John Ryder
Nov. 1861 -
March 1862
Nov. 11th 1861

Dear Brother,

It has been over a week since we received a letter from you, and we all begin to think that you are very sick. We heard by the way of parley's letter that you were sick with the measles, but we heard since that you were getting better. If you are sick and cannot write yet, one of the boys will write for you. So that we shall know how you are getting along. Ma wants I should caution you to be very careful about being on the cold ground or exposed to night air any more than you can help. Have you received...
our letter of the fourth and also the blanket that we sent if you havent received your overcoat I think we sent ours it is very cold here now the snow has blown some and cold rain winds and freezes very hard nights, we had our husking about finished, I suppose that you have heard that croffard farmell had enlisted in the lancers, he is yet in detroit, have you heard from charles hodskins yet, I know whether he is any better, doctor mortons son of a young man of 23 years died yesterday with that disease he was older than dode morton, I believe his name was doc morton
The Small pox is in Plymouth very bad, the School has broke up and one or two Streets fenced and Says Small pox on this Street they have it bad on the Street that Hiram Taft lives on, they have it to the next door from his. Doctor Rogers is eazy with it for Doctoring others that had it but they are careful not to let it spread, and keep folks away from the houses.

We are all well at this time hoping that, that the next letter that we receive will find you are getting well from your disease. Please answer this as soon as you receive it for we are very impatient to know how you are.

Yours Forever J G Reidler
Dec 14, 1861

Dear Brother

As I now have the opportunity and time I will improve it by writing a few lines to you. It has been very warm here for a few days past. The snow has all melted away, and it seems more like summer than winter. Crop Farnell has been to seek or more out here, he and Bill King come out to gather to which I suppose they got away from them. They said at first they would not go back not unless they sent for them. Bill King had not gone back, and says he won't, he is sick. Crop went back this morning on the Stage, probably will take his dinner in the guard house, they are foolish boys if they want to go to Washington, Col. Reardon, Crop Col. Spoke to Plymouth last evening, he is a noble looking man of about sixty years of age, gray whiskers, but looks brave as a lion, he was with him felt but quick and active with his limbs. They got about a dozen to enlist but none that I knew, but Bill King. Lin. and he is an officer if they had been any that I knew I believe I should enlisted, I should like to be a Soldier, and if this war...
buds on match longer I shall come, if I could get a good chance I would go with craft, when I go to town I shall try. I go in that company if I can get on before they go to Washington which probably won't be till next Spring, you take of your being deaf in one of your ears, is it is getting any better. We received your letter of the eighth. The last one that was wrote it by wrote, and I wrote one stating that we had received the ten dollars that you sent. We are all well at this time the small pox in Plymouth has got it all. So I must close by signing my name.

J E Ryder

A E Ryder
Feb 12, 1862

Dear Brother,

I suppose that you have heard of the disbanding of our Lancers regiment, and I thank God that they are disbanded, for I think the never was a regiment in the United States of America, that has Starred and Suffered for the want of provision, as the Lancers. You may think I have changed my mind wonderfully since I wrote to you before, and indeed I have, for when I first enlisted the officers was as loving and good as pie, and we had plenty to eat, but as soon as the companies were full the officers threw off that coping look, and put on a sour one, and then we had dogs fare after. I got them with the mites, which was hard, I went back to camp, bathes, and I thought I could not stand this. And now we live in the sick house, which was not very nice, where you could hear the rattle and the mewing, and shivering of about a thousand men. The next day they took me to the hospital. When I stayed a week, and I told you I was glad to eat while I was there, and when I got better I went back to camp, and had nothing but dry bread and meat that fairly stunk, the blood would come out, and the mites would hop up, and one of the time we had nothing but bread, and coffee, that tasted like dish water. The officers has commenced smiling again, for the men to inhale again, but the most of them is to starve.
for them, they had a paper and asked men to sign it, and I said it was nothing binding, but I have since learnt it was only transferring them into Stonewall regiment, I would not sign the paper but Jake how did, and it number of others, my captain has got about 40 for Stonewall, I think he will fill out his company he has got twenty. I Smooth tongues, said name is Mellor, in the lancers he had 127 men, the largest company in the regiment, we are disbanded but not mustered out of service, I suppose one will be mustered out as soon as paid off, which I suppose will be the first part of the week, they have no guard now and they go and come as they please, the new lot was there and felt very bad to think they were disbanded and started immediately for Washington to see if he could not have them bring back, but it is too late for they say they won't go now at all as lancers, they gave the officers out of camp and the quarter master of our company on a train, groaned the tilman out of camp and one Capt and raise the very devil, they have got 1 thousand lancers, I suppose they will keep them to fear bully, I have got a suit of clothes taken though and if I get my pay it will come to about 30 d., I think if I get out of this I shan't enlist again, sight of any way, we are all well but it, she is not very well yet, but sits up, and is about going to as soon as you receive yours S. I told...
Dear Brother

I received your hand letter of the 21st and also we received the one of the 18th and were glad to hear from you, and hear that you was well, but you spoke of having a cold, I guess that is a general complaint, I have had a bad cold and cough ever since I have had the meal. A Soldier's life is a hard life and exposed to hard places to be sick, our fare in Detroit was hard, but nothing is what it would have if we had went on South, I know how to feel for the Soldier's that is know in service, and I hope I never that the
War may come to a close, and peace once more can reign. They are trying to transfer our Company to the 15th United States, but I guess they can't do it; if they hadn't used us decently, we would not say a word about going in Infantry, but not in Infantry.

The prospect is, as they all say, that this war will close in a short time. I hope it is true, after the surrender of Fort Donelson, after the news got to Detroit, the greatest event that ever was in the city. Grand numbering 600, bands, Sharpshooters, negroes, an recruits from broadhead muskets, Straton, all was on Shore, shooting, and firing canons, women, men, and boys, moving, cheering, and great excitement in the evening with A. Howard.
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...
He went over there, and when they got all ready, she went in the other room and cried almost two hours, and did not on. and told her she had no better take him if she felt so bad. She said it might as well of them as any time, it had got to be done, he said it shite must get to be done, so they started, they went to Plymouth and got married, and then he and his wife and William, and the anxious, went to his uncle's to spend the night. They cried all night, they had 4 beds. Sick in one, sick in the other. Then the other, sick the other, they asked she if the world was done, she felt so bad, she asked yes, and always, if she wanted him to, she must him. We are all well, but I feel a little, rig up, as always.
March 25 1846

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter of the 16th that you wrote to Ma, and glad was I to hear from you, for we had had no letter from you in a long time. We received a letter from you about the death of your friend soldiers and we also read it in the paper. It is hard for a sol to die at home, but it is still harder to die away from home where there is no friends around. I suppose you have heard of the death of John Burwell, David McFarlin is just alive, he can not live long.

I have received 127.32 cents from the lancers, and an undress discharge they charged us 123.85.
for our clothes, but then I am satisfied. We have bin in hopes that this was true. It is coming to a close shortly. People around here think it will close this spring; I hope it good that it may be true for the poor soldiers sake, if it does not close before long if I was in your place, I would do as a fellow did to michie, he intended he was lame, and now he can kick up his heels and laugh about it. He stayed in the hospital till now Bill Coats is all right now since he got home. He will send you 50 paper with the letter, and if you get it we will send them again. He will put in half a dollar worth of stamps in this letter, we will send writing paper and
envelopes, when we receive an answer from this letter, and the rest of the Stamps, don't put any more Stamps on the letters you send home, I wrote a letter to you a few days ago and received no answer. I suppose you didn't get it. You must write as often as you can, I must now close.

Yours Forever,

J. G. Bayder

A. G. Bayder
envelope, when I receive an answer from this letter, and the rest of the stamps, don't put any more stamps on the letters you send home. I wrote a letter to you at April 20 and received no answer. I suppose you didn't get it. You must write as often as you can. I must now close.

Yours forever.

F. G. Ryder

A. G. Ryder