Civil War
Letters
July - Dec.
1862
Front Royal July 2nd 62

Dear Dick,

As usual I have received two or three letters from you since I wrote last. The last clearing date June 17th and containing the picket hooks. We have been here about two weeks burying all the time at our old trade skirmishing & reconnoitering we have had several skirmishes with the enemies pickets on one of which P. G. Gardner one of the marquette boys was taken prisoner. We had another skirmish with them Monday out at Tunnel the Maine & Vermont cavalry alone most of the fighting they took four French prisoners one of the Vermonters was shot through the head & one of the maine boys was killed.
accidentally we gave the four companies stationed here a pretty good scare and accomplished the object of our expedition which was to find out how many troops were up the valley. This is the place where Jackson made his attack on Col. Henry a while ago and it was generally believed that he was at finishing ready to make another break and we have either been scouting or standing picket nearly every day since we came here. The result of our last expedition shows no that we are not in any immediate danger of an attack so we can take things a little easier. We have been having the gayer old times.
imaginable lately the country is all full of cherry trees every one loaded down with the most delicious cherries you ever saw and our officers give us ample opportunities to get all we want of them, peaches, plums, apples, black and other kinds of berrie grow in abundance and will soon be ripe. I wished dozens of times that you were all down here long enough to satisfy your selves, I know it would be much a treat for you. It has been raining like this ever since we woke up this morning it is evening now. We drew in new suit of clothes this morning and got our pay a couple of weeks ago so as you see we are all right or at least we would be if we could find any
to buy but the people around here have hardly enough for themselves and if they have any thing to spare they are sure to ask an exorbitant price for only think of charging half a dollar for a loaf of bread worth ten or fifteen cents, but we are independent of them now as God has got us barking again and all we have to buy is butter and the worthy farmers lay it on to heavy why are just taking off wish it and tell them to charge it to uncle Sam. We have got the report that Richmond is taken but it is not corroborated yet, I hope it is so, I am much obliged for the papers I have received them set but will as soon as we lay still a day or two. I am almost ashamed to think of short al lot letter but I have nothing more.
Dear Til

As usual I have received two or three letters from you since I wrote last. The last bearing date June 17th and containing the fish hooks. We have been here about two weeks busy all the time at our old trade skirmishing & reconnoitring we have had several skirmishes with the enemies pickets in one of which P.C. Gardner one of the marquette boys was taken prisoner. we had another scrimmage with them Monday out at Louray the Maine & Vermont cavalry done most of the fighting they took four secesh prisoners one of the vermonters was shot through the head and one of the mine boys was killed accidentally we gave the four companies stationed there a pretty good scare and accomplished the object of our expedition which was to find out how many troops were up the valley. This is the place where Jackson made his attack on Col. Kenly a while ago and it was generally believed that he was at Louray ready to make another break and we have either been scouting or standing picket nearly every day since we came here the result of our last expedition shows us that we are not in any immediate danger of an attack so we can take things a little easier. We have been having the gayest old times imaginable lately the country is all full of cherry trees every one loaded down with the most delicious cherries you ever saw and our officers give us ample opportunities to get all we want of them peaches plums apples & Black and other kinds of berries grow in abundance and will soon be ripe. I've wished dozens of times that you were all down here long enough to satisfy your selves, I know it would be such a treat for you. It has been raining like sixty ever since we woke up this morning it is evening now we drew a new suit of clothes this morning and got our pay a couple of weeks ago so you see we are all right or at least we would be if we could anything to buy but the people around here have hardly enough for themselves and if they have anything to spare they are sure to
ask an exhorbitant price for it  only think of charging half a dollar for a loaf of bread worth ten or fifteen cents, but we are independent of them now as Shad has got to baking again and all we have to buy is butter and if the worthy farmers lay it on to heavy why we just walk off with it and tell them to charge it to uncle Sam. We have got the report that Richmond is taken but it is not corroborated yet, I hope it is so. I am much obliged for the hooks I hav'nt used them yet but will as soon as we lay still a day or two. I am almost ashamed to send so short a letter but I have no time to write more My love to all
Dear Sir,

It is so long since I last wrote you that I don't blame you if you have given up expecting to hear from me. But the truth of the matter is I have been so busy of late that writing was out of the question for you. Must know that we are now body guard to the strictest and most exacting Brig General in the service, his name, Crawford, and a more universally detested and unpopular man is not to be found in the army, he is in command here of the advance of Gen. Pope's army consisting of his own brigade of four regiments and about ten regiments of cavalry on the way to Richmond. We have all the orders to carry to the different regiments and to escort his august person whenever he goes out-you can imagine what we have to do. There was a command line going on last night in the distance and a rumor that Jackson with his army was at Orange C.H., advancing this way about midnight the general received a dispatch from a reconnoitering party stating that they had driven on the pickets of the enemy at the aforementioned and had ascertained that Gen. Jackson was there with two brigades of infantry and some fifteen hundred cavalry. So he ordered everyone of us to saddle up and for an hour or two the boys had all they could do carrying dispatches to every regiment and battery and Richel within eight miles of here. Besides
carrying a couple to then Banks twenty six miles from there which took five men as the roads are not safe for single messengers, I got rid of the job last night. Though for when we were ready and I proceeded to the stable where I had tied one horse the night before, the stable was easily found. But got so the horse I hunted all over a thing were lot of an Egyptian darkness slipping into ditches and falling over sleeping horses & cattle. Studying my feet and completing loss in what little patience I had with one success then I got a candle and sent all over the field again and finally gave it up for a bad job and went back to camp where I learned that one of the boys had taken her in. The night was to go to little Washington 25 or 30 miles distant. I can assure you I was in an enviable state of mind when I found it out, but the horse was gone and all I had to do was to saddle his horse which was unfit for duty, but would be better than none if we had to saddle. Such was not the case however so I tied him up to the fence and took my post as post orderly to the general where I was kept busy enough until three o'clock when things quieted down and the general sent us to be with our camps on read to mount at a moment’s notice. The whole command had the same orders. I woke up rather late this morning and found
everything as quiet as you could wish a Sunday to be in the army. A couple of weeks ago Col. Broadhead with a portion of two regiments cavalry and some artillery started for Gordonsville with the intention of turning the railroad bridge at that point and breaking the rail communication between Richmond and the Shenandoah Valley, but he got repulsed and narrowly escaped loosing his whole command by the raising of the Rappahannock after he had crossed it in consequence of the freshets and it was the horses had to swim and the enemy appeared on the opposite bank in hot pursuit just as they had all crossed but a sergeant in Co. J who was taken prisoner.

Since then Gen. Hatch has gone on the same kind of an expedition with a much larger force and we are anxiously awaiting his return. It is supposed that the firing heard last night was from him. We have had a great deal of rain lately which has the effect of making the roads very soft and consequently retarding the progress of the army, but expect to have a good battle some of these warm days in this valley of the Rappahannock as it is computed that in less than three days we can concentrate an army of over eight thousand men with the unconquerable Pope to command them. If we only had the 80,000 new troops in the field now I think we could bring matters and things to a focus pretty considerably quick as a gentleman would say, but the prospect now is that we will
have to wait until the new troops are sufficiently drilled to be of any service, another year at the least, calculate, a delightful prospect, surely. There is one good thing about it, though we can't find a more healthy or pleasant country to campaign in. I never saw a finer country in my life but it will show the devastation of this war for many a long year to come, and when the question comes up to be decided by the voice of the people, union or no union they will remember their experience now and think twice before they allow themselves to be inveigled into another war. Little Jackson has been appointed brigadier, and it is here, with the return of the col to be assigned to a company. I am glad he has got his promotion and he is pretty sure to go still higher as every one of our officers can compare favorably with him in anything that pertains to the soldier. Capt. Ellis, resigned and returned home a month ago, and my red headed friend [illegible] took his place. We are not very much elated at the change as he is still as much a block head as ever, and about as much service to the government as a bass wood cap. I had one of our young Virginian boys drowned the other day in attempting to cross the Rappahannock with a dispatch. Al Sea Bellie swam the stream not an hour before him but his horse was
larger and longer, there was also half a dozen 

mules lost in the same place before the water 

raised so high some of them were afterwards 

found two or three miles down the stream. 

This is a clay soil that every time it rains 

the water instead of sinking in the ground as 

like it does with us, runs onto the hollows and 

a little stream that you can step over before the 

rain will swell so that you may have to swim 

it two or three hours after. But it is noon and I must 

go to dinner. I almost closed the pot as it is most un-

comfortably warm. Sitting still however I suppose 

it must be hot. So here goes ----one more to go.

10 o'clock Sunday afternoon. I suppose you 

would look upon you all about this time of day. I would find you 

putting away the dinner arrangements and after while 

sitting down to address a few lines to one after 

and affectionate brother. But the dinner arrangements 

being now completed and as soon disposed 

of as the consists of only a tin cup and knife I am 

enabled to proceed to business at once. First of all I am 

going to tell you where I am at. The present juncture 

of affairs of course it is more necessary to tell what I am 

doing for in writing where I am you know what I am 

at. Well I am seated on a stone at the foot of 

a large oak tree in the garden or lawn of a large 

mansion belonging to a wealthy deceased. The generals
headquarters are in five large tents (four of them are
a row and the five a little back in the center) on the other side of the house, in the same
grove. The flower garden is on one side of the house
and the vegetable garden outside the lawn on the
other, the orchard is in the rear of the house and
contains a large number of apple, pear, peach,
plum, quince, and cherry trees, none of which are quite
ripe but except the cherries and they are all picked.

The apples make very good sauce though as I know
by experience. Everything wears the look of age and
despite its substantial and comfortable I am sure
you would enjoy one of our afternoon walks in the cool
(lot of the evening here immensely) if the soldiers had not
strip-the trees of all ripe fruit you could have an
abundance of the most delicious fruit in the country.
There is one thing though, the soldiers could not prevent
our enjoying that is the black berries. They are as
rich as hops in every field or on every fence in
the country, and the largest kind at that, now, we
have some gay old folks though on black berries. Sugar
Pulver & W. take turns on picking enough for at
least once a day and sometimes oftener, don't you
wish you lived here? By the way though I don't know
as I ever told you that Pulver & I went together
we all have small tents now made like sheets
and button together, each man has a half of one and
if he don't happen to camp in the same place with his
partner he can button one with someone else
Pulver & I have been inseparable since we left Williamsport. Our housekeeping affairs go on as smoothly as any other well-conducted household in this country. We move our habitation rather often it is true, but still you will always find things in their places, and if there is a new cut-field of wheat within a mile of our camp or any evergreens in the wood near by you will always find as good a bed in our domicile as any in the camp. If I feel sleepy or too lazy to get up in the morning at six call he will draw the grain for our horses to give it to them. If he has the same complaint, the vice versa, but I am afraid I am the greatest sufferer from that complaint. Of the two of us, if I spend all our money before payday he pays the bills for both of us, and if he spends all of this then I foot the bills. I went up to the village the other day to purchase a few articles we stood very much in need of, a coarse comb was one of the most important of them. After looking around a while I found a store where they kept them for sale and bought one for fifty-cents such as we used to sell for 10 or 12 cts. Least pencil 10 cts, candle 5 cts, stick and other things in proportion. I thought the Blockade must have some effect on the prices, or else they charged an exorbitant profit. It is about time for dinner, so I will have to wind up this letter. My respects to all friends. My love to you all.

P.S. He sends his congratulations on your prospects. The venerable doctor.
Don't expect letters oftener than once a month. You don't know what a job it is to write now days.

July 27, 1862
Dear Sall,

It is so long since I last wrote you that I cannot blame you if you have given up expecting to hear from me. But the truth of the matter is I have been so busy of late that writing was out of the question for you must know that we are now under guard to the strictest and most exacting Brig General in the service, Gen. Crawford by name and a mere universally detested and unpopular man it is not to be found in the army. He is in command here of the advance of Gen. Pope's army consisting of his own brigade of four regiments and about ten regiments of cavalry on the way to Richmond. We have all the orders to carry to the different regiments and to escort his august person whenever he goes out—you can imagine that we have plenty to do. There was a commanding going on last night in the distance and a rumor that Jackson with his army was at Orange C.H., advancing this way about mid-night the general received a dispatch from a reconnoitering party stating that they had driven on the pickets of the enemy at the aforesaid town and had ascertained that Gen. Jackson was there with two brigades of infantry and some fifteen hundred cavalry. So he ordered everyone of us to saddle up and for an hour or two the boys had all they could do carrying dispatches to every regiment—battering and picketing within sight—miles of here besides
carrying a couple of ten bank's twenty-six miles from where which took five men as the roads are not safe for single messengers. I got rid of the job last night though for when we were ridden out to saddle up I proceeded to the stable where I had tied any horse the night before. The stable was easily found but not so the horse I hunted all over a thing were lot in Egyptian darkness slipping into ditches and falling over sleeping horses & castle studying my tock and completely losing what little patience I had with any success then I got a candle and went all over the field again and finally gave it up for a bad job and went back to camp where I learned that one of the boys had taken the horse the night to go to little Washington 25 or so miles distant; I can assure you I was in an enviable state of mind when I found it out. But the horse was gone and all I had to do was to saddle his horse which was unfit for duty but would be better than none if we had to saddle such was not the case however so I tied him up to the fence and took my place as foot orderly to the general where I was kept busy enough until three o'clock when things quieted down and the general sent us to bed with our arms on ready to mount at a moment's notice. The whole command had the same orders. I woke up rather late this morning and found
everything as quiet as you could wish. A couple of weeks ago Col. Brodhead with a portion of two regiments cavalry and some artillery started for Gordonsville with the intention of burn[ing] the railroad bridge at that point—and treat[ing] the rail communication between Richmond and the Shenandoah Valley, but he got repulsed and narrowly escaped losing his whole command by the raising of the Rappahannock after he had crossed it. In consequence of the freshness of the horses had to swim and the enemy appeared on the opposite bank in hot pursuit. Just as they had all crossed—just a sergeant in Co. G, who was taken prisoner. Since then Gen. Wash. has gone on the same kind of an expedition with a much larger force and we are anxiously awaiting his return, it is supposed that the firing heard last night was from him. We have had a great deal of rain lately which has the effect of making the roads very soft and consequently retarding the progress of the army. We expect to have a good battle some of these warm days in this valley of the Rappahannock as it is computed that in three or three days we can concentrate an army of over eighty thousand men with the inconquerable Pope to command them. If we only had the 800,000 new troops in the field now—I think we could bring matters and things to a focus pretty considerable quickly as a gambler would say, but the prospect now is that we will
have to wait until the new troops are sufficiently
drilled to be of any service, another year at the
least calculated, a delightful prospect surely.
There is one good thing about it—though we can't find
a more healthy or pleasant country to campaign
in—I never saw a finer country in my life—but it will show the devastation of this war
for many a long year to come, and when the
question can be again to be decided by the voice
of the people, Union or no Union, they will remem-
ber their experience now and think twice before
they allow themselves to be inveigled into another
war. Mr. Jackson has been appointed Chief—
and in here, waiting the return of the col. to be assigned to
a company, I am glad he has got his promotion,
and he does seem to go still higher as every new
of our officers can compare favorably with him in
anything that pertains to the soldier. Capt. Snow
resigned and returned home a month ago and my
red headed friend got his place. We are
not very much elated at the change as he is
still as much a block head as ever—any better no
much service to the government as a boss wood cap.
This would be. One of our lower michigan boys
was drowned the other day on attempting to cross the
 rappahannock with a dispatch, Al Bell's brother
the stream not an hour before him but his frame was
larger and closer, there was also half a dozen wolves lost in the same place before the water raised so high, some of them were afterwards found six or three miles down the stream. This is a clay soil which every time it rains the water instead of sinking in the ground as it does with us some into the hollows and a little stream that you can step over before the rain will swell so that you may have to swim in two or three hours after. But it is noon and I must go to dinner. I almost died the god as it is most uncomfortable to remain sitting there. However I suppose it cannot be used to the gods. One hour to big.

At eight o'clock Sunday afternoon. I suppose I could look upon you all about this time of day. I would finish upon putting away the dinner arrangements and after which settle down to address a few lines to your aunts and affectionsate brother. But the dinner arrangements being soon completed and as soon disposed of, as they consist of only a tin cup and spoon, I am enabled to proceed to business at once. First of all I am going to tell you where I am at the present juncture of affairs, of course it is not necessary to tell what I am doing for in writing where I am I need not know what I am at. Well I am seated on a porch at the foot of a large oak tree in the garden or lawn of a large mansion belonging to a wealthy secede.
headquarters are in five large tents (four of them in a row and the fifth a little back in the corner) on the other side of the house; in the same grove, the Flower Garden is on one side of the house and the vegetable garden out-side the lawn on the other, the Orchard is in the rear of the house and contains a large number of apple, pear, peach, plum, quince & cherries, one of which are quite ripe and except the apples and they are all picked, the apples make very good sauce though as I know by experience. Everything wears the look of age and seems substantial and comfortable. I am sure you would enjoy one of our afternoon walks in the cool of the evening here, immensely if the soldiers had not stripped the trees of all ripe fruit— you could have an abundance of the most delicious fruit in the country, there is one tree though the soldiers could not prevent our enjoying that is the black berries— they are as thick as hops in every field or in every fence in the country and the largest kind of all, down—we have some gay old peaches though on black berries sugar Pulver & I take turns in picking enough far at least once a day and sometimes oftener, don't you wish you lived here? By the way though I don't know as I ever told you that Pulver & I hunted together we all have small tents now made like sheets and buttoned together, each man has a half of one and if he don't happen to camp on the same place with his partner he can button on with some one else
Pulver & I have been inseparable since we left Williamsport. Our Housekeeping affairs go on as smooth as any other well conducted household in the country. We move our habitation rather often it is a fact but still you will always find things in their places, and if there is a new cut-field of wheat within a mile of our camp or any evergreens in the woods near by you will always find as good a bed in our domicile as any in the camp. If I feel sleepy or too lazy to get up in the morning at first call he will obtain the grain for our horse & give it to him. & if he does the same complaint both, vice versa. But I am afraid I am the greatest sufferer from that complaint of the two. Let us, if I spend all my money before payday, & pay the bills for both of us, & if he spends all of this then I foot the bills. I went up to the village the other day to purchase a few articles we stole very much in need of, a coarse cloth was one of the most important of them, after looking around a while I found a store where they kept them for sale and bought one for fifty cents such as we used to sell for 10 or 12½ cts. lead pencil 10½ cts. candle 8 ½ cts stick and other things in proportion I thought the blockade must have some effect on the prices, or else they charged an exorbitant profit. It is about time of fresh berries for supper so I will have to go & give my respects to all friends. My love to you all.

P.S. All sends his congratulations on your prospects with the East.
Don't expect letters oftener than once a month. You don't know what a job it is to write nowadays.

July 27, 1862
Dear Til:

It is so long since I last wrote you that I can't blame you if you have given up expecting to hear from me, but the truth of the matter is I have been so busy of late that writing was out of the question for you must know that we are now body guard to the strictest and most exacting Brig General in the service, Gen Crawford by name and a more universally detested, and unpopular man is not to be found in the army. He is in command here of the advance of Gen Pope's army consisting of his own brigade of four reg'ts and about ten reg'mts of cavalry on the way to Richmond we have all the orders to carry to the different reg'mts and to escort his august person whenever he goes out you can imagine that we have plenty to do. There was a cannonading going on last night in the distance and a rumor that Jackson with his army was at Orange, C.H. 12 miles from here advancing this way about midnight the general received a dispatch from a reconnoitring party stating that they had driven in the pickets of their enemy at the aforesaid town and had ascertained that Gen Jackson was there with two brigades of inf'try and some fifteen hundred cavalry. So he orders every one of us to saddle up and for an hour or two the boys had all they could do carrying dispatches to every reg'mt batery and Picket within eight miles of here besides carrying a couple to Gen Banks twenty six miles from here which took five men as the roads are not safe for single messengers. I got rid of the job last night though for when we were roused out to saddle up I proceeded to the stake where I had tied my horse the night before. the stake was easily found but not so the horse I hunted all over a thirty acre lot in egyptian darkness sliping into ditches and falling over sleeping horses & cattle stubing my toes and completely looseing what little patience I had with no success, then I got a candle and went all over the field again and finally gave it up for a bad job and went back to camp where I learned that one of
the boys had taken her in the forepart of the night to go to little
Washington 25 or 30 miles distant, I can assure you I was in no enviable
state of mind when I found it out, but the horse was gone and all I had
to do was to saddle his horse which was unfit for duty but would be
better than none if we had to skedaddle such was not the case however
the so I tied him up to the fence and took my post as foot orderly to/general
where I was kept busy enough for until three o'clock when things quieted
down and the general sent us to bed with our arms on ready to mount at
a moments notice, the whole command had the same orders. I woke up
rather late this morning and found everything as quiet as you could wish
a sunday to be in the army. A couple of weeks ago Col Broadhead with a
portion of two reg'mts cavalry and some artillery started for Gordon'svill
with the intention of burning the railroad bridge at that point and break-
ing the rail communication between Richmond and the Shenandoah valley,
but he got repulsed and narrowly escaped looseing his whole command by
the raising of the Rappidan after he had crossed it in consequence of
the freshet, as it was the horses had to swim and the enemy appeared on the
opposite bank in hot pursuit just as they had all crossed but a sergeant
in Co H who was taken prisoner. Since then Gen Hatch has gone on the
same kind of an expedition with a much larger force and we are anxiously
awaiting his return, it is supposed that the firing heard last night was
from him. We have had a great deal of rain lately which has the ege of
making the roads very soft and consequently retarding the progress of the
army, We expect to have a gay old battle some of these warm days in this
the valley of the Rappahannock as it is computed that in less than three
days we can concentrate an army of over eighty thousand men with the un-
conquerable Pope to command them. If we only had the 300,000 new troops
in the field now I think we could bring matters and things to a focus
pretty considerable quick, as a yankee would say, but the prospect now is
that we will have to wait until the new troops are sufficiently drilled to be of any service. Another year at the least calculation, a delightful prospect surely. There is one good thing about it though we can't find a more healthy nor pleasant country to campaign it in, I never saw a finer country in my life but it will show the devastation of this war for many a long year to come, and when the question comes up again to be decided by the voice of the people, Union or no union they will remember their experience now, and think twice before they allow themselves to be inveigled into another war. Al. Jackson has been appointed Lieut and is here, waiting the return of the colonel to be assigned to a company, I am glad he has got his promotion, and he is pretty sure to go still higher as very few of our officers can compare favorably with him in anything that pertains to the soldier. Capt Norval resigned and returned home a month and my red headed friend (is) takes his place. We are not very much elated at the change as he is still as much a block head as ever, and about as much service to the government as a bass wood captain would be. One of our lower Michigan boys was drowned the other day in attempting to cross the Rappahannock with a dispatch, Al Lapelley swam the stream not an hour before him but his horse was larger and stronger, there was also half a dozen wagons lost in the same place before the water raised so high some of them were afterwards found two or three miles down the stream. This is a clayey soil and every time it rains the water instead of sinking in the ground like it does with us runs into the hollows and a little stream that you can step over before the rain will swell so that you may have to swim it two or three hours after. But it is noon and I must go to dinner. I almost dread the job as it is most uncomfortably warm sitting still, however I suppose it must be done, so here goes —- xxx Done Now to biz. 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon. I suppose if I could look in upon you all about this time of day, I would find you putting away the dinner arrangements, and afterwards sitting down to address a few lines to your afar off and affectionate brother, but my dinner arrangements —
ments being soon completed and as soon disposed of, as they consist
of only a tin cup and knife. I am enabled to proceed to business at once.
First of all I am going to tell you where I am at the present juncture of
affairs, of course it is'nt necessary to tell what I am doing for in writ-
ing where I am you know what I am at. Well I am seated on a mound at the
foot of a large oak tree in the garden or lawn of a large mansion belong-
ing to a wealthy secessh. The general's headquarters are in five large
tents (four of them in a row and the Gen's a little back
in the center.) on the other side of the house, in the same Grove, the
Flower Garden is on one side of the house and the vegetable garden out side
the lawn on the other, the Orchard is in the rear of the house and con-
tains a large number of apple, Pear, peach plum, quince & cherry trees.
None of which are quite ripe yet except the cherries and they are all picked
the apples make very good sauce though as I know by experiance. Everything
wears the look of age and seem substantial and comfortable, I am sure you
would enjoy one of our afternoon walks in the cool of the evening here im-
mensely & if the soldiers had not stript the trees of all ripe fruit you could
have an abundance of the most delicious fruit in the country there is one
thing though the soldiers could'nt prevent our enjoying that is the black
berries they are as thick as hogs every field or on every fence in the coun-
try and the largest kind at that, dont we have some gay old feasts though
on black berries & sugar Pulver & I take turns in picking enough for
at least once a day and sometimes oftener, dont you wish you lived here?
By the way though I dont know as I every told you that Pulver & I tented
together. We all have small tents now made like Sheets and button toge-
ther, each man has a half of one and if he dont happen to camp in the same
place with his partner he can button on with someone else Pulver & I have
been inseparable since we left Williamsport. Our House keeping affairs
goes on as smoothly as any other well conducted house hold in the country
We moove our habitation rather often it's a fact but still you will always find things in their places, and if there is a new cut field of what within a mile of our camp or any evergreens in the wood near by you will always find as good a bed in our domicile as any in the camp. If I feel sleepy or to lazy to get up in the morning at feed call he will draw the grain for my horse & give it to her & if he has the same damn complaint, why, vice versa, but I am afraid I am the greatest sufferer from that complaint of the two of us, if I spend all my money before payday he pays the bills for both of us, and if he spends all of his then I foot the bills. I went up to the village the other day to purchase a few articles we stood very much in need of, a coarse comb was one of the most important of them, after looking around a while I found a store where they kept them for sale and bought one for fifty cents such as we used to sell for 10 or 12 cts, lead pencil 10 cts, candy 5 cts stick and other things in proportion I thought the blockade must have some effect on the prices, or else they charged an exorbitant profit. It is about time to pick berries for supper so I will have to wind up. Give my respects to all inquiring friends My love to you all

P.S. Al sends his congratulations on your prospect with the venerable Doct Ed

Dont expect letters ofteener than once a month you don't know what a job it is to write now days
Culpeper City, August 19th, 1862

Dear Sir,

The battle I expected when I wrote last came off last Saturday, though not as heavy as I thought it would be, however it proved heavy enough for our brigade of infantry who were in the advance and lost about two-thirds of their members. So I was on the field with the general and lost two men taken prisoners Corporal Bellair and Bill Shankel (Dennis Rabbit) the latter was wounded and afterwards paroled. He is with us now. I suppose you will read of the result of the action. The particulars I don't think will be published now even as I am too tired and sleepy, in fact it is all I can do to write at all for I have lost all inclination to do so, if it were not for your being uneasy I believed I would quite entirely. The Orange and Boys are all...
Well with the exception of the two antesaid. Palmer is turning out to be a first-rate soldier. We had a fight at Orange C C, a fortnight or so ago where we had a pretty warm time and took some fiftieth prisoners. He was in the thickest of it and took a prisoner himself. And Saturday he was very near the last to leave the field though the rebels had possession of it. Our four brigades of about 12 thousand men fought Jackson's whole force from noon until dark and were then forced to fall back a mile or so when we met even Pope coming to our aid with 25,000 men. Didn't we feel happy though to see the fresh troops come on? I thought - they should charge right over the battle field; once there the enemy back; but he contented himself with farming his line and stopping the pursuit leaving.
our dead and wounded in the protection of the rebels, the two armies were within half a mile of each other. That night about nine o'clock while I was waiting at Gen. Pope's head quarters on a hill near our front the rebels commenced shelling our camp and happened to be quite in range the shells fell around me on every side there was about a dozen generals on the hill besides any quantity of staff officers and the way they got off that nice of ground was a caution to lazy folk. Gen. Banks was run over by some of our cavalry and is recovering from his bruises yet while the shelling was going on Gen. Crawford was at the hospital between our army and him, and on coming back he ran in on the rebel sharpshooter who fired a whole volley at him. 40 or 50 as near as usual were with him and it was there where Bill Havel was taken.
Elmer Decker's horse fell and rolled over him putting his shoulder out of joint, but the animal good use of his legs and put a soldier from another army running with him, firing every step of the way but he got away from them and got in camp where the doctors set his arm in its place. He is doing very well now but are back to our old camp near Culpeper with the remnant of our brigade while the army is chasing the rebels where yesterday there was four to one. The armies and both parties were burying their dead I saw hundreds of the rebels and even talking with them. Henderson Early, and two or three more rebel generals were there, they were all very pleasant. Our dead had all been stripped of their valuables some of their clothes.
Aug. 13, 1862

Elmer Decker’s horse fell and rolled over him, putting his shoulder out of joint. But he made good use of his legs and hurl a dozen rebel who were running after him, firing every shot at the rear, but he got away from them and got on empty where the doctor set his arm in its place. He is doing very well now but are back to our old camp near Culpeper with the remnant of our brigade. While the army is marching the rebel sick before yesterday there were 27 in the ambulances and both parties were burning their dead. I saw hundreds of the rebels and on saddling with Ethelma Gentinward early and two or three more rebel Generals were there, they were all very pleasant. The dead had all been stripped of their valuable some of their clothes
Culpeper Ctf., Aug. 18th, 1862

Dear Sir,

The battle I expected when I wrote last came off last Saturday though not as heavy as one as I thought it would be. However it proved heavy enough for our Brigade of infantry who were in the advance and lost about two thirds of their number. As I was on the field with the General and lost two men taken prisoners Corporal Bell and Bill Nance (Dennis Butcher) the latter was wounded and afterwards paroled. He is with us now. I suppose you will hear of the result of the action but the particulars I don't think will be published now soon as I write them and am too tired to sleep, in fact it is all I can do to write at all for I have but all inclination to do so, if it were not for your being uneasy I believe I would quit entirely. The Orange is ripe.
Clowes Decker's house

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left his arm in its position

being very well armed

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while the army is dispersed

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both parties were busying themselves

I saw hundreds of militia began to

nothing with them, gentlemen

early, and two or three more

rebel Generals were there. They

were all very pleasant. Our

dead had all been stripped of their

valuable, some of their clothes
Culpepper City, Aug. 19th, 1862

Dear Sir,

The battle I expected to write last came off last week, though not as heavy as I thought it would be, however, proved heavy enough for our brigade of infantry who were in the advance and lost about two thirds of their number. So I was on the field with the general and lost two men, lieutenant prisoners Charles Bellair and Caleb Havel (Deeve Butler) the latter was wounded and afterwards paroled, he is in with us now. I suppose you will read of the result of the action but the particulars I don’t think will be published. So soon I write these as I am too tired to sleep, in fact it is all I can do to write at all for I have lost all inclination to do so, if it was not for some being present I believe I would not have written at all. The Margaret boys are all...
Our dead and wounded in the possession of the rebels, the two armies were within half a mile of each other that night about nine o'clock while I was waiting at Gen. Popes head quarters on a hill near our front the rebels commenced shelling our camp. We happened to be quite at range. The shells fell around us on every side, there was about a dozen generals on the hill besides any quantity of staff officers and the way they got off that side of ground was a caution to lazy folk. Gen. Banks was near one of some of our cavalry and is supposed to have been taken. The brigades, etc., while the shelling was going on Gen. Brannerson was at the hospital between our army and those on coming back he run in on the rebel sharpshooter who fired a whole volley at him. Yes as usual were with him and it was there where Bill Havel was taken.
Dear Til

The battle I expected when I wrote last came off last Saturday though not as heavy a one as I thought it would be, however it proved heavy enough for our brigade of infantry who were in the advance and lost about two thirds of their number. Co. B was on the field with the general and lost two men taken prisoners, corporal Bellair, and Bill Kavel (Deans Butcher) the latter was wounded and afterwards paroled, he is with us now. I suppose you will read of the result of the action but the particulars I don't think will be published nor can I write them as I am tired & sleepy, in fact it is all I can do to write at all for I have lost all inclination to do so, if it was not for your being uneasy I believe I would quit writing entirely. The Marquette Boys are all well with the exception of the two aforesaid. Pulver is turning out to be a first rate soldier we have a fight at Orange, C H. a fortnight or so ago where we had a pretty warm time and took some fifty odd prisoners, he was in the thickest of it and took a prisoner himself and Saturday he was very near the last to leave the field though the rebels had possession of it. Our four brigades of about 12 thousand men fought Jackson's whole force from noon until dark and were then forced to fall back a mile or so when we met Gen. Pope coming to our aid with 25,000 men, didn't we fell happy though to see the fresh troops come in? I thought they would charge right over the battle field and drive the enemy back, but the contented him self with forming his line and stopping the pursuit leaving our dead and wounded in the possession of the rebels, the two armies were within half a mile of each other that night, about nine o'clock while I was waiting at Gen. Pope's headquarters on a hill near our front the rebels commenced shelling our camp we happened to be just in range, the shells fell around us on every side, there was about a dozen Generals on the hill besides any quantity of staff officer and the way they got off that rise of ground was a caution
to lazy folks Gen Banks was run over by some of our cavalry and is suffering from his bruises yet, while the shelling was going on, Gen Crawford was at the hospital between our army and theirs and in coming back he run in on the rebel pickets who firest a whole volley at him, Co B as usual were with him and it was there where Bill Kavel was taken Elmer Decker's horse fell and rolled over him puting his shoulder out of joint, but he made good use of his legs and beat a dozen secessh who were runing after him firing every step of the way but he got away from them and got in camp where the doctor set his arm in its place, he is doing very well now. We are back to our old camp near Culpepper with the remnant of our brigade while the army is chasing the rebels/day before yesterday there was truce between the armies and both parties were burrying their dead I saw hundreds of the rebels and was talking with them Gen Stewart Early, and two or three more rebel Generals were there, they were all very pleasant. Our dead had all been striped of their valuables, some of their clothes

[sheet with pages 5-8 is missing]
When the troops arrived at Newbern the officers held a council and concluded that there was more troops on the woods to the right than appeared to be so. They got out two or three regiments of infantry, a couple of pieces of artillery and one of our companies for skirmishers. They had some firing and one of our cavalry was killed and the enemy driven back out of sight. The next ten miles to Winchester we were not molested. We arrived there some time in the afternoon. The train kept coming in until after dark. Then we learned that the rear of the train had been cut off and every wagon belonging to the regiment with but one exception had been captured by the rebels, our two
Company K. Teamsters got in a show and went out of the way and escaped on them. You ought to have seen the long faces the men put on when they found they had lost everything but what was on their backs. My stock of clean shirts, drawers, socks, gold, paper, and a hundred traps and saddlebags very convenient but to enumerate are all gone to devil gone to or up salt-creek. I don't know which but it would have done you good to have seen the lieutenant when the teamster told the wagons were taken. His new suit was in his trunk that he had just bought and the boys all knew.
it: he swore at the man called him coward and went most crazy. Sent the quartermaster back with a corporal & two men with horses to get the wagons some nine miles off. But the corporal found out before he had gone a mile that the wagons were jammed in so that the rebels just took the horses and our rear guard burnt the wagons with all the contents. In the daytime the party had become reconciled to their losses in rejoicing over the lieutenant and a greater one so universally is the disliked bull when night came we marched off our horses and camped in a clover field outside the town. Our quartermaster managed to get a box of hardbread which was all the food we had that day.
After supper we spread our blankets on the ground and in spite of the firing of the enemy on our pickets through the latter part of the night I slept as soundly as a log after our fifteen hours in the saddle. At day-light I was awakened by a volley a half a mile or so up the road and then we got orders to saddle which we did in a hurry. By the time the saddles were on the horse the coffee was ready and we each had a cup of strong coffee without either sugar or milk but we had to fall in before we had eaten all our breakfast so the firing was getting closer and the infantry were getting into position for battle. Two pieces of artillery were placed on a hill to the right of the town and
The 1st Missouri cavalry drew up in line of battle about fifty yards in the rear of it on a little hollow to support it; that is, to prevent the enemy from capturing it.

Two regiments of infantry were placed near the foot of the hill and the balance of the mine were on the right with a battery of artillery, except one regiment and two pieces of artillery on the cannon. We had 4,500 men all told on the field. The enemy first appeared on the left where our heaviest force was and commenced a heavy cannonading. We could see a large body of them in the rear of the canon.

Then a regiment came up on a hill right in front of where
One were they halted on the brow of the hill about a thousand yards from us and delivered a volley at our infantry between us and them. Our two parrot guns opened on them then with shell, the first one burst right in front of their ranks and they didn't wait for the next but broke and ran down the hill faster than they came up. About that time a heavy fog came down the valley and shut out our view, it lasted nearly an hour during which the enemy shifted their position and when it lifted they began a furious cannonading on our right direction at the two guns we were supporting. The shells passed over the guns and burst right over our heads. God was on the
right of our line on the top of the hill but the shells came in so fast that the place became too hot for us so we moved down the hill a little where we were not quite so much exposed. While sitting here on our horses with the shells bursting near us at the rate of two or three a minute there was not much of a disposition for joking among us. Still there were a few perpetrating but the majority of us didn't appreciate them. Even by a shell struck the ground near the ranks and burst we saw something flying alongside of the ranks and heard the dull thud as it hit some one in the company. Who's hit was the question right off. Skinner is hit some one days, is he killed? Not that I know of, answers the individual in question, and then we found it was only a piece of clay that struck.
Time on the shoulder and glanced off. Pretty soon another burst out far off this time. It's a little black thing comes whizzing along. I heard it strike the trees behind me. The man that rides behind me falls off. His horse gallops up the hill where the shells burst every time. There's one gone up there. The exclamation of every one around. But no the man was sitting sideways on his horse to rest—and the fragment—hit his horse in the temple causing him to jump sideways and throwing the man to the ground. So one killing gets the other horse which I was not hurt much and the ranks are full again. About that time the rebel infantry advanced towards our delve, our infantry fell back slowly.
[AUGUST 1862]

To a stone wall behind which the rebels had posted, they poured in murderous fire as the rebels advanced; the two guns also did much execution with grape and canister but it was more than we could stand for as we had to come at least three or four to one while regiment after regiment was coming up on either side to attack us on the flank. All this we learned from our officers who were on the brow of the hill as we could not see the attacking from where we stood. The brow of the hill being behaviorally such that we could hear the bullets which cleared our heads only a few feet. I have been too jilting...
of skirmishes where the bullets flew pretty thick, but—I don’t think you could distinguish one sound from the other. It was a perfect—explosion or sizzle I don’t know—how to convey an idea of what a sound they did get up. When the musketry had raged about half an hour one of our officers hollowed out a hurrah, they are running our men are giving them hail Columbia. But it was far only a minute or so one regiment had been beaten back and a half a dozen others took their places and advanced on our men. The next thing we saw the two guns come down the hill on the gallop with 4 horses on one and three on the other, the other five had been killed along with one of the men and another wound.
Then came the infantry full chiscal down the hill. We were ordered to reform a line on the top of the hill to charge down on them. We went through the maneuver as well and cool as if we had been on battle drill. Then came the order draw sabre and we were all ready to deal death and destruction to the enemy. But in the meantime five regiments of the rebels had marched onto the brow of the hill just in front of where we had been and not farther from us than from the shore to the bank of the lake.

Major Town was in command. He looked at the long column of men marching up the hill by fours with their side towards us their ranks as even and
regular as if they were drilling. It's no use charging on such ranks as those. I say he so he gave us the order of fours right-wheel about the same time the rebels fronted into line brought down their muskets and the way bullets flew around them. Digging was a caution to sinner. ranks wasn't to be thought of they were too slow nominations for their busy times so ever one made a break for themselves we had about two hundred yards to run to get out of range and I can assure you all made good time. There was a small valley we had to cross to get away from the hill with a road running all the bottom. I am pretty sure the place never was picked out
for a hasty retreat for there was a stone wall on each side of it which protected many of poor fellow and left him nothing but his legs to get away from the field with. Polichinus did well on that charge the cleared the first wall and raised high enough to have a foot or two to spare at least that is what I thought when she nearly broke my neck landing on the other side the came down so solid, the next wall was half way up the hill and jumping was out of the question so Polichinus did some half climbing on short notice George Edwing tried the same game a little further along but his
horse fell over backwards and broke the saddle girth, and he
grasped on and tried it with
out the saddle and got off along
with no bareback. As soon as
we got out of range we mounted
on hanks again and on emerging
from the suburbs of town we
drew the arm in full retreat
to make the run thinks we
who had good horses run for
and had no need to hurry. We
marched along the woods outside
the infantry to keep the cavalry
from clashing in on them as
soon as we were fairly outside
the city they began shelling our
rear and kept it up for six
or eight miles, fortunately the
shells did not burst or else they
first round shot at the infantry
anyhow they did but little damage.
At Martinsburg we made a stand and held them in check three or four hours so as to give our train time to get ahead. We left Martinsburg at sundown and halted a mile from the river where our stages on picket two days and a half until the army had crossed over the river which was a slow job as there was only one saw to firing them over with. We were relieved day before yesterday by the hermanst cavalry who forced the stream back again we had a little brush with the secesh the day before we crossed but all the damage done was a secesh horse getting a bullet through his neck. The infantry were shot at by the citizens of Winchester.
fired out of their windows at them or in the retreat. They will burn the whole town when we go back. I haven’t seen a paper since we have crossed over and I don’t know what they are doing in the war. There is a war, isn’t there? One thing I do know is there is a few thousand men here who are officers anxious to pay the second back in their own coin. The officers in the signal corps command twenty-eight regimental flags fly the field and there is not telling how many they had out-of-sight. It is no wonder they beat me. I am all torn up and in good health but I guess I will have to go to bed in some house while I get my shirts washed as I have none to change with. With love from Bro E.B.
When the troops arrived at Newtown the officers held a council and
concluded that there was more troops in the woods to the right than
there appeared to be so they got out two or three regiments of infantry
a couple of pieces of artillery and one of our companies for skirmishers,
you had some firing one of our cavalry was killed and the enemy driven
back out of sight, the next ten miles to Winchester we were not molested,
we arrived there some time in the afternoon the train kept coming
in until after dark then we learned that the rear of the train had been
cut off and every waggon belonging to the regiment with but one exception
had been captured by the rebels, our two Company B. teamsters got in
about dusk and and reported they hadn't even time to unhitch one of their
horses but took the first one they came across when they got out of the way
and escaped on them. You ought to have seen the long faces the men put
on when they found they had lost every thing but what was on their backs,
My stock of clean shirts, drawers, socks, gold pen, papers, and a
hundred traps and calamities very convenient but to numerous to mention
are all gone to Davy Jones's or up salt creek I dont know which but it
would have done you good to hear the lieutenant when the teamster told
the wagons were taken. His new suit was in his trunk that he had just
bought and the boys all knew it. he swore at the man called him coward and
went most crazy sent to teamster back with a corporal & two men with horses
to get the waggon some nine miles off but the corporal found out before
he had gone a mile that the waggons were jammed in so that the rebels just
took the horses and our rear guard burnt the waggons with all the contents.
In the meantime the boys had become parity reconciled to their losses in
rejoicing over the lieutenants greater one so universally is he dis-
liked. Well when night came we unsaddled our horses and camped in a clo-
ver field outside the town Our quartermaster managed to get a bag of
hardbread which was all the food we had that day after supper we spread
our blankets on the ground and in spite of the firing of the enemy on our pickets through the latter part of the night I slept as sound as a log after our fifteen hours in the saddle, at day light I was awakened by a volley a half a mile or so up the road and then we got orders to saddle which we did in a hurry by the time the saddles were on the coffee was ready and we each had a cup of strong coffee without either sugar or milk but we had to fall in before we had eaten all our breakfasts as the firing was getting closer and the infantry were getting into position for battle. Two pieces of artillery were placed on a hill to the right of the town and the 1st Mich cavalry drew up in line of battle about fifty yards in the rear of it in a little hollow to support it. That is to prevent the enemy from capturing it. Two regiments of infantry were placed near the foot of the hill and the balance of the men were on the right with a battery of artillery, except one regiment and two pieces of artillery in the centre we had 4,500 men all told on the field. The enemy first appeared on the left where our heaviest force was and commenced a heavy cannonading, we could see a large body of them in the rear of the cannon. Then a regiment came up on a hill right in front of where we were stationed on the brow of the hill about a thousand yards from us and delivered a volley at our infantry between us and them. Our two parrot guns opened on them with shell, the last one burst right in front of their ranks and they didn't wait for the next but broke and ran down the hill faster than they came up. About that time a heavy fog came down the valley and shut out our view, it lasted nearly an hour during which the enemy shifted their position and when it lifted they began a furious cannonading on our right directed at the two guns we were supporting. The shells passed over the guns and burst right over our heads. So B was on the right of our line on the top of the hill but the shells came in so fast that the place become to hot for us so we moved down the hill a little where we were not quite so much exposed while sitting there on our horses with the shells
bursting over us at the rate of two or three a minute there was not much of a disposition for joking among us, still there were a few perpetrated but the majority of us didn't appreciate them. by'm by a shell struck the ground near the ranks and burst we saw something flying along side of the ranks and heard the dull thug as it hit some one in the company. Who's hit? was the question right off. Skinner's hit someone says, is he killed? not that I know of, answers the individual in question, and then we found it was only a piece of clay that struck him on the shoulder and glanced off. pretty soon another bursts not far off this time its a little black thing comes whizing along. I heard it strike something behind me the man that rides behind me falls off head first his horse gallops up the hill where the shells burst every time. there's one gone up sure pop is the exclamation of every one around. but no the man was sitting sideways on his horse to rest and the fragment hit his horse in the temple causing him to jump sideways and throwing the man to the ground, so no one killed yet he gets his horse which was not hurt much and the ranks are full again. about that time the rebel infantry advanced towards our battery our infantry fell back slowly to a stone wall behind which they rallied and poured in a murderous fire as the rebels advanced, the two guns also did much execution with grape and canister but it was no use they were too strong for us, on they came at least three or four to one while regiment after regiment was coming upon on either side to attack us on the flank all this we learned from our officers who were on the brow of the hill as we couldn't see the attacking party from where we stood the brow of the hill being between, but if we couldn't see we could hear the bullets which cleared our heads only a few feet. I have been in plenty of skirmishes where the bullets flew pretty thick, but here you couldn't distinguish one sound from the other it was a perfect hum or sizzle I don't know how to
convey my idea of what a sound they did get up. When the musketry had raged about half an hour one of our officers hollowed out hurrah they are running our men are giving them hail columbia, but it was for only a minute or so one regiment had been beaten back and a half a dozen others took their places and advanced on our men the next thing we saw the two guns come down the hill on the gallop with 4 horses on one and three on the other, but other five had been killed along with one of the men and another wounded then come the infantry full chizeol down the hill. We were ordered to form a line on the top of the hill to charge down on them, we went through the manuvre as well and cool as if we had been on batallion drill then came the order draw Sabre and we were all ready to deal death and destruction to the enemy. but in the meantime five regiments of the rebels had marched onto the brow of the hill just in front of where our guns had been and not farther from us than the porch to the other bank of the lake. Major Town was in command he looked at the long collume of men marching up the hill by fours with their side towards us their ranks as even and regular as if they were drilling. It's no use charging on such ranks as those! Says he so he gave us the order by fours right wheel, about the same time the rebels fronted into line brought down their muskets and the way bullets flew around them digings was a caution to sinners ranks was'nt to be thought of they were too slow instutions for them busy times so ever one made a break for themselves, we had about two hundred yards to run to get out of range and I can assure you we all made good time. there was a small valley we had to cross to get away from the hill. with a road running along the bottom. I am pretty sure the place never was picked out for a hasty retreat for there was a stone wall on each side of it which unhorsed many a poor fellow and left him nothing but his legs to get away from the field with. Polianthus did well on that charge she cleared the first wall and raised high enough to have a foot or two to spare at least that is what I thought when she nearly broke my neck in landing on the other side she
she came down so solid. the next wall was half way up the hill and jumping was out of the question so pollianthus did some tall climbing on short notice, George Ewing tried the same game. a little further along but his horse fell over backward and broke the saddle girth and he jumped on and tried it with out the saddle and got off along with us bareback. As soon as we got out of range we formed ranks again and on emerging from the suburbs of town we saw the army in full retreat lord, how they run thinks we who had good horses under us and had no need to hurry we marched along the edge of the woods outside the infantry to keep the cavalry from dashing in on them as soon as we were fairly outside the city they began shelling our rear and kept it up for six or eight miles, fortunately the shells didn't burst or else they fired round shot at the infantry any how they did but little damage. At Martinsburg we made a stand and held them in check three or four hours as so to give our train time to get ahead we left martinsburg at sundown and halted a mile from the river where we stayed on picket two days and a half until the army had crossed over the river which was a slow job as there was only one scow to ferry them over with. We were relieved day before yesterday by the Vermont cavalry who forded the stream back again. we had a little brush with the secesh the day before we crossed but all the damage done was a secesh horse getting a bullet through his nose. The infantry say that the citizens of winchester fired out of their windows at them on the retreat and they swear they will burn the whole town when we go back I havn't seen a paper since we have crossed over and I don't know what they are doing in the way of reinforcing us, but one thing I do know and that is, there is a few thousand men here who are mighty anxious to pay the secesh back in their own coin. the officers in the signal corps counted twenty eight flags regimental flags in the field and there is no telling how many they had out of sight. so it is no wonder they beat us. I am all sound and in good health but I guess I will have to go to bed in some house while I get my shirts washed as I have none to change. With love your Bro Ed
Point of Rocks Mo 31st

Dear Ted,

I suppose by this time you have heard that I was either killed, wounded, or taken prisoner in the grand charge we made on Stuart Cavalry last Saturday eve, but fortunately I escaped being killed though I was slightly wounded and taken prisoner, poor Polyanthus was killed in the scuffle. We were kept two days at Gainesville Va and paroled. We were three days in coming here five days in all during which time we received only a quarter of beef in the way of food for twelve hundred of us from the Confederates but we bought & begged enough to keep us from starving along.
the roads. There is nineteen of Co. B. here prisoners on parole three or four are badly wounded. Fifteen or twenty of the regiment were killed but I don't know who they were. Genl. Morse was killed and so was John Bradley. Our Col. was mortally wounded Major Atwood taken prisoner along with Capt. Harrigan and several others.

We are expecting the cars every minute to take us to Annapolis. I don't know what will be done with us there until we are exchanged. I hope they will send us home on a furlough. I will write again when I find what we are going to do until then.

Good Bye Ed.
Dear Til

I suppose by this time you have heard that I was either killed wounded or taken prisoner in the grand charge we made on stuart's cavalry last saturday eve but fortunately I escaped being killed though I was slightly wounded and taken prisoner, poor Polyanthus was killed in the scrapel. We were kept two days at Gainesville va and paroled we were three days in coming here five days in all during which time we received only a quarter of beef in the way of food for twelve hundred of us from the confederates but we bought & begged enough to keep us from starving along the road. There is nineteen of Co. B. here prisoners on parole three or four are badly wounded. fifteen or twenty of the regiment were killed but I dont know who they were Lieut Morse was killed and so was Jake Bradley. Our Col was mortally wounded Major Atwood taken prisoner along with Capt Harrigan and several others.

We are expecting the cars every minute to take us to Anapolis I dont know what will be done with us there until we are exchanged I hope they will send us home on a furlough.

I will write again when I find what we are going to do until then

Good Bye        Ed
Dear Sir,

We have arrived here. Still in uncertainty as to what is to be done with us, there is a rumor in camp that we are to be sent to our respective states until exchanged. There is one thing certain though and that is if they don't hurry up things they won't have many men to send home for we've all made up our minds to go home on furlough or not at all. As soldiers without a pass we'll have to get some citizen's clothes and come it over them that way, or take the post & walk the lines and foot it to Cleveland. The boys don't like the idea of living in camp so near home but I suppose the government wants us where they can find us when...
when our turn comes which from all appearances will not be for some time. We were at Cumberland nearly a week during which four of us boarded at a private house and enjoyed ourselves in many ways. The people have been very kind to us since crossing the river. We have found them at every village, town, and city ready to invite us and give us the best at Newark. On arriving at the station we found about two hundred ladies assembled there with baskets loaded down with delicacies of every description. The poor soldiers’ rights— from the war—excite all the good people’s sympathy and I can assure you the poor soldiers’ rights from the war have no objections to eating the good things the provider for me have been in camp hardly an hour yet and have not learned
what the prospects are. One hand is nearly healed up. Otherwise I am well with the exception of a slight indisposition caused by eating too many peaches. There is an abundance of fruit here and very cheap. The change from campaigning in Virginia to living at our ease, I can assure you is very agreeable. If we stay here any time I will write again. Until then excuse one for writing such short letters as it is impossible for one to write while everything is so undecided.

P.S. Write soon direct to Camp Chase Columbus Ohio.
Dear Til

We have arrived here. still in uncertainty as to what is to be done with us, there is a rumor in camp that we are to be sent to our respective states until exchanged. There is one thing certain though and that is if they don't hurry up things they won't have many men to send home for we've all made up our minds to go home furlough or none. We can't ride on the cars as soldiers without a pass so we'll have to get some citizens clothes and come it over them that way, or take the foot & Walker line and foot it to Cleveland. The boys don't like the idea of living in camp so near home but I suppose the government want us where they can find us when our turn comes, which from all appearances will not be for some time. We were at Cumberland nearly a week during which time four of us boarded at a private house and lived enjoyed our selves immensely, the people have been very kind to us since crossing the river, we have found them at every village town & city ready to invite us in & give us the best, at Newark, O. on arriving at the station we found about two hundred ladies assembled there with baskets loaded down with satisables of every description, the poor soldiers right from the war excite all the good peoples sympathy and I can assure you the poor soldiers right from the war have no objections to eating the good things they provide for us. I have been in camp hardly an hour yet and have not learned what the prospects are. My hand is nearly healed up other wise I am well with the exception of a slight indisposition caused by eating too many peaches. there is an abundance of fruit here and very cheap, the change from campaigning in Virginia to living at our ease in a land of plenty I can assure you is very agreeable. If we stay here any time I will write again until then excuse me for writing such short letters as it is impossible for me to write while every thing is so undecided

Your Affec xxx Bro Ed

P. S. Write soon direct to Camp Chase Columbus Ohio
Detroit Oct 31, 1862

Dear Del

I've arrived here all safe and sound and find myself at a prison no longer at all. The cavalry who were taken are exchanged our regiment with the rest. There was a squad of eight left for Washington last night to join the regiment and there will be four of us to go tonight. I called on Mrs. Braham this morning. She was very glad to see me. I promised to call again in a day or so but I didn't know then how soon I was to leave. This exchanging of business relieves one from any difficulty in returning to camp as our officers have left Columbus after sending
what men they had there on to the regiment. The absentees are allowed thirty days to report themselves in. So you see I am back in good season. I don't hardly like the idea of a winter campaign on the neck down in Virginia to say nothing of the fighting but I suppose we must make the best of it. We ought to be satisfied for we have had a good long resting spell and have also got pretty well fatted up.

I wish I had known when I left home that I was going right through for I might have taken a good many things to the boys from their friends. I met Hank, Lawrence and Kate on the
Last night and our rendezvous at 9th Ave. and 21st St. this morning there is quite a number of our officers here on parole but they are not to be exchanged for some time yet. I haven't time to write any more as I must get ready for the boat write soon and direct to Washington.

Col. B. A. Miss. Car
in Porter's Division

Good Bye
With Love
Ed.
Dear Til

I've arrived here all safe and find myself a prisoner no longer as all the cavalry who were taken are exchanged our regiment with the rest. There was a squad of eight left for Washington last night to join the regiment and there will be four of us to go tonight. I called on Mrs. Bronson this morning she was very glad to see me I promised to call again in a day or so but I didn't know then how soon I was to leave. This exchanging business relieves me from any difficulty in returning to camp as our officers have left Columbus after sending what men they had there on to the regiment. The absentees are allowed thirty days to report themselves in, so you see I am back in good season. I don't hardly like the idea of a winter camping in the mud down in Virginia to say nothing of the fighting but I suppose we must make the best of it. We ought to be satisfied for we have had a good long resting spell and have also got pretty well fated up.

I wish I had known when I left home that I was going right through for I might have taken a good many things to the boys from their friends. I met Hank Lawrence and Kate in the street last night and Mr. Pendle & Mather this morning there is quite a number of our officers here on parole but they are not to be exchanged for some time yet.

I haven't time to write any more as I must get ready for the boat.

Write soon and direct to Washington Co. B. 1st Mich Cav. in Porter's Division

Good Bye

With love

ED
Camp Rocke, Detroit, Dec 6th

Dear Sir,

I have put off writing from day to day until something was decided on so I would know what to write. I got my new all safe to the Detroit Barracks after being six days on the way down. The Colonel thought I had done very well and as my furlough was about out he gave me the appointment of 2nd Lieut. to be approved by the Governor, so I took the appointment along with Mr. Campbell's letter and after reading the latter he signed the other laying at the same time he was very glad to do it for me. After getting his approval I handed the paper over to the adjutant general and he soon made out my commission signed by the Governor all straight. So now I am Lieutenant J. M. Watson, dig at your service. I will have a half a dozen men or more to recruit to fill up any quota as Generals of these I brought down are to be rejected, the old inspecting doctor who examined them threw out six but the Col left one to bring them all out to Camp and have them examined over again. The men have been staying on the Barracks for the last week. This morning I received orders to take them onto the Camps of the 5th Regt (who have just gone to Washington) and guard the property until the quarters are ready.
for us at Coldwater which is to be our place of rendezvous instead of Detroit as I expected. The men don't like the idea of going out there and I have considerable trouble in keeping them quiet. They are worse than children to get along with. All are continually wanting something. On one day I charge the men a dollar or two the thirsty and so on, and if I don't give them all at once every day they think they are extremely advantaged. However I do the best I can with them and that is all anyone can do. I will feel a great deal easier when we once get settled down at Coldwater, where there is no cannon across the river for the dissatisfied ones to go to, only one has run away so far and he may come back as he has only been gone a couple of days. Anyway our position is safe enough if the all run away things I will have to recruit more in their place. One of our captains wants one to recruit a company for him he furnish the men as he is a New Yorker and one up to recruiting where he is not acquainted but I don't think I will take up with his offer as by the time I get the rest of the quota I will have enough of recruiting. I expect to have a gay time this winter in the city here as I have really a dozen families to visit the Bates, McHenzies, Halls, Hinds, Mrs. Curtis, several others to remember to mention while out at Coldwater I don't know of any acquaintances but the Safford's however I guess it won't take long to get acquainted.
for I am bound to enjoy myself this winter away
I got a letter from Mr. Phelps in Gloucester he had not
much news to tell he knew in good health had been
out in the front of the army six weeks & gained
fourteen pounds I guess they have better living
than when I was with them. He says my Irish friend
is gaining the ill will of all the officers & men in
the regiment from fellow all the harm. I wish you
that the regiment went think any worse of him
than I do. I don't know of anything more I have to
write about this time and as I have other letters to write
I must bid you good night

Your affectionate brother

Cole watson

Sir

Sir Ed. R. Watson

Colchester

G. T. Ray Field Cary

Colchester

North
Dear Til

I have put off writing from day to day until something was decided on so I would know what to write. I got my men all safe to the Detroit Barracks after being six days on the way down, the Colonel thought they had done very well and as my furlough was about out he gave me the appointment of 2nd Lieut to be approved by the Governor, so I took the appointment along with Mr. Campbell’s letter/after reading the latter he signed the other saying at the same time he was very glad to do it for me. After getting his approval I handed the paper over to the adjutant General and he soon made out my commission signed by the Governor all straight, so now I am Lieutenant E. M. Watson, Esq at your service. I will have a half a dozen men or more to recruit to fill up my quota as several of those I brought down are to be rejected, the old inspecting doctor who examined them threw out six but the Col told me to bring them all out to Camp and have them examined over again. The men have been staying in the barracks for the last week, this morning I received orders to take them into the camp of the 5th Reg (who have just gone to Washington) and guard the property until the quarters are ready for us at Coldwater which is to be our place of Rendezvous instead of Detroit as I expected the men don’t like the idea of going out there and I have considerable trouble in keeping them quiet. They are worse than children to get along with they are continually wanting something. Bounty one day clothes the next a dollar or two the third and so on, and if I don’t give them all a pass every day they think they are dreadfully abused. However I do the best I can with them and that is all any one can do. I will feel a great deal easier when we once get settled down at Coldwater, where there is no cannada across the river for the dissatisfied ones to go to only one has run away so far and he may come back as he has only been gone a couple of days. Anyway my position is safe enough if they all run away, though I will have to recruit more in their place.
One of our captains wants me to recruit a company for him. He furnishes the means as he is a New Yorker and not up to recruiting where he is not acquainted but I don't think I will take up with his offer as by the time I get the rest of my quota I will have enough of recruiting. I expected to have a gay time this winter in the city here as I have nearly a dozen families to visit the Burts, McKenzies, Bronsons, Reading Curry & several others to numerous to mention. While out at Coldwater I don't know of any acquaintances but the Saffords however I guess it won't take long to get acquainted for I am bound to enjoy myself this winter anyway. I got a letter from Ally Jackson yesterday he had'n't much news to tell, he was in good health had been out in the front of the army six weeks & gained fourteen pounds. I guess they had better living than when I was with them. He says my Irish friend is gaining the ill will of all the officers & men in the regiment. Poor fellow, all the harm I wish him is that they regiment won't think any worse of him than I do. I don't know of anything more I have to write this time and as I have other letters to write I must bid you good night.

Your affectionate brother

Ed

Direct to

Lieut Ed M. Watson
Coldwater
Mich
9th Reg Mich Cav

Coldwater

Mich
Dear Lil,

Here it is Christmas night and we are not in camp yet, however the regiment is ordered to be in Coldwater tomorrow all but four men and myself (now reduced down to seven) who are ordered to stay here and load lumber on the canal at further orders. I was ordered here on the 9th to take charge of tearing down the buildings and have been here ever since we have quit tearing down and have been for the last week loading the lumber at the depot. The Col has not got back from Washington yet nor have I got my papers from the old regiment so that I can draw my back pay.
I have fifty dollars in the bank yet which will last me quite a spell. But to tell the truth I hate to look ahead for the prospect looks awfully dubious until after the first payday everything is so high all kinds of clothing in the military line have gone up almost out of reach anything like a good tail of regimentals will cost 45 dollars which will nearly cover my whole capital.

At present I have been economical with my clothing so far I changed my new jacket for one a finer one tore of the trimming and put on the epaulets bought a pair of pants and had a full rig which will do me very well until we go to having dress parade. I have had the blues for the last
two or three weeks but am in hope I will get rid of them before long. I spent Christmas walking about the city feeling like a fish out of water I wasch sharp or I might have got an invitation to dinner if I had called on my friends in the fore part of the week but I havn't seen to see any one since I've been here except Mr. Legers family however I know what to do next Christmas I haven't since my boat yet our will not until we go into camp which I hope will be next week. It is raining to might as it has for the last two days you know my infirmity about writing on rainy days so don't be surprised if you don't get a very interesting letter.

And the way I came across Mr. Dawles today down town I knew
him as soon as I saw him but could not think of his name until he told it to me. I came across a good many Lake Superior people in the city. Emerson of Ontonagon is here, he has got an apartment as captain in a company of Mechanics & Engineers. Holmes the timber attorney a hardware store in town. Mr. Cushing a bookseller. Drake is in a clothing store and lots of others is numerous to mention. I meet every day. I hope by the time I write again I will be able to see my way clearer and know just what I am going to do. I am in good health and hope you are all well at home. I expected to take my first skating day on the park but this rain had thinned that all in the head. Give my love to little Will along with a merry Christmas and the same to the rest of the family. Your affectionate son.
him as soon as I saw him but could not think of his name until he told it to me. I came across a good many Santee Sippecan people in the city Omessen of Portimion is here he has got an apartment as captain in a company of Mechanics & Engineers. Notmore the tinker keeps a hardware store in town Mr. Cushing a booksale Drak is in a clothing store and lots of others to numerous to mention some every day I hope by the time I write again I will be able to die any way clearer and know just what I am going to do. I am in good health and hope you are all well. At home I expect to take my first sledding day on the park but this year had knocked all on the head. Give my love to little will along with Johnny christine and the laudie to the rest of the family. Yours affectionately.
Dear Sir,

Here it is Christmas night and we are not in camp yet. However, the regiment is ordered to be in Coldwater tomorrow. All but two or three and my small squad (now reduced down to seven) who are ordered to stay here and load lumber on the caisson, further orders. I was ordered here on the 9th to take charge of tearing down the buildings and have been here ever since we have quit tearing down and have been for the last week loading the lumber as the depot. The girl has not got back from Washington yet--nor have I got my pay from the old reg so that I can draw my back pay
I have fifty dollars at the bank, yet which will last me quite a spell. But to tell the truth, I hate to look ahead for the prospect looks awfully dubious until after the first payday. Everything is so high, all kinds of clothing in the military line have gone up almost out of reach anything like a good pair of regimentals will cost 45 dollars, which will nearly cover my whole capital at present. I have been economical with my clothing so far. I changed my new jackets for one a finer one tore off the lining and put on the epaulets bought a pair of pants and had a full rig which will do me very well until we go to having dress parade. I have had the blues for the last
two or three weeks but am in hope I will get rid of them before long. I spent Christmas walking about the city, feeling like a fish out of water. I wasn't sharp, or I might have got an invitation to dinner if I had called on any friends in the forepart of the week. But I haven't been to see any one since I've been here except Mrs. Smith's family. However I do know what to do next Christmas, I haven't spent my boot yet, nor will until we go into camp which I hope will be next week. It is raining to-night as it has for the last two days, you know my infirmity about writing on any day so don't be surprised if you don't get a very interesting letter. By the way I came across Mr. Skulls to day down town I knew
Dear Til

Here it is Christmas night and we are not in camp yet, however the regiment is ordered to be in Coldwater tomorrow all but poor me and my small squad (now reduced down to seven) who are ordered to stay here and load lumber on the cars until further orders. I was ordered here on the 9th to take charge of tearing down the buildings and have been here ever since we have quit tearing down and have been for the last week loading the lumber at the depot. The Col. has not got back from Washington yet nor have I got my papers from the old regt so that I can draw my back pay. I have fifty dollars in the bank yet which will last me quite a spell but to tell the truth I hate to look ahead for the prospect looks awfully dubious until after the first payday everything is so high all kinds of clothing in the military line have gone up almost out of reach anything like a good suit of regimentals will cost 45 dollars which will nearly cover my whole capital at present, I have been economical with my clothing so far. I changed my new jacket for one a finer one tore off the triming and put on the epaulets bought a pr of pants and had a full rig which will do me very well until we go to having dress parades. I have had the blues for the last two or three weeks but am in hopes I will get rid of them before long. I spent Christmas walking about the city feeling like a fish out of water. I wasn't sharp or I might have got an invitation to dinner if I had called on my friends in the fore part of the week but I havn't been to see any one since I've been here except Dr McKenzie's family however I'll know what to do next Christmas. I haven't opened my box yet nor will not until we go into camp which I hope will be next week. It is raining to night as it has for the last two days you know by infirmity about writing on rainy days so don't be surprised if you don't get a very interesting letter. By the way I came across Mr Fowles today down town
I knew him as soon as I saw him but couldn't think of his name until he told it to me. I come across a good many Lake Superior people in the city. Emerson of Ontonagon is here. He has got an appointment as captain in a company of Mechanics & engineers. Holmes, the tinker, keeps a hardware store in town. Mrs. Cushing has a book store. Drake is in a clothing store and lots of others too numerous to mention I meet every day. I hope by the time I write again I will be able to see my way clearer and know just what I am going to do. I am in good health and hope you are all well at home. I expected to take my first skating to day on the park but this rain has knocked that all in the head. Give my love to little Will along with a merry Christmas and the same to the rest of the family.

Your affectionate Bro

Ed