Civil War Letters
Sept. - Dec. 1861

Record Ninth Michigan Cavalry
Civil War, 1861-1865
I am asked if I have written, such a letter as I have written.

Camp Lyon Sept 1816

Dear Tom,

I fancy some envelopes are in my things out directed to you which I suppose you want sent back to you with something in them. It being Sunday today I have a few hours to write on so we have nothing to do but attend church in the Camp for an hour or two.

This forenoon I am sitting on the grass in the shade of an apple tree with the quarrel commanding all on every side none of them bothered the apples off with shots but amongst of them writing on a board across their fences for a writing desk. I suppose you would like to hear something about how a soldier lives down here. But first I will describe the Camp as near as I can and then you can understand what I write better.
For the first place, our camp is on or on a race course, called Horse- track, which is nothing more or less than a wide road running round of a large field; perfectly level, and fenced in by a board fence ten or twelve feet high, with only one gate, which is guarded night and day by two sentinels. No soldier is allowed to go out without a pass from his officer. But a squad of eight men or more can march out any time in charge of a sergeant. At any time when we want to get a drink of small beer or pop or buy some provisions, meats or fruit of any kind, which they sell outside (as they are not allowed to peddle in the camp) all we have to do is to form into line, one of us all as sergeant—If there is more armor we pass out, as the men have no uniforms, the guard don't know officer from a
private, except the captain & lieutenants.

As our company was the next to the last in the camp, we could find no accommodations inside, so we are obliged to sleep in a barn close by the river. However, we have plenty of straw and a blanket apiece, so we don't grumble. Now I will give you a description of our every day life, so you will know what we are doing most every hour of the day always remembering that the time here is half an hour earlier than at Monticello.

At five o'clock every morning we are wakened by the orderly ringing out-turn out to wash. After everybody gets dressed and out, they form into line (for nothing is done here without forming in line) and march down to the river, where every one washes & combs his head, then form into line again & march onto the camp. Breakfast an hour or two before breakfast. Then march into a large tent along with
Three or four hundred other soldiers, as we have over a thousand men in camp. They have to set three tables. Sometimes we have to wait until eight or nine o'clock before our turn comes. After breakfast we lounge about until nine, when we drill until eleven, then rest until noon when we march on to dinner where we get meat of most all kinds, cooked all ways and most of it as tough as Margaret's shakes. Potatoes, beets and bread sometimes beans with butter, cream and salt to season with, which, taken altogether, is more than we will get when we draw rations, and cook it ourselves, as we will have to do when we start south. So much for dinner. At three we have drill again until five. If the weather is very warm, we take off our coats and drill only half an hour or so at a time, and then
rest in the shade until we got cool, when we try it again. My legs have been quite stiff for a few days back, on account of not being used to standing quite so much as we do on drill. But I almost forgot to finish telling you of our daily routine. After the afternoon drill is over, the men do whatever they please except going out but most of them go to bed, for it is rather tiresome work to drill. Some play ball, some cards, others get up a subscription to buy a water melon, or a basket of apples or pears, or any thing that they may wish except liquor, which is not allowed on camp. At six, if our turn at the table comes first, we take supper, if not, we have to wait until after dress parade. I suppose you don't know what
dress parade is, so I will give an account of one. Every evening, at half past six, all the soldiers have to march out in the middle of the field, and stand in a line two deep, with the captains & lieutenants in front, and the colonel in the center; about a hundred yards, so every one can hear him as well as see him. Come to think though he gives his orders to the adjutant—who gives them to the whole regiment—in general, & the officers in particular. I suppose we will make a pretty fine show when we get our uniform, but the only thing I can point to admire in dress parade is in the line they keep as they stand as even in front—as the side of a room and extend as far as from our house up to the Marquette House. When the orders are given for the next day, the parade is dismissed, and
if we have had supper we go to quarters in the barn affairs. At half past nine the order is given to extinguish the lights, which is the last order of the day, unless we have the misfortune to be on guard. My turn for standing guard has not come yet, but will before long I expect. I will not have to report duty on account of my being a sergeant, but I will have to take of the guard and relieve every two hours through. After I have stood a night or two, I will tell you how it goes, and how many arrests I make for the guard have to put everyone in the guard house who cannot give a good reason for being away from his company. We have had thirty odd recruits join us here within the last few days from Dexter, the place where our
Captain came from which, make eighty-seven men in our company. There are some more to come yet.

Our Lake Superior boys were pretty well drilled before the Jersey boys joined us & would have been the best on the ground in a week or two, but the New-York fellows are perfectly green on drill and will put us behind.

They are mostly farmers, strong & healthy. We have men who served in the 1st Michigan regiment who was at Bull Run, in our company. There are a dozen or more in the regiment & as the paper is most full I will have to leave the rest of the news until the next time I write. Give my love to all inquiring friends and the family in particular.

Direct to care of Capt. Stow, Broadheads country.
Dear Pen

I am astonished that I have written such [Ms. illegible, one line]

Camp Lyon Sept 1st 61

I find some envelopes in my thingabob directed to you which I suppose you want sent back to you with something in them. It being Sunday I have a few hours to write in as we have nothing to do but attend Church in the camp for an hour or two this forenoon. I am sitting on the grass in the shade of an apple tree with the marquette company around [sic] on every side some of them knocking the apples off with clubs but most of them writing, the same as me as I am with a board across their knees for a writing desk. I suppose you would like to hear something about how a Soldier lives down here, but first; I will describe the camp as near as I can and then you can understand what I write better. In the first place, our camp is in, or on, a race course, called Hamtramck which is nothing more or less than a wide road running round a large field perfectly level, and fenced in by a board fence ten or twelve feet high, with only one gate, which is guarded night & day by two sentinels. No soldier is allowed to go out without a pass from his officer. But a squad of eight men or more, can march out any time in charge of a sergeant. So any time when we want to get a drink of small beer or pop or buy some peaches, melons, or fruit of any kind, which they sell out side (as they are not allowed to peddle in the camp) all we have to do is to form into line & one of us act as sergeant if there is none around & pass out, as the men have no uniforms, the guard don't know an officer from a private, except the captain & lieutenant. As our company was the next to the last in the camp, we could find no accommodations inside, so we are obliged to sleep in a barn close by the river. However, we have plenty of straw and a blanket apiece, so we don't grumble. Now I will give you a description of our every day life, so you will know what we are doing most every hour of the day, always remembering that the time here is half an hour earlier than at Marquette—
At five o'clock every morning we are wakened by the orderly singing out turn out to wash. After every body gets dressed & out, they form into line (for nothing is done here without forming in line) and march down to the river, where every one washes & combs his head, then we form into line again & march into the camp, & drill an hour or two before breakfast, then march into a large tent along with three or four hundred other soldiers, as we have over a thousand men in camp. They have to set three tables. Sometimes we have to wait until eight or nine o'clock before our turn comes. After breakfast we lounge about until nine, when we drill until eleven, then rest until noon when we march in to dinner where we get meat of most all kinds, cooked all ways & most of it as tough as Marquette steakes [sic]. Potatoes, Beets & Bread, & sometimes beans with Butter, vinegar & salt to season with, which, taken altogether, is more than we will get when we draw rations, & cook it ourselves, as we will have to do when we start south. So much for dinner. At three we have drill again until five. If the weather is very warm, we taken off our coats and drill only half an hour or so at a time, and then rest in the shade until we get cool, when we try it again. My legs have been quite stiff for a few days back, on account of not being used to stamping quite so much as we do on drill. but I almost forgot to finish telling you of our daily routine. When the after noon drill is over, the men do whatever they please except going out but most of them go to bed, for it is rather tiresome work to drill. Some play ball, some cards, & others get up a subscription & buy a water melon, or a basket of apples or pears, or any thing that they may wish except liquor, which is not allowed in camp. At six we take supper, if not, we have to wait until after dress parade. I suppose you dont know what dress parade is, so I will give an accout of one. Every evening, at half past six, all the soldiers have to march out in the middle of the field and stand in a
line two deep, with the captains & lieutenants in front, and the colonel in the centre out about a hundred yards, so every one can hear him as well as see him (come to think though he give his orders to the Adjutant who gives them to the whole regiment in general, & the officers in particular so we see the Col. but we dont hear him) I suppose we will make a pretty fine show when we get our uniform [sic], but the only thing I now can find to admire on dress parade/is in the line they keep, as they stand as even in front as the side of a room, and extend as far as from our house up to the marquette House. When the orders are given for the next day, the parade is dismissed, and, if we have had supper we go to quarters in the barn aforesaid [sic]. At half past nine the order is given to extinguish the lights, which is the last order of the day, unless we have the misfortune to be on guard. My turn for standing guard has not come yet but will before long I expect. I will not have to stand sentry on account of my being a corporal, but I will have to to[M. torn] of the guard & relieve [Ms. torn] every two hours through [Ms. torn] After I have stood a night or two, I will tell you how it goes, and how many arrests I make for the guard have to put every one in the guard house who can not give a good reason for being away from his company. We have had thirty odd recruits join us here within the last few days from Dexter, the place where our captain came from which, make Eighty-seven men in our company there is are some more to come yet from the Portage.

Our Lake Superior boys were pretty [sic] well drilled before the Dexter boys joined us & would have been the best on the ground in a week or two, but the last fellows are perfectly green on drill and will put us behind [Ms. torn] ct. They are mostly farmers [Ms. torn] long & healthy, we have [Ms. torn] men who served in the 1st Michigan regiment who was at bulls run, in our company. There are a dozen or more in the regiment as the paper is most full I will have to leave the rest of the news until the next time I write. Give my love to all inquiring friends and the family in particular. Ed Direct to care of Capt. Town Broadheads cavalry [sic]
Camp Loyon, Sept. 14, 61

Dear Rene,

I intended to write to you last Sunday, but, by the time I had finished the letter I had no time to spare, we had more to do that day than usual. We went to church in the forenoon, and had the articles of war read in the afternoon, which informed us what we could not do and the punishment of the same if we did. The punishment consisted principally of trial by court-martial. The sentence to be given by the colonel, or corporal punishment—which, set the corporals in a quandary as to whether it meant the corporals were to punish the offenders or receive the punishment themselves, neither of which I hope is the case.

Yesterday we were all carpenters and built us a house inside of the barracks for quarters. We finished the outside yesterday.
are making the bunk windows and doors inside to day, it is a lucky thing we got the roof on as we elide for it is raining this morning and it is raining so heavily that I do not expect to have any time to write until Sunday. If it was not for the mud (which is ankle deep here and the thickies kind at that,) I wouldnt care if it rained every other day. Though come to think it would be rather uncomfortable dining as we eat in the tent and the rain beats through like a shower bath and makes the ground inside something like a peat bog without a floor on a wet day, so take it altogether I wouldnt just as there I wouldntGram.

Dr. Blaker was here the other day and Steve Bacon the day before him. Yesterday we had five Marquette folks here Horace Jones, Hank Lawrence, Mr. Healy and Miss Curry and Miss Leager besides lots of Detroit people so
you see we were pretty well off for company especially so when we were all hard at work on new quarters, which we will get in in a few days I hope for we will have a table to write on then.
I think I will know how to appreciate one when we have it for I am now laying on my belly in the straw writing on a board for a desk if you have ever tried to write in that position for half an hour or so you can imagine how uncomfortable it is and readily excuse the writing for it is not very easy to write with the weight of your body on your elbows. Bill Thomas is going up to the Postage to-day but I can't finish in time to give this to him when he gets back I am going to try and get a furlough and go and see aunt Emma but I have forgotten where she lives give me the name of the town when you write if I can get a furlough long enough I will go to Bedrich also if my money holds out which is rather doubtful as every shilling spent—
is so much gone and there is no more
until payday which nobody knows
when it will be, however I almost care
much for it. I haven't any money I
want a furlough. There is some
talk of our going to Washington without
our horses and arms. We within a month
aren't sure how soon we are all arriving
for a change of scenery. I heard some
of the officers saying the other day that
they would not be surprised if we
were ordered to California in case
the war should close inside of a year
as they need cavalry out there to keep
the Indians in check, but we can't,
sure tell what they will do with us now.

The time comes. I wish you would send
some of the old books. Brother I hear the one or
a while and any other reading you can.
Spare that is not valuable for anything of
the kind that comes here is pretty well
worn out. It is done with. Give
my love to the rest of the family and all
my friends in general. I don't spoil all the
words for I am not going to read it but
for
Dear Pam

I intended to write to you last Sunday but by the time I had finished Til's letter I had no time to spare, we had more to do that day than usual -- we went to church in the forenoon, and had the articles of war read in the afternoon which informed us what we could not do and the punishment of the same if we did do it, said punishment consisted principally of trial by court martial the sentence to be given by the colonel, or corporal punishment which set the corporals in a quandary as to whether it meant the corporals were to punish the offenders or receive the punishment themselves neither of which I hope is the case.

Yesterday we were all carpenters and built us a house inside of the barracks for quarters we finished the out-side yesterday the carpenters are making the bunks windows and doors inside to day, it is a lucky thing we got the roof on as we did for it is raining this morning like sixty-seven, which is the cause of my writing to day as I did not expect to have any time to write until Sunday. If it was not for the mud (which is ankle deep here and the stickiest kind at that,) I wouldn't care if it rained every other day. Though come to think it would be rather uncomfortable dining as we eat in a large tent and the rain beats through like a shower bath and makes the ground inside something like a pig pen without a floor on a wet day, so take it altogether I woud just as lieve it wouldn't rain.

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is so much gone and there is no money until payday which nobody knows when it will be, however I don't care much for if I haven't the money I won't want a furlough. There is some talk of our going to Washington without our horses and the same within moments we don't care how down we are all anxious for a change of scenery. I heard some of the officers saying the other day that they would not be surprised if we were ordered to California in case the war should close were at a year of they need cavalry out-stead to keep the Indians in check, but we can't tell what they will do with us until the time comes. I wish you would send some of the old Sister John thans once in a while and any other reading you can spare that is not valuable for anything of the kind that comes here is pretty well thinned before it is done with. Give my love to the rest of the family and all my friends in general, don't Glyph all the words for I am not going to read it over.
Dear Pen

I intended to write to you last Sunday but by the time I had finished Til's letter I had no time to spare, we had more to do that day than usual we went to church in the forenoon, and had the articles of war read in the afternoon which informed us what we could not do and the punishment of the same if we did do it, said punishment consisted principally of trial by court marshal the sentence to be given by the colonel, or corporal punishment which set the corporals in a quandary as to whether it meant the corporals were to punish the offenders or receive the punishment themselves neither of which I hope is the case. Yesterday we were all carpenters and built us a house inside of the barracks for quarters we finished the out-side yesterday the carpenters are making the bunks windows and doors inside to day, it is a lucky thing we got the roof on as we did for it is raining this morning like sixty-seven, which is the cause of my writing to day as I did not expect to have any time to write until Sunday. If it was not for the mud (which is ankle deep here and the stickiest kind at that,) I wouldn't care if it rained every other day. Though come to think it would be rather uncomfortable dining as we eat in a large tent and the rain beats through like a shower bath and makes the ground inside something like a pig pen without a floor on a wet day, so take it altogether I would just as lieve it wouldn't rain.

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you have ever tried to write in that position for half an hour or so you can imagine how comfortable it is, and readily excuse the writing for it is not very easy to write with the weight of your body on your elbows. Bill Thomas is going up to the Portage today but I can't finish in time to give this to him, when he gets back I am going to try and get a furlough and go and see aunt Emma, but I have forgotten where she lives give me the name of the town when you write, if I can get a furlough long enough I will go to Godrich also if my money holds out which is rather doubtful as every dime spent is so much gone and there is no income until pay day which nobody knows when it will be, however I don't care much for If I haven't the money I won't want a furlough. There is some talk of our going to Washington without our horses and arms within a month we don't care how soon, we are all anxious for a change of scenery. I heard some of the officers saying the other day that they would not be surprised if we were ordered to California in case the war should close inside of a year As they need cavalry out there to keep the indians in check, but we can't tell what they will do with us until the time comes. I wish you would send some of the old Brother Johnathans once in a while and any other reading you can spare that is not valuable for anything of the kind that comes here is pretty well thinned before it is done with. Give my love to the rest of the family and all my friends in general and don't spell all the words for I am not going to read it over

Ed
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Ed
Camp Sayn, Sept. 7th, 46.

Dear Mr. Benington,

George Benington arrived here only before yesterday, bringing with him your letter and book for which I am obliged to you, also the bill & paper for which duty you can't imagine how surprised I was to find in my letter the paper as it was the last place I expected to see it, if I had known what you was going to do with it, I think I should have used a little better grammar if indeed I should have written at all for I don't believe I could have written a page for the Journal for fear of making mistakes. The boys here have got a good deal on one and some share their jokes at my expense, you know in the last part of my letter in the Journal I promised to tell you about any standing guard when my turn came
How many arrests I made well since then? I have been on twice the first time I came out all right but the second time I didn't do so well for instead of arresting anybody I was arrested myself and put under the charge of the sergeant of the guard. I was a prisoner for a day and a half during which time I enjoyed more liberty than any man in the camp and was exempt from duty of all kinds and as the sergeant did not want to be bothered by keeping one on duty he let me go as I pleased until the captain released one from arrest. The way it happened was this. There are twelve men & a sergeant - 4 corporal on guard around our quarters every night - four of the men stand guard every two hours. It is any duty to relieve them by putting four men in their place when their time is up. About midnight the officer of the day makes
The grand round as it is called, by visiting all the sentinels and guards to see if they are all awake and tending to their duty, and it is a serious thing to be caught-napping on your post! I can tell you, well my duty when they came around was to take two men out of the guardhouse and escort the officers making the rounds, up to the guardhouse when the rest of the men were drawn up in line to receive them, but the sergeant and I agreed to take turns and sleep every other watch so when my turn came to sleep I expected to be awakened in two hours to change the guard, but before the two hours were up the grand round came and the sergeant awakened one of us and told one what to do before I was awake so when I found myself at the head of the two men for an escort I supposed it was to change the guard so when
I reached the sentry. I proceeded to give the orders necessary in changing the guard and during the operation the sergeant-major, who was at the head of the guard room, and had been standing twenty paces from nowhere he had been halted. By the sentence came up and wanted to know what all that talking was I told him I was changing the guard. He then asked if I was awake or asleep? I told them I was about half asleep (which I was a fool to do but I didn't think who it was that was talking to one) then he ordered one under arrest. And now when the boys want to plague me they ask one if I am awake or asleep and how many arrests I made. However it is all in fun and anybody who can't take a joke has no business here.

Thursday, 18th

We moved in our new quarters this afternoon. So now we are all inside the fence. The Star & Planet came in to day. Mrs. Healy Hillier, Campbell & Gillie — Arthur 81, Eliza 8.
Mrs. Worthington & several other Shrewsbury people were here this afternoon. Mrs. Harding & Mrs. Gay did not come up, but will tomorrow. I am almost afraid to meet Mrs. Gay & receive that big kiss you write about; however, I will try & think it.

The boys have just come in out of the rain, it is or has been moonlight until a few minutes ago and they have been dancing cotillions &c by the music of a fiddle, banjo, triangle, tambourine & bones all played by men in our company. We have music & singing every night; they are singing 'Dickens' like fun and make such nonsense that it quite discolors any mind so that I can hardly converse. Mr. Gillies sent the boys up here by the omnibus this
evening just after supper, if we had only known what was coming we would have waited as we had anything but bread & pork & sweetened coffee without milk or butter and so I can no pork it was rather dry work with one, & open the bar & we have a nice little lunch some twelve or fifteen of us a little while ago. We came to the conclusion after some deliberation that it was not best to take the whole company in our confidence & an hundred men or so would make but a mouthful of it. we have not examined all the packages yet but deferred it until tomorrow when we would be more in the humor for eating. Our second surgeon says he's sorry he did not come from marquette so he could have a box of cake sent to him. Our orderly who is here
of the bull run soldiers says he did not think they knew how to make such good cake up in the woods where we came from. He said he knew who made the doughnuts before I read the letter and it made him think of old times. Everybody is half crazy with excitement to-night what with getting news from home and the horses coming in today (there is about a hundred here now an more coming in every day) besides seeing so many old friends and acquaintances. And more of all getting such a box of food the excitement is not to be wondered at. Mr. Barney tells me it is such a treat to have him come out and know how to express his feelings on this occasion & C & a so on. I have given the company the privilege of reading the books & papers.
Which suits them exactly. It is almost nine o'clock now and we will have to fall in for roll call (to see if we are here) in a few minutes so I can't write any more tonight. The angle is just sounding so good night.

It is raining now as it has been all night. The water is quite deep all around the camp. Our canvas quarters are not quite so dry as we anticipated. Our quiltads are still as dry as they might be for the men kept singing and laugher among all night. Besides it was so chilly they couldn't sleep. I tried to go to town this morning to see Mrs. Hay & Mrs. Hearding but I found to many applicants—a lack of one. So I will have to wait until the weather clears off where I guess they will come up. I am afraid to write much this morning for fear of
Writing something gloomy, as I am suffering from a bad stomach, like diarrhea from the contents of the pot, which were so good I could not help eating more than I ought to.

Me & I have concluded to keep our gizmos to butter our bread with, when the butter fails which is pretty often.

It has stopped raining, but the wind is dreary. Miss G. Wellie & Miss Searding & her sister were here.

This afternoon, I am afraid Mr. S. has not a very good opinion of our camp as the ground was so wet they put their feet in walking around. They came out on the parade ground & saw us drill in the sword exercise with sticks for swords after it was through we invited them to our quarters and gave them a lunch
out of our box which they ate on tin plate, but they parlous very sparingly for fear of depriving us of any, in spite of all we could say. Nellie delivered the package of socks to us all straight—for which I am very thankful, we are going to have thick boots and they will come very handy. Mrs. Gay forgot the kiss and I was too bashful to remind her of it, so I am afraid it will be lost. I was very glad to see Mrs. Reading, she gave us all the news of Marguerite & we had quite a long chat. They are coming out again before Mrs. Gay goes back again. Mrs. H's sister is quite a nice little girl made herself acquainted with us almost as soon as Mrs. H. would and you know how that is. Nellie looks natural & was glad to see us & tried to plague her acomical & she gave Sarah Maynard a peep.
must for a keepsake to remember her by. I promised Mrs. Heard to cable & see her when I go to town which will be in a few days I expect as it is generally understood that we are going to Washington next Monday, I hope it is so but we have been disappointed so often that we won't believe we are going until we get underway. We have no uniforms yet--but will in a day or two. Our uniform is going to be blue pants with an orange colored stripe down the side, a blue coat with an orange colored breast & cuffs of the same color with brass buttons gold braided & embroidered with a gray flannel shirt & a military cap & boots & gloves &c. Saturday morning 21st last night after dress parade the company was presented with a crash towel apiece by Mrs. Shannon Capt. Dowen's Co.1
for which they expressed their gratitude by giving three cheers. I saw a notice of it in the morning's free press. We are having lots of visitors now days south town, as the soldiers from post here have gone to Washington, they have no other place to go to.

Please don't put any more of my letters in the paper; for it is impossible to write a good letter here in camp with so much noise around.

Remember me to all my friends and give my love to the rest of the family. I don't expect to get another letter for a week at least. I believe this is the longest letter I ever wrote if not the shortest. I don't believe I can find material enough to fill another sheet. So good bye for the present. Yours x Ed.
Dear Til,

George Benington arrived here day before yesterday bringing with him your letter & Book for which I am obliged to you. also the bill & paper for which ditto also. You can imagine how surprised I was to find my letter in the paper as it was the last place I expected to see it, if I had known what Pem was going to do with it I think I should have used a little better grammar if indeed I should have written at all for I don't believe I could have written a page for the Journal for fear of making mistakes.

The boys here have got a good drive on me and don't spare their jokes at my expense. You know in the last part of my letter in the Journal I promised to tell you or Pem about my standing guard when my turn came how many arrests I made. Well since then I have been on twice the first time I came out all right, but the second time I didn't do so well for instead of arresting anybody I was arrested myself and put under the charge of the sergeant of the guard. I was a prisoner for a day & a half during which time I enjoyed more liberty than any man in the camp as I was exempt from duty of all kinds and as the sergeant did not want to be bothered by keeping me in sight he let me do as I pleased until the captain released me from arrest. The way it happened was this. There are twelve men & a sergeant & corporal on guard around our quarters every night four of the men stand guard every two hours. It is my duty to relieve them by putting four men in their place when their time is up. About midnight the officer of the day makes the grand rounds as it is called by visiting all the sentinels & guards to see if they are all awake & tending to their duty, and it is a serious thing to be caught napping on your post I can tell you. Well my duty when they came around was to take two men out of the guardhouse and escort the officers making the rounds, up to the guard house where the rest of the men were drawn up
in line to receive them. but the sergeant & I agreed to take turns and sleep every other watch so when my turn came to sleep I expected to be wakened in two hours to change the guard, but before the two hours were up the Grand rounds came & the sergeant wakened me up and told me what to do before I was fairly awake so when I found myself at the head of the two men for an escort I supposed it was to change the guard so when we reached the sentinel I proceeded to give the orders necessary in changing the guard & during the operation the sergeant major who was at the head of the grand rounds and had been standing twenty paces from us where he had been halted by the sentinel came up & wanted to know what all that talking was I told him I was changing the guard he then asked if I was awake or asleep? I told him I was about half asleep (which I was a fool to do but I didn't think who it was that was talking to me) then he ordered me under arrest and now when the boys want to plague me they ask me if I am awake or asleep & how many arrests I made. However it is all in fun and anybody who can't take a joke has no business here.

Thursday 19th

We moved in our new quarters this afternoon so now we are all inside the fence. The Star & Planet came in to day Miss Herley Hillier Campbell & Gillet Arthur St Clair & Mrs. Northrop & several other Marquette people were here this after noon, Mrs Hearding & Mrs Gay did not come up but will to morrow. I am almost afraid to meet Mrs Gay & receive that big kiss you wrote about however I will try & stand it. The Boys have just come in out of the rain it is or has been moonlight until a few minutes ago and they have been dancing cotillions & co by the music of a fiddle Banjo triangle tamborine & Bones all played by men in our company we have music & singing every night. they are sixing Dixie now like fun & make such a noise that it quite discomposes my mind so that I can hardly connect sentences. Mr. Gillet sent the box up here by the omnibus
this evening just after supper, if we had only known/ was coming we would have waited as we had nothing but bread & pork & sweetened coffee without milk or butter and as I eat no pork it was rather dry work with me. Al opened the box & we had a nice little lunch some twelve or fifteen of us a little while ago. we came to the conclusion after mature deliberation that it was not best to take the whole company in our confidence as a hundred men or so would make but a mouthful of it. We have not examined all the packages yet but deferred it until tomorrow when we would be more in the humor for eating. Our second sergeant says he is sorry he did not come from Marquette so he could have a box of cake sent to him. Our Orderly who is one of the bull run soldiers says he did not think they knew how to make such good cake up in the woods where we come from. Al said he knew who made the doughnuts before I read the letter & that it made him think of old times. Everybody is half crazy with excitement tonight what with getting news from home & the horses coming in today (there is about a hundred here now & more coming in every day) besides seeing so many old friends & acquaintances and most of all getting such a box of cak tho excitement is not to be wondered at. Mr. Barney tells me to thank mother for the bottle of Jam & says it is quite a treat & that he does not know how to express his feelings on the occasion & so & so on.

I have given the company the privilege of reading the Books & papers which suits them exactly. It is almost nine o'clock now and we will have to fall in for roll call (to see if we are here) in a few minutes so I can't write any more to night. The Bugle is just sounding so good night.

9 o'clock Friday, Sept 20th

It is raining now as it has been all night the water is ankle deep all round the camp. our new quarters are not quite so dry as we anticipated nor quite so still as they might be, for the men kept singing
& laughing most all night because it was so sultry they could not sleep. I tried to go to town this morning & see Mrs. Gay & Mrs. Hearing but I found too many applicants ahead of me. so I will have to wait until the weather clears off, when I guess they will come up. I am afraid to write much this morning for fear of writing something gloomy, as I am suffering from a bad stomachache ake derived from the contents of the box, which were so good I could not help eating more than I ought to. Al & I have concluded to keep our jellies to butter our bread with, when the butter fails which is pretty often.

Evening

It has stoped raining but the mud is dreffful. Mrs. Gay, Nellie & Mrs. Hearing & her sister were here this afternoon. I am afraid Mrs. G has not a very good opinion of our camp as the ground was so wet they wet their feet in walking around. They came out on the parade ground. & saw us drill in the sword exercise with sticks for swords after it was through we invited them to our quarters and gave them a lunch out of our box which they ate on tin plates, but they partook very sparingly for fear of depriving us of any in spite of all we could say. Nellie delivered the package of socks to me all straight for which I am very thankful. we are going to have thick boots and they will come very handy. Mrs. Gay sic forgot the kiss and I was to bashful to remind her of it, so I am afraid that kiss will be lost. I was very glad to see Mrs. Hearing, she gave me all the news of Marquette & we had quite a long chat. They are coming out again before Mrs. G goes back again. Mrs. H's sister is quite a nice little girl made herself acquainted with us almost as soon as Mrs. H. would and you know how that is. Nellie looks natural & was glad that to see us Al tried to plague her as usual & she gave Gard Maynard a pecan nut for a keepsake to remember her by. I promised Mrs. Hearing to call & see her when I go to town which will be in a few days I expect
as it is generally understood that we are going to Washington next Monday. I hope it is so but we have been disappointed so often that we won't believe we are going until we get under way. We have no uniform yet but will have in a day or two. Our uniform is going to be a blue pants with an orange colored stripe down the side, a blue coat with an orange colored breast & cuffs of the same color with brass buttons gold braid &c to trim with a gray flannel shirt & a military cape boots & gloves &c.

Saturday morning 21st 61

Last night after dress parade the company was presented with a crash towel apiece by Mrs. Chanson Capt Towns Aunt for which they expressed their gratitude by giving three cheers. I saw a notice of it in the morning's free press. We are having lots of visitors now days from town, as the soldiers from Fort Wayne have gone to Washington they have no other place to go to.

Please don't put any more of my letters in the paper for it is impossible to write a good letter here in camp with so much noise around.

Remember me to all my friends & give my love to the rest of the family, & don't expect to get another letter for a week at least. I believe this is the longest letter I ever wrote if not the dryest. I don't believe I can find material enough to fill another sheet so good bye for the present.

Yours &c

Ed
Capitol
Washington, 1861

Dear Sir,

We arrived here last night—after traveling four days and nights without stopping—over four hours in any one place. We had only one accident—happen in the regiment—which was occasioned by a man in one of the other companies falling overboard in Lake Erie as it was dark. We soon lost sight of him, and he was too. I have been sick an amount of nights that I hardly know how to begin giving an account of it, in fact I have been so sick I can't remember half of it. We left Detroit—Sunday morning—at about ten o'clock, I saw Mr. Campbell there, shook hands with him—and was in the ranks we could not talk much but he said he was coming along the boat to see us off, but as I seen him he was more I suppose he could not get aboard as there was a awful crowd. We arrived at Cincinnati about midnight—left in my hour or two after the cars. Before leaving we were very near out of Ohio so I could not see any of friends by name we were asPicturesque. Where we took dinner at a large shady near the Depot. The meal was supervised by a committee of very ladies and I inquired of most every one of them if they knew Mrs. Brown or Mrs. and wished to see or send word to them, but they were not acquainted with either of them so I occasioned seeing them. After leaving there we passed through some of the finest scenery I ever saw through mountains & valleys across.
rivers & through tunnels. Saw any quantity of oil wells & coal mines. Fine buildings and farm-
country dwell. Every valley we passed through was highly
cultivated but the only fruits ripe now that I saw was
Apples,2 pears & grapes any quantity of the latter.
We would have seen more of the gardens fields &c.
if it had not been for the rain which they had a week
or so ago which raised the river six or eight feet-
& considerably part of all the rice crops we passed
through giving them all a very green appearance.
We saw the farmers harvesting the corn in boats
in some of the fields the stalks were out of sight only.
The pumpkins were floating around like little islands.
We came through the whole length of Pennsylvania.
Passed through Harrisburg the capital & a good many
other cities besides we got to Baltimore yesterday
morning where the oysters were so cheap & plenty
& good besides that my pants got to small before
I found quiet eating them. I have not eaten my can
of oysters sence we got here & I intended to eat them on
the cars but I kept putting it off until now they have
come back through the very same street they were put
up at. I never saw so many negroes on my life as I saw at Baltimore the place was black
with them. They passed their handkerchiefs through
& threw trinkets at us full as enthusiastically as the whites did. Though I forgot to say we were chased
by sailors at e every station home & Hankey
we passed through. The Michigan 1st Regiment
are stationed between here & Baltimore to guard
The railroad and as the train went very slow and had to stop every once in a while to let other trains go by we had a chance to see the Marquette Boys for that regiment. You can imagine how tickled they were to see us going down here in Maryland. We stopped two or three hours on one assignment where there were about thirty boys all from Marquette Fayette Baine, Dave Rees, Mayne Bishop, John Doyle, Hank Dimner. My French School Teacher and lots of other fellows. The common one to mention was, that is our regiment and there at the depot waiting for orders and we don't know where away we will go but I suppose we will stay here some time to drill. We are all in good health and spirits but we can hardly convince ourselves that we are not dreaming as the change is so sudden the weather is not so very warm here as I supposed it would be. We can hear the cannon booming here every little while but we don't know whether it is practicing or fighting. The city is full of soldiers, horses, baggage wagons. I have not been up on the city yet but I can see it all from here on the top of the Capitol. I can see the white house and the Smithsonian Institution and several other buildings which I don't know the names of, also the Potomac river on the other side of which I suppose is Virginia but as there is no one here on the left I don't know I am not positive. This would be a splendid building when finished it would be hard to beat it now but the Army is most complete as they say.
will take from five to ten years to finish it -ap. When we get to camp if we are not far away I will get a pass & start out through the city & give you an account of what I see & do. The regiment is about forming in to go to camp so I must quit for the present.

Since writing the above we have come into the city about three miles where we are camped along some hundreds of troops besides we are in a field close by the edge of the woods without shelter of any kind except our tents as we are not allowed to stay in the woods. I have changed any mind about the weather as I wrote it was not quite so warm as indicated, but I am now prepared to say that it quite exceeds any expectations so it is no wonder that I am excited by all the excitement. I had the opportunity to be enquired last night & I have heard from a couple ships since we left. Besides I feel somewhat sleepy this morning which will account for the lack of notes in the last part of my scritture I got this sheet of paper in one of the government offices of the Capitol so you can consider this letter as a kind of a curiosity considering where the first part was written. Give any love to the rest of the family. Write soon to 2 Davis to Washington.
Dear Til,

We arrived here last night after traveling four days & nights without stopping over four hours in any one place. We had only one accident happen in the regiment which was occasioned by a man in one of the other companies falling overboard in Lake Erie, as it was dark we soon lost sight of him & he was lost. I have seen such an amount of sights that I hardly know how to begin giving an account of them, in fact I have seen so much I can't remember half of it. We left Detroit Sunday morning at about ten o'clock, I saw Mr. Campbell there & shook hands with him as I was in the ranks we could not talk much but he said he was coming aboard the boat to see us off, but as I seen him no more I suppose he could not get aboard as there was an awful crowd. We arrived at Cleveland about midnight & left in an hour or two after in the cars, before morning we were very near out of Ohio so I could not see any old friends by noon we were at Pittsburgh where we took dinner at a large shanty near the depot, the meal was superintended by a committee of young ladies and I inquired of most every one of them if they knew Miss Brown or Berger as I wished to see or send word to them, but they were not acquainted with either of them so I missed seeing them. After leaving there we passed through some of the finest scenery I ever saw through the mountains & vallies across rivers & through tunnels. Saw any quantity of oil wells & coal mines fine buildings and pretty country seats.

every valley we passed through was highly cultivated but the only fruit ripe now that I saw was Apples Quinces & Grapes any quantity of the latter. We would have seen more of the Gardens fields &c if it had not been for the rain which they had a week or so ago, which raised the river six or eight feet & inundated parts of all the river towns we passed through giving them all a very muddy appearance. We saw the farmers harvesting the corn in boats in some of the fields. The stalks
were out of sight only the pumpkins were floating around like little islands. We came through the whole length of Pennsylvania passed through Harrisburg the capitol & a good many other cities besides. We got to Baltimore yesterday morning, where the oysters were so cheap & plenty & good besides that my pants got to small before I could quit eating them. I have not eaten my can that you sent me yet as I intended to eat them on the cars but I kept putting it off until now they have come back through the very same street they were put up at. I never saw so many negroes in my life as I saw at Baltimore the place was black with them. They waved their handkerchiefs cheered & threw kisses at us full as enthusiastically as the whites did though I forgot to saw we were cheered & hurraged &c at every station, house, & hamlet, we passed through. The Michigan 1st regiment are stationed between here & Baltimore to guard the railroad and as the train went very slow & had to stop every once in a while to let other trains go by we had a chance to see the Marquette boys in that regiment. You cant imagine how tickled they were to see us way down here in Maryland. We stopped two or three hour in one incampment where there was about thirty boys all from Marquette Fayette Barney Steve Reice Mayne Bishop John Doyle Hank Finney My French School Teacher & lots of other fellows to numerous to mention.

We, that is our regiment is now here at the Depot waiting for orders & we dont know which way we will go but I supose we will stay here some time to drill. we are all in good health & spirits, but we can hardly convince ourselves that we are not dreaming as the change is so sudden, the weather is not so very warm here as I supposed it would be. We can hear the cannon booming here every little while but we dont know whether it is practicing or fighting. The city is full of soldiers, horses, Baggage wagons, &c. I have not been up in the city yet but I can see it all from here on the top of the Capitol. I can see
the White house & the Smithsonian Institution & several other buildings which I dont know the names of, also the potomac river on the other side of which I suppose is virginia but as there is no one here on the top that knows I am not positive. This will be a splendid Building when finished, it would be hard to beat it now, but the dome is not [sic] completed yet & they say it will take from five to ten years to finish it yet. When we get in camp if we are not to far away I will get a pass some day & got all through the city & give you an account of what I see but I see our regiment is about forming in to go to camp so I must quit for the present.

Oct 4th in camp noon

Since writing the above we have come out of the city about three miles where we are camped along with thousands of troops besides we are in a field close by the edge of the woods without shelter of any kind except our tents as we are not allowed to stay in the woods. I have changed my mind about the weather as I wrote it was not quite so warm as I expected, but I am now prepared to say that it quite exceeds my expectations as It is so warm that I am sweating like fun with nothing [sic] but my shirt & drawers on. I had the misfortune to be on guard last night and as I have not had a nights sleep since we left Detroit I feel somewhat sleepy this morning which will account for the lack of news in the last part of my scribble. I got this sheet of paper in one of the Government offices of the capitol so you can consider this letter as a kind of a curiosity considering where the first part was written,

Give my love to the rest of the family & write soon Direct to Washington

Broadhead C Co B
Dear Sir,

It is now three weeks since I wrote my last letter to you, and I had almost given up all hopes of receiving any answer from you. But to-day I had the good fortune to get a letter from both you & yours besides the bundle of paper & the journal which were very acceptable. I can assure you, especially the letters. Since I last wrote you we have moved our camp into the city, our new camp is at a place called Carroll's Spring which is within rifle shot of the Capitol & an view of the greater part of the city & the Potomac River & also the State of Virginia on the other side of the river. Washington's Monument is on the same
street—though nearly a mile from us & in its unfinished state—looks more like a time kil than anything else. The first week we were here I got permission to take a squad of men to visit the many yard (which is less than half a mile from camp) where we had an opportunity of seeing them make cannon, shot, shells conical balls & other ammunitions of war. We also saw a man of war in the river & plenty of cannon's anchors & field pieces & supply & fleet—a regiment.

Saturday—Henry Decker died very suddenly last night; he was quite well yesterday & has not missed a drill since we have been here but he was taken with bleeding at the lungs in the night—sometimes—and died without waking anyone.
I heard this morning that Almar died last night. I couldn't believe it, but it was reported so in the camp, and Almar is afraid they will think it was him up there at Anarqueito. If you see his sister, you had better tell her that he is alive and well.

Billy Donkersley was here today before yesterday and we were all glad to see him though not more I guess than he was to see us as his regiment has been camped within sight of here on the other side of the river for four months. He took dinner with us and stayed all the afternoon. He looks very well and is fatter than ever. A cousin of Hard's Maynard came to see him last week from the Mission in 4th. I don't remember whether I wrote anything about Mrs. Brown's brother coming to see me at the
at the other camp or not, but I have the impression that he called after I had written again, he told me his sister had written him to call and see one if he could and as his camp was only about a mile from ours he had got a pass expressly to see one but had spent most all the time allowed him on finding one. I found him to be a very agreeable young man and very good looking, he looks very much like his uncle only handsomer. We had quite a talk about his sister Mrs. Berger, Billy & Jim Ward he said he was glad Billy didn't come as he could not stand the fatigue, he was very much too tired to dinner with me but we agreed to visit each other if we had any possible chance in the future. Applied for a pass last week to go to the city and the Captain told me he could not grant any unless on urgent private or company business I came very near despairing of getting one, when I happened to think of my five dollar bill which was the
was all the money I had, I told
the captain I would like to go to the
bank and get some immortal-money
changed, and as he thought that was
a sufficient reason he gave me a pass
to town until 6 o'clock & so it was only
right when I got it I had the whole
day before she. if I had not done
I written an account of my days
walk when I returned I could have
filled a quire of paper without diffi-
culty but as nearly two weeks have
elapsed since then I can only re-
member the most important of the
days I saw which as it is all new
to you I dare say will be somewhat
interesting. The first thing to do after
getting the pass was to wash my clothes
black my boots & make myself as
near-as possible then present myself
at the colonels & get my pass countersigned
(without which I should be
liable to be arrested by the patrol
in the city) when I had his name
on it I was all right - A shirt-waist
& I was in the city - a brokers office
was the first-place I looked for
which was easily found, where
I changed any bill paying only 8 per
cents-discounts, then the next thing
was to inquire where the pattern-
office was, which I soon ascertained
and on my way there I came across
the market. I thinking that - was a
good place to spend an hour or so,
I went in at one end & went through
the whole establishment. I couldn't
help thinking how I would like to
buy our winter provisions there, as
there was everything for sale that
a person could wish to buy. There
were immense piles of sweet-potatoes
for two dollars & twenty-five cents a
barrel and any quantity of butter
for 25 & 30 cents a pound, as there
were the only articles I priced. I can't
say much about how things are sold.
Those but from the prices charged by
the pedlar I have no doubt but every-
thing is pretty clear. After leaving the
market I proceeded to the pattern office
which I found to be an immense
stone building of a light-gray color
built-in the form of a square with
a hollow center, like the drawing with
the portico supported by large stone
colones or pillares, and a flight of stone
steps leading up to the portico which
gives the house an imposing appearance.
Inside the house are collected the
models of all the patterns ever issued
by the united states besides relics
curiosities & wonderful things which
have been given the institution by
different people among which is
the Original declaration of Independence
with the names of the signers with
that of John Hancock at the head, though
some of the names are entirely wore
out but most of them are there yet.
Which with the commission of Gen. Washington dated 1776, I think there is the slate) are enclosed in a glass frame and hung on the wall near the showcase, in which are the clothes worn by Gen. Washington when he resigned his commission along with his sword, tea plate, camp equipage & c., in the same case is the rear saddle of Darnum, Dr. Hall, a cane which belonged to Dr. Franklin & will be by him to Martin Van Buren. A lot of swords, sabres & scimitars presented to the different presidents & commanders of the united states by the Kings princes Emperors & other Big bags of the eastern world, and a coat worn by Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans, & other thing it numerous to mention, in another case there was about a cart load of things presented by the emperor of Japan to Franklin Pierce when he was president; among them I noticed a saddle ornament with gold mounted I don't know which, & a sabre of beautiful craftsmanship with a lot of porcelain ware and rolls of silk, & fancy work & c.
in the room there was articles from every part of the world, canoes, paddles, spears, stone hatchets, maps & c from New Zealand, 
figures with robes presented to the American minister in China. 
Specimens of workmanship from Japan and the islands of the Indian Ocean, the dress worn by Dr. Kane 
up in theartic regions, and the skins of most all kinds of animals stuffed, and so 
many things in fact that I forget more than half of them 
before I got outside the doors. 
This room I think was used for curiosities, relics & c, two other 
rooms had the models in them there were small locomotives, engines, of all kinds, implements, 
for farmers, models for bridges.
and in fact a model for everything made or patented in the states & which it would take a person a month of Sundays to examine or describe. The fourth room is not yet finished and is used as a hospital for an Indiana regiments.

After spending a couple of hours or so in sight-seeing I left the house & went to see the white house. I went through the lower part of the house but did not see the president as he was in the office with the secretary of war & some other gentleman. I thought that I would not disturb him by calling on him as I was rather bashful but contented myself with examining the furniture of the house, the reception room was stripped of furniture & it was all in the green room adjacent.
Where the mirrors were ranged up along the wall & so large that they would not go in the highest room in our house with frames carved & gilded on fine style. The floor of the green room was carpeted with Brussels. I suppose the floor of the reception room & covered with the same when furnished. I did not stay long at the White House as I wanted to visit the Smithsonian Institute which I did immediately on leaving there. After crossing the bridge over the canal I entered the lawn of the institute & followed the road up to the door. The first thing I noticed was one of them things for getting or letting the force of the wind on the top of the building the same as the one on the school house. The next going into the building was the model of Washington's Monument which was
placed on a large stand in the middle of the room with a black money box at each corner, with a card on which I read — The money was for Washington's monument to be built by the voluntary contributions of the people of the United States. And as I thought there were enough visitors who had nothing else to do with their money I thought a poor soldier could be excused from contributing at least until after payday. The Institute is not so large as the patent office but there is more that is curious and interesting there I think. But as my three sheets of paper is most full I will not give a description of its curiosities I understand you'll wait until I can tell you myself if I don't forget all about it by that time. After leaving there I went to an eating house and I believe I ate dinner enough for five men and as the woman that kept it told one to go onto the dinner without fear as she knew what a soldier's life was, the way I went into sweet potatoes apple dumplings &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
Dear Til,

It is now three weeks since I wrote my last letter to you, and I had almost given up all hopes of receiving any answer from you. But today I had the good fortune to get a letter from both you & pem besides the bundle of paper & the Journal which were very acceptable I can assure you, especially the letters. Since I last wrote you we have moved our camp into the city. We are now camped at a place called carrott's spring which is within rifle shot of the capitol & in view of the greater part of the city & the potomac river & also the state of virginia on the other side of the river. Washington's Monument is on the same street though nearly a mile from us & in its unfinished state looks more like a lime kiln than any thing else. The first week we were here I got permission to take a squad of men to visit the navy yard (which is no less than half a mile from camp) where we had an opportunity of seeing them make cannon, shot, Shells, conical balls & other munitions of war. We also saw a man of war in the river & plenty of cannons anchors & field pieces to supply & fleet or a regiment.

George Decker died very sudenly last night. He was quite well yesterday & has not missed a drill since we have been here but he was taken with bleeding at the lungs in the night sometime and died without waking anyone up. I heard this morning that it was Elmer that died but I couldnt believe it, but it was reported so in the camp and Elmer is afraid they will think it was him up there at Marquette, if you see his sister you had better tell her that he is alive and well. Billy Donkersley was here day before yesterday and we were all glad to see him though not more I guess than he was to see us as his regiment has been camped within sight of here on the other side of the river for four months. he took dinner with us & stayed all the afternoon he looks
very well & is fatter than ever. A cousin of Gard Maynard's came to see him last week from Wisconsin 4th. I don't remember whether I wrote anything about Miss Brown's brother coming to see me at the at the [sic] other camp or not, but I have the impression that he called after I had wrote had written you, he told me his sister had written him to call & see me if he could and as his camp was only about a mile from ours he had got a pass expressly to see me but had spent most all the time allowed him in finding me. I found him to be a very agreeable young man and very good looking he looks very much like his sister only handsomer. We had quite a talk about his sister Miss Berger Billy & Jimy ward he said he was glad Billy didn't come as he could not stand the fatigue. He was sorry he could not stay to dinner with me but we agreed to visit each other if we had any possible chance in the future. I applied for a pass last week to go to the city and the captain told me he could not grant any unless on urgent private or company business. I came very near despairing of getting one, when I happened to think of my five dollar bill which was the was all the [sic] money I had. I told the captain I would like to go to the bank and get some uncurent money changed, and as he thought that was a sufficient [sic] reason he gave me a pass to town until 4 o'clock & as it was only eight when I got it I had the whole day before me. If I had sat down & written an account of my days walk when I returned I could have filled a quire of paper without difficulty but as nearly two weeks have elapsed since then I can only remember the most important of the sights. I saw, which as it is all new to you I dare say will be somewhat interesting. The first thing to do after getting the pass was to Brush my clothes black my boots & make myself as neat as possible. Then present myself at the colonels & get my pass countersigned (without which I should be liable to be arrested by the patrol in the city) when I had his name on it I was all right. A short walk & I was in the city a brokers office was the first place I looked for
which was easily found, where I changed my bill paying only 3 per cent discount. Then the next thing was to inquire where the patent office was, which I soon asserterained and on my way there I came across the market & thinking that was a good place to spend an hour or so I went in at one end & went through the whole establishment. I couldn't help thinking how I would like to buy our winterprovisions there, as there was every thing for sale that a person could wish to buy. There were immense piles of sweet potatoes for two dollars & twenty five cents a barrel and any quantity of butter for 25 and 30 cents a pound, as these were the only articles I priced I can't say much about how things are sold there but from the prices charged by the peddlars I have no doubt but every thing is pretty dear.

After leaving the market I proceeded to the patent office which I found to be an immense stone building of a light gray color built in the form of a square with a hollow center like the drawing with the portico supported by large stone columns or pillars, and a flight of wide stone steps leading up to the portico which gives the house an imposing appearance. Inside the house are collected the models of all the patents ever issued by the United States. Besides relics curiosities & wonderful things which have been given the institution by different people among which is the original declaration of Independence with the names of the signers with that of John Hancock at the head, though some of the names are entirely worn out but most of them are there yet which with the commission of Gen. Washington dated 1776 (I think that is the date) are inclosed in a glass frame and hung on the wall near a show case, in which are the clothes worn by Gen Washington when he resigned his commission along with his sword & plate camp equipage, & in the same case is the war saddle of Baron de Kalb, a cane that belonged to Dr. Franklin & willéd by him to Martin Vanburen. A lot of swords sabres & scimetars presented to the different presidents & commanders of the united states by the Kings princes Emperors & other Big bugs of the eastern world, and a coat worn by Gen Jackson.
at the battle of New Orleans & other thing to numerous to mention. In another case there was about a cart load of things presented by the emperor of Japan to Franklin Pierce when he was president, among them I noticed a saddle mounted with gold or guilt— I don't know which, and a sabre of butiful workmanship. with a lot of porcelain ware & rolls of silk & fancy work &c &c. in the room there was articles from every part of the world. canoes paddles spears stone Hatchets mats &c from New Zealand, fifteen silk robes presented to the American minister to China specimens of workmanship from Japan and the islands of the Indian Ocean, the dress worn by Dr. Keane up in the Artic regions, and the skins of most all kinds of animals stuffed and so many things in fact that I forgot more than half of them before I got outside the door.

This room I think was used for curiosities relics &c, two other rooms had the models in them. There were small locomotives, engines, of all kinds, implements, for farmers, models for Bridges and in fact a model for every thing made or patented in the states & which it would take a person a month of sundays to examine or describe. the fourth room is not yet finished and is used as a hospital for an Indiana regiment.

After spending a couple of hours or so in sight seeing I left the House & went to see the white house— I went through the lower part of the house but did not see the president as he was in the office with the secretary of war & some other gentleman— I thought that I would not disturb him by calling on him as I was rather bashful but contented myself with examining the furniture of the house, the reception room was striped of furniture & it was all in the Green room adjoining where the mirrors were ranged up along the wall & so large that they would not go in the highest room in our house with frames carved & Guilded in fine style— the floor of the Green room was carpeted with brussels, I suppose the floor of the reception room is covered with the same when
furnished. I did not stay long at the White House as I wanted to visit the smithsonian Institute which I did immediately on leaving there. After crossing the bridge over the canal I entered the lawn of the institute & followed the road up to the door the first thing I noticed was one of them things for geting or letting the force of the wind on the top of the building the same as the one on the school house. the next going into the building was the model of Washington's Monument which was placed on a large stand in the middle of the room with a glass money box at each corner, with a card on which I read that the model [sic] contributed-in-the-box-was of Washington's monument to be built by the voluntary contributions of the people of the united States. And as I thought there were enough visitors who had nothing else to do with their money I thought a poor soldier could be excused from contributing at least until after payday.

The Institute is not so large as the patent office but there is more that is curious & interesting there I think. But as my three sheet of paper is most full I will not give a description of its curiosities & wonders &c. But wait until I can tell you with myself if I dont forget all about it by that time. After leaving there I went to an eating house and I believe I ate dinner enough for five men and as the woman that kept it told me to go into the dinner without fear as she knew what a soldier's life was, the way I went into sweet potatoes apple dumplings &c was a caution to sinners.
Washington Camp Bricker

Sunday Oct 1-1861

Dear Rem

I received your letter

last-friday, but I have had

to much to do since then

that I have had no opportunity
to answer it until this morning, and

The weather is so cool I am not certain

that I can hold the pencil long enough

to finish it, but I will do the best I can.

For a fortnight now we have had weather

which would better become Lake Superior

than here. And in the mornings & evenings

makes us feel the need of overcoats which

we have not yet received, but our blankets

in the place of them, we expect our horses
to arrive every day from Detroit, or at least

a part of them as they were to leave

there last Tuesday our saddles & horse

equipments are here, but our arms

have not come yet, I expect I shall

have to write shorter letters when I
have a horse to take care of.

The sun has just come out from behind the clouds and I shouldn't wonder if we had a nice day yet; Jim Cameron was here just now, and invited me to go to church with him and a dozen or so of the boys, but I went twice last Sunday, and as I am obliged to go in the afternoon, I declined to go with him this morning. I went last Sunday to the Episcopal church along with a squad of twenty or more by Sergeant Jackson, the bishop of Ohio officiated and preached a very good sermon on the form of prayer and the manner of offering it, recommending us all to persevere, and the soldiers particularly, until we get what we asked for by touching his heart, or he granted it to get rid of our necessities. It was about as interesting a sermon as I ever heard. I expect he is the bishop that Mrs. French & Miss Montgomery used to talk about. Al Jones told me, his name
is Otaheite. All the churches I have been to yet, the preachers direct a part of their sermon & prayers to the soldiers which makes us feel as if they cared something for us yet. My bedfellow is writing home to his brother close to any elbow, he has is sending for a firth of butter at about thirty or forty pounds to be paid for by all five of us after payday when we get it. If we get it at all we will buy a gun of molasses and live like kings. When I was on guard the other night it was so cold and rainy that we had to have a fire to keep warm and as it took wood to keep the fire going we had to make short exploding expeditions around among the houses & fences and wherever we came to a board on a house or fence that was any way loose we froze to it immediately. During one of these trips I came across a shed with a door to it which I thought...
was just about the size we wanted for a table (the door I mean not the shed)
and as it swung pretty loose the consequence was or is that we have just about
as good a table on our tent as there is in the camp, on which I am now writing.

Things begin to look quite comfortable on our tent now since we have received
our new blankets, which makes two apiece for the men all round besides themselves
brought with us. We had an extra breakfast this morning, not an extra one
in number but in quality which consisted of beef, steak & potatoes from the cook,
and bread with pork grease & molasses

which we furnished our silver along
with coffee made the best breakfast.

We have had this long time though I
have no fault to find with the living
which is better than a good many of
the men have been used to at home.
only served up in a little different style.

It makes it a little worse for me not
being able to eat self-pork which comes about
as often in the rations as any other thing.
Yesterday afternoon I attended the funeral of George Devere, the first one we have had, though not the first man that has died, as we lost one in Lake Erie and another at the hospital clown in the city. I suppose you never saw a military funeral, so I will try and give you some idea of what it is like. The procession was formed on front of the colonel's tent, and before starting was addressed by the minister who officiated. With a short sermon & prayer, which though short was expressive and to the point, he exhorted us to take warning by the sudden death of our comrade who he was informed was as well able to attend to his duties since he had been in the camp up to the day of his death, as were any of us. He reminded us of the danger.
of our situation how liable at any moment we were to be taken away, and brought our attention to the roar of the cannon which we heard in the distance and told us that at every discharge probably another soul appeared before its maker. He then exhorted us to prepare while yet we had a chance for the world to come. He said he bowed his head in reverence to our brave soldiers who had given our lives to our country and said he, future generations will bless you as I bless you now, and he then prayed that God might take care of us all in the struggle to come.) and a great deal besides which I did not remember. When he had concluded, the procession moved off in the following order: first the Minister, next at the head with the commander of our company (which was the oncoming company) by the side of him, then came
corporal Ramsey with a squad of eight men armed with carbines, then the band, after them the hearse with the bearers on each side, then the horse with the dead man's clothes rolled up in his blanket and straps on to the saddle and his boots tied on to the straps, after the horse came the colonel with the major on one side and the adjutant on the other, then came our company who marched by fours, after us came such of the rest of the regiment as wished to go, there were about a hundred, or thereabouts. Besides our company making altogether over two hundred, the officers on horseback brought up the rear. Altogether it was quite a respectable procession. We had about a mile and a half to go to the cemetery. The band played general marches on the way, while we kept step by the tap of the drum, when we
arrived at the camp we took our places by the grave, corporal Barney with his squad on one side of the grave and when the minister had concluded the services the squad fired three volleys over the grave which concluded the services. We then marched back to camp which we reached just at dusk and had supper by candlelight.

Writing as much as I can about general I think I have made one letter kind of voluminously and I won't think a enough to fill another sheet so you will have to content yourself with two sheets fall this time. I see you put my last letter in the journal which I sent you. If you are more in I will write again, and if I see this in print you may make up your mind to my corresponding with you. I can hear the chimney again tonight and as it is Sunday they can not be practicing. The men are yet very impatient for their arms & horses I hope we will have them by the time I write again so that I can have something to write about.
arrived at the cemetery we took
our places by the grave, Corporal
Barney with his squad on one side
of the grave and when the minister
had concluded the services he
ordered the squad fires three volleys
over the grave
which concluded the services
we then marched back to
camp which we reached just at
dusk and had supper by candlelight

Writing so much about others I
made one bed - nothing better
and I can’t think it enough to tell
another that so you will have to entreat
yourself with two sheets fall this time

Are you just my last letter in the
morn will write you some of these
this in form you may make up your
mind to quit correspondin with me
I can hear the wind again today
and as it is sunday try some of the
wine and eat your carrots
The men are getting very patient for their
arms & horses I hope we will have them
by the time I write again so that I can have something
to write about.
Dear Fm,

I received your letter last Friday, but I have had so much to do since then that I have had no opportunity to answer it until this morning. And the weather is so cool now I am not certain that I can hold the pencil long enough to finish it, but will do the best I can. For a fortnight now we have had weather which would better become Lake Superior than here. And in the mornings & evenings makes us feel the need of over coats which we have not yet received, but use blankets in the place of them. We expect our horses to arrive every day from Detroit, or at least a part of them as they were to leave there last Tuesday, our saddles & horse equipments are here. but our arms have not come yet, I expect I shall have to write shorter letters when I have a horse to take care of.

The sun has just came out from behind the clouds and I shouldent wonder if we had a nice day yet, Jim Cameron was here just now & invited me to go to church with him and a dozen or so of the boys, but I went twice last Sunday, and as I am obliged to go in the afternoon I declined to go with him this morning. I went last Sunday to the episcopal church along with a squad of twenty, comanded by Sargeant Jackson, the bishop of Ohio officiated and preached a very good sermon on the farm of prayer, and the manner of offering it, recomending us all to persevere and the soldiers particularly until we got what we asked for by touching his heart, or he granted it to get rid of our importunities. It was about as interesting a sermon as I ever heard. I expect he is the bishop that Mrs French & miss Montgomery used to talk about, Al just told me his name is MacIlvane. All the churches I have been to yet the preachers direct a part of their sermons & prayers to the soldiers which makes us feel as if they cared something for us yet. My fellow is writing home to his brother close to my elbow, he is sending for a firkin of butter of about thirty or forty pounds to be paid for by all five of us after payday, when we get it if we get it at all we will buy a jug of molases
and live like kings. When I was on guard the other night it was so cold and rainy that we had to have a fire to keep warm and as it took wood to keep the fire going we had to make short exploring expeditions around among the houses & fences and wherever we came to a board on a house or fence that was any ways loose we froze to it immediately, during one of these trips I came across a shed with a door to it which I thought was just about the size we wanted for a table (the door I mean not the shed) and as it swung pretty loose the consequence was or is that we have just about as good a table in our tent as there is in the camp, on which I am now writing. Things began to look quite comfortable in our tent now since we have received our new blankets, which makes two apiece for the men all round besides them we brought with us. We had an extra breakfast this morning, not an extra one in number but in quality which consisted of beef steak & potatoes from the cook and bread with Pork grease & molasses mixed which we furnished our selves, along with coffee, made the best breakfast we have had this long time, though I have no fault to find with the living which is better than a good many of the men have been used to at home only served up in a little different style. It makes it a little worse for me not being able to eat salt pork which comes about as often in the rations as any other thing.

Yesterday afternoon I attended the funeral of George Decker the first one that we have had, though not the first man that has died, as we lost one in Lake Erie and another at the hospital down in the city. I suppose you never saw a military funeral so I will try and give you some idea of what it is like. The procession was formed in front of the colonels tent, and before starting was addressed by the minister who officiated with a short sermon & prayer, which though short was expressive and to the point, (he exhorted us to take warning by the sudden death of our comrad who he was informed was as well able to attend to his duties since he had been in the camp up to the day of his death, as
were any of us. he reminded us of the danger of our vocation how liable at any moment we were to be taken away, and brought our attention to the rear of the cannon which we heard in the distance and told us that at every discharge probably another soul appeared before its maker. he then exhorted us to prepare while yet we had a chance for the world to come, he said he bowed his head in reverence to us brave soldiers who had given our lives to our country and said he, future generations will bless you, as I bless you now and he then prayed that God might take care of us all in the struggle to come, and a great deal besides which I did not remember, when he had concluded, the procession moved off in the following order. first the minister rode at the head, with the commander of our company (which was the mourning company) by the side of him, then corporal Barney with a squad of eight men armed with carbines, then the band, after them, the hearse with the bearers on each side, then the horse with the dead man's clothes rolled up in his blanket and strapped on to the saddle and his boots tied in to the stirrup, after the horse came the colonel with the major on one side and the adjutant on the other, then came our company who marched by fours, after us came such of the rest of the regiment as wished to go, there were about a hundred or thereabouts besides our company making altogether over two hundred, the officers on horseback brought up the rear. altogether it was quite a respectable procession. We had about a mile & a half to go to the cemetery. The band played funeral marches on the way, while we kept step by the tap of the drum, when we arrived at the cemetery we took our places by the grave, corporal Barney with his squad on one side of the grave and when the minister had conducted the services the squad fired three volleys over the grave which concluded the services. We then marched back to camp which we reached just at dusk and had supper by candlelight.

Writing so much about funerals &c has made me feel kind of solom choly
[Washington Camp Rucker Sunday Oct 27 61 P.4]

and I cant think of enough to fill another sheet so you will have to content yourself with two sheets full this time. I see you put my last letter in the Journal, when I want you to put [?] any [?] more in I will write you, and if I see this in print you may make up your mind to quit corresponding with me. I can hear the cannon again today and as it is sunday they cant be practicing. The men are getting very impatient for their arms & horses. I hope we will have them by the time I write again so that I can have something to write about.

Ed
all the horses. You don't 
know here last week and 
we had a general visit 
the camp last week but I didn't 
see him. His name is stone or storm 
I don't know which. I haven't seen 
the president yet and I don't think 
it will very soon as it is very hard 
to get a pass to leave camp now days. 
Bill Bigg and his Indian wife 
called on him last week and 
Bill told one that the president 
and his family treated him very 
kindly. I gave his wife a lot of present 
and told him to be sure to come 
and see him when he is 
over. Tell father I thought I paid 
all my debts before I left, but I 
didn't know that I owed the blacksmith 
anything. However I suppose it is all 
right as I get the dream and several
Times last spring and forgot all about
whether I paid him or not.
I got a paper from Pittsburg last
week directed with my own hand
writing. I suppose I must
acknowledge the receipt of it or she
will think I didn't get it. When you
go after bread sometime I wish
you would tell Mr. Ross that
I have his watchman on my squad
(John Shad is his name) and he
wishes me to remember him
to Mr. Ro.

Afternoon

Storming yet a blowing as hard as ever
The regimental quartermaster's tent
blown down last night and
made a general consternation of the
contents which consisted of the
provisions for the regiment.
I would rather it had been the
sisters tent for then he might
have considered it a warming
for charging such high prices.
to the soldiers and reduced his prices accordingly, we have to pay more for things done here than in Marquette, but I don't have any more with him than I can help. All I have spent in this institution is about seventy-five cents, which I won playing poker to pass away the time, and spent them there to get rid of them.

There was a rumor in camp last week that the sergeants & corporals were to be reduced in rank; and she wrote home that he expected to lose his position, but it turned out to be all nonsense and was started just to plague some of the noncommissioned officers.

Well, did she have not already written that I don't know where George was when she wrote as this is was in your letter and I answered hers before I received yours.
The Bill Thomas you spoke of in your letter is now in the hospital along with three or four others sick with the measles.

Sunday morning, the breakfast table has been cleared off and I have just finished shaving. The blankets are all hanging over the bed in the room. The band is playing for ward one outdoor which they also always at 8 o'clock. And, as I have a little time to spare, I thought—

I would finish your letter in time to send by the morning mail. There is another lot of horses down to the depot for us I expect I will get one today. There is no news of any account—This morning so I may as well end up on this sheet. Give my love to all the family also any friends who may inquire. Goodbye for the present.
The Bill Thomas you spoke of in your letter is now in the hospital along with three or four others sick with the measles. Sunday from
the breakfast table has been cleared off, and I have just fin
when smiths, the blankets are all changed and sent to the store.
The band is playing for guard detail in which they do always at 8 o'clock, and, and have a
little time to spare. I thought I would finish your letter and Line to send by the morning
mail. There is another lot of horses down at the depot for us. I
expect I will get one today. There is no news of any accident this mor-
ing so I may as well end up on this sheet. Give any love to all
the family and all my friends who may inquire. Good bye for the
present.
all the horses. You [illegible word] was here last week and we had a general visit.
The camp last week but I didn't see him. His name is John [illegible word] I don't know which. I have
the president yet and I am writing.
I will very soon as it is very hard to get a pass to leave camp now days. Bill boy and his Indian wife
[illegible word] I called on him last week and Bill told me that the [illegible word] and this family treated him very
kindly, I gave his wife a lot of food and asked her to come down and see him when the war is
over. I thought I paid all my debts before I left, but didn't know that I owed the blacksmith
anything. However, I suppose it is all right as I got the spear fired several
The Bill Thomas you speak of in your letter is now in the hospital along with three or four others and with the measles. Sunday next the breakfast table has been cleared off and I have just for dinner Soap, the breakfast table and all things edible to the gun. The band is playing for graduates ornamenting which they also always at eight o'clock and I have a little time to spare I thought I would finish your letter and send it by the morning mail. There is another lot of horses down to the depot for us I expect I will get one today. There is no news of any account this morning so I may as well write on this sheet. Give my love to all the family also any friends who may inquire. Good bye for the present.
Don't put this in the paper.

I have all the horses. I saw here last week and we had a general order. Last week but I didn't send his name at time of time. I have

Let him know and tell him to let me know. I'll tell him I have a letter to him. Last week I was here. I have told him that the person and his family treated him very kindly. I gave his wife a lot of nice words to him to take care.

and see him when the war is over. Tell father I thought I paid all my debts before I left but I didn't know that I owed the blacksmith anything. However I suppose it is all right as I got the sheep from several
tunes last spring and forgot whether I paid him -
I got a letter from Pitts in a week directing me to write to
handwriting I supposed I didn't acknowledge the receipt of it or she
will think I didn't get it. When you
you go after bread sometime I wish
you would tell Mr. Ross that -
I have his drum major in my squad
John Shad is his name and he wishes me to remember him
to Mr. B.

Afternoon

 renown went a flaying as hard as ever
the regimental quartermaster first
broke down last night and
made a general declaration of the
contents which consisted of the
provisions for the regiment
I would rather it had been the
it's just lend - for then he might
have considered it a warning
for charging such high prices.
to the soldiers and reduced his prices accordingly. We have to pay more for things done here than in Marquette, but I don't trade any more with him than I can help. All I have spent in this institution is about seventy-five cents, which I won playing hookey to pass away the time, and spent them there to get rid of them.

There was a rumor in camp last week that the Sergeants & Corporals were to be reduced in rank, and all wrote home that he expected to lose his position but it turned out to be all nonsense and was started just to plague some of the noncommissioned officers. Well see if she has not already written that I know where George was when she wrote as it was in your letter and I answered hers before I received yours.
Sunday evening
I thought in the morning
that I would only write one sheet-
full, but—as I had not finished
Wright's by supper time I had
to write by candle light—and as
my ration of candles was all burnt
I was obliged to come to this tent
and write by his candle where
I now am. I just had a smell
of a bunch of flowers out your
garden which are quite fragrant
yet. He tells me to tell you
that he got two of them papers
that Sunday and sent you one
of them which will account for
its not being spoiled. There
is no one in his tent to night
but himself as he is dead
and the other sergeant is on
guard so I am going to sleep
with him to night. The Order
on dress parade this afternoon
Dear that we were going to
move tomorrow. I suppose
they were afraid if they told
us where we were going, we
would know as much about
it as they did. do you see
we don't know where our de-
struction is, but you know
the old adage, where ignorance
is bliss &c, and like enough
we will know when we get
there. I don't think we will go
out of the electric so you can
direct as formerly until further
orders can they say on dress parade.
Give my best respects to Cis
Montgomery and to allie Camp-
bell when you write again also
any other of my female friends
who may care about it. Give
Willie a kiss for me and remem-
ber to write once a week if nor
often. Your big brother
Mrs
all the horses. Gov Blair was here last week and we had a general
visit the camp last week but I didn't see him his name is stone or stone-
man I don't know which, I haven't seen the president yet and I don't
think I will very soon as it is very hard to get a pass to leave camp now
days, Bill Plug and his Indian wife called called [sic] on him last week
and bill told me that the president and his family treated them very
kindly & gave his wife a lot of present and told him to be sure to come
and see him when the war is over. Tell father I thought I paid all my
debts before I left but I didn't know that I owed the blacksmith any-
thing. However I suppose it is all right as I got the spear fixed
several times last spring and forgot all about whether I paid him or not.
I got a paper from pittsburg last week directed with miss Brown's hand
writing I suppose I must acknowledge the receipt of it or she will think
I didn't get it. When you go after bread sometime I wish you would tell
mr Ross that I have his dutchman in my squad (John Shad is his name) and
he wishes me to remember him to Mr. R.

afternoon

Raining yet & Blowing as hard as ever the regimental quartermasters tent
blowed down last night and made a general scatering of the contents which
consisted of the provisions for the regiment and I would rather it had
been the sutlers tent for then he might have considered it a warning for
charging such high prices to the soldiers and reduced his prices accord-
ingly. We have to pay more for things down here than in marquette, but
I don't trade any more with him that I can help. All I have spent in his
institution is about seventy five cents, which I won playing poker to
pass away the time, and spent them there to get rid of them. There was
a rumor in camp last week that the sargeants & corporals were to be
reduced in rank and Al wrote homethat he expected to loose his position,
but it turned out to be all moonshine and was started just to plague some
of the noncommissioned officers. Tell Til if she has not already written
that I now know where George was when she wrote as she it was in your letter and I answered her before I received yours. The Bill Thomas you spoke of in your letter is now in the hospital along with three or four others sick with the measles.

Sunday morn
The breakfast table has been cleared off, and I have just finished shaving, the blankets are all hanging outside to dry, and the band is playing for guard mounting which they do always at 8 o'clock, and, as I have a little time to spare I thought I would finish your letter in time to send by the morning mail. There is another lot of horses down to the depot for us. I expect I will get one to day there is no news of any account this morning so I may as well end up on this sheet. Give my love to all the family also my friends who may inquire. Goodbye for the present.

Ed

Sunday Evening

I thought in the morning that I would only write one sheet full, but as I had not finished Wilbur's by supper time I had to write by candle light and as my ration of candles was all burnt I was obliged to come to Al's tent and write by his candle where I now am, I just had a smell of a bunch of flowers out of our garden which are quite fragrant yet: Al tells me to tell you that he got two of them papers that Sunday and sent you one of them which will account for its not being soiled. There is no one in his tent to night but himself as bill is dead and the other sargeant is on guard so I am going to sleep with him to night. The order on dress parade this afternoon was that we were going to move tomorrow. I suppose they were afraid if they told us where we were going to, we would know as much about it as they did, so you see we don't know where our destination is, but you know the old adage, where ignorance is bliss &c, and like enough we will know when we get there. I don't think we will go
out of the district so you can direct as formerly until further Orders
(as they say on dress parade) Give my best respects to Cis Montgomery
and to allie Campbell when you write again, also any other of my female
friends who my care about it Give Willie a kiss for mee and remember
to write once a week if not oftener

Your big brother

Ed
I made a mistake and wrote on the many page on
Washington, March 17th
Nov. 10th, 1861

Dear Sis

I received your letter of papers yesterday and three papers & a book to day which will help one in reading matter more for some time as we have just got all of our horses and I don’t have so much time to read as previously or to write either for that matter so you must understand that I cannot get such long letters as you used to.

We have to get up now days as

“Fear not, Abram, I am thy Shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”
Half past five before it is fairly day light; I can't help thinking every morning when I am obliged to get up that I would rather give half of my wages for the privilege of laying abed in the morning poor as the bed is. I felt rather inclined that way this morning when I got up as my cloths were still as wet as they were at the funeral yesterday when we rode three and a half miles and back in the rain to bury Bill Thomas one third sargent who died in the hospitl of the inflammation of the lungs the day before. His death is more lamented than that of any other one who has died in the regiment as he was a universal favorite with all who knew him, I am sorry for his wife who is in the postage. The men here are beginning to think that we have camped in an unhealthy way.
part of the country as we have about a hundred men unfit for duty and a funeral most every day of the week and some times two of them, there were three done the night that hill died. We had all of us rather go south than stay here for we think that the enemy would not kill us off much faster than the meateats & colds do now, but I guess we will make a move in some direction pretty soon as the colonel has gone off for a few days, I shouldn't wonder if we went back to Baltimore or somewhere that way. Yesterday we were presented with thirty quilts & blankets for each company sent on by the ladies of Detroit—and as there was not enough for one piece we had an small
4 lottery for them. I had the misfortune to draw a blank, however.
I have the double blanket you sent me yes.—and I am assure you I fully appreciate it these cold nights. We have a single gray blanket— and a horse blanket apiece besides those from Detroit— which make us quite comfortable. I wish you would send me some envelopes directed to yourself. From no I have neither envelopes or pen & ink to direct them with. I have plenty of paper and can get plenty more when mine is gone. I will have to answer Wilders letter this afternoon which I received with yours yesterday. So I will have to bid you good bye for the present— Excuse me for not writing more. I will try and do better next time. Give my love to Bill & write soon Ed.
Dear Til

I recieved your letter & papers yesterday & three papers & a book to day which will keep me on reading matter for some time, as we have just got all of our horses and I dont have so much time to read as formerly, or to write either for that matter so you must not be disapointed if you do not get such long letters as you used to. We just finished drawing horses this forenoon so that now every man has one and has to keep him clean and feed him besides keeping his saddle and equipments in order which will I think use up the greater part of our spare time. We have to get up now days at half past five before it is fairly day light. I cant help thinking every morning when I am obliged to get up that I would rather give half of my wages for the priviledge of laying abed in the morning poor as the bed is, I felt rather inclined that way this morning when I got up as my clothes were still as wet as they were at the funeral yesterday when we rode three & a half miles and back in the rain to bury Bill Thomas our third sargent who died in the hospital of the inflamation of the lungs the day before. His death is more lamented than that of any other one who has died in the regiment as he was a universal favorite with all who knew him, I am sorry for his wife who is at the portage. The men are beginning to think that we have camped in an unhealthy part of the country as we have about a hundred men unfit for duty and a funeral most every day of the week and sometimes two of them, there were three died the night that bill died. We had all of us rather go south than stay here for we think that the enemy would not kill us off much faster than the measels & colds do now, but I guess we will make a move in some direction pretty soon as the colonel has gone off for a few days. I shoun't wonder if we went back
to Baltimore or somewhere that way. Yesterday we were presented with thirty quilts & blankets for each company sent on by the ladies of Detroit and as there was not enough for one apiece we had a small lottery for them. I had the misfortune to draw a blank, however, I have the double blanket you sent me yet and I can assure you I fully appreciated these cold nights. We have a single Gray blanket and a horse blanket apiece besides those from Detroit which make us quite comfortable. I wish you would send me some envelopes directed to yourself & pens as I have neither envelopes or pen & ink to direct them with. I have plenty of paper and can get plenty more when mine is gone, I will have to answer Wilburl's letter this afternoon which I recieved with yours yesterday so I will have to bid you good bye for the present. Excuse me for not writing more. I will try and do better next time. Give my love to All & write soon.

Ed
Washington Camp Buckner, Nov 17th 61

Dear Rem,

I ought not have answered your letter yesterday, but else I took a walk and strolled out—which took all the spare time I had, as we do not have much more time on Sunday than any other day or reason of our horses. Mrs. Griffin & her husband came to see us last Friday and gave us all the news of Marquette. We were all glad to see face from Marquette, and she appeared to be very glad to see us. We have had very cold weather here for three or four days the wind blowing from the north all the time. There is a great deal of grumbling going on amongst the men on
account of not having our coats. It is awful cold getting up in the morning at half past five and going to feed and water the horses so I don't see any use in it, but we have to obey orders. We drill from eight o'clock to 11/2 every day now on horseback without saddles to learn us to keep on our horses without stringing our backs. The horses are not to keep the right distance apart. The lieutenant pays particular attention to one when we are drilling, and I have to keep my back straight and my legs in as I catch a scolding every ten minutes, it is pretty hard work to keep up straight when we are trotting especially when a fellow has no saddle.
under him and is a little sore, but I am getting on.
To the getting more now and is don't trouble me so much to keep one up and suppose by the time we are here three or four years we will understand the knack of it better.

Major Townes's news of his wife's death on Saturday and left for Detroit on the same day. There is nothing of importance happened in camp or vicinity lately. There is done one death every two or three days yesterday. One of the sergeants of the regiment died but so far from feeling sorry for him most of the men wish they would all die (the originals since I wrote last). They have had a torch light procession and a regular jubilee down.
Town over the promotion of Genle McClellan all we could see of it though was the rockets & fireworks that were burnt near the White house, over half a mile from here, and as we could not get outside the grounds we could go no nearer, however I guess it was just as well for if we had got any like as not we women have been put in the guard house by the f Tiểu within two o'clock the bugle blew for water in half an hour I believe I have written all the news.

Give my love to Mellie and tell her to keep fat. I shall have to plague him about the 12 pages he is Hospital steward in a house filled with our sick about half smile from here. Give my love to the rest and write soon. I am sorry I have no pen.
I just received your three letters in one this evening & will try and answer them on Sunday. It takes the letters so long to get around that I can hardly keep the rem of the correspondence & sometimes get them mixed up. I wish you would write what papers you send & when you send any more so that I will know if I receive them as I believe the quartermasters are not very scrupulous as to whose papers they take. I believe I have got all the news in so good rights & a happy new year to you all I remain your affectionate brother C.
I am sorry to send you a clean half sheet but I only intended to inform you of the receipt of your last letter & fear of a small piece.
Dear Pem

I ought to have answered your letter yesterday, but Al & I took a walk and dined out which took all the spare time I had, as we do not have much more time on Sunday than any other day on account of our horses. Mrs. Griffin & her husband came to see us last Friday and gave us all the news of Marquette. We were all glad to see a face from Marquette and she appeared to be very glad to see us. We have had very cold weather here for three or four days the wind blowing from the north all the time there is a great deal of grumbling going on among the men on account of not having overcoats. It is awful cold getting up in the morning at half past five and going to feed and water the horses. I don't see any use in it, but we have to obey orders, we drill from eight o'clock to 11½ every day now on horseback without saddles to learn us to keep on our horses without stirrups and to teach the horses to keep the right distance apart. The lieutenant pays particular attention to me when we are drilling and I have to keep my back straight and my toes in or I catch a scolding every ten minutes, it is pretty hard work to keep up straight when we are trotting especially when a fellow has no saddle under him and is a little sore, but I am getting used to the jolting more now and it don't trouble me so much to keep on. I suppose by the time we are here three or four years we will understand the knack of it better.

Major Town got news of his wife's death on Saturday and left for Detroit on the same day. There is nothing of importance happened in camp or vicinity lately, there is some one dying every two or three days yesterday one of the negroes of the regiment died but so far from feeling sorry for him most of the men wish they would all die (the negroes) since I wrote last they have had a torch light procession and a regular jubilee down town over the promotion of Gen McClellan, all we could see of it though was the rockets & fireworks that were burnt near the white
house, over half a mile from here, and as we could not get outside the guards we could go no nearer. However I guess it was just as well for if we had got out like as not we would have been put in the Guard House by the patrol. It is After two o'clock the bugle blows for watering in half an hour I believe I have written all the news. Give my love to nellie and tell her to keep fat. I shall have to plague Jim about the 12 pages, he is Hospital steward in a house filled with our sick about half a mile from here. Give my love to the rest and write soon I am sorry I have no more time

Ed
I just received your three letters in one dated the 15th Dec this evening & will try and answer them Sunday. It takes the letters so long to get around that I can hardly keep the run of the correspondence & sometimes get thing mixed up. I wish you would write what papers you send when you send any more so that I will know if I recieve them as I believe the quartermasters are not very scrupulous as to whose papers they take. I believe I have got all the news in so good night & a happy new year to you all. I remain your affectionate brother Ed

To Til

I am sorry to send you a clean half sheet but I only intended to inform you of the reciept of your last letter & tear of a small piece.
[Nov. 19, 1865]

Dear Sis,

I am much obliged for the prayers you sent—as well as the bill which I will repay after payday it came very handy and had been strapped over a fortnight I did think some of sending it back but one of the sick men wanted some ogilisoup and no one had any money but one so I had to break it and once broke I found me enough for it.

Since writing the above the call down there and we had to go and water the horses down to the Potomac while we were at the river we saw some twelve or gunboats practicing and we saw...
From firing cannon at the navy yard. The balls skipping over the water, and we had a distant view of Alexandria six miles from here. We have gone had arrived and I expect to be called to fed dog on a few minutes. You inquired on your letter how Jack Remington was. He is in the hospital under the care of Jim and the doctors. He is and very sick. I saw him yesterday. He had a swelling on his chin which I trust will go down. I don't think he is in any danger, we heard from our brother correspondent today, who coolly informed his brother that their brother was all well as if he could. By any I would like to shake him.
Dear Til

I am much obliged for the papers you sent as well as the bill which I will repay after pay day. It came very handy as I had been strapped over a fortnight. I did think some of sending it back but one of the sick men wanted some oyster soup and no one had any money but me so I had to break it, and once broke I found use enough for it. Since writing the above the call sounded and we had to go and water the horses down to the Potomac, while we were at the river we saw some twelve oar gunboats practicing, and we saw them firing cannon at the navy yard the balls skipping over the water, and we had a distant view of Alexandria six miles from here. We have just had supper and I expect to be called to feed hay in a few minutes. You inquired in your letter how Jack Benington was. He is in the hospital under the care of Jim & the doctors. He is not very sick. I saw him yesterday. He had a swelling on his chin which troubled him more than his sickness. I dont think he is in any danger. We heard from our butter correspondent today, who coolly informed his brother that their butter was all sold as if he couldnt by any. I would like to shake him.

Good Bye Ed
Camp Brinkerhoos, Wash.
Sat. Morn Nov 20th 61

Dear Tile,

Another rainy morning gives one an opportunity of scribbling a few lines to inform you of

how affairs are progressing on camp and also of the state of my health which with
the exception of a slight cold which I got on guard the other night is

pretty good. The health of the camp is not so bad as it was two or three
weeks back, the last death in camp that I heard of or rather in the
regiment was that of Corporal Dot poetry out of our company about
a week ago, he was a carpenter from Marquette and was about

as healthy as any man in the Co.

When we left home there is a rumor in camp that our brigade
has been ordered to South Carolina.

a good many seem to think it is true, but I will believe when we start for there and not before.

We just got our sabres and revolvers last night—I believe we are to have carbines too, and it will take some drilling to get us used to them much less to do any mischief with them. We have been drilling nearly two weeks on horses without saddles and are getting used to it.

Sunday morning

I thought I would have time to finish my letter yesterday, but we had dress parade at one o'clock instead of at four as usual and that upset all my calculations as to the time I had at my disposal. We have had breakfast this morning, and while the water is on the stove beating to wash
the dishes in one that is the same
of us, have been shaving. I shaved
first and am now writing while
the others are at it. I suppose you
will be astonished to hear we have
a stone in our tent—especially when
you hear in mind that our tent
is only six feet square and that
there is four of us in it—but it
is fixed so that we can cover in
our smocks and sleep on it—night.

The way it is made is this: we first
dug a ditch about a foot deep
and five long under the corner
of the tent—about two feet on side.
Then we built the sides up with
brick and put an iron plate over
the top of the foundation and
covered the rest up with a board,
except a hole for the chimney
and placed a barrel with the
head knocked out for a chimney
and the stove or furnace was
complete; whenever we get a
Chance we took a piece of fresh meat from the cook and fry it on the stove in a tin plate. Fried potatoes don’t go bad either. The breakfast dishes are washed and three out of the four of us are writing while the fourth is using a fine tooth comb very industriously. With what success he doesn’t say.

We have not moved our quarters yet although it was read on dress parade over a fortnight ago that we were to move that week. There has been nothing of any importance to relieve the monotony of the camp since I wrote last, and we have a fight occasionally and some one gets thrown from his horse most every time we go to water which makes fun for no a day or so and if any one gets a joke on him he
Nov 23 61

is very apt to get sick of it before it is worn out of something don't happen before a great while I don't know what I will do it seems to me I would rather run the risk of getting killed than stay here and live the same every day without any change whatever except the weather which is changeable enough to suit anybody but never gets warm enough to get up a sweat it isn't half as warm here as I supposed it would be we have a frost most every night but have had no snow yet there is snow in marquette by this time and the boats must have stopped running as I have received no letter for
the last two weeks.

Phew! The chimney is full of smoke and I can't write without crying, so I will have to wait a few minutes and stick my head out of the tent to keep from suffocating. We have got both ends of the tent open and I don't know which is the worse—the cold or the smoke. The quartermaster says we are to be paid tomorrow—it is now three months since we enlisted—only think of it—a quarter of a year and a whole twelfth of our term of enlistment—only eleven times as long more to serve. I had to leave any time on account of the cold & smoke and come here to a sea belly's tent. To finish writing my letters, though I can't think what I will put in it—
To fill out the two pages yet unwritten, I came very near going out to see the marquis boys in the 1st Irish infantry. Today the captain promised me a pass, Friday, and I think I could have got a pass from Major Calhoun. For my horse as no person is allowed to take his horse out without leave, but I could not. I and the horse should and I would rather not go than ride my horse so far without shoes. But I will try and go next Sunday. Mr. Jackson wants to go too, by the way, he is the best-dressed man in the company and every man knows it. I don't wonder if he was promoted some day. He deserves it for he studies the latest the more than any one of us.
This book and lota one he wanted me to study it, I've got the book in my pocket but when I have any spare time I read something more interesting or play more or play for sutty tickets, I've learnt a new game of cards since we have been here from a Dutchman in our tent called sixty-six and I can play it now as well as he can. That was always the way with me, I never could learn anything that was good for me but if there was anything that didn't amount to anything I was sure to learn it, however practice makes perfect and if I don't get the tactics out of the books I will get them in time by drilling with the others. I will have to end up for the present so good bye until I write again, give my love to family and my best respects to my friends your brother Etc.
Dear Til

Another rainy morning gives me an opportunity of scribbling a few lines to inform you of how affairs are progressing in camp and also of the state of my health which with the exception of a slight cold which I got on guard the other night is pretty good. The health of the camp is not so bad as it was two or three weeks back, the last death in camp that I heard of or rather in the regiment was that of corporal Ed Wilsey out of our company about a week ago, he was a carpenter from Marquette and was about as healthy as any man in the Co when we left home. There is a rumor in camp that our brigade has been ordered to South Carolina a good many seem to think it is true, but I will believe when we start for there and not before. We just got our sabres and revolvers last night. I believe we are to have carbines too, and it will take some drilling to get us used to them much less on more to do any mischief with them, we have been drilling nearly two weeks on horses without saddles and we are getting used to it.

Sunday Morn

I thought I would have time to finish my letter yesterday, but we had dress parade at one o'clock in stead of at four as usual and that upset all my calculations as to the time I had at my disposal. We have had breakfast this morning and while the water is on the stove heating to wash the dishes in we, that is the four of us, have been shaving. I shaved first and am now writing while the others are at it. I suppose you will be astonished to hear we have a stove in our tent, especially when you bear in mind that our tent is only six feet square and that there is four of us in it, but it is fixed so that we can cover it over and sleep on it at night. The way it is made is this: we first dug a ditch about a foot deep and five long under the corner of the tent about two feet in side, then we built the sides up with bricks and put an iron plate over the top of the part in side, and covered the rest up with a board,
except a hole for the chimney and placed a barrel with the head knocked out for a chimney and the stove or furnace was complete, whenever we get a chance we hook a piece of fresh meat from the cook and fry it on the stove in a tin plate. Fried potatoes don't go bad either. The breakfast dishes are washed and three out of the four of us are writing while the fourth is using a fine tooth comb very industriously with what success he doesn't say. We have not moved our quarters yet although it was read on dress parade over a fortnight ago that we were to move that week.

There has been nothing of any importance happened to relieve the monotony of the camp since I wrote last, we have a fight occasionally, and some one gets thrown from his horse most every time we go to water which makes for us a day or so. and if any one gets a joke on him he is very apt to get sick of it before it is worn out, if something don't happen before a great while I don't know what I will do it seems to me I would rather run the risk of getting killed than stay here and live the same every day without any change whatever except in the weather which is changeable enough to suit any body, but never gets warm enough to get up a sweat, it isn't half as warm here as I supposed it would be we have a frost most every night but have had no snow yet, I suppose there is snow in Marquette by this time and the boats must have stopped running as I have received no letter for the last two weeks. Pshaw! the shanty is full of smoke and I can't write without crying so I will have to wait a few minutes and stick my head out of the tent to keep from suffocating. we have got both ends of the tent open and I don't know which is the worst the cold or the smoke. The Quarter Master says we are to be paid tomorrow it is now three months since we enlisted only think of it a quarter of a year and a whole twelfth of our term of enlistment only eleven times as long more to serve, I had to leave my tent on account of the cold & smoke and come here to Al Lea Pilleys tent to
finish writing my letter, though I can't think what I will put in it to fill out the two pages yet unwritten. I came very near going out to see the marquette boys in the 1st Mich infantry to day the captain promised me a pass friday and I think I could have got a pass from Major Paldi for my horse as no person is allowed to take his horse out with shod and I would rather not go than ride my horse out leave but I could not get the horse so far without shoes. But I will try and go next sunday. Al Jackson wants to go too, by the way. Al is the best drilled man in the company and every man knows it too. I shouldn't wonder if he was promoted some day he deserves it for he studies the tactics more than any one of us, he lent me one of his books and told me he wanted me to study it. I've got the book in my satchel but when I have any spare time I read something more interesting or play whore or poker for sutlers tickets, I've learnt a new game of cards since we have been here from a dutchman in our tent called sixty-six and I can play it now as well as he can. that was always the way with me. I never could learn anything that was good for me but if there was any thing that didn't amount to anything I was sure to learn it, however practice makes perfect and if I don't get the tactics out of the books I will get them in time by drilling with the others. I will have to end up for the present so good bye until I write again. Give my love to the family & my best respect to my friends your brother

Ed
and there is a fire in it now which.

I am writing. It rained all night last night and the fire helps to dry the tent.

There is a quantity of cackle around the camp, pies, cakes, apples, dry bread, clothes and every thing of the kind for sale cheap for the soldiers as the jest say.

I would write more but I want to write a little to lie as it was partly her letter I am answering do you get any people for the present.

Ed.

Dear Sir,

You must wait for answers but keep on writing every week as I don't always have time to write and your letters are very acceptable.
don't come often enough. I suppose my letters lately have been kind of very lively, but when a fellow head is all stopped up he don't feel particularly clever. I am glad to hear that Witten has given up card playing on account of Miller. What makes him think that would hinder Miller from playing? However, I suppose he knows best; if he was down here I am against he would soon begin again. I have my pocket full of dummies tickets all the time which I get playing cards through to pass time. I buy cakes x cider, blacking, looking glasses and lots of things and still have plenty of tickets left. Thanksgiving day was day before yesterday I had an apple dinner for ten cents with brandy sauce too.
dinner besides cake & pies &c.

We have got so we don't eat any bread at all. We have got about a dozen loaves ahead and don't know what to do with them all. It's a pity. Eggs put me in a snare of a custard pie I bought the other day which lasted so strong of rotten eggs that I scraped the custard out and stewed a couple of apples and made an apple pie of it it was first-rate. You can tell Wilber it is I write this as if it is a game. I got a letter from Warren he says Wilber was going to write too. All Edelstig & Graydon Ramsey were here yesterday for a visit—they have moved farther away from us so we can't go and see them on Sunday now as we used to they
We camped now at Annapolis Junction twenty five miles from here Sunday afternoon I will have to spend this off this afternoon there is nothing new to put in any cold hang on yet I think I will have to sleep on the hospital for a night or two I care if we get our overcoats last night long blue ones they come most close to our heels but they are quiet warm I believe we have every thing now except drilling unless it is the carbines and the stand know not whether we are going to have them or not write down and give me some one to write and the rest of the family April 18 62
and there is a fire in it now while I am writing. It rained all night last night and the fire helps to dry the tent. There is any quantity of pedlars around the camp, pies cakes apples Dry Goods Clothes & every thing of the kind for sale sheep for de monie as the Jews say. I would write more but I want to write a little to til as it was partly her letter I am answering. So good Bye for the present.

Ed

Dear Til

You musnt wait for answers but keep on writing every week as I dont always have time to write and your letters are very acceptable only they dont come often enough. I suppose my letters lately have not been very lively but when a fellows head is all stoped up he dont feel particularly cheerful. I am glad ie to hear that Wilbur has given up card playing on account of Miller what possessed him to think that would hinder miller from playing? However I suppose he knows best, if he was down here I am afraid he would soon begin again. I have my pocket full of Sutlers tickets all the time which I get playing penny poker to pass time. I buy cake & cider Blacking, looking glasses and lots of things and still have plenty of tickets left.

Thanksgivings day was day before yesterday. I had an apple dumpling for ten cents with brandy sauce for dinner besides cakes & pies &c. we have got so we dont eat our bread at all. we have got about a dozen leave ahead and dont know what to do with it all. Wilburs Eggs puts me in mind of a custard pie I bought the other day which tasted so strong of rotten eggs that I scraped the custard out and stewed a couple of apples and made an apple pie of it. It went first rate.

You can tell Wilbur it is most time he wrote if he is a going to, I got a letter from Warren he said Wilbur was going to write too. All Eddy & Fayette Barney were here yesterday for a visit they have moved
farther away from us so we cant go and see them on sundays now as we used to they are camped now at anapolis Junction twenty five miles from here.

Sunday afternoon

I will have to send this off this afternoon there is nothing new to put in. My cold Hangs on yet I think I will have to sleep in the hospital for a night or two & cure it. we got our overcoats last night, long blue ones they come most down to our heels but they are quite warm [we need bad?]

I believe we have every thing now except drilling which [three words ms. illegible] enough unless it is the carbines and we dont know yet whether we are going to have them or not write soon and give my love to willie and the rest of the family

Your Bro

Ed
weeks or so in our new camp and they kept up the trot so long yesterday that this morning I felt a decided disinclination to sit on any horse so I got a pass this morning and spent the day in the city. I went through the capitol again to day is not being Friday there was no session so I didn't get a chance of seeing the senators but I had the satisfaction of sitting in one of their seats and tried to persuade myself that I was a senator too it was no go the place was too grand I don't believe I could say a word to the speaker if I was one a person's voice sounds so strong in the room. On leaving the capitol I went down the avenue into the city and who should
I must—but the patrol with a lot of prisoners, I didn’t feel very certain where I should sleep to-night. When I saw them as they don’t—always let a fellow off even if he has a pass and I wasn’t over and above certain whether mine was good or not. As the major told me to bring it to the colonel and get his signature on it when he gave it to me in the morning but the colonel wouldn’t sign it so I went off without it. But fortunately it carried me through if it wasn’t quite straight. The city was full of officers & soldiers, my shoulder fairly ached with saluting so much. I saw lots of ladies and girls, but not a face that I knew—though it don’t take long to strike up an acquai
down here, among the soldiers especially, the usual form of doing so is when you meet one. Hello stranger, what regiment do you belong to? His reply will be Maine or whatever state he may be from, and what regiment do you belong to. Where are you camped at? Every one seems ready to talk of home and sistering and it is astonishing how many different states are represented by their children. You meet them from every loyal state in the union. So much so.

We have just had breakfast and Patridge is washing the dishes. We don't drive today as we are to have an inspection of arms and equipment tomorrow and are excused to day to clean our traps and calamities and get them in good shape. I am going to take time to write until I do good bye for the last time next time.
Dear Pam,

I received a letter from you the other day, which, though it contained no news I suppose I will have to answer just as promptly as if it did. I never began a letter here yet but what I was interrupted some way. I just had to stop and write a direction for Shad to send a letter to Germany the direction covered the whole envelope and I couldn't pronounce a word of it. I've been to town all day and have just got back. I went down to get my watch fixed but the principal reason was to get rid of the morning drill as we have been drilling for a week or so in our new camp and they kept up the trot so long yesterday that this morning I felt a decided disinclination to sit on my horse so I got a pass this morning and spent the day in the city. I went through the capitol again to day, it not being Saturday there was no session so I didn't get a chance of seeing the senators but I had the satisfaction of sitting in one of their seats, and tried to persuade myself that I was a senator but it was no go the place was too grand, I don't believe I could say a word to the speaker if I was one a person's voice sounds so strange in the room. On leaving the capitol I went down the avenue into the city and who should I meet but the patrol with a lot of prisoners, I didn't feel very certain where I should sleep to night, when I saw them as they don't always let a fellow off even if he has a pass and I wasn't over and above certain whether mine was good or not as the major told me to bring it to the colonel and get his signature on it when he gave it to me in the morning but the colonel wouldn't sign it so I went off without it, but fortunately it carried me through if it wasn't quite straight. The city was full of officers & soldiers, my shoulder fairly ached with saluting so much. I saw lots of ladies and girls, but not a face that I knew, though it don't take long to strike up an acquaintance down here, among the soldiers especially, the
usual form of doing so is when you meet one. Hello stranger what regiment do you belong to? His reply will be Maine or whatever state he may be from, and what regiment do you belong to? Where are you camped &c, every one seems ready to talk of home and sorgery &c, it is astonishing how many different states are represented by their soldier. You meet them from every loyal state in the union.

Sat morn Dec 7th

We have just had breakfast and Patridge is washing the dishes. We don't drill today as we are to have an inspection of arms & equipments tomorrow and are excused to day to clean our traps & calamities and get them in good shape. I am going to take time to write to TIl So good Bye for the present more next time.

Ed
Camp Palmer Washington  

Dec 7th 61

Dear Sue,

I received another kind letter from you before I had answered your last. So I take this opportunity of writing to you both in the same envelope. John Doyle & Hank Finney are here from their camp at Annapolis junction on a visit. They just came an hour or so ago. I shook hands with them but didn't have any conversation so I didn't hear any news from the Michigan boys. Steve Reice & Jim Cato were here the other day. They reported all the marquette boys well, and Mrs. Griffin has gone back to Detroit. Al Jackson has just gone back with his squad from Poolesville, Md., where he has been to escort the paymaster to the
regiments quartered here hel
say the soldiers were nearly
crazy for the pay as they had
been in the service four or more
months without-a cent of pay. I should
like to have gone with him
but I had a severe cold when
he left so he didn't select me.
As I am sure he would if I
had been able, as he always
favors me when he has an op-
portunity. There is a rumor in
Camp that we are going to move
in winter quarters somewhere
up the river but like all other
rumors I won't believe until I
am obliged to. We are pretty
well settled here now and
comparatively comfortable and
won't be very acceptable to
the most of us. When I was down
town yesterday I spent an
hour or two in looking through
The Patent-Office, I took another look at Washington's clothes & camp equipments & read his commission as general of the American army and also the original Declaration of Independence. The writing is still plain enough to read but the signatures are mostly worn out.- John Hancock, the president, wrote his with a heavy hand and his will last for years & years but the others were written lighter and are wearing out. I saw so many relics of old times that when I came to a stand where they had some of the old revolution script which was warranted to be some of the same money paid the soldiers at the close of the war which they were selling for the benefit of the Washington Monument.
patriotism or whatever you call it rose so high that I determined to have some as I thought mother would think as much of it as I did so I invested a dollar and purchased three bills an eight a two and one of a third of a dollar a pretty big discount but if mother thinks as much of them as I do she won’t sell them for the face of them as I intend dealing them for the cabins I give them to mother the notice at the stand read that the bills were printed by Franklin but the printer left a different name on the backs so I guess I didn’t get any of Franklin.

There is not much news in camp we have changed captains again Capt. Norval is our commander now a little fellow but he has the snap in him and will make us stand around he is the best drilled captain in the regiment and just the man we want
I haven't time to read it over so you must excuse the mistake to make a good company of us for we have been badly neglected since town left us. Capt. Denison was a very kind & good man but knew nothing about military & the lieutenants were not much better but now I hope we will be drilled right up to the handle. Tell George I will write to him when I write again as I have taken a good deal of time at this when I ought to be doing something else. I got some papers last week which I suppose are the same you mentioned in your letter. I don't have so much time to read now as I need to but I manage to read all the papers I find them.
very useful when I am on guard as we go on at seven in the morning and stay on twenty-four hours without something to read the hours go by very slowly. I suppose I will have to wait awhile now before I get another letter from you as you say the docs are about done running for the season I can assure you the detention of the mail will trouble me full as much as it will you. I suppose by the time this reaches you you will have sleighing & skating I have very heavy frosts blown down here every night but no snow the weather is usually cool a little to cold for our jackets and hardly cold enough for overcoats with which we are well supplied except in the morning when
They are quite serviceable.
I heard some of the boys guess that our fatigue hours have come. I think it would have been better policy to have given them first so we could have saved our dress jackets which we have worn most three months at all kinds of work however we can't regulate government matters and I suppose we must take such as we get. I hope Harvey's mail arrangement will continue as I expect the letter in which I sent you a twenty dollar treasury note will have to go through that way and my mind will be somewhat more composed when I hear you have received it as it was put in the regimental post-office and I don't con-
sider that - a perfectly safe institution. I didn't intend to write more than half of this sheet - but the half would hold all I wanted to say. I am sorry for your cold and I know how to appreciate the pleasure of one as I was unfit for duty nearly a week on account of one but have about recovered from it. Tell William to be a good boy and give him a kiss for me. I should like to learn to dance at the dancing school of Stanton and the terrible lumber darkie but I am afraid I will never learn unless it is to dance to another kind of music which won't be so nice though there is no danger of that - unless things move faster than heretofore. Give my love to all the family. I take mine to yourself. Your aftr Bro Ed.
Dear Til

I received another kind letter from you before I had answered.

I received a letter from John Boyle & Hank Finney are here from their camp at Annapolis Junction on a visit. They just came an hour or so ago. I shook hands with them but didn't have any conversation so I didn't hear any news from the Michigan first. Steve Rice & Tim Cating were here the other day. They reported all the Marquette boys well, and Mrs. Griffin had gone back to Detroit. Al Jackson has just got back with his squad from Poolesville, Md., where he has been to escort the paymaster to the regiments quartered there. Al says the soldiers were nearly crazy for the pay as they had been in the service four months without a cent of pay. I should like to have gone with him but I had a severe cold when he left so he didn't select me as I am sure he would if I had been able, as he always favors me when he has an opportunity.

There is a rumor in camp that we are going to move in winter quarters somewhere up the river, but like all other rumors I won't believe until I am obliged to. We are pretty well settled here now, and comparatively comfortable and won't be very acceptable to the most of us. When I was down town yesterday I spent an hour or two in looking through the Patent Office, I took another look at Washington's clothes & camp equipments & read his commission as general of the American army and also the original Declaration of Independence. The writing is still plain enough to read but the signatures are mostly worn out. John Hancock, the president wrote his with a heavy hand and his will last for years & years but the others were written lighter and are wearing out. I saw so many relics of old times that when I came to a stand where they had some of the old Revolution scrip which was warranted to be some of the same money paid the soldiers at the close of the war, which they were selling for the benefit of the Washington monument my patriotism or
What every you call it rose so high that I determined to have some as I thought mother would think as much of it as I did so I invested a dollar and purchased three bills an eight, a two, and one of a third, of a dollar, a pretty big discount but if you mother thinks as much of them as I do she won't sell them for the face of them, as I intended them for the cabinet I give them to mother the notice at the stand read that the bills were printed by Franklin but the printer left a different name on the backs so I guess I didn't get any of Franklin's. There is not much news in camp. We have changed captains again Capt Norval is our commander now a little fellow but he has the snap in him and will make us stand around. He is the best drilled captain in the regiment and just the man we want.

I haven't time to read it over so you must excuse the mistakes

to make a good company of us for we have been been [sic] sadly neglected since town left us capt Denison was a very kind & good man but knew nothing about military and the lieutenants were not much better, but now I hope we will be drilled right up to the handle. Tell George I will write to him when I write again as I have taken a good deal of time at this when I ought to be doing something else. I got some papers last week which I suppose are the same you mentioned in your letter. I don't have so much time to read now as I used to but I manage to read all the papers I find them very useful when I am on guard as we go on at seven in the morning and stay on twenty four hours without something to read the hours go by very slowly. I suppose I will have to wait awhile now before I get another letter from you as you say the boats are about done running for the season. I can assure you the detention of the mail will trouble me full as much as it will you. I suppose by the time this reaches you, you will have sleighing & skating, we have very heavy frosts down here every night but no snow the weather is usually cool, a little to cold for our jackets and hardly cold enough for overcoats, with wish
we are well supplied except in the morning when they are quite ser-
viceable. I heard som/of the boys just say that our fatigue coats have
come. I think it would have been better policy to have given them first
so we could have saved our dres jackets which we have worn most three
months at all kinds of work however we cant regulate government matters
and I suppose we must take such as we get. I hope Harveys mail arrange-
ment will continue as I expect the letter in which I sent you a twenty
dollar treasury note will have to go throught that way and my mind
will be somewhat more composed when I hear you have received it as it
was put in the regimental post office and I dont consider that a perfectly
safe institution. I didnt intend to write more than half of this
sheet but the half wouldnt hold all I wanted to say. I am sorry for
your cold and I know how to apreciate the pleasure of one as I was un-
fit for duty nearly a week on account of one but have about recovered
from it. Tell willie to be a good boy and give him a kiss for me. I
should like to learn to\x dance at the dancing school of Stanton and the
Terible lunch darkie but I am afraid I will never learn unless it is
to dance to another kind of music which wont be so nice though there
is no danger of that unless things move faster than heretofore. Give
my love to all the family & take mine to yourself

Your af Bro

Ed
Camp, Palmetto B. Dec. 6th, 1861

Dear George,

I have a few minutes to spare before supper and can't think of doing anything better than answering your letter, which I received enclosed in yours. This has been a very busy Sunday with us and I feel pretty tired. We have had an inspection of horses, saddles, arms and equipments all through today and as the colonel inspected the whole regiment it was very tedious waiting our turn. Our company is on the left of the regiment and the last one to fall in or be inspected. We didn't get through until half past twelve. Our sabre, pistols & brass fixings were scoured up & polished until there wasn't a spot on them.
we have to keep our things in good order, so as to pass inspection every Sunday morning. The orderly tried to get the company to attend divine service this afternoon but it took so long that the waiting call was annulled before we got up there so we didn’t have any church which pleased most of the men more than going as they call it - divine punishment to stand up for an hour or two before the colonel’s tent to hear our chaplain talk politics. I had to stop writing to eat my supper and feed my horse Hay & oats which he is now eating in front of my tent - all I have to do when I go to him is to step outside and walk about as far as across the parlor which
is very convenient—but not quite so agreeable as it might be.
The Company must to us have their rope fairly close to our row of tents
and while I was dreaming the other night—one of their miserable
horses put his foot on my head and made me sit there for
a minute or two, I take particular
pains now nights to keep my
head away from the canvas.
I rode to town yesterday evening
to get my watch which I left here
the day before to be cleaned.
there is a company of regular
cavalry stationed on the road
between here & town to keep
Officers & soldiers from
galloping horses over the road.
I knew that there
was a sentry stationed but
I didn’t know there was a trav-
ing patrol to whom I passed.
The sentinel a little ways I put the spur to my horse and was going it lickety-swindle when suddenly a sabre was stuck in front of my face and one of the mounted patrol enjoined me very covet that canterin was not allowed on that road and if I was caught at it again I might stand a good chance of seeing the inside of a guard house so I had to finish my ride at a trot which isn't quite so pleasant especially when I had three saddles on and came through all right. By the way I found an old acquaintance down here and I'll tell you how I found him one day as I was waiting for the company to fall in to attend a funeral.
The sentinel a little way off
I put the spurs to my horse
and was going in likely daze
when suddenly a sabre was
stuck in front of my face
and one of the mounted patrol
informed me very early that
containing was made allow to
that keeper and if I was caught
at it again I might stand a
good chance of seeing the
inside of a gaoler hoad
I had to finish my ride and
bust which was quite confidential
especially when I had been
in a saddle on and came through
all night. But the way I
found
an old acquaintance down
here and I'll tell you how I
found him. One day as I
was walking for the company
to fall in to attend a funeral
Dec. 6th 1841

Dear George,

I have a few minutes to spare before supper and can't think of doing anything better than answering your letter, which I received enclosed in yours. This has been a very busy Sunday with no and I feel pretty tired. We have had an inspection of all our arms and equipment all turned today and as the colonel inspected the whole regiment it was very tedious waiting our turn. Our camp boots is just left of the regiment and the last one to fall in or be inspcted. We did not get through until half past twelve our sabre pistols & brass lances were seamed up & polished until there was a spot on them.
The sentinel a little way off I saw the spring to my horse and was going to leave it when suddenly a sabre was stuck in front of my face and one of the marauders informed one man close that I was notことを果たした with it and if I remained as I was a man. Close to me I received a severe blow on the side of my face and I fell to the ground with the sword which had gone through my head especially when I had thrust myself towards the ground.

a saddle on and came through all right. By the way I found one old acquaintance down here and I'll tell you how I found him, one day we were waiting for the company to fall in to attend a funeral.
Dear George,

I have a few minutes to spare before supper and can't think of doing anything better than answering your letter, which I received acknowledged in Oct. This has been a very busy Sunday with 700 and I feel pretty tired. We have had an inspection of horses, saddles, arms and equipment all through today and so the colonel inspected the whole regiment - it was very tedious waiting and long. Our company is on the left of the regiment and the last one to fall in or be inspected. We didn't get through until half past twelve. Our sabers, pistols & brass fixings were secured up & polished until there were no spots on them.
Camp Palmer Washington
Dec 8th 1861

Dear George,

I have a few minutes to spare before supper and can think of doing anything better than answering your letter, which I received enclosed in Till's. This has been a very busy Sunday with us and I feel pretty tired. We have had an inspection of horses, saddles, arms and equipments all through today, and as the colonel inspected the whole regiment it was very tedious waiting our turn. Our company is on the left of the regiment and the last one to fall in or be inspected. We didn't get through until half past twelve, our sabres & pistols & Brass fixings were scoured up & polished [sic] until there wasn't a spot on them [sic] we have to keep our things [sic] in good order, so as to pass inspection every Sunday mornings. The Orderly tried to get the company to attend divine service this afternoon but it took so long that the watering call sounded before we got up there so we didn't have any church which pleased most of the men more than going as they call it divine punishment to stand up for an hour or two before the colonel's tent to hear our chaplain talk politics. I had to stop writing to eat my supper and feed my horse Hay & Oats which he is now eating in front of my tent all I have to do when I go to him is to step outside and walk about as far as across the parlor which is very convenient but not quite so agreeable as it might be. The company next to us have there rope pretty close to our row of tents and while I was dreaming the other night one of their miserable horses put his foot on my head and made me see stars for a minute or two. I take particular pains now nights to keep my head away from the canvas. I rode to town yesterday evening to get my watch which I left there the day before to be cleaned, there is a company of regular cavalry stationed on the road betwixt [sic] here & town to keep officers & soldiers from galloping horses over the road and--so-- I knew that there was a sentry
stationed but I didn't know there was a traveling patrol so when I passed the sentinel a little ways I put the spurs to my horse and was going it lickity swizel when suddenly a sabre was stuck in front of my face and one of the mounted patrol informed me very coolly that cantering was not allowed on that road and if I was caught at it again I might stand a good chance of seeing the inside of a guard house, so I had to finish my ride at a trot which isn't quite so pleasant especially when I had three miles to go however I had a saddle on and came through all right. By the way I found an old acquaintance down here and I'll tell you how I found him. One day as I was waiting for the company to fall in to attend a funeral
This letter is so long.

December 11, 1861

Dear Sir,

We have got settled at last in our new camp, but for how long I do not know. We were three days coming from Washington, for here almost as long as it took to come from Detroit.

The day before we left we received orders to be ready to move at sunrise the next morning so at three o'clock the steers sounded for turning out and we got up and dressed them fell in for roll call after which we fed our horses & cleaned them made fires with our lumber & straw for it was dark as pitch then we got breakfast which was not a very sumptuous one as it consisted of bread & coffee alone but we did not grumble.
as we were so anxious to be moving to take time to find fault. Mané Bishop stayed with me another night and took breakfast with us. He had a furlough to go over to Alexandria to see some of the Michigan boys & stayed long enough to see us off.

After breakfast we rolled up our grey blankets & strapped them on behind the saddle & strapped our overcoats on before the same packed up our baggage & then struck our tent & rolled it up ready to load in the wagon then saddled our horses and buckled on our sabres & revolvers and we were all ready for marching by daylight. But we waited until nine o'clock before we got the order to mount our form at arms parade ground after the line was formed.
had to wait—so that the wagons could get ahead. It was very tedious waiting so long, but Capt. Horrigan got up a little announcement for us by trying to get his horse raised to a small flag which is used as a guide for the company & frightened his horse with it, when he ran away with the captain and dashed right through the line of horses scattering them right & left; fortunately, he was not hurt. Finally, we got started and left the camp about noon on our route across through the center of the city up Pennsylvania avenue & up another street to the White House where we went up the avenue which made a half circle in front of the house & out to the street again, the whole regiment marched by the house to give
The president—a look at us the parties in front of the house was crowded with gentlemen and Mrs Lincoln was looking out of a window, but I could not tell which the president was as any horse was ugly and took up most of my attention so that I could not look around much. After leaving there we came near passing by a bronze monument of Washington on horseback life size. And through Georgetown which looked old as the hills and on the road which leads to here, after we had cleared the city half of our company were detailed as a rear guard to bring up all stragglers. It was my bad luck to be one of them when the regiment overtook the wagons they passed right on.
but we had to stay behind and guard them and as they went - very slow - we was not over & above pleased with our job. There was nothing of any importance happened through the day, the wagons would go on thirty or forty rods & stop & we would do the same they would go on again & so would we & that is about the way we went all day, at nine we came up with the regiment - camped on the fair ground just outside the village of Rockville. The place is in a grove & is fenced in with a board fence, it made a very good camp ground but it was so dark when we got there that all I could see was the camp fires so it was...
my horse & got one of the men to show me where to get feed for him, and then looked around for something for my own supper but was unable to find anything so I took my blankets from the saddle & rolled my overcoat around me and put the blanket over with the saddle for a pillow & made the best of it for the night on the ground. I have no doubt but sleeping outside is very agreeable down here in warm weather but this time of the year I would a little rather have a roof over one. The next morning I woke up all right and as it was no longer dark I made out to find a pretty comfortable breakfast.
its own wagons which kept the regiment more together. Co M furnished the rear guard & we got into camp. The good season, it was still light enough to discover four stacks of hay about a mile from the camp, which in the morning had entirely disappeared. It was very soft & comfortable to lay on as I know by experience after any horse was taken care of. And the captain's tent was just the one which I had to supervise. I went down to the village of Hardstown, which was near the camp and tried in every house to get a warm cup of tea or coffee but the first & second divisions had eaten them all clean so I bought some crackers & cheese I went back to camp where
I arrived just as they had drunk the last cup of coffee so I made my supper off from the crackers and cheese and joined bed clothes with Brownell (one of my squad) and passed a very comfortable night on a pile of hay well covered with blankets.

The next day we had a miserable road and made very slow progress. We had only eleven miles to go to reach Frederick but it was two o'clock before we got there. We found it to be quite a large place and full of soldiers. We marched half way through the city and turned off to the east followed a narrow street of road about four miles, forded the river Monocin and went up a long hill through the woods and finally camped on the edge of the clearing near a
company of artillery. As we expected to make
our winter quarters there
we got our tents and as the
camp was laid out our line came
right along side of a rail fence
and by the time the tents were
all pitched the rails were all
piled up in near-fattle keeps
before each tent, and in spite
of the order not to destroy any
property whatever there was
a bright fire near each
tent made out of them same
rails any squad were fortunate
enough to hook a kettle from
the cook with coffee & sugar
enough to make it full of
coffee & as we had plenty
of hard bread we had our
supper in good season and
chickens—have to wait until nine or ten o'clock for it as some did. As there were no hay stacks to draw from we scraped a pile of leaves in our tent—made our bed and turned in. The next morning the colonel concluded that was no place for a camp. There was no drill ground nor any chance for watering so we got orders to pull up stakes and prepare to move again and at 6:00 we went in an hour the tents were all struck rolled up and loaded our horses saddled & we all ready to mount & be off but regiments don't move in an hour or two of them either for that matter as we found out to our vexation as we waited—until two o'clock before we had orders to mount
and fall in. Then it was my misfortune to be in the rear guard again and we had to wait an hour or two longer for the wagons to get started. Finally they began to move but wouldn't go much more than the length of the wagon before they would stop then after a while they would go on again a little further until at last they got to the river where one of the mules had to get tangled up in the harness and fall down in the middle of the river where he was very near drowned before the driver could get him out. There we had a grand stop. We all wanted to get in camp before dark and such moving was fortunate to me as the swarms of the drivers were not a few.
The last wagon got over the river about five o'clock when our patience was just about worn out. After crossing the wagons kept up a pretty good jog and we got through the city by dusk and three miles more brought us to the camp. But as it was so late when we got here they had no time to lay out the camp and did not know where to embrace the wagons, so we did the best we could without tents. That night in the morning I bought a chicken and some biscuit which all helped me eat with our coffee made a pretty good breakfast.

About nine the adjutant had the camp laid out and we saddled our horses and rode to our line unloaded our wagons pitched our tent.
swept-off the leaves of which, as we are in the woods there was any quantity of them, stretched our picket-ropes to tie our horses to, and made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would admit of. So day we have the best-looking stier in the regiment, it is as long as from Harva neer store up to the house where Harva lived full as level with only a great deal cleaner as we have to sweep up every morning from the front of our tents to the rope which is about fifty feet off and everything is kept near as you please. There is a large hickory tree right in front of our tent which will shelter
long a march. The reason of our coming here I heard was to be with the rest of General Banks's division, to which we belong and who are camped all around the city. There are some twenty veld regiments near Frederick which keep the place full of them all the time. I heard that the General was going to pick out a body guard from our regiment of forty-five men. I do not know whether it is so or not, but if it is I hope I will be one as they will have a good chance to see the country. He was here a little while ago. He said this was the only place he could find so he thought he would come in the col. took the orderleys & Maynard's tent for his own use and...
promised to give them another in a day or two so they three as Elmer Decker lives with them have to bunk in with Col
and he says they have rather close quarters he says he hears that Corp Barney was to be promoted to a sergeant as Bill
Thomas left a vacancy which has not yet been filled.
I got a bundle of papers yesterday which were the ones I suppose you sent with your last letter which I received a week or more ago. I suppose we will begin to drill before a great while and that is the reason why I wrote such a long letter as I don't know how much time I will have when I want to write again. Give my love to all the folks and write soon to your.
Affectionate Bro Ed.
Dear Til

We have got settled at last in our new camp but for how long I do not know. We were three days coming from Washington here almost as long as it took to come from Detroit. The day before we left we received orders to be ready to move at sunrise the next morning so at three o'clock the reveille sounded for turning out and we got up & dressed then fell in for roll call after which we fed our horses & cleaned them made fires with our lumber & straw for it was dark as pitch then we got breakfast which was not a very sumptuous one as it consisted of bread & coffee along, but we did not grumble as we were too anxious to be moving to take time to find fault. Mase Bishop stayed with me over night and took breakfast with us he had a furlough to go over to Alexandria to see some of the Michigan boys & stayed long enough to see us off. After breakfast we rolled up our grey blankets & strapped them on behind the saddle & strapped our over coats on before in front of the same packed up our baggage & then struck our tent & rolled it up ready to load in the wagon then saddled our horses and buckled on our sabres & revolvers and we were all ready for marching by day light, but we waited until nin o'clock before we got the order to mount and form a line on the parade ground after the line was formed we had to wait so that the waggons could get ahead it was very tedious waiting so long, but Capt Horigan got up a little amusement for us by trying to get his horse used to a small flag which is used as a guide for the company & fright-ened his horse with it, when he run away with the captain and dashed right through the line of horses scattering them right & left, fortunately he was not hurt. finally we got started and left the camp about noon our route was through the centre of the city up Pennsylvania avenue & up another street to the white house where we went up the avenue which made a half circle in front of the house & out to the street again,
the whole regiment marched by the house to give the president a look at us. The portico in front of the house was crowded with gentlemen and Mrs. Lincoln was looking out of a window, but I could not tell which the president was, as my horse was ugly and took up most of my attention so that I could not look around much, after leaving there we came north passing by a bronze monument of Washington on horseback life size, and through Georgetown which looked old as the hills, and out on the road which leads to here, after we had cleared the city half of our company were detailed as a rear guard to bring up all stragglers. It was my bad luck to be one of them when the regiment overtook the wagons they passed right on but we had to stay behind and guard them and as they went very slow we were not over & above pleased with our job. There was nothing of any importance happened through the day, the wagons would go on thirty or forty rods & stop & we would do the same they would go on again & so would we & that is about the way we went all day, at nine we came up with the regiment camped on the fair ground just outside the village of Rockville. The place is in a grove & is fenced in with a board fence, it made a very good camp ground but it was so dark when we got there that all I could see was the camp fires so I tied my horse & got one of the men to show me where to get feed for him, and then looked about for something for my own supper but was unable to find any thing so I took my blanket from the saddle & rolled my overcoat around me and put the blanket over with the saddle for a pillow & made the best of it for the night on the ground. I have no doubt but sleeping out side is very agreeable down here in warm weather, but this time of the year I would a little rather have a roof over me. The next morning I woke up all right and as it was no longer dark I made out to find a pretty comfortable breakfast, this day each division was followed by its own wagons which kept the regiment more toge-
ther Co K furnished the rear guard & we got into camp in good sea-
son, it was still light enough to discover four stacks of hay about
a mile from the camp which in the morning had entirely disapaeared
it was very soft & comfortable to lay on as I know by experiance [sic]
after my horse was taken care of, And the captains tent was pitched
which I had to superintend, I went down to the village of Hardstown
which was near the camp and tried in every house to get a warm
cup of tea or coffee but the first & second divisions had eaten them
out clean so I bought some crackers & cheese & went back to camp
where I arrived just as they had drawk the last cup of coffee so I made
my supper off from the crackers & cheese and joined bedclothes with
Brownell (one of my squad) and passed a very comfortable night on a
pile of hay well covered with blankets. The next day we had a miser-
able road and made very slow progress we had only eleven miles to
go to reach Frederick but it was two o'clock before we got there, we
found it to be quite a large place & full of soldiers we marched
half way through the city & turned off to the east & followed a nar-
row street or road about four miles, forded the river menossin & went
up a long hill through the woods and finally camped on the edge of A
clearying near a company of artillery. as we expected to make our win-
ter quarters there we got out our tents and as the camp was laid out
our line came right along side of a rail fence and by the time the
tents were all pitched the rails were all piled up in neat little
heaps before each tent, and in spite of the order not to destroy any
property whatever there was a bright fire near each tent made out of
them same rails, my squad were fortunate enough to hook a kettle from
the cook with coffee & sugar enough to make it full of coffee & as we
had plenty of hard bread we had our supper in good season and didn't
have to wait until nine or ten o'clock for it as some did. As there
were no hay stacks to draw from we scraped a pile of leaves in our tent
made our bed and turned in. The next morning the colonel concluded that
was no place for a camp. There was no drill ground nor any chance for watering so we got orders to pull up stakes and prepare to move again and at it went in an hour the tents were all struck rolled up & loaded our horses saddled & we all ready to mount & be off, but regiments don't move in an hour or two of them either for that matter as we found out to our vexation as we waited until two o'clock before we had orders to mount and fall in, Then it was my misfortune to be in the rear guard again and we had to wait an hour or two longer for the wagons to get started, finally [sic] they began to move but wouldn't go much more than the length of the wagon before they would stop then after a while they would go on again a little further until at last they got to the river where one of the mules had to get tangled up in the harness and fall down in the middle of the river where he was very near drowned before the driver could get him out & there we had a grand stop. We all wanted to get in camp before dark and such moving was torture to us & the swears at the drivers were not a few. The last wagon got over the river about four o'clock when our patience was just about wore out, after crossing, the wagons kept up a pretty good jog & we got through the city by dusk & three miles more brought us to the camp but as it was so late when we got here they had no time to lay out the camp & did not know where to unload the wagons, so we did the best we could without tents that night. In the morning I bought a chicken & some biscuit which Al helped me eat which with our coffee made a pretty good breakfast. About nine the adjutant had the camp laid out and we saddled our horses & rode to our line unloaded our wagons pitched out tent swept off the leaves of which, as we are in the woods there was any quantity of them, stretched our picket rope, to tie our horses to, and made ourselves as comfortable as circumstances would admit of. To day we have the best looking street in the
regiment, it is as long as from Kaufmans store up to the house where Harvey lived a full as level only a great deal cleaner as we have to sweep up every morning from the front of our tents to the rope which is about fifty feet off and every thing is kept neat as you please. There is a large hickory tree right in front of our tent which will shelter us when it rains or snows though we have had no indication yet of the latter but the residents say we will before the winter is over. We were not allowed to put our floors in the wagons when we moved but we took the precaution of wrapping our iron plates up in the tent so that now we have our furnace in full blast again and while I am writing (it is now eight o’clock) the tent is warm as toast, while there is quite a frost outside. I should have finished writing this morning but we had an inspection of sabres & revolvers & I had to take time to clean & polish [sic] my weapons. The major complimented us for the good order in which we kept our arms after so long a march. The reason of our coming here I heard was to be with the rest of General Bank's division, to which we belong and who are camped all round the city there are some twenty odd regiments near Frederick which keep the place full of them all the time. I heard that the General was going to pick out a body guard from our regiment of forty-five men I do not know whether it is so or not but if it is I hope I will be one as they will have a good chance to see the country. Al was here a little while ago he said this was the only warm place he could find so he thought he would come in. The col took the orderleys & maynards tent for his own use and promised to give them another in a day or two so they three as Elmer Decker lives with them have to bunk in with Al and he says they have rather close quarters, he says he heard that corp Barney was to be promoted to a sergeant as Bill Thomas left a vacancy which has not yet been filled. I got a bundle of papers
yesterday which were the ones I suppose you sent with your last letter which I received a week or more ago. I suppose we will begin to drill before a great while and that is the reason why I wrote such a long letter as I dont know how much time I will have when I want to write again. Give my love to all the folks & write soon to your

Affectionate Bro Ed
Camp Broadhead
Frederick Dec 19th 1861

Dear Pen,

It is now full three weeks since I heard from you, but whether it is owing to your neglect or to the irregularity of the mails I do not know, but if the mails route up that way is in the same state as it was when you wrote last I suppose I must lay it to the latter.

We are not playing poker to nights; for a wonder and as such was writing I thought I would do the same. I wrote in the latter that I should not wonder if we began to drill pretty soon if my supposition was correct for we began on Monday and have been drilling from eight to twelve from two to four or five o'clock every day since, in order --
To make a grand show before General Banks next Monday when we are going to have a grand review of his division some fifteen or twenty thousand men.

I believe part of the division are fighting on the river now; there was two regiments passed through Frederick on their way to the river last night, so I believe the rebels are kicking up a dust only sixteen miles from here and it would not surprise us much if we were ordered forward; I had a chance for a fight. The men are willing enough but I am afraid one will have some difficulty with our horses as they are very much in want of drill. They are now ever gaining every day as well as the riders. The drill major
complimented our company today on the regularity of our marching with the company in line abreast of each other, both at a walk & trot also, it is rather a difference thing to do to keep a straight front, but we are getting so that we can go through almost any move unsatisfactorily thanks to our new Captain who is trying to learn us something. I don’t remember whether I wrote anything in this letter about our being near the Blue ridge mountains which are about four miles north of here, if you look on your map you will see the range crosses the Potomac at Harper’s Ferry & runs north east near Frederick. We have a pretty good view of them from
camp I should like to have a clay or two to hunt through them to see what kind of game there was in the woods, but I would hardly like to miss the strik if I could and as I could en if I would. It is out of the question no one is allowed to leave camp now until after review when I guess they will not be too strict. Our sentries are mounted now days I haven't been on guard since that happened & I don't know what kind of work I will make unless I have twenty or more horsemen under my command but I suppose I will find out when my turn comes which will not be so often now as formerly as we have had some more corporals promoted.
camp I should like to have a day or two to hunt through them & see what kind of game there was in the woods but I would hardly like to miss the drill if I could & as I could out if I would it is one of the questions no one is allowed to leave camp now until after review when I guess they will not be to strike. Our sentries are mounted now days I haven't been on guard since that happened but I don't know what kind of work I will make whereas I have twenty or more harrowers under my command but I suppose I will find out when my turn comes which will not be as often now as formerly as we have had some more corporals promoted.
Camp Broadhead
Frederick Dec 19th 1861

Dear Rem,

It is now full three weeks since I heard from you, but whether it is owing to your neglect or to the irregularity of the mails I do not know, but if the mail route up that way is in the same state as it was when you wrote last I suppose I must lay it to the latter.

We are not playing poker tonight for a wonder and as such was writing I thought I would do the same. I wrote in the latter that I should not wonder if we began to drill pretty soon. My supposition was correct for we began on Monday and have been drilling from eight to twelve from two to four or five o'clock every day since, in order.
To make a good show before General Banks must Monday when we are going to have a grand review of this division some fifteen or twenty thousand men. I believe part of the division are fighting on the river now there was two regiments passed through Frederick on their way to the river last night as I believe the rebels are kicking up a dust only six miles from here and it would not surprise us much if we were ordered forward I had a chance for a fight the men are willing enough but I am afraid we will have some difficulty with our horses as they are very much in want of sickle they are now ever gaining every day as well as the riders, the Drill major.
complimented our company today on the regularity of our marching with the company in line abreast of each other—both at a walk & trot also, it is rather a difficult thing to do to keep a straight front, but we are getting so that we can do it. Through almost any movement satisfactorily. Thanks to our new captain who is trying to learn us something.

I don't remember whether I wrote anything in my last letter about our being near the Blue Ridge mountains which are about forty miles north of here. If you look on your map you will see the range crosses the Potomac at Harpers Ferry and runs north east near Frederick. You have a pretty good view of them from
Dr. N. Barney is promoted to a sergeant; so is Pulver. Pierce, Ewing, & Rehobod are corporals. General Banks has six men out of each company for a body guard. On the recommendation of Major Down, El was promoted to orderly sergeant. I should like to have gone with him but as they did not want any corporals out of our company I could not go. They quartered in town as we are three miles out, we won't see much of each other. Our first corporal John Disher a very big feeling boy was so mad when second corporal Barney was promoted that he pulled off his stripes & swore.
sore that he would be a corporal no longer. He has a hard time of it - every one makes fun of him & he is just fool enough to get angry when any one plagues him which only makes the matter worse. I have risen three notches in the ranks from eight to fifth corporal. I am not sorry that I was not promoted with the others as I don't think I am fit for it & it will come when I deserve it. I haven't any doubt. The Colonel has changed the officers of the companies all round for some reason & also the lieutenants in some & the lieutenants in others. Our only change was in the second lieutenant, and as it was for the better we are satisfied, but done
of the companies laid down their arms & refused to have different captains & the col had to give in and leave them their captains. We are beginning to have plenty of visitors to see us drive through the day. They have the plainest set of female folks down this way that I ever saw. I don't wonder at the men for being secessionists, but the most constant visitors we have are the peddlars who stick by us from morning till night with all kinds of wares for sale, every boy or girl within four miles of us makes a regular business of peddling on the camp. Pumpkin pies, chickens, cakes & co are all the go now days so long as the money lasts. When I suppose we will come down to Uncle Sam's grub again.
Polly is well (that's any horse) and I am getting so that I think a great deal of her. I wished they would give us our horses & equipment when we are done if that ever happens & you would see a company of cavalry riding into town some fine day & we would give you some idea of what a trooper was like; just—keep look ing up the street & maybe you will see them some day; who knows? I guess I will have to quit for to night as I have written about all my ideas and will have to recruit for a day or two to collect some more. So good night—Sunday 22nd.

We have had inspection and after shaving & washing & mending I have some time or so to spare before dinner, which will give me a good chance to...
finish my weekly letter since writing the other day a lot of inballots belonging to the regiment arrived from Washington among them were four out of our company. Jack Beninton was one of them he does not look very strong yet he has not drilled since we have been south. Camping in tents alone seem to agree with him I shouldn't wonder if he got a discharge if he tried. We have been drilling pretty steadily for the past week. The skin is very near wore off from my knees where they have been squeezed between the horses I got through the drill very well until yesterday when we had so much backing up to do that...
my horse's mouth got sore
× she became ugly and
in making a wheel I
had to rein back about
a horse's length but as soon
as I touched the rein she
snared up on her hind feet
× struck the shoulder of
the man next to me with one
of her fore feet (which made
him angry) × so she kept
going over backwards I thought
it was time to be getting off
so I slid off from the saddle
onto the ground just in time
to prevent the horse from follow-
ing on her back. Judge Barney
was not so lucky the other day
when his horse reared up
he held on × came down under
the horse fortunately for him
though it didn't break any bones.
There is some accidents happen
every day we drill, day before yesterday as we were going on
in movement—at a gallop a
man out of the company ahead
of us got thrown & I managed
to check my horse within a
foot of him after four horses
had galloped over him, but
luckily for him he kept still &
they jumped over him.
I haven't seen the body guard
since they left so I can't say
how they are getting along
I had an opportunity to go
town this morning to church but
as they were to walk I declined,
as I would see them scratched
first—before I would walk
three miles when I have a
horse who has nothing else to
do. Next I guess it is this week
Wednesday though, is Christmas
I wonder what—we will have
for dinner? Bean soup & Park like enough, how I should like to be at home about dinner time on that day if it makes my mouth water. To think about the good things we haven’t had any dinner since here yet. The air is a little cool, just enough to make us wear our overcoats. The ground has been froze ever since we came here but it has neither rained or snowed for the last month which suits our business first-rate.

I believe we are to have a new suit of clothes the first of next month, they are needed that much enough by some of the men. For myself I can stand it for a month or two yet as things are not much the worse for wear. I believe I have got in about all the news of the camp unless it is the death of another of our company (which makes the fourth) who died in the hospital at Washington after we left his name was Berry from Dexter. I haven’t time to write another sheet so Good Bye.
Camp Broadhead  
Frederick Dec 19th 1861

Dear Pen

It is now full three weeks since I heard from you, but whether it is owing [sic] to your neglect or to the irregularity of the mails I do not know, but if the mail route up that way is in the same state as it was when you wrote last I suppose I must lay it to the latter. We are not playing poker to night for a wonder and as Shad was writing I thought I would do the same. I wrote in Till's letter that I shouldent wonder if we began to drill pretty soon & my supposition was correct for we began on monday and have been drilling from eight to twelve & from two to four or five o'clock every day since, in order to make a good show before General Banks next monday when we are going to have a grand review of his division some fifteen or twenty thousand men. I believe part of the division are fighting on the river now & there was two regiments passed through Frederick on their way to the river last night, as I believe the rebels are kicking up a dust only sixteen miles from here and it would not surprise us much if we were ordered forward & had a chance for a fight. The men are willing enough but I am afraid [sic] we will have some difficulty with our horses as they are very much in want of drill, they are however gaining every day as well as the riders, The drill major complimented our company today on the regularity of our marching with the company in line abreast of each other both at a walk & trot also, it is rather/difficult thing to do to keep a straight front, but we are getting so that we can go through most any move ment now satisfactorily, thanks to our/captain who is trying to learn us something. I dont remember whether I wrote anything in Tils letter about our being near the Blue ridge mountains which are about four miles north of here, if you look on your map you will see the range crosses the potomac at Harpers Ferry & runs north east near Frederick. We have a pretty good view of them from camp I
should like to have a day or two to hunt through them & see what kind of game there was in the woods, but I would hardly like to miss the drill if I could and as I couldn't if I would. It is out of the question no one is allowed to leave camp now until after review when I guess they will not be so strict. Our sentries are mounted now days, I haven't been on guard since that happened & I don't know what kind of work I will make when I have twenty or more horsemen under my command but I suppose I will find out when my turn comes, which will not be as often now as formerly as we have had some more corporals promoted. A. N. Barney is promoted to a sergeant & so is Pulver, Pierce Ewing & Rhoades are corporals.

General Banks has six men out of each company for a body guard & on the recommendation of major Town Al was promoted to Orderly Sergeant. I should like to have gone with him but as they did not want any corporals out of our company I couldn't go. they quarter in town & as we are three miles out we won't see much of each other.

Our first corporal John Fisher a very big feeling boy was so mad when second corporal Barney was promoted that he pulled off his stripes & swore above [sic] that he would be a corporal no longer. he has a hard time of it every one makes fun of him & he is just fool enough to get angry when any one plagues him which only makes the matter worse.

I have rise three notches in the ranks from eighth to fifth corporal I am not sorry that I was not promoted with the others as I don't think I am fit for it. & it will come when I deserve it. I haven't any doubt. The colonel has changed the officers of the companies all round for some reason changed captains in some & lieutenants in others our only change was in the second Lieutenant and as it was for the better we are satisfied, but some of the companies laid down their [sic] arms & refused to have different captains & the col had to give in and leave them their captains. We are beginning to have plenty of
visitors to see us drill through the day. They have the plainest
set of female folks down this way that I ever saw, I dont wonder at
the men for being secessionists, but the most constant visitors we have
are the pedlars who stick by us from morning till night with all kinds
of eatibles for sale, every boy or girl within four miles of us makes a
regular business of pedling in the camps pumkin pies chickens cakes &c
are all the go now days as long as the money lasts & then I suppose we
will come down to Uncle Sams grub again Polly is well (thats my horse)
and I am getting so that I think a great deal of her I wished they
would give us our horses & equipment when we are done if that every
happens & you would see a company of cavalry riding into town some fine
day & we would give you some Idea of what a trooper was like, Just keep look
ing up the street & may be you will see them some day, who knows? I
guess I will have to quit for to night as I have written about all my
Ideas and will have to recruit for a day or two to collect some more
so Good night

Sunday 2nd

We have had inspection and after shaving & washing & mending I have an hour
or so to spare before dinner, which will give me a good chance to
finish my weekly letter. Since writing the other day a lot of invalids be-
longing to the regiment arrived from Washington, among them were four
out of our company, Jack Beninton was one of them, he does not look
very strong yet he has not drilled since we have been south, camp-
ing in tents dont seem to agree with him I shouldent wonder if he
got a discharge if he tried. We have been drilling pretty steady for
the past week, the skin is very near wore off from my knees where they
have been squeezed between the horses, I got through the drill very
well until yesterday when we had so much backing up to do that my horses
mouth got sore & she became ugly and in making a wheel I had to rein
back about a horses length but as soon as I touched the rein she reared
up on her hind feet & struck the shoulder of the man next to me with
one of her fore feet (which made him angry) & as she kept going over backwards I thought it was time to be getting off so I slid off from the saddle onto the ground just in time to prevent the horse from falling on her back. Judge Barney was not so lucky, the other day when his horse reared up he held on & came down under the horse fortunately for him though it didn't break any bones. There is some accident happens every day we drill, day before yesterday as we were going through a movement at a gallop a man out of the company ahead of us got thrown & I managed to check my horse within a foot of him after four horses had galloped over him, but luckily for him he kept still & they jumped over him. I haven't seen the body guard since they left so I can't say how they are getting along. I had an opportunity to go to town this morning to church but as they were to talk I declined, as I would see them scratched first before I would walk three miles when I have a horse who has nothing else to do. Next, I guess it is this week Wednesday though, is Christmas. I wonder what we will have for dinner? Bean soup & Pork like enough, how much I should like to be at home about dinner time on that day, it makes my mouth water to think about the good things. We haven't had any winter weather here yet, the air is a little cool just enough to make us wear our overcoats, the ground has been froze ever since we came here but it has neither rained or snowed for the last month which suits our business first rate.

I believe we are to have a new suit of clothes the first of next month they are needed bad enough by some of the members for myself I can stand if for a month or two year as mine are not much the worse for wear. I believe I have got in about all the news of the camp unless it is the death of another of our company (which makes the forth [sic]) who died in the hospital at Washington after we left. His name was Berry from Dexter. I haven't time to write another sheet so Good Bye Ed.
Dear Sir,

I am on guard at a toll gate between our camp and town so I have to take the names of all the soldiers that pass. I have considerable to do, but manage to find time to write a few words occasionally. Between times I only had any time to write, I might fill a couple of sheets just as well as not.

Sunday Eve.

Here it is night & I have only begun. I have been so busy all day that I had not half the time I expected. I would have been about a dozen lady visitors here today & some very good looking girls, and I couldn’t think of writing while they were here & after...
they went away the soldiers came so thick & fast that I had no chance. I am now written by the light of a coal oil lamp but there are so many travelers going by that I guess I will have to wait until tomorrow when I am off guard.

Monday eve

I was relieved this morning & have been sleeping all day. I had no idea I was so sleepy when I came to camp this morning. We had a first-rate time on guard and were almost sorry to leave. We had to work dollars through to keep the men & farmers gave us all the straw we wanted to lay on & we drew hay enough for our horses from the loads passing by & bread for ourselves from the same source.

We gathered together this afternoon
and bought us a stone for our tent— for two dollars & a quarter— which makes the place so hot— that we have to keep one end of the tent open to give us fresh air. We can be just as comfortable now as we please. We have plenty of blankets & quilts. The only trouble is that we get to warm in the night & kick the clothes off.

The Senator have passed a law to prevent sutlers from taking up. The soldiers wages & our sutler has shut down on giving credit until he finds out how things are going. Sutler has come down to twenty five cents a pound in consequence of the near approach of pay day, which is to be in a week or two & comes very opportune as any pile is reduced to five cents which will just about keep one in
Stamps through the week
the stamps franked and
once done come around
here so, we are too far from
the capital to get them franked.
I forgot to say in the beginning that
I received yours & Reno letter
& also the envelopes
& one from Wilber at the same
time. Last week & a news at
a day or two after. I am answer-
ning Wilber's, I wrote about all
the news I could think of as
you will very likely see it.
I will have to refer you to
him for the news if there is
any, as I hate to write the same
thing twice. I hope before
I write again something will
happen or my ideas somewhat
less aristocratic. I am sorry
about your mischance with Bobbins
but of Reno's description is correc-
and a small loss. Give my love to all.
Good Bye.
Stamps through the week
the Stampede franchise ended
once done - to come around
here as, we are to go from
the capital to get them granted.
I forgot to say in the beginning that
I received yours & Potts letter
and also the envelopes
& one from Weller at the same
time. Last week I received a
letter or two after. In announce-
ing Weller's I wrote about all
the news. I could think as if
you will very likely see it.
I will have to refer you to
him for the news of there is
any as I hate to write the same
thing twice. I hope before
I write again something will
happen or any ideas somewhat
less obstinately. I am sorry
about your mishap with Robbino's
but if Robbino's description is correct
it's a small thing. Give my love to all.

Good bye
Joll Gate, Frederick
Dec 29 '61

Dear Sir,

I am on guard at a toll gate between our camp & yours so I have to take the names of all the telegraph drivers I have considered I could not manage to find time to write a few words occasionally between times & if I only had any time to write I might fill a couple of sheets just as well as

Sunday. But there it is night & I have only time to write on Sunday all day so that I had to half this time I expected I would have been about a dozen lady visitors here to our & some very good looking girls & I couldn't think of writing while they were here & after
Dear Til

I am on guard at a toll gate between our camp & town & as I have to take the names of all the soldiers that pass I have considerable to do but manage to find time to write a few rods occasionally between times & if I only had any thing to write I would I might fill a couple of sheets just as well as not.

Sunday Eve

Here it is night & I have only began, I have been so busy all day that I hadn't half the time I expected I would, there has been about a dozen lady visitors here to day & some very good looking girls, and I couldn't think of writing while they were here & after they went away the soldiers came so thick & fast that I had no chance. I am now writing by the light of a coal oil lamp but there are so many travelers going by that I guess I will have to wait until tomorrow when I am off guard.

Monday Eve

I was relieved this morning & have been sleeping all day, I had no idea I was so sleepy when I came to camp this morning. We had a first-rate time on guard and were almost sorry to leave we had to hook rails enough to keep us warm a farmer gave us all the straw we wanted to lay on & we drew hay enough for our horses from the loads passing by & bread for ourselves from the same source.

We my bedfellows clubbed together this afternoon and bought us a stove for our tent for two dollars & a quarter which makes the place so hot that we have to keep one end of the tent open so give us fresh air we can be just as comfortable now as we please we have plenty of blankets & quilts the only trouble is that we get to warm in the night & kick the clothes off.

The Senate [sic] have passed a law to prevent sutlers from taking up the soldiers wages & our Sutler has shut down on giving credit until he finds out how things are going butter has come down to twenty five
cents a pound in consequence of the near approach [sic] of pay day. which is to be a week or two & comes very opportune as my pile is reduced to ten cents which will just about keep me in stamps through the week the stamped franked envelopes dont about come arround [sic] here as, we are to [sic] far from the capitol to get them franked. I forgot to say in the begining [sic] that I recieved yours & Pems letters & one from wilbur & also the envelopes at the same time last week, & a news a day or two after. In answering [sic] wilbur's I wrote about all the news I could think of & was you will very likely see it I will have to refer you to him for the news if there is any as I hate to write the same thing twice. I hope before I write again something will happen, or that my ideas may get somewhat less obsfusticated [sic]. I am sorry about your mishap with Robbins but if Pem's description is correct its a small loss Give my love to all Good Bye

Ed