,

With great pleasure I embrace the present opportunity of replying to yours of Oct. - which came to hand a few days since. I was indeed hapy [sic] to hear from you, again. -

As by the long interval between our letters, I was induced to believe that they had failed to reach their destination. The picture came about a week before. we are, at present camped at the junction of the railroads running from Louisville and Memphis to Nashville

- at least ten miles from any place - Nashville being the closest. - and there has been no possible chance to get to get a picture taken and you may be ashamed that I feel, somewhat embarrassed [sic] at present to inform you that I am not yet able to send it to you. - and if - when I send, it. I could hope it might be a compensation for the one I got.

We have had very pleasant weather. Splendid time to be in camp or on the march, its [sic] true it has been getting cold, and the raw winds make themselves noticed. But a supply of good overcoats make ample moderation and too me. Sent for Gloves, - have not come on yet, but are looking for them, when we get them we can consider ourselves fit up for a winter campaign.

And there is but one thing thus makes Soldiering unpleasant now; that is we can't enjoy the presence of our friends and relatives; that once obviated, and, a military life for me. Though again when I look back at, - and reflect over the many weary miles and craggy mountains over which we have been dragged, after the heartless Rebels, it makes one think of home, peaceful home.

We are all enjoying good health, also, being very few sick in the Regt. but while all is going on well, in camp, we too often get the mournful news of the Sad fate of many of our Perryville Boys. Out of twenty two wounded, five have since died. - And others we think will hardly get well. - making now a loss of ten men, we sustain from the Battle of Chaplain Hills.

I believe I have written all, that's worth your notice, please, excuse Bad penmanship, and foolishness. and write soon to

your Humble Servt. [sic],

Lieut. T. S. W. H.

To, Mary A. Webb
Washington Co, Ind.

Camp Andy Johnson Tennessee
December 16, 1862

Esteemed Lady,

In my last, I said I was short for unable to get, a picture taken. Since then I have fallen in with an opportunity of getting some photographs, but owing to the dark snowing day on

which I had the negative taken, they turned out to be very poor things. And having waited so long, for them and seeing no chance, soon to better the case, I shall send you one of these and beg that you may only keep it till I can send you a better one which will be the first opportunity I have for having it taken.

When I wrote last, we were camped only about a mile from town. Since then we have moved to the opposite side and about five miles from town, thus lessening our chances for going to Town, and our old General (Rosecrans) has come down so hard on both officers and soldiers that, we dare venture outside our camp line without written authority thereby rendering it difficult [sic] getting away from camp at any time. At this time we are under marching orders, whether they are executed soon or not is more than I can ever guess at. A report has been current a day or two since that the Rebels were massing their forces, about six miles south and on our right evidently with the intention of attacking Rosecrans's [sic] Division.

Thus stirring great excitement and causing many precautions against surprise, yesterday morning the whole division was out and under arms, two hours before day, this morning it was dispersed with, as the cause of excitement had probably, disappeared, but still we are under orders to march at a moments warning. There was an expedition, west, of a battalion of Cavalry two or three pieces of Artillery and some Infantry, went down the Columbia Pike as far as Franklin a few days since, found a few Rebels at the latter place. And from the Best I can learn, run them out and returned to camp.

We have a beautiful camp, here and, could be enjoying the advantage were it not, that, we are held in suspense, with marching orders.

But this we are likely to get used to for it is probable this will be our condition long here after, as it well tends to keeps all parties on the watch. Therefore making such a thing as a surprise, less likely. But summing the whole, there is no peace for soldiers. Since it does not belong [sic] to that branch of human science, hence, we can account, for the, intolerable [sic] surprises and capture of portions of our army.

No more at present, except am looking anxiously for a letter from you, shall receive it with usual gladness, and as a high source of pleasure.

Respectfully submitted,

Lt. Thos. S. W. Hawkins

Mary A. Webb
Saltilloville [sic], Ind.

[Patriotic Letterhead

Crest – United WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL – KENTUCKY – red, blue, ink.

Looks like George Washington shaking the hand of another gentleman inside the crest]

Camp Andy Johnson, Tennessee

December 19, 1862

Lady:

Yours of Dec. is at hand, it came yesterday found me as usual well and devilish. I send you a letter a few days since, containing a photograph, which you will have received before this comes to hand.

There is nothing new news here relative to military affairs. Camp has grown quiet and all seems to be persuing [sic] their daily avocations. Such for instance as, drawing rations, policeing [sic] quarters, hauling wood, writing letters, cooking, eating, etc [sic]; and among others Battallion [sic] Drill in the after part of the day.

I could extensively, Glory in being a member of your School. But as its is, there seems to be quite a contrast, between the school I attend and yours, I admire your plan of studying very much, for I always could learn better to sit down by my own fireside, than I could in the crowded school house. - That is the kind of School I attend now; here housed up in my little military pavillion [sic]. I spend many hours prying into Col. Hardee's different modes of forming line of Battle, and dispositions against Calvly [sic]. - a dull and dificult [sic] study I assure you. Though probably, more interesting. Just now than other studies. But could I but leave my schoolroom, and form yours. Then I, would think I was attaining to a degree of hapiness [sic] that my most Sanguine hopes seldom aspire to. - I don't wish you to understand by this that I have so little hope of returning home, for even while on the field at Chaplain Hills, and the atmosphere all around, seemed burning and falling to pieces, the thought never crossed my mind that I was in danger. - But rather to look forward, to where peace, Liberty, union and they [sic] days in which the American people, may again be as hapy [sic] as they one, were. - can be found, or numbered; is to me like attempting to comprehend the Broad expanse of the mighty world, therefore, the present - I am glad - occupies my time and I, seldom wander for hence.

But if our old General would only slacken his grinding despotism, Then I would hope - probably soon to clasp glad hands with you? within the threshold of your peaceful, mansion.

No more. Just now, only remains as ever your Truly [sic],
Please write again soon as you can.

T. S. W. H. comd [sic] company
I 38th Regt. Ind. Vol.

Mary A. Webb
Washington County, Ind.

Signal Corps 21st Army Corps
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
January 24th/63

Miss Mary A. Webb
Saltilloville [sic], Ind.

Dear Madam

I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to write you a hasty note, however I do so with considerable embarrassment [sic] having [sic] never heard your name until today. You doubtless have heard of the desperate battle fought near this place three weeks ago and perhaps have heard a partial report of killed and wounded but death and suffering is not completed on the field of battle; but many a noble form is mangled to waste away and fall weeks months or perhaps years afterwards.

And O! what a bitter cup for Mother, Sister or perhaps a loved friend who has to mourn the loss of some doted one thus sacrificed on the altar of his country.

I have the painful task to perform of announcing that you have thus lost a friend in the person of Lieut [sic] T. S. W. Hawkins. In the battle of Dec 31st the Lieut [sic] had his left arm shatered [sic] so badly that it had to be amputated and for some time seemed to be doing well, but a week ago he took the Typhoid fever which he sunk under rapidly and last night at 8 o'clock he expired.

Lieut. Hawkins was an efficient Officer and a gentleman highly esteemed by his fellow Officers and Solders [sic]; so we all deeply sympathize with you in this his untimely death. I telegraphed to his relatives this morning. I have been all day making preparations for his interment but owing to constant rain and the Regt. being absent I have postphoned [sic] it until 9 A.M. Tomorrow. The Lieut. requested his waiter to present his gold watch to the Lady whose miniature would be found in his valise. I knew not who the Lady was until informed by Sargt. [sic] Benjamin Webb. When an inventory of his effects is made, I shall try to have the watch put in your possession.

For fear you should not know who I am or where I belong I will just say that I belong to company "I" 38th Ind. Vol. but have been on detached service twelve months. I am now attached to Maj. General Crittenden's Staff. Any information you may wish which I am in possession of I will be most happy to serve you.

My address is Signal corps 21st Army Corps
Tennessee

I close by offering you my heart felt sympathy in this your day of sorrow.

Believe me Madam, your most sincere friend,

Lieut. Wm. Leonard

Signal Corps 21st Army Corps.
Murfreesboro, Tenn [sic]
January 29th, 63

Miss M. A. Webb
Saltillville [sic], Ind.

Madam

By the politeness of Sargt. [sic] Ben Webb, I forward to you a watch in compliance with a request of Lieut. Hawkins late of 38th Ind. Vol. I have so reported it to his heirs at Law and feel confident that it will be satisfactorily to all parties concerned.

As I will be held responsible for the proper disposition of the effects of Lieut. Hawkins it will be necessary for me to have a receipt for the watch. Will you be so kind as to forward the same.

Yours with kind regards,

Lieut. W. Leonard

Washington County, Ind.

Feb 22nd 1863

Received of Lieut. Wm. Leonard
of the estate of Thos. S. W. Hawkins

one gold watch valued at fifty dollars

Mary A Webb

Washington County, D.C.

Feb. 24, 1862

Dear Cousin;

For the present, please except this very short letter I am about to write as I cannot do better for the present as I have just arrived here in the midst of a snow storm and have what I have seen and experienced. I arrived at the Cty [sic], Sunday morning the snow was about eight inches deep and falling as fast as I ever witnessed in my life. On haste, I hurried off to a hotell [sic] and I'd not set foot upon the pavement until next morning and then sallied forth to see some of the principal scenes of the great Capitol and the first of course was the capitol building its [sic] self and I need not tell you that I was interested you who know me and know what it there to see. I stood where the great men of the nation have stood, before me stood their pictures as natural as life and life size. Washington, Jackson and all those who were great, are looking down upon you what could a man's feelings be, you know and I shall not endeavor to explain. We have a fine trip up here by cars and boat, we go in camp near Georgetown and promise ourselves a prety [sic] nice time.

I expressed a watch to Mary Ann from Louisville, please tell her to acknowledge the receipt if it has come to hand. My undying love to all the family. Write both of you immediately,

Affectionately, Ben Webb