Correspondence

Jan.-June 1863
Jan. 13th, 1843

Chrs. F. Fredericksburg Jan 13th 1843

Dear Brother,

I wish you all a happy new year hoping that I may have my self also. I am very pleased and warm here. To-day warmer than I ever saw the first day of January in North Carolina. It was pretty cold last night. I am well at present and expect to get pretty sick but he does not appear much better although his brother has taken a little better to-day. He thinks she is better but he coughs most all the night and raised considerable smoke. His cough is a great deal worse than it was and his fever does not last so long as it did. I think he is very sick. I think worse than off he has been sick for a week or more and he looks worse. I know of no special news to write. The colonel thinks we will not stay here much longer.

Yours very truly, E. F. Phillips.
Camp Opposite Fredericksburg
Thursday, Jan 4th 1863

Dear Mother,

As before, Thaddeus was pretty sick of
for some days past. I thought
you would be anxious to hear how
he is as soon as possible. I will
write again today. I want you to know
this morning, he is a good deal better
and I think he will get along
If he does not have any more fall
downs, he has a better opportunity
than he has had before. I got some
potatoes of Mr. Brown last night
up to headquarters and he ate a
great breakfast this morning.
I am well except chest complaints
scarcely any care of him
and also attending to drills today.
Burnside is renewing the winter
body, but I did not go out. I think
appears to be better to the inmates.
Newbury is standing fine. All
the rest of the Defter boys are
well. The weather is pretty mild
here; we have not had any snow
but once this winter and that
was back at Orleans when we were
on the advance.

From your son,

E. N. Phelps

I wrote to Sarah yesterday.
Opposite Frederick, 20 Jan 37. 1850

Dear Sister,

We are yet in our old camp and I think we shall stay here for some time yet although it is reported that our division is going to Washington this winter. But I think it is not so as we have all sorts of reports without any foundation. Alfred is a little better this morning. The doctor thinks he will do myself for he raises easier than he did and is not in so much pain. Pellew is I think some better this day you are to that you sent a letter with some reason et I have received no such letter yet. He said that Thad he might come down here it would like to see him down here but you can tell him that he will find it a pretty hard job to get along.
With much baggage this side of Washington, as it is almost impossible to get the supplies for the soldiers here. It may be if he should come farther off than we are at present, both the Dexter boys and all the rest are well.

Give my love to all the jins.

From your brother,

E. A. Phelps

P.S. I write a letter day before yesterday.
Cleveland, May 8, 1878

Dear Wife,

We arrived in this place at 10 o'clock this morning. The cars had left for Washington about 15 minutes before we arrived, we are detained here until 12 o'clock this afternoon. We will see Mr. Porter Peate and myself are going to Washington together. I will write letter this afternoon and Washington if we please along with you.

Your truly,
A. C. Phelps
Mrs. A. F. Moore

January 12th 63

Dear Mr. Phee,

I am with the large

women last night

at the gain and began

now unwinding from

Mother a little to

Dexter yesterday

Mr. Delmonio's boy

has been very sick

with diphtheria fever

but now on the gain

Alfred had the

information of the large

I think it don't fear

of getting them removed

from this place
How long I shall remain here I can not tell but shall return as soon as I think the boys can take care of them selves & one of the boys expect a girl & some one needs you. I need not look for you home until about the 26th first.

I have been to day at Frederick bury to see the sight of it can not describe them by anything but would give you some of the appearance when I come home.

Jane M.

W. A. Phool
Opposite Fredericksburg, Va.
Monday, Jan 7th 1863

Dear Sister,

Two night I received a letter from you and mother and
night before the one that you sent
some tea in it had been mislaid
somewhere and I did not get it before.

I was glad to hear that you and
Thomas had got better. Father said
that you both were sick when he
left home. Father and Aunt left last Friday and I expected that
Father would write when they were
in Washington but I have not heard anything from them yet.

I was very glad when they left that
I am well now and feel first-rate.

I shall be glad to hear that
they have got home and if you
are in worse but I expect he will
be pretty tired for it is a very
tiring and long journey and I
am writing a long with it
we write under mailing orders and
have been for three days we may
match in the morning, and may not
fail some days but I think we are
going to have an engagement some
while before long although we may
not be more as getting better very
fast and will soon be around all
the other boys are well known
of no important news to write the
night before last the picket got
to firing at each other and several
our men were killed but none of
our regiment was on picket. If
the firing was started by
one of our men firing his gun accidentally
and the rebels thought it was
shooting at them (you must write
letters from me and tell them all
to the same title) and she
must write to write a letter from
me and not have me receive
her from him.

Good By

From your brother

E A Phelps

A. T. Maguery
M.D.

Mrs. A. A. Phelps
Dexter
Michigan
Opposite Frederickburg, Monday, 7 Jan 1863

Dear Brother

It appears pretty gloomy here to-day. It rained all day yesterday and last night and is still drizzling this morning and the wind blows so that our chimneys smoke so much as to prevent us from having a fire aside from that we are on. The gain of Alfred is gaining slowly. The field very much discouraged at times but stands it well generally but often wishes he was at home where he could have better care. His case has been a pretty bad one and will be some time before he gets his strength. The rains are going on and it will be some time before he gets his strength. Yet he is complaining but I guess it is nothing very serious that ails him and he will be better soon. All the rest of the boys are well. I have received no letter from any.
If you since New Year Day before yesterday wrote a short letter home and sent my commission giving me to all the men at present.

From your brother

E. A. Phelps

I am out of stamps and you will have to pay the postage.
Opposite Fred'ks'bg VA, Jan. 21/1863

Dear Brother:

I am yet in the land of the living, and am well. The weather is very unpleasant at present. We have the most snow now on the ground that we have had this winter. It has snowed two nights and one day but it has come off clear today and is a little warmer and thaws considerable and now it is very nasty underfoot and I think it will be considerable of a while before we leave this place. Mr Porten starts home tomorrow morning and I will send this letter by him containing my likeness. Also I will send thirty dollars in moneys which father can get - by calling for it at Annitibar which he can use the best way he sees fit. You can tell Alfred that N Augustus paid me five dollars which he borrowed of him and Leonard Granger four dollars and if he wishes he can draw the same from the enormous file of thirty dollars which I send to father by our porter. My likeness looks rather poor in flesh to what I did before, was sick a spell before Alfred left but I am getting the flesh back now everyday and shall soon be as fat as ever if nothing happens to me. The boys are all well as far as I know. Felmore has gone to the hospital at Aquin Creek he was better when he left here. You can tell father that man that he talked taking home when he went died that morning which he left here. I will tell Doe Porter to put this in the office at Annitebar. Tell Alfred to write as soon as he gets well enough and you all must write often. I have not heard yet whether Alfred has got home or not nor that you knew that he was coming. I received a letter from Sarah Jane the 23rd dated the 16th and not any since from any of you.

No more at present.

From your brother, Edward Phelps

P.S. Yesterday I mailed a letter to father.
Opposite Trentrich bury the 23rd of 1868

Dear Mother,

I am well and hope these lines will find you enjoying the summer. Hurrying the time with our old camp yet but should think it notrawn so much that it is impossible to march we have been under marching orders for a week expecting to be called out every hour all the time keeping everything packed up so as to fall and line up at a moments notice.

The whole of the British and French divisions were called out and marched on the river last Monday and have been out in this whole sde. They are pushing back today but in the evening it is reported that the artilleries stuck in the wood on their way.
sack. The guns that are drawn by few horses can scarcely be drawn now, by twelve and it will be some time now before that the army will be able to move. I think that the plan was that two grand divisions should cross the river, our division should be in the center of them for operating as soon as it was advisable.

But now I suppose the whole plan is broken up and a new one will be made as soon as the mud is dried up and the weather favorable. The day that was set apart for an attack was the 8th. Although our plans have been broken up, it may be for our own good. At least we must think so and wait for a better time when we can move and not be so much exposed to fire as we are.

Our division has been in the field by ones this time as well as at the battle with the other division. We have been in the whole time at Fort we have stayed in the old camp and kept comfortable.
Mr. Porter arrived here yesterday morning with our things and I was glad to receive so much and if we stay here long enough to eat it up I will enjoy it very much. I have eaten the main course and the cake tasteth the most like home of any thing that I have eaten since the ship. The shirts were just the kind that I wanted and I like my boots first-rate. They fit just as well as if they had been measured and I think they will be of good service. The news was a little disappointing that Ayer's boots did not come so that he could get them. Doctor Porter told me that father opened the barrel at Washington and took them out. I suppose that I had wanted to put on more style when I went home than I was wearing. Sheer Venetian wanted me to write that he was well and his boots fit first-rate and he was glad to receive so many things from home especially the tea he wanted it very much.
I suppose that Admiral Nelson will arrive before you receive this of mine. I have not written to you about the sick, but I have heard of it well for one night. I shall hear from you soon. I believe that because I am alone now, that I shall not fare so well. I am not afraid, but that I shall fare as well as the rest of the soldiers. Of course we shall have some pretty hard times and some good times, just as I expect when I get home. I have the appointment to be in charge of the main and not as captain of the company. It relieves me from all guard and picket duty. That all my work will be in the day time which is preferable. In night work, our position is at the head of the regiment and each of the ten men have to carry a crosspiece or cross to clear the obstacles if we meet with any. Now if it's the job you must all write as often as you can and you will oblige me very much.

Give my respects to all.

From your son,

E. A. Phelps
Opposite Fredericksburg Jan 15th

Dear Sister,

I thought I would write and let you know that Sister and Alfred have started for home. They started this morning and will get to Washington tonight—And I think they will stay there until Monday. We have just received orders to march tomorrow morning, at day-light. I think we will have a fight here in a day or so if the appearance of things. I do not know whether Alfred will stand it to come straight along or not—but I think he will have to stop and rest several times before he gets home so you need not...
Look for them until they get there.

Please write often from your brother.

E. A. Phelps
Opposite Fredericksburg, February 1st 1863

Dear Sister,

I received a letter from you night before last, and was glad to hear that father and Alfred had got home safe, and the news in general. I am well at present and hope that you are better than you were when you wrote. The Auria has just arrived with his goods for the regiment. He has brought a good deal of stuff this time I think. It is very muddy here now and there is no signs of a move. There is considerable amount of snow on the ground but thaws some every day. The boys are all well that are here except Corporal Pack of Anuctrbar. I do not think he will live. Filmore has gone to the hospital at Agrain creek and I have not heard from him since he left. Our adjutant who was wounded at Fredericksburg has got back but is considerably tame yet. Charles Maynard one of my mijs has just received a large box of things by O'Hearia. Give my love to all.

From your brother,

E.A. Phelps
Opposite Fredricksburg, VA, Feb. 5th, 1863

Dear Sister:

I received your letter of the 25th and 26th and was glad to hear from you that Alfred was getting better so fast. I am well at present and hope you are better than you were when you wrote to me. It has been very cold here for the last week so much so that it has been hard work to keep comfortable for the wood around here is getting very scarce although when we came here it was all woods where we are now encamped there is not a stick of woods so big as my arm within three quarters of a mile from here and it is troublesome to get plenty. Today it snows very fast and looks as if we were going to have sleighing for it comes so fine and fast and the ground is frozen up hard. Corporal Pack of our company died last Tuesday morning; he died with the typhoid fever, was not very sick only about a week. We sent his remains home to Ann Arbor by Mr. Treadwell a man that came down here with Mr. O Heara. There has been several orderly sergeants promoted to second lieutenant lately. The one of Company E. has been promoted and sent to our company and our orderly not promoted which does not take very well with us nor our captain. Company A. has always been the favorite company of the Colonels and he has made all the promotion in it that he could. The captain is now lieutenant colonel. The first lieutenant has resigned on a count of sickness. Their second lieutenant is now captain their orderly first lieut. It first promoted to sergeant major then a brevet second lieutenant and then to the position of first lieut. - their second sergeant was first promoted to Orderly and then a brevet lieut. Their third sergeant was first promoted to sergeant major then a brevet lieut. and he has detailed a good many others of the company to good positions. But I am afraid that it is going to play out before long as the other companies do not like it very well to have lieutenants sent from company A when they have men in their own company more competent of the office. Captains Anderson of Company E., Wilits of Company G from Eaton Rapids, Hemmon of Company H. from Chelsea have been discharged and have gone home. Lieutenant Whedon of ___ from Chelsea applied for furlow and it was not granted him then he offered his resignation and it was not granted him and he has taken a french furlow and left for parts unknown for Chelsea Michigan I presume. I pity him if they find him of course they will bring him back and reduce him dishonorably to the ranks. There is an order given by General Hooker that a furlow of 15 days shall be given to one man in every fifty for duty if wanted so that there will be one in our company and I think that it will be given to Sergeant Fitch of Ann Arbor as he has applied for one. There are several cases of the small pox in a tent about fifty rods from our camp and they say that there is considerable of it in the second corps. There is one case in the 17th Michigan Regiment. The Dexter boys are all well. I have not heard from Filmore since he left. Give my love to all and tell them to write. I heard that Charles Bates has got his discharge and I suppose that he will be home before you receive this. No more at present.

From your brother,
E.A. Phelps

Dear Brother:

As you have gone to Dexter to live and go to the Union schools and make speeches on Friday afternoon and have grown considerable since I last saw you. I suppose that you have learned to write some by this time also and you must write to me right off. I suppose that you have almost got big enough to go home with the girls so of course you can write a letter. I will write you a letter all alone when you write to me.
Opposite Fredericksburg, February 10, 1863

Dear Father,

I received a letter from you right before last and was glad to hear from you and that you were all so well. I hope that Alfred will continue to improve so fast until he gets entirely well. We have been expecting to move every day for four or five days past, but are here yet. The second and third divisions of our corps have gone and we shall go next. I think with out doubt tomorrow General Burns has gone west to take command of a corps under General Rosser, General Wileox now has command of our division. The change of generals (that is Wileox and Burns) seems to say the division with General Burns seemed to have a dislike with Michigan troops and as there are so many in the first division they are glad to have a Michigan division General to lead them. Our orders are to go to Fortey's Marrow and I think that we will go from there on an expedition to North or South Carolina. We are going to be under General Burnside. I understand that only the south corps are going. It seems almost as if we were leaving home as we have been here so long we have gotten a sort of an attachment to the place for we have for most of the time enjoyed ourselves first rate. All of the sick in the regime have gone to Aquia Creek to the general hospital. All of the Dayton boys present are well and ready for a move. I understand that the cavalry of the ninth corps is not going with us. Our quarter master Dwight has signed and adjut-Warner has been appointed as acting quarter master. Tecent-M. Colluman of Todt acting adjut. Dr. French has been promoted to brigade surgeon and is now acting as such Mr. Brown says that if his wife did not pay you for the transportation of the things that she sent him let him know how much it is and he will pay it. He thinks that she went east before you got back. I expect next time I write I will be a great deal further from home it may be down to South Carolina. You all must write often I expect you will direct your letters the same as ever.

From your son,

Edgar A. Phelps

Co I 20th Michigan Washington D.C., 3 o'clock P.M. February 10th

We have just been ordered to back up so as to fall in at five minutes notice and may go this afternoon.
Opposite Fredericksburg, Feb. 13, 1863

Dear Sister,

Last night I read in the papers that the ninth army corps was in Fortress Monroe. Some of it is I think the most of it, but our brigade is here yet in our old camp. We have been expecting to go everyday for almost two weeks, but have not moved a step yet. We may go this afternoon and may stay a day or two yet. I do not think we will stay much longer as our brigade is the only one left in our division. General Wilcox has commanded that all of his division wear a badge of blue cloth upon their caps, the field officers a star on the top, line officers in the front, noncommissioned officers on the right side, privates on the left. We have pretty fine weather here now, it rained a little last night but the sun comes out warm today I expect the next letter I write I will mail it a good deal farther south. We have not had any mail for two days I expect it has been sent to Fortress Monroe as the ninth army corps was to report there the 11th I mailed a letter to father the 10th. The boys are all well at present. Johnson of Ann Arbor and Taylor of Onondage were sent to the hospital the 9th so that we have no sick here. We have the same performances everyday and news are pretty scarce and I will close so good-bye.

From your brother,
Edgar A. Phelps

P.S. You must write often.
Newport News Feb 24th 1863

Dear Brother,

I am now two miles up the James river from camp but put and am well. We arrived here on the afternoon of the 22nd, it has rained and snowed every day but two since we have been here and we have had a pretty severe time as we had to pitch our tents upon the wet and cold ground and had not much chance to get them up so as to keep dry but we have now got pitched up so as to enjoy much better. The country here is very sandy and level it is the best camp ground that we have had before in Virginia. We are not upon the bank of the river and situated so that the north east wind comes from the Chesapeake bay very old it seems to me that the further
we get south. This colder at night. We are situated where we can see
grand rats sailing around on the river which is quite a sight to me.
This fire prove there was something uncommon, too. The direction of July
Monroe but I think there it was
nothing like the smoke fijilating.
In short—I wish you could see
the fort. You would say that's
a fort would not live long in the reach of the fort is there
is hundreds of guns of a large size
which are skimming their large mouths
over the top of the heavy stone walls
ten or fifteen feet high besides two
old monsters upon the outside
front of the fort. I heard and
they have had a fight at Frederick's
bury since we have left but
have not heard the particulars
only that Gen Hooker gave the
reb a pretty sound thrashing.
by letting them cross the river and then giving them battle. All the old soldiers like Hooker and think he is the man to command the army of the Potomac.

If you can get a chance to send me anything I wish you would send me that is pretty light as I am so short you last summer also a much better as you are a point to send a map of the seat of war if we stay in any place long better. This year pretty well as we are now drawing soft bread instead of hard. And if we do march when I get set I can carry a large piece of it so that I shall not lose any. I have plenty of friends that will carry a good man's lighter so I have. I trust her quarter will make for the clothing. There are a great many in the camp every day.
We can do pretty well here, if
we only have the stores.
We have a grand review tomorrow.
Colonel Poe has been promoted
to brigadier general and is now in
command of our brigade and corps.
Landon has command of his regiment.
I hear you are having great
times. This winter, I hope that I
shall return home before a great
celebration, help you enjoy some of
your great times. But I do not expect to be
seen until after next Christmas.
You must write often.
No more at present.

C. A. Phelps
Camp near Newport, Nov. 14th.

Dear Sister,

I received your long and welcome letter of the 26th. I am glad to hear from you that you were all well. I am well at present, and hope to be pretty well, and have got my fife. We have got our field for that we are again comfortable. We are now having soft bread instead of hard bread, and it relishes pretty well. We now draw potatoes twice a week as also onions so we have some vegetables once in a while. I do not know when long it will be before we shall get word from you. We are promised every month whether we get our pay as often as not. You write that Colonel wrote to her that the soldiers were served worse than the privates and preggers, but I say that there is not an army in the world...
That is clothed and fed better than the rest of course we do, not have the expenses of life as we do at home but how can we buy as large as this 1 bale on cake and pies it would take one day to eat, and the other half to carry them to where we wanted them if a man is heating he can not get along in the library we have well enough there is nothing as good as hard tack as hard tack he would not clean these bays sations of soft bread and it would not keep long but hard tack is good as good when they are not as new if they have always been kept dry out when they get wet they get moldy and sour and it can happen but cannot be helped. I suppose Alfred has told before this time all about the souring once we have very often had to eat and also the bacon that we generally drew where on a march I think 3rd of March 1864 has got drafted.
all of the young men up there. There were not many of the boys up there as I last told and I do not find them out. I hope that Smithfield and Cadwell will be caught and brought down here for. I told Smithfield, represented how about enlisting when I enlisted and pretended that he was going to and spoke with me. I suppose it was the same with Cadwell his brother that is with us is a first rate soldier and has been made corporal since he has been there. He is more of a man here than at home and he has not sympathy for his brother and if he left here he says he hopes that he has with home to come down here for. They are no better than anybody else. Lathan who has just been made corporal he also is a first rate soldier I expect. Seth Morris has got home by this time for Levi Snow has just come he is from the hospital.
at Baltimore and the says that
Colin had his liscense when he
left ed but going to his parents
and said he had got them by this
time. We have plenty of cotton here.
There are men here every day selling
them at 25 cents per quintal and your
ones too I have got so that I
can eat them first rate. To
be a Soldier one wants to be not a
carpenter a mason a dentist a
traveller and every thing else
for he finds out for all
here as can pick up some euery
right down here one. The bank of
the river but they are not very
which there are some guns boad
out on the river opposite the
ch吾 all the while the other
day they fired off some of their
guns and they made very thing
almost tremble. They seem to send
a great deal louder upon the
water than on land.

Give my love to all

Writ of fun and all the news

From your brother C A Phelps
Newport, R.I., March 13th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I am still in the land of the living and am well as ever I was in my life and hope these lines will reach you all enjoying the same blessing. The weather here is pretty rainy for this time of year but is not very cold. It rains about one day in four but we have very comfortable quarters so that we keep dry. We never have had so comfortable houses and pier camp ground since we left home. We now have large tents instead of small ones that we carry when we are on the march. Lieutenant Deputy our first Tent has been promoted to captain and is assigned to company R, the Chelsea company.
Lieut. Firthworth has been from the company as a second lieutenant, and our company is now without a second lieutenant. The company all want Erastus Blake for 2nd Lieut. and I hope he will be but we cannot tell yet.

It is for the colonel to say whether he shall be or not. There are not half one of our company sick now, and he is not very sick at all. The DeRir boys are well. I told Leon Granger that his mother said they had not heard from him in a long while and he said he had wrote twice since he got any and he would not write another until he got one if it was not in three years. I must stop so that I can get this in the mail this afternoon.

From your son E. A. Phelps
On board the USS Form on the Ohio

25th April 1768

Dear Brother,

The time has arrived for the

cruise to begin. I am at the camp of

Lanport Run. I arrived at Baltimore

last Sunday at 4 o'clock P.M. and

immediately took the cars at

E. C. Point and went on the cars

Tuesdays and nights going from

Baltimore to a place on the

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

We left breakfast that morning

of March 1st and left after

at Hair's Ferry just after daylight.

We ran steady all day, but

rain fell for most of the time. The

sky was cloudy and at four o'clock we

arrived at Covern's Landing and

again got off for a change of vesse
He ran steadily all Monday night and all day Tuesday. We found ourselves at Dunkin, a very pleasant place surrounded by mountains on the downs as well as on the hills. We passed through there and again took our coffee that was prepared by the home guards and very good. It was too bad to be very thirsty and hungry. We had to stop considerably on account of losing the box of one of the ships of the engine and arrived at Parkersburg last night at 6 o'clock and immediately came on board of the Maryland and all night we lay at 1 A.M. and the Blacks were waiting for our baggage to be unloaded and got through yet. We started from Parkersburg this morning at 9 o'clock and up to this time we have had a very pleasant ride. The day has been very fine. The country all the way from Baltimore to Parkersburg is very mountainous between those Parks.
burg and Cumberland. This is nothing but mountains, part of the Smokey Mountains. The railroad runs around them and part through them. There are forty-one tunnels between Cumberland and Parkersburg, of which we passed through. The longest was 1/4 of a mile. We lay down for the twenty miles at a short distance from the railroad. The inhabitants are no better than the strong man. Parkersburg is quite a small place I should think by what little I saw of it. The river is very narrow there and looks pretty small to be navigable for such a large fleet of five or six brigades. We were transferred by small boats and the regiment was about 1/4 of the 29th they are on this road and besides gold, many other mostly all. The saddle-making, the wool not and a great deal.
of baggage we shall get to Cincinnati to-morrow morning. If we have good luck then I will mail this. After break- 
fast I shall take the train at Baltimore to Richmond. I expect we shall take the 
rails at Cincinnati for what place I have not

March 24th
We have arrived at Cincinnati this morning. E. A. Phelps,

Present to mail this at Cincinnati. We had not got time to
get a chance at the post office before I knew it. We
proceeded up into the city and took
an excellent breakfast prepared by
the soldiers and served there on
an excellent platter. After the
breakfast we went outside the city
and the citizens were very liberal
in giving us apples and other fresh
produce. We met a Mrs. Barnes,
and her making her
head quarters there near our vessel
as we were going on board. Mrs. 
Barnes and her relatives and friends
are now coming on board. The Boston
will leave at 11 o'clock and the Providence
shall leave about 8 o'clock. I hope
we shall be able to leave this at
Boston. I will mail this at Boston. If I can.

E. A. Phelps
Bardstown, Ky, Monday March 30th, 1843

Dear Brother,

After ten days march we have again stopped the arrival at Louisville last night, morning and encamped about a mile south of the town near Shively's farm. We broke camp and set out the camp. We rode about half a mile from town Louisville is a very large place and there are some of the finest dwellings there that I ever saw. What I have seen in Kentucky I like the best. The country is very fine there are encamped in a very fine piece of timber the best I have ever seen while wild buck and maple and oak are under fresh to be seen.
We are at Wickliffe's farm a representative in Congress at Petersburg. His residence is about 40 miles from camp a very fine building. There are only three regiments here 2d & 17th & 2d Mich. The 5th & 7th & 59th have gone some where else. I understand that our whole corps is coming into Kentucky but is going to the Broken Bridge and don't know through the State to prevent any Indians in there and to hunt guerrillas. I do not think we shall stay here long. I am well except a little cold. Same as the measles of the boys. I have not received a letter since I started from Nipponskau. You may address your letters to

Edgar A. Phelps
Co D 20th Reg Mich Vol
1st Brigade 1st Division 9th Corps
Via Louisville Ky

Write as often as you can from your brother

E. A. Phelps
Lebanon Ky. April 1863

Dear Father,

I am now in camp at Lebanon Ky. and am all right but had a hard cold. We left Lexington last Thursday morning at 2:30 a.m. and marched to Springfield in less than 15 miles and the next morning reached Sollers and were on the march again at 5 o'clock. We arrived here at 10 o'clock 9 miles from Springfield. The march was a pretty hard one for we have not marched any since we went up to Fincastle and the first day's march completely used us up. There was scarcely any one that had Skiced feet. It is now known how hard such snow feet and it was pretty rough marching on it. End
from Springfield here, but we have all got so that we can navigate very well now. All of our brigade is here. The 79th and 87th have come up here from Florenceville. The 10th now are near here. The 25th with a small force here this morning. They said they were going to move towards Florenceville. The 49th is here and we shall get four months pay. There are eight of them and we expect, for we signed the roll getting the left. We left Hall at the point now. He is detailed as dresser and all of the dressers are back yet. The left is back. We left Florenceville, he was not well, when we left. He just came and was with all the way, and was left there. I hospital two of the men of the 2nd Roy came from this yesterday and said Cosbourn was getting better. I would like to know if George Tolman got his discharge as he forbade
has run out and he is not here
I heard that he had applied for
his discharge since he has been here.
I would like to know whether Elt
Morris has got his discharge or is home
on a furlough. The Captain has had
no notice of his discharge yet.

What I have seen—Kentucky, W. Va.

They may bring the old boy
Carry me back to Old Virginia as
much as they can. I am a mind to take
as for me I never want to see it
again.

Direct your letters to

D. 20th Reg. Infantry
3rd Army Corps Via Cincinnati
Ohio

I wrote a letter to Henry when
at Bardstown

Be more at present

From your son

Elgie A Phelps
Teckenon Fez Apr 18th 1863

Dear Sister,

Here I am writing in the shade of an old maple at the top of a stony mound in the vicinity of the village of Teckenon. It is very warm today, everything begins to look green. The peach trees are all out in full blossom and the farmers are planting corn. It is as much hotter in the month of July, accordingly as it is in Michigan it will be pretty warm here for it is a pretty good day. This day I just came out by the guards and all were taking it easy keeping as cool as they could not caring whether they had been walked or not or whether I came out or not.
although the orders are per-

To let any man out without a pass from the colonel.

But now look at the sentinels. The officer of the day is going round. Every man is walking his sentry and presenting arms as he passes by, and no man to get by. The guard now would be an imposibility and I will have to stay out until the officer of the day gets round. Then I can pass back well enough. If Ialand has just arrived here from home. His father has just got a furlough and is going home with him. He was going Monday next. I presume he will not go so soon now. To say the captain received a notice that Geo B Perry was discharged at The convicent
Came up to Alexandria, 
and if he is not now at home 
I suppose he will be by the 
time you get this. Part of 
The Kentucky troops that we 
here have left and there are 
not but two regiments of 
cavalry here now besides 
our brigade and one battery, 
so I think we shall stay 
some length of time 
until the rebels make a raid 
into this state. The 22nd 
18th drill regiments left here 
last week and it appears 
that there were some fugitives 
along with them as waiters 
for some of the Captains. 
I had heard away from their 
masters and as they were 
getting on the cars to go 
away one of the 10th regiments 
objected to being taken.
Niggers within them and they were drawn up in a line of battle and said they would fire into them if the attempt to take them with them and the Telephoned to Burnside to know whether there should take them and he said they had a right to take them where they wished and they did so and the Kentuckians had to let them do so. The Kentuckians and the Michiganders do not agree very well. They say they do not want us in this state that they can defend themselves. I suppose they had rather stay here than go into Tennessee. But I think they would do better to go there. I know I had as soon be there where there is not so many troops together as it is more pleasant and we can get something once in a while. Give them laws to all.

From Geni's brother

Edgar A. Phelps

Read a letter from Geni's father yesterday.
April 19th, 63
Camp at Lebanon City

Dear friend and schoolmate,

I now take the opportunity to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well at present and hope that these few lines may find you the same. We are having very fine weather here now and we are also having very fine times. I suppose you are going this winter in town and having a plenty of sport with the girls are you not? You can look for us home in a short time for I don't think that it will take forever to put down this rebellion; if we go into them with a determination to make peace I think that we can do it and then we can go to our happy homes once more and enjoy a citizens life again. The boys from around home are all well except Osmond Newshirk. He is in the hospital.
at Louisville with the inflammation on the lungs. I hope that he will soon recover and be with us again. I suppose Alfred is well before this time. I wish he was back with us again but I guess there is no danger of his going to war again and I don't blame him for this soldiering is not exactly what it cracked up to be and I guess Alfred thinks so too. Edgar is as fat and tough as a bear and so be I. Tell Alfred that we have all the hard tack we can eat yet, well Henry how is all the folks at home all right? I hope the fruit trees are all in bloom down here now and some of the farmers are planting corn and it is a very nice country around here. This state is not much like Virginia where everything is destroyed, well as there is not much news to write this time. I must close this letter and you must not wait for me to write but write as soon as you get this and tell the rest
of the boys to write I have had one letter
from you and one from W. Gregory and
one from Simeon Maine since I
have been down here. I think the other
boys have forgotten me since I left. I
d suppose that Harrison and Mary
are happy as any young married couple
can be. The next thing I shall hear
I expect to hear that Henry Phelps and
Miss...... you know is married. Henry
I guess she is anxious to have that knot
Tied as soon as you are ready if you will
let me know when it will happen I will
come to the wedding please write soon
and tell me all the news you can think
of. no more so good by.

yours with respect
Leonard Dranger

Direct. 20th. rich infantry company D
1st. brigade 1st. division 5th. army corps
department of Ohio by the way of
Cincinnati Ohio.
Lewisville, NC, April 25, 1863

Dear Father,

I received your letter of the 16th and was glad to hear from you. I received one of the same time from Aunt Adeline. They were all well when she wrote. It was dated March 15th and went to Galveston.

The weather is very fine here and everything grows very fast. We are now under marching orders. We are ordered to be ready at any moment with three days rations in our knapsacks and ten days in the wagons. Our knapsacks as empty as possible and every man to carry an extra pair of shoes. That looks as if that we were going to have some marching.
but when they get me to carry on
extra pair of shoes they will catch
a word as I sleep I respect we shall
go from here to Cumberland
Gap and probably through there
into Tennessee if we do not go
stopper your watch for December
what I thought of the church and the
prospect of peace I think the war
is a big thing and therearget to
be thousands of lives sacrificed yet
before it is settled there is no other
way than we must conquer them
and we shall do it too but it
will take time I do not think
we shall do it this summer
I think before it is through
we shall have to have more
men and I believe by the
first of July there will be
another call for 300,000 or 600,000
I think the sooner the bette
To be successful at all places we want five men to captain
It takes a good sized army to do the guard duty on the rails
and other places where guerrillas are wont to frequent. They say
that a Free Mason can do most anything now a days and if
so I wish you would look out and if the raise any one
new regiments you would get me a commission in it and
get me transferred into it as I see that a man can com
with a great deal better times and
when pay day comes it is a
great deal to draw over 400 tolls
than 50. The governor has given
commissions to two from Co. A
and they have gone home to the
20th Regiment. Please write often
and all the news from here to there.
Columbia, Ky., Wednesday, May 18th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I am now at Columbia and am well and hope this letter will reach you in time, enjoying the same. We came here yesterday having started from the Cumberland river Monday at half past ten. All of our brigade is here and the 5th and 12th regiments cavalry and two guns of the 24th Illinois battery. The rest of our brigade had orders to go to the Cumberland river and assist us, but we did not wait for them, we met the 39th which and they came back here with us. I do not know whether we retreated back here for fear of being taken or to let the enemy come over the river as scouts tonight report. The enemy,
as not yet this side of the river. I do not know as I have any to write that will be more interesting to you than a description of the battle we had last Sunday. The Friday night before we under Capt. Fuller for under Capt. Barnes and two companies of the 12th Vp. Cavalry and a few others of different companies went out on a scout to take a few bash whichers that lived in the room. They and Capt. Fuller was in the advance and did not get around as soon as he was to be and about noon on Saturday the rebels discovered him and got between him and the others and drove him back into the mountains and then advanced upon the others and they had skirmishes all the afternoon by C 750 were on picket and they advane until they met co. 6 and...
then they sent back for reinforcement just as the news of the attack came every man had got across the river and the men on watch were three miles from the river. One hundred and fifty of our regiment was called for and there was a time to see the men with strong nerves and a resolute mind take their arms and make back for the river and attend as fast as they could. Officers leaving their swords and put on a cartridge box and belt with rifle in hand. As I am not now with the company of course was not with them on picked but I thought that God should not suffer if my services was good for anything to assist them and pressed on the second belt with a fair and went
up as fast as I could, after we got about a mile from the river a dispatch came in ordering us to doublequick but doublequicking had just then played out so we had doubledquicking all we could and it was not at all quick. We were about three-quarters of a mile from the advance and we were all halted by the colonel we waited there until three companies came up and then the colonel ordered us to doublequicken to form a reserve. Colonel told me to go back and tell the other men to come back and stand with me but we heard nothing and there was a few groans and then a whole volley from our line. I ran to the cavalry and there was a sergeant and two men out a few rods in front of him and the sergeant shouted, "Who are you?" He said, "Advance one friend and give the command," and then the rebels fired on them and one shot killed one of them. Of the forty men, one killed and ten of the
Fredericksburg on May 19th 1863

Dear Folks,

I feel so well today. I will try and write a few lines to let you know where I am. I came here to Fredericksburg the day before yesterday. I should have come here before but was not able to. I was very sick. The side much better than I expected. But today I have first-rate attendance and am doing well. I am in a room with Dibble, Romer, Spencer and three more of our regiment and our attendants. Left my regiment I suppose, seems to be doing well. The hook-paint in my back just below my right shoulder. The bone and two in the direction of my right shoulder and right in the bone some so here I think. It lays under my right shoulder. Made it for months. I am not well.
a pretty bad turned out. We taking
out a first-rate horse, a man put two
Two places he has
Lucas put two.

If you have a list of the killed and wounded
before this time and there is no one of you
giving you one. At the accident. The
wilderness our regiment was very last
we happened to get a lucky position.
Every time we advanced, the men would
lose a man there. The first man we
had wounded was George Price. He was
wounded in the day. The first day at
Lotharingia, about a horse. Nearly
the 10th. The last day for the
20th and in fact for all of the 2nd. Barr
(Sen. Nelson). The 2nd division was
formed in the rear of the 1st. After
the whole division charged on the
enemy, facing a shower of shot and
shell we advanced about forty rods
and within 20 of their battery when
by some mishap we were floundered.
The balls flew from the rear as fast as from the front, and we were obliged to fall back with a terrible slaughter. Of 42 last 24 lost of 46. Two arms, 12 killed.

The Bragans, Roskell killed. Upon the regiment all eight. Seyler...seventeenth, near the log. Two Sher...pounded on the arm. Two Tom, Seger & Gates were wounded and left on the field. I think they are dead. Camp Jones, one reported mortally and left on the field. Charles Blood, Geo. Freeman, Frank Fisher, and others.

After being killed, Caleb Sherman died after being told he was dead. The correspondent, jotted down...

I was informed we were engaged. Ora Felch of Company C was wounded in the arm and walked here the day after the battle and was taken with the disease and ran right down and died last night. There were 8 of our company that were...form to 12 miles from here.
Cable, carpenters &c. will come more.

Action in the chase, Jenet-Soubi.

There was no much fighting after the 12th until yesterday when there was a new heavy Artillery fight. The news to day is that we are changing our front and landing at the Gulf. I think that we will go to Philadelphia the soonest as possible to come in September.

The men are camped daily. The Officers and men are content as doing things here returning. The wound in the leg gave me a clean shirt, as soon as I got here, had to keep on my coat one small finger. The furnish us with rather of abundance and plenty.

I have an account of 450. 425th now ready. I have worked all around the room of the day.

For a day after I was wounded I could not help myself for long alone, for no one to help me with any thing. I was alone with a small hospital. I have been with a man and help him with a help. This is only a cold and small. If you should long come to me, I am very much obliged. The body of the man is very long.
Fredericksburg, Hospital, D.C.
Sunday, May 30th, 1818

Dear Sister,

I feel thankful that I am again permitted to write you. I have had a fever for some time, but feel pretty well today. Yesterday and day before I was taken with a severe headache, pain through different parts of my body, which kept me very miserable but this day I am free from it and my recovery is running well and my appetite is good and does not grievously affect the rest of my state. I am here in the hospital with some other patients. We have an excellent physician and all he can for us.

Yours affectionately,

[Signature]
promotes twice a day, and keeps
them wet. All the three doctors
Barnes of Chelsea, was here to
day & believe he said that he
was assigned to. The 2nd corps
there has been several Michigan
men here within three or four days

I think we will stop here past
the railroad is further from here.

To Virginia Creek, where I think
we will be taken to Washington.

Some tall trees there we are all
giving to be sent home. Hope
not to fall ill do not have much
hope at present. The last I

heard from one the front some place
had moved to the left
All of the supply trains
left there for the front
yesterday morning. There is
a Mrs. Bingham lady there by the
name of Elizabeth
who is doing a great deal for
The President says he has charge of the Baccalaur Commission of freedom and every one gets some thing that he needs. She has.

A great many of the wounded have died since they have been here. Many with their legs amputated. It is very grievious for the wounded. God with them.

Provoe Marshall has arrested every citizen in town and taken them. It is not true. For some reason another, I will try and write often every three days anyway.

I don't think there is any way you can dictate yet, this a letter I will get to me but will probably be filled long. I send my love to all helping. Ni sleep soon.

Oct 12th.
Columbia, May 30th, 1863

Dear Brother,

I received a letter from you and Alfred yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I am well and hope that you will find you the same. All of the forces here except our regiment and a regiment of cavalry have advanced toward the Cumberland where we came from two weeks ago. I think we are going today here a short time as this is division headquarters and there is considerable of government stores here. When our forces started out it was reported that Morgan had crossed the river and was encamped between Jamestown and Aquia Creek.
and 13th Regt. N.C. Inf. went Friday night and the rest went last night after dark. I shouldn't wonder if they met the enemy somewhere they took 6 pieces of artillery with them. Also received two months pay yesterday. It is very warm here it will soon be harvest. The wheat is all headed out what there is. It is pretty dear there is not much farming going on. The land is lying idle. There are a good many horses for sale here that the citizens bring from near the Cumberland fearing that the rebels will yet them. They hanged a man there last week because he would not tell where his horses were. No more at present.

From your brother Edgar A. Phelps.
In front of Petersburg June 18th.

Dear Father,

We have just landed at the head of the river castle in front of Petersburg. We have had a pretty fine journey since we left Cairo. We have been accompanied by gunboats from Memphis here. There were eleven transports came down the river together. Our regiment and the 5th with came on the same one. We were fired at twice yesterday by Guerillas but only one man of our regiment was hurt. He was wounded in the face. There were some killed on the other boats. The fight is still going on here. The muskets can be plainly heard.
Master boys are now assisting
the city from a point below us
and are being towed by the
Trenton. The river is very
calm and about 15 feet higher than
the canal. The water is so low
that even the craft are
drowned. The weather is
extremely warm but not warmer than
I thought it would be
down here. I suppose that
you have heard a great many
stories. As Ricksburg is taken
but it will be some time...
In over a week our regiment was in the front for four days. On the morning of the 17th, the rebels were a minor quantity. They had skedaddled on the night before and at 6 o'clock the Stars and Stripes were waving over the State house in the city.

At 12 o'clock our Brigade was ordered to the railroad station and arrived there at 10 o'clock. The next day, and immediately commenced, a great fire on the railroad and burning the cars and bridges and bending the rails and at 12 o'clock the next day, we had four miles destroyed and at six we were back to Jackson ten miles off. And in the morning at 7 o'clock we started back for here. We were there by 10 o'clock. There were only three of our regiment wounded slightly. One of them remained in the hospital shot accidentally through the arm.
He is well and doing well.

He got plenty of peaches and watermelons on the march. This is the greatest state for peaches that I ever saw. On some plantations trees are set all along the road and hung full of the best kind of peaches.

Between the big Black and Jackson, it is a very fine country and owned by very wealthy planters. There is scarcely any cotton and all the land is set into corn for some planters.

I saw as much as 300 acres of corn all in one field and good corn. They all shoot large. To eat. All of the owners of the plantations have left. Taking the worst of their negroes. I suppose.

There was a cotton gin on every plantation and a good deal of cotton in some of them and our army burned the rest of them. We had the hardest last night just before sunrise.
And I never witnessed the event
here more than half of one.
And left us alone and not
get out but we could be and come
striped near being carried off.
The Indians are enlivened by a small report
where hooves are very high and the
poles raised twenty feet in less than
an hour and went down all mast-
us quickly. We are wading here for
stations to the lake and look to
be and suggest that it be
of divided imp. Had to start not
bother us much more. There there
was a story here once that
Morgan had gone up to take
Superior for this health. I thought
when I heard it that the fother
be kept south the healthier he
would be from skin. You ain in
your last letter I bet she had not
heard, whether I got the news in it
or not. I read all- The fourth of July
not write The next day the man. The
end longer it is not. The
coals has just left for Morgans

My love to all

Elynn A. Phelps
And I ever wittessed the terriest
from ever since the half of our
Tinck and left us somehow, and we
get our last but we could be and come
with the near being carried off with
the stead we are swarmed by a small swarm
whose looks are very, high and skill
the steady, swift now firm, fell in less
than an hour and went down all mass
as quick, got on wanting, then cor;
Transfer to be taken back to
and suppose that I tell
it so used up. Had she, still not
bother us as much more. There there
was a story, sure once that
Morgan had gone up to take
up Tupper for this health I thought
when I heard it that the former
be kept south. The healthier it
would be for him. You said in
your last letter that you had not
heard, when I got the news a looking
in not. I see no. The fourth of July
not write the next day. You can, as
one more. It was his or her
in the corps has just left for fighting
in this.

My love to all.

From your brother.

Edison A. Phelps