Charles Butler Correspondence
Civil War

Letters written to Charles Butler of Paw Paw, Mich. by friends and a cousin. Copied from the originals loaned to us by Hermit Beachburn.

3585
January the 2, 1863

Dear Cousin Charley: your kind letter come to hand in due time and was received with pleasure; it found me in good health as to Saxton, he is in the hospital a very sick boy. But I will try and take good care of him till his folks he is bad off. But he is better this morning. He will get along. I think Abner is tough as a knot and fat as a barrel he is in the mud up to his — this morning. Building a log house friend Parkman is well. Charley this is tough business I tell you, but I can stand it. I'm very sorry to say that one of our Company died this morning his name was F. Sherman from Dedham he was a fine young man. Honored and respected by the whole company long was his name. But now he sleeps the sleep of death. But he died a true soldier the last he heard was the roar of cannon —

Please tell Aunt Affie and Uncle Will that the Union is still safe and the sons of freedom will ever protect it. The star spangled banner long shall it wave on the land of the free and the home of the Brave. Charley the cannon makes every thing tremble this morning. But we are ready to meet them with undaunted courage. The Enemy camp is 4 miles from our camp. We can see where (greasy sagboat in the morning Breeze) but we long it will bite the dust. Well Charley I must close for it is most drill time gave my love to all to God By to Charlie Buth Paw Paw Nick. From your Cousin Heman Parrish P.S. Direct as Before. Heman Parrish to Charley Charley send me some Paw Paw paper and I will send you some. Heman
May 6th, 1862

Camp at Moscow, Tenn

Friend Charles

I read your welcome letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you. I have been sick for the last week but it is nothing dangerous and I will be all right in a few days. Well Charlie it is nearly 8 o'clock in the evening and the drums are beating all sorts of music, the boys are playing poker for money in the tents and trying to enjoy themselves somehow if they lose all their money.

A say Charlie I suppose you know how Uncle Sam is getting up nigger regts all over the U.S. United States and our Capt is raising a regiment of Colo., Capt. Bouton (1) is going as General and some of the noncommissioned officers and privates are going as Capt. and Lieutenants and one of our Lieuts is going as Major to the regiment. Well all that wants to go get it in a nigger regt can go but as for me give me a commission to ride on or give me my discharge that's what the matter and these fellows will think so to some hot day in summer when they have to make a forced marches. Well Charlie before our Capt went away we presented him with a nice sabers which cost $10. it was a pretty nice present we had a great time at the presentation which came off at moonlight there was an affecting speech made by our Brigade's General Cockrell who is an old lawyer and he done the thing up right.
amid great applause. Tell the amount of it is Capt is going raise a regt of niggers & I hope he will succeed well for the Negros ought to fight if they ever expect their freedom which they think is sure now. Tell Charlie when you write tell me all the news as usual. How does Old Grizzly get along does the friendship between you & him grow any.

Give my love to all pretty girls reserve some for yourself.

Horace Charles

Direct to Bonton's Battery
3rd S. Smith's Division
Army of the Tennessee

A Charlie a paper would be very acceptable if it not be to much trouble.

(Horace Charles, Battery I, 1st Ill. Artillery)

Charles Butler, Paw Paw, Ills.
Oct. 23rd, 62
Ft. Pickering, Memphis, Tenn.

Friend Charles

I received your welcome letter a few days ago but did not answer it on account of our having orders to go down the Mississippi to quell the guerillas that was firing into our boats. We started the same day that I got your letter & did not get back till yesterday. It was on the Arkansas shore where we had to go but we did not see the guerillas for they scattered on our approach but we burned all their houses & everything they had & we boys hooked everything we could carry & some things we could not. We had a firstrate time a good deal better than the infantry had for we could ride or walk & we did not have any load to carry for we could put it on the guns & cassions. I tell you it is real fun to go a scouting around the country having a good steamboat ride. Well Charlie I shall have to stop for the drums & bugles are making so much noise I can't hear myself talk. It is about 9 o'clock & the boys in our tent have been having regular rough & tumble.

Write soon. Yours in haste, Horace © Charles
U.S.A. General Hosp
Portsmouth Grove R.I.
Feb. 10th 1863
My Dear Cousin Charley

Your kind letter came to hand this morning. I found me in good health. I had begun to think you had forgotten me entirely. But Charley, I will excuse you for I did not answer your last letter you spoke of sending me some papers. I received only three from you since I have been sold here. Charley, I have got a good reason for not writing. I have not had time to do anything. But I will answer all letters that you send me. I Charley what is the news in Paw Paw? There is no news it is very dull here. We have got the small pot here. There is twelve cases in this hospital one in my Ward. Charley, what Shall I write. What do you think of the war. It is coming to a close is it going to last three years longer for my part I am getting sick of this business. We get whipped a bout every battle. I hope you will be wise enough to stay at home Charley why don't you go up and see Maria she feels very much. Elated. Give my love to your mother and father and all the boys. It seems a bout five years since I left home. But thank fortune I have got only 16 months to serve and then I shall return home to my friends. It snows like thunder here to day. I have just Bin out on the Bay looking for oysters. Wish you was here to help me. Eat them. I am a good hand at cooking them. Charley this is one of the finest country. I shot was in there i
plenty of fun here and lots of young ladies and they are what suite me. I dont claim to be much of a woman's man. But it is the nature of all young men to love the ladies and I was a victim to their charms. But at the same time I dont allow them to beat me much. I spoke you no that these soldiers are tough. Well Charley I will bring this to a close hoping to hear from you soon so good by.

P.S. Direct

U.S.A. General Post

Portsmouth Grove P.O.

Habd No 28

My love to all from your cousin

Henry S. Parriick

to Charles Butler
Lagrange, Tenn

Friend Charlie. I read your letter last night & was very glad to hear from you & as you are the best correspondent I have now I will answer it first. Joseph is alive yet & kicking round as usual. The boys are playing cards in the tent & having a good time. The boys out doors are playing ball & all sorts of games for amusement & recreation. I can hear the slow & measured beat of the drum as a funeral procession is passing slowly to the grave to pay their last tribute to the poor soldier I have often thought how solemn a funeral is at home but it is twice as solemn here yet there is no tear shed, no word spoken but all is still as death & although it is a sorrowful sight it does not stay on the soldier's mind for when he gets to camp he is as lively as ever. We expect to get paid in a few days & next post we shall get it in a day or two, there is not much news to write today that I know of. Do you remember where we were the 22nd of last Feb one year ago. I thought of it this year at the time but we did not celebrate the day here as we did at home. He celebrated the day with firing our guns 19 times & the 4th Ind. Battery fired 20 rounds & both of us together made a good deal of noise. Joe is going to write soon & so I will stop. Write soon. Send to Bouton's Battery, Darius' division.

Horace

(Joseph Bardwell write a note on the back of Horace's letter.)
March 7th/63
Lagrange, Tenn. Friend Charley
as Horace is a writing to you I will put in a
few words to let you know how I am a
getting along. You seemed to think that I
was dead until you seen a valentine I
dont want to have you think that I am not.
While you are busy Charley dont
you that that Horace takes it rather hard since
He got your letter telling him what Eunice was
up to. What do you think of the Conscripct Bill. I
say Bully for that. We are having pretty good time
here but they do not give us none to much to eat
Charley I wish that you was here with me but if
you cant get here stay at home & take care of the
Girls untill we get home once more & then it
will be all right.

I have no more room to write
this time so good bye from your friend Joseph
Bardwell.
Portsmouth, R.I., March 2nd, 63

Dear Cousin Charles,

Your kind and welcome letter came to hand this morning. It found me in good health. I have just been to the city of Providence on a visit for three days. I had a gay time. I wish you could of been with me. I had some pictures taken and shall send one to your mother as soon as they send them to me. Charley, I would like to see there to attend your exhibition. But it is impossible. Charley, how is your father's health? Give my respects to him. Tell George I should like to hear from him. Tell I must close till Evening. Henry

Well here I come to finish this. Poor letter. There is no news. But the small pox rages here. There is 4 more cases here. They are in ward 8 and 10. Charley shows that little girl of yours give regards to her. Well I shall have to close this letter for there is nothing to write. I should write to Aunt this week, but I want to wait till my pictures come so I can send one to her. Give my love to all. Write as soon as you get this. So good By from your Cousin

H. S. Parrish

Portsmouth, R.I.

To Charles H. Butler

Paw Paw, Mich.

Heman S. Parish, Co.C. 70th N.Y. Inf.
March 23, 1863

Camp Charles (?) above Lake Providence, Louisiana.

Dear Friend Charles,

I have often thought about you so I have set myself down for the purpose of writing you a few lines in order so to do. I have not heard a word from you since I left home but I hope this will find you in good health. The Channel at Lake Providence is completed and the water is a running through into the Lake though the Current is so swift that boats cannot run through it is as swift as the River before the Falls of Niagara. They are one thing certain if it does not give us communication with the Red River I will ascend on neither (?) drive out a good many days from these places of rendezvous as the Country is completely overflowed for miles around. We were camped down near Lake Providence and we had to move on account of the water. I have heard a good deal of talk about Louisiana being a low state. I tell you I begin to believe it know. You see they have to build levees to keep the River in in the time of high water there are apt to give away and flow the Country for miles around. Charles I suppose you are awaiting with an eye of interest to hear of a victory or the Rebel stronghold at Vicksburg. I may well call it a strong hold & I think you would if you could see it. Our Camp was within sight of it for over a month on the opposite side of the River. I went to get a big telescope & could see there Fort & Camps quite plain. I could see the Cases run in & out & a large amount of Commissaries near the depot. But I think the place will be taken & within a short time for they is a very large Army & in good fighting condition. They has been cannonading at a distance for several days & we expect everyday
to move
Now Charles you must excuse me this time for news is dull at least in this vicinity with us. Know you must write me a long letter & all the news. Please direct Company I, the 11th Ill. Vol Inf 24 Brigade 6th Division 17 Army Corps Grant Department. Yours in haste

Milo C. Webb

Ina & John send these papers. I have not heard from Horace & Joseph in sometime they are at Lagrange (?) Tennessee.
Dear Friend Charley,

As I promised you, I would write I know commence a few lines to you. I arrived at my place of destination (I mean my Regiment) the 20 of last month & was greatly surprised to find they had moved their camp at Vicksburg from the pleasant locality of Natchez to this good for nothing place. Yet I may as well make the best of it for it is not for me to say where we go. Gen. Anderson has been released from command of this Brigade & is ordered to report in person to Texas under the command of Maj. Gen. Ord. The whole Brigade was sorry for the Gen. to leave as he was liked both by Officers and Men of his Brigade. Yet such changes are quite oftens known days. Maj. Gen. Logan is released from the 95th Illinois, Lt. Col. Hamlin of the 75th Illinois, Lt. Col. Clay of the 95th Illinois, the Brigade & I now are Brigade Audley yet & are having a good time. They is a great deal of talk about some going to Texas & I presume we will for my part I with our Division would go. I have seen enough of the (6) six Rebel states I have been in. I enjoyed myself pretty well at Home yet not as well as I anticipated when I started. I know in my Garrison you are attending school somewhere in the Neighborhood of Brown County yet I may be mistaken. This my second letter I have written you & if you do not answer this one I shall stop for the present. P.S. The Lieutenant Ida Biddow arived at Paw-Paw he started last week. I have just come in from Brigade Drill me think you ask if
I still know I do not Drill in the ranks with a mess kit but carry orders from the Brigade Commander to the Regiments, that is when they are so far apart that they cannot hear distinctly. I guess I will stop for this time hoping to hear from you soon I close, give my respects to all inquiring friends & receipt a shake for yourself

Dear Co. E the 11th Suf
2nd Brig. Head Quarters 1st Div. Vicksburg

P.S. Well Charlie as all are sound in deep sleep I take this opportunity of writing a little more on this sheet. It may be it will not interest you but if it does not please give me the credit of a long letter if not well written. Sent Grant has ordered 3 three locomotives from the Rail Road & (43) forty too Care for the Ohio & Mobile Road to be Taken by Jean Bets to Memphis so it seems as so something is about to be did in that vacinity (as the Bible says) I reckon. I guess I will stop for this time youres truly Milo.

(Milo Webb)
Lovell General Hospital
Portsmouth Grove
Rhode Island
Dec the 22nd, 63

Cousin Charley,

Six of your welcome letters came to hand last week and I'm very happy to say that my health is improving very fast. I'm now able to eat my allowance of that I receive from Uncle Sam.

Well Charley,
you must not let our Fair Cousin Caroline run away with that little heart of yours. Please present my compliments with my Regard to her and hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing her when my three years campaigning is over.

Charley I hear that you have turned school teacher. I hope you will except my best wishes that you may succeed in your undertaking.

Charley you will find that it takes a man with the patience of Job to make a school teacher. But if you will succeed I'm sure. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I remain your affectionate Cousin,

Herman L. Parrish

Good By. Write soon Henry L.P.

To Charley Butter.
Cousin

Charley, your kind letter come to hand this morning. It found me in good health or urine. Charley you must of had a gay time with them boys. I hope you did not let them get the best of you for in that case I would flog you when I come home, whitch I hope will be soon. Well Charley, I hord that brother George had enlist in the 13 Mich. Hant that a dam gay thing. I think I had better get my Dis now and stay at home for three years; next I hear will be that Sister Mariah has enlisted. Well Charley dont you get the army favor till I get home and then we will go to gather hunting. I mean not gold——. that puts me in mind of the old saying of too evils choose the least, and I think we will take the latter.

Charley you must excuse this writing for it is written with a goose quill and red ink. It is the best I can afford at present. When in the army I do as the army does that is my motto.

Well Charley, give my love to all and write soon to your

Cousin Heman [Parrish]
Dear Friend Chª Charles Butler, Paw Paw,

I rec'd your kind letter of March 12 last week; had about given up the idea of hearing from you; though as I well know school teatcher has a great menney cares uppon his mind; & would so occopie yourse time not to permit you time for letter writing eiven if youre will was good. I should think you would dreed working on a Farm this summer, I know I should. You wished to know how I past Christmas and New Years. Christmas our Mess had a grand feast out of Confisti-cated Chickings & one Tirkey; New Years we had a Horse race & my Horse beet to, though I think I felt cold as bad as you said you did,

I would like to have a feast of Maple Shugar thought must be contented without.

I have yourse oppinion in reguard to the recruiting in Paw Paw, yet I would not advise you as a friend to enlist without yourse Perrents consent untill after you become of age. Charley I know exactly how you feel uppon the subject, & you ought not to be prevented from sawing yourse country. I can say with a clear conscious that I am not sorry that I Voullenteer when I did; in the first place, my mind could not of been satisfide withing knowing by my own experience, & seeing a conflict with my own eyes: yet I will say I do not wish to see as menney more as I have allread seen though I may.

Oh, last Thursday I was out beyond Big Black Miss to the Rebbels, with a flag of truce. We had a long talk to gather & they took ours in side of there Picket & had severral Horses races. They Horses wer all poor & the Officers & men wer verry ragged. Sum of them exprest a doubt of the South© Cod© yet they deserve the name of Brave Men. The rebel Picket are not over (2) too miles from ours though they have not got forces enough to fight ours in ours Fortification. Wal I guess I will close for this time.

Direct Head Qts 2 Brig 1 Divis. 17 A.C. Vicksburg, Miss. write soon from your friend

P.S. John Bardwell has been promoted to Commissary Sergt of our Regiment.

Milo [Webb]
Cousin Charley

Yours of the 8th came to hand yesterday morning. It found me in tip top health & I was very glad to hear that you were able to farm it on a small scale. Well Charley things are about the same as usual. We received 7 hundred sick & wounded from the late battles. They are about all wounded. I think Old U.S.G. is just the man that will take Rich Buxly for him. How is all the war widows. Give my love to all of them. Well Charley the 31 day of June hant far off - then look out for home for I cant see no vetron on my plate. My Company did not go to Washington. the order was Countermanded By Gen Dix. I had a letter from Brother Alfred last week. he was at lookout Mountain, Tenn. his health was good. he will be at home in Aug. give my love uncle & aunt & Ormal. the weather is very fine here at present. I have lots of sport fishing for Blue fish and herring. They are very plenty here. Charley this is a minty fine country.

I wish you were here for a few days. We would have gay times. Well Charley I must close. Hoping to hear from you soon.

I Remain your Effeactione cousin

Heme S. Parrish

C. H. Butler

Paw Paw

Good by
Cousin Charles,

Your very kind letter came to hand this morning. It found me with a bad cold. Otherways I'm feeling tip top.

Charley I would like to be there very much to attend the managery with you but I can't so let it wrap.

Well Charley I'm very glad to hear that you are enjoying such good health. That is a great blessing. You see I'm getting serious. Well Charley you need not answer this poor letter for I shall be at home soon. Hame.

Charley what do you think of Old U.S. Grant. Want he just the man that will take Richmond. That is my opinion.

Now Charley what is all them fair damsels doing in Mich that they don't write to your cousin Hame. Here I am fourteen hundred miles from home with out a friend. But Charley when you wish for a friend go among strangers that is the place where you will find them. I have learned a good lesson since I left Lawton. Please give my love to your father & mother and Ormal. Hoping to see you soon, I remain Ever your affectionate Cousin

H. S. Parrish

to C. H. Butler

Good night

Pleasant Dreams

Heman S. Parrish
Nashville, Tenn  
June 11th, 64

Friend Charley

I will write you a short letter to let you know how I am a getting a long & what I have been a doing since I see you last. I got into Rockford on wednesday at noon but didnot go out to my sisters until the next day. I found them all well but Ettie, she was not very well but she soon began to gain after I got thare. I had a very good visit while I was thare but I did not have as much fun as I had in Old P P. I like the country out thare. it must be fun to work on a farm thare for everything is done with the horse.

When I came back to rockford I went to Mr. Shannons & found Webb thare & he said that he was a going to Paw Paw on the next train so we went to gether as far as Chicago. thare was about 20 of our boys in Porren(?) & now maby we didnot have a loud old time in that place. they took us up to Camp Fry & they had some 100 day men thare to guard the camp & our boys would go up to them & push there gun one side & walk right through when ever they wanted to. We left Chicago last Sunday evening & got here last Wensday night & you may bet that I was glad to get to my journeys end for I was just about played out for I have been up every night since I left P P until I come here.

Well Charley how are all of the folks in Paw Paw. did you go to the circus that Saterday & did you take a girl for me as you promised you would. I have got some more photographs taken & I will sent you one & you can give the old one to Ormal that is if you think the new one is the best. Horace is well. He is on detail to clean camp to day. thare is not anything more to write this time. write soon & keep me posted on the news. I will try to have some thing more to write next time. from your friend & Brother

Joseph [Bardwell]

Friend Charley

I rec'd your letter this morning & was right smart glad to hear from you. Charley is writing on the other end of the table & I guess his Biddie will get a Full old letter. I guess why Charley you are getting to be an old seed with the Scythe that's what's the matter. A new by word has just broke out in camp. it is this "I'm watching you". the fun of it is when we see a woman or girl somebody with be sure to yell out I'm watching you.

to morrow is the fourth. there is going to be some doings. there is lots of cannon here and there will be some cannonading you may bet. I tell you what it is Charley we have more fun here than a little. there is a pleasure garden a little way from our Camp & it's one of the prettiest places I ever saw. there is a splendid brass band; there is swings & gymnasium poles & everything for amusement. there is negro waiters buy the dozen. it doesn't cost anything to go in & stay all day. you have to pay for refreshments or go without. they have Ice cream & cake & everything a person could wish for. I went to church today. saw lots of pretty girls & one of them winked at me across the aisle. I tried to find her after church but couldn't make the riffle but I'll find her sometime if there is any suchthing. Well Charley take good care my Biddie & it will be all right. I suppose Miss Munger is right side up with care. I hope so. well darn my buttons if wouldn't like to take a walk with her (to see the pictures) & bugger my eyes if I believe she would offer any objection either do you now. but then you know well enough that I aint no such man as that. 0 say Charley I got a picture of Miss Eddison the other day. Now Charley I dont want you to show this letter to anybody for it might not be good for my health.

Write soon & direct as before

C. H. Butler

Horace "Charles"
Dear Friend of the Friendless,

I received your letter yesterday which was the glorious 4th of July. Our nation's Birthday I was glad to hear that you was well but sorry to hear that you had such hard work to do. I know how it is. (I feel sorry to pity you.) We are having very pleasant weather here that it is very hot, the weather is pleasant. We have not got our battery yet. That is the game. No news we were expecting to get them before this but they have not got the game here for us. Gen Sherman has sent him for a lot of horses so that the C.S. only know when we will get a full rig. Well, I will tell you how I spent the 4th. In the forenoon I was sent out with a squad of men to get some brush for a shade over the Black Smith's shop. That took me until noon and then we had our dinner which consisted of various articles so numerous to mention. Then I got a pass to go to the city in the evening. I went to a theatre and saw a real good play. I want you to tell me how you spent the 4th.

C. (F.P.)

I must have got the start of you that night but I guess that you have played your cards for all they were worth after that. Charley, I could not make out the name of these letters F. P. for a long time but I have guessed who it meant. She not live just this side of J. M. P. if I am right tell me in your next. I have had a letter from Edwin
& C—e & R—a. & they all spoke about the ride
that they had that Saturday night & I will bet
that you had a good time. I have not had a
letter from home since I left there & I don't
know what to make of it. I begin to think
that they have soured on me. Horace had
a letter from you a few days ago & I guess
that he has answered it.

I guess that I will have to stop for want
of news. Write soon & tell me all about your
good times from your friend.

Joseph B.

P.S. Ditto as before.

Joseph Bardwell
Battery I  First Illinois
Nashville, Tenn.
August 1st, 1864

Friend Charlie as the boys was fixing up that picture to send to you and wanted me to say a few words to you. I concluded to do so.

I am all right on the gosse question and enjoy myself pretty well. I always do when there is any chance for it. We don't get lonesome here as some might think for I have considerable correspondence that keeps me busy a good part of the time. I took a trip down west to Columbia a few days ago to see my cousin in the 2nd Mich. Cavalry that passed away the time pretty good for a time. I should like to see you first and hope I shall before long.

How do the men feel about the new call does it make them stick out their eyes. You must go light on the quile for we expect to come back one of these days. I should like to hear from you.

Yours with respect,

Charles J. Pierce

[Signature]

Charley Butler.

[Signature]

e. Battery I, First Illinois Artillery
1862-1864.
Nashville, Sept. 9th [1864]

Dear Charlie    As I am not doing enny thing this afternoon I guess I will improve the time in writing to you. we are in an awful big house large enough to hold 5000 men and 10,000,000,000 grey backs. We got here this morning a little before daylight. We started from Jackson Tuesday 7:40 in the evening and staid yesterday forenoon in Louisville, the onely stop we made. I dont know when we shall go on. some say tonight and some say not till Monday. I hope we shall go tonight. I should like to have you here awful well. we would just run the shanty. Coon bunkes with me. he sends his best respects.

I just had the best time out to Erie that I ever did in all my life. I found her all right and if you had seen us and heard what was said you would have thought so. I staid there two days and nights and I did not sleep much of the time. I hugged and kissed till I could not rest. She told me all about everything that had happened. Her mother had read 5 of my letters but she thought it was all right. Ella and I went over and saw Mary Harris. She is a pretty nice girl and dead in love with your photo. She is young and inexperienced. I hired a horse and carriage and we went to Monroe and had a bully old time. You need not write unless you can send it by some one. Whitcomb is at home. but I must close and fight greybacks with the rest of the boys as they are at it all around.

Ever yours

Edson [Woodman]
In Camp Lookout Mountain
September 15th 1864

Dear Charlie,

I am in camp and as I have a few moments to spare, I know I can not improve them any better than in writing to you. We got to Chattanooga Monday evening and I came up here in the afternoon, it is about 5 miles from town. We had a hard march up the mountain. It was awful warm and half of the boys fell out of the ranks, but E. Woodman himself all right with not a man ahead of him. I started with Clark that night. The next morning I went down to headquarters. I found Colonel --- ed (?) there. He said he wanted me for an orderly. So I am having better times than I expected. I stay at headquarters, have a good tent, and a bed to lie on. I don't have to drill or stand guard or carry a knapsack all the time. I have to do is to carry orders from one officer to another, detail squads, and such like. The Colonel gave me the book containing the manual of arms and the drill tactics to study. I suppose you are going to school are you not. Does Clara Kern and Mina Upham also the Bull girl attend? I found all of the boys all right. Clark is all sound so is Foote. George Alger hasn't seen to see me. David (?) has just left Company I. The Company I saw Lieutenant John Bagley yesterday afternoon. He promised to come over and see me. He has been here in the hospital. He had the mumps, he looks tip-top with his stripes on. He was very
Edison Woodman
To Charley Butler

Glad to see you. Now Charli, I want you to write me all the news. I want to hear from you awful bad. I have not had one letter since I left home the day we enlisted (together?). How I wish you had come. I think I could have put you in here with me and we would have such gay times. Well I must close. Write as soon as you get this from your old man.

Edison Woodman

Chattanooga
Tennessee

E. H.

I. Woodman, Edison, 1846-
1864-1865

Paw Paw 2
Dear Friend Charley

I received your welcome letter a few days ago & was glad to hear from you & to know that you were well. I am well & enjoy myself first rate. we moved our camp 2 weeks ago & we have got a real good camp. We have got Board Shantys put up to live in. There is 4 of us in one house & we have got us a cook stove & we cook our own grub & you may bet that we live all ---. I wish that you could be here to take a meal with us. we have all kinds of dishes, Bread Puddings & all kinds of Pies, Pumpkin Pies & Apple Pies.

I have not got the Box yet. it was sent the 10th of this month & it is time that is was here. I wish that it was for I would like to have a chew of tobacco.

I had a letter from Edson Woodman a few days ago. it was written the 10th of July. I had a letter from Chloe a few days ago. She said that you was a going to School. I wish that it was so that I could go there with you. it seems as though I had forgotten all that I ever did now & that was but a little (& what I did now is a dammage to me). I had a letter from John a short time ago. he has rented a farm in Ill. Charley when I get out of this Army I am a going to California & I want you to go with me. There is not any news to write so I shall have to bring this to a close. hoping to hear from you soon. from your friend

Joseph Bardwell

Horace is well
Chattanooga, Tenn. Dec. 8th 1864
Friend Charles

As I am out today to have just stood on trick, I have not seen any of my men, but I think that I could not improve the time any better than in writing to you, and letting you know how we are getting along. We are all well at present, but our duty is very hard for we are on guard guard every other day at present we are on half rations for Old Abe has cut the railroad between here and Nashville. I am told that they are firing some at Nashville, and we are expecting him here every day. All preparations are being made to receive him. I think if he were here he would be turned back or he will get his fingers burnt for we are a saucy set of boys here and will handle him pretty rough, especially if we are kept half for quarters ration for a soldiers will not bear any rations if any thing. We can here Cannading & mushing meals every day now only ake to leave alone in for we have got top top peace and we would make every shot count. I wish you were here for we are having tip top times & are just as happy as glee. We are watchful as wood Chucks, and everything goes lovely with me whilst the good hangs high for we are a square set of boys till from the ground up & set on wheels. When we hear it is for Old Abe every time we are willing to support any thing that he see for we believe that he is one second Washington & will be the Father of our Country. We are glad to know
that he can’t see any thing else but an unconditional surrender of the South. Is old Jeff will haft come to time & it is not that right, hey. I say yes. Well Charley how are the times there & how are all the Sale, & Schoolsmee do they all hold their dignity yet or do they haft loosen their arm string a little. please write & tell me all about it & give my respects to all inquiring friends & tell them that I am as round as an apple & as fat as a bush & can eat a dog all but his tale so I am all right you see. & I must draw this hew scraching to close for you never can read it so please excuse all mistakes & if you deem it worth answering please write soon.

I am as ever yours with respect

H. S. Linton

(Hiram S. Linton, Co. H. 9th Mich & Co. B. 10th N. Y. Infantry)

(written to Charles Butler, Paw-Paw, Mich.)
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Jan. 23d/65
To Chas. H. Butler

Dear Friend. Yours of Jan. 9th was received & persued with grate pleasur, & now words of mine can express the joy that it gave me to receive & read such a letter from you & now with the same joy that it gave me to receive & read your letter, I take my pencil & paper in hand to answer it, hoping that this may find you as well as it leaves us at presant for we are all harty & tough & can eat hard tack till they will rattle in us when we walk around So you see we are all sound on the goos, while our heads are up & tales arising like a steer in the corn, ready to perform our duty as soldiers, when ever cald on, for we are fully deturmend to put down & play out this rebellion & set our flag to floting threw out all our borders again.

Well Charley you wished to now what I thought about Old Abe & the three hundred thousand more, well I say buly & I glory in your spunk for not given a red, for no body who has got good sense can ask any thing more of you than you have done, there fore I want to see those big able bodies & cowardly felows come out & take a lescon or two & I hope that you will take no slang from any of those Copperheads there with out given them arap or two over the snoot for it made me so mad last sumer & fall when I were at home to hear some of them talk that I cood not hardly keep my hands of from them & I wood quicker give $50.00 to see them hafto come down here than I wood one red cent to have them stay at home. well Chas, I was glad to hear that you were teaching school this winter & were having such good times & I say go in Charley & dont you let me hear of you letting any of the girls suffer & please think of me acasionly when you get in the short roes & give them an easy shove for me. I shood ben rite glad Charley to attended that spelling school that you spoke of with a crowd of our boys if it had ben convenient for us to do so, for I think we wood had a gay old time, dont you, & Charley I was sorry to hear that some of the Girls there began to look as if they had ben eaten dried apples & I believe that you are a little misstaken when you think that I now any thing about it, for I want
do any such athing you now any quicker than a dot & I will tell you what atime I had on gard the other day. I were garding alot of shingels & peaces of boards behind a big dweling house down town & jest at nite there was a very nice looking Girl came out of the house & ses Centinal wont you let me have some of those shingels & I sed I cant for you wont give me nothing. yes I will she ses give you anything that you want, so you see that I was all hunky adora & I told her to take what she wanted & after my trick was of I natcherly went in the house you now & fond her setting on the lounge so I steps rite along and takes a set by her side & slips my arm arond her waste & you will haf to gess al the rest for there is not room to scrach it on this sheet of paper, but I have the privelige of going there wneh ever I choose, but that is not very often for you now that I do not beleive in it, so no more this time. rite soon & excuse all mistakes.

H G Saxton  [Hiram G. Saxton]  
[Co.H, 9th Infantry]
Dear Charlie,

Your letter of Jan 9th was received last night and you may bet I was glad to get it. I am as tough as ever and still like soldiering well enough. You say you are going to enlist. I should not advise you to though I would come as a conscript. I presume if I were out I should enlist again but it would not be in the infantry, it would be in the cavalry or artillery. This ruffing it is d---d hard work if you make the best of it. I could not say as to your standing it but some of the toughest men in this regiment were the first to knock under. When we were at Chattanooga Co. H had 102 men, now it draws rations for 58. quite a reduction you see. there is quite a lot sick in the hospt and a great menny under the sod (peas to their ashes)

We are laying here waiting for a road to be built on the other side of the river it is so swampy that we can not cross. I suppose it will be done in a day or two then we will strike of in South Carolina I do not know where. I received 2 letters from Celia and one from Miss E.G. yesterday. Everything is all lovely with Miss E.G. She is attending college in Lyons, Iowa. do you hear from Letta B. how does the thing run enny way. do you hear from Ja- & Horace. Why in thunder dont they write to me.

Do you have enny sleighrides this winter. I should like to have one but that can not be this winter. I must close for it is mail time. I dont know as you can read this scribbeling but write the same as though you had got a good letter.

E. Woodman
Eastport, Miss
Feb 12th /65

Friend Charley

It has been a long time since I have wrote you a letter & it has been a much longer time since I have had a letter from you & now I am a going to write you a short letter to let you know how I am a getting a long. We left Nashville on the 15th of Dec. we was put in with a Division of Cavalry & we was in the 2 (?) days fight around Nashville & then we followed them until they had got acrossed the Tenn river we was a fighting with them every day for a week our Division was in the advance all of the time & we captured 25 canon & a great many Prisoners. It has been the hardest trip that we ever made it was very cold & it either Snowed or rained all of the time & we had no tents with us. We came to Gravely Springs & they told us that we was a going to let us stay there all winter but we had just got a good House built when we got orders to come to this place & here we found good Shantes to go into I suppose that you are having lots of fun this winter iff I had not gone a Vet I mint have been home now but that does not make much difference for the war is a going to be over in a Short time & then P P will not be big enough to hold me. I have seen Ed Crane severel times he is well Horace is as tough as a knot I cant think of much to write so I will bring this to a Halt & Hight Dress & Front from your friend

Joseph Bardwell

Joseph Bardwell
Direct to
Co I 1st Ill Arty
5th Division
C. C. M. D. M
Eastport Miss
In Hospital
Fort Schuyler
N. Y. Harbor
Apr. 18th, 65

Dear Charlie,

feeling pretty well today. I guess I will write you a few lines. I hope you will pardon me for not wrighting before but a hole through my leg caused by a minney has casued me some inconveniance as it has kept me from doing enny verry big running around, the ball went in a little above my knee and came out just under my a-s so it made a pretty long hole.

I received a letter from you when I was at Goldsboro. it came like a balm to my heart. I was lying in the hospital at the time. You will see by the heading that I have got in one of the northern states. I have rode about 65 miles on the cars & 600 on the Ocean since I was wounded so you see I have not had much time to write or do enny thing else. What kind of times are you having this spring. good ones I hope. are there enny females there to run. if there is I'll bet C.H.B. does the fair thing. never mind I haint got onely 4½ months more to serve Uncle Sam and then I will be with you again then look out for this Child again.

I walked about 10 rods on crutches the other day so I think I shall soon be all sound, but I dont think there will be enny more fighting for the rebs are all gone ---

You need not write untill you hear from me again for I expect to leave here before long. accept my love and a rousing old kiss from

E. Woodman

C. H. Butler. Excuse poor writing as I am abed.
Dear Charlie. Why in the d---I dont you write to me. I have been looking for a letter for about two weeks and still no letter from you so I guess I will write again. I am here in the hospital laying around waiting for my discharge so that I can come home. but I expect I shall have to stay here three or four weeks yet. It's an awful nuisance to be kept so near home and cant get there. but never mind it is all in a life time. I am gaining slowly. my wound is not yet healed up but I have got my leg nearly straight and can put my foot on the floor when I walk but I shall have to use crutches for some time yet. the doctors have told me all along that I probably never would have the use of my leg but I believe that they lied for I am getting the use of it every day more and more, and it is better now than they said it ever would be. What are you doing this summer and how do you enjoy your-selfe. it is awful dull here. how does Miss Letta E. act and how does the Lodge flourish.

John Clark is in the other hospital. he comes over to see me every few days. I haint been around town much for it is mighty hard traveling on crutches, but I believe this is about the d---dest letter I was ever guilty of wrighting and I know you cant read it but it is the last sheet of paper I have got and no money, but you must answer it all the same as though you could read it. Accept my love from your old Schoolmate

Edson Woodman
St Marys Hospital
Detroit
Ward 3