Miscellaneous
1861 - 1864
1905
1948
Camp Harwich, Oct 20, 1862

Dear Mr. Ryder,

I thought I would put a line in a regular letter to let you know that I am well and feel well. I think that soldiering agrees with me.

My first rate were very much marching orders, we are to going 10 or 12 miles up the Peninsula. As we expect I have ordered you to send my money to me. I made an allotment of $200 dollars or $100, I sent it to you for safe keeping, if my wife needs it let her have some of it, and if she don't keep it until we shall have it.
Camp Farmington, Oct 20, 1862

George Ryder, Sr.

I thought I would put in this line to let you know that I am well, and feel well. I think that soldiering agrees with me fine, and we are now under marching orders, we are to go from 10 to 12 miles up the Peninsula. So, no expense I have charged you to send my money to, I made an allotment that went to Detroit of ten dollars on 10 months, I spent it to the man for safe keeping, if my wife needs it, let her have some of it, and if she don't keep it until we shall see it.
Oct. 20, 1862

Henry Hunington marked

I should put this in for him

This picture is one that Tell Brown gave me, does it look any like him.
Show it to the folks, but keep it if you want it.
Camp Vesey, May 1843

Dear Friend,

Your most welcome letter of this date was received last week, and will assure me that you received it with gladness. To know how you are getting along, and that you have a good dog to help you on the farm, is the best here, and hope it may surely be that this war will close by fall, and that I can return to help you on the farm. I suppose you have heard all about our movements before this in the letters.

Our Company was very lucky this time, as Company to suffer the most. This time
but we were very lucky of the regiment and we only lost 24 killed and wounded, and some regiments was cut up bad. although we was refusing to be any fire, but they shot and know we was to move, and then we lay and we are now in a very pleasant camp, about 1 and 1/2 miles from the rappahannock, and 2 from which is church, and we don't know how long we will stay here, but probably we will stay this rest again party quick, so we must stay with the regiment more, as I am still driving team. it is to getting party had weather here now, so that the great is to getting up.
partly well. Although
we have no corn, or such
things to growing here, here the
farms are all laid to waste,
and the owners are must all
in the rebel army.
As we sometimes go beyond
when the army has been,
and the men left on all
grain, and some of the
fences are standing. I think
what a cruel thing it is
for us to see such nice land
all uncultivated and laid
to waste. By the curse of
slavery and treason, I hope
when this war ends that
slavery ends also. They is
some beautiful land about
here, and if worked by
another men it would be
head of any thing, in the
shape of land, it would
May 18, 1863 - p 3

Dear Sir,

I have some time the 20th of June a splendid condition of health will be perfect and our regiment is in good health, and I have to this day. The most of them are wounded men, and our major train is marching, so I can regular details from the regiment to the town, where it will be the best place for the regiment. If you get this letter, before the end of March and can stay the whole time for a longer time, then will I send you the money of your trade.

It is all more comfortable and health.

This from your friend,

Henry Harington
George Ryder.
PENNSYLVANIA July 9, 1863

My George Ryder.

Dear Sir:- Bradley from other sources you have heard of your sons, both of whom are in the service of their country, and both of whom I fear have been sacrifice upon its altar. John went with us in the 24th, and was killed on the 1st day of July near this place, and I buried him with my own hands - in my labor among the wounded at this place, in the Union Hospitals. I found Alfred - of the 1st cavalry, who was wounded. I believe on the 2nd and is now lying in a dangerous condition in a hospital, at the Union School House. I conversed with him for a long time. He does not expect to live. He is wounded through the left leg, and it is with some difficulty that he breathes, and has lost the use of his limbs almost entirely. I believe him if he had any words to say
Home. He gave one his testament to give to his mother. He has carried it with him through the war to far. He also said, "Tell father to do well by my brother, and where you look on, remember me." In regard to dying, he seems to be perfectly reasonable and said, "The Lord doth all things well. He seemed to realize the need of a faith in Christ. Evident by works and is trying to pay for the wrong. He wants to come home. He is sure that he has gone to a better world for a better home above. He tells me to tell you that William Hardy had been a friend of his and had supplied him with some money. I deeply sympathize with you in your sorrow. I shall do all I can to help while I remain here, which may be a week yet, and if he dies while I am here I shall be buried. I am going soon to see him again and carry him some lemons.

You can address me here perhaps for two weeks. After that I do not expect to meet you all in heaven.

With Respectfully yours,

William E. May

Chaplain 24th Michigan

If this letter goes home soon I will send the testament by him.
Gettysburg, July 12th, 1863.

Mr. Geo. Ryder.

Sir, I am happy to inform you, that notwithstanding the opposed opinions of several surgeons to the contrary, your son Alfred, is decidedly better today. I saw him this afternoon and learned more of the character of his wound, and find that he is not in as much danger from his wound as from an injury of his spine occasioned from a fall from his horse. Today he is getting more feeling in his legs than before, and Dr. Johnson, the Medical Director, has much more hope of him. He seems quite cheerful and has good care, and told me that the knew or nothing that he wanted that was not: furnished. I refuse a another care. Dear, very much.
Encompassing myself and felt concurring that you should know just how he was - I shall see him often and will do for him as I would for my own brother. I miss John and have marked his grave so that I shall know it, and will have it marked so that any one else can find it. Tell your son to Mr. Weeks that his letter was all right and with the regiment after the battle. There has been heavy firing here in the direction of Bens ford to day. We have no news from the front. Rebels are constantly leaving through forre and are their way to Washington. There about 1,300 in two hospitals about. Your Miles prays him the Lord be with you all. Will write to you.
July 18, 1843,

Mrs. George Rider,

My husband is here and in attendance upon Alfred who is very low and from all appearances is sinking fast. I fear that he grows weaker every day. Mr. Rider spoke about writing and I know that he did not want to leave Alfred and I told him to write for him. Which he said he would be glad to have me do. I happened to be at the house when he came in town, and recognized him as he was just about passing by me, and having seen Alfred several times, I could direct him, and went with him. It seems so strange that he had not received my letters to him, written from home, before
he left in which I have been hearing and myself of the death of John and the condition of Alfred. Upon leaving the facts of the case, his cup seemed to be full, and any bitterness I am glad he came, and that he found Alfred alive. I presume he will remain with him until he shall be better or shall have laid down his life for his own. To his generation. Alfred seems to be so patient, so calm, so considerate, wise. My heart is all believe for him. I have conversed with him several times upon the subject of the future. You know that his opinions have been but I think he looks at things in a different light now, and is prepared to go or stop. I shall see him again this evening. I promise Mr. Hides will write you letter. Love and
What I of course cannot say
Your having probably got my letter
before this... If the Redux is not
able to write I will again to Tomm
May God, who tempest the wind to
the stormy land... give you grace to
dear your double load of grief.
The lean upon Je... in this your dark
hour... 'Tis a sign... 'Tis a sign
sufficient for this... But these
gives my dear friends and how
the Assurance... I hope that
one day you will see John and
Alfred again... John is in Korea
... joining in the process of the
Church triumphant... Peace God
for it... I think Alfred will join him
soon... I send yours in Sim.
... softly in your affliction...
William W. Chaplain
24th Mech Vol
Rappahannock Station Va.
Sept 15th - 1863
My Respected Friend,

I write to you to day in order to give all the particulars that I can hear in regard to Johnny's death. I was not with the first in the battle but was sent on with the 6th Wisconsin so I did not see him in the confusion of the hasty retreat through the town. The few that escaped were so mutually engaged in making good their own return that they were unable to give much account of the rest that were missing. After the battle was over, I saw one of the boys who was wounded. He told
me that he saw Johnny fall. The he was certainly killed. I did not write to you then because I hoped soon to see those who could give me more information on the subject, but after that I did see any one who knew anything more about it than I had already heard, until I heard from home that Mr. Ryder had gone to Gettysburg, where he saw Elder Way and buried him. And of course he would hear all that was known about it.

Mother writes me that you have heard by John P. Sage's letter, that he was not instantly killed, that you feared that he had wasted away, without care, for 2 or 3 days, perhaps, before death would put an end to his
suffering. Now I assure you that if that is untrue, Sergt. Tompsey, who has just come to the tent passed over the field after the battle and found his body, he is confident that he was instantly killed. This opinion is certainly worth more than Passages who was not with the regt. but was with me in the old Wisconsin, & what he heard & told was without foundation.

Charles Pinkerton saw a man fall nearly behind him & he is quite certain that it was Johnny & the person he saw was instantly killed. So, I hope you will not allow your deep grief to be deepened by any dark picture of mortal anguish after the death would had been given
Johnny was thought much of by every man in the company, to me who had always been his most intimate friend ever since we have been in the service he seemed but little less than a brother, and little did I think when I left to go on guard the night of the 30th of June, that we should never meet again. But a mysterious Providence has removed him and we must submit to its decrees, however much pain the effort costs us. Somer or later Death must surely overtake us, and how can one better die than in fighting for the defense of his Country.

Yours Truly,
Alfred...
Gettysburg Oct 3rd 1863

Mr. Gen. Ryder

Your of the 24th was received to-day: Papa being busily engaged has directed me to answer it. You stated your sons, Alfred & John's had been buried in the German Lutheran grave yard, and according to your request visited the grave yard and found the grave marked so, if you wish their bodies sent home at all you had better have them sent now, as they have commenced to move the soldiers who fell at Gettysburg to the National Cemetery which is a piece of land the State have bought on which to bury those dead and the bodies of your sons might be taken up if Papa would know of it, and be buried in the N Cemetery after being buried in them they cannot be removed out of it. The coffins that they are in now will answer, only they will have to be enclosed in rough boxes for which and the taking up & delivering at the Depot Papa will charge you $2.00 & the Expressage to Detroit $1.00 or a piece, they cannot be sent as freight unless there is some person to accompany them, and it is very uncertain if their arrival if there is no person accompanying them.

Please answer by return mail if it is possible.

Direct as usual.

John G. Frey

Very Respectfully

G. G. Frey.

Gettysburg.
Mr. Papa is sending a great many bodies home and is giving any one to your state tomorrow. Capt. Peter Gideon 5th North. He has received letters from all the points of those whom he has sent stating of their safe arrival.
Gettysburg 17th 1863

Mr.
George Roder

Dear Sir,

I took those bodies today and found the boys by laying in the ground & losing all bursted so that I was compelled to have 2 new pine coffins made and also rough boxes which just cost me 33.20. Coffins boxes taken up and delivering at the depot 33.20. Thirty two dollars which would have been just 33.20 owing the whole you will please send me by express for my trouble & I make myself for what it cost me I should have sent the bodies...
to Morrow Morning next. I had to get the Coffins Made which will prevent me from binding before Thursday morning so they will start on the 19th from here. I have one Request to make and that is if you have the pictures send me one of each of those small case photographs. I have lost points to different post and would like to have those pictures I have now already. The most of them.

Yours Respectfully.

P.S. I was confused when I signed it to whom I did as it would express the word is without it.
Gettysburg, Dec 21, 1863

Mr. Rider

Dear Sir,

I wrote you some time ago, or when I sent you the bodies of your sons that the boys had hurt all burnt open and that they could not be sent without having nine airtight coffins and rough boxes and twice my bill. Which I told you in my first letter was for the rough boxes and taking up and delivering at the depot. Which was just what it cost me, but when I had the bodies taken up I found that there would have to be new cases both out and inside which I got which makes the bill just twenty dollars more which if you have not sent yet you will please send.
Soon as convenient, as the person I had employed to furnish the coffins & rough boxes is going to move to Ohio and wants his money, I must be oblige to advance it for him, which I will do. I hope you have received the boxes in good order.

Yours Respectfully

John G. Frey

Gettysburg
Gettysburg January 13/64

Mr. George Ryder

Dear Sir

I received your letter by Express with 700 $ and also yours with photographs of your house for which I am much obliged. I will present you with a Map of the Battlefield at Gettysburg. I tell the map here. I will also send them to any part of the country if any of your friends should want any. I will send them to any one address for 25 cts by air mail. I put the map to your request at the top as the 1st day's fight and the battle below it is 2nd day's fight. The two to the left are maps drawn by Rebel Maj. Gen.
Jan. 12, 1864

Infible while a prisoner in our Seminary and the Center in our County Map giving the names of all the houses on the battlefield and Hospitals and the funerals of the Rebels given is this own account, I hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner. I must remain yours most respectfully.

John G. Hobey
I received this morning, I thought I would write you a few lines in reply to the letter I received from you a long time ago. If I should have written before, but the times have been so dull that I could find nothing to write about. In the first place, I return many thanks for the present you sent me in my box,—although this may seem a rather late hour to acknowledge it.

We are now in camp two miles from the city.
It must have been a very pleasant place—now the effects of war are everywhere to be seen in the burned and ruined buildings, fences gone and everything rapidly going to ruin. This is the third time our army have occupied the place.

The only unit here we have been here was the reconnaissance in force by those Army Corps, and 2 divisions of cavalry. The full details of which you have probably already read, so it would be better for me to write them the village of Racconville at Racconu
Ford on the Rapidan, was
burned by a detail from our
Brigade & the Reb Sharpshooting
had been in the habit of coming
across the river, hiding in the
houses from teams picking up
my pickets. I was not out
having been sent out on
pickets the day before the
march.

Capt. Wm. M. Knight,
of Ticonia Center is now on
Soint, Col., he was promoted
over Capt. Edwards, to the
great satisfaction of the
whole regiment.

I believe I have
written about all these as to
write about so I will close
Yours 

Alfred Nobel

Trust mate of John Ryder
camp Smith, Nashville Tenn.
Feb. 28th, 1864

Dear Wife, another Sunday has come and no letter from you yet or anyone else. I am quite discouraged in looking for a letter, but what you are like to receive anything soon and I can not tell why the reason is that I do not get them but I am not alone in not getting letters. Some chandler or so near has not had a letter since their battle from my one and the home rate is pretty slow. Another much in hopes of getting a letter, my health is very good except a hard cold. The weather is warm and pleasant being now the grass a good green and the trees in leaf. Perhaps I could think of some things to write you have very good times. I hope to be at home in the Spring and you will write every week if I do not get them one or two letters from home. I suppose you are home in another town now. It does not seem much like winter here. There is a great deal of snow since last month, you can get a small bag of potatoes in Nashville for a dollar, and a head of lettuce for a dollar. Potatoes are worth one dollar a bushel. I had a note to my wife last night that I was quite unwell. So you hear from my father you must write to me, and let me know what time you will come and where. If you write all the news and what the folks are doing I should write a few lines if you can get it also. The child has been very well and take good care of him. I have not a minute to write this line. From your affectionate husband, Alfred Fay.
Monday 29th

I did not mail my letter yesterday as I expected to see a few lines more to day so I rang out the day all day and I did not get any
letter. My cold is no better but I guess I can make it out, do not have any thing to take for my cold or can not get any thing for it. A good man I think that we will soon learn to see long before we govern the old soldiers hear. think that the

rebels are hunted fast and will be kept as many who are not sick and have some good men to fight from the front, that is where the main armies are. I think that 2 months more will raise them sure if it does but it will be because the leaders don't want 10
of them in front. Every day now hard has a good deal

of rebel soldiers come in. They are getting everywhere and the same thing as a whole are going to get up. I have written a few letters and my mother is going to write. I have not mailed my letter yet and will ride a few

miles to where my father's brother lives and try to continue to write all night and if I get the chance to write I will write more. I have been cold no better do not get my letter yet he flatly brought his babies with him. I should have a good deal of sympathy for you if I had not thought that I should of come back. I was gone before I left. I should of made you a visit

card. I should have taken some thing with me that I did not tell you all very well. I must close my letter and mail it if you will never get it you must be there and ride as soon as you get this.

Truly yours from your affectionate husband

Alfred Gray
From A. Fay to his wife

Sept. 10, 1864

"The U. S. Christian Commission sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

August 10th 64

Dear Wife:

I received a letter from you today morning, happy to hear from you and to hear that you and the children are well. I am as well as usual, got a long furlough. I got a letter from William last week, said he would send it to you. I saw Mr. Gibbs today he was bear to see me, he is well. He just come back from the regiment he says the boys are having a hard time after chores. The boys from Topeka haven't seen their men but there has been a number killed in the regiment there are not one man killed in our company. Nell is well. Tell Sillie to stick to Nell and she will be all right.
As I reason, that for fruits of disease
first and many Huns in the war
the
on men, if the occasion
He
man, that is to say, a
with him is free to do the

...
Sept. 10, 1864 - p2
Frank Hicks boy is here from Jefferson. His name is Herbert. He likes his father Frank. Hicks is my cousin.
Herbert is in the same hospital with me. He left Jefferson last fall he is a tall, smart young man and a first rate fellow. He had a lot of things sent to him shortly after. I had some butter and cheese and cake that was made in Jefferson it seems like old times to see some body from Jefferson a year gone. You did not tell me how much you got a week for the house. I don't want you to rent it for less than a dollar a week. It is worth that be sure or to get your pay for the rent.
I cannot think of much more to write this time you must be true and write as soon as you get my letters do not keep her charges you know James is coming in all the news when you write have the children for me. I hope Meadon will be here next week the most of the soldiers will write for him.

Truly yours from your affectionate husband

A. Fry
1 West 34th St.
New York, June 19, 1905

Mrs. Charles E. Ryder

Start, sth.

My dear Mrs. Ryder:

I am greatly

obliged to you for sending me the

copy of the Plymouth deal

with Mrs. Bennett's excellent

memorial of Alfred and John.

It brings back to me many
recollections of things we did and shared from our earliest boyhood.

I well remember the visit to Gettysburg. It had been a hard march from the Rapidan where we had been in camp and John, never very robust, was much worn; but his spirit never failed and the hard work of the next few days was done without a murmur.

On the 29th of June, if I
remember correctly, we marched about 30 miles through rain and deep mud.

John and I were tent mates from the beginning of our camp life to the day of Gettysburg, and it is a great satisfaction to me that our boyhood friendship was never broken or disturbed. His death was a deep sorrow to me, but we had always anticipated death in battle and were prepared, but it did seem very hard that two brothers should be taken in the same battle.

On the 9th of June I was born in the farmhouse near the new school, never very far from the Potomac. I well remember the wish to recall the scenes of early life.
You know what their parents were, none better, none more highly or more deservedly esteem'd in any community and these boys so well brought up, so clean in mind, so well prepared for useful citizenship, were, as I see more clearly every day, of the very best our country had, and indeed, of the very salt of the earth.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Noble

[Noble was a tenant of John, also a boyhood friend]
My dear sister: Have you got the book of Civil War letters in some shape to send to you. Have marked with them as time permitted during the fall and winter and have enjoyed doing all for them. Have read each letter through carefully and made some notation that might possibly intrigue your interest in the entire letter. These letters constitute a great human interest story. Young men who are much wanted to live and yet so shockingly and voluntarily make the necessary sacrifice of losing a good comfortable home for the kind of despair and total sacrifice of death. You will be saddened by their yearning for home and comfort by their patriotic endurance and devotion to duty. Above all their sacrifice was voluntary.
March 11, 1948

Perhaps you may want to write some of the letters and save on the adjoining page. I know that you and your children will take good care of the book in a few years will the hundredth anniversary and no doubt now would be appreciated by your library or museum near Dunkirk.

The letters you will note are in order by dates and I have tried to divide them evenly in the two brothers.

I wrote Don and Elsie as you suggested have about the album of Don’s war letters soon after you came here. However, there is not so much as had really as assurance they are not in trouble in them.

Karina is with Abbie this week Donnie is taking a new position at the 47th and they may be moving down in your neighborhood.

Ann mailed the book of letters to you and Brenda to day. Ann wrote Brenda a letter similar to this will fire at once when received. Love Popy.
March 11, 1948 – p.2
Perhaps they may want to type some of the letters and paste on the adjoining page. I know that you and your children later will take good care of the book. In a few years it will be a hundred years old and no doubt more would be appreciated by a library or museum nowadays.

The letters were written in order by dates and I have tried to divide them equally in the two books.

I wrote Don and Blanche as you suggested have about the album of Don's war letters soon after you were here. However, there not so much as had previously assured they are not in terrifically

Karina is with Abigail this week. Donnie is taking a new position in SF and they may be moving down in your near future. Good Ann mailing the book of letters to you and Brenda to day. Ann writing Brenda a letter similar to this will fire at once when received. Love, Papy