Near Mumphordsville B.V. Jan. 3, 1863.

Dear Mother,

I received your kind letter dated Dec. 18th in due time. I answered Cothren before leaving Mumphordville, as this was the first chance I have had to write since then. I will improve it in answering yours. We started from Mumphordville the day I wrote to you expected to, the 28th of Dec., and have been marching six days; today we are laying over to let our horses have a little rest. We have had a cold time of it. I can tell you, we have had to walk a great deal of the time to keep from freezing and some of the boys have frozen their feet a little. Yesterday the weather changed about and last night it rained and melted of all the snow, it is quite a cold rain however. I have not quite
half way to Nashville got so it will take us over a week longer to reach that place, and where we will go to from there is more than I can tell. The second day after we started we had a Captain and a Surgeon killed by the Bushwhackers. They were one on one side from the command when they were killed. There is a gang of Bushwhackers following us up all the time to kill strangers. They fired on Smith and one of our boys who was out foraging but did not shoot him at all. New Years day I was on guard and at night on guard front of head quarters, from five o'clock until twelve. We have to get up every morning before day light, eat our breakfast, clean our horses and feed them, and pack up our things so as to be ready
To start at day light, at night we do not stop until nearly dark and some times an hour or two after, then we have to go out into the country and get forage for our horses, some time into the field and husk corn, then feed and clean our horses before we can get our supper. Then after supper spread our bed right in the snow and get to bed. The fire, about four o'clock in the morning the large will blow for roll call, jump up and find boots froze so stiff as to not be able to get them on, have to face in for roll call with out them, have just on with socks on, in the snow, after roll call throw out the boots and get them on, clean feed feed horse, get breakfast, pack up and start again. A soldiers life is a hard life I can.
Tell you, but as long as I keep my health I will not complain. 

I heard so it may be, only hope this 
The war will soon end so that we 
may all return home. Then we 
will know how to appreciate a home 
after having been without one so 
long, and seen such hard times. 

My fellow that I wrote about in 

Father's letter is nearly well, it has 
bothered me a great deal since leav 
ing Louisville, some two or three day 
after I started I could see my 
right hand hurt very little. 
My sheet is nearly full and I must 
else I will write a little. To Father 
this paper tell Emma that I 
will write to her soon. The next 
chance I get to write. Also this: 

Please write often, we get mail 
every night on the march from 
different stations on the railroad. 
Both of my partners have received lots. 
since I staked out, but work for me.
Jan. 3 1845

Dear Father,

I answered your letter at Louisville, but I thought that I would write you a few lines in another letter for fear you have not received that. I will simply write what I think about your trying to buy that property you spoke about. I like the idea first rate and will give you all the assistance I can. I think you can succeed if you try with what assistance I can give you. It would be so handy for you to own a shop with a water power in connection with a home making you could work all kinds of work and if the good Lord spares you to a good old age you could earn a living much easier in one place than you could working around every where at any thing.
Mr. Dunham.

May your new workshops in such a shop you could make anything that would pay the best. That is your could do a great many different kinds of work, get in different machines as you needed them and had the means to do with and as you have worked a great deal in machine shops you would be at home in more than one sense of the word. We must get pay the first of this month, in the money before we started for camp and expect two months pay when we get to Nashville. Colonel Hanks says that this regiment will all be mustered out at one time, the Secretary of War has decided so. That will be next August a little less than eight months longer to serve, I hope the war will end by that time, write soon, gather and
Near Mumfordsville K.Y. Jan 3d/65

Dear Mother

I received your kind letter dated Dec 18th in due time. I answered Father's before leaving Louisville, as this is the first chance I have had to write since then I will improve it in answering yours. We started from Louisville the day I wrote we expected to, the 28th of Dec', and have been marching six days. Today we are laying over to let our horses have a little rest. We have had a cold time of it. I can tell you, we have had to walk a great deal of the time to keep from freezing and some of the boys have frosted their feet a little. yesterday the weather changed about and last night it rained and melted of all the snow. it is quite a cold rain however. We are not quite half way to Nashville yet so it will take us over a week longer to reach that place, and where we will go to from there is more than I can tell. The second day after we started we had a Captain and a Surgeon killed by the Bushwhackers, they were out a little one side from the command when they were killed. There is a gang of Bushwhackers following us up all of the time to kill straglers [sic], they fired four times at one of our boys who was out foreging [sic] but did not hit him at all. New Yars [sic] day I was on rear guard and at night on guard front of headquarters, four hours, from eight o clock untill [sic] twelve. We have to get up evry [sic] morning before day light, eate [sic] our breakfast, clean our horses and feed them, and pack up our things so as to be ready to start at day light, at night we do not stop untill [sic] nearly dark and some times an hour or two after, then we have to go out into the country and get forege [sic]
for our horses, some times into the field and husk corn, then
feed and clean our horse before we can get our supper, then
after supper spread our bed right in the snow and go to bed
feet to the fire, about four o clock in the morning the bugel [sic]
will blow for role [sic] call, jump up find boots froze so
stiff as to not be able to get them on, have to fall in for
role [sic] call with out them, bare foot or with socks on, in
the snow, after role [sic] call thaw out the boots and get
them on, clean and feed horse, get breakfast pack up and start
again. A soldiers life is a hard life I can tell you, but as
long as I keep my health I will not complain, heard as it may
be, only hope that the war will soon end so that we may all
return home, then we will know how to apreciate [sic] a home,
after having been without one so long, and seen such hard times.
My fellon [sic] that I wrote about in Fathers letter is nearly
well, it has bothered me a great deal since leaving Louisville,
somtwo or three days after we started I could use my right
hand but very little. My sheet is nearly full and I must
close I will write a letter to Father in this I guess tell
Emma that I will write to her soon, the next chance I get to
write. Mother please write oftener we get mail evry [sic]
night on the march, from different stations on the railroad,
both of my pardners [sic] have received letters since we started
but none for me

[On top of first page:]

I sent a picture in my last letter how do you like it.
Jan. 3 1865

Dear Father,

I answered your letter at Louisville, but I thought that I would write you a few lines in Mother's letter for fear you have not received that. I will simply write what I think about your trying to buy that property you spoke about. I like the idea first rate and will give you all the assistance I can. I think you can succeed if you try with what assistance I can give you. It would be so handy for you to own a shop with a water power in connection with a home in which you could work all kinds of weather and if the good Lord spares you to a good old age you could earn a living much easier in such a place than you could working around every thing where at every thing. in such a shop you could make any thing that would pay the best, that is you could do a great many different kinds of work, get in different machines as you needed them and had the means to do with and as you have worked a great deal in machine shops you would be at home in more than one sense of the word. We musturd for pay the first of this month, in the morning before we started from camp and expect two months pay when we get to Nashville. Colonel Minty says that this regiment will all be musturd at one time, the Secretary of War has decided so, that will be next August a little less than eight months longer to serve, I hope the war will end by that time. write soon father and often, yours with much love

Franklin.
Camp near Columbia Ven. Jan 18th 1865.

Dear Mother

I received your kind letter written Jan 15th before leaving Nashville. I wrote a letter to Emma the day after I received yours, in which I sent a photograph. I suppose she has received it before this time. I think that I wrote Emma’s letter on Wednesday. Thursday we left Nashville and reached this place last night. I suppose one would be on the 14th. Today could we get across the river yesterday article. Wilder’s Brigade was crossing the pontoon-bridge gave away and one company lost nearly all their horses strayed, no men were lost, but all of their accoutrements and extra clothing, rations, &c. &c. The pioneer corps are at work today building a bridge. They are le
bathing lumber last night when we moved into camp, and worked all night. It will probably be finished so that we can cross the river tomorrow. I am glad that you are pleased with my picture. I had it taken expressly because I thought you would like it better than any other.

Jan 16th

It was detailed yesterday to foraging, before I had time to finish my letter, so I will try and finish it today. I went about nine or ten miles last night after corn, then had to go into the field and knock it did not get back to camp until long after dark. The weather was very very poor, very muddy and one had to bring about a hundred of corn shocks on our horses necks, and two or three miles of the way was through mounds and across fields.
There is a report in camp, that the Confederate Government has sent commissioners to Washington to sue for peace. How much foundation there is for such a report I do not know, now I do not hope that it is so, how thankful I should be to have this over and done with this spring.

I am now about ten miles north of the surrounding and have not started out yet, many go this afternoon but I think we will not start before tomorrow. I am sorry to hear that Charley is sick but I hope that it is not anything serious. I also hear that the armistice is good and I hope all the rest can.

Neither you spoke in your letter as though you had thought that I felt more thankful for Elizabeth's letters in my misery or as though...
Dear Mr. [Name],

Thank you for your kind letter of the 18th inst. enclosed with your bank check.

I am glad to hear that you are well and that your business is prospering.

I hope that you will continue to have success in your business ventures.

Yours truly,

[Your Name]
Mother & I have just bought a new paper. The first opportunity I have had to get one since leaving Nash. The one I bought is three days old, but the news about peace is very encouraging. It seems that the rebels have sent commanders to confer for peace, if so I think that it will result in a peace.

Tell Father that I am glad that he is doing well this winter and that I am in hopes I will be able to come home before long and help him. Return my love to Anna Ward. Tell her that if I do come home in August one will take the ride with me. Mother I heard that Miss Ellen Breedfield had left home and gone to Chicago into a house of ill fame just so...
nor wish any harm to anyone & I hope not, I did not want to believe it when I heard it, but it came through a source that I could not disbelieve, if it is as which the Headfield girl came in it, I forgot all this, given many was it that little one that used to go to the same Sabbath School with Emma & me. The Methodist, I hope not but am afraid so she was a pretty little girl. It was at the last Master's daughter, or the governess's daughter or better than all over at a mistake of yours and I find out and let me know the next time you write I declare I have written this when I fell already, give my love to all engaging friends, and write soon to say receive this I will enclose five dollars for you. I have the same amount and sentiments one lifts and about as much more owing one by the both.
Camp near Columbia Ten'. Jan 15th 1865

Dear Mother

I received your kind letter written [sic] Jan 1st before leaving Nashville. I wrote a letter to Emma the day after I received yours in which I sent a photograph I suppose she has received it before this time. I think that I wrote Emma's letter on Wednesday, Thursday we left Nashville and reached this place last night. I suppose we would be on the march today could we get across [sic] the river yesterday while Wilders Brigade was crossing [sic], the pontoon-brige [sic] gave away and one company lost nearly all their horses drowned [sic], no men were lost, but all of their accoutrements, and extra clothing, rations, &c forth the pioneer-corps are at work today building a bridge, they were hallowing [sic] lumber last night when we went into camp, and at work all night, it will probably [sic] be finished so that we can cross the river tomorrow. I am glad that you are pleased with my picture I had it taken expressly because I thought you would like one like it better than any other.

Jan 16th

I was detailed yesterday to go foreging [sic], before I had time to finish my letter, so I will try and finish it today. We went about nine or ten miles last night after corn, then had to go into the field and husk it did not get back to camp until [sic] long after dark. the way was over a very poor muddy road and we had to bring about a bushel of corn in sacks on our horses necks, and two or three miles of the way was
through woods and across [sic] fields.

There is a report in camp that the Confederate Government [sic] has sent Commissioners [sic] to Washington to sue for peace, how much foundation there is for such a report I do not know, how I do hope that it is so, how thankful I should be to have this war close this spring.

It is now about ten o'clock in the morning and we have not started yet we may go this afternoon but I think we will not start before tomorrow. I am sorry to here [sic] that Charley is sick but I hope that it is not any thing serious. Tell Anna that she must be a good girl and help Mother all she can.

Mother you spoke in your letter as though you thought that I felt more thankful for Lydia's interest in my welfare, or as though I realized her interest more than that of any one at home. now Mother you do not do me justice to think so. I know that no body thinks so much about me as my parents and sister, Mother especially [sic]. but I do not think that there is any one out of my Father's family, no young lady at any rate that begins to have the interest in my welfare that Cousin Lydia does and I could not do other wise than thank her very cordaly [sic] for it. there is mail call and I must go and see if there is any thing for me. Thank fortune two letters and a Star,One letter from Father Mother & Sister, and one from Miss Nellie F. Morse. now I ought to write a letter to Father and one to Emma in this but as I want to send you some money I will write only a half sheet more and will write to them soon in another letter.

Mother I have just bought a paper the first opper'tunity [sic]
I have had to get one since leaving Nash; the one I have got is three days old but the news about peace is very encouraging. It seems that the rebels have sent commissioners to sue for peace, if so I think that it will result in a peace. Tell Father that I am glad that he is doing well this winter and that I am in hopes I shall be able to come home before long and help him. Return my love to Anna Ward tell her that if I do come home in August we will take that ride then. Mother I heard that Miss Ellen Readfield had left home and gone to Chicago into a house of ill fame, is it so I hope not, I did not want to believe it when I heard it, but it came through a source that I could not disbelieve. If it is so which Readfield girl was it. I forget all their given names was it to that little one that used to go to the same Sabbath School that Emma does, the Methodist. I hope not but am afraid so, she was a pretty little girl, or was it the Post Master’s daughter, or the gemcarmans daughter or better than all was it a mistake, try and find out and let me know the next time you write I declar I have written this half sheet full already, give my love to all enquiring friends, and write soon as you receive this I will enclose five dollars for you. I have the same amount and fifteen cents over left and about as much more owing me by the boys.
Camp near Chancel Springs, Ark.
Feb. 3rd 1861

Dear Parents,

It seems a long time since I have heard from home; the last letter that I received was dated June 7th. I received a letter from my brother and sister in the spring, and wrote a letter to them soon after receiving it, in which I sent a V. curl in hope she has received it. I have been looking for a letter for the last week, but receive none. Among many of the boys are getting mail, and some come every night, but none for Bailey. I am almost getting sick of coming to mail call and returning empty-handed. I have forgotten where we are now when I wrote last, but I think it was awhile before we were on the
march, as I do not remember of writing since we arrived here. I have delayed writing for the reason that I have felt so weak I could hardly animate energy enough to write or do any thing else. That makes me obliged to meak not from sickness, but from the want of food, we have been here nine or ten days and during that time we have had to live principally on corn and some times do not half enough of that. Several days we had nothing but corn, and that we had to steal from our horses. We would go hungry all day until right when we would draw corn for our horses. That we would take to our tents and eat it, for several days my horse went without his corn. The reason that I had to eat it myself. I became so
meat before we drew rations that I could hardly walk, and it was as with the whole division, see one crying, weep or waver they would not carry as much as a small child would at home; and when we did draw rations they were so small that one day's rations would not make one good meal, only about one pint of flour and a small piece of meat to a man, and we are getting a little more now, but not half enough, and enough so but what one have to eat or go hungry most of the time. They make the excuse that rice in the Ohio river is the reason. They cannot get rations to us, but they can get storage that is corn and oats and I do not see why they cannot get rations. There is a report here in camp that rebel congress has sent commissioners of peace to Washington.
We some effect to go on a raid before long if medicine will like I'll bet. Write soon and direct to Co. C 7th Reg. Mich. Div 2nd Cav. Div, Brownell Springs, Alabama. Via Nashville. From your son Frank.
I have not written much this
Time, for I will probably receive
a letter from you before long.
I hope to see you soon, I am look-
ing for it every night, and will
write again as soon as I receive
one. Give my love to all. Be of
good cheer, I have hard work to
keep my spirits up on such living
as one have, but it is getting better
as matters keep coming one at a time.
but how much foundation there is to it I do not know.

Father you wrote that you thought you would make a pretty good thing out of your master’s work. I hope you will and I hope that I will. I will Jed here except summer. To help you, if the reports are bear are true, and this lord spare my life I have no doubt but what I will. I think this man is near a slave and you.
Camp near Gravel Springs. Ala'

Feb' 3d/ 65.

Dear Parents

It seems a long time since I have hear from home; the last letter that I received was dated Jan' 8th a letter from you both [sic] and sister Emma. I wrote a letter to Mother soon after receiving it in which I sent a y. I am in hope she has received it. I have been looking for a letter for the last week, but receive none, a great many of the boys are geting [sic] mail. some comes evry [sic] night, but none for Bailey. I am almost geting [sic] sick of runing [sic] to mail call and returning empty handed. I have forgotten [sic] where we were when I wrote last but I think it was while we were on the march, as I do not remember of writing since we arived [sic] here.

I have delayed writing for the reason that I have felt so weak I could hardly muster energy enough to write or do any thing else that I was not obliged to, weak not from sickness, but from the want of food. we have been here nine or ten days and during that time we have had to live principaly [sic] on corn and some times to not half enough of that, several days we had nothing but corn, and that we had to steal from our horses, we would go hungry all day untill [sic] night when we would draw corn for our horses that we would take to our tent parch and eat it, for several days my horse went without his corn, for the reason that I had to eat it myself. I became so weak before we drew rations that I could hardly walk, and it was so with the whole division, see men carying [sic] wood or
watter [sic] they would not carry [sic] as much as a small child would at home. and when we did draw rations they were so small that one day’s rations would not make one good meal, only about one pint of meal and a small piece [sic] of meat to a man. we are getting [sic] a little more now but not half enough, not enough so but what we have to eat corn or go hungry most of the time. they make the excuse that ice in the ohio river is the reason they cannot get rations to us, but they can get forage [sic] that is corn and oats and I do not see why they cannot get rations. there is a report here in camp that rebel congress has sent commisioners [sic] of pease [sic] to Washington the small paper.

but how much foundation there is to it I do not know.

Father you wrote that you thought you would make a pretty good thing out of your winters work. I hope you will and I hope that I will be at home next summer to help you, if the reports we hear are true, and the Lord spares my life I have no doubt but what I will. I think this war is near a close dont [sic] you. I have not written [sic] much this time, for I will probly [sic] receive a letter from you before long I hope to at any rate. I am looking for it evry [sic] night, and will write again as soon as I receive one. give my love to all. be of good cheer, I have hard work to keep my spirits up on such living as we have, but it is getting [sic] better as rations keep coming few at a time.

We some expect to go on a raid before long if we do we will live


from your son  Frank.
Camp near Tzelul Springs, Alabama
Feb. 26th 1866.

Dear Parents,

I received your kind letter mailed Jan 31st, in due time, and should have answered it before had I been as very busy, and had I not first mailed a letter to Emma, but a few days before. My health is very good, and I am glad to hear that you are all well except Charley and sorry to hear that he has been so sick, but then if he is getting well, one ought to be very thankful that his sickness was not unto death. I spoke of cousin Henry meeting with another great loss, that of a second partner, and said that you know we all had our trials, but that it seemed to you as though...
some had more than their share, 
& I do not feel disposed to complain 
with divine providence, for suffering some to be afflicted more 
than others, for I think that our 
trials are all intended for our 
own good. We may not see 
the reason for it at all, but that 
only proves our short-sightedness 
for it is only through faith in 
God, that we can see his hand 
in all his works, and doings. 
I believe that all of our trials 
and afflictions, are intended by 
the order of passing events, for 
our own good, and if, when they 
come, we would not seek to run 
away from them, but learn God's 
lesson in them, we should soon 
leave off calling them trying, more 
than our share, and such like 
expressions.

Disappointment is a special
messenger to summon our thoughts to heaven; in the saying of a great and good man.

Although I am away from home, and suffering many things, I think I should not more & at home, still I have faith. To believe that it is all for the best, and that I am learning some very important lessons, some that I find greatly in need of, and probably would not have learned had I refused to do any study, and stayed at home.

Whether you say that you never wanted me at home as bad as you do now, I presume that you need my help very much, and I amkin in hopes that the time is not far distant, when I shall be at home, where I can render you more help than I can now.
Dear Sir,

I am afraid I must end my letter by my reason of being here in the army. I hope that you will do well with your sisters, but if you should not, do not let that discourage you. There are many places in camp, and I do not let them trouble me much, how much remainder there is for them I do not know.

My shed is getting nearly full, and I have just began to write. I cannot write one tenth what I would like to before I have to close, and we can sup and pray that their time is not far distant when we can converse with each other through this, and more rapid means than the pen. Tell Emma that I will write to her again soon, and that she must not wait for a letter from me before she writes.

Give my love to all friends, write
Camp near Gravel Springs. Alabama

Feb. 20th/ '65

Dear Parents,

I received your kind letter mailed Jan 31st in due time, and should have answered it before had we not been so very busy [sic], and had I not just mailed a letter to Emma, but a few days before.

My health is very good, and I am glad to hear that you are all well except Charley and sorry to hear that he has been so sick, but then if he is getting well, we ought to be very thankful that his sickness was not unto death.

You spoke of cousin Henry meeting with another great loss, that of a second partner, and said that you knew we all had our trials, but that it seemed [sic] to you as though some had more than their share, I do not feel disposed to complain with divine providence, for suffering some to be afflicted more than others, for I think that our trials are all intended for our own good. We may not see the reason for it all, but that only proves our short-sightedness for it is only through faith in God, that we can see his hand in all his works, and doings.

I believe that all of our trials and afflictions, are intended by the ruler of passing events, for our own good, and if, when they come, we would not seek to run away from them, we should soon leave off calling them trying, more than our share, and such like expressions.

"Disappointment is a special messenger to summon our thoughts to heaven". is the saying of a great and good man.
[Feb. 20, 1865 - page 2]

Although I am away from home, and suffering many things, that I probly [sic] should not were I at home, still I have faith to believe that it is all for the best, and that I am learning some very important lessons, some that I stood great-ly in need of, and probly [sic] would not have learned had I refused to do my duty, and stayed at home.

Father you say that you never wanted me at home as bad as you do now, I pursume [sic] that you need my help very much, and I am in hopes that the time is not far distant, when I shall be at home, where I can render you more help than I can now. I hope that you will do well with your poles, but if you should not, do not let that discourage you. There are a great many peace rumors in camp, but I do not let them trouble me much, how much foundation there is for them we do not know.

My sheet is getting [sic] nearly full, and I have just began to write I cannot write one tenth that I would like to before I have to close, but we can hope, and pray that the time is not far distant when we can commune with each other through other, and more rapid means than the pen. Tell Emma that I will write to her again soon, but that she must not wait for an other letter from me before she writes give my love to all friends, write soon as you receive this, tell me all the news. Good by with much love I am your son

Frank.

[On tops of pages:]

I forgot to mention that I received with much joy two Start with your letter. When it is convenient please send me a few stamps as it is dificult [sic] work to procure them here. What a dreadful
affair, that murdur [sic] that Bivins commuted was.

Co. F. received a paper from Adrian with the news in.
Camp near Gravel Springs, Alabama.
March 12th, 1865.

Dear Parents,

Contrary to our expectation today finds us still in camp; in fact, we are under marching orders and have been expecting every day, for a long time, that we would have orders to start the next, but we are here yet, although we may not be tomorrow this time. We had a grand review yesterday, and it was the best review I ever saw. I have seen Infantry Divisions, and Divisions composed partly of Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery, before, but they will not compare for beauty with a Division of Cavalry. The field or moat, where we were reviewed, is about five miles from camp; each regiment was drawn up two lines deep, and the line two regiments deep, and within the ground was nearly level, from...
The position which our regiment occupied and were very near the center, we could not see either the right or the left of the Division; I tell you it takes a large piece of ground to hold a division of Canley, but the most beautiful sight was when we wheeled by companies and passed in review, we could look back, or ahead, either way, and see as far as the eye could extend a solid line of Canley about fifty men &c in each (there was a space between each company but in looking over the line, the space could not be seen) with a small flag called the grate arms. in the center of each company, and a large flag or banner in the center of each regiment, the men all with drawn sabers, the sabers on their buckles on our belts and gunslings all as bright as they could be scoured and glistening in the sun formed a beautiful sight, one that I
would give a great deal if you could see, but I guess I have filled up space enough writing about the reunion. I received a letter from you dated Feb. 15th and one from Lydia Ann on the 18th. Last week, I should have yours before had I not written a letter to Emma only a few days before I received yours, and as I have had a great deal of duty to do long back I have not written any letters as you write as though you thought the war was near to an end; I am of the same opinion, although a great many of our regiment think that it will last a year or two after. I cannot see how they can hold out much longer, and I do not think they will. Rather you remember that little sword Mrs. Coet and I lay list me take to keep for her, I wish that you would look after it and see that it is safe, you know it was sent to the U.S.A. I wish you...
would see if they have it, and see that some one is responsible for it; in case Mr. Mc. Elroy should ever call on me for it, I should want you to give him and if he does not. I shall want to keep it. Let me know about it the next time you write. He have been expecting to get some pay here, but it is not likely that we will; it is the report that the privates wages has been raised from 16 to $20. Have you seen any thing of it in the papers; we do not get but very few papers here. I receive the first and Second Stars of February. I hope that you have sent the others before this. The papers are sometimes a long time getting here but they are received with great joy when they do come. Any shot is full, done to all, please write often. With of you good by, from Frank.
Camp near Gravel Springs Alabama.
March 12th 1865

Dear Parents

Contrary to our past expectation today finds us still in camp; we are under marching orders and have been expecting every day for a long time, that we would have orders to start the next, but we are here yet, although we may not be tomorrow this time. We had a grand-review yesterday, and it was the best review I ever saw; I have seen Infantry Divisions, and Divisions composed partly of Infantry, Cavelry [sic], and Artillery, before but they will not compare for beauty with a Division of Cavelry [sic]; the field or valley, where we were reviewed is about five miles from camp; each regiment was drawn up two lines deep, and the line two regiments deep, and although the ground was nearly level, from the position which our regiment occupied, and we were very near the center, we could not see either the right or the left of the Division; I tell you it takes a large piece [sic] of ground to hold a division of Cavelry [sic]; but the most beautiful sight was when we wheeled by companies and passed in review we could look back, or ahead, either way, and see as far as the eye could extend a solid line of Cavelry [sic] about fifty men in width [sic] (there was a space between each company but in looking over the line the space could not be seen) with a small flag called the guide arms, in the center of each company, and a large flag or banner in the center of each regiment, the men all with drawn [sic] sabers, the sabers and buckles on our belts and gun-slings all as bright as they could be scoured and glistening in the sun formed a
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a beautiful sight, one that I would give a great deal if you
could see, but I guess I have filled up space enough writing
about the review. I received a letter from you dated Feb' 15th
and one from Lydia-Ann mailed Feb' 31st last week I should have
answered yours before had I not written [sic] a letter to Emma
only a few days before I received yours, and as I have had a
great deal of duty to do long back I have not written [sic] any.

Father you write as though you thought the war was near to
an end, I am of the same opinion, although [sic] a great many
of our regiment think that it will last a year or two yet. I
cannot see how they can hold out much longer, and I do not think
they will. Father you remember that little sword Mrs McKloy let
me take to keep for her, I wish that you would look after it
and see that it is safe, you know it was lent to the N.U.S.A.
I wish you would see if they have it, and see that some one is
responsible for it, in case Mr. McCloy should ever call on me
for it I should want it to give him and if he does not I shall
want to keep it. let me know about it the next time you write.
We have been expecting to get some pay here, but it is not likely
that we will; it is the report that the privates wages has been
raised from 16 to $20. have you seen any thing of it in the papers,
we do not get but very few papers here, I received the first and
second Stars of February [sic] I hope that you have sent the others
before this the papers are some times a long time getting [sic] to
me but they are received with great joy when they do come, my
sheet is full, love to all, please write often boath [sic] of you
good by from Frank
Please send me a few stamps if it is convenient. I have a little change but stamps are difficult [sic] to get hold of. I wrote for some in a letter a short time ago. I have a few yet.

[Broke camp that night about midnight. See next letter dated Chickasaw, Miss. Mar. 15]
Camp near Chickasaw, Mississippi.

March 15th, 1865

Dear Parents,

You see by the heading of my letter that we have crossed the river and are now on the western shore in the state of Mississippi. We broke up camp at Boulting, near eleven o'clock on Monday night, and marched down the river about thirteen miles, where we crossed the river on board the Swallow, and went into camp.

We expect to start from here either tomorrow or Tuesday morning (started about 5 that night) in pursuit of old Scurry. There are three cars and one car of beef here; the first car had marching orders read to them last night at dress parade and are expected they will be with us tonight. They were ordered to take five days' rations in their haversacks and fifteen days' rations in company packs.
miles, and twenty days returns in the wagon train, as you see we will probably have a long march as I think likely some fighting, and I think that the old gentleman Sword will have to come to Tums if this army gets after him. There is a larger army here than I supposed. The war is, and one are to be joined by an Infantry force after starting, as they say. I was on guard last night, but thought that B must write a letter home before starting and today was the only day I was alone of. Yesterday and day before B was at work nearly all the time getting my sewing done up, and making me a pair of rubber leggings or pants, out of an old rubber blanket that I found in some B can keep nearly dry while in the saddle, during a rain storm and we have had rains here every little while sometime three or four days without stopping.
I have not yet mentioned that during the past week, I have received two letters from home. The first is an old letter dated Feb 22nd, in which to others was a little and the second was from John, all dated March 6th, and of what joy they gave me, I read them over and over again, and took them out of my pocket and read them near every day, and study every line to see just how you feel. I am very thankful that you are all doing as well as you are, but sorry they are, both have such hard times to get along and get what you need. And I am glad that you are determined to do the best you can toward getting a home. I approve myself of every action, and so at home would call misspent life, for the sake of saving any wages for you, I will explain myself so that you can see that I am living a life of self denial for your sake, I do not do it
In short, but that you may see that I am doing the best I can to help you get a home before I leave you and go for myself. Since arriving in St. James, the rations that are drawn, with the exception of hardtack and coffee, do not amount to more of any thing, meditations for five days at a time, nothing except hardtack and coffee. Lasts over Thursday and half about was enough to finish a bite twice a day for about two days. Sugar enough is sweeted coffee about twice length of time, beans enough for one very small mess every four day. Then hardtack will nearly amount one day to soon so that we have to live one day on root corn. I have not exaggerated it at all. That is the way my rations last one nearly every time. This time any hardtack will hold out. I guess, but last time they ran out two days to corn.
Our Butler receives a new stock of goods every little while, such as canned butter, canned fruit, canned green corn, canned oysters, condensed milk, crackers, cheese, pickles, preserves, and most of all whiskey, he keeps an account with nearly every man in the regiment, and on that account of these spend all their wages before they get them, payday he presents his account against the regiment to the paymaster and receives his money directly from him. In this way a great many of the boys never get any pay they spend it before they get it, there are but very few men in the regiment that do not keep an account with him. I am one however; I am served at by a great many because I live on dry hard-tack, while they are eating their oysters, fruit, green corn, and
a great many men in this regiment that have wives at home, and some of them families depend upon this pay in that way. I asked how their wives will get a living. They will say I let them work for a living; I am not going to starve myself for the sake of making some money. A man has just passed by the door of my tent with some goods in his hand; all that I have spent at the sutler's yet has been twenty czy for two sheets of enemy paper to clean my anna with.

I must buy a pot of ink before I can write much more. That he asks forty cents for bottle for every thing that he sells is at an enormous price. He is making his independent fortune out of this regiment.

Now Father, keep up good spirits and do the best you can, remembering that you have the hearty cooperation of your son, in your attempt to
secure a home for your old age, and should this war end this summer and the good Lord spare my life I shall return, where I can be of more service to you than I can here.

Now dear Father and Mother, remember while you are trying to earn a home for your old age, that it is but a few years at most that you will have to spend in that home you are both past the prime of life, and the sun will shortly set; there is an eternal home to be earned; and it may be that we will not be permitted to live together again on earth. O! that we may all meet together with the little ones gone before, and present one unbroken family circle, in that bright and happy home where tears and trials will be no more as the prayer of earnest.
The order has just come for us to be ready to start at nine o'clock tonight and I must hurry and finish my letter, and get my things packed up. I shall not have time to write a letter to Emma today as I intended to tell her that I was very thankful for her good letter also for the song she sent me. It is very beautiful. I shall try and write as often as I can get a chance while on the march, do not worry about our horses if you do not receive letters as often as you have done. Give my best respects to all, and to Father love from son.

Frank.

Direct to Co. Kloy and all arriving the place named Spring (via Nashville).
Camp near Chiosasaw, Mississippi [sic].
March 19th 1865.

Dear Parents,

You see by the heading of my letter that we have crossed [sic] the river and are now on the west shore in the state of Miss. [sic] we broke up camp at Gravel-Springs about twelve o'clock [sic] one week ago tonight and marched down the river about thirteen miles, where we crossed [sic] the river on board the Swallow, and went into camp. We expect to start from here either tomorrow or Tuesday morning in pursuit of old Forest (started about 9 that night); There are three Cav' [sic] cores [sic] and one core [sic] of Inf' [sic] here; the first core [sic] had marching orders read to them last night at dress parade [sic] and we expect they will be read to us tonight; they were ordered to take five days rations in their haversacks and fifteen days rations on company packmules and twenty days rations in the wagon train, so you see we will probly [sic] have a long march of it and I think likely some fighting, but I think that the old gentleman [sic] Forest will have to come to terms if this army gets after hii. There is a larger army here than I supposed there was, and we are to be joined by an Infantry force after starting, so they say. I was on guard last night, but thought that I must write a letter home before starting and today was the only day I was shure [sic] of, yesterday and day before I was at work nearly all the time getting [sic] my mending done up, and making me a pair of rubberlegings [sic] or pants, out of an old rubber blanket that I found, so now I can keep nearly dry, while in the saddle, during a rain storm and we
[March 19, 1865 - page 2]

hard rains here evry [sic] little while sometimes three or four
days without stoping [sic]. I have not yet mentioned that dur-
ing the past week I have received two letters from home, the f
first Emma's litter [sic] dated Feb' 22 nd. in which Mother
wrote a little and the second was from you all dated March 5 th.
and O! [sic] what joy they gave me. I read them over and over
again; and take them out of my pocket and read then [sic] nearly
evry [sic] day, and study evry [sic] line of them [sic] to see
just how you feel. I am very thankful that you are all doing as
well as you are, but sorry they [sic], Father have such hard times
to get along and got what you need; but I am glad that you are
determained [sic] to do the best you can toward getting [sic] a
home. I deprive myself of evry [sic] luxery [sic], or what you
at home would call nessarys [sic] of life, for the sake of saving
my wages for you, I will explain myself so that you can see that
I am living a life of self-denial for your sakes, I do not do it
boastingly, but that you may see, that I am doing the best I can
to help you get a home before I leave you and go for myself.

Since arriving [sic] in Ala' [sic] from Louisville, the
rations that we draw, with the exceptions of hard-tack and Coffy
[sic], do not amount to much of any thing, we draw rations for
five days at a time, nothing except hard-tack and coffy [sic],
lasts over two days we draw about meat enough to furnish [sic] a
bite twice a day for about two days sugar enough to sweeten coffy
[sic] about the same length of time, beans enough for one very
small mess evry [sic] four days. Then hard-tack will usually [sic] run out one day to soon so that we have to live one day on roast corn, I have not exaggerated it a bit, that is the way my rations last me nearly evry [sic] time, this time my hard-tack will hold out I guess, but last time they run out two days to soon.

Our Sutler receives a new stock of goods evry [sic] little while, such as canned butter, canned fruit, canned green-corn, canned condensed milk, oysters, crackers, cheese, pickels, preserves, and worst of all whiskey, he keeps an account with nearly every man in the regiment, and in that way almost [sic] of them spend all their wages before they get them, pay day he presents his account against the regiment to the paymaster and receives his money directly from him in that way a great many of the boys never get any pay they spend it before they get it, there are but very few men in the regiment that do not keep an account with him I am one however; I am sneered at by a great many because I like on dry hard-tack, while they are eating their oysters, fruit, green-corn and en [?] a great many men in this regiment that have wives at home, and some at their families spend their pay in that way I asked how their wives will get a living they will say "let them work for a living, I am not oging [sic] to starve myself for the sake of sending home money".

A man has just passed by the door of my tent with Sutlers goods in his hand; all that I have spent at the sutlers yet has been twenty cty [sic] for two sheets of emery paper to clean my arms with. I
must buy a bottle of ink before I can write much more; that he asks forty cts [sic] per bottle for, evry [sic] thing that he sells is at an enormus [sic] price. He is making his indi-pendant [sic] fortune [sic] out of this regiment.

Now Father keep up good spirits and do the best you can, remembering that you have the hearty cooperation of your son, in your attempt to secure a home for your old age, and should the war end this summer and the good Lord spare my life I shall return where I can be of more service to you than I can here.

Now dear Father and Mother remember while you are trying to earn a home for your old age, that it is but a few years at most that you will have to spend in that home you are both past the noon of life, and the sun will shurly [sic] set; there is an eternal home to be earned; and it may be that we will not be permitted [sic] to live togather [sic] again on earth. Oh [sic] that we may all meet, togather [sic] with the little ones gone before, and present one unbroken family circle, in that bright and happy home where wars and strifs [sic] will be no more is the prayer of your son. The order has just come for us to be ready to start at nine o clock [sic] tonight and I must hurry and finish my letter, and get my things packed up, I shall not have time to write a letter to Emma today as I intended to tell her that I was very thankful for her good letter also for that song she sent me it is very beautiful.

I shall try and write as often as I can get a chance while
on the march, do not worry about me however if you do not receive letter as after as you have done, give my best respects to all, with love your son

Frank.

Direct to Co. Rleg [sic] and all writing the place Gravel Springs (via Nashville).
Guard: Quarters of the Helmo Guards: 2nd Div. Colored Troops
Near Macon. Sat May 13th 65

Dear Parents, Brother & Sisters,

It is a long time since you have heard from me, and as I have been in very active service for the last few months you have probably worried about my safety, not hearing from me, but these hurried lines if they reach you will put an end to your anxiety. This is the first opportunity that I have had of writing since we left Chickasaw Bluff, the 4th of March, had a chance a few days ago to send mail but as I was not with the Regt I could not, some of the Regt were ours to see me last evening and told me that mail would go out at 12 o'clock today, so I thought I might write if it were but a few lines and let you know that I am alive and well. You are probably rejoicing over the success of our armes; you have heard of the great achievements wrought by the 2nd Div on the Cowpens under Wilson driving the Rebels over since we left Chickasaw, fighting them wherever they would stand to fight, capturing their strongest fortified cities, and at last the old gentleman himself, Jefferson C. Davis, who was captured but a few days ago by the 7th Regt Va, all of this time your joy has been mixed with anxiety not knowing whether I was dead or alive, but now I hope your joy will be full. The war is ended, and your unworthy son has been spared to see its end, you have probably mistrusted by this time, seeing my letter headed head quarters colored troops, and my signing
that I was not with the 42d Mch, that I have been promoted, whether you know of my rank in the past. I wish that I had time and space to write you all the particulars about our raid from Chathrew, but I have not, as I must finish this and send it on to the 42d Mch. camp before noon. I am on duty, Officer of the Guard, and as none of our boat Vagrants can read I have to stay at the Guard Quarters to open letters and my time for writing is very limited today. Had I known before what I would send a letter today, I should have had one written giving more of the particulars than this one will.

It is about an hour since I wrote the last line above while awaiting it. The officer of the day came to the Guard quarters and relieved me long enough to go to the 42d and get my mail which came in this morning. Received 9 letters and 2 papers. The first mail that I have received since leaving Chathrew, only one letter was from home that was dated March 23d and April 8th. Two letters in one envelope. Pleased to hear that you are all well, as were the 42d of Mch. I do hope that you are both healthy and in good spirits. That you have had a good journey and all. I must help you all. Good wishes be conveyed to you from Jack and all. Jack's hope is that he can come and I will help you all. From the war, he must be more or less, as some officers instead of being 16 or 20, are mustered for per month. We have not received papers of 2nd from Washington, nearly large one.
Brevet Commissions from Col. Wilson are to be given full Commissions when one arrives as a Regiment. I do not know what you will think of it, but it was impossible for me to accept it at the time it was offered me, and I could not accept it or reject it. I was nearly of age and I thought it would be a good operation to commission in the Regular Army, but times of peace, although peace had not been declared at that time, I knew that this summer campaign must bring it about, and even in the field I would see some black soldiers as white ones for they will stand as well as any and fight as well. You will partly feel bad to see my Regiment return home without one, but I think in the whole that I gave a paying thing off it. I will tell you more about our Regt. when it was raised and organized.

A day or two after the fight of Selma (which was the first Sunday in April and I would like to describe the fight but soon reach it. I will simply say that it was the worst fight that I ever saw) it was recommended together with several other Commanded-Officers for a Commission in a Regt. and they were recruiting at Selma, we all reported before The Lord was willing, one lieutenant got in Captains Commission, one private and his name was J. H. Body got to 1st Lieutenant.
Commission and the rest that succeeded in getting any they got 2nd Lieutenants, about one third of all the men who were recommended were accepted the other two thirds were pronounced incompetent and sent back to their regiments. They gave us Commissions in the 1st Degree, as we expected. Some men that were 1st Lieutenants in their or 2nd Lieutenants in their regiments only got 3rd Lieutenants in this. They were corporals, one other and myself were given 1st Lieutenants, the 3rd Lieutenants on the same day that I am in, was also reported in as an Ohio 3rd. He has not reported yet for duty, so I have heard nothing of him. The regulars there get two months' furlough then are sent up for a higher post. But I am now very anxious to hear about Commissions and must write every week and to let it be known that I have. I am writing this in the side room. I have not read any of them yet. I have heard from Josephine. I have been in the army since March 1st, and have not seen her since. She spoke about her leaving the 3rd of April, about the same time in April 1863. I had a long letter from her, but a short time after the 3rd of May she was sent to go to New York through Montgomery and Seguin. I am sorry to hear that she is going. I will write again as soon as you receive this. I will write again as soon as I get a chance. I got them out of P.K. and am now at 1st Line. Direct to 1st Lt. P.K. Bailey, Co. K. Selma Guards, Colonel Troops of the 2nd Cal. Div. man of Union, Ga.
Guard Quarters of the Selma Guards. 2nd Div [sic] Colored Troops

Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters

It is a long time since you have heard from me, and as I have been in very active service for the last few months you have probably [sic] worried about my safety not hearing from me, but these hurried [sic] lines if they reach you will put an end to your anxiety. This is the first opportunity that I have had of writing since we left Chickasaw Ala!, [sic] the 4th Mich, had a chance a few days ago to send mail but as I was not with the Reg'[sic] I could not, some of the Reg'[sic] were over to see me last evening and told me that mail would go out at 12 o clock [sic] today, so I thought I must write if it were but a few lines and let you know that I am alive and well. You are probably [sic] rejoicing over the success of our armies [sic]; you have heard of the great achievements wrought by the 2nd Div' [sic] or the Cav [sic] Core [sic] under Wilson driving the Rebs [sic] ever since we left Chickasaw, fighting them wherever they would stand to fight, capturing their strongest fortified cities [sic], and at last the old gentleman [sic] himself, Jefferson C. Davis, who was captured but a few days ago by the 4th Mich' [sic] Cav' [sic], all of this time your joy has been mixed with anxiety not knowing whether I was dead or alive, but now I hope your joy will be full. The war is ended, and your unworthy son has been spared to see its end, you have probably [sic] mistrusted by this time, seeing my letter headed head quarters colored Troops, and my saying that I was not with the 4th Mich; that I have been promoted whether [sic] you have or not such is the fact. I wish that I had time and space to write you all the particulars about our raid from Chickasaw, but I have not, as I must finish this and send it over
to the 4th Mich' [sic] camp before noon, I am on duty, Officer of the Guard, and as none of our Colord [sic] Sargents can read I have to stay at the Guard Quarters to examin passes and my time for writing is very limited to-day, had I known before that I could send a letter out today, I should have had one writen [sic] giving more of the particulars than this one will.

It is about an hour since I wrote the last line above this, while writing it the Officer [sic] of the day came to the Guard [sic] quarter and relieve me long enough to go to the 4th and get my mail which came in this morning, I received 4 letters and 2 papers the first mail that I have received since leaving Chickasaw, only one letter was from home that was dated March 27th and April 9th two letters in one envelope. I am very glad to hear that you are all yet but sorry that you have had such bad luck about that place, about your jobs and all, but keep up good courage and its the best that you can and I will help you all I can which will be considerable, as my wages instead of being $16.00 a month are over $100.00 per month. We have not received our papers yet from Washington, we only have our Previt Commissions from Gen' [sic] Wilson we will get our full Commissions when we muster as a Regiment. I do not know what you will think of it, but it was imposable [sic] for me to hear from you at the time it was offered me, and I had to accept of it or reject it. I am nearly of age and I thought that it would be a good position, a Commission in the Regular Army in times of peace, although peace had not been declared [sic] at that time I knew that this summers campaign must bring it about, and even in the field I would as soon lead black soldiers as white ones for they will stand under as heavy fire and fight as well.

You will probly [sic] feel bad to see my Regiment return home without me, but
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I think on the whole that I have a paying thing of it. I will tell you more about our Reg' [sic] where it was raised and perfected [?].

A day or two after the fight of Selma (which was on the first Sunday in April and I would like to describe the fight but have not time, I will simply say that it was the pretrest [sic] fight that I ever saw) I was recomended togather [sic] with several Non-Commissioned [sic] - Officers for a Commission in a negro Reg' [sic] that they were recruiting in Selma, we all reported before the bord [sic] for examinations one sargent got a Captains Commision [sic] one private send his name was F. H. Bailey got a 1st Luitnents [sic] Commision [sic] and the rest that succeeded in getting [sic] any thing got 2nd Luitenant's, about one third of all the men who were recomended [sic] were accepted the other two thirds were pronounced incompetant and sent back to their regiments, They gave us Commisions [sic] as they considered us competent, some men that were 1st sargent in they white Regiments only got 2nd Lieut's [sic] in this others who were privates, one other beside myself, belonging to the 7th Pennsylvania, were given 1st Lieut's [sic]. The 2nd Lieut' [sic] of the same Co' [sic] that I am in was a 1st sargent [sic] in an Ohio Reg' [sic] he has not reported yet for duty, it rather grinds the sargent to see two privates jump their and get a higher Com' [sic]. But I must stop worrying you about Commisions and wind up my hurried [sic] letter as it is nearly time it was sent in. The other three letters that I received this morning I have not read yet one of them is from Miss Nellie Morse, Emma asked how long since I have heard from Josephine it is a long time Emma spoke about its snowing the 9th of April about the same time in April I had ripe strawberies [sic] to eat, but a short time after the 9th of April we passed through Montgomery there I had Strawberies [sic]. Give my love to all and write as soon as you receive
[May 15, 1865 - page 4]

Camp near Nashville, Tenn., June 22nd, 1865.

Dear Parents,

It has been a long time since I wrote home, and I will attempt to make some apology for my long silence. The last time that I wrote, I was with the 13th regiment at Macon. I had been examined by the "Board of Examination" and passed examination for a 1st Lieutenancy, and my commission had been sent for, our muster rolls had been made out and were only awaiting for our papers to arrive from Washington in order to muster. About that time the 3rd Ohio Cavalry (the flag that Gen. Automation belonged to) was discharged, and there were some five or six lieutenants in that regiment made up of their own.

that a commission in the Regular Army in time of peace was a pretty nice thing, as they offered sums of money to our Colo (who was formerly their Majors) to get them commissions in his Major Regiment. The board that examined us were Officers belonging to different Regiments of the Div., the Maj's had nearly all gone home, and of course the board were scattered, and although we had passed examination and received our appointments, they had not left our certificates; the Col taking advantage of it sent to General Wilson and obtained permission to have another board appointed to re-examine us and give us our certificates. That you see through all this it came all into our Col's hands, he appointed another board of which, one of these Officers of his Regiment (that wanted to get into the Negro Regt) was President, he rejected some fine or six soldiers that had passed examination by a
by board that would hardly have passed 
him, had he appeared before them. 
for no reason whatever except that 
he wanted to make vacancies for 
himself and some other officers of his 
own regiment. One of the men 
that was rejected at the same time 
was has entered complaints against 
The Colonel, and is trying him a 
Court of Marshal, & I did not care 
anything about it, so I packed up 
my things and joined my reg' at 
Chattanooga, soon after I joined 
them there we came through to 
Nashville where we still are, we 
have been expecting ever since we 
arined here that the 1862 & 1863 
soldiers would all be mustered out 
together, and that we would all get 
home before the first of July. 
I have been at work some for the 
last few days helping the Company 
officers make out the Muster-Out.
Mr. M.

If you receive a paper or circular from Map's directed to me, keep it open & if you wish, pretend for it. I was expecting to come home.
Halls and only the 1862 soldiers are to be mustered out and present. That will keep me a while longer yet. I have neglected writing for the reason that I wanted to take upon by surprise when I came home. I knew that if you had received the letter that I wrote from Macon you would not look for me with the Regiment, but as soon as I found out that I was going home with the Flag I concluded to write and explain things to you. The last letter that I received from home was dated over three months ago. March something I forget what day, and I feel quite anxious to hear how you are all getting along, whether you are all well
as not, and where you are living now, as for as my health is concerned I am enjoying a great deal better health than I ever thought that I could in so hot a climate as this. The only thing that I can complain of is the heat affects me so that I can hardly read or write during the middle of the day. I am now out a little away from camp sitting under a grape vine waiting, I usually spend the day reading and sleeping, reading what I can and sleeping when my head aches so that I cannot read.

Robert Fulton and myself made up a bundle today to send home. He will send it to his brother and send for his brother to have my bundle at Robert's Store where you can get it. I send a Keesel coat & cap, and a pair of white pants and a fine shirt. To give you one here, and your books. I have a pair of blue pants the
some color at the end but I shall keep them to lay around in and save my new blue. The books are very good works. especially “Dobbe's Moral Philosophy.” I think you would both like it. If you can find time to read it.

About my pay; I have not received a cent since last year, but I expect to get some pay here when the old boys are discharged and payed off. How much I don't know they will not pay me up all that the Government owes us for fear of the boys deserting as I know half of them would.

It seems rather hard & can tell you to have to lay around in this kind of a state and see a part of the soldiers go home and marched off, as far as I am concerned I had rather give half of my last years wages than be obliged to stay here three months longer. But when I think how bad your must need some help from me
and that I will need the money when I do get out to help me along with my schooling. I think that I had better try and feel contented and stay while I am till I am discharged. I wish that you would answer this by return mail and let me know just how you are situated, and as it does not take but a few days to get mail here I may get it before the old boys are discharged and sent home. Do not feel discouraged because I am not coming home with the rest of the boys, for I do not think they will keep us but a few months longer at any rate. Give my best respects to all enquiring friends.

Tell Emma that I will try and write to her in a short time before I get an answer from this. Tell Charley and Annie that they must write a little while before they will see this. Goodnight. With much love I remain your son,

Emanuel.
Camp near Nashville Tenn' [sic] June 22nd. 1865

Dear Parents,

It is a long time since I wrote you, and I will attempt to make some apology for my long silence, the last time that I wrote, I was with the negro-regiment at Macon, I had been examined by the "Board of Examination" and passed examination for a 1st Lieutenancy, and my Commission had been sent for, our muster roles had been made out and we were only waiting for our papers to arrive [sic] from Washington in order to muster. About that time the 3rd. Ohio Cav' [sic] (the Reg' [sic] that our Col' [sic] formlily [sic] belonged to) was discharged, and there were some five or six Lieutenants in that Reg' [sic] that made up their minds that a commision [sic] in the Regular Army in times of peace was a pretty nice thing so they offered sums of money to our Cal' [sic] (who was formlily their Major) to get them commisions [sic] in his Negro Regiment. The board that examined us were Officers belonging to different Reg's [sic] of the Div' [sic]; the Reg's [sic] had nearly all gone home, and of course the board were scattered, and although we had passed examination and received our appointiments [sic] they had not left our citificates [sic]; the Col' [sic] taking advantage of it sent to General Wilson and obtained permision [sic] to have another board appointed to reexamin [sic] us and give us our citificates [sic], that you see threwed the power all into our Col' [sic] hands, he appointed another board of which, one of these Officers of his Regiment, (that wanted to
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get into the Negro Reg' [sic]) was President, he rejected some five or six Lieut' [sic] that had passed examination by a board that would hardly have passed him, had he appeared before them, for no reason whatever except that he wanted to make vacancies for himself and some other officers of his own Regiment. One of the men that was rejected at the same time I was has entered complaints against the Colonel and is trying him a Court Marshal [sic]. I did not care any thing about it so I packed up my things and joined my Reg' [sic] at Chattanooga, soon after I joined them there we came through to Nashville where we still are, we have been expecting ever since we arrived [sic] here that the 1862 & 1863 soldiers would all be mustered out together, and that we would all get home before the first of July. I have been at work some for the last few days helping the Company Officers make out the Muster-Out-Rolls and only the 1862 soldiers are to be mustered out at present that will keep me a while longer yet. I have neglected writing [sic] for the reason that I wanted to take you by surprise [sic] when I came home, I knew that if you had recieved the letter that I wrote from Macon you would not look for me with the Regiment, but as soon as I found out that I was not going home with the Reg' [sic] I concluded to write and explain things to you. The last letter that I received from home was dated over three months ago March something I forget what day, and I feel quite anxious [sic] to hear how you are all geting [sic] along, wheither [sic] you are all well or not, and
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where you are living now, as far as my health is concerned I am enjoying a great deal better health than I ever thought that I could in so hot a climate as this. Tho only thing that I can complain of is the heat [sic] affects me so that I can hardly read or write during the middle of the day. I am now out a little way from camp sitting [sic] under a grape-vine writing. I usually [sic] spend the day reading and sleeping, reading what I can and sleeping when my head aches [sic] so that I cannot read.

Lusious Keyes and myself made up a bundle today to send home he will send it to his brother and write for his brother to leave my bundle at Roberts store where you can get it. I sent a Rebel coat and cap, and a pair of white pants and a fine shirt to fine for me here, and four books. I have a pair of Reb' [sic] pants the same color as the coat but I shall keep them to lay around in and save my new bulle. The books are very good works, especialy [sic] "Combs Moral Philosophy" I think you would both like that if you can find time to read it. About my pay; I have not received a cent since last year, but we expect to get some pay here when the old boys are discharged and payed [sic] off, how much I do not know they will not pay us up all that the Government owes us for fear of the bous desirting [sic] as I know half of them would. It seems [sic] rather hard I can tell you to have to lay around in this kind of stile and see a part of the soldiers go home and the rest kept, as far as I am concerned [sic] I had rather give half of my last years wages than be obliged to stay here three months longer, but when I think how bad you must need some help
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from me and that I will need the money when I do get out to help me along with my schooling. I think that I had better try and feel contented and stay where I am until [sic] I am discharged [sic]. I wish that you would answer this by return mail, and let me know just how you are situated, and as it does not take but a few days to get mail here I may get it before the old boys are discharged and sent home. Do not feel discouraged [sic] because I am not coming home with the rest of the boys, for I do not think they will keep us but a few months longer at any rate. Give my best respects to all enquiring [sic], friends, tell Emma that I will try and write to her in a short time before I get an answer from this. Tell Charley and Anna that they must wait [sic] a little while before they will see Frank. Good Night.

with much love I remain your son

Frank.

Direct.

Franklin H. Bailey.

Co. E. 4th Mich [sic] Cav [sic]

Nashville.

Tennessee.

Mr F

If you receive a paper or circular from Majs [sic] directed to me keep it, open it if you wish, I sent for it when I was expecting to come home.