

James Watson's Letters

[picture James G. Watson taken at Nashville]

Company "I", 25th Illinois Volunteer Infantry

"Journey to War and Back"

1. Home, East Bend, Middletown, IL
2. Urbana, Illinois
3. St. Louis, Missouri
4. Jefferson City, Missouri
5. Otterville, Missouri
6. Sedalia, Missouri
7. Warsaw, Missouri
8. Springfield, Missouri
9. Rolla, Missouri
10. Fayetteville, Arkansas
11. Sugar Creek, Arkansas
12. Forsythe, Missouri
13. Salem, Arkansas
14. Cape Girardeau, Missouri "The Henry Clay"
15. Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee
16. Corinth, Mississippi
17. Rienzi, Mississippi
18. Jacinto, Mississippi
19. Iuka, Mississippi
20. Murphreesboro [sic] via Florence, Tuscumbia, Alabama and Mt. Pleasant, Columbia and Franklin, Tennessee
21. Louisville, Kentucky
22. Crab Orchard, Kentucky
23. Lebanon, Kentucky
24. Bowling Green, Kentucky
25. Nashville, Tennessee
26. Franklin Turnpike
27. Murphreesboro, [sic] Tennessee
28. Manchester, Tennessee
29. Winchester, Tennessee

30. Sand Mountain, Alabama
31. Stevenson, Alabama
32. Chickamauga, Georgia
33. Chattanooga, Tennessee
34. Mission (Missionary Redge [sic]), Tennessee
35. Knoxville, Tennessee
36. Marysville, New Market, Strawberry Plains, Blains Crossroad, Blue Springs, Tennessee
37. Cleveland, Tennessee
38. Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia
39. Marietta, Georgia
40. Chattahoochee [sic] River, Georgia near Atlanta
33. Chattanooga, Tennessee
26. Nashville, Tennessee
41. Jeffersonville, Indiana
42. Lafayette, Indiana (Great Western RR)
43. Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois
 1. Howe, East Bend, Middletown, Illinois

3,252 miles on foot and 1710 miles by steamboat and railroad. Total 4,692.

[images of map of that area]

TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

COMPANY I.

Note to the reader: The information from this table will be written in the following order: Name and Rank, Residence, Date of rank or enlistment, Date of muster, Remarks. There will be semi-colons between each column of information to make it easier to be understood.

Name and Rank, Residence, Date or rank or enlistment, Date of muster, Remarks.

Captains.

Samuel Houston; Newcomb; July 31, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Promoted Major
 Everet G. Knapp; Champaign; May 24, 1864; July 14, 1864; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

First Lieutenants.

William W. Brown; Middleton; July 31, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Resigned Dec. 27, 1862
 Everet G. Knapp; Champaign; Dec. 27, 1862; Feb. 7, 1863; Promoted
 Josiah Stacher; Middleton; May 24, 1864; July 14, 1864; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Second Lieutenants.

Julius A. Brown; Middleton; July 31, 1864; Aug. 5, 1861; Resigned Dec. 12, 1861
Everet G. Knapp; Champaign; Dec. 12, 1861; Jan. 2, 1862; promoted
Josiah Stacher; Middleton; Dec. 27, 1862; Feb. 7, 1861; Promoted

First Sergeant.

Everet G. Knapp; Champaign; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Promoted 2d Lieutenant

Sergeants.

Samuel M. Dunseth; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Dec. 12, '61:
disabl.[sic]
Thomas J. Scott; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864
George W. May; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64, as Corp'l [sic]
John Wesley Moppin; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Kill'd [sic] Stone [sic] Riv.,
Dec. 31, '62.

Corporals

Josiah Stacher; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Prom. Serg't [sic] and 2d Lieut.
Benjamin F. Higdon; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Jan. 21, '62:
disabl [sic]
Wesley W. Davis; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Dec. 10, '63, as
Serg. [sic]
Daniel W. Lane; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64, as private
Joseph S. Martin; Middleton, Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died, St. Louis, Nov. 28, '61
James Lake; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Jan. 16, '62: disabl
[sic]
Martin V. Marsh; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Dec. 12, 1861:
accidental wound
Daniel F. Rouse; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Deserted Oct. 2, 1862

Musicians.

James G. Watson; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64, as private
Samuel McKinney; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Wagoner.

William Smith; East Bend; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Privates.

Anderson, John; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Missing since battle of Chickamauga

Bray, Minter; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered-out Sept. 5, 1864

Banes, Uriah M; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Drowned near Cairo May 23, 1862

Bower, Valentine; Blue Ridge; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Chattanooga, Nov. 9, 1862: wounds

Bashaw, John; [blank]; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Re-enlisted as Veteran

Benjamin, William; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Knoxville. Feb.-'64

Campbell, Samuel P; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Chambers, John D; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Sept. 9, '63: disabl [sic]

Davis, John; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. St. Louis. Jan. 15, '62

Demoree, Lewis; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Wounded. M.O. Sept. 5, 1864 as Corporal

Frey, John; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Freelove, William; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Fisher, Septimus F; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Fisher, Isaac H; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. St. Louis, Dec. 13, '61

Ferry, James; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Rolla, Mo. Feb. -'62

Garrett, Charles; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Hillsbury, Moses; East Bend; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Jan. 16, '62: disabl [sic]

Hayden, Joseph A; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864.

Hawk, George W; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Hawk, William; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Kill'd [sic] Stone [sic] Riv. Dec. 30 '62

Ham, Andrew; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] Jan. 14, '62: disabl [sic]

Hendricks, James; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Rolla, Mo., Jan. 17, '62

Herrott, Charles; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Corp'l. [sic] Disch. [sic] Nov. 1, '62: disabilty [sic]

Holoway, Thomas N; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Hewerdine, Robert; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Kurr, Elijah H; East Bend; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Lawless, Patrick; Champaign; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Re-enlisted as Vet. See new Co. H

Lane, Henry O; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5,, '64 as Corp'l [sic]

Mills, Richard; Urbana; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Disch. [sic] May 12, '63: disabl [sic]
Minor, Rufus; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Serg't. [sic] Disch. [sic] Apr. 5,
1864: wounds

May, William; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Rolla, Mo., Jan. 24, '62

Morane, James W; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Otterville, oct. 10, '61

Mitchell, Joseph L; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Discharged for disabilty [sic]

Plusky, Edward; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Missing since battle of
Chickamauga

Parks, Daniel C; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Pittman, Johnson; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Corp'l. [sic] Disch. [sic] Apr. 1,
1862: disabilty [sic]

Peyton, Melvin; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. Rolla, Mo., Jan 17, '62

Ryan, Michael; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Rothwell, William H; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Shaw, Samuel; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died. St. Louis, Dec. 15, '61

Skillings, Lewis; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Stansbury, Theodore; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5,
1864

Stipes, Isaac; Champaign; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Deserted Feb. 10, 1862

Schloneker, John; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died, Nashville, Jan. 12, '63:
wounds

Sluss, George; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died at Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 8,
1863

Wilson, Charles E; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64, as Serg;t
[sic]: wounds

Williams, Adolphus S; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Died at Murfreesboro, T.,
June 16, 1863

Ware, James; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

White, Moses W; Newcomb; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Taken prisoner at
Chickamauga, Ga.

Woodside, Robert J; Middleton; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Watson, James G.; blank; Aug. 5, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Veterans.

Bushaw, John; blank; Nov. 7, 1863; Apr. 25, 1864; See new Co. H

Lawless, Patrick; blank; Nov. 7, 1863; Apr. 25, 1864; See new Co. H

Miller, William V; blank; Nov. 5, 1863; Apr. 25, 1864; See new Co. H

Recruits.

Biggy, Eugene; Middleton; Nov. 17, 1861; Nov. 24, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H

Browe, Alfred S; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64, as Corp'l. [sic]

Campbell, John A; Champaign; Aug. 20, 1862; blank; Missing since battle of Stone [sic] River

Carson, Joseph; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H

Cherry, Jesse B; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Tr. to Inv. Corps Sep. 1, '62

Conerty, Hugh; blank; Feb. 1, 1862; Mar. 5, 1862; Transferred to new Co. H

Croddy, John; Champaign; Aug. 20, 1862; blank; Transferred to new Co. H

Clark, Ezekiel; Champaign; Aug. 20, 1862; blank; Died, C'p [sic] Butler, June 23, '64

Demoree, Franklin O; Champaign co.; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Died, St. Louis, Jun. 18, '62

Davis, James; Champaign co.; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Died, Murfre'sb'ro [sic] Ap. 21, '63

Demorse, W; Middleton; June 1, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Freeze, Henry; Champaign co.; Nov. 1, 1861; Nov. 24, 1861; Disch. [sic] Oct. 13, '62: disabl [sic]

Gerall, Nehemiah T; blank; Feb. 5, 1862; Mar. 1, 1862; Transferred to new Co. H

Groves, Joseph H; Newcomb; Sept. 8, 1861; Sept. 8, 1861' Kill'd [sic] Stone [sic] Riv., Dec. 30, '62

Harriott, James; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H

Herrick, James T; Middleton; Nov. 1, 1861; Nov. 24, 1861; Abs., det'eb.,[sic] at M.O. of Reg.

Hinton, Pleman; Champaign co.; Aug. 20, 1862; blank; Transferred to new Co. H

Hormall, Henry O; Champaign co.; Aug. 20, 1862; blank; Taken pris. at Chick'ma'ga [sic]

Houston, Thomas; Champaign co.; Aug. 20, 1863; blank; Disch. [sic] Mar. 7, '63: wounds

Kilgore, Adam; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Kill'd [sic] Mis'n [sic] Ri'ge [sic], Nov. 25, '63

Kelly, Augustus; blank; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Missing since battle of Chickamauga

Lake, Henry; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Died, Chat'nooga [sic] Jan. 5, '64

McCormack, Joseph; Middleton; Sept. 8, 1861; Sept. 8, 1861; Deserted Nov. 8, 1862

McKain, William; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Morse, William; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

Miller, William; Champaign co.; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H

Nichols, Asa; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H

Nye, Benjamin; Middleton; June 1, 1861; Aug. 5, 1861; Mustered out Sept. 5, 1864

O'Donnell, John; Danville; Aug. 16, 1861; blank; Transferred to new Co. H

Osborne, Richard; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Disch. [sic] Jan. 21, '62: disabl [sic]
Peyton, George W; Middleton; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Mustered out Jan. 18, 1865
Rector, Daniel C; Champaign co.; Aug. 2[illegible], 1863; blank; Transferred to new Co. H
Ridenhower, John F; Champaign; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; Deserted Oct. 2, 1862
Spencer, Elijah; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H
Slater, James; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Disch. [sic] Dec. 12, '61: disabl [sic]
Smith, Phllip; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Transferred to new Co. H
Van Gundy, Felix
Williams, William; Champaign; Aug. 16, 1861; Aug. 18, 1861; M.O. Sept. 5, '64 as 1st Sgt.
Wright, Hardin; Middleton; Sept. 8, 1861; Sept. 8, 1861; Disch. [sic] Dec. 12, '61: disabl [sic]
Woolington, Henry; Middleton; Sept. 19, 1861; Oct. 21, 1861; Disch. [sic] Oct. 9, '62: disabl [sic]

Background Information on Company I 25th Illinois Infantry Regiment

Middletown's Yanks

Company "I", 25th Infantry Regiment, was formed around the nucleus of 78 men from Middletown, now Mahomet, Illinois.

The 25th Regiment Infantry was mustered in August 4, 1861 at the arsenal in St. Louis, Missouri and attached to the Department of Missouri to January, 1862. Fourth Brigade, Army of the Southwest, Missouri to March, 1862; 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army of the Southwest, Missouri to June, 1862; 1st Brigade, 4th Division, Army of the Mississippi to Southwest Missouri to June, 1862; 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, Army of the Ohio to October, 1862; 32nd Brigade, 9th Division, 3rd Army Corps, Army of the Ohio to November, 1862; 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland to October, 1863; and 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 4th Army Corps to August, 1864.

This article is written as a tribute to one of the Middletown Yanks, JAMES G. WATSON, and his father who saved the son's letters so that we may have the privilege of "going with" a soldier of the Civil War, to imagine what it was like and, perhaps, to be more thankful for what has been done for us and hopefully, make us more willing to help

preserve freedoms we enjoy. James had some acreage in East Bend Township. He came to Middletown from Brooklyn, New York, perhaps on the invitation of his Uncle Jonas to whom he refers in some of his letters

Captain Samuel Houston commanded Company I under Colonel W. N. Coler of Urbana, Commander of the 25th Illinois Infantry.

Diary Entry: May 12th, 1861 (still on the farm)

“the wheat and oats are growing nicely and I have about 18 acres plowed for corn and 15 more to plow. The war spirit seems pretty high here, almost everyone is volunteering their services to their country. I have volunteered, and am awaiting a call from the Governor. there are about 100 men in our company, all good lively boys, and will do the secessionists some mischief if they get a chance to fight, which I expect they will. I think my country needs my services and am willing to sacrifice everything I have in her defense.”

August 1, 1861

James is on his way. They all assembled in Urbana and “expect to leave on Saturday for St. Louis, where we will receive our uniforms and arms at Jefferson Barracks and drill until further orders.” Many WWI and WWII soldiers can relate to this interlude.

August 3, 1861

the regiment is mustered in

August 4, 1861 St. Louis, Mo. [sic]

“I have arrived at Secessiondom [sic] at last. Some of our regiment arrived here the day before we did and just missed being captured by a mob of secessionists in the city. there are about 40 acres in these grounds surrounded by a stone wall, situated on the Mississippi with plenty of shade trees and buildings and tents. I write this on a box of pickax handles. since we came here we’ve been sleeping in horse stalls, until Friday night, when there was a company of cavalry arrived and we were ordered to give them up. now this was pretty hard to have to give up our beds for horses and sleep on the ground. the commanding officer could not be persuaded that a man was better than a horse so we had to go to the guard house or sleep on the ground; we took the latter alternative. I have been appointed drum major in our company and have practiced some under the drum Major. I like it first rate, and can drum pretty well now; I am writing this

letter on my drum head. The city has been under martial law since (riot in the city) and we have had to watch pretty close. we have preaching in camp Sunday mornings and it is pretty well attended. We were presented with a testament each just as we were leaving Urbana, so that we have plenty of religious instruction. I feel that I need sustaining Grace to keep me from backsliding and being led astray by the influence of those around me. pray for us that we may hold faithful to the end, and crush this rebellion and then return to our homes in peace. 1st Iowa regiment arrived last night from the battle at Springfield (Missouri). They have had some pretty hard times; they have been on the march for the last four weeks, fighting and skirmishing and going whole days without food, and sleeping on the road, the thicker the dust the better the bed. They have lost about 150 men killed and wounded, and have lost a great many of their arms, blankets and clothing and have got very sore feet. The companies of the 25th Ill. cooked and carried breakfast to the corresponding companies of the 1st Iowa."

August 30, 1861, Jefferson City, Mo.

"I have had the camp diarrhea pretty bad. It is a very common complaint. We are encamped on a high bluff about 100 ft above the Missouri River, and about a mile west of the capital buildings on a state road. the state buildings are situated on a high knoll of limestone which is very plentiful here, in fact the banks of the river are most all limestone, running up in high hills very much resembling the Palisades on the Hudson River. There are a number of regiments in and about the city but the timber is so thick that we can see but a few. Regiments are coming daily. we are well guarded on all sides from the rebels. A soldier's life is truly a hard life and those who have always had plenty of good food well cooked, feel it pretty hard; many of us have lost our appetites and are getting poor as snakes. We have plenty of hard tack and pork and beef but no vegetables, so you see it is pretty dry eating. I don't expect we will have much fighting to do here because there is such a large force here that the rebels will be afraid to attach [sic] us. Last Sunday the Chaplain started a Sunday School. There is no drill on Sunday except dress parade in the evening so we can have school and preaching both."

September 8, 1861 Jefferson City

"Most of the Company I along with Company H went upstream (Missouri River) with provisions for Mulligan's Brigade." James, however, was left behind to practice on his drum. "There was a report this morning that our Company were all taken prisoner and six killed, but I hope it is not so."

September 16, 1861 Jefferson City

“Our company arrived here safe Saturday evening. they started in to guard a cargo of provisions and stores on the steamer Sioux City to the Irish Brigade at Lexington, but they ran on a sand bar, as the river was so low near Boonville and could not get through. They had to shove her off and come back again; after a good deal of trouble, they arrived here again Tuesday evening and took another company and started again next day. This time they worked around the sand bar, and went as far as Glasgow; here they met with opposition in the shape of a cannon ball across the bow of the boat from a battery on shore. Well, they was [sic] not prepared to resist artillery, but blared away at them with the muskets, and the first thing they knew the boat was going downstream as fast as she could go, with a regiment of cavalry on shore chasing them and at the same time firing their rifles at the boys.” The retreat was successful and the stores and boat was saved but “one of our boys strained himself inwardly lifting a barrel of flour to build a sort of defense to the engine and boilers. Another had a hole shot through his shirt pocket which was stopped by a likeness he had in it, yet hadn’t been nearly spent it would have killed him; another had a ball go through his hand.”

September 25, 1861, Bridge over the Lamine River 1861.

(near Otterville about 40 miles west of Jefferson City, Mo.) “We did not go to Lexington as I expected, but have come to the Lamine River to guard the bridge on the Pacific R. R. There is a great deal of work to be done to move a regiment of soldiers and their trap on the cars. There was 40 cars and two locomotives in one train but some of them were for companies stationed along the road. Our regiment had to ride in open flat cars, and it was a pretty cold trip too, as it was cloudy and part of the time a cold drizzling rain, but we were in pretty good spirits as there was prospects of a fight ahead. but we didn’t see a rebel. We got good pay. as I owe you \$10, I will enclose \$30.00 in this and make you a present of it, as I have no use for it, and I know you have. I wish you would send me some stamps. a dollars worth...”

October 8, 1861, Otterville, Mo.

“We moved to town near the depot. We have a very good campground in the edge of a pretty little town. They say the rebels are preparing to sweep the state of union men, and if they do you will hear of bloody work soon. I don’t know why our officers don’t lead us out to battle; we have been laying around and getting fat for the last three months. I am willing to trust their judgment. I am rather inclined to your opinion that if all the politicians and peace criers were in a cave where they could not be seen or heard for the next six months our leaders could do something and the war would soon end; but as it is we can’t do anything but what they will set up a howl unconstitutionality or some

other big word they don't understand themselves. I have confidence in Fremont, and believe that if let alone he will soon drive the rebels from the state."

October 14, Sedalia, Mo.

"I have just bought me a splendid pair of boots for \$4.00 and now I think I can travel through mud and water without getting my feet wet. we are within a few miles of the end of the Pacific railroad, and we will have a great deal of walking to do after this. We are expecting to start in a few days to have a fight or a footrace with Price".

October 18, 1861, Warsaw, Missouri.

"expecting to head Price off, but he travels too fast for us. We are waiting here now till a bridge can be built across the Osage River a mile distant. We expect to cross between now and tomorrow morning in pursuit of Price if we have to go to New Orleans, but expect to catch him before he gets that far."

October 29, 1861, Springfield, Missouri

"We are at Springfield after ten days travel on the road. We were 20 miles from here yesterday morning and started at 2 o'clock for this place, we got here at three in the afternoon, and were pretty tired, but when we saw how glad the people were to see us it cheered us up a great deal. There was quite a battle here last Thursday. General Fremont sent out two hundred cavalry as a scouting party to this place when they got here they found about 2000 rebels mostly mounted, they fired into each other and made some bloody work; our boys were surrounded once and had to cut their way out again; the rebels got frightened and ran and left our men the victor. they evidently thought that there was more than there really was of us. There was reported 86 rebels killed and a great many wounded; on our side there was 14 killed and about 40 wounded; they are here in town now. we are camped close to the battleground now. you may expect to hear of a battle soon. I expect to have a hand in it and will do my best; if I am killed you may be assured my life was lost in the discharge of duty."

November 27, 1861, Rolla, Missouri

"We left Springfield on the 13th and arrived at Rolla on the 19th a distance of 120 miles in six days, we laid by one day. I have a very sore thumb. is getting better fast, it was caused by a blister at first and then drumming so much after it. We have been chasing the rebels around a great deal but have not taken but a few of them. We started (Sigel's Division) one afternoon about four o'clock after a party of secesh that were out on

Wilson's Creek, ten miles from Springfield. We got there at ten at night but could not find them; we camped on the old battleground where Lyon (General) was killed. The rebels had been there the night before, but had left. in a few days we started for Rolla. I don't see why in this world they took us from Springfield for; if they had let us gone right on when we were on the track of Price and his band of cut-throats we might have done some service to the country, but no, we must leave them to murder and steal at will, and go to a place when there is no more danger than there is at New York. However, it is none of my business who is general. I think the only way to kill secession in this state is to follow the example the rebels have set themselves; that is, to go in small squads and prowl around in the brush and kill every enemy we see, and take everything he has got, what we can not take destroy. Our regiment is supplied with the Fremont tent it is large enough for fifteen or twenty to sleep in. It will be pretty cold living in tents this winter if we stay here, but I hope they will send us further south before long where it will be warmer..."

December 13th, 1861, Rolla, Missouri

"There is a great deal of sickness in the regiment, in fact (the regiment) is reported unfit for duty. The measles have spread all over the regiment and the mumps have had full play. there also several cases of smallpox. the doctors are doing all they can to prevent its spreading, yet I'm afraid it will spread. Diarrhea is the main cause of most all disease in camp. I don't know how long we will have to stay here. we have built a fireplace to our tent and it is a fine thing to warm by."

December 17th, 1861, Rolla, Missouri

"Dear Father, I received yours of the 22 (November) this morning and I think if you write any more such flattering letters you will spoil me entirely. I don't see how I could be otherwise than contented when I have plenty to eat and wear and pretty good health generally. We have moved our camp and have got a better place away from the other regiments. We are building huts for winter quarters with fireplaces in them and will be well fixed for cold weather. There are thirteen in our mess (no centralized mess with experienced cooks) and we can sit around a fireplace and have a nice time cooking and eating this winter. I had my likeness taken and have been waiting to receive a letter from you before I sent it."

January 15th, 1862, Rolla Missouri

"glad you received my likeness and that you appear to be satisfied with it. health of the regiment is no better. one man died last night, a mess-mate of mine, of typhoid fever, he

(Felix Van Gundy) was a neighbor of mine and a good man too. we went to work on our huts. we split logs and set them in the ground about 18" deep in a circle the size of the tent and rammed the dirt against it solid and then filled the cracks with hay and mud to keep it warm, and put the tent on top, so it is high and dry; the logs are four feet out of the ground. We also made a good fireplace on stone and mud and can do all our cooking inside the tent. We received orders today to hold ourselves in readiness to march at anytime [sic], so we may have to leave our nice quarters and take the road this cold weather. I am well and in good spirits."

January 30th, 1862, Rolla, Missouri

"we have been under marching orders for several days. so much mud and rain that roads are almost impassable for teams. there is a large force gone from here under General Curtis. the advance is at Lebanon 90 miles this side of Springfield. I expect you will soon hear of a fight between our army and Price as General Hunter is pushing things in order to get ahead of Lane. I will have a good deal of drumming to do now as our leader is sick, and I have to take his place. I have all the calls to make alone."

February 8, 1862, Lebanon, Missouri

"After marching from Rolla it started to snow about 10 o'clock and snowed all day and part of the night, and then commenced to rain. We had to scrape snow off the ground to lay down on; pretty hard ain't [sic] it for the first day. next day we started about 7 o'clock and marched about 14 miles again; we crossed the big Piney in wagons as it was too cold to wade, the road was slippery and it was hard marching but we toddled along and got to camp tired and hungry, and went to work shoveling snow and putting up our tents, cooked our supper and went to bed on our blankets. We got up at 3 o'clock next morning, got our breakfasts, and started again at 6 o'clock and marched all day crossing the Gasconde [sic] river on a flat boat and camped again. we marched 80 miles in five days and are now within about 40 miles of Springfield. It has been the hardest march yet; we had to carry our knapsacks because there were not teams enough to haul them. I can't tell anything about plans, but I think we have enough now to take Price this time sure. We had division drill this morning under General Sigel. It was a splendid sight to see 15 to 20 thousand men all in line of battle. we had a regular sham battle on a level prairie of about 1000 acres or so. We liked the fun first rate. I hear we have orders to march at any moment."

February 23, 1862, Camp near Fayetteville, Arkansas

“we are now 18 miles north of Fayetteville. We got here Thursday and started again next day but were ordered back for some cause or other. Our advance has had plenty of skirmishing but can't get the enemy to stand for a regular fight. We have taken lots of prisoners and killed a good many, too. We live off the country now as we have no provision train along with us. we found considerable at Springfield that Price left in his hurry to get away. I have been acting drum major since we left Rolla and have to make all the calls alone mostly. I have to get up often at 2 or 3 o'clock and wake the regiment up and its [sic] a cold job too, as my boots would be froze solid and I could not get them on sometimes and I don't get anything extra for it either. I expect you will hear about our operations before you get this.”

March 11, 1862, Sugar Creek, Benton County, Arkansas (NW Co. of the State)

“It is with feeling of gratitude to God for the preservation of my life through this awful conflict that I am enabled to write you a few lines. I am well and have been through all the engagements without receiving a scratch, although there was a perfect shower of iron hail continually pouring upon us for about three days. We have had some pretty hard times since I wrote last; provisions have been scarce and we have had to get our feed off the farmers as our train had not come. We have lived on corn and wheat bread mixed with salt and water, baked in ashes and fresh beef, pork and mutton; we shot them wherever [sic] we found them. But it will be easier on us hereafter I expect as our train arrived last night, and we have captured a large amount of commissary stores. On the 6th as a number of small detachments were returning to the main body about noon, we were attacked by about 1000 cavalry. Four companies of our regiment, F, G, I and K had been out the day before to take a flour mill eight miles distant; we got there at three o'clock in the afternoon and staid [sic] there till next morning but during the night General Sigel sent for us to return. We started at seven o'clock and marched to Bentonville, four miles through a snow storm. We then joined other companies and went further till we heard firing in our rear. We went back to help them then and turned a battery of the rebels who were on the ridge to our left. After some skirmishing we marched to our camp four miles further on. Next morning there was a regular battle and lasted all day till after dark. We were in reserve part of next day, and did not do much till afternoon, then were sent to support a battery; the rebels tried to take it but we drove them back and shelled them good; they tried it three times, but had to give it up. There was a hard fight on our right till after dark when they ceased firing and lay on their arms for the night. The right wing of the regiment which I was with lay down in the edge of a cornfield close up in the fence corners without any supper, and some had neither coat or blanket, it was very cold too.

“About two o’clock we started off to the right a few miles and made some fires and slept till daylight. About sunrise the battle began again. General Sigel ordered our regiment to lay down behind a fence in front of our battery, where we laid for two or three hours, with shot and shells, canister, and chain-shot flying over and through us all the time. One man in Co. F was killed near me, and a Lieutenant in Co. G was wounded near him, my bed-fellow was hit in the ankle and hurt pretty badly. General Sigel directed our batteries and they did good service too. We were ordered to charge across an open field in our front and drove the rebels out of the brush which we did without much trouble. Our batteries then moved and gave it to them again. We then advanced slowly through the brush and at last came in full sight of them and charged double quick on them, and run them out of the brush. We then lay down and the 22nd Indiana came up behind us and gave them a few volleys when they were ordered to cease firing. As the Colonel’s voice could not be heard in such terrible noise, I commenced beating on my drum and they heard it and soon stopped. The rebels had to take ‘leg bail’ then and threw their guns and everything that would hinder them from running. They lost a good many men and several batteries, our loss was not very heavy, but some other regiments lost a good many men. Our cavalry were after them and have captured a good many of them. I expect you will see a better account of the battle than I can give.”

You may have noted that this battle was never mentioned by name but the time it was fought, the place and the severity, all point to the battle that ended serious Confederate operations in Missouri and is known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern or Battle of Pea Ridge, March 7-8, 1862.

March 25, 1862, Camp Huffman, Barry Co., Missouri

“I can assure you, for if there is anything that will cheer a fellow up these hard times it is a letter from. there has not been much going on; we have moved from place to place on account of the scarcity of provisions and are now making our way east near the state line of Arkansas. Price is collecting his forces and provisions for another stand, I expect. his army is composed of raw recruits pressed into service as they are marching along, and lots of them desert the first chance they get; two brothers joined Co. F of our regiment after the battle.”

April 11, 1862, Forsyth, Missouri.

“I will take good care of myself and will have good care if I get hurt so don’t worry at all about me, if anything happens I have plenty of good friends to take care of me and let you know. If it is the Lord’s will that I should die for my country, I am willing and you should feel as resigned as I do about it. we left camp near Cassville last Saturday and

have marched over mountains, across streams and through valleys to Forsythe, a distance of 80 miles or more. we all felt cheered that Island No 10 was taken.” (April 8, 1862) “we’ve had some very hard times since the battle. almost impossible to get anything to eat, for our trains or ourselves. the worst is over now as our train is here now. wish we could get a chance to ride when we next start for we have travelled afoot so much that we are about played out. I have marched at the head of the regiment with my drum and been in all the skirmishing and fighting with the regiment without receiving a scratch yet, although I have been so tired and faint and footsore, that I have staggered along like a drunken man. This town is the county seat of Torrey Co., and is on the banks of the White River, it is a nice town but a regular secesh hole. cold and rainy day.”

The battle of Yorktown, the beginning of the Penninsular [sic] Campaign occurred about this time.

April 30th, 1862, Salem, Fulton Co., Arkansas

“As we are resting today from our hard march I thought I would write and let you know where we are. We are marching through a very rough desolate part of the country. nothing for us or our teams to eat hardly. we only marched about six miles a day. we got up about 3 o’clock and marched at five generally, but get to camp early so as to let the teams catch up, as it is very rocky road through these mountains. They say Price and Van Doren is somewhere south of us and we may have another fight or a footrace soon. beautiful weather. although it has been very wet.”

May 6, 1862, Batesville, Arkansas

“We left Salem the 2nd inst [sic] at 4 o’clock and marched 22 miles by 3 o’clock. It was a very warm day, and a good many of the boys fell out and didn’t get to camp till after dark. If any of us get sick on the march there are three or four ambulances to each regiment, and the doctors get them in to ride, so there is no danger of a man being left on the road to die as you thought. this is the best looking town I have seen since I have been in service. on the banks of the White river. plenty of fine houses in it owned by rich planters. steamers ply between here and ports on the Mississippi. This state is a great deal better than Missouri. land is better. people are more intelligent and thrifty. we will have plenty to eat I hope. I don’t know where we will go next, but am ready to go anywheres. [sic] We all think a great deal of him (General Sigel) and I believe if it had not been for him the first day of our last battle, we would have been captured, for we were surrounded and had to cut our way out the best we could; he directed the battery himself and opened a way through them in a hurry.”

May 21, 1862, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

"We left Batesville on the 10th inst [sic] and arrived here this morning. hard march of 260 miles in the hot sun and rain. we started to Little Rock, Ark. with General Curtis and crossed the White river at Batesville and marched 10 miles, when our division was ordered to the Mississippi. we returned and marched to the Cape. we came here with General Jeff. C. Davis, and suppose he will be our commander now. I have been promoted to Drum Major. What do you think of that for a plowboy one year ago. I have been acting drum major for over three months. I am well, and have been, all through the march; I walked all the way, but had very sore feet and was tired as any body [sic] could be after going 25 miles a day." (total 260 miles)

June 6, 1862, Camp 20 miles SW of Corinth, Mississippi

"We arrived at Pittsburg Landing on the 25th (May) and camped for the night after being on the steamer Henry Clay about 6 days on the Mississippi, Ohio and Tennessee Rivers."

"Next morning we marched out to the lines near Corinth and camped again. We were in the entrenchments two days and expected to have an attack but the enemy left, and so did not get into the fight which was going on at our right. We are in Pope's Army, Davis' Division. Colonel Coler [sic] commands the Brigade which is the 25th, 35th, and 22nd Indiana. Our advance is 18 miles from here, and we are expecting to be ordered up at any time. The country is very swampy. have to make our road out of brush and dirt so the teams and wagons can follow. we wade ourselves. haven't seen our knapsacks for five days. a blanket apiece; it is fine now but has rained considerable lately. I have sent \$20.00 to Jonas, \$10 to pay for his work gathering by corn and \$10 I lend him. He says I have got 800 bu. and it's worth now 16 cts. [sic] "

June 9, 1862, Tishomingo Co., Mississippi

"we're still at the same camp near the Mobile and Ohio R. R.. got a nice clean camp ground in the woods. we are treated now as strict as the regulars are, for our health I expect. The rebels don't appear to be very anxious get into a right with us. Maria wrote me a good letter about the Sunday school celebration."

June 15, 1862, Tishoming Co., Mississippi

"Received your letter of April 26th. it had been all over missouri [sic] and Arkansas. We had preaching this morning by Lt. Buckner of Co. H. made a very good address and is a

Methodist minister. we got the news yesterday that Fort Pillow and Randolph and Memphis was taken. looks as though God was favoring the right, as he always will do, and it only needs energetic action on the part of our leaders, with his blessing on us to bring the war to a close. Since my last (letter) we have marched 25 miles and are now encamped five miles from the Corinth and ten from the river (Tennessee). we have to clean off all the brush and make everything clean. but it don't take long for a regiment to clear a 20 acre patch with axes and mattocks and spades. this is all very well as cleanliness promotes health more than anything else. I have a great many things to attend to myself; a drum-major's position is not so easy as some might think for, and there are a good many things I can't do. I never have been able to drill at much. I expect I'll resign as soon as they can get another drummer to take my place."

June 26, 1862 the Seven Day's Retreat and General Sherman is reigning in the Shenandoah Valley.

July 3, 1862, Rienzi, Mississippi.

"we left camp near Boonville about two weeks since and have been on a chase after the enemy but could not find him. they are a set of regular guerillas and are always on the watch for our trains and trying to cut off our supplies. Mississippi is one of the richest of the rebel states and the wealthiest planters are the one who support these bands. We went to Ripley last week. fine large town with splendid houses in it and a rich country around it. There were plenty of niggers there all dressed up (it was Sunday) in their Sunday clothes and looked please to see us. There were some very pretty white girls too, but they turned their backs on us mostly. we marched toward Holly Springs. during the night we were ordered to this place. there was a fight at Boonville day before yesterday (14th) and our men lost their camp and several more killed and wounded. I have not heard the particulars yet. It is very hot here and the water is not very good either and it is surprising that we have such good health; but there is no telling what we can stand till we are tried.

July 16, 1862, Camp near Jacinto, Mississippi.

"we're camped here now, but don't expect to stay very long, as we were called up this morning at 3 o'clock and ordered to be ready for a march; but are still here yet. It is very hot now and it makes a fellow feel lazy too; we lay around in the shade and keep cool as we can. We have plenty of good spring water now and a small creek to bathe in."

July 21, 1862, Jacinto, Mississippi

“it encourages a soldier to hear from home. I am thankful that we have had such a long continued correspondence with so few lost letters. it is one year today since we arrived in St. Louis. There has been a great many changes in the United States since then and a great many battles fought and won on both sides. But when we look around us over the country to see there has not been much done towards crushing this rebellion. yet we that have been through all the hardships of the past year think we have done a good deal, and have too. we were called up double quick yesterday morning but it was only a squad of cavalry firing on our men out in a cornfield, they were soon driven off by the 22nd Indiana of our brigade.

August 12, 1862, luka , Mississippi.

“We left camp (Jacinto) on the 4th Inst and started for a camp of guerrillas at a place called Bay Springs about 20 miles distant, but had to march about 40 miles in order to get around them and surprise them. the day being very hot we had not gone three miles when it got so bad that they had to lay off the road in the shade, for the men were dropping in the road, sun struck every few minutes and lots of them would have died if they hadn't been taken care of promptly. Several did die. I don't know how many. I. had to lay in the shade or would have dropped in a little while. we then halted till dark close to a cornfield. I tell you we went at the roasting ears in a hurry and soon cleaned it out; every fellow got a big armfull [sic] and we roasted them in the fire for our supper. we then marched on again till 11 o'clock and laid down in a cornfield and slept till three. our advance had a little fight but no one hurt; they heard we were after them and had got away as usual. next morning we were ordered to return to luka.”

August 17, 1862, luka Mississippi

“We marched to Eastport on the Tennessee River Monday afternoon and camped on the bank till next morning then crossed on two steamers and one flat boat. The soldiers and horses on the steamers and artillery and wagons, eight at a time, on the flat boat. We haven't received orders to march yet but expect to soon. I don't know where we are going, but are now on the border of Alabama. I was very glad of that recipe for diarrhea of sweet gum bark tea Aunt Wakelin sent me, tell her I have tried it, and therefore can recommend it as one of the best things I ever tried.”

September 3, 1862, Murfreesborough, [sic] Tennessee.

“We left luka Aug 18th. After the division had all crossed the river at Eastport, we started at 3 o'clock Saturday morning and marched 15 miles next morning. we marched to Florence, Alabama. Florence is connected to Tuscumbia on the Memphis and Charleston R.R. We left our sick men and tents at Tuscumbia, don't know when we will

see them again. after staying one day went on and marched north, through the towns of Mt. Pleasant, Columbia and Franklin, then turned east and went 30 miles in one day to this place arriving here on the 1st inst. we had a very hot and a hard march and our feet suffered terribly walking on the turnpike in the fine stone dust, which made our feet awful sore and mine bled a great deal, as they got perfectly raw. I washed them off in cold water whenever I got a chance and soaped the bottom of my socks which helped them some. we have formed a junction with General Buell now and suppose he will be our commander.”

“We have passed through some fine country lately and the cotton is looking well, so is the corn. the cotton is all in bloom and looks very pretty too with its pink and white blossoms. We get all the fruit we can eat now, but the corn is most too hard for roasting. just received order to march.”

September 29th, 1862, Louisville, Ky.

“we arrived here on the 26th, we have had very long hard chase after Bragg. he has escaped and is now roaming the country at his pleasure, doing all the mischief he can. I am disgusted with the way things have been working. if we had a General worth anything, I believe Bragg’s army would have been whipped at Mumfordsville,[sic] but 40 thousand men escaped from nearly twice their number of veteran soldiers. you can judge our feelings toward some of our officers, after being on half rations and force marches, and skirmishes for nearly a month and then not gaining anything. it is very discouraging. lot of new troops here, and some from our place, and it does good to see some of our old neighbors again.”

“General Davis joined us here again. there is a report that Buell has been relieved of his command. I hope it is so. I have heard that General Davis has shot General Nelson.”

“We have marched over 600 miles lately through beautiful country generally, with hot sun pouring down on us, and the dust burning our feet, and nearly suffocating us. Our tents are at Tusculumbia and our knapsacks at Bowling Green, we have nothing with us but our blankets.”

October 16, 1862, Crab Orchard, Ky.

“I like that map that you sent and it is very useful sometimes to find where we are. During the battle all musicians were left in the rear to take care of the wounded and I had the colonel’s horse in my care, too. I was ordered to the Regiment with it (the horse) towards night and thinking to have to go back again (to the hospital), I left my drum at the hospital, but did not get a chance as we advanced about 4 miles so had to let it go. It was a drum we brought from home with us and our captain gave \$10.00 for it. There were two others left besides, so we are without music. There is a bugler though

and he will make the calls hereafters, for I will carry my rifle. our regiment was in reserve with others so did not get in the fight. We were under fire a good deal, but would rather have been really in the fight than in suspense as we were expecting every minute to be called on. We are in Mitchell's Division, Third Brigade. Day before yesterday we had a little brush with Bragg's rear guard but drove them through Lancaster without much loss. Some of our regiments get into a fight most every day. I went over to the battleground the day after the fight and saw some of the most horrible sights I ever saw. The ground in some places was thick with the dead, some were torn all to pieces with shot and shell, others had legs, arms and heads off, and their flesh was already turning black, but I cannot tell anymore about the battle than I suppose you already know."

October 24, 1862, Lebanon, Kentucky

"It is getting pretty cold to sleep out of doors with no tents, but we are getting used to hardships and don't mind it much. We have had a long hard chase after old Bragg, and have had one good fight out of him, so that now he is pretty badly used up; we have been under General Gilbert's command since we left Louisville, but are now in the grand division of Major General McCook and expect that if there is any more fighting done this winter, we will have a hand in it. at the Battle of Perryville though Bragg was not entirely crippled, he will not be able to do much more this winter. He has lost a great many men in killed, wounded and prisoners, besides arms and artillery."

November 2, 1862, Bowling Green, Kentucky

"Our knapsacks did not come up till after the battle of Perryville and have just pulled off a shirt that I've worn a month and burnt it and the lice together. I just mention that so you can see how we have to live while on a long march after Bragg. On the 25th of October snow fell to the depth of four inches. It was very cold the day before, but next day it thawed and left the roads very muddy. We lay in camp during the storm and made big fires and fixed a shelter of rails and corn fodder over us. I believe now that General Rosecrans is in chief command that there will be something done before long. I see by the papers that there is another movement on foot in the east and hope it will be more successful than the former campaigns have been. direct your next (mail) to Woodruff's Brigade, Davis Division."

November 7, 1862, Nashville, Tennessee

"Arrived here yesterday noon after having a skirmish with a squad of Morgan's cavalry 20 miles from here. about two miles out we were fired on by the enemy. we returned it and drove them into the hills, and killed several of them. They had captured a sutler's

wagon just before but hadn't time to get away with (it) but took the sutler and his horse with them. We took the wagon to Nashville, and will probably get some of the things in it for our use. Morgan made a dash at the bridge here day before yesterday but General Negley was ready for him, and stopped it. General Sill's Division got here in the morning before us and Sheridan's next. It is getting very cold now and I want to see Bragg and his army whipped before spring. You were mistaken in thinking our regiment had 400 men; there are nearer 700 or 800. our company numbers 80 men and there are about 60 able for duty now, the rest being on furlough or sick. I am now a high private, and don't have near as much responsibility as when a drummer, except when on guard. I only get \$13.00 a month."

November 13, 1862, Nashville, Tenn.

"we expect to march at any time. you seem to be discouraged about the way things are working. it is enough to make a well man discouraged let alone one that is sick. I almost feel like giving up in despair of ever seeing the union saved again, and when on a hard march that is doing no good apparently, and am suffering with sore feet or a bad diarrhea, as I often am it is very apt to make me discharged; but when I am well and hearty I love the life of a soldier with all its dangers and excitements. but I think our next march will pay the trouble of marching it, as we are now under a man that understands his business, and won't let the rebels slip through his fingers as Buell did at Mumfordsville [sic] and Perryville. The piece you sent about General Rouseau [sic] vindicating Buell, I don't believe but on the contrary his division did most of the fighting, while there was at least 10 thousand men idle and waiting to be called into action to help these comrades, who were getting cut to pieces. Ours and Sheridan's divisions were under fire, but not near enough to help, till about noon when Sheridan's were engaged and towards night the first brigade of our division went in and drove them through Perryville and captured fifteen wagon loads of ammunitions. They were obliged to leave the wagons and cut their way back again with considerable loss, while the rest of our division were doing nothing. Next day we were in advance and expected a hard fight but the rebels had left in the night so we were ordered to bury the dead and the cavalry went after the enemy. General Gilbert was removed after the battle and also Buell for incompetency I believe. General Davis again commands the Division."

November 16, 1862, Nashville

"still encamped west of the river near the city, and will be apt to stay till the railroad is completed, for our supplies have to be hauled by wagon about 40 miles and have to be well guarded. when we do move I don't expect to stop much short of Chattanooga and then have a fight.

"I am a good deal better than I was at Bowling Green and am on picket today. I have not applied for a discharge yet, but may before long as I don't feel able for the duty that I have to perform and my hearing is so bad, too. I cannot hear well enough for a picket. cannot hear the commands often. it unfits me for duty in that respect; but I am doing the best I can and am ready for anything I can do."

December 3, 1862, Nashville, TN.

"the regiment started last Wednesday on an expedition down the river (Cumberland) about 30 miles in wagons and captured 18 barrels of whiskey, 14 barrels of salt and several prisoners. I was on picket so didn't go. They came back Monday evening. one thing marred their pleasure. the death of Captain Clark of A company. Some of the boys got drunk and disorderly and he tried to arrest them and one was an Irishman, shot him in the head, killing him instantly. He was brought to camp and has since been sent home to prison and will be apt to stay there a good while and may be shot. nothing going on here but what Co. I has a hand in it. There are plenty of rebels at Murphreesborough [sic] 39 miles from here, and we may have a fight with them before long.'

December 7, 1862, Nashville, Tn.

"now camped five miles south (of Nashville) on the Franklin Turnpike (south and west of Nashville and nearly due west of Murphreesborough [sic]). Friday it snowed about three inches. Today is a beautiful day. I have been thinking about what I had better do if I get discharged this winter. I think it would be better for myself to settle down in Illinois, as I have a pretty good start there now and can make more at farming than at anything else I know of. But then I should like to help you some if possible as it is my duty to do still I don't know of anything I could work that would suit me as don't like to live in a city after being got used to the country, so I guess I'll pay you a visit and settle in Illinois."

December 21, 1862, Nashville, Tn.

"We are still encamped five miles south of the city, but don't know how long we will stay here. Our pickets have not been driven in as you heard, but we have driven theirs in several times. Our lines have been advanced two or three miles further. The enemy's pickets are seven miles this side of Murphreesborough [sic] and the country between is neutral ground. It is used for foraging and scouting and we often have a little brush with each other while out foraging. Our regiment went out about six miles from camp towards Franklin and loaded them with hay and corn and returned the same night without seeing one enemy, but they was there the day before. There was a sad accident happened in

Co. D as we were returning about a mile from camp. One of the boys while carrying his gun on his shoulder by the strap let it fall and it went off and shot three men behind him two severely and the other slightly. General Mitchell has command of the post at the city (Nashville). I don't know why we don't attack the enemy, but am willing to trust General Rosencrans [sic]. I must now close and will send \$5. for a New Years [sic] present. I was glad for those stamps you sent."

January 5, 1863, Murphreesborough [sic], Tn.

"Now that I have got a sheet of paper and an old scratch of a pen, I will write a few lines to let you know that I am alive and well, and will try to write again when our knapsacks come up. left our camp near Nashville on the 26th inst [sic] and since then have been through more rain, and blood and mud that it has ever been our lot to see in eight short days. It rained most of all the first day and night and we drove the rebels from their camp at Nolensville; and it was awful hard marching too; we carried our shelter tents and overcoats with us, some had their blankets and some all their clothes, but they got so tired that they threw most everything away. I started with my overcoat, shelter tent and oil blanket, I was so nearly run down the first evening while skirmishing that I threw my tent away, and lost the blanket a few days afterwards. It's pretty cold sleeping out of doors in a rain these times without a blanket, and without a fire either, but I had to do it several nights. I should like to give you an account of our different adventures for the last two weeks, but can not [sic] now. I have been with the brigade all the time and suffered with the rest, and been in all the battles, too. I have seen my fellow soldiers cut down all around me but was not hurt though the bullets flew thick as hail around me, one went through my coat. Colonel Williams was shot through the heart while cheering on his men; he was promoted from a Captain only a few weeks ago. I was with him just before he was shot. He had our flag and was calling us to rally around it, but did not see him fall as it was a terrible fight and we were all mixed up. his body has just been sent to Nashville to be sent home. He was a good man and a brave one too. Major Noding commands the regiment now. He has been on General McCook's staff. The rebels have left here and I suppose their next stand will be Chattanooga. They claim a great victory as usual, but had to retreat. Our loss is heavy but theirs is more so.

"Our brigade of three regiments had to fight a whole division and we held them to it for about two hours, when we were surrounded and had to retreat under a heavy crossfire of grape and cannister besides rifle balls. That was the two last days of the old year and I think it will be long remembered. I have great reason to be thankful to the Lord for his protection of me, through all this battle and believe me I should have been killed if it had not been for it."

January 27, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tn. [sic] (Battle of Stone's [sic] River)

"I will now try and give you a sketch of our movements before and after the battle. I have seen but very little of anything about our division (Davis').

"We had been for three days under fire, but nothing very severe till the 30th of Dec, Wednesday, when part of Johnson's division on our left was driven back by overwhelming numbers, and left us exposed to a terrible fire of artillery and infantry (This was early in the morning of the 30th, the day Colonel Williams was killed) We lay the night before in fence corners near a corn field; it was very cold, too.

"The day before this (29th) we had marched ten miles and laid in a cotton field with rain coming down on us all night without any fire to warm by. Some had their blankets, others including myself none, we pulled up the cotton bushes and laid them in the furrows for a bed and the water run under us all night; in the morning we made some fires and warmed ourselves.

"On Thursday (30th) about daylight the rebels advanced in force from a piece of woods in our front, across a cotton field. We waited until they got near enough and then gave them a sudden volley which staggered them and they had to stop, but tried it again; as we were behind a fence, we had a little advantage of them and held them off for several charges that they made; there was about the hardest fighting of the battle for three or four hours. We were driven from the fence three times, and twice took it again but being overpowered three to one we had to retreat and fought the best we could, every man for himself, under a heavy fire of grape and shell. Our battery which was on our left was supported by 81st Indiana, but the enemy in the first grand rush captured one gun, but it was afterwards retaken by some of our company and Co. "H", the rebels afterwards took it again, but it was finally retaken by Wood's Division. We being relieved by Wood's Division went to the rear and rested while they fought and drove the rebels the rest of the day. We found out afterwards that Hardee's, Clairbourn's [sic] (Cleburne) Cheatham's [sic] (Cheatham) divisions were in our front that morning and our division had to do some of the hardest kind of fighting to keep them back, in fact their whole army was massed against McCook's Corps of three divisions. The main cause of our first defeat was that part of Johnson's Division on our left were not expecting an attack so early; their (Johnson's) artillery horses were taken to water and the men were standing around their fires with guns in stack when all of a sudden the rebels rushed across the field in the dark with yells and fired into them so suddenly that it caused a panic and they lost their artillery and a good many men besides. Now you see why we were surprised and Sheridan's also so had to fall back against four times our numbers, after doing all we could and losing a great many of our best men. The next day (31st) we were in reserve. on Jan 2nd in the evening the rebels drove our left flank, Crittendon's and Rouseau's Divisions and we went to their aid, with Negley's Division. We had to wade the river three times as it was so crooked there before we got out of it

and charged with a yell, and drove them back with great loss. We were in a perfect hailstorm of shot and shell, but were partly sheltered by the river banks and hollows. Negley's Division took a battery close to us that had been doing a good deal of mischief and also a rebel flag. It then being dark, there was no more fighting that night only picket firing; our division went to carrying rails and soon had a good line of defense in case of attack. We laid behind it on cornstalks in the rain and mud all night, but were not molested. After daylight we made fires and warmed ourselves. It rained all day, but there was not much fighting, till in the evening they made a charge on our right, but were driven back; that was their last charge. Our company was on picket part of the day, and laid flat in the mud in a cornfield and kept firing away every chance we got; it was not pleasant you bet with bullets whizzing around us all the time either; even behind breastwork a fellow had to lay low for their guns were of long range. It rained all night and was very cold. About 4 o'clock we got up and started across the river and on to the Murphreesborough [sic] Turnpike, where we stopped and made fires and took a general drying spell, there having been so much rain that the river was belly deep, and we crossed a bridge of wagons and rails. We then heard for certain that the rebels had left and were not sorry either, for we were pretty tired and worn out, too, for we had nothing to eat for three days to amount to anything, some eat horseflesh even being so near starved. I gathered up corn that the mules had left and eat it and was glad to get it. next day we crossed the railroad bridge and marched through town two miles north where we now are. The rebels tried to burn the bridge, but it was too wet and only burnt the floor out, so we laid plank across the rails and crossed easy. It is almost beyond the power of human mind to describe the horrible spectacles witnessed on a battlefield. A man feels when engaged in fighting almost indifferent to the suffering around him, as well as the danger, and pitches in with all his might and don't think about getting hurt hardly in the excitement of it no matter how timid or fearful he may be just before. at least that is the way I always feel as near as I can describe it...please send more stamps.

February 14, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

"We left here on the 31st of January and started to hunt for Forest's and Wheeler's cavalry. marched to Eggleston [sic] the first day 15 miles. We took nothing but our blankets and shelter tents. rained hard all night and next day till noon. Next day we marched to Franklin 20 miles and camped about two miles south of town. It snowed all night and very cold for two days after we got to Franklin, but we camped in the timber and made big fires, and kept them day and night. We had to stand picket every few days while the cavalry did the scouting. They were out nearly all the time and did some hard riding and took a good many prisoners. had some fun though chopping down big poplar trees three feet through and catching coons as they tried to get away; we caught

several of them and tied strings to their hind legs and then made them fight each other, some of the boys got bit too but that only helped keep up the fun. marched 22 miles to Egglestonville [sic]. mud was awful deep and sticky. rear of the division and did not get to camp till nearly eight o'clock. most us laid down anywhere in our blankets and went to sleep without a fire or anything to eat. very stiff and sore in the morning. after getting warmed up on a quart of coffee, and meat and hard tack, felt fresh again. reached camp (base) by three. pulled off my boots and put on a clean pair of socks and a shirt and felt considerable better especially after reading five letters from home. I am thankful that I have kind friends who think of me while I am enduring these hardships and it helps to cheer me up when tired and discouraged on a march, and I hope some day, the Lord willing, to be with them and then appreciate the peace and comforts of home again. I witnessed one of the severest punishments the other day that I have seen yet, and was one of the guards at its execution. Five men of the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry were arrested for stealing and rape; four had their heads shaved and three tied to an artillery carriage and given 40 lashes apiece by the others with a mule whip and then drummed through town and out of camp, it was pretty severe but it was well deserved and right to learn such men a lesson."

March 5, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

"had a hard time on our last expedition; but often have as hard on foraging expeditions. One day last week we started out in the morning with only a few crackers apiece and marched about 15 miles, and then loaded 200 wagons with corn, hay, oats and fodder and got back to within three miles of camp at 8 o'clock at night and lay down alongside the road all night. our regiment was in advance returning so got through easier (because of mud) than the 81st and 35th and the battery who guarded the rear. It rained part of the afternoon and night hard, but we made good fires and slept near them in our blankets. In the morning we went on to camp and got something to eat, which we were might glad of, after being so long without. So you see it is not only large expeditions, but also on small ones that we have a hard time. Forage is getting very scarce around here, and we have to go further everytime [sic] we go. often times have a brush with the rebel cavalry; there was a company of them tried to stop us as we returned. it looks like we may have another fight soon.

"I fully concur with you in regard to the President's proclamation. I think he was honest in his opinion that by freeing the slaves of rebels, it would tend to weaken their cause and no doubt it would, but how is he going to free them while he has an army to whip first. I think it would have been better if he had not issued the proclamation since he has not the power to set them free; but if he had went to work war would have been ended now. But its [sic] as you say, a great many people would rather see the union destroyed than have the rebellion crushed by the Republican party. They say wait will

the Democrats get in power, then you will see the government restored in its original purity. It seems by the elections last fall that they carried the day in most of the northern states, and yet what have they done? simply nothing at all, but to pass resolutions condemning the present administration and fillibustering [sic] to prevent the passage of bills for the further prosecution of the way, and yet they pretend to want the union preserved, at the same time are not willing to help do it, but are wanting peace on any terms, and yet know very well the only peace the rebels want is to be let alone and recognized as a separate government, a thing I hope they never will get; we have undertaken to whip them back into the union, and can do it too. I am well with the exception of a bad cold.”

March 16, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

“the division went out about a week ago on some expedition, I don’t know what, and left me, with other sick boys here. (I) expect to join them again soon. is now warm and pleasant, and I think we will soon have spring weather; the roads are improving fast and there will soon be stirring times in the south. six and a half months pay due us. I think Uncle Sam would gain the love of the soldiers better if he would pay them more promptly and let paying for the niggers alone till after the war, for the soldiers families need and deserve it worse than the slave holders do.”

March 24, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee

“now encamped half a mile nearer town on a splendid campground; the other campground was getting unhealthy. such low ground but we are now on high ground on the Shelbyville Pike. the regiment came back. they had been in Egglestonsville and Triune supporting our cavalry who were after Van Doren. I don’t think it will be long before we have another fight but let them come on we are ready and waiting to have it done with before hot weather.”

April 9, 1863, Murphreesborough, Tennessee

“We cut cedar branches and set them in rows each side of our tents, so our camp looks like a large park with trees among the bushes. Most of the regiments have fixed their camp that way. It makes camp look cheerful and home-like, after being away from it a few days on a hard tramp in the mud. don’t expect to stay here long enough to enjoy it when warm weather comes as there is a desperate enemy in our front, who will have to be whipped before we can enjoy full peace.”

May 1, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

“Our cavalry has done good service at McMinnville and Franklin, and the rebels have found out that we are as good at a raid as they are, in fact I believe they are getting sick of war, and don’t care much if they do get taken, as our cavalry have taken lots of them lately, and they are coming in most every day. you seem to think I am not fit to stand picket, as it is rather dangerous. a soldier’s life is in danger all the time more or less and he gets used to it, but I am always on watch, more so in fact than others that can hear better than I. if I should be spared through the war, I will have the proud satisfaction of knowing that I helped subdue this unjust rebellion, and also served in the Army of the Cumberland which is an honor. Colonel Heg [sic] is commanding the brigade.”

May 15, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

“everything is quiet and we appear to be waiting for something to turn up.

May 23, 1863, Murphreesborough,[sic] Tennessee

“we expected to march a few days ago. there are rumors of the rebels advancing on us, and also that they are leaving and going to the support of Vicksburg, but I don’t know anything certain. I see Grant is pushing things through double quick and expect by this time has had a big fight at Vicksburg. Colonel Grierson’s raid through Mississippi has done the rebels considerable harm, and given them a good scare as well. I’m glad that there are a number of Christian associations engaged in distributing tracts and testaments among the soldiers and I see there is more interest on the part of Chaplains for our good.”

June 5, 1863, On picket, 5 miles out

“we were ordered out here yesterday noon to support the 2nd brigade of our division, who were attacked while on picket, but they drove the rebels off before we arrived. one killed and several wounded. our whole division is here now, and ready for anything. We are on the Shelbyville Pike.”

June 10, 1863, Near Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

“we went back to camp the next day after I last wrote, and in a few days came out here again, and are on guard one fourth of our time. nothing of importance going on here. we are expecting to hear good news from Vicksburg. saw the Chattanooga Rebel (newspaper) of the 6th, it reported Banks had been defeated with a loss of 40,000 killed and wounded. That’s the way they keep up their spirits. The same paper says if

Vicksburg falls 'farewell, long farewell to Tennessee and Kentucky; but if Grant is defeated then poor Rosecran's [sic] army will have to take it.' But I don't think Grant will be defeated, and then they may well bid farewell to Tennessee and Kentucky, as they will have to move a little further south. I am sorry to see that the government is so lenient towards the Copperheads in the north, and must say it is a shame and disgrace to the country."

June 22, 1863, Murphreesborough, [sic] Tennessee

"nothing going on that I know of. our cavalry are watching the enemy closely and run in their pickets every few days and it keeps them from sending reinforcements to Vicksburg."

June 30, 1863, Manchester, Tennessee

"We left camp on the 24th and marched in rear of our train as guard. rained hard. we got to Millersburg at 9 o'clock at night. our advance had some hard fighting during the day. it rained all night; next day only marched three miles. The next day we marched through Greys Gap and camped in Beech Grove. the next day we marched to this place. probably will go to Tullahoma tomorrow 12 miles off. our Brigade has been the rear guard for the whole corps and wagon train so if we haven't been in any of the fights, we have been enough mud to make up for it. we are on Duck river [sic] half a mile from town. The prisoners say they don't believe we will have much resistance till we get to Bridgeport or Chattanooga. I am on detail to drive beef cattle, and may be on it for some time."

July 6, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee

"we arrived here at noon on the 4th, just as our men were firing a national salute of 34 guns. our squad with the beef cattle had to march in the rear, the roads were awful muddy, and it was very hard getting along at all. I am still guarding the cattle but they are most all gone now, we may get more in a few days though. I think we will stay here a few days to rest and get provisions before we go any further and then perhaps have another fight. He (Bragg) has left one place after another so fast the railroad has not been tore up much. cars run through Tullahoma on the 4th and today there was five days rations hauled from there here in wagons. we are in very fine country and the wheat is ripe, and is the best crop I've seen yet; the corn is also doing well and there is plenty of grass for hay.

“Dear Maria (unknown relationship) I will tell you of a little scrape I got into last night. About 10 o’clock it began to rain very hard, and as we were lying on a gum blanket on the ground with another laid on a few sticks over us, we got plenty wet, especially about 11 o’clock as it began to blow and come down in floods, and our blanket blew off, some were in a bad fix with the water running under us in a stream and thundering and lightning very hard too. So we concluded to adjourn to a nigger’s house close by and make a fire and try to get dry. I went to the front door and tried to open it, but it was locked. I shook it and woke them up and asked if we couldn’t come in out of the wet, but they wouldn’t do it, was afraid, I expect. There were four of us, so after standing in the rain a while we went around to the back and got under a shed, but it didn’t suit us and we wanted to get warm for it was a cold rain, so after coaxing a little longer we threatened to set fire to the house and get warm that way, at last two of the boys pushed against the door and opened it. They was badly scared, but we told them we wouldn’t hurt them, we only wanted to get out of the rain and get warm; we soon made a big fire in the fireplace, and began to dry ourselves when two others saw the light and came in as wet as we were. We lay down in front of the fire and the old woman give us some blankets to cover us and we had a pretty good sleep after all. We had considerable fun over it and was much obliged to the old man for letting us in out of the wet. It was the first time I had slept with a family since I had been in service.”

July 24, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee

“you certainly had a very serious riot in your neighborhood, and a great deal of property destroyed as well as lives lost. The four negroes are having a hard time of it sure. I have read a good deal about the riot, and as far as I can learn it was done by a set of drunken rowdys [sic] whose aim was plunder and I hope the government will hunt up their leaders and hang them, and next time there is a riot double-shot their guns with grape and cannister, it is more powerful medicine than a blank cartridge, and will restore peace quicker than mere speeches. people ought to rejoice over victories of the past month, but that is the way with Copperheads. they get up a riot in the North to counteract the effect of it. General Stanley has got back from Alabama. he brought in a great many horses, mules and niggers of all ages, sizes and sexes. It was an odd-looking sight to see them, all on horses or mules in four ranks, two on each animal generally and guards on each side to keep them from straggling.”

July 12, 1863, Wincester [sic], Tennessee

“am still with the cattle and expect to be with them a good while, there are 20 of us and a sergeant in charge; we have a fine time of it as the duty is light. While in camp we herd them in the day time and pen and guard them at night, on a march we drive them

in the rear of the division. The cattle are killed every other day and once we had only eight left, but the cavalry went out and brought in over a hundred cattle, sheep and hogs. the cars now run to Decherd, 2-1/2 miles from here, and we have plenty to eat once more.”

August 6, Winchester, Tennessee

“everything quiet and we are enjoying ourselves as well as we can without much to eat. There must be a raven loose somewhere, as we have been living on short rations for sometime; the cars run all the time too, so it looks as though we ought to be having plenty of everything but as long as we don't starve it won't hurt us to be short for a while longer. today is Thanksgiving Day and there will be a meeting about a quarter of a mile from camp. we have reason to be thankful to God for the victories he has granted our cause the past month. it looks strange for one part of this country to be thankful for victories, while the other is praying for it. interesting meeting this morning General McCook couldn't make a speech but that when we started for Chattanooga he would let our division have the advance. We had three brass bands on the ground and had singing besides.”

August 11, 1863, Winchester, Tennessee

“still here, taking it easy and I expect waiting for cooler weather. Bragg's army is in Chattanooga.

August 20, 1863, Cowan Station

“I am in a convalescent camp. received orders to march last Monday. all unable were sent here. I was taken sick while out on picket. had a touch of Cholera Morbus and was pretty sick for three days. There is a large field hospital here, we are well taken care of and have plenty to eat. the regiment at Stevenson, (Alabama) I will join them again as soon as I can. seems to be an active campaign ahead and I want to have a hand in it. I am well now except a cold and a little weak.”

August 30, 1863, Sand Mountain, Alabama.

“I am well, where I am is more than I can tell at present. I joined the regiment again last Thursday night. we left camp Thurs night and marched about six miles to the Tennessee River, with a train of pontoon boats, it was slow getting along and was 10 or 11 o'clock when we got there. Our company stood picket on the river bank till daylight. we then put the boats in the water and about 30 men got into each and rowed across.

expected to have some opposition in getting over, but there was none. After the brigade had all crossed made a bridge of the boats. by 10 o'clock, General Rosecrans, Garfield and Negley and other officers then crossed with their horses and then the artillery and baggage wagons come over. we marched partly up the mountain, but found it so rocky and steep that it was almost impossible to get wagons up so the 8th Kansas and 15th Wisconsin went and camped on top, while ours and 35th Illinois camped at the foot guarding the train till next morning. Then we took another road, but it was not much better, and we had to help every wagon up. we got up here about noon. I can not [sic] tell you anything about future movements.

September 15, 1863, Camp in Will's Valley, Georgia.

"we have been marching considerate over mountains and across valleys, in the hot sun and dust, with little water and short rations, and have had a hard time of it generally the past two weeks. our Corps has been on the extreme right with our division in advance all the time. Last Monday we marched across Lookout mountain in a northwest direction. got to the east side about nine o'clock at night. In the morning the road was found full of trees that the rebels had cut the day before to hinder us getting down in the valley. Four companies of our brigade were sent forward to clear the road. about half way down it was found so steep that the artillery could hardly get down. division cavalry went ahead the night before and another in the morning. they (the cavalry) found a line of skirmishers on the crest of the mountain, and drove them to the valley, after some hard fighting, till they got their horses through the brush down the hill; when they charged on the rebel cavalry and drove them six miles. we found it wouldn't pay to clear our road out. we marched south 10 miles and joined the second brigade in the evening. Next day Johnson's Division joined us and the next Sheridan's. We were expecting to meet the rebels in the valley, but they did not come, and yesterday we went back across the mountain, and are now camped on the west side; we have been within 15 or 20 miles of Rome, Georgia and are now about 40 miles southwest of Chattanooga and the Alabama line."

September 25, 1863, Nashville, Tennessee

"when I wrote last we were in Will's valley and expected to have a rest for a few days at least; but in a few moments after I got the letter sealed up we were ordered to march. We went cross the valley to the foot of the mountain (Lookout) and camped for the night (Sept 16). in the morning we marched (17th) across the mountain in a northerly direction 22 miles and camped within 3 miles of Dug Gap. in the morning we marched down the mountain (Pigeon) camping for the night not far off; next day (18th) about noon our regiment went on Picket. we stood till nearly night, and were then ordered to

march. We marched in rear of our provision train, the rest of the brigade having gone on in advance. We went 5 or 6 miles and then camped. Next morning (19th) Saturday, we started about 8 o'clock and went 8 miles part of the way double quick through the brush, when the first thing we knew the rebels were firing on us; we returned the compliments, and then charged and drove them for a while; but they soon rallied and drove us back again. we had it back and forth all afternoon when Sheridan's Division relieved us, and they fought by moonlight awhile. Only two brigades of our division was there, the other was left at Will's Valley. we fought some of Longstreet's Divisions and I guess they got as good as they gave us, from the looks of their dead and wounded. I guess we were better whipped than ever before, but held up our own at last. they had a good many more men than we did. seems they have been getting reinforcements from every direction. Colonel Heg, our brigade commander was shot through the neck and died the next morning (Sept 20). only ten men of our company answered roll call at night (19th) I was one though slightly wounded. I never saw so many wounded and so few killed comparatively. On Sunday (20th) the regiment was not engaged but a short time, but it was very severe, the rebels having massed their forces again. I was struck in the left shoulder in about an hour after we went into it Saturday, but it did not hurt much then, and I kept hard at work all afternoon; sometime another bullet went through my coat and shirt collar, tearing them almost off, but not hurting me any, and towards night, a piece of shell that burst close by me, tore across my right shoulder blade, tearing both coat and shirt, but not scratching me at all. I was pretty closely shaved and owe my life to God's Care. towards night my arm began to feel stiff and sore. about midnight the Captain woke me up and told me to get in the ambulance that was gathering up the wounded. I went to a field hospital. all those able and could, got into wagons and were hauled to Chattanooga; the rest that could, walked, myself included, it was 15 miles. I got there about 7 o'clock at night (Sunday the 20th). next day (Monday 21st) we crossed the river and waited all day for wagons to take us to Bridgeport. Next morning we started, and was all day going 15 miles over the mountains, next day we had good roads for 20 miles. (to Bridgeport) started on the cars for this place. rode all night. I am in Hospital #3 and my shoulder is nearly well and I expect to go back in a few days. been pretty rough times, but I expect the boys with the regiment now have had worse."

November 1, 1863, Stevenson, Alabama.

"I did not expect to write again until I got to the regiment. I have been out on the Memphis and Charleston R. R. for ten days so did not get back to the regiment. I started on a train guard with a squad of soldiers on the 20th with a locomotive and tender. (the locomotive) broke through a small bridge that the rebels had burned the day before. we staid [sic] there guarding the cars, expecting every day they would send help for us. we

started back afoot after waiting ten days. we marched 22 miles the first day on the railroad ties. my feet are pretty sore and it will be several days before they get well enough to walk to the regiment. you may direct letters to the 20th Army Corps.”

November 7, 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

“I rejoined the regiment on the 3rd. I am thankful that I have got friends who are thinking of me. it encourages me to know that they sympathize with me and would help if they could. our regiment is in General Willick’s brigade of General Woods Division in the 4th Corps, General Granger commanding. Our regiment is behind the breastworks on the left of Ft. Wood. the rebels are in plain sight about a mile distant, the pickets in speaking distance at all places, and are quite friendly. the rebels on Lookout Mountain amuse themselves every day and night by throwing shells from a thirty pounder, but don’t do any hurt I believe. we are strongly fortified. I don’t know what the Generals were relieved for, so can’t give an opinion, but believe as you do that McCook will vindicate himself. he did all he could under the circumstances. If it had not been for McCook’s Corps coming on the double quick from the right to the left of Thomas at 12 o’clock on Saturday instead of two in the afternoon, as that account said we did, Thomas would have been used up worse than he was. Our brigade lost 669 of our 1218 men, and the other brigade lost about the same.”

(At this time the Union army is still under siege behind fortifications in Chattanooga.)

November 20, 1863, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

“I don’t believe the rebels will attacks us here for they know we are strongly fortified...as for our attacking them, that is out of the question. we will have to get provisions here to last a month at least, before we could do anything. been on one third rations for a long time and are likely to have to do so for a month yet. the cars only run to Bridgeport, so provisions have to be hauled on wagons over a very rough road until the cars can get through or else boats, so you see it’s slow work. Clothing is scarce too and no chance of getting any either soon. I am obliged to you for wishing you could send me something but there is no use. the railroad is run to its utmost, and nothing but government supplies will be carried. Sutlers are not allowed here, so there is no chance to buy anything. received four months’ pay. would spend it all for my own use if I could buy anything to eat or wear. but as I can’t I will send most of it to you. my tooth don’t bother me any now. not very pleasant to have a toothache on an empty stomach...”

November 26, 1863, Chattanooga Tennessee.

"I am well. I little knew when I last wrote that I should be engaged in another fight so soon but it is over now for a while, and I am all right (Missionary Ridge). We left camp Monday afternoon and drove the rebels over a mile and took their first line of rifle pits. We then worked all night and entrenched ourselves. we were expecting to be attacked but were not. only picket fighting with an artillery duel. Yesterday Companies A, I and K went out on picket and while we were going out the rebels shelled us from the Ridge and knocked dirt all over us, but after we got out on our posts they did not bother us any, although in plain sight at the foot of the Ridge. in about two hours we were ordered to advance and drive the rebels at the foot of the Ridge. We went at them and drove them pretty lively; the whole picket line soon drove them behind their works, and expected to meet with some hard work, but they were taken by surprise and did not wait long but went on a run up the hill double quick and us after them. All this time their artillery was shelling us from the top, and just poured the grape and cannister into us, but they were poor marksmen, and we got up the hill without much loss, with the brigade close behind us. The hill is very steep and it was hard getting through the brush that the rebels had cut in our front to stop us, but we took one of the highest peaks of the Ridge with the help of the 35th Ill, and captured the battery that were working on us, after some hard fighting at close range for about 20 minutes. The rebels were completely routed and we had more fun laughing over it than we have had since the battle of Pea Ridge. They ran like sheep, and threw their guns, knapsacks and everything that would hinder them from running and lots of them run down hill and gave themselves up; General Grant rode along our lines on top of the Ridge, and took off his hat and thanked each regiment as he went along. We took off our equipment and rested for the first time in three days. today we have been laying at our ease and have buried the rebel dead. We received a note of thanks from the President for our great victory; the dispatch was read to each regiment in the Army here. Grant had telegraphed (The President) that he would make him a present of Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. One man in our Company was killed (Adam Kilgore).others wounded. I have merely told you of the part our division took in the fight. the whole army has been engaged but I can't tell how they all come out yet, any more that Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge is ours now. I believe the rebels are worse whipped and demoralized than they have been yet, and are now making tracks further south. we have orders for a four day march in the morning and I will let you know where I am when we get to our destination; but wherever [sic] Willick's Brigade, of Wood's Division is, I expect to be. have reason to be very thankful to Him for his watchcare [sic] over me these last few days. we have been very short of feed. I picked up a rebel haversack full of grub and had a good supper last night for once in a long while. our overcoats left at Murphreesborough [sic] have arrived."

December 9, 1863, Knoxville, Tennessee

“we have at last got to this out of the way place, and are as likely to starve to death here as we were in Chattanooga and more so as no cars come as near here as they did then. We have only drawn four days rations since we started on the 29th (11 days), the rest such as it was, we took from the natives. a fellow can't even get an ear of corn to roast for love or money. there is nothing to buy. I went to a house last night while on picket and tried to get a piece of bread. they gave me a piece of cornbread about as big as my hand for 20 cents, which I was glad to get. I expect we will starve to death here this winter, if something ain't [sic] done soon to get provisions here. last we heard Bragg's army is that they had gone to Atlanta, Ga. I haven't told you anything about the battles near Chattanooga because I don't know anything about it but what I was engaged in on the 25th but you have probably seen something in the papers about it before now.”

December 21st, 1863, Blain's Cross Roads, Tennessee

“I will try and write a letter, as I have got some envelopes and a lead pencil. There is no ink here to buy and borrowing is out of the question. was glad to get a letter once more. nearly a month since we have had any mail at all. that piece you sent was the first account of the battle that I had seen, and it was true as far as it went. we did not expect to take the Ridge when we started out. but when the skirmishers had driven the rebels away from the foot of the hill we were so tickled to see them run that we took after them and the brigade followed as fast as it could, though they did not get to the top till most of the rebels were gone. So the Skirmish line really took the ridge in front of our division at least. we've had some very hard times since we left Chattanooga, and have heard no news at all, so can't tell anything about what has been going on. our division is in reserve, gathering forage and grinding wheat and corn. Our regiment and the 13th went to Marysville and got plenty to eat, as we were sent there to forage. we were ordered back to Knoxville and got in cars and rode to Strawberry Plains and caught [sic] up with the brigade. we are here yet waiting for something to happen. we may have a fight again in a few days, but I don't know anything about the situation. we have at last begun to draw rations from the government. it will be sometime before we get full rations. they have to be sent from Chattanooga to London on a boat and then to Strawberry Plains on the cars. but we make out well on corn meal and plenty of fresh meat, but not much salt and no soap to wash with. I am as ragged as I used to be when running around the streets of Brooklyn and a great deal dirtier. I bought a pair of boots as we were going through Knoxville. we have consolation that it will be over for us in about 5 months. if we don't freeze or starve to death, unless the rebels kill us. I heard last night that Longstreet escaped with his army.”

January 11, 1864, Strawberry Plains, Tennessee.

“our brigade has been here since the 25th of December building a bridge over the Holstein River. it is a quarter of a mile long. there has been considerable excitement in camp lately about veteran volunteers, and a good many regiments have re-enlisted. Our regiment came very near going for another three years, but there was not quite enough men volunteered. I believe if we were in good quarters and had plenty to eat and wear half the Army would re-enlist, but as it is we have to live out in brush hut or sheds with not more than half enough to eat or wear this cold weather and the men don't feel like going in again under these circumstances. Colonel Nodine commands the regiment now.”

January 29, 1864, Marysville, Tennessee.

“glad to get a letter once more as letters are scarce nowadays. glad to get those pieces about Chattanooga. been moving around considerable. but have not had any fighting to do yet. We have been about 30 miles north of Knoxville, in a splendid country on the French Broad River with plenty of grain and meat, but had to leave there for some cause or other. Marysville, 16 miles south of Knoxville, is a pretty good sized town. the county seat of Blount Co. We have fared very well lately. there are two mills here grinding flour and meal day and night for us. We are having splendid weather now. seems like spring, in fact some of the natives have commenced plowing. General Willich came in our camp and made us a little speech on the subject of re-enlisting. Four of the regiments have already gone (re-enlistment furlough). I guess I will wait till next summer, then can go home and stay there till I think the government needs me again. It is only about four months longer, then our time will be out. I think after boys have been home a few months they will get tired of it and long for more stirring times. there is a charm about an active campaign that tends to make a fellow feel good, and although it is hard sometimes, yet I am always in better health, and enjoy myself better on a march than while laying around camp.”

February 11, 1864, Marysville, Tennessee.

“New Years [sic] Day was the coldest day we have had; it snowed about an inch and was very windy for several days. mountains east of us are covered with snow now. the sun shines out bright in day time and it's pleasant, but pretty cold at night. The rebels are said to be in the mountains about ten miles off. there is a report that they had a skirmish with our cavalry five miles from here. I suppose they are getting froze out of the mountains, and want to get down here where it is warmer. Well, let them come; we will give them a warm reception. last of January there was another call made on our regiment to re-enlist, and about one half did. I did not expect to do so, but as nearly all of our company was going into it, thought I would too, as there was a prospect of

making something better than we have been getting, and I thought if any one [sic] was entitled to the bounty, I was, so put my name down. We started (for home, they thought) and marched 10 miles towards London. Next day we marched to and crossed the Holstein (river) at Lenora on the railroad, six miles north of London; here we were ordered to stay till further orders, as they could not furnish transportation to Chattanooga. the 3rd Ind, 15th Wisconsin and 59th Ohio were with us, and we laid there six days, expecting every day to get off; but at least were ordered back to Marysville again as there was no chance of getting off, so all but the 59th came back; they (59th) said there was going (home) anyhow, but I don't know whether they have or not. you see what encouragement there is for veteran volunteers. there is either too much red tape around us or else they are afraid the rebels will come in here and take what's left of the Army. most of the boys swear they will never go into it again after being fooled so often and I know I won't till my present time is out. So much for veteran volunteers. I am well and have enough to eat but none to spare but are in hopes that by spring we will have plenty again."

February 26, 1864, Strawberry Plains.

"we left Knoxville day before yesterday where we had been for a few days, and marched here again as the rebels had left a few days before and have gone toward Chattanooga, I believe. If we had a general that wasn't so easily scared we wouldn't have had to retreat so often to Knoxville, because there was not more than enough to drive our two divisions. If General Burnside had been here the rebels would have had some fighting to do before they drove us to Knoxville, instead of the few skirmishes they had. I did not know of all the clothing and provisions that had to be abandoned (by not standing and fighting) but I do know that we were in splendid country. had more to eat. since then we have been living on less than half rations and have suffered for the want of the clothing that was burnt. the clothing could have been saved if there hadn't been such a scare among the quartermasters; and then there was a lot of new Spencer rifles burnt too, when they could have been given to the men just as well as not, but these are only a few of the many acts of our officers, yet it don't do any good to complain. We had just finished the bridge a few days before, and then it was ordered to be burnt, to prevent the rebels from crossing, while there was no need of letting the rebels get near enough to cross, as there was a stockade this side of the river, and we could have held it easy enough. I won't say anymore, its [sic] too disgraceful to think about and won't bear exposure."

March 9, 1864, New Market Tennessee.

“those pieces you sent were stale news for once but am obliged all the same for your kindness in sending them. that piece about the Chickamauga from Colonel Wilder was partly true and partly false. the open field he speaks of, we crossed four different times under heavy fire while his brigade lay behind a fence in the brush, and were out of range most of the time that we were fighting. That ditch in the field was not full of dead rebels nor of our men, but there were a few wounded who crawled in there to get out of the way. I have not much sympathy with the Sanitary Fairs that are going in all over the country. I believe they do more harm than good. It is true that there are cases where a soldier is benefitted, but most of the stuff that is sent to hospitals is used by waiters and hospital pimps generally. there are soldiers laying around hospitals that are as able for duty as any of us here, and if they got no better food they would not stay there. Now if people want to help the soldiers let them either give him their money or else to some of his folks at home to save for him. then after the war he will have something to make a start in life with. the best way would be for the people to help the government furnish its soldiers with the necessaries of life and let the luxuries [sic] go. it costs me an average of 25 to 50 cents a day for grub besides what the government furnishes and I don't eat more than common folks. the bridge over the Holstein river will be done in about ten days, I expect, as it was not wholly burnt. We crossed the river on the 27th and marched to Morristown on the 29th. The rebels were then said to be at Bull's Gap, about 10 miles further up the road. On the 2nd our division marched back to this place 15 miles and have been here a week and have had no regular camp. I don't know whether Longstreet's army is at Bulls's [sic] Gap or not, but think most of it has gone to Virginia; if so, I shouldn't wonder if our division went back to Chattanooga. and we are there alone away from the rest of the corps; the 1st division is there and Sheridan's at London while we have been doing the scouting for the Army that is here.”

March 27th, 1864, Strawberry Plains, Tennessee.

“I was attacked with a tooth ache on the 21st and caught cold in it next day, as it snowed hard all day and I got wet through. I lay abed all day too, but the wind blew it all over me. three days we had snow or rain and I was wet a good deal of the time...I have suffered all the horrors of lock jaw and swelled face that can be imagined. yesterday the Doctor lanced my gums. for three days I could not open my mouth hardly wide enough to drink let alone eat. The bridge was finished sooner than I expected and the cars run out there the same day. our brigade is guarding the bridge and building breastworks and I guess by the time the rebels get here again they will not drive us across the river so easy. the other two brigades are somewhere between here and the Cumberland Gap. at last got full rations and although I haven't eat one in a week I expect to make up for lost time. I think the likeness of Mother's is a very good one and will keep it to look at.”

April 17, 1864, Blue Spring, Tennessee

“got to London on the 10th. marched from Charleston yesterday 20 miles. now seven miles from Cleaveland.[sic]. roads very muddy. I was very weak for several days after my mouth got better, and could not open my mouth wide enough to bite a cracker, but have gotten better fast. rode nine miles the first day. since then I have walked all the time. we expect to be mustered out on the 1st of June but if we are engaged in active operations about that time, I don't expect to see New York till the middle of summer or fall. It depends altogether on where I settle for the future. If I settle in the west I'll make you a visit after my time is out, but if I conclude to settle in the east I will want to settle up my affairs in the west, and Jonas will not be able to pay me till after the harvest no how, and maybe not till after corn is ripe enough to sell, as he did not make anything last season on account of the poor crop, and lost two or three horses. I find I have to look out for number one a little more than I have done if I expect to make a living in the hard world, so will have to shape my course accordingly, though I am willing to help you all I can.”

May 13, 1864, Cleaveland, [sic] Tennessee

“have not got my tooth pulled yet. order from General Meade that we will be apt to stay in service till our time is full up. there is going to be stirring times this summer and I would feel like a fish out of water, if I was not engaged in it. it is possible this campaign will nearly or quite, finish the job. our regiment was left here when the division advanced so we have not been engaged in the fight which has been going on at Daten [sic] lately. We have a great deal as all the supplies for our own and the 23rd Corps has to pass through our hands. great deal of hard work besides picket duty. been expecting a cavalry raid in here everyday. hope it won't, for we are really in more danger here than we would be with the rest of the army. don't know how the army is doing at the front, but from all accounts there has been some hard fighting as the rebels are strongly posted and don't give way so easy. I am well, and have more to eat and wear than we have had since last June at Murfreesborough [sic]”

May 22, 1864, Cleaveland, [sic] Tennessee

“Our regiment is guarding this place now alone. the first time during a campaign that we have been left to guard the rear. there has been hard fighting at the front, but no general engagement yet, as the rebels had to retreat to save their bacon and are somewhere in the vicinity of Atlanta or Rome. but what our army under General Sherman can beat the rebels in our front, and possibly capture Atlanta and Rome this summer but it won't do

any good unless the Army of the Potomac can beat the rebels in their front. I am glad to hear that the Sunday School is getting along so well, and hope by next anniversary to be with them and enjoy some of the privileges of a civilized life.”

May 30, 1864, Cleaveland, [sic] Tennessee

“we have been having a fine time here for the past month, but will have a chance to help the rebels out of Atlanta yet I hope. The 2nd Ohio has relieved us, and we expected a train here to day [sic] to take us to Kingston, Georgia but it has not come yet. I saw an orderly today that is on the brigade staff, he belongs to our regiment, and has just come from Cincinnati where he had been to take General Willich home. he was wounded in the advance of the brigade on Buzzard’s Roost...you are too anxious about me when there is fighting going on. While I am always willing to do my duty, I shall not put myself in any unnecessary danger. if I should get hurt or even killed, it would be no more than thousands have already done, and I certainly am not of as much importance to the government or any of my friends as some that have already given up their lives for the good of the country. I have thus far been preserved by God’s protecting care and hope that He will still keep me, although I must acknowledge I have not been as devoted to Him as I ought to have been, but have grown cold and indifferent in the service. Yet I still have a hope in Christ and trust that I may again be enabled to feel more for His cause, but I must acknowledge that the cares of this world, the flesh and the devil have drawn me aside from the straight and narrow way that leads to life everlasting.”

June 16, 1864, Camp in the Centre (of the Army)

“started from there (Cleaveland [sic]) on the evening of the 3rd in the rear of a train of nearly 200 wagons with provisions. we only marched eight miles but it was so dark, rainy and muddy that the train did not get into camp till after midnight, and we had to stop and wait every few minutes, which was worse than marching. couldn’t see to sit down without getting into a mudhole. so it was for four days and nights. It has rained every day more or less for the last two weeks and the ground is very soft. our regiment has not been engaged yet but have been under fire and in supporting distance. Day before yesterday we went outside the picket lines, and the 32nd Ind. and 15th Ohio had pretty heavy skirmishing and lost a few men, but drove the rebels to their breastworks and our battery and 6th Ohio shelled them out of there in a little while. four rebels come in yesterday. said one of them (shell) burst and killed General Polk. since learned it was true. we are now in their works. I believe we could hold them (works) against any rebel division in Dixie. yesterday there was some hard fighting in our front. our division was in reserve yesterday and today but tomorrow we will be apt to have a hand in it again. the division has been in the advance nearly ever since they left Cleaveland, [sic] over a

month ago and has lost a good many men, but has done some hard fighting and will have more to do soon. don't exactly know where we are but we are in a dense woods, and as near as I can tell two or three miles from the railroad.

"Everything is going on finely, and we have fuller rations than we ever have had on active campaign. rebels are making desperate efforts to stop our advance, and as fast as they are driven from one line of works, they go to work and dig another ditch, and cut trees down in front of it for us to climb through and tear our clothes while they are firing on us too; but they have not found their last ditch yet. the brick is so thick that we can't see scarcely any distance, and pickets often get close onto each other before they know it. The 35th Ill. and 15th Wisc. are consolidated now and is called the 35th Illinois. we have a little over 300 men in our regiment yet."

June 20, 1864, Near Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia

"we are laying here just behind the skirmish line to support them (skirmishers) in case the rebels should make a charge and drive them in. an occasional shot that happens to clear the trees comes singing over our heads once in a while. two men out of each company in the brigade built breastworks and such things. one boy from Co. B was badly wounded this morning while at work at the skirmish line. five were wounded the other day while at work, when our regiment was skirmishing. rebel sharp shooters shoot at everything they see in the shape of a man and they are good shots. Last Saturday went out about 5 hours on skirmish line in a drenching rain and had a lively fight. there were four killed and twelve wounded in the regiment: Co. K lost two killed and three wounded. Our company came out without any loss (the first time in any fight we have been in).

"I fell into the mud as we were crossing a swamp and got my gun full of mud, and couldn't get it over very easy, so stuck my ramrod in to make an air hole, and then blazed away: it burst about three inches at the muzzle and the butt hit me a rap on the side of the face, bruising it a little, but didn't hurt me much, it's a wonder it didn't knock me over or kill me. I had several very narrow escapes after that, but that is a natural consequence, and it's not necessary to describe them.

"We have no general engagement yet and I hardly think we will this side the river, as General Sherman don't believe in marching men up in front of breastworks to be shot like dogs when the rebels can be drove out with artillery just as well.

"The rebels have very strong breastworks, and if we had to take them by storm would lose hundreds of men, but that is not the way we fight out west. the right and left of the rebel lines have been driven in so far that now their lines are in the shape of a bent elbow. and our batteries in the centre [sic] can rake down their ditches as far as they can throw a shell. so you see what makes them leave their holes so fast, with nothing

more than a skirmish line in their front, but a battery on their flank. I never saw batteries used to such good advantage. Bridges (nickname of Chicago financed battery Chicago Bridge Co.) and the 6th Ohio batteries both belong to our division and they can't be beat. We have not taken Marietta yet nor the bridge across the Chattahoochee. we are at work now at Kenesaw Mountain and there are ridges or hills all over the country densely covered with brush, with now and then an open field; as fast as the rebels leave one ridge they fortify another and so on. But I guess they will have to give it up before long, as we have a good many men and it is the easiest fighting I have ever done yet, as we are not at it more than one day a week. I don't know how long it will last. we don't make more than half a mile some days. I have seen General Sherman and like the looks of him very well.

"I expect Uncle Jones will want me, but can't make any promises yet awhile. My time will be up the 5th of August after that I shall do as circumstances seem best."

June 25, 1864, Marietta Georgia

"Since I wrote last we have been very busy. There are movements made every day in different places and we do our part of it. We have advanced a good distance from where we were four days ago, and have had several hard fights and been under fire a good deal, the grape and shells flow thick and fast over our heads some bursting over us. Yesterday our skirmish line advanced a couple hundred yards and brought on a severe fight for three or four hours. There were three companies of our regiment and three of the 15th and 49th Ohio engaged and a battery of artillery. rebels opened with three batteries and soon had three of our batteries replying. made us lay close behind our works. our boys drove the rebels into their works and kept them there till after dark. Some of our boys crawled to within 20-30 yards of their breastworks and every rebel they could draw a bead on caught it; a few of the boys got so close that they couldn't get back again without getting shot, so had to stay there till after dark when they slipped away unseen. there is lots of fun in a skirmish, though pretty dangerous; every fellow watches his chance to get a good shot and has to adopt all sorts of strategy to do so sometimes to draw each other's fire, so as to see their fire, then blaze away. but there are so many trees and the brush is so thick that I don't believe more than 1 shot in a hundred hits a man, we have to fire at random mostly. During the four skirmishes I have been in lately, I have fired about 300 rounds, but don't know for certain that I hit anyone, but have made them find a safer hole sometimes. Our company is the only one, I believe, that hasn't lost any (soldiers). We have a longer front to guard now and there are three regiments in the front line at a time, the other three in reserve and are on and off every other day. the rebel works in our front are very strong and may take some time to take them and as fast as the skirmishers gain a little ground the pioneers go to work and dig rifle pits for them to cover in. same kind of work going on all the time in

front of the different corps. fighting is severe at times according to the importance of the position. first campaign that we have ever had so much to eat. getting awful ragged and dirty. no soap to wash our clothes even if we had time. glad Old Abe renominated and will vote for him again.”

July 7, 1864, Camp on Chattahooche [sic] River

“talk about fertile fields in Georgia, I haven’t seen but very few yet, and don’t believe there is ten acres cleared to a thousand in the state. The day after I wrote last our regiment went on picket, we made arrangements with the “rebs” [sic] that we would stop if they would, so they was glad to accept our terms, and after that there wasn’t a shot fired in front of the works where our regiment was, and in a day or two it stopped all along our division, except on our left. we got on friendly terms with the rebels and traded papers, tobacco, coffee or anything else we had to trade. our division moved to the left about a mile and took the place of a division of the 14th Corps and they took ours. In the morning we found the rebels evacuated their works and a good many that had got tired of retreating come in a [sic] gave themselves up.

“Our corps is now camped along the river east of the railroad and the pickets are on each side of the river plugging away at each other as usual. I climbed a high hill yesterday and had a fine view of the contry [sic] all around us. Atlanta is just 11 miles from here by the railroad and I could see it tolerable well. with a glass our officers can see all the rebel positions. we are now on the left of the line instead of the centre.[sic]. I have always said I’d like to see it (Atlanta) before we went home. still have plenty to eat and have drawn some clothing and soap since I last wrote.”

July 14, 1864, Chattahoochee River

“Since I last wrote, (I) have not had any fighting to do except shooting at the rebels across the river while on picket. our division crossed (river) day before yesterday after building a pontoon bridge. yesterday morning we left them (works) and marched about a mile further to the right down the river, and have built another strong line of works. The order of the day seems to be marching and flanking and building breastworks instead of fighting, but we have to make our moves according to the rebel movements and build defenses as we go in case they should try to drive us across the river.”

July 16, 1864, Near Chattahoochee River

“If there is no fight in prospect we will start home about 10 days before our time is out, which will be the 5th of August. I think Mother is most too fast in finding me a place. the war is still not over. I may go at it again. then I have to go to Illinois to settle with Jonas.

If you need any money to use don't forget to take what I have sent you. paymasters are said to be on the road with money to pay the Army with, and if there is an army that earns their greenbacks, it is the Army of the Cumberland, and there is not a soldier in it but what is proud to belong to it. We have not taken Atlanta yet, but it will be ours before this campaign is ended, I am pretty sure."

July 23, 1864, Near Atlanta, George

"finished a hard little fight and drove the rebels across Peach Tree Creek. they build very strong breastworks and have a great many advantages over us, but in spite of all they have yet done, we have been able by different ways to flank them and they have had to leave their works without a general direct attack in front. If we had to take all their works from the front, the army would have been used up long ago, but General Sherman is not so foolish as to make such attacks. we are now about three miles northeast of Atlanta. rebel works are not far in front of us. they have a bad crossfire on us here and we have to keep pretty low or get hurt. one in Co F killed yesterday, while in reserve. Our brigade Adjutant was wounded, and an aide had his horse killed which fell on him and broke his leg yesterday while on the line with General Wood.

"Since I last wrote we have been very busy and have marched considerable. had some hard skirmishes, but have not lost many men. getting close to their main works and may have to do some hard work yet, as Atlanta is not taken yet as was reported a week ago by the papers. expected to start home his week, but I guess will have to stay now till Atlanta is ours. if we should be conscripted [sic] two months longer.

"I will let you know. I am much obliged to you for looking out a situation for me when my time is out. I can't tell what I shall do till I get home if I ever do which seems very doubtful some times while the bullets and shells are whistling around my ears, but I have to thank the Lord for His kind protection and believe He has preserved me in answer to the prayers of my friends and relatives besides my own."

July 31, 1864, Near Atlanta, Georgia

"Since I last wrote there has been some hard fighting on our right, but nothing of importance in our front except artillery duels and the usual skirmishing. our brigade captured the rebel skirmish line and still hold it. Six companies of our regiment went out after dark and kept up a lively skirmish all night and our batteries fired a shot every minute over our heads into their works. We had a fine view of the shells as they wailed over us, like many shooting stars across the heavens and then burst over in the woods in our front. The rebels had a very strong line of rifle pits and brush cut for fifty yards in front of them but in spite of it the 49th and 15th Ohio took them without much loss, and captured several prisoners.

“The rebels are now about half a mile in our front and their balls do not come into camp near as thick as they did before. rebel prisoners say that Johnston is in command again, as Hood was so keen to fight that after losing about ten thousand men without gaining anything, the army got sick of it and thought the fall-back [sic] policy the best. They say that they have orders to hold Atlanta at all hazards, so we may not be able to have a much nearer view of the town than we now have, though the right of the army is in the suburbs now. we are well fortified and if the rebels want to try the 4th Corps again we will accommodate them. been looking for an order to go home every day lately, but nothing has come yet. we will not be kept after our time is out unless something should turn up. may not get away from here before the 10th of August after all as only six companies were mustered in on the 5th, the other four on the 9th so we may have to stay a few days later. Urbana papers of last week had us on the way home. I have no more paper except some coarse rebel paper not fit to write on and can't get any more as I have no money; so this will probably be the last letter I shall write before I get home. as for my coming and buying Uncle William's shingle machine, that is something that I won't do but I will take your advice and look around and please myself, and if I can find a pretty girl, who is foolish enough, will marry her and have a home of my own.”

August 4, 1864, Chattanooga, Tennessee

“we have come this far on our way home, we did leave the next afternoon and went two miles to the rear, next morning we marched to the railroad and got on the cars for Marietta, but had to stay there till next day as there was no train going north but what was engaged. We started about noon and got here about 11 o'clock last night.”

Farewell address [sic] of Colonel Gibson of the 49th Ohio

“Officers and men of the 25th Ills. Infantry. As your term has expired and you are about to proceed to your state to be mustered out, it is fitting and proper that the Colonel Commanding should express to each and all his earnest thanks for the cheerful manner with which during the present campaign you have submitted to every hardship, overcome every difficulty and for the magnificent heroism with which you have met and vanquished the foe. Your deportment in camp has been worthy true soldiers, while your conduct in battle has excited the admiration of your companions in arms.

“Patriotic thousands and a noble state will give you a reception worthy of your sacrifices and your valor. You have done your duty. The men who rallied under the starry emblem of our nationality at Pea Ridge, Corinth, Stone [sic] River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Noonday Creek, Pine Top Mountain, Kenesaw [sic] Mountain, Chattahoochee, Peach

Tree Creek and Atlanta have made history for all time, and for coming generations to admire. Your service will ever be greatly appreciated.

“Officers and Soldiers farewell. May God guarantee to each health, happiness and usefulness in coming life, and may our country soon emerge from the gloom of blood that new surrounds it, and again enter upon a career of progress, peace and prosperity.”

August 13, 1864, Camp Butler, Illinois

“we got here yesterday morning after being on the road ten days including stoppages at Nashville and Louisville. drew six months [sic] pay at Chattanooga. may not get discharged before last of September.

“We are in good sheds and have plenty to eat and nothing to do. It is about six miles from Springfield. I want to see the town before we leave here. We have been welcomed by the citizens on the road here by the waving of hats and handkerchiefs and it makes a fellow feel good to see the differences between the people and crops of the free and slave states. One looks rich and happy, the other poor, ragged and dirty, with a scowl on their faces even, at the sight of a Yank going home alive and well, after three years in their barren country. The crops in Indiana and Illinois looks fine and even in Tennessee and Kentucky they are good along the railroads at least. we crossed the Ohio at Jeffersonville, Indiana, and took the cars for Lafayette and from there on the Great Western R. R. to this place. we had a fine view of the country. Indiana is not so open as Illinois but is well settled and cleared along the road. it looks beautiful to see the cornfields and herds of cattle as far as the eye can reach, after living in the brush for three years, where you couldn't see a mile of cleared land anywhere...I'll let you know when we get discharged and get home.”

August 22, 1864, Camp on the Prairie

“I have at last got home. left Camp Butler the 15th on 10 days leave, as there was no prospect of being mustered out for some time. I got to Urbana that afternoon. next morning there was a telegraphic message for three Champaign Companies to return immediately. the only reason they could give for calling us back was that they was afraid the Copperheads was going to create a ‘fuss’ at their meeting on the 18th. As there was no fuss we all went home again on the night of the 19th. I staid [sic] all night at old Mr [sic] Lester's night before last and got out here yesterday. I shall probably stay here till sometime in the fall, when Jonas will be able to pay me, so you need not expect to see me yet a while, as hands are scarce a [sic] I can get all the work I can do, at as good wages as if I was in the East.

“We report to Springfield on the 20th to be mustered out. I am thankful that I have been permitted to get home again safe and will try to live as becomes my profession, but I feel that I still need God’s protection and hope to be remembered in your prayers at the throne of Grace.”

September 9, 1864, East Bend, Illinois.

“We were mustered out on the 5th and paid off on the 7th. I had \$155.80 coming to me for bounty, back pay and clothing that I had not drawn. So now I am a free man and owe no man a dollar. I can only thank God for his watchcare [sic] and tender mercy over me and will try hereafter to live a better life. I would like very well to go home and see all the folks, but there is so much work here to be done before Christmas, that I shall stay till about that time as I can make it pay better here than there. The Copperheads did not make any fuss. they tried hard to make a big show, but there were several regiments there. they blowed [sic] pretty hard about the way the war was carried on and all sorts of peace mottoes posted and hung up about the State house, and had a cannon in the streets ratifying their nominations but the boys cheered for Old Abe and Andy everytime [sic] it was fired, so it didn’t do the Chicanominy [sic] grave digger any good. I must now close.

Yours,

James G. Watson
Late of Co. “I”, 25th Vol. Inf. Regiment
Army of the Cumberland
USA

[image of two maps and a train]

