Donated by:

Brad Quinlin
1371 Eryn Circle
Suwanee, GA 30174
404-623-8224

Nov. 25, 1994 by Alexa Ross

Camp. Ar. Traysville
Georgia

Aprile the 23rd 64.

Beloved companion it is with the greatest of pleasure that iagain take my pen in hand to inform you that iam well at this time and hope this will find you recoverd from your ilness it greves me verry mutch that icant bee with you during your ilness ihav not hurd from you for almost a munth it itell you ifeel verry uneasy about you itried to get a furlow to come home to see you but i could not get it so imust stay here but it seems verry hard to me that imust stay here when you are so sick but ihav done all ican do that is to try to get afurlow yet iearnestly hope that you are a getting better well loved one it is ondly about fower months untill iwill be afree man again and then iwill come home and stay with you the balance of my life if ihav no bad luck this is afine day it is warm and pleasant today the men are out on drill at this time ihope ishal get aletter from you this evening with the welcome news that you are agetting better that would bee cheering news to me at this time asiam in awful suspence in not hereing from you for so long a time old brit has applied for a commision in a anegro regt ihope he will get it and all other sutch men as wants a commition so bad as that.

well loved one you must excuse my
short letter and if iget one tonight iwill
wright again ihope ishal get one it would
do me somutch good to read aletter from
the one ilove so well and to learn that you
are agetting better you must kiss the children
for me. ihav not got adrum yet
tell Esta to wright to me as often as she can
ilike to read hur letters they do me good when
icant get aletter from you she wrights a pretty
good letta for a small girl as she is and a
new beginner now loved one if you aint able
to wright get some one to wright a short one
for you so that i can here from you
and how you are a getting along
now good by Dear one for this time
Direct to Chattanooga Tenn. Co. E. 21 ohio
regt. and they will come all right
hoping to hre from you soon iremain ~~dear~~ your loving
husband. Loyal L. B. Watt

To Susan. L. Watt

Camp.At.Murfreesboro. Tenn.
June the 14th 63,

Dear and beloved wife it is with the greatest of pleasure that i again take up my pen to pen a fiew lines to you to letyou know that iam well at this time and cincerely hope those fiew lines will find you and our loved ones in good health ihav not received anny letter from you yet and itry to bee cherefull but iam quite lonely by boddy is here in camp but my mind and hart is at home with you itell you ileft home with a heavy hart but let us bee cheerful as we can it will bee better for us both this is the third letter ihav ritten you and one to Alex Smith, one to Walace Ainsworth and one to James Hendershot and iwill wright one today to John Wort and one to Louisa Miller idonot know how long we will stay here but idont think we will move verey soon at least untill we here the result at Vicksburg ithink that is what they are a waiting for here ihave got me a new knapsack and anew blanket and canteen and haversack and anew gum blanket this will bee good to keep of the rain isent you in my last letter two dollars isold my linen coat for three and a half they wont allow a soldier to ware anny citisins close here so it was of no account to me and that is more than it cost when it was new iexspect to go to a funerel to day or not afuneral nether they are going to send a corps home their was a lieutenant died in our regament yesterday his name is wood he was in Co I. he was a good fellow isuppose that mrs britton can rest mutch easier Since i hav left home again iSold that old carpet sack for Seventy five cnts to bee paid at payday we hav small tents and two men in a tent iam in a tent with Johnathan Kauffman he is agood fellow to tent with the most of the boys begin to think that the Copperheads is not Sutch a bad set at last they acknowledge it a negro war you will excuse my short letter iwant to get this in the mail this morning and it leavs in a fiew minutes give my love to the children kiss them for me when isend my pay home you must take annuf to buy Sis a Set of ear drops be sure to get good gold you had better sent to fort Wayne and then you can get them warranted

right Soon and often
L.B. Wort To
Susan G. Wort my love
good by loved one for this time

In this letter to his wife, Wort mentions receiving a new knapsack, haversack, canteen, blanket and gum blanket. Also, he states that the men are in "small tents" [shelter tents?], and his new tentmate J. Kauffman is a good fellow, as was Lt. Amos Wood, of Co. I, who had died the previous day. He also says he sold his civilian coat and carpet bag, and confesses his admiration for the Copperheads, because they, at least, admit that this is a negro war. Wort then tells his wife to purchase a set of "ear drops" [earrings] in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for "Sis".

Camp At Chatanoga Tenn. Sept the 23rd 63

Dear and beloved wife it is with the greatest of pleasure that iagain pen a few lines to you to inform you that iam well at thes time our line of battle is formed at this place and whilst i right this our men are a Skirmishing with the enemy and ithink their will be a great battle faught at this place we had a battle with them on last Sunday and it was a verry hard one all of our regament was killed or wounded or taken prisoner except one hundred and eighty Smith was kiled dead and John Kauffman is wounded in the arm their is but one captin left in our regt and five lieutinants our colonel is badly wounded our regt got out of ammunition and they made three bayonet Charges after all of their amunition was all gone and drove the rebs and then they had to Surender but Some of the men would not stand it and they cut their way out and ran away ithink Dunafin is taken prisoner their is only 15 men in our company itell you it makes me cry to think of it. Well igot Seven letters day before yesterday one from allen one from george one from John aimsworth and the rest from you and Sis one of yours had 4 Stamps in iwas glad to here from you itell you for it was the first time in this month we have not had a chance to right or recieve my letters irote you one ithink about the 16 of this month but donot know wether it went out or not but hope it did itell you iam as anctious to right letters to you as iam to get them for i know that you are anctious to here from me as i am from you itell you this battle beets Stone river this was the hardest fighting ever known and it is not over yet the rebels throwed Shells in our camp yesterday but they done no damage the rebs have a much larger force then we have the prisoners Say they hav one hundred and fifteen thousand apart of their richmond army is here threw the providance of god iam Still Spaired and ihop he will Still continue his goodness to me this is a peace of ___ an old letter that you sent me my paper is in my knapsack and that is on the colonels wagon iwill right as often as ican get a chance the battle lasted two days Satterday and Sonday we wass forced to fall back and leave the field So we did not get a chance to berry the ded and a great manny of our wounded fell in to hands of the rebs it is a hart rendring to behold a battle Scene well ihav ritten all that ican think of at this time will yeargly is Safe yet isaw him Since the fight briton is here and Wayne Miller and Jake Dowell Well good by loved one for this time

L.B Wort to S.G. Wort

Wort wrote this letter to his wife just three days after the battle of Chickamauga, in which the 21st OVI played a pivotal role, and suffered extreme casualties. Wort mentions that his tentmate, Pvt. Jonathan Kauffman, was wounded in the arm in the battle. (Kauffman eventually died from his wound on October 27, 1863, in a hospital at Chattanooga). He also reports that Pvt. Solomon Smith was "killed dead" (Smith was one of two men in Co. E that was killed on the field in the battle of Chickamauga. All other casualties were either wounded [some mortally] or captured). Wort mentions that Sgt. Isaac Dunafin was captured, and that Sgt. Finlay Britton, Cpl. Jacob Dowell, and Wort's berry picking partner Pvt. Anthony W. (Wayne) Miller are all safe.

Camp of 21st Regt. Chatanoga.
Tenn. Oct. the 7th/63,

Dear . and . beloved . companion it is with the greatest of pleasure that iagain take my pen in hand to inform you that iam well at this time and hope those fiew lines will find you and our loved ones all well and in good Spirits the rebs Shelled our camp day before yesterday Some of the Shell went threw Some of the tent's in our regt and they fell all arround but fortunately none of our men was hurt but itell you Some of us done a good job of dodging iright now as often as once or twice a week but idonot know how long it is till they go out after they leave camp but ihav ondly recieved ithink two letters from you in one month ithink they must bee delayed Somewhere on the road for iam Sure that that youright to me as often as you can well this is the morning of the 8 and it still finds me well it is all quiet along the line this morning our men fired afiew Shots with canon last knight but the rebs did not reply to it but we can See whare they are and can see them stur arround but idont think that they will ever atack us in our fortifications for we are pretty well fortified here iwent over to the 14 ohio the other day and i Saw a yong man from defiance that iam acquainted with by the name . of . Moats and him and me had along talk about the political matters at at home and him and me didnot differ in our views of matters but he thinks as ido that he will not vote atall this time ithink their will bee warm times at the elections this fall in ohio as ithink that they will try to hinder the democrats fron voating this fall but the democrats wont Stand it and that will make a fuss but we ondly hav about ten months to Serve yet and then iwill bee a citisin again during the rest of my life our camp is clost to the edge of town our men is a cleaning up the camp today it is quite cool here at this time you must kiss the children for me othat i could bee at home with you and dear ones that would give me pleasure their is two drafted men in our company that was at Christ Bishops last spring and choped wood for him and Jo bunnell. Foot caught them and Sent them to our regament itell you they hate it they was luckey annuff not to get here untill after the battle but they may get in to it Soon annuff to get kiled yet as poor Jo Smith did he was kiled ded on the Spot but the lord has been murciful to me thus far and ihope he will continue his goodness to me that imay return Safe to my dear famely who is all the world to me well i will bring my poor letter to a close with my best wishes to you and our dear ones. direct to Chatanoga Tenn L.B Wort . S G. Wort

In this letter, Wort mentions some tents damaged by artillery exchanges with the Confederates. He also talks about visiting a Defiance native named "Moats" in the 14th OVI and discussing politics with him. Wort tells his wife he is looking forward to becoming a citizen again when he is discharged in ten months. He also discusses some drafted men that have joined his company, and talks of "Jo Smith", killed in the battle. [According to the 21st Roster, Solomon Smith was the only person from Co. E killed at Chickamauga.]

Camp.at.Tyners. Station
Tenn. March the 18/64

Dear and beloved companion it is with the greatest of pleasure that i again take my pen in hand to pen afiew lines to you to inform you that iam well at this time and hope those fiew lines will find you and our dear children all well ireceived aletter from you today of the 11 of this month and was glad to here from you again ihope that this may find Eugene well ihope their is nothing cerious with him well loved one ithink we will move camp tomorrow we will go about [?] miles iwill wright you as soon as we camp again ithink it is on the other railroad that runs to Atlanta Georgia idont think iwill ever go back to the 21 again at least i hope So well five months and a half more will put my time out and then loved one iwill come to Stay with you tell Sis iwill answer hur letter in a fiew days the wether has been quite cold for the last two days but it is pleasant now. irote A. Smith a letter afiew days ago iwish i could bee at home to make a garden for you this Spring that would bee quite a help to you but this cant bee So imust content myself to Stay here till my time is out you Say our baby is verry pretty iam glad of that for i like to See pretty children ithink all of our children is pretty ihope they will pay us off before long igot those 2 pair Socks you sent me. thank you for them my boots is good yet and my coat and cap and the vest that you made me is all good yet well iwill have to quit igess ihav ritten all ican think of at this time

as ever your Loving husband
L.B. Wort
S.G. Wort

Wort is obviously looking forward to mustering out when his three years is up in another five and a half months. He is temporarily assigned to another unit while the 21st OVI veterans (who have signed up for another three years or the duration) are back in Ohio for their 30 day furlough. Wort apparently doesn't even want to go back to the 21st. He thanks his wife for the two pairs of socks that she sent him, and says that his boots are still good. The clothing that his wife made for him (coat, cap, and vest) are still in good shape. Apparently, Wort is not wearing an issue uniform (except for trowsers), but rather one that his wife made for him. This was not unusual for independant-minded Western soldiers.

ithink ihav as many stamps as iwill need
till my time is out
Camp 10 Miles from Atlanta
Georgia.July. the 10th 64

Dear and beloved companion it is with the greatest of pleasure that iagain take pen in hand to inform you that iam Still well and hope those fiew lines will find you and the children all well irecieved your kind letter of the 27 of June and it had two stamps in it iwas glad to here from you again and happy to learn that you was all well tell Louisa that igot hur little letter and ihav not forgotten hur yet nor none of the rest you are all of you on my mind all of the time well our regt had afight with the rebs yesterday our loss in kiled and wounded and mising is about 50 our company lost six wounded one mortally his name is Baker he lives in wood county he is a new recruit that came to the regt last winter itell you iput in a hard days work a carrying off wounded and the wether is So hot that igot het up So that ithaught iwould melt down our regt took about .25. prisoners itell you the bullets flew pretty fast yet threw the mercy of god i was spaired our lieutenant was slightly wounded on the Jaw and Bill.Coulter Slight on the leg the rest of them you dont.know oh yess one is Osgood.Crarie in the Shoulder pretty bad me and three other boys went out between our line and the rebs and got a Wounded man that belonged to Co. E. we run out and just picked him up and run back with him and none of us got hurt but itell you it was a Scary. job. ifelt affraid but we ware ordered to go and darenot disobey. our division is in camp today andi dont know how long we will Stay here itell you iam anctious for the time to roll arround that will Set me free again iam tired of this campane this has been fighting for over two months ithink we will Soon bee in atlanta and their ihope we will Stay till my time is out itell you that iwant to See you and our loved ones iwant to live threw this thing and Spend the balance of my time with you it would make life more agreeable to both of us. itell you ilove your Society ilove my home and famely ijust hurd that we would get our pay before we leve here but idonot know how true it is but hope it is So and then you Shal have Some money as Soon as it can get to you iSaw Will Yeagly this morning he is all right and in good Spirits as usual isaw George.Wort about three weeks ago he was well and looked the best that iever Saw him igot aletter from allen the Same time igot.yours. you Said that ididnot Say annything about retherford working in my Shop ihav no objections it is yours whilst iam gone and inow you will do what is for the best iwill quit for the presant good by loved one as ever your affectionate husband L.B. Wort Susan G. Wort

In this action-packed letter, Wort tells of the action the previous day at Vining's Station, Georgia, which included his dashing between the lines to rescue a fallen comrade. He mentions the fact that the regiment lost about 50 men, and that he put in a hard days work in carrying off the wounded, as was normal for a musician. Wort says his company lost six men wounded, including Pvt. Jason Baker of Wood County, who would die on July 12 in a field hospital. Other casualties include the lieutenant (either Thomas Lamb or John Mercer, wounded in the jaw), Pvt. William Coulter (slight wound in the arm), Pvt. George Gilbert (seriously wounded in the leg), and Pvt. Osgood Crary, wounded in the shoulder. Wort remarks to his wife what an arduous campaign this has been, and how much he is looking forward to mustering out and returning home.