Correspondence
Apr.-June 1864
Dear Parents,

I received your letter and acknowledged it in due time, also Sister Emma's in which you asked me to write a few lines. I was with the regiment at the time, but sick, and I knew that I should shortly be sent to a hospital. Our regiment moved about two weeks ago and I was sent to the Brigade hospital. I did not remain there quite a week. The brigade headquarters moved and the hospital along with it. As from there I was sent here to hospital No. 1 where we have good treatment, good food, and pretty good for. I am doing well, so that I am assured a great share of the care. I would not desire to say how long I was there, for I knew that even when I would feel about anything being sick in the hospital, it is much better that has been troubling me. I do not think that I should have been sick had I not been obliged to do duty during our intervals when I was almost cold. I think that it was only through the negligence of the officers that we were more
I was very much pleased on receiving your letters but as I was just on the point of going off to the hospital I did not answer them, and have not until now, although I commenced a letter some time ago I would not send it until I could write better news, that I that I was better, now I do not want that you should worry about me at all, for I think that I shall be able to go back to my regiment before long. I do not know whether they will send me back from there or whether they will send me to the Connels and Camp to stay a short time and recover up they generally do men that are not hardly able to do duty.

Now a word about our specious affair you spoke in your letter about having a hard time of it this winter, every thing being as high. I did not think until I received your letter that you were having it very hard for it is not quite six months yet since I put $8000 in your hand in Detroit, and I would have $1000
[Handwritten text not legible due to poor quality]
stand a good chance to get the "Capt. N. Edwards". The Surgeon came with Col't to my tent to be
me about it, but I had been taken sick only the day before which frustrated the whole
thing, as the source must be had immediately. Well, Mr. Nichols left the brigade and came back
and his company with a 15 day's rations. Spontaneity.
There was a number of officers in the regiment who had just been promoted and they wanted
him to make them some fancy rides, said they would pay him as soon as they were made.
He came to me and wished to borrow twenty dollars
for two weeks. To my side lather and Brill may I had the money by me, had not yet
received any letter, and after the kindness he had done for me, I could not refuse him the
money. He insisted on any taking any match he had bought but a short time before and
for which he paid $15, or as security, one
bracelet or watch, or $500. It was to have
the match, a good fine piece, pocket, full, which
is worth $15, and which I have had in my pocket for
years, and which he could have had the money if it had been so, then
I could lend it to you. Well I declare any sheet
is worth $15, and I have not just commenced
to write this and I will let this slip for this time and
write again soon clean out mistakes, except my
down and make for your will pull and do not write
until after hear from me again. Trust all friends.
Nashville, Hospital No. 1
April 19th /64

Dear Parents,

I received your letters mailed March 29, in due time, also
Sister Emma's in which you, Mother, wrote a few lines, I was with the regiment
at the time, but sick, and I knew that I should shortly be sent to a hospital;
our regiment moved [sic] about two weeks ago and I was sent to the Brigade-
hospital. I did not remain there quite a week, the brigade-head-quarters
moved and the hospital along with it, so from there I was sent here to hospital
No. 1, where we have good treatment, good beds, and pretty good food, I am
doing well so that I am around a good share of the day. I would not write to
you so long as I was down for I knew how you would feel about my being sick
in the hospital, it is my lungs that has been troubling me; I do not think
that I should have been sick had I not been obliged to do duty during wet
weather, when I was almost bare-foot. I think that it was soly [sic] through
the negligence of the Officers [sic] that we were not provided with the clothing
when we needed it.

I was very much pleased on receiving your letters but as I was just on
the point of going off to the hospital did not answer them, and have not untill
[sic] now, although I commenced a letter some time ago I would not send it
untill [sic] I could write better news, that is that I was better, now I do
not want that you should worrie [sic] about me atall[sic], for I think that
I shall be able to go back to my regiment before long. I do not know wheither [sic]
they will send me back from here, or wheither [sic] they will send me to the
Convalesant [sic] Camp, to stay a short time and recruit up; they generally [sic]
do, men that are not hardly able to do duty.

Now a word about our pecuniary affairs, you spoke in your letter about
having a hard time of it this winter, evry [sic] thing being so high, I did
not think untill [sic] I received your letter that you was having it very hard
for it is not quite six months yet since I put $96.00 in your hand in Detroit, and it is less than $10.00 that you had to pay out, to pay up my old debts, added to that is the $100.00 city bounty, although it ought to have been $50.00 more, which would make, after taking out your railroad expenses, and my debts one: $175.00 and I thought as you have paid more of it toward the home, without it has been rent, that the recidive [sic] would help you through the winter very easily. I would have sent you nearly evry [sic] cent of my pay as soon as I received it had I thought that you stood in need of it, although I have twelve dollars of the money yet it is not so that can send it home I will explain it to you, and I hope that you will not blame me for having done as I have, I was sorry that I had done so as soon as I received your letter, and doubly sorry on receiving Emma's and Mother's.

I had been appointed [sic] nurse for the Brigade Hospital, with the promise from the Surgeon [sic] of Assistant Steward, to the nurse who understood medicin [sic] best, or the one who took hold and learned the fastest, the place was procured me by Ed! Nichols who was at the time Brigade-sadler [sic], he knew as I had clerked in a drug-store that I would stand a good chance to get the "Assistant Steward" the Surgion came with Ed! to my tent to see me about it, but I had been taken sick only the day before, which frustrated the whole thing, as the nurses must be had immediatly [sic]. Well! Mr. Nichols left the brigade and came back to his company with a 15 day excuse from duty, there was a number of officers in the regiment who had just been promoted and they wanted him to make them some fancy bridles said they would pay him as soon as they were made so he came to me and wished to borrow ten dollars for two weeks, to by [sic] side leather and trimings [sic] with. I had the mony [sic] by me, had not yet received your letters, and after the kindness he had done for me, I could not refuse him the money, he insisted on my taking a watch he had bought but a short time before and for which he paid $15.00 as security.
[April 19, 1864 - page 3]

we have been parted or I doubt not I should have had the money by this time.
I have the watch, a good time piece [sic], patent, full jewelled hunter cased,
with a good plate chain and soled hork [sic], I wish that I had the money for
it however, so that I could send it to you. Well I declare my sheet is almost [sic]
full and I have but just commenced to write but I will bet this suffise [sic]
[sic]
this time and write again soon, please excuse mistakes, except/my love and
wishes for your well fare and do not write untill [sic] you hear from me again
love to all friends Sister Emma especially [sic].

[on top of page]
Tell Emma that I will write my next to her, and that I will write soon
whither [sic] I leave here or not good by,

Franklin H. Bailey.
Hospital 17th Ward 6th Louisville Ky. S.

Thursday, April 28th, 1864.

Dear Parents,

Having been removed from the hospital where I was at the time I wrote you last, I thought that I would write again, and let you know where I am and how I am getting along.

Yours as you see by the heading of my letter in Louisville, I left Nashville Tuesday morning, in company with nearly one hundred others from the hospital, we were first eleven hours coming to Louisville a distance of nearly two hundred miles; on arriving there were four ambulances waiting for us, in which we were conveyed to hospital city, which lies five and one half miles south of the city. The first night that I arrived here I was put in the 9th Ward yesterday forenoon I was examined by the Surgeon, who stripped me, and gave me a thorough examination after thumping and sounding nearly every part of my body with his instrument with which he examined all who had any long complaint he said that not only my lungs were diseased, but my heart also. How true it is to do
I do not think summer, that there is anything the matter with me, except with my limbs, that they are diseased, and in nearly the same size they were two years ago. I have every reason to believe, I have not been near as sick summer as I was then, and I hope that I shall not be; for the past nine in ten days I have been able to lie up all day, look over, reading my Testament, or studying phonography, a great share of the time. I have learned a good deal of the phonographic system of writing during the short time that I have been studying it. Still I shall have to study at a long time yet before I can write with the rapidity of a reporter, that is as fast as a man can talk. As I do not think you have seen any of this method of writing I will write two or three simple sentences and then write the same thing in long hand.

1. 1. 1. 1. Do that which is right, and speak that which is true.

2. 1. 1. That which you have to do, try and do right.

3. 1. 1. Do to others as you wish others to do to you.

4. 1. 1. We are at liberty to do as we wish, so long as we wish to do only that which is right.
I intended when I commenced to write only half a sheet to you, and half a sheet to Sister Emma, but I have had so much to say about Phonography that I did not mind up on the other half sheet, so I guess that I will not write to Emma this time, if I should have written one yesterday had I not had a very bad head-ache. I mailed any old Testament last evening. It was directed to your mother, read what is written on the fly leaf and you will see the reason I sent at home. Please write me again as soon convenient, for the letter that you have probably written in answer to the one that I wrote while in the hospital at Nashville, or knowing as I shall ever get, I think likely that I shall stay here longer than I did at Chil. Nashville, for in Nashville they are emptying all of the hospitals, sending those that are able to the field, and the sick that are able to be removed south, most of them here to Louisville. Their object in doing this is to have the hospitals empty, and in readiness for the wounded, that will be sent there as soon as the spring campaign opens. Give my respects to all, write me all the news, tell Emma to write also, and a long letter. Give the little ones, Charley and Thomas, for me, tell them that I sent in the letter, and that I said they must be good children. Except of my last wishes for your welfare, and that you will write from your anxious son, Franklin.
Fesole W. Upton.

1 "Cursed be the man who ever shall raise
   His sacriligious hand,
   To drive fair liberty, our praise,
   From his own native land.

2 O! may his memory never die,
   By future ages cursed,
   But live to lasting infamy,
   Branded of traitors worst.

3 But happy! happy! they
   Who in their country's cause
   Shall cast reluctant feet away,
   Immortal in applause.

4 Who with their conscience virtue first, 
   Shall not dread oppression's voice,
   But boldly dare those rights assert,
   In which all men rejoice."

(Druck)

Franklin H.C. Bailey,
Hospital, Co. Y, Ward No. 6, Louisville, Ky.
Hospital No. 7. Ward No. 6. Louisville, K.Y.

Thursday, April 28th 1864.

Dear Parents,

Having been removed from the hospital where I was at the time I wrote you last, I thought that I would write again, and let you know where I am and how I am getting [sic] along.

I am as you see by the heading of my letter in Louisville; I left Nashville Tuesday morning, in company with nearly one hundred others from the hospital; were just eleven hours coming to Louisville a distance of very nearly two hundred miles; on arriving [sic] here we found ambulances waiting for us, in which we were conveyed to hospital No 7. which lies two and one half miles south of the city. The first night that I stayed [sic] here, I was put in the 9th Ward, yesterday forenoon I was examined by the Surgeon, who stripped [sic] me, and gave me a thorough [sic] examination, after thumping and sounding nearly evry [sic] part of my body with his instrument (with which he examined all who had any lung complaint) he said that not only my lungs was diseased, but my heart also, how true it is I do not know; I do not think however that there is any thing the matter with me except with my lungs, that they are diseased, and in nearly the same fix they were two years ago I have evry [sic] reason to believe, I have not been near as sick however as I was then, and I hope that I shall not be; for the past week or ten days I have been able to be up all day, each day, reading my Testament, or studing [sic] Phonography a good share of the time. I have learned a great deal of the phonographic system of writing during the short time that I have been studing [sic] it, still I shall have to study it a long time yet before I can write with the rapidity of a Reporter, that is as fast as a man can talk. As I do not think you have seen any of this method of writing I will write two or three simple
sentences and then write the same thing in long hand.  

Do that which is right, and speak that which is true.  

That which you have to do, try and do right.  

Do to others as you wish others to do to you.  

It is much easier [sic] to say well than to do well.  

We are at liberty to do as we wish, so long as we wish to do only that which is right.

Well I guess that I have written [sic] enough of my exercises, so that you can see what it is. I intended when I commenced to write only half a sheet to you, and half a sheet to sister Emma, but I have had so much to say about Phonography that I did not wind up on the other half sheet, so I guess that I will not write to Emma this time. I should have written [sic] home yesterday had I not had a very bad head-ach [sic]. I mailed my old Testament last evening, it was directed to you mother, read what is scribbled [sic] on the fly leaf and you will see the reason I sent it home. Please write me again as soon conveinent [sic], for the letter that you have probly [sic] writen in answer to the one that I wrote while in the hospital at Nashville, no knowing as I shall ever get. I think likely that I shall stay here longer than I did at No. 1 Nashville, for in Nashville they are emptying all of the hospitals, sending those that are able to the field, and the sick that are able to be moved north, most of them here to Louisville, their object in doing that is to have the hospitals empty, and in readiness for the wounded, that will be sent there as soon as the springs campaign opens. Give my respects to all, write me all the news, tell Emma to write also, and a long letter, kiss the little ones, Charley and Anna, for me, tell them that I sent it in the letter, and that I said they must be good children. Except [sic] of my best wishes for your wellfare [sic], and this poor letter from your unworthy son, Franklin.
Sesesh Vs Union.

1. "Cursed be the man who e'er shall raise [sic]
   His sacrilegious hand,
   To drive fair liberty, our praise,
   From his own native land.

2. O! may his memory never die,
   By future ages cursed,
   But live to lasting infamy,
   Branded of traitors worst.

3. But happy! happy! they
   Who in their country's cause
   Shall cast reluctant fear away,
   Immortal in appallse [sic].

4. Who with their conscious virtue girt,
   Shan't dread oppression's voice,
   But boldly dare those rights assert,
   In which all men rejoice."

(Direct)

Franklin H. Bailey.
Co. E 4th Reg'. Mich'. Voll'. Cav'.

K. Y.
Beloved Parents and Sister,

If you have the subject of another removal since one week ago, today, the day on which I wrote my last letter home I will suppose the few lines brought bearing salutation and expressions of love. So you may know where I am and how I am getting along. And I hope the kind of joy that I am once more on the road out of the sick train. As if I should unroll the way post and other articles. The train, where it is, was by that, however, belonging to all the men in the hospital I was on, that I thought some thought should not be able to carry within such a distance, and a little more, were taken to the city and there fed on board a boat which brought us to the other from time during the night, we did not go abroad, however, until the morning.

The U.S. A. Encampment, at the place is situated about half a mile from the city of Madison, in the pine park, it is a very large and comfortable hospital, binterest in like a city, placed in regular streets, and every building the same size and shape. A certain number of streets forms a division, all the buildings in one end of a street, found in the city, and each building has a word, each word or building is only one story high, long and narrow running from one to another in the manner in that order, in one side, hall, hospital with windows, with windows and walls a little two of these on another one covered side of the building, which makes a very pleasant scene. Than any building the States been yet. The steps or wards of the distance and small town, like other buildings, into the center of the city of sick and convalescents, as a small group of large trees, so on the splendor of the place, and make a very pleasant residence for a man on a small make. On the top of which is a parapet with iron rails at the sight and adds much to the beauty of the place. The entire city is enclosed by my hand and well guarded by men on duty. The smallest corps so that a man should get out without a pass.

Looking from the hospital grounds in any direction such as of the city, and one can see in the far, the sight is obstructed by high hills which are covered with trees and shrubbery. When on the road as dormant and as comfortable at any time or other. It is by far the most pleasant hospital that I have seen, but I have much pleasure of it to see and with that many conditions in it as well. There is a great to one of these, the hospital, the more healthful nature of it. I have not said anything about the hospital. I have no religious sentiments saved. In the library. We have prayers morning, only day in the week, except Saturday and prayer. Tuesday a day on Sunday. This afternoon is allotted to the reading. We take a little more like Sunday to see some of the religious service at the length of a sermon and prayer. The library is well stocked with religious books of all kinds as well as novels and periodicals of all sorts are read. I am now reading a novel which is by "Even Velveteen Rock", and a splendid novel of 300.
I have not received a letter since I left the regiment, Number 1. If you have not written to Louisville I think that I will get them for the tugboat or the railroad. I was told he would send them to me. I wrote back to him the same day that I arrived here, and sent them in the direction.

I have been around a great deal since I came into the hospital, and father north every time. I have been anxious to hear from you, and think that you can get a letter to me before I can send any to you. I have not received any letters from the different hospitals, and I have no idea how they were sent. Now this prevented my giving them.

The surgeon has told me this morning that I should have an examination soon, and when I do he will see if I can not stay. I am now taking cod liver oil, and drinking whisky (or spirit) from the surgeon. I am well, and expect to stay in the hospital. I will write when I can.

I was told that I was one of the sick having any name I gave to him, and that I was to write to him about the hospital where I was, and asked if there were any Michigan men there. I told him I was, and that I was one of the sick.

I have not been of long, although I have not been in the hospital. I am anxious to hear from home, and that I have letters from home by the mail of iron. I wrote several letters to him. I have heard from him, and wrote to him. I wrote to my father. I have heard from my best wishes for you.

Yours truly,

Franklin H. Bailey,

Direct to:

U.S. Army, Dept. of the U.S. Navy, Oct. 5th, 1863

Margina

End of.
Beloved parents and Sister.

As I have been the subject of another removal since one week ago today, the day in which I wrote my last letter home, I will improve the few leisure moments betwixt now and supper time, in writing to you that you may know where I am and how I am getting along. You see by the heading of my letter that I am once more on free soil out of the rebel states entirely, I will first tell you how and when I came here, it was by boat; Thursday morning all the men in the hospital I was in, that the Surgeon thought would not be able for duty within six or eight weeks, were taken to the city and there put on board a boat, which brought us to this place some time during the night we did not go ashore, however, untill morning. The U.S.A. Genl. Hosp'. at this place is situated about half a mile from the city of Madison, on the river bank, it is a very large and commodious hospital, built like a city, laid out in regular streets, and every building the same size and shape. A certain number of streets form a Division, all the buildings on one side of a street form a Section, and each building forms a Ward; each Ward or building is only one story high, long and narrow, running from one street to another a door in each end, and one in one side, well lighted with common sized windoes; there are but two roes of beds in a ward one on each side of the building; which makes it much pleasanter than any hospital that I have been in yet. The streets are made of grand-stone,
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and small flower beds front of each ward, near the centre of this city of sick and wounded, is a small grove of large trees, which form a splendid shade, and made a very cool retreat for a warm day; this grove in on a small mole on the top of which is a fountain which throws water sic at a great height sic, and adds very much to the beauty of the place. The whole city is enclosed by a fence and well guarded by men belonging to the Invalid sic.

Looking from the hospital grounds in any direction except toward the city, and one can see but a short distance, for the sight is obstructed by high bluffs, which are covered with trees and shrubbery which are as green and as beautiful as at any time of year. This is by far the most pleasant hospital that I have seen but O! how much pleasanter it is to be well, and with ones sic company, skylarking through the country, the brigade that my regiment is on is after old Wheeler now I expect they were the last that I heard from them; but I was talking about this sic hospital; the most beautiful sic feature about it I have not said anything about yet but will now, it is its religious meetings and its library. We have prayer meeting evry sic day in the week except saturday, and preaching twice a day on sunday; this afternoon I attended a funeral at our chappel of a soldier who died here yesterday it looks a little more like home to see some kind of divine services at the burial sic of a departed spirit. The library sic is well stocked with religious works of almost sic all authors writings and with monthly magazines of all kinds, or nearly all
kinds that I ever saw. I am now reading a large work edited by "Rev. Charles Buck" and a splendid work it is. I have not received a letter since I left the regiment, however if you have written any to Louisville I think that I will get them for the Chief-nurse of the ward that I was in said he would send them to me, I wrote back to him the same day that I arrived here, and sent him the directions.

I have been moved around a great deal since I came into the hospital, and father north evry time, but I shouldn't wonder if I had come to a stand point now, a place where I will probaly stay for some weeks at any rate, so if you will try once more I think that you can get a letter to me before I am sent any where else (I am supposing that you have received my letters from the different hospitals, and have answered them but my moving so often has prevented my getting them). The Surgeon here told me this morning that I should have an examination some time this week, what it will result in I can not say, I am now taking Cod liver oil, and Whiskey, (or Spirits Ferments as the Surgeon calls it). One thing that happened in Louisville a short time before the boat started, I will mention, it may be of some account and may not. I saw a gentleman coming along among the men speaking occasionally to them; a man beside me said that it was the Michigan state agent he soon came along to where I was and asked if there were any Michigan men there, I spoke and told him I was one he asked me my name I gave it him he took out his book to write it down, looked over his list and said that he had it already, he got it the sunday before up to the hospital where I was; that is the last that I have seen of him whether
May 8, 1864

He is going sic to take the Michigan sick to their native state or not I cannot tell hope that he is. It is getting sic so dark that I can hardly see the lines, and as I want to mail this tonight so that it will go tomorrow morning I cannot fill the half-sheet as I intended. Please write by return mail if but a few words although I should like to get a long letter remember that it is over a month since I heard from home, and that one letter is worth more than an ounce of Quine to a sick man. I wrote several letters while in Louisville I hope you received them all. I wrote one to Lydia Ann. excuse mistake except sic of my best wishes for your sic all. Good Night this from your son

Franklin H Bailey.

Direct to

U.S.A. Genl' Hosp'. Sect'. 5th Ward 4th

Madison

Indiana.
"My Bein now after Forest,"

W. S. C. Earl's Corp Madison, Indiana.
 Sect 5th Ward 9th.
 May 18th 1864.

Dear Mother,

I received your and sister Emma's kind letter this morning, and hasten to answer them. I was very much pleased when the letter was handed me to see that it was from home. I had been so long since I had heard from home, pleased also to hear that you are all as well as you are. I think that my general health is improving, whether my lungs are getting better. It I cannot tell, the Surgeon here said that my disease is a "functional disease of the heart." He has not examined me yet, although he promised me an examination one week ago. I am in hopes that after I am examined they will send me to the state hospital. You wished me to try and get a furlough. I might have got one this month. I think, if I had applied for it, but I thought that I could not afford it, you were too short at home, and I should have had to pay my board and ways or two-thirds of my board and ways and I thought that would be spending too much money for a visit, so long as
There was a prospect of my going to the state hospital by waiting a few weeks, but there is not as much prospect of it now as there was two weeks ago. There is our two-thousand sick and wounded in this hospital now; the hospital will hold about three thousand; the hospitals in Louisville, Jeffersontonville, and Nashville are all full again (so we are heard from some one that came here yesterday from three places) should many more be sent up from the front, they will be obliged to ship from here to other states or other hospitals, in that case I will stand something of a chance of getting shipped to Michigan. There was about one hundred Ohio men sent to camp Denison Ohio last few days ago. Status I wish that you would step into Mr. D. C. C. Exner store some time as soon as convenient and find out whether his son in law has got some word or not; I left him at the Hon. U. C. D. Hospital at Ethonville and have not heard from him yet, although I wrote back to him as soon as I arrived here I came to the conclusion my not hearing from him that he had left there; if he is at Etonon send him off and give him any address if you will, his name is H. C. Cornell, he belongs in Co. K. Of the same regiment that Ed. are kept together from the time we left the reg.
untill I was sent from Louisville here.

Mother you was very inquisitive about our food here, if I had wanted you to know what we had I should have told you, but I thought that I had better say nothing about it, as you sometime asked me twice or three times over in your letter. I will tell you that it is nothing doing, it is the only poor thing about the hospital, as for relishing it, that is impossible the further from the front we are sent the poorer the food gets, while in the field I lived as well again as I do here. Do all the boys say in the famed Book I would not like to sit down at your table and take a good slice of bread and butter, the bread that we get here is frequently so small that we can hardly eat it. Butter I have not tasted since I came here, some times one gets two or three small potatoes but never any thing in the shape of gravy, and a small piece of beef or pork, that together with some coffee (as they call it, you wouldn’t call it coffee) without milk or sugar constitute our morning meal. for dinner we commonly have a bowl of soup and some bread, and for supper, bread, coffee, and either one table spoon full of apple sauce, or one tea spoon full of molasses, what do you think of such food for sick men who are taken sick or wounded while serving.
Their country, and that country alone as wisely a one as ours is, but I have said much more than I intended to on that subject and will quit. Von wrote of having left the city and moved and now Mr. Mepse. I hope you will like there better than you did in town, and I would like to be there for a short time at least and help you make the garden, but it is not likely that I will. If I get to Detroit hospital I shall be placed and can tell you for certain there I think I should have no trouble in getting some work. I spoke something about being in hopes that I would get my pay here and bounty. That is impossible at a while at any rate for I have no descriptive roll, and any sup as after Forest it is that I would take some time to get one, as to any bounty I will never receive another cent unless I stay any time and as our pay ends before I get any discharge, let them offer me any discharge, and see how quick I will take it. I want only my bounty, if intended when I began to write, to Emma also but have not room to tell her. That I will write to her soon. Please answer this letter and the others, as soon as you receive it. Give my best respects to all relatives, folks, Oliver as you did before. Tell Emma to write soon and not to wait until she gets any letters. Good night. Soon after ten.

[Signature]
U.S.A. Genr'l' Hosp' Madison Indiana) sic(
Sect' 5th Ward 4th May 18th 1864

Dear Mother

I received your and sister Emma's kind letters this morning, and hasten to answer them. I was very much pleased, when the letter was handed me to see that it was from home, it had been so long since I had heard from home. pleased also to hear that you are all as well as you are. I think that my general health is improving, whither) sic( my lungs are getting) sic( much better or not I cannot tell. the Surgeon here sais) sic( that my disease is a functional disease of the Heart) he has not examined me yet, although he promised me an examination over a week ago. I am in hopes that after I am examined they will send me to the state hospital: you wished me to try and get a furlough. I might have got one this month I think, if I had applied for it, but I thought that I could not afford it, you were so short at home, and I should have had to pay my fair) sic( both) sic( ways or two-thirds fair) sic( both) sic( ways and I thought that would be spending two) sic( much money for a visit, so long as there was a prospect of my getting) sic( to the state hospital by waiting a few weeks, but there is not as much prospect of it now as there was two weeks ago. There is over two-thousand sick and wounded in this hospita(l) sic( now the hospital will hold about three thousand the hospitals in Louisville, Jeffersonville and Nashville are all full again (so we heard from some men that came here yesterday from those plases) sic() should many more be sent up from the front, they will be obliged to ship from here to other states or other hospital(l)s, in that case I will stand something of a chance of getting) sic( shiped) sic( to Michigan. There was about one hundred
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Ohio men sent to camp Denison Ohio but a few days ago. Father I wish that you would step into Mr. D. R. Lyons sic store some time as soon as convenient sic and find out whether sic his son in law has got home yet or not; I left him at the Brown U.S. Hospital at Louisville and have not heard from him yet although I wrote back to him as soon as I arrived sic here I came to the conclusion my not hearing from him that he had left there, if he is at Adrian hunt him up and give him my address if you will, his name is H.K. Carnell, he belongs in Co. F. of the same regiment that I do, we kept togather sic from the time we left the reg' untill sic I was sent from Louisville here.

Mother you was very inquisitive about our food here, if I had wanted you to know what we had I should have told you, but I thought that I had better say nothing about it, as you have asked me two or three times over in your letter, I will tell you that it is nothing extry, it is the only poor thing about this hospital, as for relishing it, that is impossible sic the farther from the front we are sent the poorer the food gets, while in the field I lived as well again as I do here, so all the boys say in this hosp'. how I would like to sit down at your table and eate sic a good slice of bread and butter, the bread that we get here is frequently so souer sic that we can hardly eat it, butter I have not tasted since I came here. some times we get two or three small potatoes but never any thing in the shape of gravy sic, and a small peace sic of beef or fat pork, that togather sic with some coffey sic (as they call it, you would'ent sic call it coffy)sic() without milk or sugar constitutes our morning meal. for dinner we usualy sic have a bowl of soup and some bread, and for supper, bread, coffey sic
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and either one table spoon full of apple-sauce, or one tea spoon full of molasses, what do you think of such food for sick men who were taken sick or wounded while serving their country, and that country two sic as wealthy a one as ours is but I have said much more than I intended to on that subject and will quit.

You wrote of having left the city and moved out near Mr Mapeses. I hope that you will like there better than you did in town. and I would like to be there for a short time at least and help you make the garden, but it is not likly sic that I will if I get to Detroit hospital I shall be pleased I can tell you for from there I think I should have no trouble in getting sic home. You spoke something about being in hops sic that I would get my pay here and bounty, that is impossible sic yet a while at any rate for I have no decriptive role, and my reg' is after Forest so that it would take some time to get one. as to my bounty I will never receive another cent unless I stay my time out, or over two years, before I get my discharge. Let them offer me my discharge, and see how quick I will take it, bounty or no bounty. I intended when I began to write to Emma also but have not room tell her that I will write to her soon, please answer this as you did the other, as soon as you receive it. give my best respects to Mr Mapeses folks. direct as you did before. tell Emma to write two sic and not to wait untill sic she gets my letter. Good night from your son

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On top of first page in pencil-"My Right is now after Forest." 4th page
Detroit, May 30th/67.

Dear Parents,

I have delayed writing since my arrival in Detroit, which was about one month ago, for the reason that I expected a furlough by this time, but as the furloughs were given out yesterday, and I was not the recipient of one, as I expected to be, I will improve the present moment in writing you a few lines. I am gaining health and strength very fast, and I think will soon be able for the field, as able as I was when I enlisted.

The Mary's Hospital, the place where I am staying, is the best hospital that I know.
...or was so, we have good beds, and what we did not have in Madison 'good food.' There is however one thing lacking and that is a 'library.' I had rather live on the forest of food and have access to a good library, than live like a king and be deprived of one, for it is a great deal more pleasure to gratify my appetite for reading and studying. There is also for high living. We have a great many liberties here, as there is no guards at the hospital one go where one have a mind to in the city, only look out that the patrols do not catch us. I am a good share of my time down to Mr. Thurst on the corner of Michigan St. and Shelby St., as she has a
large library I can sit there, alone, half a day at a time and enjoy myself very well. One day last week I stepped in to see my old employer Mr. Griffith. He wants that I should get my discharge and come back and clear for him. Saturday afternoon I went down and made him up a batch of Black pills—one thousand in number; yesterday afternoon I made a batch of Compound Parasthatic Pills—seven hundred and twenty in number. This afternoon I intend to make another batch; he wants that I should work in the laboratory every day as long as I can putting up medicines, as he is short of help and doing a big business on the line. I cannot however get away long enough...
in the prison to make
it pay so I only work
afternoons, and study five
mornings nine evenings. I con-
tend that if I am enabled
from serving Uncle Sam
I can be serving myself, so
that I do not work or study
hard enough to prevent my
gaining health, which I am
doing faster than I would,
if I started shut up there in
the hospital all of the time,
but I declare I have just com-
menced writing and my shut
up full already and I have
writen scarcely anything to
anyone. I would like it but
I will close hoping soon
to meet again face to face
so that we can converse through
a swift means than writing
I subscribe myself your son
Franklin.
Write soon as you receive this and direct it to St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit. I think that I shall get a furlough some other month. I shall try it at least. Do not say a word about my sickness to the drug store, for if the letter should happen to get opened before I get it, I do not want any of them to know anything about it.

Tell Emma to write and let her know from Indianapolis a week ago that she got it.
Detroit May 30th/64.

Dear Parents,

I have delayed writing since my arrival in Detroit, which was about one week ago, for the reason that I expected a furlough by this time; but as the furloughs were given out yesterday, and I was not the recipient of one, as I expected to be, I will improve the present moment in writing you a few lines. I am gaining health and strength very fast and I think, will soon be able for the field, or as able as I was when I enlisted.

St. Mary's Hospital, the place where I am staying, is the best hospital that I ever was in, we have good beds, and what we did not have in Madison "good food"; there is however one thing lacking and that is a "library". I had rather live on the poorest of food and have access to a good library than live like a king and be deprived of one, for it is a great deal more pleasure to gratify my appetite for reading and studying, than that for high living.

We have a great many liberties here, as there is no guards at the hospital we go where we have a mind to in the city, only look out that the patrols do not catch us. I am a good share of my time down to Mr Hunts on the corner of Michigan Av' and Shelby St', as he has a large library, I can sit there, all alone, half a day at a time and enjoy myself very well.

One day last week I stped in to see my old employer Mr Grifeth, he wants that I should get my discharge and come back and clerk for him. Saturday afternoon I went down and made him up a batch of Tom'e pills one thousand in number, yesterday afternoon I made a batch of Compound Cardarthic Pills, seven hundred and twenty in number, this afternoon I intend to make another batch;
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he wants that I should work in the labatory sic( every day as long as I can puting sic( up medicines, as he is short of help and doing a big business sic( in that line, I cannot however get away long enough in the forenoon to make it pay so I only work afternoons, if and study forenoons and evenings. I contend that I am disabled from serving Uncul sic( Paalnn sic(, I can be serving my self, so that I do not work or study hard enough to prevent my gaining health, which I am doing faster than I would if I staied sic( shut up there in the hospital all of the time, but I declar sic(, I have just commenced writing and my sheet is full already and I have written scarcely sic( anything to what I would like to but I will close hoping soon to meet you face to face so that we can converse through a swifter means than writing I subscribe myself your son

Franklin.

Write soon as you receive this and direct to St' Marys Hospital, Detroit. I think that I shall get a furlough some time next month I shall try to at least. do not say a word about my working in the drug-store, for if the letter should happened to get opened before I get it, I do not want any of them at the hospital know any thing about it, Tell Emma to write also, I wrote her a letter from Indianapolis a week ago did she get it.
Detroit, June 23rd 1863,

Dear Parents,

I have delayed writing since my return toDetroit for the reason that I have been expecting every day that I would be sent to the barracks, but it is now one week since I was home. During this past week, nearly if not quite, every man that came here the same time that I did, has been sent away home to have gone to the front some home on thirty-day furloughs, and the rest to the barracks. I cannot tell the reason
that I was not sent to the barracks as soon as I reported back here from home, as they have done with all the rest. That went home on a seven day pass. There is something strange about the surgeons favoring one so much as they have. I cannot see through it and think some one has been interfering with the surgeon for one, and that I must not feel too well about it. If for any reason he was off while I least expect it, I have not been in the hospital twenty-four hours all together, since I was alone, am there only between two and three hours each.
Day and that is to get my 
treats and answer Arole 
call, I am in Wat's room 
now, where I am nearly 
call of the time ready 
or waiting. I have read 
books of ancient writers 
awyer I was home Dr. Mya. 
Tomson's, "Pallak's Course 
of Time," and am now 
reading "Hilton's Paradise 
Lost" and the Apocryphal 
Testament. I have not 
worked any in the Drug 
Store, since I came back 
for as I expected to be sent 
away very soon. I wanted 
To improve, as he does 
I had reading. I am well 
as when at home, and 
enjoy myself first rate 
yesterday. However, I felt pretty 
unsure, as I dreamed could.
before last of. being in a fight Tuesday morning & another with a very hard head-ache which did not leave me all day, and most limbs, arm especially were as sore and lame a though I had been fighting hotter all night, and I can feel the same now yet. I do not want to have another fight in my sleep again. Very soon but my shed is nearly full so I will close and go to reading. Close this very poorly written letter and look for another in a few days for I shall write just as soon as I know what they intend for me to do with me. Give my best respects to all. Write to Dr. Mary's Hospital, Fmns very with much love.

B.J. Senhouse
Dear Parents

I have delayed writing since my return to Detroit for the reason that I have been expecting evry day that I would be sent to the barracks it is now one week since I was home; during this past week nearly if not quite, evry man that came here the same time that I did, has been sent away some have gone to the front some home on thirty-day furloughs, and the rest to the barracks I cannot tell the reason that I was not sent to the barracks as soon as I reported back here from home, as they have done with all the rest that went home on seven day passes: there is something strange about the surgeons favoring me so much as they have I cannot see through it without some one has been interfering with the surgeon for me, but thus I must not feel well about it for I may be sent off when I least expect it. I have not been in the hospital twenty-four hours all together since I was home. I am there only between two and three hours each day and that is to get my meals and answer to role. I am in Nates room now where I am nearly all of the time reading or writing. I have read several works of ancient writers since I was home Dr. Ryan Thomson's "Pollaks Course of Time", and am now reading "Miltons Paradise Lost" and the Apocryphal Testament. I have not worked any in the Drug Store since I came back for as I expected to be sent away very soon I wanted to improve what time I had reading. I am well as when at home, and enjoy myself first rate yesterday however I felt pretty miserable as I dreamed, night before last of being in
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a fight yesterday morning I awoke with a very hard head-ach )sic( which did not leave me all day, and my limbs, arms especialy )sic( were as sore and lame a )sic( though I had been fighting hard all night, and I can feel the lameness yet, I do not want to have another fight in my sleep again very soon, but my sheet is nearly full so I will close and go to reading, excuse this very poorly written )sic( letter and look for another in a few days for I shall write just as soon as I know what they intend to do with me. give my best respects to all. direct to St. Marys Hospital from your son with much love

F H Bailey