

no. 1.

Detroit. Aug. 12 / 62

We are now in camp here at the barracks. We arrived here yesterday morning. We expected to come home today certain but cannot come till Wed. and then can't have but 2 days, so I shant come until next week. I have no uniform yet but expect it soon. at least a part of it. I got \$20. last night I have not been out of camp yet. may go today maybe to-morrow. Have Hyatt, get my knife & grind it up if he can. We have not drilled any yet but will to-day. you may expect me home about Monday if I can get a furlow. If you want to write to me direct to

Elmer J. White.

17 Reg. of Mich Infantry  
Detroit Barracks.

Detroit Barrack Aug. 24 / 62

Sun. morning 10 O'clock I expected to be there before this time but there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. I rec'd news last Sun. p.m. I will have written before but I expected to come home myself. There is not much prospect of it just now. We have all got our Uniform now Knapsacks Haversacks & Canteens. We have not rec'd our pay yet but expect it to-morrow evening. Jacob Pickell has got a furlow and gone home. He took my old clothes with him a week ago last Thursday. Got a pass out and bought a Revolver at \$16.50 it rained all day.

As soon as I can get a pass out again I will have my picture taken & if I cannot come home I will send it. Isaac Sevel & Moses Dyer, were brought here and kept in the guard-house untill Dyer was taken sick. He was then taken to the hospital. They have both gone to their Reg. in Alabama. We are all tented together now. We were shifted like the wind for some time. There are 10 of us in tent

Jacob Pickell - John Pickell -  
Edward St John - Chas Wickman  
Amos Carter - Colvin Pickell  
Orin Kaywood - Geo Gosa &  
his son. John Kaywood was  
out here Thursday and went  
home Friday. Isaac U Pickell is  
here now. We have been out  
on dress-parade this morning  
There was a string of us 40  
or 50 rods.

Yesterday morning there was  
a man died over in the old  
barracks, The funeral is this  
P.M. at 4. The flag is at  
half-mast on acct of it. The  
little flag is 35 feet long.

I want Hyatt to get my knife  
and grind it up, put a handle  
and sheath on it, make it  
nice as he can & let Jacob  
Pickell hang it to fetch to me.  
for I don't hardly believe I  
shall get home right away  
as the talk is that we shall  
leave here for Baltimore this week  
But I guess not quite as soon as that.  
When I get my money I will send it  
home, or most of it. Hand Hudson  
Dg Yorker, W H Sweeney & Edgou Warray  
are here. no more room so I  
must stop write soon Elou

Detroit Wed. Aug. 25

Dear Folks. We have rec'd marching orders last nite it is impossible for me to come home. I have tried, all in my power to do so. I have been put off from one day to another, til it is too late.

We are to start at 6 this evening for Washington with 4 days rations. We have rec'd our arms and pay. I will send it to you by express soon. The office is closed on the grounds. So I will have to wait. The Guard was doubled last night to prevent desertion. I will write as soon as we arrive at our destination. I rec'd the article Mr. Pickell brought. Tell Hyatt to do the best he can.  
Eben

I will get my picture the first chance I can get.  
It's next thing to impossible to get a pass out of the grounds.

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Washington Sept. 1 1862.

Mother, Brothers & Sisters:

I now take the opportunity to let you know that I am well, perhaps you would like to know where I am and how I came here.

We are encamped for the present about 2 miles S & E. of Washington City in sight of the Capitol.

We left the barracks at 12 o'clock on Wed. & marched down to the M.C.R.R. Depot. Left our knapsacks

Went to the reception of Gen. Willcox & from there to the dock & shipped on board the "May Queen" for Cleveland.

Where we arrived at day light on Thur. morning. We then shipped on board the cars & rode all day. We went through Ohio & as we passed along the Buckeye Lasser waved their kerchiefs at us, which was responded to by us. The country is very rough & hilly all along the route. About mid-afternoon we crossed the state line into Pa. We went along the shore of the Ohio river for some distance in sight of Virginia. At sunset

We arrived in Pittsburgh where  
we unloaded and took supper  
changed cars & at 9 o'clock was  
on our way again for the  
Metropolis of the old Keystone  
state where we arrived about  
9 next morning, took our  
breakfast and again on  
our way for Baltimore where  
we arrived just at sun down.  
We unloaded marched through  
the city and got our supper  
unmolested. Better than the  
Main Regt that went an hour  
ahead of us, that had 3 poisoned  
by eating things bought of the  
street peddlers. We loaded again  
at 9 and had the inestimable  
privilege of riding in a freight  
car to our National Capitol  
where we set foot on Sat.  
morning sunrise. We laid  
around 10 or 11 o'clock &  
then started for the camp  
ground where we arrived at  
4 PM. Slept on the ground  
Yesterday it rained so that  
I could not write, although  
I tried hard enough. Must stop  
for the present. There is the Call  
Co. I. fall in for drill

I have got back the drill call  
is a hoax, no drill this A.M.

Our provisions on the  
way were furnished principally  
by the citizens along the route  
at Bridge Water the boys got  
out & got some bread & crackers  
which made a good lunch  
I shall not forget Pittsburgh  
very soon I shook hands with  
500 at least calculation &  
maybe more. The ladies are  
very patriotic there. They  
furnished us with a good  
meal & distributed tracts among  
us I would like to hear  
from you as soon as you  
get this. If you have threshed  
I would like to know how much  
wheat there was, How much  
hay there is? & How things  
come on in general.

We have Austrian rifles  
for our guns

We used our tents last night  
and set them up so as to  
occupy them. Jake - Orrin -  
John Pickell - Chas. Wickman  
and myself are in one tent  
5 in all & all well I saw  
Mr Pickell in Detroit and



sent \$25.00 by her to you  
use it to your best knowledge

I would like to know the  
cost of that knife, especially  
the Emory's fee. The boys  
are scouring up their guns.

I gave .03 to have mine  
cleaned, so that I could write.

If Hyatt wants any Elderberries  
he will find them plenty along  
the R.R. near Pittsburg, very  
plenty. Tell Ogo to write to  
me. He may as well give up  
the idea of enlisting for several  
reasons 1<sup>st</sup> they would not take  
him, and 2<sup>nd</sup> he can't stand it.

The miserable wretcher choked  
me off here to go to work &  
clear off a new camp ground.  
We have cleared a quite a patch  
any acre, or more of underbrush  
& fallen timber mostly chestnut  
some Oak. We have only time  
to swallow our grub and go to  
work again at the same business.

We have Bean Soup for dinner.

I have sent some Rebel Script  
sold 2 for .15. No matter what the  
size of the note might be, I am getting  
tired of scribbling in their shape, sitting on  
the ground with my knapsack between my  
feet to write on. Rather believe I shall quit  
Elora.

Near Washington

Camp Wilcox Sept. 7/62

Well folks I again have the opportunity of writing to you.

I am well & hearty. Hers not heard from you since I came here & very naturally am growing anxious to know how you are getting along & how Hyatt makes things move. Also I would like to know if Ogo has got well & whether he has got over the War fever or not. How Leonie looks without me. Whether Hyatt is through haying or not. How the fallow prospers & what you got for the wheat & if Ernie has got his \$20.00 of match. & whether Drafting has commenced there or no.

I have asked all the questions I could think of & will now tell you the news, I wrote to you last Sun but it was so miserably written that I don't know as you can make it out. Enclosed you will find my memorandum of the past week. It will tell you if you can read it, what I have been about most of the time. We are taking our turn now a days

Memorandum

Sep. 1 to Sept. 7 1862

Camp Wilcox - Washington D.C.

- 1<sup>st</sup> We all had to go out & get a place for a new camp it rained all night
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grubbed on the rams  
We were called out at 9 p.m. & formed in line of battle in just for fun
- 3 Went and grubbed until 10 A.M. When we rec'd orders to march to camp pack knapsacks and make ready for a march. Took dinner and started for I don't know where, but we made out to go to the bridge & halted rested some time. rec'd Countermand orders & returned reached camp at 4 p.m. & repaired to our quarters & went to writing about the war. Went on dress parade & saw a boy labeled Thief for stealing an overcoat
- 4 Stood on guard, lost my money, what I had.
- 5 Shot at target & missed come pretty near losing my breakfast. Went to fixing my clothes.

6 Went 3 or 4 miles to Chipping  
worked until  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 when  
we were ordered to fall out  
which we did & marched on  
the double quick to where our  
guns were stacked. Took them  
& marched back to camp.

Rec'd orders to pack knapsacks  
& 3 days rations of Bread &  
meat in our Hove socks  
preparatory to a long march

We were all ready & on the  
move at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past two marched to  
the bridge again. About faced  
& came back to camp.

somewhat wrathful on acct  
of the disappointment in addition  
to the rest of our load. We

took 20 rounds more of  
Cartiger 40 in all which  
weighed about 4 lbs. which  
pretty well used us up. I  
feel better now. Jake is  
asleep. There are a  
gang of boys in front of  
the tent pitching pennies  
to make up the days on the march  
Chas Wickman has been sick

at sun down Dress Parade

7 Prepared for Reg inspection  
moved our Camp

No. 6 - Sept. 13 / 62

Near Frederick City MD.

This morning I read a letter from you. We have been on the march since Monday night most all the time yesterday. We thought that we might have a little squabble but failed. Old Stonewall "Skedaddled" there in fighting in sight of us. We can hear the guns & see the smoke. it is on the side of the mountain some miles West of us. We may get into it yet but I am afraid not.

Yesterday the troops passed us and were some hours in the move. The artillery was more than a mile in length.

The whole army reached 6 miles. The Mich 8<sup>th</sup> is here I have seen cousin James Miller & Peter Bingham. I have written to Mr Smith & twice to you. We rested in the armory in Washington & saw a few small guns & 2 old siege guns some 10ft in length & 2 in diameter at the butt & took a ball as much as 6 in in diameter. While there I saw some of the 20<sup>th</sup> boys they said Dan Birdsley was

sick, the rest of the boys were  
all right Gen. Wilcox is here  
I have seen Gen. Burgeside  
He looks very much like the  
Portrait. We have had pretty  
hard fare while on the march  
but will do better now. It has  
ruined but little since I have  
been here.

Orin fell out last night  
& has not come up yet, they  
say he is sick. Paper is  
very scarce at present, I  
have plenty in my sack but  
it is at Washington & the  
sutler is not there. I have  
not got that picture yet  
nor do I think I can. But  
the hair you can have although  
it is short. I would be  
glad to have come home but  
I could not, nor could  
I get a pass out of the  
grounds while in Detroit.  
There is talk that no more  
news goes out of here for 60  
days, but I guess it is  
foggy. Our Captain is as  
good as the general run of  
them. Although he makes no  
pretention to any thing

We get some forage but  
not enough. I had a fine  
comb but it was in my  
wallet when I lost it  
I can get another here  
Can get all but the  
Eatables & than you cannot  
send

We are under Burnside.

Orin has just come up,  
is tired.

There is an old Secesh lying  
down by the side of the  
road with his head  
blown off it was  
done yesterday

Elon

Memoranda Sept 13-62

Cleaned gun  
Drilled a spell, packed  
knapsacks & at sun down  
started on the march, went  
to Washington & War used  
us a Caravan at 10 P.M.  
Landed in the Arsenal,  
Laid down on the ground  
and slept til 1 next morn  
Started again & went til  
9 A.M. We halted til night  
We were some what tired &  
Lame get rested,  
Stayed until next morn  
Traveled til noon, then  
Turned out. pitched  
tents for the night.



On the field Sept 18/62

We have had another brush  
with the miserable critter,

Worse than before. We held  
our position however with some  
lose. We were marched up  
under a most galling cross-

fire, which raked our  
rank severely. Before  
you get this you will

probably see it in print

That I am wounded. You  
need not be alarmed on any  
account however for I am  
all right except a little lame

I was struck on the  
shoulder with a piece of  
a shell. (The meanest thing  
in the world) It spoiled  
my gun for that day, for  
I did not fire a gun, but  
had to leave.

Jacob Pickell is all right, his  
nephew Cal. is wounded in  
the head, I have not heard  
from Orrin, since the Sun  
fight

Robt Yountz is gone up  
(good ridance) Richmond  
is ours. We will have  
more fighting to day. Our  
regiment will not be in.

John P. is wounded in the head slightly. I have not time or space to write more so good by  
Elon

P.S.

Please give this other to Mr. Ingraham. I forgot the rebel stamps, the other time. We are within 8 miles of Harpers Ferry. A boy said it was a grape shot that struck me. For he picked it up, he laid by my side when I was hit. Stamps are hard to get I would like if you would send some. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, is wounded in the arm. We are without officers.

Sept. 29 1862

## Antietam Iron Works

Dear Folks: I will try to write a few lines to day & let you know how I am. For a few days past I have not been very well but am now.

Jake P is sick, he is better to day however, Charlie is sick too. Edger Murray & Myself are under the shade of an old Locust trying to write, but find it hard work. I have nothing to write upon but my testament. which is rather small. This sheet of paper cost .02 The envelops .01

The ink is scesish. Things cost here to what they do there.  
Butter .25 per lb. flour .04

Bread when it can be got costs for such loaves as you make only not as good cost from .30 to .40 per loaf.

About a hundred Rebells came into our lines last night and gave themselves up as prisoners of war. They say that more will come the first chance they can get. Things here look prosperous at present. We all think the war will be over by spring & I hope it will.

The 20<sup>th</sup> are encamped about  
2 miles from here. I have seen  
Clark Mills. I see James  
most every day, he is in the  
same brigade with us. under  
command of Col Fenton Wilcox  
Division, 9<sup>th</sup> A.C. papers come  
into camp most every day.

Fruit is scarce, our army  
soon strips what little there  
is, which is poor at best.

They may tragg up their  
Sacred Southern soil but  
gives me Mich. for all  
Md. & Va. they say is worse  
(poor things). The corn  
grows good here but the soil  
is half stone.

I can think of no conveniences  
that can be sent but stamps.  
a letter to come with out prepayment  
must be franked by the Adjutant  
which costs more than it is worth.  
If you send stamps, send but  
few at a time. I have  
had but one letter from you  
since I have been here.

We have had no mail since the  
15<sup>th</sup> but expect it every day.  
We are within 7 miles of  
Harpers Ferry. I will write

some more some other day  
as I can think of no more  
at present & it is going to  
rain — The rain proved  
a failure. It is the 12<sup>th</sup>  
of Oct. to day I believe & a  
hot day. Jake is getting  
better, will soon be able to  
do duty again. The 20<sup>th</sup>  
have moved up within 40 rods  
of us. I have seen Ed Scott  
Lyman Barner is in the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There has been one mail  
since I began but nothing for  
me, The mail has been miscarrying  
they say. We will get some  
more one of these days. When  
I hope to get something.

I have written to Mr Smith,  
but have rec'd no answer as  
yet. Tell him when to direct  
to. There is a change in the  
program, all that has been  
sent to Washington will get  
here after a while. The next  
you send to me Co. G. 17 Mich.

I Wilcox's Div. 9<sup>th</sup> AC. via  
Washington. Tell him.  
Ingraham also. I should  
like to have a family letter  
next time. Let me know

how things prosper. I hope  
that wheat is in & the  
hay all in the barn before  
this time. Take good care  
of the apples. I would  
like some & some cider  
myself very well.

I should like that leather  
roll to keep papers in but it  
can not be sent very well.

I would like to send a hard  
cracker if I could & let you  
know what we have to live  
on.

I don't know where  
Orrin is nor how he is.

Some of the wounded have  
gone home on furlough.

The deaf Englishman Wm S,  
is here looking around.

I sent a lock of hair. If you  
did not get it I will send  
another. We have to have to  
keep it short here. I got a  
pie baked on a plate for .15  
Cheese is worth .25 lb.

I don't want Hyatt to lugg  
those keys of mine for he  
will loose them & I shall  
want that trunk if I get  
back all right. if the key  
is lost, it is of no use.

Every thing that is good to eat  
is snatched at here so that a  
fellow has got to be on hand  
or not get it & it is out of  
the question to live on our  
rations. We have not had any  
taters for some time.

would like some first rate.  
We will have to move pretty  
soon for the corn is most  
all eat up here & the horses  
must have some. I think  
that if Bones was here he  
would like to be back raking  
corn. The Old Man Bushroy  
was killed in the last battle  
He was shot in the head &  
killed instantly. If I get no  
more I am satisfied. You  
get the news there as soon  
as I do here. I suppose  
Messers Ingraham & Emis  
are satisfied now with  
Lincoln on the slavery  
line I understand they are  
trying to settle. I hope  
they will & do it right or  
not at all. Oct. 5 - We got  
the mail last night. I read  
one from you dated 26<sup>th</sup>.  
I have had one from you

before & I from Mr Ingraham  
There is mail back yet. I got  
1 sheet of paper and 4 stamps  
out of this one. We have  
been out on review this morn.  
Where I saw the long haired  
president, & Gen McClelland  
who seemed tickled to see us.  
Old Abe looks better than  
his portrait & a good deal  
more pleasant.

How's that beef fattening?  
Take good care of the teams  
Keep my Bright & Orrie good  
They will work next year, or  
Trade for a horse. I don't  
want my absence to spoil  
the appetites of any of you  
Eat the nose (some for me.)  
Ellen wanted to know what  
I see? I see nothing but  
a hilly, stony, desolate  
country covered with  
men, horses, mules & baggage  
wagons at present but how  
soon the battle field strewn  
with the dead & wounded  
after Sunday fighting. The  
rebels laid piled one on  
another. The hospitals  
were full of wounded, who



could not all get their wounds dressed til 3 or 4 days after they were hurt.

I helped bury 5 - one day that died of their wounds one rebel. We buried 2 of our men and the rebel in the same grave.

How we fair? Well we fair and that is all. We have hard bread, fresh beef, salt pork some beans & coffee sugar but no tater. I should like some very much. I wanted some of those psacher but was not there. Every thing is so dirty here that it makes them most all sick. Our officers are Col Withington. Lt Col Fred. Major Lyon wounded Ady. Richards wounded Corp Gledsmith + 1st Lieut Summers " 2nd Lieut Rath" slightly in with us Write soon Letters directed to Washington will get here "Elen"

Pleasant Valley Md.

Oct. 16 - 1862

Well folks it has been some time since I have written to you.

We have marched & counter marched every few days so I have not had much time to spare. We laid here a few days. On Sat night we started & went to Weavertown 3 miles from Harpers Ferry where we took the R.R. the next morn & went to Frederick City gaddled around there til night and bunked on the turnpike in a rain storm for the night.

The next morning we got some apples (which we generally do on the march) towards night we went to the junction & camped there for the night.

Next morning our Co. was detailed as R.R. guard when for the first time since we left Detroit I slept under a roof (on the floor at that).

Wed's noon we left there on foot for here where we have just arrived. Jacot has just got a letter from Lewis, Edger Murray got one too, stating that 16 men were to be drafted from Leoni. I hope they will get good ones

I got a letter from Mr Smith  
the other day, dated Sept 28.  
(An old Finan came into  
camp just now and sang  
us some songs which were  
very appropriate & cheering to us.)  
We, that is, Edgar Jake &  
myself, are all well & hearty.  
We had some beef steak for  
dinner. We are going to have  
some rice for supper, which  
won't go bad as we have got  
some lard to put on it.

The boys (crowd or the soldiers  
call it) some syrup from  
a barrell at Wearston which  
the merchant unfortunately  
left out doors. I got a  
little myself. We generally  
cabbage all the fruit we  
can get our claws on. It  
takes but a short time to  
clear out an orchard  
guards or no guards.

Frederick City is a nice  
looking place, some larger  
than Jackson & the best  
looking country around it  
that I have seen in Md.  
The men were drifting in  
their wheat. Some of the corn

was cut, some was not. Some  
were husking, some wheat  
is just coming up. We  
passed through a handsome  
Village on the pike called  
Manchester, the streets were  
lined with trees. we could  
hear the commencing this  
morning up south of here.  
Something is going on I  
guess. I think it is thought  
by some that we are going  
south this winter, but  
cannot tell. The more questions  
one asks the less he knows there  
I sent a lock of hair, but for  
fear you did not get it. I will  
send another, it has grown  
some. I guess Jake is  
writing so see which gets there  
first. I want to hear how  
the draft comes out there &  
how the farm comes on, what  
that corn came to, How much  
Cider you make (I had a glass  
the other night). I shall send  
my watch & I want you to  
let me know whether you get  
it or not, I have broken  
the Crystal out so it is no use.  
Get it fixed, or keep it in it,  
"Eben"

Pleasant Valley Md. Oct. 19/62

I rec'd two letters from you last night one dated 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. the other 13 Oct. I write you Thursday last. You wanted to know if you should send me any money. I have fared well enough thus far I have had friends that would share with me. Jake is nearly run out, and if you are a mind to, you may send some if you please for no one knows when pay day will come, dont send much.. not more than \$5. That will pay all my debts and enough left for me. Jake got a letter from Orrin last night. He is doing well. He is at Carver Hospital Meridian Hill Wash DC. He is not dead, nor is J Pickell, as you heard. I have been to the 8<sup>th</sup> to find that nephew of Mr. Robbins. He is at Washington sick. he went there some time in Sept. He belongs to Co. E. That revolver when it became contraband, I traded

the first chance for a watch  
not worth as much by something  
which I broke the crystal out  
of & Thursday I sent it  
home. I hope you will get  
it. it is a good one. It  
never fails in time of trouble.  
If I do not come back, let it  
belong to Ellen. It has been  
quite warm to day, but took  
like rain to night. The  
nights are pretty cold now  
have had no frosts yet. As  
Hyatt did not get the elder  
berries he might want to  
gather some Black Walnuts  
which are plenty here. There  
are Chestnuts on the mountains.  
Jakes was on guard last  
night where he drowed  
some apples. (Soldiers always  
drow every thing here when  
it comes in their way.  
You speak of sending things to  
me. Don't send any thing of  
any amount now. We are  
on the move most of the  
time & I have enough to  
carry to kill a pack mule.  
I have not stewed any of the  
peaches yet. When we get

into winter quarters. I  
should like some dried  
apples, peaches, & plums.  
Currant are not worth  
sending so far. There is  
the Bugle for Drums parade  
so I must close and turn  
out. It sprinkles a little  
just now. J. has got the  
dumps to day, has some  
fever, is about though.

I am tough as a bear, eat  
all my rations & some more.  
We had some rice for dinner  
I eat 3 cups nearly full &  
1 cup of Tea. an article which  
we dont get very often & poor  
black stuff at that. Our  
"Contraband" is afraid he will  
fall into the hands of Old  
Stonewall which he says will  
kill him. He is with us yet.  
It must be I made a mistake.

We stopped at the Reley house.  
We got out and made them  
shake out the stripes & Stars.  
The Pa. boys cleared the bar  
all the eatables, Cigars, & drinks.  
Jake goes in special guard  
to night. On Fri there was  
a Sword Presentation. I got

The yarn & needle all safe.  
It don't hurt me any to  
talk about fruit, for we  
get some here once in a  
while. I havent time to  
write any more at  
present

.. Elton ..

P.S. How did that corn and  
potato turn out?  
Potatoes are worth  
\$ 1.<sup>00</sup> per bu here

As Ellen Weights all the  
letters to me, Will send  
this one to her. Excuse  
all mistakes.  
We had beef steak for  
breakfast this morn.



Oct. 27-1862

Lovitzville Va.

Situated on the "Sacred Soil"  
I will endeavour to let you  
know my whereabouts once more  
Yesterday morn we were called up  
at an early hour and ordered  
to prepare for a march at  
daylight. We bid adieu to

Pleasant Valley marched  
through Wearston along the  
canal to Berlin, where we  
crossed the grand Potomac  
on pontoon bridge. The rets  
having burned the bridge that  
we were there, we had a fine time  
of it, as it rained most all  
day & the mud was about  
an inch deep. But through  
went the Lincoln donkey pump

We arrived here at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past  
3 P.M. & picked our camp  
for the night, for the first  
time on the "Sacred Soil"  
which looks very well by  
daylight. The Potomac  
nearly 80 rods in width  
where we crossed the stone  
abutments of the old bridge  
are still standing. As you  
never saw a pontoon bridge  
I will try to describe it.  
A pontoon is a scow boat  
near 30 ft long 6 wide and

3 deep. They are placed along  
some 15 ft apart and the  
stringers which support the  
bridge rest upon them. Then  
it covered with loose pine  
plank  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in thick and bound  
with stringers on top. Which  
makes a very good & portable  
bridge. We had a bad night  
last night but hold through.

So I begin to think I am  
some what tough. The  
wind blows to day like fury  
It is clearing up and promise  
better for the future. I rec'd  
yours of 20 on Sat mite.

I got 2 one week ago.

Have written twice before  
this last week & sent my  
watch. Hows you got it or  
not. You do not write any  
to often, nor any too much  
The more the better. Hyatt  
wanted to know about the fight.

The Tribune can tell a better  
yarn than I can. As a  
soldier in the ranks does  
not see a great ways. I  
hows not had much repairing  
to do yet. Washing has to  
be done in cold water & is

not very good business. they  
don't get ironed or starched.  
The beef we cook on a plate  
That is the part we get raw.  
We have a cook that makes  
the coffee, soup and cooks the  
beans & rice. The beef steak  
is all we have to cook ourselves.

The Contrabands are played  
out nearly. I have had  
but one letter from Mr.  
Smith have written 2 or 3.  
I am glad I did not go with  
Jay now. I am sorry to hear  
that Abe is sick and a  
prisoner. I hope he will be  
released soon. Spark has  
not got here yet.

I think  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bu. of seed for  
that field of clover did not  
pay very well. You did not  
get a very heavy price for  
your best. If you fetch your  
apples down here you can  
get \$3 per bu. for them.  
Potatoes are worth \$1. per bu.

DD Tooker has gone home

B Watson with him, Hank Hudson  
& Will Sweeney are here. Frank Knight  
is in Co. A. of our Reg. Jake & well  
Edgar is not very well at present.

is able to do duty. Our grand  
17<sup>th</sup> is about "Yonkherd"  
at present. I am tough as  
a bull pup. Our Col  
Withington has been promoted  
to acting Brigadier. I don't  
know when this can go out.  
I will then write some  
more. — Oct 25 I have been

on guard and just relieved. I  
am excused from duty today  
Col W. has taken command  
of the reg. again. We had a  
fine day yesterday it is warm  
today. That new family  
you spoke of have a son in  
my Co. Orville E Cambell a  
Sargent 20 years of age and  
a good fare chap. The  
boys played Hoop with the  
chickens and every thing  
else til they put a guard  
around the Camp & over every  
thing we could get hold of.  
There are a few peddlers  
in camp. They get all the  
broken money there is & get  
some things Confiscated. I got  
some onions that way yesterday  
We will not stay here very  
long I do not think

There is some talk of another  
fattle, but who can tell. I cant.  
I want to know how many  
potatoes there was, & How much  
corn when it is husked.

How many sheep & Cattle  
you have sold & what you  
got for them.

I have not seen Spark yet.

Did Hyatt say that price  
worth of the house to wheat.

Dont use the bobs until  
they are painted. Lets them  
make good & strong. Keep the  
wagon henced & take good care  
of the plantation in general

How does Wyman get along

Jerro, M<sup>c</sup>. & Durriside came  
up here last nite for a few  
minutes. The boys are  
enlisting in the regulars.

I shall not go in to that.

I want to know what makes  
you think things are so dismal.

We all think here we will be  
homed soon if not before.  
You said Capt Goldsmith would  
lose his hand. He was wounded  
in the ankle. How then will he  
lose his hand. Write soon &  
tell all the news "Eton"

No 12  
Near Culpepper Va. Nov. 9. 1862

It has been some time since I  
have heard from you or have  
written to you. We have been on  
the march a most of the time &  
I have not had time to write.

My last was dated at Loviterville  
We went from there to Waterford  
from there to Oak Hill. from  
there to here. day before yesterday  
we had our first snow storm

It was a ecliptic day for us.  
It is pretty cold now. We have  
Divine Service at 3 P.M.

We have had no preaching  
for some time. Jake & Edges  
are both well. James is sick  
& at Weaverton. There was a  
man from the 2<sup>nd</sup> in camp  
this morning. They are 1 1/2 mi.  
from here. He did not know  
any of the Leon boys. The  
boys in the 20<sup>th</sup> are all well  
that I know. The chickens  
Turkeys, pigs, sheep, hogs &  
calves & anything else that  
we want have to suffer. The  
fence get used up very soon  
as we must keep warm and  
rails burn better than green  
wood. We are somewhere near  
the Rappahannock in the region

of Culpepper. We have to make  
the most of every day or some  
wild goose chase or other.  
I want to know how Election  
turns out & if you have got  
that watch or no. I sent for  
some money. Have not got any  
yet. We have lots of hard  
bread & fresh beef, pork  
coffee rice beans sugar  
molasses none to much,

We will have to have better  
quarters than we have now  
or we will all freeze. our  
tent dont amount to any  
great sum. I saw Joe Price  
the other day he is a Corp. of Co. C  
20th

Rubin Pinkman

John Downey is here the boy  
that stole the coat.

The mail has gone out this  
morn. I dont know when I can  
send this. I will write more  
when I think of it. I must get  
my dinner now

Mon. morning the 10th last with  
I got a letter from Ellen dated Oct. 28.  
Containing \$1. and 4 post stamps  
& also stated you had got the  
watch all right. It will keep  
without fixing if Hyatt

Will keep his fingers out of it  
Jake & Edger get letter also  
Col Fenton is our Brigadier  
I understand that McClelland  
is superseded by Burnside  
The Mail is going out  
this noon I have not time  
to write much more.

Jay must have had hard times  
We have but will have  
harder soon. I would  
like to hear from Char Putman &  
all the rest of the boys. I know  
confederate money is about as good  
as ours here. Only the southern  
want take it. They charge so much  
for any thing that I can't afford to buy  
of them. I want to hear from  
Mr Smith. I have written 2 or 3  
times but get no answer. I  
made a pair of cloth mittens the  
other day. We have good water  
here. The Apples are gathered  
now so we get none. I  
got tired of carrying the dried  
peaches & have gone to eating  
them. I think of nothing  
more for the present so  
Good By  
+ "Elon"



No. 13 - Nov. 22 - 1862

near Fredericksburg Va.

Once more and then again  
it has been 2 weeks since I  
have written or rec'd anything

We have been on the march  
most of the time since I  
wrote you so I have not  
had time to write nor has  
there been any mail come to  
us. I am getting anxious to  
know how things are going on  
up there. We have had a rough  
time of it here for the last  
few days. We came here then  
it has rained most of the  
time since, it is cloudy now  
but no rain. We have had good  
weather & good roads but the  
rainy season has begun, I  
guess. We are camped near  
Fredericksburg. We went in  
sight of the City. We are going  
to stay here a few days & then  
go to Richmond. There are  
men enough here to eat it up  
in a week. McC has been  
succeeded & it must come  
or bleed this time, surely.  
The regts are here they say  
but I have not seen any of  
them & they make no fuss.  
Our batteries can shell the

city to ash in 20 minutes  
so they keep still

There has been a change in  
our brigade. The 2<sup>nd</sup> has  
come into it and Col. Po. is  
the brigadier in place of  
Col. Fenton. I have seen  
Eugene. Geo. Southworth  
Mr. Vause & Henry Smith  
Lem Sullivan is in the  
hospital. A. A. Crane is here  
I have not seen him yet  
Eugene is tough & fat. While  
George grows poor on it.  
We have been through some  
rice country but it is  
desolate now. There are no  
fences & the land looks as if  
there had been nothing raised  
on it this year. At least there  
is a great deal of pine though  
here, it is that young growth  
& not very large. The soil is  
a loose clay which is wet up  
very easy and water runs  
in abundance on the  
shortest notice. Here - I was  
cut off to go and ditch our  
camp ground. The mail has  
come in & I got 2 letters one  
from Mr. Smith the other from

you dated Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> I rec'd  
the dollar safe that  
envelop & paper I have  
sent back. I will use all  
you send. I got that  
young Tribune while at  
Wattsford but had not  
time to read much of it.  
I would think more of a weekly  
than such, I think it was a good  
bargain getting the coll. It must  
have care this winter. You wanted  
to know if I did not want a  
pair of mittens made of those  
nice rolls. Mittens are not  
very handy to handle a gun  
in and as that is my trade  
at present I should like  
gloves better or with one  
finger at least. It is getting  
dark I must stop. Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup>

I hope Hyatt will get through with  
those apples soon. As small as  
the corn & taters were they should be  
saved. Make those gloves  
of the coarsest yarn you have  
with long wrists

I believe Gen Burnside is  
in command of this div  
I will write to Mr Smith

"Elon"

Dec. 2 1862

near Fredericksburg

Yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> 4 & 5  
 I recd Sunday morn it contained  
 \$1.00 which I have this day appropri-  
 priated to the buying of the  
 enclosed profile. Which is as  
 near natural as I can come  
 to it & as far from Military  
 as possible which I believe is  
 what you wanted It is the  
 first chance I have had to get  
 it taken you can get a case  
 for it there. We have moved  
 our camp since I last wrote  
 about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile farther from the  
 City to a better piece of ground

Last Sat. night we had to go  
 down & build breast-works  
 close to the river opposite the  
 city. Therebs are entrenching  
 themselves on the other side  
 so we may have a good time  
 of it yet before we get through.

We have a Train of pontoon  
 bridges here. The cars now run  
 down from Aquia Creek with  
 Army stores. Lt Summers &  
 D Hoffman have arrived. I saw  
 Clark today. he is sick. The rest of  
 the 20<sup>th</sup> boys are well. Jake is  
 getting better of his cold. Edger is  
 well & as for me with the

exception of a light cold and  
some cough I am well too

Ellen wanted to know how  
much money I rec'd in Detroit  
I got \$20. Jackson bounty  
\$25.00 US bounty & \$13.00  
monthly pay of which I  
gave 16.50 for that revolver  
Sent 25.00 home & lost by  
some means 12.50. I was  
on guard and while I was  
not on post was doing my  
best to take a nap in the guard  
house where it either slipped  
out of my pocket or was fingered  
out. Good luck to the man that  
got it let it be as it will.

Our tents are not a very  
substantial dwelling & as you  
have not seen one I will try and  
describe it. It is made of brown  
drilling. Each man has what  
is called a half tent i.e. a piece  
of drilling about 6 ft sq with  
futters on 3 sides. 2 of these  
are buttoned together 2 small  
crotches & a ridge pole are then  
set up the cloth is then spread  
over & staked at the corners  
a rope runs from the  
peak to the ground angling to

steadily it another half is then  
furthered on the end & the  
house is complete. Our bed  
consists of Pine boards with 3 U.S.  
blankets in which we sleep quite  
comfortable. This dwelling is put  
up in less time than I have been  
telling it. If you would knit those  
mittens gloves or with the fingers  
they will be much better for my use.  
I have written 3 times to Mr Smith  
& rec'd 2 from him.

The weather is somewhat  
cool but it has not frozen  
much yet.

We have to drill so much  
of the time that I have  
not time to write a whole  
letter in one day.

Jake & Edgar have both  
got a letter from home.

"Eton"

Dec. 8 1862

Opposite Fredericksburg

I have written once since I have rec'd any from you although it has not been long, I sent my likeness by mail when if I had waited until Sun. I might have sent it by D. Hoffman who has got his discharge and started for home. I sent a small pocket Bible by him for Joan it was captured at the battle of South Mountain from the rebels. I have carried it ever since.

It will probably get to you before this will. The weather is pretty cold at present, Last Fri. P.M. we (the Reg) were ordered out on pickett although it rained at 3 o'clock ~~we~~ fell in and and started off, we went about a mile, threw out the posts, I was on the reserve but it was no better than being on post it rained till near dark & then turned to snow & snowed till 10 or 11 o'clock & stopped.

The moon came out so the Eclipse was plain to be seen.

There was no sleep for us that night for all the quarters we had was a cow house on 3 sides and a fire in the

center. Toward morning it  
grew colder & I heard a rooster  
crow. Edgar was on the next  
post. He came to me and said  
he got some corn but the hen  
roost was proof against him  
Lt Grimmer then went after  
some corn & with the aid of  
a fence stake got into the  
roost. Seized the unlucky  
chicken by the neck & started for  
our post again. When I dressed  
it I brought mine to camp  
& Jake cooked it for dinner  
Sun. We returned to camp  
Sat. nite about dark I got one  
night's sleep. We put on camp  
guard next day did not sleep  
much that night again as  
there was no guard quarters  
save a bush house & it was cold.

So yesterday I was about sick  
in consequence of it. But I got  
a good night's rest last night  
I am better to day. I had 2  
potatoes for breakfast yesterday.  
The first we have dream since  
we left Washington. We had  
beans for dinner & have beet  
soup to day so we live pretty  
well the men (most of them)



are fixing up quarters. We  
have raised our tent 3  
logs high and banked it up  
so there is more room in it  
& it is warmer. My cough is  
gone. Jake has not been  
very well for some time  
but he is some better at  
present He and J. have gone  
over to the 20<sup>th</sup> now.

We have no drill to day to let  
the boys fix up their tents, but  
it goes slow for there is lack  
of tools. Axes are scarce,

We may stay here sometime  
maybe all winter or we may  
move very soon. The pontons  
are moving now I hope we  
will not stay here this winter

I think this winter campaign  
will close the war, if there is  
an armistice granted there  
will be no more fighting at all  
In my humble opinion (& I am  
not the only one) the war is  
about played out.

Wyman wants a name for the  
colt. I think of none unless  
he calls it Emma Kate. I may  
find some classic name yet.  
Take good care of her. Go to

school and learn all you can  
& be a good boy til I come back  
for I shall surely come.

Four months have now  
gone since I was with you  
but it seems but yesterday  
Time never runs so fast  
before if I have to stay my  
3 years out it will be but  
a short time. The week  
hardly begins before it is ended  
Sun. is no better than any other  
day. Adj Richards has got back  
to the Reg. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Rath  
has been promoted to be 1<sup>st</sup> Lt  
of Co. L. and a man from  
Co. E. by the name of Phillips  
taken his place. I got a  
branch of holly & was going  
to send it home but forgot it.  
It is a pretty evergreen with  
red berries on it. The leaves  
have thorns on the edges. It would  
look nice in the door yard. If  
you had a chance to send some  
dried fruit now I could take  
care of it. If there was not too  
much of it. I wish you had  
most of the coffee I have on hand  
I have over a quart now  
and get more soon. It is hard

time for the Tobacco  
users. It cost from 2  
to 5 times as much  
here as there. So I  
am glad I don't have  
to have it

Write soon & let me know  
if you have got that  
likeness & if it looks  
natural

no more at present  
gives my respects to all

"Elon"

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No. 16.

opposite Fredericksburg

Dec 16 1862

Thank fortune I am yet alive  
& well you have of course heard  
before this of the battle. Which  
is not yet ended although it is  
quiet to day, comparatively  
speaking. Last Thur morning  
at 6 o'clock the first gun was  
fired it was soon followed  
by another and in less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.  
it was one steady roar of battle.  
It lasted untill noon when it  
slacked but the firing continued  
all day at short intervals.  
We had the day before been

ordered to clean game draw  
ammunition to the amount of 60 rounds  
pack knapsack & be on hand for  
march. We fell in at day light  
and waited orders to march expecting  
to share the battle but laid still  
all day. Till just at night we  
started & went a piece. Turned  
around & came back to spend the  
first night. This ended the  
first days campaign with us.

Next morn we started early for  
the scene of strife. We crossed  
the river and laid under the bank  
all that day & let the batteries  
shell over us. Towards night the  
rebs sent a few of their hellish  
messengers over among us  
killed 1 man of the 2nd & wounded  
2 or 3 more. 1 man of Co. A. in  
our Regt. At dark we marched down  
the river a piece behind the  
thuff and laid all night with  
the expectation of bloody time  
to morrow. Saturday morn  
the sun rose & with it rose the  
roar of artillery heavy & strong.  
The infantry soon became  
engaged. The musketry sounded  
like popping corn. Towards  
night we were ordered in to

line of battle but did not  
go in. The firing stopped a while  
after dark and all was quiet  
along the Rappahannock once more  
and we slept behind the hill  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> nite. Sunday, fell in  
and marched back to bridge  
laid them through the day  
Marched back to the hill side  
at nite. Stayed long enough  
to cook our supper & had to  
go out on picket for that  
nite. Returned in the morning  
to the hill side laid there all  
day Monday laid down behind  
our guns for the night but  
had not got to sleep when we  
were called up for the purpose  
of a retreat & with as little noise  
as possible we found our way  
to our old camp ground & took  
up quarters for the rest of the  
nite. Wednesday morn 17<sup>th</sup>

I had to fire off my gun and  
clean it up so I had not time  
to finish writing. I don't know  
whether our folks are going  
to give it up as a bad job or  
try it again. at all events  
there has not been much  
cannonading since we left. The  
first days fight drove the rebs

out of the city & back to their fortifications which were <sup>too</sup> strong & well manned to be taken by infantry. The city is desolate the houses are perforated with shells, chimneys knocked off & windows broken in. A great many of the older buildings have been torn down & the rest have been sacked & ransacked. The property (such as the soldiers could use) has been carried off by them & a great deal of it destroyed. The Eatables were confiscated the first thing. So when the inhabitants come back they will find no provisions flour was scattered all over. The boys were making pancakes Flour groovy & short cakes without soda fat or yeast. The plundering had been nearly completed before we got into it so I did not get much myself. I made out to capture an egg & some small beads which I will put in this letter as a memento of the battle of Friedriehsbong. The egg I want put in for I eat that up. If you dont want the beads you can give them to Lizzie she may be tickled with

them, but use your own  
discretion as to that.

The river is about 20 Rods  
wide at this place & I should  
judge by the appearance of  
things that it was navigable  
for it is filled with old  
hulks of steamers & flat  
boats. The tide rises some  
2 or 3 feet here. For my  
part I don't think the southern  
cities can compare with those of  
the north. They are all old  
fashioned wooden buildings  
with small glass. The roofs  
of the houses are covered with  
moss & ruin marks everything

The mansion of the mayor of  
Fredericksburg had one chimney  
knocked off and was otherwise  
defaced. His honorable self  
& family having previously fled  
to parts unknown (to me) while  
the soldiers took possession I used  
up what little provisions he  
left behind. The rebels had  
taken the precaution to throw  
the tobacco into the river which  
our boys fished up it reduces  
the price of that article for  
the present. I rec'd your

letter dated Dec. 3, on Sat. while we  
were lying under the fire of the nets  
I think you will have maps enough  
pretty soon. Take care of them for I  
may want to see them. But must  
not double quick for Topsy too  
much. Nor lead her out when it  
is slippery, for it might spoil her.

Have Hyatt get up a good wood  
pile this winter & not spend much  
time skating nor running after  
muskrats & chipmunks. Are  
those bats done yet? If you dont  
have colder weather up there than we do  
here you wont need them much this  
winter for it has been warm enough  
to sleep very comfortable out-doors.  
all the while we were down town.  
I wish I had some of that cider  
to prick my tongue with.

Laks has got his letter written

I cant think of any thing more  
at present so I will close

.. Elton ..

If you are a mind to you may send  
me some steel pens as I cant  
find any for sale here & I have  
but one & if that should get  
lost I would be down -



camp opposite

Fredericksburg Va.

I will now endeavor to write a few lines in answer to yours of the 13 and 15 inc which I read Sun night in company with the mittens. They will do very well I drew another pair last night made after the same fashion & put those you sent in my knapsack until colder weather. The weather is very changeable here, first a cold snap and then a thaw. It has been quite warm for 2 or 3 days past. Sat morn our Regt had to go on picket down by the river it was a cold day I was on the reserve.

We were in sight of the rebel fortifications & could see their pickets. We returned Sun morn to camp. - Where I found Amos Carter one of my tent mates in Washington he was left there sick when the Regt left & another recruit by the name of Long from Jackson. There is considerable talk in camp about winter quarters. But we havent started yet for any such place, although we all wish it bad enough as these quarters are not any to warm or otherwise comfortable.

Yesterday we passed review before  
Gen's Sumner, Wilcox, & 3 or 4  
other Brigadiers. You ask how I  
like my officers. As far as I am  
concerned they do well enough  
in some respects & in others they  
do not I get along very well  
with them. Lt. Sumner is rather  
green on acct of being absent so  
long & Col W. thinks we can all  
keep clean and neat as licked  
kittens with nothing to do with  
& no time to do it. We dont have  
a day to wash our clothes in  
not even Sundays & then the  
critter grows because we are  
dirty & unsoldierly. When a  
man has to take his shirt and  
drawers a chunk of soap and  
go to the brook where all the  
horses are watered till it is as  
riley as a mud hole & as cold  
as it is some of the time he  
must take a great deal of pains  
I assure you nor will he  
do it any oftener than he  
is obliged to. I expect to  
have to stand it through this  
winter but the war must come  
to an end before next.  
It has been going so long that

it must play out before long  
at some rate. The time of  
redemption has almost run  
out & the time must  
change soon either for the  
better or worse. It is rumored  
that the gov's of some of the  
states have refused to send  
any more troops. If so, what  
then there are will have to  
finish it alone & it will be  
done soon for they are all  
tired of it. There is the  
bugle for battalion drill &  
I must stop for the present.

Evening, drill is over &  
I have been to supper we had  
vegetable soup. It is now  
sun down to morrow is  
Christmas & I suppose you  
will have a chicken for dinner  
but I don't know as I shall  
have anything extra we may  
have some beans. I should  
like to be there but can't I  
have not felt very well to day  
but am better to night. Jake  
is well & has been writing home  
Edgar is well he got a letter from  
home the other day. I have 2  
envelopes This will take one of

them. Then I can write once more & if you want to hear from me any more after that you must send me some as they cant be had here for love or money.

I have paper enough for a spell but it is getting dark.

Fri morning 26<sup>th</sup>. Xmas is past. There was a detail of 20 men from our Co to go to Agua Creek some 12 miles to load up some goods belonging to the Regt. We were called up early got down to the depot by daylight loaded into a freight car & started for the landing. Laid around a spell loaded up the stuff. While there I purchased some apples at the rate of 3 for .10. I had .25 in U.S scrip all in all but I am now strapped. Butter was selling at 150 per lb. Cheese .25 and soft bread for a loaf 6 in square .25. They were the first apples I had eaten since we left Pleasant Valley. There is some talk that we will be payed up in about 2 or 3 weeks but no knowing. There was a box for Co. J. with the rest my share of it consisted of over

1 qt of dried apples a small  
bunch of cherries & 1  
spoon full of currants & a  
Towel. It is a day to late  
for Xmas but done very well.

I hope we will have to go  
to the Creek again New Year  
day & even after. The  
landings had all been burned  
once so there is nothing there but  
Garit buildings now & but few of  
them. The Wharf was covered  
with hands at work for U.S. building  
additions. The boats stood  
so thick that another could  
scarcely land. A gunboat was  
lying about a mile off but  
I could not tell how it looked  
The water is salt. We had  
bean soup for dinner to day  
I hope you will have a good  
time New Year  
Good bye for this time "Sler"

ps

We have just rec'd some good orders  
We are to have Saturdays to do  
our washing, if so we shall  
keep cleaner after this  
Gen Wilcox has been punching up  
the pay master but the bundles  
are lacking!

## Fredericksburg camp Va

I rec'd your letter & the mittens  
and have answered it. I should  
not write to day but Jake has  
come to the conclusion to have something  
sent home from home & so I  
write again to let you know  
what I would like to have you  
send to me as a box of 100 cent.  
Will not cost any more than one  
smaller. You might send to-  
gether all that you wish.  
I should like some bread & Butter  
some apples. some boiled cider if  
you have it to spare. some  
onions. Eggs & if you think  
they will keep send some Chicken  
Cook it by it down dry I would  
like some black pepper ground  
We can't get it here I want  
some dried fruit (any thing but  
currants) will answer. I should  
like indian meal enough for  
a dish of mush & such other  
things as you think of. If it  
is directed to the regiment the  
same as a letter it will  
come to me. The freight will  
have to be paid there as there is  
no place to pay it here nor  
any thing to pay with. I hope  
Sis will spend more time on

her Algebra than she does  
twisting up her letters. She  
must have taken extra pains  
this time certain. Wymarr  
Take good care of the colt,  
Hyatt take care of my young  
oxen & they will fetch a mate  
for it. Make a small yoke &  
train them some this winter.

Edgar Murray wants his  
folks to put in some things  
for him. Send the enclosed  
pieces to their proper destination  
You might send some cookies  
Mark what you put in. It  
will taste better to know  
where it comes from.

Jakes has concluded to send  
his by its self. He wants you  
to give this tract to his wife.  
Perhaps raised biscuit would  
be more handy than bread,  
potatoes will freeze, or I would  
like some of them. Apples will  
be good if they do freeze.

I was down to the bonning  
house day. Apples were  
selling at the rate of 3 for 10  
Butter 50 Cheese 25 and a  
few 6 in diameter 20 & not  
very thick at that. You might

put in an old fashioned ginger  
cake if there is room. I don't  
hear any thing from Congress  
what are they doing? We want  
them to strike off some more  
of those Green Backs. We have  
had Grey Backs long enough. It  
is time there was a change in  
the program. Tell Chas. Putman  
if he will write to me I will  
try & write to him. Send some  
fried Cakes. I want some  
paper & envelopes that cant  
be had for love or money  
Some steel pens  
Direct to me. Jake & Edger  
So if anything should  
happen that we should not  
be together the others can  
get it

" Elmer G Miller "

Co. G. 17 Mich. Inf.



no 19

Jan. 4. 1863

Fredericksburg Va.  
on Pickett post

I rec'd your letter last Tues. on our return from pickett. But as I had started one to you the day before I did not answer before. I wrote you to send a box of stuff. But before you send it, count the cost and if it is going to cost more than it will to buy it here, dont send it. If you do send put in some pickella & Apple sauce

I did not have anything extra for New Year but want to work building huts for winter quarters. Our Co have worked 3 days with what axes they could raise cutting timber

We have one up & stuff enough cut & drawn for 3 or 4 more

We dont know how long we may stay here. I have heard the rumor in camp for some time that we were going to Washington or Alexandria for winter quarters. But we havent got there yet nor aint like to. So the conclusion is to put up huts here if we have to leave them half done. The edifice is to be 8 x 10 ft on the ground

and high enough to nearly stand up in. The door is in the middle of one side & opposite is the chimney. The roof is made of the shelter tents. This palace is to accommodate 6 men. The talk is that we shall not be allowed to finish them for we are going to be relieved & go to Baltimore, But I doubt it.

We have a good chance to view the rebel camp & fortifications they are stretched along as far as I can see. The Grayback pickets are on the opposite side of the river & within calling distance.

They make no hostile demonstrations nor do we. They simply stand and gawk at us & we at them.

The river is full of old hulks of Canal boats with 1 or 2 old steamers. The City is desolate except the reb. soldiers & a few citizens. Many of the wooden buildings have been torn down for fire wood. While the rest of the houses are punched full of holes. Chimneys knocked off windows broken & other ware defaced. There 3 Church steeples to be seen. The town clock

Continues to run in spite  
of the war. The RR. Bridge  
has been destroyed. The big  
water wheel of gander mill  
is motionless. We can hear  
the dogs in the city barking  
for their masters to come back.  
One of them swam the river  
& came over to our pickets. He  
was at the post when I went  
on but left in the morn.

The rebs occasionally strike  
up & plague us a time (which of  
course is very refreshing to us)

The house of the Mayor has  
a red flag on it as a  
hospital. It is a fine looking  
place, a large brick house painted  
yellow, surrounded with out  
buildings & shrubbery &  
enclosed with a good stone  
wall & stands at the southern  
extremity of the city, close to  
the river. They say this  
is the old Washington estate  
the one where Geo. cut down  
the cherry tree. There are no  
fences on it now. The house  
has been torn down & the barn  
almost, it is desolate now.  
Having spent most of my

energies to fill up the first sheet I thought I would wait til after dinner to finish. Capt. Goldsmith has got back but has not taken command of the Co yet. He says that Orrin Keywood will be here in a few days he thinks he is of the opinion that the war will run out by spring. He is heartily sick of it himself & the Lord knows most every body else is. There has been nothing to do with it. If the whole southern states were as desolate as Va. The whole thing would not be worth fighting for.

The day before New Year we were ranted for pay, we may get it or we may have to wait 2 months longer. If we get it this time it will come in about 10 or 15 days I am in hopes that it will come for I want something to eat besides Hard tack and Bacon. But money does not amount to much at the sutlers for they charge such enormous rates for every thing they have. Butter is worth .85 Cheese .50 An apple the size of a good pair sells no further they

05- But they say things will be  
cheaper soon. Somebody in  
Jackson had the kindness to  
send a present of dried apples  
& peaches to the Regt They were  
given out, For my part I  
got a cupfull of apples & peaches  
Enough for a stew They come  
very good. We shall have  
to leave here before a great  
while for the wood is nearly  
gone. We have stripped some  
20 acres of young pine timber.  
I will send a sprig of holly  
this time but there was no berries  
on this bush. As for the health  
of myself & Co. I can say that  
I am well. So is Edgar, but  
Jake is rather under the weather.  
He has not been able to do any  
duty for several days He thinks  
some of going to the hospital.

Wont it cost more to get lumber  
from Chicago than it is worth  
after you get it. How does  
The Seminary prosper, Does  
six make Algebra (she daddle)  
How does Mr Ingraham prosper  
Does he keep Dris & is she  
good for anything. What does  
Moser do for Remond to run his

cloves nutmeg, I wish you would  
send me a drawing of Tea &  
some black pepper, I have got a  
glass pepper box a memento of  
Fredericksburg One of our boys  
captured it & I bought it of  
him It has a little red pepper in  
it. If we should have the luck  
to go to Washington or Baltimore  
we shall get some oysters, they  
will be good. Does Hyatt accomplish  
any thing, Does Ogro want to  
enlist now. You say my picture  
looks handsome with that background  
That is made up, it is not a  
fair sight for a backing ground  
no more

note

"Elen

mon. morn I have just got  
your letter of 28-29.

Hyatt. sell the screw boat.  
It is reported to day that  
Haynslerman Cape is  
to relieve us

I just got 2 steel pens  
for a postage stamp

I dont understand about my  
bean crop being Emulated  
Where were they planted?

Jan. 11 1863

Camp opposite

Fredericksburg Va.

Sunday in the new house

Dear Folks:- old & young I rec'd you well filled envelopes last Mon on my return from Pickett. I had written one while on post. I did not send it until I acknowledged that. You spoke of sending a box of provender. It has not arrived yet. I am waiting with anxious expectation for its arrival. Edger got a letter last night from home stating they had sent with you. Mitch was here the other night, he is well.

We (that is our house) are all well but Jake, he was pretty sick last night, is not much better now. Geo Turner has not been heard of since we left Antietam Hospital out there.

It was Grimes that went with me after the chickens.

We got our shanty finished so as to move into it Fri. We have 5 in it. Jake, Amos, Edger, Grimes, & myself.

Amos Grimes is a boy from portage Lake, so he is almost a neighbor to me when at home.

I have not suffered for the want of a night Cap yst as the Lincoln plug hats answer a very good purpose & the weather has not been very cold. It rained yesterday most all day, which made it rather disagreeable, to day it is pleasant again. We have had our weekly inspection this morning, so the rest of the day is ours I suppose.

Our bunks are made in the form of a crawl. Such as Capt. Dunham mentions in his book only the knots are trimmed off. It is quite a comfortable bed. It is now dinner time & while I think of it I will send you a small specimen of our bread such as I have lived on for the last 4 months you will not wonder that I am tired of it. I saw a Crane the other day he was well. I went to the 8th & saw that Joseph Voice, Mr Robbin's nephew he was well & hearty & said he had written to Mr R. only a few days before. Take care of my museum & when I go on pickett again I will get a clam shell as an addition to it. I dont



know where that bean crop of  
mine was raised that  
Hyatt spoke of being enkerd  
I have not seen anything  
of Monroe Hillman for some  
time I do not know what he  
became of him We have  
fresh beef for dinner &  
rice soup for supper to day  
I had to stop and eat, then  
for some ~~hours~~ to put on  
our bunk. We sleep in 2  
bunks 3 in one and 2 in the  
other. This one is above the  
other ship fashion.

Can Hyatt keep him to that Eolian  
harp that sis spoke of. I lent  
Theron Partholomew my song book  
before I came. Maybe if Hyatt  
is a mind to be may get it

That counterfeit note is a  
counterfeit made in N.Y. so  
dont try to pass it for good. I  
gave .05 for it. I am very glad  
you got the lumber as well as you did  
that is as cheap as might be expected  
considering circumstances.

Good By, Chas J Mills  
Your humble servant  
Sen. Brother

no 21

July 18 1863

camp opposite  
Fredensburg Va

Dear folks I rec'd your letter last  
mon but as I had written one to you  
the day before I did not answer it  
sooner. The Box made its appearance  
Fri noon. We got it into our tent &  
opened it. Mitch was there to see &  
received what belonged to him.

That large can I found the name  
of Daniel Beard's on and disposed  
of accordingly. That roll of butter  
that Mrs Ingraham put in I cut  
in two & divided between 2 sick  
boys I thought that they needed  
it as bad as any body. Their  
names are Vanderhoof & Hanchet.  
They seemed very thankful for it.

We had scarcely got it fairly  
summed up when the order was  
given to be ready for a march  
at 9 next morning as might  
be expected our wrath was  
some what excited. We pitched  
in and eat all we could &  
packed the rest into our  
knapsack which made a  
load big enough for a horse to  
groan under. We packed and  
were ready to leave, but dreaded  
to leave with such a load to go  
no one knows where. But

Thank fortune, we did not  
have to go. So we had one  
more night rest in our cozy  
house. Today there is not  
much sign of moving.

We have had inspection  
We have church to day. The  
bugle has just sounded the  
first call I suppose that Elder  
Gallop is to asterisk the  
dirty 17<sup>th</sup> I will tell you  
more after service ~~run~~

I just returned. Had a short sermon  
which was very good at least what I  
heard of it. My attention was attracted  
by a runaway over in the cavalry  
A horse threw his rider whose foot  
caught in the stirrup. The horse ran  
with him dragging. I do not know  
how bad he was hurt but he was  
carried to the hospital on a stretcher

The things in the Box were  
all right. Mr. Emms' Sausage  
was damaged some but wasn't very  
well. The frost had not troubled  
any thing. The night-cap I will  
wear. The peaches I have not  
opened yet. Edgum is well.  
Jack is not well.

I can get along without money  
very well. Dont rot yourself for me,  
Elen

Apr 22 20 22 July 25-1863

Fredericksburg

To my sister Joan

Considering circumstances & the wish that I would write expressly to you, I thought I would gratify your desire by so doing, but you will have to accept of it sent in the same envelope with the rest of the family. If you want one separate you will please let me know it, but you will have to pay the postage. I have not much news to tell you except that the Box got here all right, and the articles reached their proper destination i.e. they were claimed by those whose names were on them. The rain has knocked Burnside in the head again so we did not have to go at all. The troops that did had to lay in the mud 2 nights & then go home. They caught cold & some of them could scarcely speak loud. Last Mon. we had our turn at pickett we were in the reserve so I did not have to stand post.

The rebels have been at work with their Contrabands digging rifle pits along the front of the hill commencing the river they were at work then our men go down to the river and talk with them they send papers back & forth &

exchange coffee for Tobacco, When  
our buttherys get stuck in the  
mud the nets offered to send  
men to draw them out & lay  
the pontoon bridges for us &  
Then whip us after that.

They are quite jubilant  
over much Puddling

I rec'd Ellums letter with the pens.  
I sent a piece of Hand Tack, Did  
it get there or no. Dont break  
your teeth on it. Tell Jay that  
was very Thankfull to him for  
remembering us in times of Trouble  
We are going to have some beaver  
for dinner

Ellum

The rain has proved to much  
for Bunnides, He undertook to cross  
run 12 miles above, he got the  
pontoon & artillery started & with a  
lot of infantry & when the rain caught  
him he was obliged to go to the shore and  
order them back. The roads have  
been lined most of the time since  
with men & Teams it rained  
last night again it is pleasant  
to day. We have just been out to  
hear Elder J. preach his congregation  
was small as 6 company are  
on pickett to-day & I suppose

our turn will come soon, but if  
the weather is fair I had we leave  
be there as here, when last out I  
was on the reserve. Back from  
the river a ways the rebs had a  
gang of Centurions at work on a  
rifle pit - some 40 rods long  
right on top of the hill that we  
laid behind when there. I think  
their force has been drawn off  
so they are fortifying to hold with  
less. You may think that my last letter  
was not worth what it cost. Only  $\frac{1}{2}$   
sheet & postage not paid. Well perhaps  
not but I could not think of anything  
more to write them. I hope mother has  
got over that tooth ache by this time.  
H. W. D. has gone. good riddance.  
I hope G. J. will have a happy time  
with his new bride & may Samuels  
match prove a good one, but I  
fear not. Hasnt Wyman learned  
to write good enough to scratch a  
few lines to me. I want to hear  
from all. He can tell me how Tokony  
does & how that young sheep is & the  
pig if no more. We have not got  
any pay yet if the paper did  
say. We should have it, nor I  
dont expect it right away

"Elex"

Feb. 1. / 1863

Camp Peterson opposite  
Fredericksburg Va

It has been some time since I have heard from you. The last letter I rec'd a week ago last Wed. I write you last Sun. & have looked in vain for one from home. The week has passed very quickly, not much done to notice until Wed. When we were ordered out on Pickett. It rained the night before & in the morn turned to snow which lasted all day & night. It melted for a while as fast as it came. The mud was sure, deep. So we had wet feet and little fire. We had to hack our wood a plumb mile through the slosh to a ravine near the river, where we were stationed out of the wind, but had no quarters. Toward night it grew cold and the snow stuck on the ground. We were wet & cold all hovering around the fire when the Quartermaster Hooper came with a ration of (Whiskey) which we were glad to get if ever a mortal war. It revived our drooping spirits & kept life in our

shivering frames until morning  
It was late when the relief came  
When we got to camp I was nearly  
played out as were the rest of the  
Co. The snow had fallen to the  
depth of some 6 inches & frozen  
slightly but the sun shone  
warm the next day & made much  
underfoot. Last Fri we had

The inexpressible pleasure of  
receiving a few "Greenbacks"  
It appears that Uncle Abraham  
had come to the conclusion that  
the bloody 17<sup>th</sup> would like a  
little money & so sent us our  
Pay up to the first of Nov. I  
rec'd 22.10 all in govt funds

"Alias" Greenbacks. I will  
send 7.00 of it home 2.00 to  
pay that you sent me. The  
other you may put on to the  
other 28.00. I would send more  
but for my tent mate, who has  
now been at the hospital & did  
not get anything this payday.  
I shall lend him some til  
next pay day, which if they  
dont lie about it will be with  
in the next 4 weeks. Then we  
are to get payed up to the first of  
Jan. but I am rather inclined to  
doubt it. Here is the Cash for dinner



We had fresh beef & rice soup  
(not very good). I have written  
to Mr. Smith & Mr. Ingraham  
how they rec'd it. I bought a  
Harper Weekly last night.  
There is some good reading in it.  
I will send that home.  
Jacob Pickett has been sick for  
some time. Day before yesterday  
he went to the hospital he looks  
rather hard up. He has run down  
pretty fast for a few days, but he  
is where he can have some  
kind of care taken of him & I hope  
he will soon be better. I can well be  
expected after our hard winter  
Pickett. Edgar is well. So are the  
rest of the boys in our tent. I  
will get the pictures of myself & tent  
mates all in 1 group so you can  
see who I am living with. I have  
no stamps for this letter, but I hope you  
will not think of so little value as not  
to take it out of the office. I am in  
hope to get one from you to night  
Hyatt promised to write when the  
jobs was done. I hope they  
will be done soon  
Don't think of anything more  
at present Write soon  
17th March Ind. ! Ellen White "

Jan. 6-1963

Camp Pitman opposite  
Fredericksburg Va.

Sister Joan I rec'd your letter in  
connection with that of Wymour  
& Ellen & Mother, this morning  
although it is raining and  
disagreeable I am glad to hear  
from you. I am sorry you  
don't go to school the rest of  
the term, but hope you will  
improve the time to the best  
purpose you can think of.

I don't know as it would  
do any hurt if you should  
write to me every time a letter  
comes from there. We all  
feel better now since we  
have got our green backs,

although we got but a few.  
Every thing costs about 5 times  
as much here as it does up there  
where white folks live & besides  
we can't get what we want at  
any price. The market run  
pretty much as follows

Butter 50¢ & 60¢ Cheese 40¢ Apples 05¢  
& scarce Paper & Envelopes are quite  
thick now. Peddlers visit us  
every day with such notions  
Boots are very cheap ranging  
from 6<sup>00</sup> to 10<sup>00</sup> per pair Honey 50

I bought a couple of war  
novels one I have read &

mailed to you The other I  
will send to Wyman to pay for  
his letter. I read it very well  
at first I thought it was  
yours I think he did exceedingly  
well for the first time & hope  
he will try again, he need not  
be alarmed about the reading  
of it I can read any thing in the  
shape of writing if it is from  
home, I send a Harpers W to  
Ellen to day It will be old when  
it gets there. We can get the  
N.Y Herald & other papers. They  
say that the Army of the Potomac  
is to be broken up a part sent  
West the rest is to guard Wash.

We rec'd orders last night to be  
ready to march at any time  
It is supposed we will go to  
Fortress Monroe but no one  
knows it is thought that  
Gen Burnside is going to  
to North Carolina to raise  
hubb with the rebs There  
We have had some cold  
Weather this week so far  
but last night it rained  
& took all the snow off again  
Captain Goldsmith has  
resigned his Commission & gone

home So we have a new  
Captain in his place by the  
name of John Tyler  
promoted from a 1st Lt.

He is a fine man & was  
well liked by his men  
in Co. F.

Cal W. has come home on  
a furlow

Jacob is some better

The rest of us are well  
nothing more at present  
so good by from your  
brother .. E. L. -

Feb. 12 1863

Camp Putnam opp  
Friedicksburg Va.

Dear folks and all: I will try  
once more to write a few lines & at  
least let you know that I am still  
~~on~~ this side of the grave & the  
Rappahannock too. Without much  
prospect of crossing either.

I rec'd your letter dated Jan 25  
last Wed. Which I answered to  
Joan the next day, Last Sun.  
rec'd one from the Ingrapham  
I sent a Harper Weekly to Ellen, a  
war story to Joan, & one to Wyman  
to pay him for his letter. I hope he  
will read it & write again. We  
have been under marching orders  
a week now only waiting  
transportation. We may go to day &  
maybe not. Yesterday it rained  
most of the time. Today the sun  
shines. The wind blows quite  
hard it will help to dry up  
the mud. Our Capt Goldsmith  
has resigned & gone home. We  
have a new one appointed in his  
stead by the name of John Tyler  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. of Co. F. He appears to be a  
nice man & is liked by his men.  
Sydney Smith & Mr. Patterson from  
Greenslake are now here. The  
talk is at present that we are  
going to the old fortress & east

a spell & then for some southern  
post & then (a grand victory  
won by the 17th)

Gen Burgeside has bidden us good  
by & gone to the west & we are in  
charge of our own Gen Wilcox.

Jacob has at last gone to the  
hospital. I have not heard from him  
since but expect a letter from him  
daily to let me know where to  
send his letters. I have written

to Chas. Putnam directed to Mich.  
Center. I don't know whether it  
will go or not. The wood is  
about played out here. The timber

is all gone, the limbs trimmed out  
We have to bring it some  
distance or else trim out brush  
which are rather small fodder

But a soldier's time aint  
more than a setting here. He  
may as well do that as anything

Just talk as though you were  
afraid I would get so discouraged  
as to desert, you need not  
fear on that account, for when  
I get down to the fortress

where oysters are plenty, I  
expect to feel better. I have  
not sent a clam shell, but will  
send an arrow-point which I

found on the "sacred soil"

I will send a half dollar for you to get stamps with, it is a young green-back we have nothing else down here for change, nothing but Govt Funds are good at the sutlers

I sent 7<sup>00</sup> to you, Hows you got it? I hope that the new congress will do something toward stopping the war for I think it has never long enough.

We are all packed up ready to start I hope we will go before long. I dont think of anything more at present so Good By till next time

=====  
=====  
Elmer

Camp near New Port News Va.

Dear folks - I again try to let you know where & how I am & what the weather is.

Well in the first place I am with the Regt. & that is in camp on the James river about 2 miles above New Port News & a nice camp ground it is to. As for my health that is as good as usual & the weather is rainy at

Feb 17 1863  
New Port News 2

present I have not grown fat on hard tack, as some have, but quite to the contrary. When at home I weighed 140 lbs now only 127. We started Sat. morning from camp Pitman and arrived here Mon. noon. We had a pleasant trip, although U.S. mode of transportation is rather crowding it is easier than backing a knapsack. Yesterday we drew for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in over 4 mo. a loaf of soft Bread. We can get clams & oysters here on the beach when the tide is out. We have got large tents now. I have not time to write much to day as we want to set up our tent on a log hut.

I rec'd your letter as soon as I arrived here. I also got one from Jacob he is at Emory Hospital. I had not heard that Geo Smith had been killed by a mule. The impression is here that he deserted. I saw the wreck of the Cumberland and a Monitor

"Elen"



Feb. 25, 1863

Camp Withington Va.

Dear folk - I will try and improve  
 what little time I have left to  
 night in writing, owing to the  
 weather & other drawbacks I  
 have not written to you before.

One week ago Sat. we left Camp  
 Pitman early in the morning. Came  
 to Aqua Creek on the cars. We were  
 loaded on to the steam transport  
 "North America" & started for Fort  
 Morris. We had a pleasant trip of  
 it down the bay. We arrived at  
 the Fort a little before sundown  
 Sun. & lay at anchor for the  
 night. The next morning we  
 started for Newport News and  
 got there after an hour or 2  
 ride. We were then unloaded  
 after 2 days on a transport &  
 marshalled up to our camp  
 some 2 miles north of the  
 banks of the James river.

On the trip I saw some gunboats  
 & 2 of them Terror to Rebels.  
 Monitors, or made like them.

I saw the wreck of the "Cumberland"  
 & "Congress". There are from 20 to 25  
 gunboats lying out in the river  
 all the time one of them is a  
 (cheese box craft) the Galena is  
 one & the others are gunclad.

We have a nice camping ground here with A. Tents & soft bread. So I hope to fat up soon. Oysters are plenty & other stuff one half what it was at the other camp. I don't know whether we will stay here or go some where else. It is talked that we are going to the old fort or Norfolk as a garrison. We have a new sutler. I have had a letter from Jake. He was sick in bed then & was trying for his discharge. Thursday afternoon

Night over took me so I had to stop. Yesterday we had to pass a General Grand Review before Gen Dix. We marched down to the News & back it was a warm day warm enough for May. Today we drill again. We have 3 drills a day. Co. drill from  $\frac{1}{2}$  part 8 till  $\frac{1}{2}$  part 9. Battalion from 10 to 11. A.M. and Brigades from 1 to 3.

Then Dress Parade at 5. Takes up most of the time & being some what tired I don't write any more than I do. Gen Po. was in command to day. You spoke of sending the Tribune to me. You need not for I have not time to read it all the time & the morning

will be worth more to you than  
the paper to me. As to your  
sending another box I don't  
hardly think it will pay  
as we get bread & other stuff  
more than before.

Fri. Morning - I will try and finish  
to day if possible. I rec'd your  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> last night & Hyatt  
wants that letter so bad I will  
send this one to him. I hope he  
will tell the news to the rest.

These boots you spoke of I think  
I can get along without. The  
money will do you more good  
than the boots will me. I have  
a good pair of pumps & the  
ground is sandy here. They did  
not let us go into the Fort but I  
saw some of the guns. There that  
were on the side toward us. They  
were of some size and somewhat  
thick. I should like to have gone in

But they did not unload there.

I have got some holly berries that  
I will send to you this time & some  
sea shells for the next. You  
can give them to Ellen or you  
don't want them yourself

Ellen.

## Camp Withington Va.

There are some  $\frac{1}{2}$  doz. paddlers scattered about the grounds. They come with an old horse & cart loaded with pie & Apple cakes and other stuff. I had some Cider the other day at .05 a glass. Oyster can be had in the shell at .50 per bu. or about 1.<sup>00</sup> a gal. Our sutler has played out before he came on.

Sun. Afternoon

I began this sheet for my last letter but could not get time nor think of strength to fill it & so I did not send it. One week ago yesterday I was our Camp guard. The day was fine but with the night came snow some 2 in deep then rain so it was all slush a spell yesterday was muster day. I went on picket. We went into the woods some 2 mi at night it rained but wood was plenty & a good fire & shelter tent made it quite comfortable. We got in at noon to day, our camp is named Withington & looks quite English with the trees planted at the front of every tent. You wanted me to tell you all that I saw on the way down here. In the first place

I saw the landing at Aqua Creek covered with boats. Then came the waters of the Potomac which at first were milky but farther down grew clear. There was a flock of sea-gulls following after us to pick up the hard tack the boys threw at them. They are a large bird & look some like a barn dove.

On the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day we saw a flock of Porpoise's taking their comfort rolling & tumbling. We passed in sight of Cape Charles & Cape Henry & saw land all the way down. Saw old Fort Mifflin & some gun boats 2 of the "Cheese Box Class" & some 80 or 90 other craft.

We passed the wreck of the Cumberland & Congress. The

Merrimac came pretty close in to New Port News to do her work.

The banks of the river are high & sandy. Back it is clay &

N. port News is quite a village but it is all soldiers quarters.

You he had I would have a good time eating oysters if I could

not find anything better. A good fat oyster with a little pepper & salt

goes very good indeed to a

hungry soldier. I got a pint cup  
full yesterday for .10 they  
slip down over throat like a  
raw egg. Eggs are 40  
& Milk .20 & scarce at that.

I would like to have some Johnny  
Cakes & Mush first rate, but that  
is not to be had in these parts  
Butter is 40 & Chem. 25 I don't  
know whether we will get any  
pay this time or not. We have  
the promise of 2 months now.

I will put some shells in this  
letter. I have a small Konk shell  
I guess I can pack it so it will go.  
I will try By & By. An Oyster shell  
is the funniest thing out. They grow  
together like onion seeds. I never  
saw a clam with a tail till I  
got down here. I don't know  
whether Gen Burns was  
red tape or not I seldom  
saw him. It seem that Deloss  
Cant stick to any one thing. He  
knows enough to keep out of the  
Army. I have wrote all I  
can think of so I will stop

"Elm"

Mar 8, 1863

Camp Withington Va.

Dear folk I am well ~~and~~ always  
 am) & able to eat my rations.  
 I rec'd a letter from you last Fri.  
 dated Feb 25- & 26 Ellen, W. & H. Wyman  
 in rather short but good wheat  
 there is of it. If we must take better  
 care of the lambs they will be as  
 profitable property as can be kept.

Hyatt is longer and therefore better.  
 I think Mr Pack had better try  
 once more & then die or change  
 his time. It must be Hyatt has  
 taken more pride in natural science  
 than when I was there.

Yours come next. You spoke of the  
 holly berries I sent a letter full  
 the other day, it grows plenty  
 down here. The woods are most  
 all evergreen, only now & then an  
 oak. In my last I told you all  
 I could remember about the Voyage  
 down. I kept both eyes open through  
 the day & part of the night for a  
 berth on a transport is not a  
 very pleasing spot to sleep for the  
 men are piled up so thick that  
 no one can get through. Our  
 wood is drawn to us now. You  
 ask how we eat? Well we put the  
 victuals in our mouths and  
 chew them up & swallow them.

We have no table set nor any to set. The cook has to make the coffee & cook the meat potatoes & beans & such other stuff as may be had. The Co falls in & march to the fire or cook stunts each man with his dish & takes his rations & repairs to his quarters & devours them. Every morning we have bread given out which we keep in our own tent. The Shanghaiers are scarce in over giving. Our look is not fast property. They change every once in a while. I hope friend Jacob will get his discharge for I think he will never be fit for service. I will try & answer all questions of all sorts. A strange thing it must be. Hiram Quick married it must be that fools are not allowed yet. & Ezra must have found one that sheep did pretty well on tallow. I am sorry that sheep has got killed. Is the jewelry that W. makes as fine as that the boys make out of Laurel root. It makes quite nice rings. I sold one for 25 before it was  $\frac{1}{2}$  done. It don't grow down here. it was plenty & Frederick. We are going to have Oyster the cook trades coffee for them "Eben"



Mar. 13 - 1863

Camp Wittington Va

I will try and write once more  
 I am well as common except a sore  
 mouth that bother me some but  
 is nothing serious. The rest of the boys  
 are well. Recd your letter last Fri  
 dated Mon. 5 & the day before I got one  
 from C. Putman. I have heard  
 nothing from Jacob but I think he  
 will be able to return if he can  
 have proper care where he is. I  
 recd a paper the other day, but  
 I do not know where it came from

We have had our inspection this  
 morning. We have to put on a great  
 sight of style now polished shoes  
 & cartridge boxes, Brass accoured  
 & white gloves. They have come to  
 the conclusion that Springfield's  
 look better than the old Austrian  
 rifle & so have changed for them

If the snow is 14 in. deep ~~and~~  
 the Rappahannock I am not there  
 to wade through it. I don't know  
 of anything to send W. for a ring

I will send some more shells  
 if Sis wants one I can get an  
 oyster shell for her to put on  
 the side of a pair cushion. They  
 are the most plentiful shell here  
 I hear that you have been having  
 something of a muss in Detroit,

also that Vixburg is ours. I am  
sorry that sis got cheated out of her  
novel but can't help it. Some  
one came a game on our  
quartermaster the other night.

They procured a sham Corporal &  
guard & went & relieved the regular  
guard that was there some 20 minutes  
before his time was out. So when  
the real Corporal & guard did come  
there was no sentinel to relieve.

Last night there was an act of  
robbery committed on our sutler.

He lost some 40. worth of goods.

I have been on picket twice since  
I have been here & it rained both  
times & on guard once when it  
snowed & rained. I got the letter  
with the tea in it. Cans had  
down to the landing for 2.00 a lb.

I suppose I got the family letter you  
spoke of. Part of the troops are leaving  
here & no knowing how soon we may go.

I can get Cider at 5 a glass  
and Apples 3 for 5 Butter 40

The steamer we came down has sunk  
I went to the landing 2 days & unloaded  
hay from the boats. It has been rather  
cool for some days. Tomorrow  
we have to go on Biggsade Drill.

no more good By "Eton"

no 31 Mar. 25: 1863

on Board Transport Baltimore

"Majestic" near Baltimore

Dear folks I have not had an opportunity to write before I have not much now, but will at least let you know where I am & the reason for writing before Wed Mar 15 - we recd march orders to start at 9 next morning

We packed up and were off in a snow storm. Loaded on to the raft "Morris" & went to Norfolk for coal. Laid there til Fri. most night then went to Fortress Monroe & anchored for the night. The next morning we got the mail, one for me from Ellen & H. H's Criticisms are very good what there is of them

I would be glad if that was all. I might make some suggestions to his improvement. Sat morn we started again and Sun P.M. landed in Baltimore. Changed to the cars & spent 48 hours in them which betched us to Pardusbury Va Last night we took this boat it is a large river transport

We landed at Cincinnati & from there no one knows where we will go

It is thought that we will join Rora in Tenn. Some say we go to Ky

Col Withington has resigned and gone home. Don't write til you hear from me again

"Eben"

## Lonsville Ky

On wed night the order to march  
 was read & cooking commenced. our  
 cooks set up tents all night  
 We packed up what little earthly  
 property we possessed. Struck our  
 tents & were off for no one knows  
 where. We shipped on board the  
 "Robt Morris" & went to Norfolk  
 for coal. It steamed so that  
 she would not put out til  
 next night next day when  
 we went to Fort Monroe & said  
 they that night the next ~~sat~~ morning  
 a tug came with the mail it  
 brought me for me. We soon  
 started out for Baltimore where  
 we arrived Sun P.M. from there on to  
 the cars rode all night the  
 morning brought us to Harper Ferry  
 where we were accommodated with a  
 loaf of bread and some coffee.  
 Before daylight we were on our way  
 again at night we stopped at  
Cumberland long enough to get some  
 thing to eat, and then on again to Grafton  
 where we stopped to eat again. from there  
 to Parkersburg where we shipped on  
 board the "Majestic" & started for  
Cincinnati. Then we read orders  
 for this place where we landed  
 yesterday noon got a good dinner &  
 encamped on the east side

of the city on a high price of  
ground with a good view of  
the city. We have what is called  
the bell tent it holds 12 men.

I think it doubtful about our  
staying here very long. I saw  
some young tumbe & 1 or 2 Cabres  
on the south. Some were making  
gardens. The grass has started ~~to~~  
come, so things begin to pick.

Most everything can be had at  
our help what it could be at Newport  
Eggs .20 milk .10 The grounds are  
circled with women peddlers  
they sell at reasonable prices.

Gen. Dix did not give us much  
chance to look at him & I have not  
heard how he likes our looks. That  
was ~~an~~ oyster shell. Hyatt  
says he writes closer than I do  
& don't cut so many swells.

I did not know I cut any swells  
more than the common run of folks.

I will put some sluth in this  
for Kate & Lizzie, Edger is well  
and so am I. I can't see any  
end to the war for some time  
ahead. I did once but it was  
only a turn in the road. We  
just got orders to have 4 days rations  
cooked ready for marching  
No more "Eton"

April 7, 1863

Lebanon Ky.

Dear folks We left Linnville on Sat. night a week ago & loaded into the cars & the next morning found us at Bardstown, a very nice looking Village. We camped there until Thursday & then started on the march for this point. The first days march brought us to Springfield 18 miles the first days work of the season which came very near using some of us up. Our Co had to go on pickett that night which made a mile farther but I got warm supper & some milk & eggs, next morning at daylight we started again and made port by 10 AM on Fri.

I rec'd a letter from you while at Bardstown and another one yesterday I think Wyman improves very much in writing if he would leave a little space between the words he would rather go ahead of Hyatt,

But now the paymaster made his appearance & distributed a few green backs among us. he paid us up to the first of Mar. 4 months pay & I am, more our Co had to go to town on Provost guard & came back this morn We had a tolerable good

times of it for we could get plenty to eat. We kept an old - darkey woman cooking meat of the time. She made hot biscuit & fried the fresh meat for the boys. Some of the boys have sent their money by exchange. I dont know as it is any safer than the mail it is not insured against anything where there is a possibility of its getting lost. I think I will send by mail. I think I should like to hear from some that I sent from here first. I think I will put 10<sup>00</sup> in to this & send some more another time.

Lebanon is a right smart town about 2 or 3 times as large as Gross Lake. Though

there is not much done in the way of business at present

There are 2 or 3 large hospitals here Butter sells at 40 Sugar 20

Tea from 2 to 3 per lb Eggs from 20 to 40 There are a lot

of drafted men come up yesterday none for our Co.

Has Hyatt sowed the clover seed yet? That piece over West wants it & I hope it will

get it. It is time he was making  
fence or drawing out the manure  
How did that barrel of cider come  
out that he buried last fall?  
I had some down town.

Direct your letter via Louisville  
instead of Washington.

I think that Ky. is rather  
ahead of anything I have  
seen in Va. or Md.

The country is as nice as  
could be desired, it is  
generally well watered  
and not much marsh.

" Eben J. Smith "



Apr. 11 1863

Lebanon Ky

Broth Wymann: Recd. your letter & as a natural circumstance was glad to hear from you & the rest of the folks. It seems to me that your lambs do not amount to much this year. You must help Hyatt put up that fence & draw out the manure for it will soon be time to plant. The farmers are all ploughing their own ground.

The soil is clay & stony in some parts & as the old darkie said there was a heap of sorry land around here. The plows are not as good shape as those you have up there. some of them are made of steel with the shear & point fast to the mouldboard. They are a very hard running plow. The yokes that they use here are made of a small pole with spots on it for the necks. The darkie said they called a crooked one a Yankee yoke that some of them used them but he did not know as they were any better than his skait stick. Last Thun. I had to go on pickett, went out about 2 miles. We

had a few times of it. Went to town  
close by and got what we wanted to  
eat for 20 a meal. We had some  
green peas for dinner & other good things.

The biscuit were not as good as  
I have eaten farther north they  
make them too thin & rather too  
heavy. I can get Cider down town  
and apples at the sutlers & peddlers  
bring in all the pieces that are  
wanted. Butter & Eggs are  
scarce. The soldiers raise the  
price very much. I got a lb of  
butter while in Pickett at 25<sup>¢</sup>  
in town they get 40. Eggs are from  
10 to 15 to 25 to 40 to 50. I bought  
a dog yesterday for 25<sup>¢</sup>. They keep  
giving us Hard Tack. But I  
shant eat them as long as I  
can get any thing else to eat.

I have 2 of the letters that were  
sent to Washington. The other  
has not got here yet. I got the  
first one sent to Lewisville.

Ellen wanted to know what I  
meant by Lt Sumner young  
hopeful? He has taken a young  
Ape of a darkey (that in his  
opinion is about right) & I  
suppose he calculates to adopt him.  
He has taken him home with him.

I hope he will have a good time with  
him. The 25<sup>th</sup> Mich was here when  
we came but went to Louisville Sun.

Yesterday morn the 18 & 22 came  
here I dont know what is going  
to be done getting all Mich Regts to  
gather. It must be that there is  
fighting ahead & they want all  
good troops to gather. I got 2  
letters from Jacob last nite.

The first one he was rather  
sad & disconsolate & well he might

The other he was better & expected  
his discharge papers soon. I hope  
he has got them before this time &  
is at home. Hyatt had better not work  
at the mill too long or he will not get  
his corn in in time. I sent 40.<sup>00</sup> home  
the other day 10. in a letter & 30. by express

Which gets there first? Co. K.  
has ~~10~~ drafted men in it the  
poor fellows look rather disconsolate  
they eat their hard tack & Coffee in silence

They dont look like the other soldiers  
as sis did not get her novel I will  
send a Harpers & a song book I hope  
she will get them.

no more

write soon

"Eliza"

April 21 1863

L E Cannon Ky

Well folks I rec'd a letter from Hyatt yesterday. With the election ticket in & receipt of the money I sent, H. wants to know what I wanted done with it. You may put it to the best use you can think of. If I should return I may want it if not it shall belong to the place. If you are a mind to you may buy me a calf one that will mate Topsy as they will make a team together or if it is needed on the place use it. If you like you may buy sheep with it & let them out for so much a head as the parties can agree. There are uses enough to put it to so dont let it be idle. Money dont go very far down here. When I have money I spend more than I earn although I dont spend more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  as much as some of the boys. Some dont send any home & are out of money before me.

Butter sells at the sutler @ .50

Eggs @ .30 Potatoes when they can be had 50 lb Cheese .25

Apples 2 or 3 for .50 Our money is all Govt script there is nothing less than .10

Cider 50 gal

I got that letter last night that was sent Washin

Dated Mar 21

"Etern"

April 26 1863

Lebanon Ky.

Brother Hyatt. - I rec'd your letter containing the election ticket & that paper called bugle blast from the army. I don't think it sounds much like the bugle blast that I have been used to hearing in that quarter.

I have read a part of it & I don't know what has become of it now. What I read appeared to be pretty much all blast without much bugle to it. It appears that Mr. Scott likes Abolition power no better than he used to. How do Mr. & Bill get along alone with the work this spring. They must have their hands full as well as your self. Try and get the corn in in good season & tend it well that soil will not be very weedy.

Make a good fallow of the orchard, put all the manure on to it & that will fetch a good crop of wheat. How does your hay hold out? & How does the stock look? Almost anything can get a living out here now. I was on guard yesterday. We mount 120. Brigade guards every morning.

This morning I went down into the woods and got some flowers, some of them grow up there & some don't. I don't

know the names of them. I dont  
much think we shall stay here  
a great while longer as  
Burnside is making preparation  
for some move or other.

Some of the boys have gone down  
to church this fore noon. I suppose  
we will have church here this P.M.

I guess our chaplin is as smart  
as any Kentuckian there is in town.  
The talk is that we are going to  
have bread again. I hope so for  
my teeth are rather sore to grind  
hard tack. Beside I dont like  
the taste of them very well & I  
cant buy my own board much  
longer. I am in hopes this thing  
will be ended before next fall  
for I for one am getting rather  
tired of it. I dont think it pays  
the cost of suit. We have  
just got our first oil cloth  
blanket. They will be some  
thing of a load to put on top  
of a knapsack to lay round the  
country. Whether wanted to  
know if I had a fine comb?  
I have an old one that I have  
had some time. You may send  
me another if you like, send  
a short one if any, you can

get them there for  $\frac{1}{2}$  what I  
can here. 2 weeks ago  
when I was on pickett I had  
a mess of greens for dinner  
I dont know what they were,  
but they were very good at  
all events. I would like some  
more after the same sort.

Dan Bouchard is as tough as  
a bear & so is Mitch. I am  
going to put some poses in to this  
letter you may give them to Ellen  
or some one that thinks something  
of them. They maybe prettier  
than grow in Mich. We have  
some beans for dinner to day  
I dont think of any thing  
more to write at present  
so good By "Ellen"

write soon & tell me all the  
news about Leon

April 30 1863

Columbia Ky.

Dear folks: I am in another part of the world from what I was in when last I wrote. I wrote to Hyatt last Sun. That night just as I had nicely got myself down to take a nap the order came to be ready to march at 5 in the morning. at 3 we were wakened by the bugle & by day light were on the move & good by to Lebanon. We left a rich Camp ground for it was covered with clothing, mostly over coats I started with mine but shipped it the first stop we made. In the outskirts of town I saw a white Lilac & a yellow rose, the first I ever saw of the kind. The day was warm & dusty so it was rather disagreeable marching. I saw corn up a finger high & peas 6 in.

Fruit trees are blooming very full. The first thing worthy of note is the river "Rolling Fork" which we crossed & halted to rest & make coffee it was 9 a.m. Rested we put on & stopped for noon near a steam mill & what a thing it was. There was no siding on thing except a little on one end



where the stone stood. I picked up some stones in the brook & will send some of them.

Amos went to town & got a fish line so I had to stop writing & go a fishing I will try & finish this morning. We left the old mill & went on & encamped for the night at a small town called Campbellville about the size of Gross Lake. We had a turnpike to march on & pretty much all of us had blistered our feet & were tired out other wise. 18 miles for the first days travel. We were not hurried off next morning til after breakfast. Nothing of any acct that day except the general appearance of the country which was rolling & some hilly, thinly settled, some nice timber, Crops looked well, Plenty of contraband along the route.

Co. B. picked me up for a waiter about noon we reached Greene river Ford which was our destination. The 20<sup>th</sup> went on to Columbia The river is rightly named for its waters are as green as grass. That night

orders came for the 17<sup>th</sup> to go  
to Columbia for the 20 was  
going on to Cumberland. So in  
the morning we had to trudge  
again leaving the rest of the  
brigade at the ford. Old  
Morgan had burned the bridge  
last New Years day. so we  
crossed in a flat boat & before  
night made up the 12 miles  
to this point on Russell  
Creek. just out side of  
Columbia. There's fish in  
the creek I must catch  
some for dinner

Edgar is well

I shall send them mittens  
home again. I have not worn  
them enough to hurt them  
any. Hyatt. send me  
a fish line & some hooks  
small sized ones.

I went in swimming last night  
good By for this time.  
Elden

Columbia Ky May 17-1863

Dear folks: - one & all both great and small. I will try to write a few lines & let you know that I am well & doing well. Getting fat & hearty once more. I think that I am gaining in flesh & feel a great deal better. Wed night all were routed out for some purpose unknown to me & our equipments examined & ordered to bed with clothes all on, and guns & cartridge boxes by our side for the rest of the night. I heard that Old Johnny sent word he would be in in the morning but he did not come. We were routed early in the morning & formed in line waiting for some time. We moved camp across the Creek. We have a very good spot for a camp here close enough to the creek to go to it & swim. I have just been down to the water. It is very cold but still it will answer very well. Thus, I had a letter from Ellen with the fish line in it. I have complained that I don't tell the dates of the letters that I get. This one was dated May 8. I got one dated April 7. It must be the one that you spoke of not being

acknowledged. I had another turn at the  
pickett Fri. I was on the reserve  
through the day but at night we  
were moved on some distance  
further on the Glasgow road to a  
ford on the Creek called by the natives  
"kitty fork" Bridges are scarce  
property in Kentucky they ford  
most all the streams, the size & fall  
is great in the river in this country  
So much so that bridge would be  
carried off by the flood. They wont  
allow me to shoot any more on pickett  
now so we cant get so much  
game, they also forbid us  
confiscating any thing but they are  
not quite smart enough for I had  
what duck I wanted for supper  
as well as the rest of the boys  
with me you wont need to raise  
any chickens when I get back home  
I can get them with out. A little  
fresh dont go so bad, after all,  
with hard-tack, I have bought  
some corn bread. It is rather  
poor though it is their principle  
Bread down here. Indian meal  
and a little salt & water make  
it & they dont half bake it at  
that. The folks dont know how  
to make bread here so it will be good.

The boys get some lettuce last night that was good. I think I shall go a foraging myself before long. Onions look pretty good.

Potatoes are 6 or 8 inches high. Corn has been plowed in some places. We have drawn dry peas twice now. They go very well. I put a small specimen of Laurel root in my last letter in the shape of a book.

I have another & a ring. I will send one of them in this letter. You may not find room to store all the stuff I send to you, but you can pile it up out doors. Some have such on their watch cords which look very nice. I have just been down to the creek. In the bluff on this side (which is rather high & of solid rock) is a cave, or 3 of them rather, which go into the stone some distance. One which I went into was some 15 or 20 feet deep in the solid rock, on the inside were narrow cut & dated some 15 years ago & some later.

This is a very romantic country. The streams are bedded in solid rock for some rods in places & fall are quite numerous & steep, a well is seldom found but springs abundant. - No more "Elen"

May 12 1862

Columbia Ky

Dear father - you got the money all safe? I paid no expersage at all on it. What ever those that paid there here, paid 1.00 each. But I thought that if the money was lost the expanse of carrying would not have to be paid. If that 40, is not enough to buy a colt & a good one. I will send enough more next payday & that is coming in about 10 days by the talk of both men & officers I hope it will. The more I get the more is wanted. I suppose we get 2 months pay this time. Yesterday I had extra good luck on the mail question. I got 3 letters 2 from home & 1 from Mr Smith. One was dated Apr 29 from E. The other may 6 from H. One had a fine comb in it, a nice one indeed. I had 2 days pickett last week & have begun early in this week for another turn. We had all the fresh meat we wanted while out. They wont let us kill any more hogs now, so I suppose we will have to eat salt pork again. What papers did H. mean by those that I wanted to know if I had sent? I sent a Louisville Journall & a song book to sis some time ago. how they got

there or not? I sent Thom mittum  
in aids of a Vidette, how they got  
there? I am sitting under an  
old Buttonwood tree on the bank  
of Russell Creek upstream from  
town & just below the mill &  
just opposite sit an old dorkie  
trying to fish. He has catched 3  
small ones. They are not very  
thick in the creek, Edgar is on  
post with me to day. I went  
out to the mill & got some flour  
& we had some butter cakes as the natives  
call them. There are some cows around  
so I guess we will have milk to put in  
coffee to night. We tried 2 but they ran  
in the river & got out of the way  
but we will come ( ) on the next  
lot, mind that now. We move camp  
in the morning so we go right to the new  
camp ground from here. John Downey  
Reubin Barnes Irishman that stole the  
coat in Jackson has got himself in a  
scrape that aint easily got out of, he  
had been drunk most of the time since we  
were at Lemoville & has been in the guard  
house several times & has some trouble  
before. But now he made some con-  
siderable disturbance on durs parade  
& either resisted punishment by  
striking the Lt. in the face & a Sarg also.

He is now in jail to stay til further orders  
He swore he would kill the Capt. & Lt.  
& undertook to run a bayonet through one  
of the men who arrested him. He will  
be Court Martialed & probably sent to the  
Riprap on Dry Tortugas or some  
other good place to serve his time  
and for no pay. It is reported  
that Richmond is ours & that  
Hooker has crossed & taken 20000  
prisoners. I have heard from Jacob  
by a letter to Amen Carter. The 20th  
got 1 prisoner.

Tuesday — I had not time  
to finish just then & before daylight  
we had marching orders. The 20th  
has had a light Skirmish out to  
Cumberland river & rather got it  
stuck to them. Old Morgan was  
rather too much for them. They  
lost a few, 3 Lt's & 7 or 8 men  
killed & some wounded. We started  
on light marching orders & went 12  
miles toward Jamestown & met  
them coming back & this man  
came back with them. I have  
just got that Camp journal  
I have wrote a right smart  
lot this time I reckon  
Good By " Elton "



no 40 May 20 / 1863  
camp fire south of  
Columbia Ky.

On the Barkersville road. Santa Joan. de  
I see things happen as they do, I  
think I will write a few lines to you,  
this time but it must answer for  
this time for the whole. I guess  
maybe it will make you feel better  
to get one expressly to yourself.

I don't know as I have any great  
amount of news to tell, only that I  
am well & getting in pretty good  
condition again. I had to stop  
and eat my allowance of pea soup  
that had just come out, although  
I had just eaten considerable bread  
& milk that I got out of a house  
here for some coffee. The woman  
rather came I think you are me  
though for after I got back I  
found it was near as well than  
milk for it was a little sour.

If I don't come up with her  
for that it is rather funny for  
I never knew myself to fail in  
any thing I really set my mind  
about; One week ago today I rec'd  
a letter from Ellen, dated 18, containing  
fish, lime & hooks. But I fear they  
will not do me much good as  
the fish are on the Secord order  
& run at the sight of a blue-  
facket. Capt has got back. The  
weather is very warm & dry in the

No 41  
Jamestown

May 31, 1863

day times but at night is cool enough to  
need a blanket over us. I suppose H.  
has got his corn in before this time  
The corn here is mostly plowed out  
and looks very well. The wheat is  
rather spindly right here then.  
I have been on picket every since  
we had to relieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> so they  
could march I have just got in  
and signed the pay roll for  
some money (greenbacks) We  
march in the morning at 5  
Have not time to write any  
more We may get in a  
fight before we come back

No 41

"Ebon"

Dear folks: - I wrote to Joan last time  
that P.M. we got our greenbacks. I  
will send 10. in this letter before I  
lose it. I have not had any since the  
first in Washington & think I can hang  
on to it pretty well now. Though when  
any thing good to eat comes along I  
must buy whether or no. I bought  
a new pen so I suppose this  
is written better than the others  
have been. We had a fine time  
coming here. Struck tents at 12  
and stood around in the rain  
until 5 & then started The mud was

1 or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep & rather slippery  
 We hired a team to carry our Knobs-  
 sacks it cost .20 each I would  
 not carried mine for .50 if I  
 could get it carried for that.  
 I rec'd yours of the 23. just before  
 sending my text. I think I have  
 rec'd all the letters you have sent  
 & think you get all of mine. I  
 mailed a Co. Journal to sis some time  
 ago which you say she has not got  
 There was no writing on the  
 inside of the wrapper there were a  
 small song book in it I have  
 sent 2 of those book to you so  
 you need not quarrel about the  
 ownership of the bust. If you  
 can't get along any other way, I  
 can send 1 apiece to you all.

Elm

On board the steam transport  
 "Leviathan" on the Mississippi between  
 Mo. & Ark

Well I hope you don't think I  
 have forgotten you yet. I have not  
 although it has been a long time since  
 I have written you. I have a good  
 reason for it. As one week ago  
 we left "Jintown" or 6 miles  
 the other side, & in  $\frac{1}{2}$  day  
 reached Columbia. Camped for the

June 11 1863

night & in the morn started for Lebanon  
& made 20 miles of it that day, 24  
The first end finished Sat noon  
making 65 miles in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days &  
Carried Knapsacks most of the way  
I carried mine  $\frac{1}{2}$  the way & then  
got it in a wagon & got myself  
in a baggage wagon the last 10  
mils as a good many others did.

We stayed in Lebanon til Sun P.M. &  
took the Carr for Louisville. When we  
arrived after dark took the boat  
and crossed the river to Jeffersonville  
& waited til morning to ship on Carr  
We started for Seymour, arrived at  
noon. Changed Carr & on to the  
junction of the I. C. R. R. This  
took the rest of that day & night  
& til noon next at Washington Ind  
the Carr stopped and we had some  
thing to eat although it was mid  
night. The ladies turned out and  
with the provision & flowers  
tying their Carr on to the bunch  
I got the names of 3 or 4 &  
1 letter thrown in my face, with  
2 or 3 papers. It is very fine people  
that they are. To call men up in the  
night to eat. We changed Carr  
again here & then for Cairo. We got there  
in the night, unloaded & shipped

on this craft found the devil home  
where, I don't. But rather suspect  
it is Vicksburg. We boarded No 10  
this morning or what most called  
it. There were some fortifications  
on it, and one gun boat lying  
on the shore which we trailed  
we stopped at fort Pillow a  
short time ago I suppose we  
will get to Memphis to night

Our brigade has been muddled  
over to suit some body but it  
don't just suit me. We had  
the name of the First Brigade  
yet although we are the only  
Regt in it, the 27<sup>th</sup> Mich 45<sup>th</sup> Pa  
& 36 Ark. compose the Brigade.

The report is that Vicksburg  
has surrendered, I hope so. I  
don't want to gain any more fame  
gaining that. I Recd a letter from  
Pis. H. W. & mother, while at Jarrtown  
I sent another back to Sis with three  
and also 10.<sup>00</sup> Have they arrived  
or no. I will stop this at the  
first place we stop. I don't know  
where our P. O. will be but I  
suppose there will come on that  
have gone to Louisville

This can't a very good place to  
write so I will stop "Elen."

June 19 1863

## Snickers Bluff Miss

Dear folks: I have not had a very good opportunity to write since we left Memphis.

I wrote some while in the boat & mailed it at M. We landed there on Fri & stayed til Sun. most night. We came on and landed here day before yesterday the Regt has gone back to camp I am left as guard over the D.M. stores.

We are up the Yazoo river about 12 or 14 miles at a place called Snickers Bluff, Haines Bluff is 4 miles farther up.

The Rebs. had fortified this point very strongly with heavy guns 7 & 10 in bore & they lay here now dismounted the mountings burnt. The butt end of the guns are as large as the largest port barrel you have. Some of them are spiked. Cannon shot & grape lay around as if they were of no account. It is 12 mi. to V. we can hear the guns when they are fighting. The old mortar howls once in a while. We had a gunboat escort part of the way down.

The rebs fired into one of the boats while the gunboats were with us. They soon rolled into position and let a few shells over into the woods while the boys fired their muskets, but I think few

of them saw anything to fire at.  
I for one did not. A sad  
accident happened on our boat.  
A boy of Co. H, was on guard at  
the head of the stairs & reading a  
paper when his gun fell. The  
hammer struck the slip & set  
it off. The ball struck on the  
breast plate went through it  
& nearly through him. It lodged  
against a rib near the back.

He died that night. The guns  
were loaded on account of  
guerrillas firing in to us from  
shore. So we could pay off in  
their own coin. They are  
several gunboats lying here,  
one with 12 guns on her, 8 &  
10 in calibre. The 10 in ball  
weights 128 lbs. We had a  
lovely time at Dintown with old  
"Johnny" before we left.

I got a letter while at Memphis  
from Ellen dated June 8. My Brother  
with Amos is sick, was taken so  
on board. I have not heard from  
him since we landed. Can't hope  
to go to the Reg't to day. Those  
sects such as used to be used  
for fish poles grow down here  
in abundance. P.M. in Camp

No trace of fine camp ground here right  
in the woods. When the ravines &  
ridges are so thick that the Rebe,  
would not come here for all they  
could get. The Yago has so many  
Alligators in that we cant swim in  
it. The water is very still.

We went in the Miss. almost  
every time the boat stopped. Clark  
is all well the last I saw of him  
James had not returned yet  
but said he was going to. David  
is all right. The country has  
a different aspect here to what  
it does further north. The  
timber along the M. river is mostly  
Cottonwood & Willow. At Memphis  
the water mark was 8 or 10 ft  
high on the trees. There is nothing  
of any acct but Memphis the whole  
route 600 miles. Once in a while a  
plantation with its negro huts on the  
bank looked like a small town.

The river is very low now it  
is not as large as I expected to  
see it. I dont think it is  
more than 1 mile wide in most  
places. I think Vicksburg

will belong to us before long  
Direct your letters to Cairo now

It is getting dark so Good By

"Elen With"



July 15-1863

Jackson Miss.

Dear father: I have not had time to write before & if I did it would not do any good for there has been no chance to send it out. We started from our camp the 4th of July & marched very slowly til we came here the 10th we have been engaged as skirmishers twice the first day we had 2 wounded Wad Hague of our Co F. Pete Bingham told me that Eugene Winnie & Ephraim Crane were both killed. I saw Clark at Columbia the day after we were paid off I was in the 20th the other day & enquired for him The boys said he was sick down at the landing. Jacob Know Hague he was shot through the left arm a flesh wound. The

Col. has been raising hob with our Co. he promoted Lt Phillips to Co. E. & gave us 2 new ones in his place Lt Sudborough as 1st and Sargt Major Todd as 2nd Amos Carter is sick & gone back to Hospital. Edger is well.

You will not hear from me very often while in this state. provisions are getting scarce & the battle field makes us hungry The 2nd has been badly cut up they made a charge & was on to a rifle pit when Eugene fell on his face, was left for dead. a 2nd

Milldale miss.

July 25-1863

Well folks: you may think I am  
lost, but quite not We have got back  
to Milldale to our old camp & expect  
to go aboard the boat soon for Ky.

We had a time at Jackson with the  
rebs A few days of skirmishing & they  
left us supposition of being taken

They rather put the wool over our  
eyes. Yes they got a trace of some  
knackers & left in that time They  
left their big gun & some 80 rounds  
of ammunition for it a 32 pounder

The rebs tried hard to get it to bare  
on Benjamin's battery the heaviest we  
had a 20 pounder But could not make  
out They got the range but the  
shell either fell short or went over  
one came through our Camp nearly  
spent it struck the ground 2 or  
3 times before it stopped. it

hit Frank Campbell's Haversack  
& knocked the hard-tack hither & yon  
it was some 10 in long & 6 in dia.  
with a copper cap in the nose. But  
it did not go off. I got a letter dated

July 6 Just before we left Jackson a  
week ago to day We started & went  
to Steel Mills on Pearl river 10 mi  
I came back to J. on Sunday, on the  
way back we stopped to rest near a  
house the house was nothing extra  
but the furniture was the best. some  
one could not rest till he had sat it

on fire he is said to belong to  
the Mich 8<sup>th</sup>. There are but  
few cotton gins between here  
and J. Old Jos Davis's house  
had been pretty well ransacked  
& so have all the rest that are  
deserted or well as a good many  
that are not. If the boys saw something  
they wanted they took it, no matter  
who was there or who it belonged to

Corn is getting hard. Peaches have  
been ripening every since we have  
been here but so many keep them  
from getting or eve getting too ripe  
A good many of the boys picked  
up Mules to ride so most of  
the 17<sup>th</sup> were "mounted" Our  
quarter master has resigned &  
a new one has been appointed  
I did not go to the city.

cotton wood grows in Mich. & close  
by The leaves look like Balm of Gilead

Good By  
"Elm"

no 47 July 28 1863

Dear folks :- I rec'd your letter etc  
harvest was commenced &  
nearly through with, then it must  
be done with before this time. It  
is rather a bad job having such  
heavy wheat. Don't raise so much  
next year it is to hard work to  
harvest it & wages are too high  
to live & the money will be too  
much bother to keep. Did not that  
young horse cost more greenbacks  
than I had sent. It seems to me  
that I had sent but 40, if my  
memory serves me right. But  
I will send some more the next  
time I get paid off. It is due now  
but don't expect it till we get back  
to Ky. We are waiting for something  
I don't know what. Whether it is  
transportation or orders. We  
had a fine time out to Jackson  
with old Johnson & his crew. I did  
not get to go to the city as some of  
the boys did nor have I been to Vicksburg  
I would like to have seen both  
places but want to get out worse.  
It is very sickly down here. The  
8th & 20th are suffering very badly  
from sickness. We have lost one  
killed out of our regiment and  
one died in hospital. We had  
4 shot at Jackson & one shot.

himself accidentally through the  
toz, Sam Patter of Co. C. was mortally  
wounded he died while on the way he  
he was carried on a stretcher 8 mi  
and then died. He was shot in the  
neck the ball went in on the left  
side & down through the right shoulder  
Cannas is not very well yet.

Edgar has been under the weather  
for some days past & has a large  
bile under his arm & 5 and  
the bile are getting better now  
If I had the property which has been  
destroyed between here & Jackson  
I should not wait for some time

There is scarcely a cotton gin  
standing or when there is one it is  
turn up side down & the siding most  
torn off a large steam mill this  
side of the Black river was torn down  
It was a saw mill with one set of  
stone in it & 4 cotton gins in it  
It was nearly levelled to the ground

The negro but a one left standing  
in most places. It is the hardest  
work to find good water. The intef  
atants have large cisterns but  
seldom a well or spring. I sent  
a letter full of leaves a few  
days ago

"Elon"

Aug. 12 1863

Covington Ky.

I rec'd a letter when at Cairo

Mon. We left our camp at Willdale & started for the landing to embark which took from sundown till about 3 a.m. when we started. I got to sleep before we started & when I waked up we were on the dead of drink & blowing up stream as fast as steam could carry us. When

we went down we could not run nights on acct of the water being so low in the river. But now the river is lower than then but we had to go night & day. We laid over one day in Memphis for the boat to Coal & get rations. We landed in Cairo

Dun morning & changed over from the boat to the cars & started just before night for Randolva. At Consalia we got some coffee or what went by that name & a small bit of beef warmed through but not cooked. We changed cars at the junction & then for Cincinnati. We stopped at

Vincennes, just at night, and got some thing to eat which ported us to Beymore but when we got to Cincinnati yesterday we got a good dinner or what a soldier calls good. Boiled ham, Brod. & Coffee, some pickles & you might naturally guess I stuffed my shirt pretty well. We had a nice shower last night we are

No 49  
Nicholsville Ky      Aug 17 1863

in the barracks now but don't know how long we shall stay here probably not long. We hope to be paid before we leave.

We expect to go to Hickman's Bridge. They are building a bridge across the Ohio here. I sent a load of leaves home & have some more to send "Elen".

Dear Folks: I write some  
While at Covington, the 20 was  
days off there & we were paid the next  
day after we got here. We left  
Covington the same day I wrote & had  
an all night ride on a freight  
car as usual & got to Lexington  
at daylight. The cars stopped  
here some time. We made coffee  
and had a chance to go into the  
Cemetery which lies opposite the  
town in a fine grove & is the  
most costly I ever saw. Clays  
monument is the largest of the  
whole is made of stone. The  
foundation is some 20 ft square & 12  
high with 2 vaults or rather rooms  
in it. With iron gates. Close in  
one side is a stone coffin with a  
flag carved as covering the head  
of the coffin. The other side had  
nothing of any importance in it.

The monument near round rose from  
their base some 50 ft with a crown  
beautifully curved & to cap the whole  
was a statue of the man himself  
full size. There are several vaults  
& a great many monuments from  
10 to 15 ft. in height & a neat  
workmanship as I ever saw. We  
are reported unfit for duty, by  
Burnside. Lu says that the 8<sup>th</sup> corp  
has traveled over 8000 miles  
within the last year & that they must  
have a chance to rest. We are doing  
pretty well just now as we get bread  
once more. We had a very good  
dinner in Cincinnati. A Brigade  
of soldiers soon raise the price of  
Vegetables. potatoes are 1.00  
Watermelons have raised from .25 to  
1.00 Peaches 10 per doz. Apples 2.00  
onions 1 cent each. I have  
not got nothing since we left  
Ohio. A lot of the boys have  
gone home on furlow started  
this morning for 14 days. The  
Orderly Sergeant & Old Billy Belingham  
went from our Co. Capt. has gone  
to Cincinnati. I was on  
guard yesterday. There are  
2 picture cars on the grounds  
one came in last night. The



other to day The first charged  
100 to start with, The other  
says he will sell 25 less  
than the first. I think I will  
have mine taken in soldier  
style I want to get down town  
& get some furniture I lost  
& broke most what I had  
going down south. I dont think  
of any fancy name for that Colt  
unless you name it after one  
of Capt Benjamin Green & Ball  
Lair. I am getting anxious  
to know how that wheat  
turned out? & What you  
got for the wheat? How the  
steers been worked any yet?  
or do they live a lazy life  
like myself. Dont But  
want a letter to put in his  
Caps? A Co. G. here it is  
Good By. Elen

Aug 19 — I wrote a letter day before  
yesterday to Hyatt & have not rec'd any  
thing since we left Cairo. here in the  
profile of myself & banks in Anson Carter  
he has not been very well & looks some  
as he feels this is not exactly  
soldier style but comes as near as  
I shall try this time I want you  
to keep this picture for me when I  
get home. Elen

Nicholasville Ky Aug 23 1863

Last Thursday there was a detail made to escort the bones of Gen. Nelson to Camp Dick Robinson. We started at 10 AM and went to town to wait for the care to bring the body, it came at noon. In jiggling around near the track they got our hearse broken all to smash but another was at hand. The gang or what ever you may chance to call it, started on their way not rejoicing but growling on acct of the dust. Ky. turnpike is not a very pleasant thing to march on in dry weather as it is mostly made of lime stone which chokes a person very much. We went as far as the head quarters of Gen Fry of (Talcott's) renown who was in charge of the troops. a great many fell out. Out of 118 of 17th there was only 40 odd left. This is all the boys care about escorting big men to the grave with military honors. There were enough left to make a noise. We had some 200 guns to fire over his carcass. The citizens got up a

dinner or part of one it consisted of baked mutton & hog & dry bread. The bread was plenty but the meat was not

After devouring all we could of the provisions we started back got home at 9 p.m. 16 miles the first & 19 the second day.

I hope the next General will be buried nearer where he died or not call on me to tag him off.

I am going to have what vegetables I can eat as long as money lasts. I don't exactly like to live on bread & meat alone. To day we got some more hard-tack bully for them.

I rec'd a letter from Jacob.

It has been over a year now since I left home but does not seem half that time.

I hope I shall not have to stay another year out. If so let me stay here in Ky. for all the army.

The army of the Patomoc or any other place further south. You did not believe we were coming to Ky. But we are here & I hope we will not leave till we go home. Maybe I can get a furlow after a few

months when all the rest have gone  
I don't care a great deal about  
one now any how It seems to  
me that this thing is about  
played out. it must soon wind  
up in spite of fate. I have  
a paw paw leaf which I brought  
from Miss. I will send it  
although it grows in Mich. the  
boys tell me but I never saw  
one there. This honey locust  
grows here it is a thorny tree

We have a very good <sup>land</sup>  
ground but water is quite a  
ways nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. it is  
good water when we get to  
it.

Apples must be getting  
ripe up there by this time &  
it is must time for seeding

It seems you have a very  
wet season up there. We  
have hardly enough here. It  
is getting dark & I must close

These 2 small sheets  
are as good as one large  
one & this finer than usual  
so it must answer

so good By till next time  
"Eben Mich"

No 5-1

Aug 21, 1863

Camp of 27th Mar  
Crab Orchard rd Ky

Dear father - I have rec'd 2 letters since I have written any I rec'd No 1 before we had to march & no 2 the night after the first days travel

We started Fri morning & went as far as Camp Dick Robinson the first day only 11 miles. the next day we came as far as Lancaster & Sunday came through to this place 60 miles in all. It is a rather poor country through here.

Buell's Army has eaten it ~~most~~ all up & used up all the benches so there is not much to be had in the line of provisions so I suppose we will have the inestimable pleasure of living on hard tack again.

The nights are getting rather cool Sun morning I saw frost on a rail in one place but I guess there was not enough to hurt the crops.

Elder Gallup is alive yet, or was the last time I saw him & that was just before we started on the march. That big leaf came from Miss. Figs were just getting ripe when we left I don't like them as well

as I do dried figs we buy. I  
sent some little cristles in a  
letter. When in Miss. some I  
carried from Ky but have not heard  
from them yet. That letter you  
sent to Memphis I got in due  
time. We mustered again to  
day. We will probably be paid  
again in about 20 days. As  
for a name for the colt, you  
may call her what you have  
a mind to as I am not in the  
habit of naming children, only  
give her some short name that  
will match with Topsy. I  
sent a likeness which hope you  
will get. I put stamps on it  
& trusted to luck & the mail for  
its safety. I have caught no  
fish with the line you sent  
and but one with any other. We  
come up the river on the "Ohio Belle"  
Edgar is well & tough as an Indian. Gen.  
Welsh was our commander but is dead now  
have never heard anything against him.

The 27th is made up of the  
after scouring of Mich. & will  
complain of anything

I don't think of anything more

Ebon

Crab Orchard Ky

Sept. 8 1863

Dear father: - I rec'd letter no 3  
 last week & expect another to day  
 You acknowledged rec'd of the picture  
 with the glass broken That seems  
 to be the one with most all the  
 pictures that have been sent this  
 time The name of our Prejudice is  
 Leisure Col. of the 100 pa. I  
 have just come in from pickett.  
 I did not have a very nice time  
 of it this time for the fleas  
 were so thick that scarcely any of  
 us could sleep much. The country  
 is very poor & thinly settled  
 The village of Crab Orchard is  
 about as large as Leoni and a  
 real Regt. hot bed. Water is not  
 so plenty as it is around Lebanon

The apples are all natural fruit.  
 Black Walnuts are pretty plenty.  
 Edgar is not very well he has  
 been complaining for some days past  
 Andy Grimes is in the hospital sick  
 Amos is doing pretty well just now  
 Lem Luthman has got back to his  
 Regt he looks as natural as ever &  
 talks the same I have not heard  
 any thing from Ogo for some time  
 What is he doing? I a sis going to  
 school this winter. There is some  
 talk of our having to toddle again  
 for Knoxville That will be a fine

march over the mountains.

Orderly mills came back day before yesterday. Old Billy has not yet arrived. I suppose he is too drunk to know what to do. The mail has just come & I have got a letter (no 4) Camp Nick is 14 miles from Nicholasville & nearly south and near the little town of Brunswick it is of no acct now as there is no camp there at present. The turnpike forks close by. I don't know what town it is in or what county it is 7 miles from Lancaster. Helens Wedding cake must have been pretty good when first made but had got rather dry & smashed up. As for green corn I have had nearly as much as I care about this year but would like some Cabbage & string beans. I was in hope that this war would play out so that we would be home this fall but I guess it will take most all winter. I had going into Tenn. but suppose we shall have to go per trip before you get this. I can stand it if the rest can. I have done it 1 year & can another. It is almost noon & I must go to getting dinner, so no more. Good By  
"Elo" "



No. 53 - Sept. 17, 1863

Near  
Flat Lake on Cumberland river  
10 miles above Barbersville

Dear father - I have not had any chance to write before since we left Crab Orchard one week ago today. We started with 8 days provisions on our backs for Cumberland gap & have got within 23 miles of it. The rations run out to night. We were paid off the 14<sup>th</sup> & several promotions were made as a celebration of the Battle of South Mountain. Among them was Wm Winiger who made Capt Srgt Henry Wither to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. of Co. D. H's will act for the present with us. Jake will be glad to hear of this promotion. One year ago to day I was on Antietam battle field. We are lying over to day. To morrow we go on toward the Gap. I did not get as much this pay as usual on acct of the clothing I have drawn, overrunning my allowance. I will send a V. in this. I dont consider the mail very safe just at present so I will not risk any more. I have just been out hunting for something to eat, and run across the smartest woman I have seen in Ky. She got up a terrible fair meal. The first thing I have eaten since I came out. I will not send money this time until we get to Knoxville.

"E. L. L."

No 64  
Cumberland Gap

Sept. 26 1863

I suppose you are waiting & have been for some time past to hear from me, but wait in vain. I wrote just before we came across the Cumberland River, I thought of sending some money then, but our orderly advised me not to. I will send some in this. We made Cumberland Gap in 2 days from the time I wrote & expected to stay over there for a few days at least but had to start off the next day for Morris town, which we made in 2 days over 40 miles & some of the biggest mountains to climb that we have on record. Beside fording the Clinch river & part of the men had to ford the Halston river too. But we were among the lucky ones this time. I procured some shells from the Clinch which I will send at some future time. And we only had the pleasure of staying at Morristown til noon the next day before we were ordered to load on the cars, & go to Greensville when we arrived just at sundown unloaded & formed a line, broke camp & started for firewood, when the bugle sounded to fall in. Which of course we did. We loaded again & started for Knoxville. We got here

just before daylight. Had an  
all night ride on top of a freight  
car with as little room as  
possible. We are encamped just  
outside of the town on the bank of  
the river. We have order this  
morning to be ready to march, but  
don't know when, nor where.

We chew bread now & hash-beef  
I am getting tired of fresh & want  
some salt meat. The Yankees  
are a quite a curiosity down here.

The people are turning Union very  
fast. Deserters are coming in every  
day. The report is that Rose has  
captured Bragg & 12000 prisoners besides  
killing 5000 more. Prices are very  
high here. "Confederates" don't go  
very fast just now & keeps getting  
worse. The last I had from  
you is (no 4 Sept!) We have  
had no mail since we left  
Crab Orchard but expect some  
every day  
no more at present

"Ebon"

Camp near  
Knoxville Tenn.

Sept. 30 1863

Dear folks: Rec'd ~~of~~ letter from M. J.  
I wrote one a day or 2 before and  
enclosed a V. which I hope will go  
safely through. The mail goes out 3  
times a week, it has gone today  
& will go again day after tomorrow  
I will have this ready in time  
We rec'd orders on Sun. evening  
to be ready to march at 5 in the  
morning. We had to start before  
breakfast as we thought for a long  
pull but only crossed the river  
& went about a mile & 1/2 & scattered  
out in different points on the  
ridges around in defensive  
shape with one gun of the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ohio battery with each regt & thus  
awaited the coming of the Rebs.  
which had been seen advancing  
some miles down the river. But  
no Rebs. came. If they had I rather  
think we would had some fun. For  
in the position we had double our  
number had nothing to do with us.

We waited 2 days & then went into  
camp here but nothing to buy. It is  
rather lonesome. Amos is in the  
hospital. I have not heard from  
Edgar since I left him. We had  
some fresh hog last night. This morn  
the men were looking for tin hog but

but no one knew anything about it.

That wheat turned out very well indeed. I hope you will have a good crop next year. I will put some shells in this letter, that comes out of the Clinch river. I have one large one which is too large to put in a letter. But maybe I can contrive a way to send it. I guess I can find some specimens in this river. I will look.

The news came in last night that Charleston was in ashore and our men had possession. I hope it is so. I heard too that Meade had whipped Old Lee again. If so this war must be nearly played out.

James has got back to his Regt (Thurs Oct 1) we are having a fine shower slow & sooty, quite a contrast to the storm in Wash. A shelter tent did not amount to much there. I had all the milk this morn that I wanted. I would like to get hold of some more taters of some kind it dont make much difference what they are. My clothing amounted to \$8.<sup>00</sup> more than my allowance for the past year which was taken out of my wages. Why dont Wymann write some more aint his arm strong enough or is his brain weak.

no more at present "Elon"

Oct. 6 1863

Camp near  
Knoxville

Well folks I will write again. I have not rec'd anything for some time there has been but 1 mail come since we have been here but the mail carrier says there is some at head-quarters which will be here today I am in hopes to get something if it does I will not seal this until I find out. I have written 2 letters home & 1 to Mr Smith I sent a V in one & some shells in the other. I have some shells to put in this which came out of the Flatoten river, they are a little different from them up north say before yesterday we went at it and built a shanty & yesterday put in a fire place, so it was quite comfortable through the evening I am tending with the cook, we have had milk every day & some times twice a day since we have been on this ridge. By going early we came get it at 10 am got. We have just been after bread it is rather poor this morning it is not baked quite enough & tastes like green wheat. I have a Clam shell box to put in a pin cushion she wanted one when I was at Newport News the building gone on fort Jackson this morning. The weather is rather cool for comfortable sleeping in a shelter tent, I want another time

corn, the one you sent proved to  
be rather poor the teeth were  
nearly cut of close down. one cant  
be got here nor anything else  
of any acct. The Rebs, are reported  
at Greenville. Gen Wilcox is  
coming with a few thousand fresh  
troops to reinforce us. Home  
guards are enlisting very fast now.  
Knox is a right smart town to  
what some of the towns are down here  
The country is rather hilly & broken  
There is a R.R. begun running from  
S. Bowling to Ky it is not doing anything  
since the war began. it is graded as  
far as I can see and the bridges  
are partly built across the river. The  
Holston is a pretty stream, or large  
as the Repahomock & not a very stiff current  
The ferry is run by hand. The river is  
low at present. -PM- no mail this time.

Adm Eldred is dead he came to  
the regt at Memphis. He deserted  
at Detroit but came back himself  
There are a lot of young l'ts going  
home recruiting. I hope they will  
have good luck you may be  
visited by them.

.. Elan with ..

Oct. 12 1863

## Rhea Town Tenn.

We left camp at Knoxville, Tenn. morn. & marched down to the R.R. & stacked arms to await transportation to Greenville or or near there as we could go without running into the Rebs. We layed all the first day & night without any of the Brigade going, but on Fri morn a train was ready that all but the 17<sup>th</sup>. So we had to wait til Sat before we could go. It took most all day to run down to Blue Spring where the Rebs were driven out in the morning.

We turned into the woods & camped for the night, or part of the night for we were pulled out before 3 A.M. & before 5 were to the front line ready to begin operations. We waited til after sunrise & the skirmishers were then started after going  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles without finding Johnny Reb. Reported them gone when our cavalry was started in pursuit of them while we followed after Col. Foster with a small force of cavalry got round them and bothered them as much as possible taking some prisoners & killing quite a number but let them pass at this place & pitched into their rear. The Rebs left some ammunition and several baggage wagons in the way. The Rebs made a pretty good march yesterday for we footed it over 20 miles & our



Cavalry is some 3 or 4 miles farther ahead & the Rebs. are beyond them & still going to side having to fight near  $\frac{1}{2}$  the time. no mail yet for me

We get part of a mail the other day But cant get the rest til it comes up. Wed. 14 we marched from Rhea town to this place 5 miles from Greenville and 4 from Blue Springs & are now waiting for the cars to go back to K.

Gen Wilcox is at Greenville with his 4 Regts of Ind. & the 12<sup>th</sup> Mich battery The 23<sup>rd</sup> is coming up this way and we are going back towards K and London

The people seem to be glad to see us, they are very bitter against the Rebs. One man said he saw the brains of a Reb. & did not think hard of it at all, some of them had picked up guns & wanted ammunition & swore that some of them Rebs would catch it. One girl said if we would give her a gun & ammunition she would kill one Reb. to morrow & that she would just as lief do it as not. The front work of a bridge right out here had been set on fire in 6 places but did not have time to fall before it

was put out, it is fixed again now.  
I had the good luck to run into a fair-Comb  
in K. so you need not send any.

I suppose H has got all through wheat  
sowing long before this time & is now  
husking or chipping potatoes making  
Cider or something of that sort. I  
would like very well to be there but  
cant very well come just now. But  
am in hope I shall before another  
year rolls by ~~in~~ P.M. The bugle  
sounded the call to strike tents & I  
was obliged to stop & pack up. We only  
marched 12 miles. We are at

Bulla Gap & I have got a letter &  
got it read paper & all (it is no 5) -  
24 days enjoying fine mail privilege we  
have in this part of the world. If it takes as long  
from here then, you may think I am but  
I am suspicious we shall have to march  
to Morrice Town then wait till we  
get settled some what. I have a Knox  
paper in my pocket to send you but  
it will be out of date before you get it.

It may be I will get a new one  
some days it is double & some days  
single. James Mills has got back  
to his reg't

Landon Tenn.

Oct 20 1863

It is a rainy day & I will try and write a few lines in answer to 2 letters that I rec'd on my arrival in K. after our trip to Rheastown I should have written before but I had one already written & sealed with a paper in it. I have read all up to (no 7) but nothing later. We started from K. Tues. morn. & came 15 miles the 1st day and 11 the next forenoon in the glim. We stopped & stayed all night & most of the day yesterday only marching about 4 miles just at night which brings us to the village of Landon. We crossed the river on a pontoon bridge, the RR bridge being burnt. The river is rather wide here than 10 buttments standing in the water besides one on each side to hold the bridges. This is not much of a place, although a very strong position. The Rebs are out some 3 or 4 miles menacing the place. Walford has been fighting with them for some days with cavalry while Gen. White is here with infantry & dont reinforce him. Walford got whipped the first day pretty bad but his battery and a lot of prisoners with some 20 wagons. It has rained all day to day, so far.

it is now 2 P.M. & still coming. If it is a fair day to morrow, I think.

Johnny Reb will get stirred up with something besides ~~infantry~~. Cavalry Infantry seems to have more effect on them than cavalry. That smart ky woman was a union woman, or at least I thought so by what she said. She said her old man was in the Union Army that he expected his discharge soon for he had not been able to do anything for some time. He was at Camp Nelson then.

There is a scarcity of rations now but I hope it will not last long. If it does I pity the country.

The 25<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> are here but I don't know of anybody in them that I know. I have been mending my pants. This morning I put a couple of patches on the stern & one on the knee. I don't know as we are going to get any more clothing this fall. This R.R. has got to be opened or we have got to get out of this before long for the roads are getting muchly <sup>of</sup> & learning over the mountains is about played out.

"Eleri"

Lenoir Tenn.

Nov 5 1863

Well I have got to write once more  
I have rec'd 5 letters since I have  
written any. We have been building  
huts again for the winter quarters  
We may stay here some time  
Gen. F. has given orders for  
winter quarters. I have got about  
done with ours; it is somewhat  
similar to those at Fredericksburg  
There are 3 of us in it.

I will send the ground plans Bunker  
etc. You wanted some more cover  
plants but they are nearly all  
killed by the frost. Besides I have  
not seen anything very strange in  
this part. You would not care  
anything about a pine leaf cone  
that is most that is green now

I have been in pickets once since  
I have been here & had a fine time of it  
in the rain, all night. We are on  $\frac{1}{2}$   
rations of everything but beef, but hope  
to have bread as soon as the ovens can  
be built. The cars come down from  
K. every day. Lieut Miller has gone home  
after conscripts he may give you a  
call but will not be able to bring anything  
back as he will have to come on foot  
across the mountains. There is not  
much in the country to forage

The 8th Cavalry is Drunkard near

" Elora "

winter quarters no. 60

Nov. 10. 1863

Lenore Ten

Dear father:- I have got back home again after another wild goose chase up to Knoxville. Fri night about 10

we got the order to be ready to march immediately without baggage

We were ready in a short time & by 4 in the morning we were on the cars and on the way to K. to check another Reb. raid we got there after sun rise & stopped for what I don't know but suppose to "water the horse" When the news came that we were not wanted, after noon we

unloaded & camped for the night on the hill back of the engine house where we had the pleasure of staying 2 nights & a day Sat night Sun night & til Mon. noon when we loaded on the cars again & came home &

you may imagine I was as glad to get back as ever I was to get home after any excursion, for the weather is getting rather cool to live in a shelter tent. While at K. I rec'd 2 letters. You spoke of buying a 50, or bond. I think it will take some time to get money enough for it for I don't hardly think the pay master will come down here to pay every 2 months, but if he don't I will have the more when it does come I don't know but I would a lief have it in a bond as anything else

We are getting more rations now.  
I had the good fortune to get an  
overcoat just before we started  
for K which is very comfortable  
in a cold day. I am in proper  
We will get some more clothing  
soon for we are getting cut at the  
knees & elbows as well as on  
the seat, as for the mittens  
I had rather have a pair of buckskin  
which I can get here for 3. or 4.<sup>8</sup>  
& sheep at 2.<sup>00</sup> If Hyatt will get  
me a pair of lay wisted ones not  
very heavy but of good buckskin &  
send them by mail I will send  
the pay for them as soon as I get  
pay again get such ones as he  
would want if he was going to  
hunt all the time. And let Wyman  
wear out the yarn "Morphydites".

A yarn mitten is rather slipping  
to hold on to a muskrat with beside  
not being as warm nor lasting as  
long. I have just been out  
having a turn out palisading up our  
street. The building is about  
done and the street is cleaned

Our house wants a little more  
wood on it & banking up & then  
we can sleep. I have got to go to the spring for  
water to get dinner with Beef scraps and  
hard tack today "Elen"

Knoxville Ten. Nov 21 1863

The last week has been one of many trials & adversity. Last week Sat we were ordered to be ready to move at a moments notice with everything.

The bugle sounded strike tents in a hard shower they were hauled off and packed up wringing wet. We started about noon & marched til after dark in pursuit of the enemy & stopped some 4 miles below Lenoir for the night. It rained in the night making sleep nearly out of the question. In the morn we started before it was light to come back to Lenoir. We reached it about 10 but did not go into camp but had to stand by our guns for fear of an attack. The Rebs were across the river & something was up, which I could not understand. Just before night we were called up in line & marched out on the Kingston road a little ways to the top of a hill and there awaited the coming of the enemy from that quarter. They were there. 2 pieces of artillery was brought into position 3 shots fired. We laid in this position til 1/2 past 2 a.m. when we drew off & crossed the R.R where



we waited til daylight when we  
commenced our retreat. We  
were rather late & our Regt was  
rear guard & our Co. with Coz E. & K  
were skirmishers with only a  
small squad of cavalry in our  
rear. We had to destroy a great  
deal of property before we left  
which kept us so late we left  
60 wagons with some provisions  
& some ammunition which was  
destroyed as far as possible before  
we left. We proceeded rather  
slow for sometime which gave  
the Rebs. a chance to overtake  
us. We went on very well for  
awhile til we stopped to rest &  
as we started on we could see  
the advancing line of Reb.  
skirmishers coming across  
the open field in our rear.

As we entered a piece of woods  
they gained on us so that when  
we had got through they were  
close at our heels & commenced  
firing into our rear. The  
Regt halted at a small stream  
by an old saw mill & tried to  
hold them in check but that  
was out of the question They run  
us into the ditch & under the  
old mill & as we came up the

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bank they had a raking fire on us,  
We returned the fire as fast as  
possible but they were trying to  
flank us & that would not do, so we  
had to come on leaving our wounded  
lying on the field. The rest of the  
Brigade halted but could not stop  
them. We fell back and fought as  
we went for some time, when  
after holding on to our ground as  
long as we could, in one place  
& turned to run. The Rebs were  
within 6 rods of us, I was hit  
in the head with a buckshot  
which just started the blood,  
I did not know how badly I  
was hurt & so put back as fast  
as I could go. Our men did  
not like to go quite so fast  
& so the whole column halted  
and formed in line of battle  
with what artillery we had  
which brought the Rebs to a  
stand. They tried to take the  
battery but could not get  
near them for the shells, grape,  
& canister which were put after  
them riddled their ranks well  
here our men made a charge &  
drove their center back a mile  
or more & saved a part of our

Troop that were nearly flanked  
& then fell back. Our men held  
their ground here til after dark  
when the retreat was again  
commenced & kept up til we got  
to Knoxville at 5 in the morning  
Tuesday we have been digging  
rifle pits since & getting in as  
good a fix for defense as  
possible. Last night our regt.  
had to go and burn a house  
which was occupied by the Rebs  
sharpshooters. We lost in the  
fight on Mon 66 out of the  
regt in killed, wounded & missing  
6 out of our Co. Capt. Fyler lost a  
hand Frank Van. Fred Hagg, Peter  
McCann, Sam Wright, Wm Wright, all  
missing but the Capt. & Last night we  
had 2 men killed out of the regt with  
a shell Lt Belligaly & Joe Leonard.

We are surrounded & dont  
know but shall have to give in  
for want of provisions &  
ammunition. Once in a while a  
ball comes over our heads. There  
have been some wounded in the  
2nd while sitting by the fire.

Tues, 24<sup>th</sup>

I was on pickett yesterday  
& before we were relieved at night  
the Rebs made some kind of a

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demonstration which caused several buildings to be set on fire. It was light enough to see some distance.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> has just come in from a charge on the Reb rifle pit to drive back their skirmishers they are badly cut up Maj Boyington is wounded & a prisoner and their Adj killed there is but little firing at present. Henry Smith is killed & Emerson Vance is wounded in the leg Gen. S. is all right yet.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

Night before last a stray ball came over into the works & killed Lt. Col. Comstock. Pat McGarrell was wounded in the leg on the picket line the same day & one man Co. A. in camp. I went on picket night before last I came in last night.

I was close to the rifle pit of Rebs sharpshooters. Which made me keep my head down behind the tank. The rebs made the dirt fly but did not hurt anything or me. Major B of the 2<sup>nd</sup> has been heard from he has lost one leg and has fell into the hands of his brother a Reb. Col. and their Adj't is not dead but badly wounded in the head.

Sat 28<sup>th</sup>

It rained this morning there

is but little firing now. The Rebs  
appeared to be very jubilant last  
night from some reason or other  
I go on pickett to night = Sun 29<sup>th</sup>

About 11 sat, night the rebs  
dug in our picketts I was on the  
reserve & had to hunt around &  
dig another rifle pit before  
daylight. Just before daylight

The Rebs. commenced shelling  
the Fort & as soon as it was  
light enough to see they made  
a charge on the Fort they

came on with a whoop & a yell  
running over the new rifle  
pits with the picketts in them

They hung on long & well  
but all to no purpose. Grape  
canister shells & muskets were  
to much for them & they had  
to fall back. A few succeeded

in getting in to the Fortification  
but did no harm there. in

close contact the shells were  
lit & thrown by hand over the  
bank which killed great numbers  
of the rebs. Our loss is not  
more than a dozen in all. While

that of the rebs is over 1200 They  
had between 1 & 200 killed We

Took 1200 stand of arms & 2 stand of  
colors The truce lasted til

7 last night 11 reg<sup>t</sup> of Longstreet  
best & bravest were used up  
There is a report that helps in  
coming the prisoners admit that  
there is skirmishing in their rear  
if it is so we shall soon be out of  
this

Fri Dec 4<sup>th</sup>

not much has passed up to this

I have seen Pickett yesterday  
various reports as to reinforcement  
no one has made their appearance  
yet. = P.M. 7 regiments of Colby  
have got here & 4000 infantry  
are coming = Sat. 5<sup>th</sup>

Morning dawned & the rebels  
are no more. I have been running  
around through the rebel camp  
They had us foul surely  
but we are now safe thank  
fortune. We have just signed  
the pay rolls & expect pay soon  
the mail goes to morning

Good Bye for the present "Elen"



Winter quarters at camp

8 x 10

Dec 19 1863

Somewhere in  
Chattanooga

Dear folks:- I will try to write a few lines and let you know that I am well & kicking I have not had an opportunity to write since we left Knoxville, we have been up to Rutledge & beyond to the river & tramping around all over some times in the night through the mud over shoes which is not very comfortable I can assure you.

We have not got any clothing yet & have been wearing out what we have very fast, I have rec'd 2 letters (No 13 & 14) we have been paid off but I hardly think it safe to send money yet as we have a train gobbled every little while, The rebels are counting about here most lively We captured 2,000 the other day & the rest have left for the present we are between Rutledge & Knoxville at no particular place.

Rations are scarce yet

Sgt Van Hook & Corp Hagan  
are dead Good Boy

"slow"  
the ruttid is going  
mail

Dec, 26, 1863

Lanes Cross Roads Tenn.

Sister Joan: I will try and write a few lines this morn if it does rain & the smoke comes into the tent. I have written since I rec'd anything from home or any where else. We have had a fine time chusing up & down the R.R. since we have been here in Tenn.

But I am in hopes it is soon to play out. The report here is that 2nd corp is to take the place of the 8th in the D.C. as provv guard. It is most to good to be true but I hope it is so. for if ever a mortal was tired of chusing & etc, I am.

I have got a photo which I want you to keep for me, it is a good likeness and looks just like we have been used to seeing him. Cap Tyler has gone home.

The sick & wounded of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corp. have been shipped & the Butteries turned over & 20 have the teams proper-  
 story to leaving the department.  
 the sooner we go the better, for H. bought a pair of gloves for me yet. we have had a spell of fine weather but it ruined & is now cold, pay man has promised not to pay us again for 4 months. yesterday was & was "Elow"



Christmas  
( menu )

For Breakfast

Dried Beef & Coffee

For Dinner

Boiled Beef & soup

For Supper

Frysd Beef & Coffee

Panecakes without Soda

---

We did not get any thing in the line of bread until supper time.

Now don't feel worse than I do about it. We get 2 lbs of beef a day to make up for bread. Coffee is the main

thing that a soldier gets to live on in the field it is quickly made & gives him strength when Hard Tack dont.

We get better Hard Tack than we used to only not enough of them just now I have all the coffee that I want on  $\frac{1}{2}$  rations & on full some to sell.

It is too cold to write.

"Elovi"

no 64

Knoxville

Dec. 30 1863

well I am getting along after the old sort on short allowance. I wrote letter to Joan last Sat. no mail has come in since & that did not go til today. Day before yesterday myself and partner took a tour up on the knob.

We spent the A.M. & traveled some 3 or 4 miles to get to the top, it was an airy position & not very warm. We climbed the pine tree occupied by the lookout of the Signal Corp. We could see Knoxville 18 miles & the Cumberland mountains & the range on the other side the Iron mountains. East Tenn. is not very level it looks like an ocean the hills answering as waves. For my use I would not give a  $\frac{1}{4}$  for all I can see. Tenn. is the strongest military position that I have seen in some time. The valleys are not more than 2 or 4 miles wide & seldom a gap between sufficient to get an army through & plenty of places to place artillery. I am tenting the cook, a big

Dutchman by the name of  
Gardner. He went out yesterday  
after forage while I cooked the  
beef. He got some flour & meal.  
He has gone again today to  
get something for New Year. I  
think we shall fare rather better  
than we did & Mr. David B.  
has got himself into a scrape.  
He stole rations from Col &  
we caught at it & fined 5<sup>00</sup>  
& obliged to give him rations for  
the next 14 days to those he  
stole from. Another fellow  
was knowing to it & is to share  
the latter part of the sentence  
with Dave. We only get  $\frac{1}{2}$  rations  
yet. It has been reported that  
we are going to leave this  
department and go to the D.C.  
as garrison but I don't know  
how true it is. The soldiers  
that have been in 2 years are  
enlisting in the Veterans Corp.  
The 100 PA, has nearly all gone in  
to it. Tomorrow is general  
muster & next day is New Year.

I will not seal this til I can  
get a chance to send it.  
I have some laurel leaves that  
I got upon the knot I will  
put some in if I don't forget it.

it is getting most night & I  
must stop for this time

31<sup>st</sup>

Gardner came in about 9  
last night with 60 lbs of  
flour & a chicken or rather  
an old hen for the spurs  
were near an inch long, he  
sold the chicken for .50 &  
nearly all the flour but  
we have enough for a while  
He paid .10 for flour &  
carried it about 8 miles &  
then sold it for .12 One thing  
more he had the misfortune  
to get a little saleratus which  
makes quite an addition to  
the pan-cakes. We had a  
shower last night & has been  
rather rainy to day. We have  
passed another winter 20.<sup>00</sup>  
dollars are again due.

New Year with a cold day  
my ink has been frozen  
It dont go very well

Elm  
mill ..

Blaine Cross Road Jan. 5, 1864

I rec'd a letter last night it was (no 15) the first I have had for some time. I mailed one the other day which I had been keeping for some time to get one so I could answer it in that but it is to late now. You had not had one from me in 4 weeks. you must have one by this time for I had written 2 or 3 before which have had time to go before now as for the gloves I have got a pair for 3. so if you have not sent any you need not. you have got the watch fixed if it is worth 16. you had better sell it for it is more than it is worth here if not. make it pay for its keeping in some way & I will pay the repairs. If Joan will get to teaching school before I come home she may have it. If not I may come & claim it. I am cooking for the Lieutenant for the present I shall not do so long. To day is a general inspection I do not have to go on I would like

64  
some more thread for I have  
had to mend some considerable  
since I have been down here  
& cant buy any thread here

If a sutler comes up with  
a load he sells it as fast as  
he can giving it out & make  
change flour is worth \$10.00 bbl

Casper Morgan is not wounded  
one letter has been rec'd from  
a prisoner at Richmond.

W. must be allmost big  
enough for a soldier. he  
must take good care of the young  
horses & make them grow or  
they wont amount to much

The old regiments are  
re enlisting for 3 years more  
suppose we will not  
have the chance

It is 1st lieutenant Ind. Dragoon  
that I am looking for.

"Elin"

Blains Cross Roads Jan. 12 1864

Dear father It has been some  
 time since I rec'd a letter from  
 you. The 8<sup>th</sup> have enlisted in  
 the Veteran corp. & have gone  
 home. The 100 P.A. have gone  
 they went yesterday morning  
 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade is no more  
 The 20<sup>th</sup> have gone into the first  
 & the 17<sup>th</sup> in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade  
 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mich Regt have re-enlisted  
 I expect to go soon I have  
 written 1 or 2 letters since I  
 had one. We have been  
 having a spell of rather cold  
 weather along back with  
 some snow but it looks  
 like rain this morning the  
 snow has gone from the hill  
 sides when the sun had a  
 chance at it but lays on  
 the flat and on the shady  
 side of the knobs. Provision  
 is still scarce & no clothing  
 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Corp. other troops  
 have enough to eat & wear  
 while we have none I am in  
 hope that Burnside will get  
 ready & take us out of here  
 before long or we shall all  
 starve or freeze to death.  
 I am acting as cook for

Lieut. Sudbury but I am rather  
fearful I shall not have  
anything to cook to day.

This is a specimen of  
consecrated paper made in  
South Carolina the envelope is the  
same it costs 40 per quire &  
is the best that can be had in these  
parts. I will put a 2. in  
this to pay for the watch, &  
some other trinkets you have  
sent me. We get no pay this  
time. I have not heard that you  
have rec'd any news from me since  
the siege at Knoxville. I hope to hear from  
you before long & hope you have heard  
from me long before this. I get along  
as well as most of them on short allowance  
I am well & doing well only rather ragged  
my ink has been frozen & don't like to give  
down very well, it is not very dark  
when it dries but it will have to answer.  
I suppose you will see Lemuel S.  
at home before many months. I am  
wanting to know that 2<sup>nd</sup> draft  
comes out or if it does at all  
I can't think of anything more  
in Good Bye "Eben"



Rail Road Bridge  
 Plainer, E. Tenn.

Jan. 18 1864

I rec'd a letter from home it borders on to the family line very much, it is (no 16) & is a pretty well filled one. I mailed one the other day & I write this more because I have a paper to send and to acknowledge the rec't of the one. This morning I sent 2.<sup>00</sup> in the best to pay for the repairs to the watch.

I had the extreme good luck to fall onto a pair of array Boots they cost 2.87 Govt. price They are better than shoes. The RR. bridge is in running order at this point. I have not room to write more.

.. Eton with ..

Camp of 17<sup>th</sup>  
 5 miles below  
 Knoxville

Jan. 25 1864

Written Ellen. - I will try to write a few lines this evening to let you know my whereabouts. It is now sundown and has been a fine day. I have been washing & have just got done. We have had another retreat to Knoxville but not so disastrous as the other. The RR bridge at Strawberry Plains was again burnt before leaving & came on to this ground yesterday P.M. I shall probably stay here until we start for a ~~move~~ northward line which I hope will take place in a few days.

We stopped one day 6 miles the other side of Knoxville. I got into a potato patch that judging from the size of the "Taters" and the number in a hill had been left to grow another year. But the blue-bellied Yankees could not allow this to be. Longstreet is supposed to have gone by on the other side of the river to N. Carolina. We bid him good by and hope he will fall in to some good hands on the road. It is an undoubted report now that the 9<sup>th</sup> of the Corp. is going to leave this

countable  
~~countable~~ hole. "Johnny Reb"  
was not quite so saucy this time  
as before although we gave  
him a chance, he did not  
pitch in, but fired at a distance.  
A Lieut. of the 46<sup>th</sup> NY was killed  
and some Captured. Among them  
was our surgeon. Most of the  
boys think it a good thing to  
get rid of him & I dont know  
but it is well I must stop  
for to night. I saw Person Brown  
too — Monday — 26<sup>th</sup>

my teeth ache so I cant think  
of any thing to write this morning.

We have, after several times  
dressing get pretty well clothed  
up again. I sent a "Knoxville  
Whig" since I have rec'd any letter  
from you. Wrote some on the inside  
of the wrapper. Here a song to put  
in this which you may like.

The Camp is being cleaned up  
this morning. I think I will fix  
up my quarters today. The  
weather is fine. Water is near  
& wood plenty. We get new axes  
for the Co yesterday so I think we  
can get along. I have seen a  
photo of the charge on Fort  
Sanders. it is a natural picture

- no 69 - Feb. 3 1864

Erine Station, Tenn.

it will be around there most likely  
it sells for 1.00 in Knox. The best  
I have heard from you is (no. 16) with  
other enclosures. I don't think of  
any thing more. I want to go to work  
on my shanty so good by for this time  
"Eben Miller"

Once more have I rec'd a letter  
from the far off place called by the  
soldier "Home". Although we have  
for the present & for some time to  
come  
Monday P.M. we  
rec'd order to march immediately  
with 3 day rations we packed up  
and were off & marched to Knox.  
crossed the river & camped on  
the side of a hill. I do not  
know what the object was  
unless a Wolf had get into a  
puppies snack or some of the  
23rd had seen a man with  
grey cloth on. Either will acct  
for it. There is a house near  
here, which the rebels used as a  
hospital when they were here &  
it is now occupied by their  
wounded who sit out along the  
road & watch our troops as  
they pass. The band played  
The Star Spangled Banner when

We were coming from Knox yesterday  
& were resting near the house. I  
hope the Rebs appreciated it.

Some of them were wounded  
in the Charge on Fort Sanders.  
I saw 2 officers. They do not wear  
shoulder straps to indicate their  
rank, but are dressed nearly  
like the men only a little better.  
With a gold cord on the sleeve  
forming a sort of queue  
similar to that of ours.

I am baking a corn cake by  
the fire in a frying pan. I have  
a piece of tin which I put over  
the top and heap coals on to  
bake the top. Other bread made  
in this way is not quite so  
good as Johnny cake baked in  
an oven but is better than some  
corn bread that the women make  
for they dont salt it & I do.

You said you did not want me  
to re-entire. Why? Does K. get along  
well enough to ent you? Are you afraid I will  
get hurt? I think you ought to stand it if I  
can. You need not fear for there is nothing yet  
for 6 months to come. I consider myself  
"Bullet Proof" I have been tried twice  
and stopped the balls both times.  
I have a comfortable place here all by myself  
with a fireplace in it. good by Elan

Camp  
near Eims Station Tenn.

no 70

Feb 14 1864

Dear Father.

I am getting rather anxious to  
receive some word from you. I  
have had but one letter since I came  
to this camp that was (no 17) I have  
acknowledged it before. The 2<sup>nd</sup>  
have at last got under way they  
left Huntsville day before yesterday  
on their boat for down the Tenn.  
to the RR to Nashville there is  
no one from Levi with them now.

I believe Lemuel is in the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Co. C. Our foraging party came in  
yesterday PM all loaded down with  
flour, meal, pork & other stuff  
such as could be hawked on to us.

We are getting along rather better  
now in the line of rations. I  
manage to get all I want to eat &  
drink & I don't have much to do.

I have a very comfortable place here  
all alone by myself. I have raised my  
shutter tent upon legs high enough to  
make a fireplace in one end. So  
I don't know but I am as comfort-  
able as anybody. I think quite  
likely you have colder weather up  
there than we do here. The weather  
has been very fine for the last 4 weeks  
warm enough for spring. It is  
rather lorry to day but does not  
rain much. I have some beans

on the fire boiling I rather think they won't go bad. I got of the foragers this morning 15 lb flour & 5 lb of fresh pork for myself & Lieut. it will last a spell.

The 9th Corp. has not started for over the mountains but think they will when the order gets around.

When we came on to this ground it was thick woods. But we have a clear field now & nearly all the wood burnt up. But there is more close by this camp

won't be worth sixpence when the war is over. The fence will be all gone & the timber to make more with will be gone too. We have various reports down here.

one was that we were going home to recruit & that the people of Jackson were building barracks for the 17th. It is not credited here much. It does to talk about for want of something else. There was

one scene enacted in camp a few days ago which was rather laughable & still rather serious. A citizen from K came down to camp with a load of Ginger Bakes & commenced selling at one per. 25. The boys surrounded him all anxious to buy

The cakes when he thought something was  
wrong & started to drive off the boys  
hurry on to the wagon which pulled  
in two or I might say 6 & the boys  
went to helping themselves to the  
cakes. A Capt of the 9<sup>th</sup> came  
and stopped them while he went to  
Brigade headquarters after a guard  
which did not amount to much. The  
boys helped him put the wagon together  
again, and in the operation upset  
it again & got the rest of the  
cakes. The wagon was then piled  
up so it could be drawn to Knox.  
and the cake vendor left to come  
no more. I had the misfortune  
to not get any of them myself  
but I saw most of the fun.  
good by : etc =



Camps of 17<sup>th</sup> no 21 Feby 1864  
near Knoxville

Well folks we have moved about  
some since I wrote the last (a week ago  
Sunday) We left E. Station Mon. to  
come to Knox. in a rain storm I  
dont pretend to know what the  
necessity was nor do I care  
now as it is all over. While we  
were lying in the pine brush I had  
the pleasure of receiving 3 letters  
one came in only 9 days

That place should be Blair  
Cross Roads +. Harlan has not  
yet arrived. I should not be dis-  
appointed in not getting anything  
for I had not expected anything, so  
it is all just as well. I dont want  
you to worry yourselves on my  
acc't in the least for I can get  
along very well so I cant it is  
my own look out. Amos is  
doing well + getting fat. We have the  
report to day that the 8<sup>th</sup> Corps starts  
Thurs to leave the department  
The 6<sup>th</sup> Mich Battery is here, have sent  
their horses back + are now at  
work on the fortifications Knox, in  
being strongly entrenched.  
Our Regt is on pickett now or  
acting as pickett support + have to  
pickett this quarter which takes  
40 or 50 men every day

Edward Schofield is in command of  
the department now. Fry has  
arrived in town with his staff.  
David was not to be deprived of all  
rationing only those of the bread line.  
We had a young snow storm the  
other morning but did not stay on  
all day. To day is as fine a day as  
you will have in May up there. There  
is an old mill close by our camp  
a crazy old thing but an old derby  
keeps it running most of the time.  
Then Jerry Bart too has stepped off.  
I am glad to hear it for she has  
been wanting to for some time. Good  
luck to her & Geo. I hope he will thrive  
in his new situation. Sgt. Watson  
of our Co. has gone home on furlow he  
will stop at Jackson. He lives in Oak-  
land County. You will probably not see  
him. Jake will know him. I am in hope  
that we will leave this place before the  
spring. Come some work for there has  
got to be hard work done here this but  
I expect nothing easy while under  
Burnside or while the over coats  
his pen come safe. but I have a good one  
which is not likely to wear out. The thread  
come also. Perhaps you would like to see a  
cap of rebel manufacture I will  
put some in. These are nearly like our  
good to. "Eton"

Camp no 72  
Mossy Creek Mar 6 1864  
Tennessee

Dear Folks -

We have had some tramping to do and some rainy weather. We went to Morristown the 29<sup>th</sup> of Feb. & came back the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March it rained all the time we were there. We had a fine time the night we came here skedaddling about all night & coming back to our old camp in the morning. Yesterday PM there was quite a stir in camp. The Regt. cavalry came almost into our camp after a foraging party we had out. The Regt. fell in & marched out & drove them off.

One of the men of this Regt. was shot in the knee which caused amputation. His name was John Elwood. The Regt. got a ball put through his cap but did no harm.

The Regt. killed some of our foragers that were out. All is quiet now. Lieut. has gone to Knox, so I don't have anything to do til he comes back. I sent a couple of old papers to H. that I picked up in an old garret at the plains.

Order has just come to be ready to march at a moments notice. something is in the wind again. We drew whole rations of Sugar & Coffee yesterday but  $\frac{1}{2}$  Ration of bread. Prospects are growing better.

Regt. deserters come in occasionally. Commissioned Officers are deserting they must be getting discouraged. Let my man laugh. I put competent to cook anything in the line of camp provisions. "Elev"

Mar. 13 1864

Morristown Ten.

Dear folks--

I will write and let you know how we are getting along. We left Mose Creek & came as far as here. The cars followed us up and was here almost as soon as the troops were. The Strawberry Plains bridge being rebuilt again being the 4th bridge in some place since the war began I am in hope it will not have to be burnt again. London bridge ought to be done before long. I can't say what the movement will be next but I rather think nothing much will be done in our part until the removal of Gen. Schofield as he does not appear to amount to any great sum beside being only a Brigadier & having Major Generals as subordinates which does not look very well. We are having very fine weather now. Today the wind blows rather fierce but it is not very cold. You say Ogro has got the war fever again. He had better let it die out before it got the better of him, but if he is bound to go, he had better go as a drummer, it will be a great deal easier for him than a private soldier as there is no guard duty and no fighting for the musicians to do. The 27th has rec'd their recruits. Yesterday was their first days march with the reg't. Some of them don't

stand it very well. I think a soldier's  
life is a hard one to live. But there is  
nothing like getting used to it. Most of  
our Regt. have got so as to live without  
eating. Amos. is trying to write a letter  
but does not get along very fast.

Frank Murray has not arrived but is at Knox

I drew a new pair of gun boots the  
other day & they blistered my feet  
coming up here. I saw Clark yesterday  
he has just come back to the Regt office  
being gone 6 months. He looks fat  
enough to kill. I must stop for  
I have got to go to the commissary  
& get some grub for dinner.

Liz must have hurt herself  
with her long sheet the last time.  
Probably it would not be best to  
try again very soon.

no more .. Elen Miller

Camp near  
Annapolis Md.

April 6 1864

once more in civilized country after a siege of 6 months starvation & a march of 14 days & nights & 3 days on the ice I will try & give some kind of an idea of the voyage or at least give you the route.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of Mar. at Minnieton we signed our pay rolls & expected to get our pay the next day (I rec'd letter No 24 that morning & at night the package came all safe) The next morning we started for west. 42 miles.

17 miles a day for 2 days and finished the third. We expected to get pay here but "no chance". Gen Wilcox came to the conclusion that if he allowed the men to be paid he would lose nearly all by desertion. It was expected we should go by Chertokoye but transportation could not be had, so we had to go by it. We started the 21<sup>st</sup> from the first day we made Clinton 18 miles the next time it snowed the river had to be crossed with one flat boat which took some time however we made 15. Next day we came to Jacks through 5 m & drew rations & again set out to climb the first mountain which was done without any goat trails & camped in the woods on top of a high ridge nothing of much importance happened till we reached Camp Furwield on Sun.

Stopped to rest while the officers could get some rations at the post eminary & the boys could clean out a sutlers shop which being done we again started out west to

Sunset that day, 2 days more to Halls Gap  
next day came through Sturford  
Lancaster & camped at camp Dick  
next day took dinner at Camp Parks  
and at night loaded into the cars  
for Livingston when we arrived the  
following morning April 1st. On day there &  
then over into Cincinnati & on the cars again  
next stop was Columbus for supper  
then on to Delaware 1 night & part of  
2 days on that trip, ferry across the O.  
to Benwood & load again, no more  
til Cumberland. Coffee, Bread & Bacon  
this morn found us standing on the  
side track near the parole camp.  
Edgar is back to the regt. I rec'd  
(letter n 25) at Livingston. Perhaps you  
can believe now that the 9th Corp is going to  
leave E. Tennessee. I had a dish of oysters  
this morning. I rather think we will be paid soon.  
A. Hunt look how to get the provisions from the  
Com. dept & cook & carry it on the march.  
The officer pays for it. This is only temporary  
& are liable to be returned to the Co any day.  
This business more busy employment  
but nothing very hard, no gunn to bother  
with. Our A. tents have not come yet.  
We are in the woods for the present  
I guess the sheet is nearly built &  
I will stop.

" Elbow Widdler "

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Annapolis Md, April, 12, 1864

Dear folks -

I will try & communicate a few thoughts etc (etc etc deleted)

Frank Munnay is in the hospital with inflammation of the lungs. The prisoners from Co. G. Taken at Campbell Station are paroled & at the Hospital in this city I have seen both Simon & Wait. This gives a hard name to the Bell Island. I dont see any thing that looks like Pay yet although the officers say we are going to get it soon. We moved camp yesterday & have got our A tents. Oysters are pretty plenty here & cheap to 20 cents just out of the shell. The recruits have been assigned to the Co's. Co. G. has 36 jaw breakers of French men spiced with a few yankees. The 2<sup>nd</sup> have returned a heart sick set you can guess. I saw Andrew Smith & Nelson Bunkhart. Both look well. H. Hudson in crowd camp. Long thrown out of job in the Ambulance Corp. he is returned to Regt. We have no Ambulance to drive now so the teamsters are returned to duty. We have a very nice Camp ground, wild onions are as thick as they can grow all over the camp. Jim Burnside came to Camp the other day when it was raining the boys turned out to cheer him lustily. His old Bald head looks natural as ever, besides he has not forgot how to grin as he usually does when a towel is set up on his seat. It is very pleasant day to day the wind



blow a little, not enough to make it unpleasant  
as for Nations we have plenty of most  
every thing Beef, Mutton, Potato, Peas, Rice,  
Lug, Coffee, Soap, Candles, Cheese, & we  
are going to get some Beans next time  
I dont think I am conceited at all as Cook  
for it does not require much Experience  
to fry a little mutton & make a pail of Coffee  
or boil a kettle of Potato or fry a few  
eggs if I chance to get hold of the  
unlucky things. I had to let go here and  
get some dinner that is now over  
and what would you think we had.

We had Fresh fish, Bacon, Shoulders  
fresh Bread Crackers Coffee & some  
rather nice butter. I got some oysters  
last night & naturally billed my  
shirt with them. We shall not  
stop here long but where we will  
go I cant guess. There are different  
reports as to that

April 22

Elen

Edgar is going to send his overcoat home by Ed.  
& I am to put this Pepper Box & Catpouch in  
with it. I may want them when I get home.

If I should ever come, it can use  
the pouch to carry bullets in when he goes hunting  
The Pepper Box is one I carried from  
Frederichsburg keep it as a  
memento.

No more

Elen

near

no 76

May 5 1864

Warrenton Junction

As I had not written for some time I will try and write a few lines today and let you know where I am & what I am doing. Our Regt is guarding the R.R. a little below Warrenton Junction but I suppose we shall have to move out soon at best. I was somewhat sick yesterday & not a great deal better today the Dr. was going to send off a squad to the hospital & thought he would send me along. I went as far as the junction & then came back I think I will be better in a day or 2 at least. I got a letter from Geo. H. Mills yesterday also one from Andrew James one of our Co sick in Detroit.

I don't feel much inclined to write today so I guess you will have to get along with a little. The country is pretty well covered with grass & wild onions fences are rather scarce. Well I don't think of anything more now so you will have to wait till I feel better.

Elmer Mills.

Fredericksburg  
in the guard house

May 10 1864

Well. I am in a pretty hole just now. I had the good luck (if it may be termed that) to get lost yesterday morning & was picked up by the patrol guard & lodged in the guard house to be sent to our regt. The prospect is that that I will have to go to the Hospital & help to take care of the wounded for a spell. The guard tells us that the mail goes out in  $3/4$  hour, so I will close

have rec'd (no 31 & 32). We have had a hard fight Sabj Hague was wounded in the leg, no one killed in Co G. Frank Smith is wounded in the neck severely if not mortally. Edgar is all right. Ed Cornell is in Co F. You need not write until you hear from me again I will write as soon as I get settled. I have not time to write now so good by. Don't be alarmed on my acct. For I am not in any bad scrape to be where I am only to get a pilot to the Regiment

"Elin White"

Planters Hotel Hospital  
 Fredericksburg

May 14 1864

Dear folks -

I only stayed in the guard house about 20 hours before I was detailed to work in the hospital. I have helped to bury 7 or 8 & expect to have more to do ere long. Day before yesterday there was a day of great slaughter on both sides. The 17th is no more except in name. They were rushed into the woods where the Rebs. were massing their troops to charge our battery and were flanked & nearly all captured. A few of the stragglers & some sick besides a few that escaped 40 or 50 in all with the Col. Adj. & 3 line officers Capt. Rath & Lieut. Sudbury & Holloway.

Amos, the boys say was sick & is not captured. Edger is with the best I suppose. I suppose it is no use for you to write to me, as no mail comes down this way. The line of communication is open only for the wounded to go to Washington so the mail goes along. Some 6000 or 7000

Grey-backs went through there yesterday on their way north. For a small place this has been in its day a very pretty one, besides a place of considerable importance, but Burnside's messengers have passed through.

in so many places and so uncer-  
monically that its beauty is nearly  
ruined. There is nothing going on openly  
in the way of Military. The city is filled  
with wounded while the stone buildings  
are used for Hospitals, Commissary  
depots, & medical stores houses. The  
people are worthy of the R.E. stripe or  
or closely bordering to it.

The mail will not go out to day  
will probably go tomorrow. I may  
think of something more by that  
time. I went down to the river  
this P.M. & caught a Bull Point  
& am going to have it for supper.  
We had a mess of dandelions  
a day or 2 ago

Good by for to night

Sunday ————— Eton ———

I have been on guard this A.M.  
No news from the front to day & no  
Cannonading to be heard — Monday  
I have just cleaned out a room for a Cook  
room. I have done up my washing  
this morning. The last heard of the  
Reg't They had picked up some 70, or 80  
men so as to be quite a Company.

I have to keep churning around after one  
thing or another so I don't get much  
time to write. Not very hard work but  
rather busy. No more at present,

Eton

8 miles from  
Richmond

June 5 1864

Dear folks ..

I will try and tell you all about  
the questions you asked this time.

I left Fredericksburg last Sat.  
a week & marched to Port Royal  
& on Tues. started for the front  
which we reached on Friday

This morning I took my old  
position as Lt "cook" I dont  
know but I am as well as many  
at present. I rec'd (no 33 & 34)  
yesterday which have been at  
the reg't for some time. I guess  
you may venture to write now. our Co  
is detailed on the Battery. While the  
rest of the Regt. is split up in different  
squads about Div. Headquarters.

I told you that Erman had arrived  
all safe. Edger is a prisoner

Amos is driver on one of the  
guns. Frank is some where about  
but not able to do duty. Peter Bingham  
is killed by shot through the head.

David Burkhard was wounded, not much  
fighting today. Skirmishers keep it going  
pretty lively & once in awhile a big gun is  
heard. We are waiting for some big guns to  
come up for the siege of Richmond has  
commenced. I understand Sgt Hazen  
is probably dead. Progers letter has gone  
up salt creek but he is well. Guess I am  
tired of any more to write

Elen

Camp near

June, 17, 1864

Petersburg Va.

Dear Father.

Last Sun. we started from our position near James Hill & have been on the march nearly all the time since night & day until now. We crossed the James river on a pontoon bridge night before last and marched all night. I dont know where we crossed but think below Harrison's Landing. The river was rather wide to bridge but a few small vessels anchored in the center of the stream held it firm.

I think it is quite as long as the long bridge across the Potomac.

We are having pretty snug times here now. Night before last our men captured 16 cannons & this morning 6 more with 600 prisoners & 2 lines of rifle pits. A heavy cannonading all night last night. As near as I can find out we are not a great ways from Petersburg, which, if nothing happens to the contrary we shall have in a few days to get back with the RR. at that place. Richmond will ~~begin~~ have to begin to say her prayers ere long for it cant stand many years longer unless some great change comes over our forces. Frank Smith has been reported as dead. I dont know when this will go out, nor when any will

come here for me. The 12 of May is the  
best I have heard from home. Frank  
Murray is detailed in Ambulance corp.  
a place I think he can stand.

I shall begin to look for something  
new pretty soon it has been nearly  
2 weeks since I told you where to  
write to again. Pretty warm  
again down here. Rather bad  
weather for a man to get  
wounded in, but lots of them  
are getting it at present.

I don't think of anything more  
at present

We are done "Battery ing" it  
The 14<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Heavy relieved us.  
The Battery have just passed for the  
front to put in what they can  
before night. "Ehoh!"



Camp of 17 Mich men

June 22/1864

Petersburg Va

Dear folks:

I have not heard from you in some time but suppose I have good reason not to expect to.

We get mail almost every day now. We are still at Gen. Wilcox's Head Quarters as engineers a part of the boys are out at work now. The big guns speak out once in a while to let the Rebs. know that we are here yet, a compliment which they generally return with a minnie or two. They see but little artillery, only when our men charge their line. Then, look for Carrister. It is comparatively quiet to day to what it is some days.

We have the 4 div. Colored for our support but have not given them any chance to show their grit as yet a great many of them are anxious to have a chance at the Johnny's & stated they will never take one of them as a prisoner, The General keeps his head quarters near enough so he can hear the Reb. musketry as they pass over his head or spat in the ground near by.

If every bullet would grow what a forest there would be some future day in this (secret court

I have just been washing, not very good facilities for such business although I happened to run across an empty pork barrel which I was not long in making shorter so as to use it for a wash tub. We are in sight of the City of P. When on a hill or somewhere that the woods does not interfere with our view. It can't be over 2 miles to the town from here. Our Battering can pitch a missile in to it at any time.

The Wash. paper of the 18<sup>th</sup> stated that our forces were then occupying the City. But I have not been permitted to go in yet, nor do I believe any of our boys have, only as prisoners. I think but few of them.

I don't think of any more unless I tell you what we have to eat.

I had for dinner Ham, Hard-Tack, & Coffee with condensed milk in it.

For supper I think of having some Beans, Rice, Ham, Hard Tack, & Coffee.

I guess that is all but the seasoning, which won't be much.

I would send you a "Reb. message" but it is too heavy to put in here.

No more at present  
from Elora

Camp  
 Petersburg Va.

June 30 1864  
 Dear Father:

I rec'd your (no 35) last Sun.  
 just 3 weeks from the day I  
 wrote you where to send it

To day is muster day again  
 U.S. owes me 4 months pay  
 now but I am afraid he will  
 be before we get it. For I hardly  
 think we will be paid until the  
 Campaign is over. We are not  
 having very exciting times at  
 present nothing is going on in  
 plain sight but the building of  
 fortifications, planting of mortars  
 & etc. But I am thinking you will  
 hear from the Army ere long.

one of our Provost Guards was killed  
 the other night by a stray bullet.

So Gen W. concluded to move his  
 Head Quarters a little to the rear.

We are in reach of Shell now  
 but the muskets wont reach us  
 so as to do any damage. Lieut  
 Archibell was hit last night  
 while in his tent by a spent Ball  
 which came clear here & then through  
 his tent & hit him in the arm so  
 as to make it a little lame.

Mr O J Smith has arrived. I did  
 not think of his being the man you  
 had written about until he

4  
Claimed Frank as his brother, He says  
Andrew was killed. I had not  
heard of Lyman Barner being  
wounded I think. I have acknow-  
ledged all the letters rec'd and have  
rec'd the numbers as they were  
written without losing any. We  
are pretty well supplied with papers  
down here we get the Washington  
papers in 36 hours after they are  
printed. The mail goes & comes  
every day from city, you think  
I and my lieutenant agree pretty  
well, Did you ever know any  
body that I could not agree  
with that was any where near  
decent? I have 2 lieutenants  
Chas Todd commander 3rd Co.  
One month more & then  
2 of our 3 years are put in  
If the last one will only go  
as soon as the 2 first have  
the time will not be very  
long. I have a shell which  
I picked up yesterday in the  
sand. There is no great beauty  
about it but I will send  
it along

No more  
Elen

no 83 July 5/1864  
Camp of 17th

Petersburg Va Dear father:

I have just rec'd a letter (No 36).  
Yesterday was the 4th of July &  
I cant see as there was anything  
extra done either although as  
was expected, all has been very  
quiet for some days past, We  
have a number of heavy guns  
here now & I expect that  
when they are planted & fortifications  
built sufficiently to hold them  
we shall hear some music.

We have a 6 gun Battery a little  
to the left of 32 pd. Rodmans  
which I think will speak peace  
to some of the Johnys if they  
do not get out of that ditch. The  
city might be burnt from here,  
but that would not do any good.

I think you got a pretty good price  
for the old oxen and also for the  
wool. The sters are old enough  
to do considerable work & if  
Hyatt dont make them do it, it is  
his own fault, and not mine.

Have you a harness for the colt  
yet or dont you expect to get one  
til it is needed. They might  
hitch to scratch out the corn  
ere long. We are having a very  
dry time of it down here

no rain for a long time.

Very dusty.

I can't think of any thing to write. But I think I will go out to the Siege Battery this P.M. & see how they have got on.

If they are most ready to commence operations, I have a pail of Beans on the fire, also a pail of Dried Apples which will do very well to mix with the every day fare. The commissary keeps a good supply on hand of almost everything from Hard-Tack to Whiskey no more at present.

.. Elon With ..

Before

July 15/64

Peterburg Va Dear folks -

I have not rec'd anything since  
I wrote last some 10 days ago

We have not had to move  
for some time past. The Regt.  
is at work now making  
gabons an article of  
military manufacture  
for fortifications. It consists  
of a sort of tub about the  
size of a bbl. made of small  
stakes interwoven with

withes, to be filled with  
sand so as to make a straight  
wall for a fort. There is  
not much going on in front  
but a little Pickett firing  
& some cannonading mixed with  
shelling with mortars.

It looks rather rainy to  
day. The Rebs are more  
than having fun up around  
Baltimore & Washington but  
aint they getting themselves  
a a right smart ways from  
home for children.

Some things may hapen to  
them before they get back.

I had some Cabbage for  
dinner day before yesterday  
& have got some more for

to-day. I got a bottle of pickels  
from the commissary which contained  
Cucumbers, Tomatoes, String Beans, Peppers  
Cauliflower onions. All together  
making quite a variety for one small  
bottle. We have had New potatoes  
once this year. I suppose it is  
nearly harvest time up there  
now. I would like to be there  
to help gather what you have,  
if it aint but little  
make the best of it

How is the fruit crop coming  
in this year? What has become  
of Joan & Wyzman? I have  
not heard anything from either  
of them in some time. What are  
to be the dimensions of said  
granary? And the ground plan?  
Come Hyatt is engineer enough  
to make it out so lets see it.  
next How many wind mills have  
you sticking around this  
summer? How many water wheels  
in the ditch? How many sail  
boats & fishing smacks have to  
be tended to now & days & what  
other scheme has H. in his mind  
He must be manufacturing some  
thing or other. You wanted to  
know how many men there were



left in the 17<sup>th</sup>?, I think  
200 will cover all including  
those on detached service

The regt is split up so I  
cant tell how many we  
have got. Wilcox's

Provo. guard and a guard for  
the wagon train have to come  
out & that leaves the Regt pretty  
small. What are left are divided  
into 3 companies for convenience

Mr Turner who used to be  
around there & who deserted has  
served his sentence & started  
accordingly. He left here on the  
9<sup>th</sup> Has to go to the Dry Tortugas  
for the rest of his time and

forfeits all pay & allowances  
while away. But I dont know  
whether he gets anything now or  
not over & above his clothing  
& board. He will find steady  
employment for some time to  
come. 2 more have gone with

him on a similar sentence  
2 officers of the 12<sup>th</sup> Sharpshooters  
have had a rather hard sentence  
by Court Martial. Capt Deland  
Co F to be cashiered from all pay  
and allowances & have his  
shoulder straps & buttons

cut off & sword broken in front  
of the Regt & to serve the rest  
of his time out on the fortifications  
in the Dry Tortugas or such  
other place as the authorities  
shall see fit. Lieut Powell  
Co. G. To have straps & buttons  
removed & sword broken.

Cashiered from all pay & allowances  
& demerited from the service.

These are to be published in  
a paper in the county from  
which the respective man comes.

no more .. Elton ..

Camp  
near

no. 85-

Petersburg Va

July 18 1864

I rec'd (no 37) beginning on the  
4<sup>th</sup> & mailed the 8<sup>th</sup>.

We have quite a stir this  
morning. The order came to be  
ready to march at 3 1/2 A.M. but  
did not happen to be just that  
either. The Rebs. were expected  
to make an attack on our lines  
& so we were to be in readiness  
to climb if necessary. All  
is quiet now & the men have  
been gone out to work making  
Wicker-work. It looks rather  
cloudy this morning. Frank  
was over here the other day  
He looks well. He is at the hospital  
at work. Erman is there also.

You speak of not getting any  
war news. I think you  
must have some ere this from  
somewhat nearer quarters  
than had been expected by  
many. but the report is here  
that the Rebs have all got safely  
back across the Potomac again.

We are waiting patiently for  
the completion of the mines.

They are pretty well along.  
One is under the fort already  
but not quite ready to set off

yet. Our siege battery does not do much, their ammunition is not very good & so they don't fire much for fear of killing more of our men than they do of the Rebs.. I had some Beets

yesterday to cook, they go very well when all done up for use.

We occasionally get a sprinkling of Bread down this way but it gets so dry that for my part I had as lief have

hard-tack. The sanitary commission contributes considerable to the comfort & convenience of us all by occasionally sending in some

Vegetables & other things which are very comfortable. I wrote you the 5<sup>th</sup> which will tell you how I spent the 4<sup>th</sup>. Nothing of any importance has happened for a long time with us here.

Occasionally a shell makes its appearance over the woods towards our front lines.

O'G Smith does not seem to be very well. I don't think of anything more only

here is a small key ring I guess I will put it in, it won't cut anything to send it & may do you some good no more at present

Elmer

no 86

Camp of 17 Mich Inf.

July 22/1864

near Petersburg Va

Dear folks.

Yesterday morning brought a letter for me (no 38) date July 14.

You say that you have not rec'd any acknowledgement of 2 letters if so they could not have been numbered for I have had every number from 1 to the last 38.

As for Apr. 12 to May 3 is easily explained for I did not write any or we started the next day after I sent the "pepper box" &

Warrinton junction was the first place we stopped. I have acknowledged

rec't of the dried fruit in a least 2 or 3 letters I think, if not

I did get it the morning we left Annapolis. The boys are still

at work making wicker work they have a good job on hand.

I was out toward the front yesterday and watched the movements of the Rebs. with a glass for some time they are digging as well as ourselves

The 32 pounder pitch in a message occasionally which generally reports when it gets there besides making a dreadful fuss on the way.

How much acres of wheat have

you this year? And is that seed house  
to be done? to keep it in? & What  
other improvements are going on  
out there? Anna wants to know  
what J.P. is driving at? How  
much clover hay have you in the  
barn? And how is the marsh  
this year? I am beginning to  
want to move for I can't think  
of anything to write about now.

Only the bombing now & then  
which is the same every day.

Last night The Jongs turned  
a few over to the right of us. I  
have not heard of any harm done  
by them yet. Liz has an album

but no pictures to put in it.  
I think you might afford to get some  
if they are nothing more than your  
own. I would get an album

but have no pictures for it  
so it is of no acct. Here I  
have just dumped my ink stand  
down on to the table spread.

Which by the way is an old  
N.Y. Herald I believe I have  
nothing extra to say

Dinner will be Potatoes,  
Ham, Apple sauce, Bread &  
Pickles with Tea

We have plenty of Flies

down here & they look just  
like those farther north

We had a fine rain a  
day or 2 ago. It has been  
quite cool since. Now  
here comes a column of troops  
headed by a band. Where  
are they going? I guess  
only for drill or review  
as they have no knapsacks  
& look pretty spruce & gay.

I reckon they have bought  
some blacking by the looks  
of their equipments &  
some emery paper by the  
brightness of the muskets.

Well this sheet is nearly  
full  
Clon

Camp near

July 27 1864

Petersburg Va.

Just rec'd letter (no. 39) dated 21<sup>st</sup>

There is a regt. of Colored blue jackets on the ridge right behind us. They came there yesterday morning

They planked their guard quarters down close to the left of us. Where they have their culprits under going punishment. They have one poor fellow between 2 posts tied by his hands & feet

Which position he occupies for 8 hours each day til his time of punishment is out some 16 or 17 days in all. The rest of them are carrying a small log of wood for 10 hours each day. They don't seem to care much about it as at all times in the 3 years & their time goes on all the same as if they were at work or fighting. They are the Darky Regt which have not had an opportunity to show what they can do.

I have got to stop & get dinner now.

Dinner over & the dishes washed. Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Pickled Beets. Hard tack & T. with Boiled onions & a dash of lemonade to finish with



We had a fine shower only a few days ago, but it seems like it again to day.

Another Siege Battery went by here for the front a day or 2 ago. It was to be planted in the new fort in front of us. They 32 pounder Rodmans 4½ inch bore.

There was some heavy cannonading on our right this morning. Which I have heard was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corp Charging. I understand they took 6000 prisoners, only a flying report. Reports are various in regard to Atlanta also conflicting. I have written to Geo. Harmon again. I saw

Clark the other day, he was well & hearty, or at least looked so.

Lieut. Todd starts for home today. He lives in Adrian. He was wounded in the head, slightly.

but has not been well for some time past & so they have sent him home. Rumor is now afloat that a Gen Wilcox is to take command of Ky. & that he wants to take his Div. with him, but I can't credit that yarn much.

We have another sutler now

the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> one since we  
came here.

Occasionally a large gun is heard  
But mostly pickett firing,  
Other wise all is quiet.  
our Division has been in the  
front pits ever since we came  
here. It is time the Darkys  
were tried, I think.

I believe I have ~~everything~~ to  
put in this letter unless I put  
in this old pass with the oath  
of allegiance on the back, it may  
be a curiosity to you who never  
have had to love me

no more "slow"

I have done pretty well this time  
for me I think.

This wise The Darkys get served for Kicking  
Up a Mess



Camp near

July 30 1864

Petersburg Va. The something which I spoke of a few days ago has this day come to pass. We were ordered to be ready to move. This morning & at 4 A.M. the Reb. fort was blown up & on the occasion a general engagement took place. The artillery firing was very heavy. Our men now hold the old works, but it don't seem to me that anything has been accomplished thus far.

But I don't know. The firing stopped principally about 9 A.M.

Our boys have gone out to the front to carry ammunition to the Batterys. I came back from carrying out my dinner

I was as far as Rosmors Battery they were firing an occasional shot at a Reb. mortar which had got the range of the old works which was blown up and were annoying our men rather badly, the men were leaving or best as they could & coming back. As I was coming away a sharp fire was opened in the right of us. I don't know what was going on. The old fort is a mess of

ruins Men, Cannon, Timbers  
are all mixed promiscuously  
Hands, feet, heads, & arms  
are sticking out in every  
direction. The Troops have  
been moving to the left since  
it has quieted down here. I  
expect another rumour will  
be kicked up to night. The  
niggers of the 9th Corp were  
sent in to day but did not  
amount to much. They broke  
& run in all shapes.

We had one of Co. G. 17<sup>th</sup> wounded  
Palon Cromwell. He was hit with  
a piece of one of our own shells  
in the left foot. The piece was  
small it made a hole through  
his shoe & went into his foot  
just below the ankle joint on the  
inside. The joint is not broken.  
I believe he has gone to the  
Hospital. Our Mich Regts were  
engaged & badly cut up. I  
have heard. All is comparatively  
quiet at the present in  
front scarcely a shot is to  
be heard. I have not  
had any thing since I wrote  
last — I picked up a  
charge of powder for a 3 in.

rifle cannon which was  
lying by the road, the  
powder is as coarse as  
black onion seed & about  
1 lb &  $\frac{1}{2}$  in quantity.

3 $\frac{1}{2}$  PM the report is now  
that the Rebs. have retaken  
the old fort. But I guess not.  
I will not mail this until  
tomorrow so I can give  
you some more news if  
any is to be had. I want to  
hear from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>  
& know how they came out  
& I want to get a letter to  
night from you.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> The Rebs have  
gained all back which we  
took. our dead & wounded  
are lying between the lines,  
all that cant help themselves  
off. The 20<sup>th</sup> came out  
with only 34 men. so I was  
told by one of them, Its said  
Clark was Herbert Steward, if so  
he cant be hurt. I have not heard  
from any of the rest of the boys  
I know. The Rebs caught  
one of our Brig. Generals  
in the old ruins besides

quite a number of  
Prisoners, I have heard  
said by those who ought  
to know that we got as  
as many as we lost

I returned to the Co. this  
morning, Lieut. has  
joined the Colored mess  
so I am no more Cook

no 89  
Camp of 17th man

Petersburg Va.

Aug 4 1864  
6-25-PM

Sister Joan: -

Having written to know if you are yet alive & been told by Ellen to address a letter to you and see. I will therefore comply. I rec'd Ellens (no. 40) last night. I sent one Mon morn within the day before. This must answer for a family letter for this week. I think I shall have been gone 2 years before I write another. The 9th makes 2 years for me.

We have various reports about camp, such as being relieved from this department.

Being returned to the line. Paymaster coming & etc. all of which do to pass away the time after such a large defeat. Ellen says Brats are what "Briget gives the cow" but we have both kinds down here one of which you have see this had a full detail of in the papers. We are no better off now than we were before the battle, in the contrary we are a great deal worse.

Dan Birdsley is wounded.

right arm amputated. Clark  
is not hurt, he is not Hospital  
Steward as I was told it proved  
to be another Mills of the same  
Company. I have seen Clark.

I have been to the woods 3 days  
to make Gallions (I don't know  
whether this is spelled right or not)  
I made one each day without  
much trouble & no very hard  
work only to carry them out  
to the road.

O G Smith holds the rank  
of 1st Lieut. I believe, as he  
wears no straps I can't say  
just what he is. As today  
is recommended by the  
President for a day of  
fasting and Prayer we  
have not been to work &  
it has been very quiet  
in the front, but few shots  
being fired on either side.

We have no prospect  
of being paid this time  
5 months are now due  
and we expect to will be  
before we get it, but  
there will be all the more  
when it comes, "no great  
loss without some small gain"



Of we had it now we should  
spend it. Frank & Emmert  
are still at the hospital  
The failure of the Darkies  
is laid to their Officers  
but no one knows who to  
lay the blame to. Another  
move will probably be made  
before long, which I think  
must be successful.

Gen. Grant must have a  
head long enough to find  
a hole somewhere in the  
Reb lines. The Rebs have  
been discovered at the business  
of mining one or more of  
our forts. But I am thinking  
they will fail, only let them  
charge our lines & then see  
what will come of it.

My "Bunkies" name is  
Anderson. Amos is company  
cook now he is in my tent  
now nibbling a chunk of fresh  
beef. The mail has just come,  
news for me to night, well  
I have nearly or quite spun out  
So good by til next time.

"Olson & Mills"

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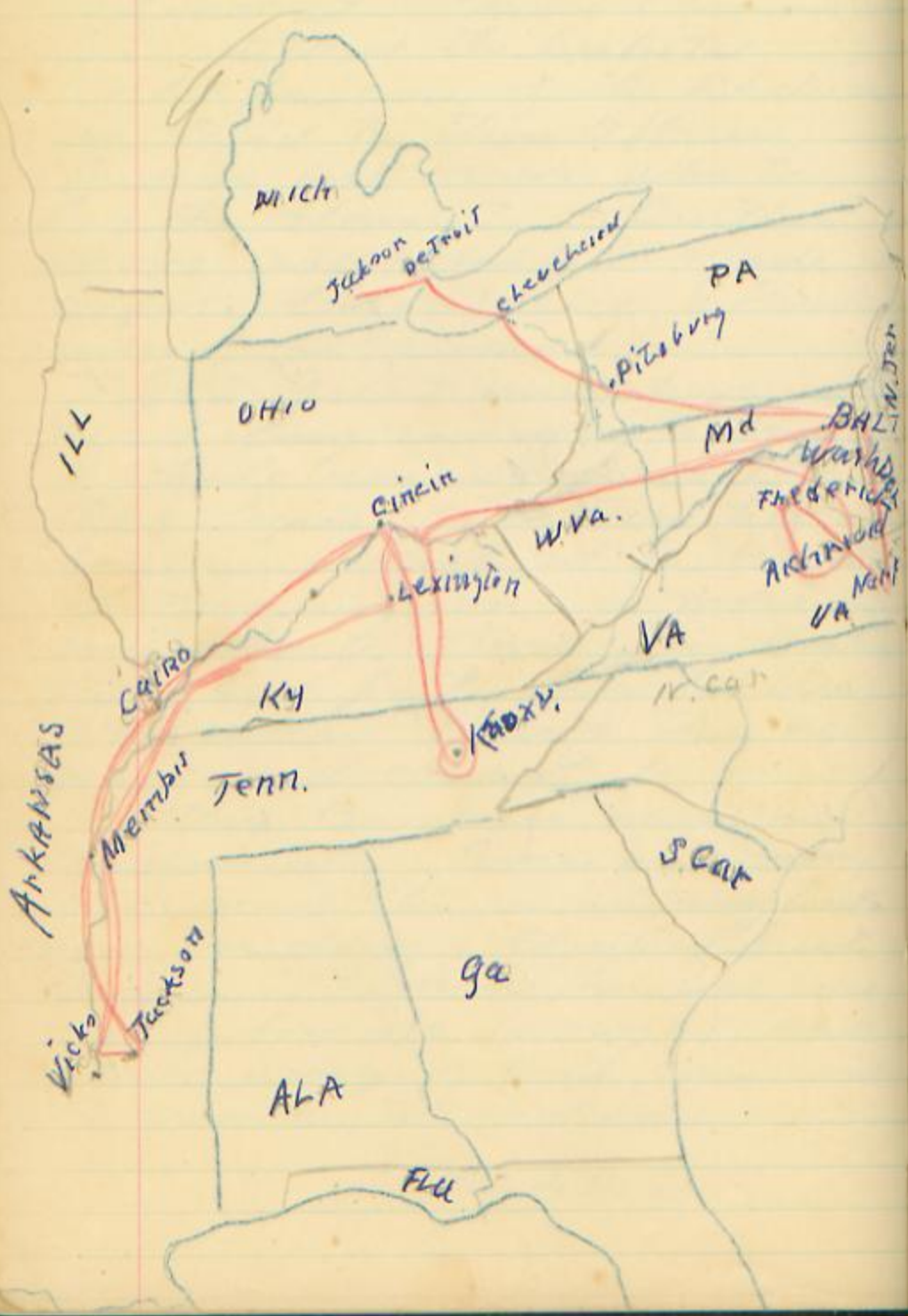
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Route of 17th Mich  
 Aug. 12 1862 to Aug 12 1864  
 - follow red lines -



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From

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Detroit ..  
Cleveland O  
Pittsburg Pa.  
Washington D.C.  
Fredericksburg Md  
Antietam  
Pleasant Valley  
Weverton  
Herpes Ferry  
Frederick City  
Pleasant Valley  
Weverton  
Berlin  
Levittsville  
Culpeper  
Waterford  
Oak Hill  
N.P. News  
Norfolk  
Fortranvance  
Baltimore  
Cumberland  
Parkersburg Va  
Cincinnati O.  
Levittsville Ky  
Bucktown  
Lebanon  
Columbia  
Lancaster  
Columbia  
Lebanon

Louisville Ky  
Jeffersville O  
Snyman  
Washington Ind  
Cairo Ill  
Memphis Tenn  
Snyders Bluff  
Jacksonville  
Millvale  
Memphis Tenn  
Cairo  
Cincinnati O  
Lexington Ky  
Nicholsville ..  
Lancaster Ky  
Crest Orchard  
Cumberland Gap  
Morristown  
Greenville  
Knoxville  
Blue Spring  
Rhea town  
Knoxville  
Bulls Gap  
Lexington  
Rutledge  
Lanes + Roads  
Blount + "  
Merritt town  
Knoxville  
Clinton  
2nd branch  
Summer set  
Hulls Gap

Stamford  
Lancaster  
Covington  
Cincinnati  
Columbia  
Bellevue  
Bennwood  
Cumberland  
Annapolis  
Warrenton lot  
Fredericksburg  
Richmond  
Pittsburg  
old P. Export

W. Ter  
BALT  
old  
Nash