Correspondence
Mar.-Apr. 1862
Dear Mother,

I received your, Father's and Commander's kind letter wednesday morning, and I was very glad that you was thoughtfull enough to write me a letter for a birthday present, you said that if I thought as much of a letter from home, as you did about from me, that I would rather have a letter than any thing else you could send me; probably I think most if possible, of a letter from home than you do from me, To think enough of them, at any rate, I read them once and over again. By see that you are situated a great deal different than you are; I am shut up here in camp Barker, away from any one and never abroad except when I can in the the ranks with the company, to be sure. I have a great many duties to perform which take up the largest part of my time, but still there is some time left to me so I see fit (and with a great part of the boys use in playing cards) I do not have much variety of reading, or should if I were at home, therefore I use up the time in reading my Bible, and the letters which I come from home, and writing letters some, although I did not write to write, I do it so that I can get letters to read, I like your letters, they are so long; it is nothing but an aggravation.

March 7th, 1862
My dear John,

Last night I received a letter, and as I have no copy of your writing, I am not sure what you have written. It seems that you have spent some time in looking for paper. As for the postage stamps, they are useful and will send a number of sheets as well as one.

I have said that the children had been sick with the cold, this is just the time of year. In between, the cold, the weather is changeable; it is very changeable, but at any rate, it will be very cold for a few days, and then it will thaw and the all mud and mire, the deep, have been under the Doctor's care all this week, and have not driven very until today. I did not drive a little in the manual of arms. I think of the weather, for a long time, and it had its effect on the sick. I was not able to think of what I have found the most blustery.

I have not been able to think of all the cold I had before it stopped. The boys agree many of them have a cold all of the time, and we cannot very well insist it, as we have to wear the same clothing. Cold or warm, it may not be the best thing for giving us colds, as the way they drill us on batonnier drill; he will smoke us back and down, with our accoutrements on until we get all sorely, and then we have to stand still until he explains some movement to the officers. It seems as though he had not even a proper uniform, and the rest of us is just as blank, but this is not the case.
regard for the health of his men, and the Doctor told him so the other day, he told him that if he did not stop doing it that the whole Regiment would be in the hospital. I guess he will be more careful in the future. You said that it did not seem to you as if he was 17 years old, since I was born, I hardly think he is as far advanced in my studies as some boys of 15. I can see now that I am placed where Mr. Cole can keep me from going to school for three years if he has a mind to) that ought to have improved my time better while I was at school, but I have a chance to learn a few things here, human nature for one. You said that you were all pleased with my letters. I am sorry that I got it taken when I did, for me I have got some other things since then; one of them is a capbook which gives on the salt corner of the cottage box. Another is a sheath for our bayonet which hangs down at the left side and looks like a sword, it hangs in the same place that Lieutenant Major sand did you use and it adds very much to the looks of a soldier. Mr. Cole's son is in our company he is at the hospital now sick, but I do not know what is the matter with him. You spoke about Father's wishing he was in Pike's Peak, I know if he has got the Pike's Peak fever again; you said that you were in hopes that he had
would more somewhere. I had rather live in America.

If it should come back before long from the way
than to go any where else, but it will not
say any thing to discourage him, for I am
will ing that she should go anywhere where he likes;
without it I do not want him to go there at any rate. I wrote to
Keller Clark the same day that I got your
letter. You started to tell what you thought of
her, and then you stopped, you said that you knew
that she would tell, and then you stopped, I wish
that you had gone on with it, please do so in your
next. You said that you liked the other Keller the
best as to B; you said also that you took
er her brother as to B, and you know that I had
not been for the mother, I should not have become
intimate with her since our falling out, to secure
I want to be friendly with her, but that is so far
as I want to go; I should choose not to be
intimate with any girl, but I had rather be
so with the other Keller, than with her.

You said in your letter, before the last one, that Emma
claimed the attention of my pen, I do not see how
she can, she is best of all acquaintances, to be sure
I was quite intimate with her that evening, my
sisters told you as probably, making me do
more than I ought to have been, but I thought it
that it would stop there, not stop entirely, but
I did not intend to write to her as she expected
me to, as I suppose she expected me to, by what
you write. I thought that I would tell you how I felt
as that you might know how to take them, if
feel just as I have written. You know that I want
not to have any good by sending to them. I am writing to the 39
for I am told to get letters from almost any one
or clergymen, I have not been to write half that I want to,
but I will write some of it. Emma and you
and you can read it. If you have a good chance to talk with
Esther, you can tell her as much as you are a pri
of what I have written, but she will tell she that I tell you
to. I cannot bring this little to a stop, but to all, and a
good place for your self, you might place in return and
all the time, and her Keller is such a kind of person.

To Mr. Bot.
Camp Barker, Miles. Headquarters [sic] of the 22th Regiment of Michigan Infantry [sic]

Friday P.M. March 7th 162[sic]

Dear Mother,

I received [sic] your, Father[sic] and Emma's, kind letter wednesday morning, and I was very glad that you was[sic] thoughtfull enough to write me a letter for a birth-day present, you said that if I thought as much of a letter from home, as you did of one from me that I would rather have a letter than anything else you could send me; probably[sic] I think more, if possible, of a letter from home than you do of one from me; I think enough of them at any rate; I read them over and over again. You see that I am situated a great deal different than you are, I am shut up or very seldom here in camp Barker and never allowed[sic] out, without I am in the the[sic] ranks with the company, to be where I have a great many dutys [sic] to preforme [sic] which take up the largest part of my time, but still there is some time left to use as I see fit; (and which a great part of the boys as of a use in playing carde[sic]), I do not have much variety of reading, as I should if I were home, therefore I use up the time in reading my bible, and the letters which I receive[sic] from home, and writing letters home, although it is hard work to write I do it so that I can get letters to read. I like your letters, they are so long; it is nothing but an aggravation for me to get a letter, and not have the sheet written half over, it is sending paper for nothing and not getting[sic] the worth of your postage stamp, for one stamp will send a number of sheets as well as one. You said that the children had been sick with the cold, this is just the time of year to be down with the colds, the weather is so changable[sic]; it is very changable[sic] here, at any rate; it will be very cold for a few days, and then it will thaw and be all mud and mire shoe deep. I have been under the Doctors cure all this week and have not drilled [sic] any untill [sic] tday [sic] I
drilled [sic] a little in the manuel of arme [sic]; apart of the time my but cold was so bad that I could not speek [sic] a loud word, and had to whisper instead. I am getting [sic] better, but not very fast, my lungs are quite sore, caused by double-quick's when I was not able, to day I have or nearly all had the nose-bleed five times, twice I thought it would take all the blood would I had before itAstoped. The boys a great many of them have a cold all of the time, and we cannot very well avoid it, as we have to were [sic] the same clothing cold or warm. A very bad thing for giving us colds, is the way the Col. drills us on battallion [sic] drill; he will make us double-quick, with with our accoutrements on untill [sic] we get all sweaty, and then we have to stand still while he explains some movemont to the officers [sic]; it seems [sic] as though he had no regard for the health of his men, and the Doctor told him so the other day, he told him that if he did not stop doing so that the whole Reg. would be in the hospital. I guess he will be more carefull in the future. You said that it did not seem [sic] to you as if it was 17 years since I was born, I hardly believe it, for I not as far advanced in my studies as some boys at 15. I can see (now that I am placed where Uncle Sam can keep me from ging to school for three years if he has a mind to) that I ought to have improved my time better while I was at school, but I have a chance to learn a few things here, human nature for one. You said that you were all please [sic] with my likness [sic], I am sorry that I got it taken when I did, for we have got some other things since then; one of them is a capblock which goes on the belt, front of the cartmage[sic] box, another is a sheath for our bayonet which hangs down at the left side, and looks like a sword, it hangs in the same place that Lieutenant [sic] Mc cloys sword did, you saw that, and it adds very much to the looks of a soldier. Mr. Gage's son is in our company he is at the hospital now sick,
but I do not know what is the matter [sic] with him.

You spoke about Fathers wishing he was in Pikes Peak, I am sorry if he has got the Pikes Peak fever again; You said that you was in hopes that he would move somewhere. I had rather live in Adrian if I should come back before being [sic] from the war, than to go any wher [sic] else, but I will not say any thing to discourage him, for I am willing that he should go anywhere he sees fit, without it is to Pikes Peak, I do not want him to go there at any rate. I wrote to Hellen Clark the same day that I got your letter. You started to tell what you thought of Hellen Shares, and then you stoped [sic]; you said that you knew that she would tell, and then you stoped [sic], I wish that you had gone on with it, please do so in your next. You said that you liked the other Hellen the best so do I; you said also that you liked her Mother so do I, and you know that if it had not been for her mother I should not have become intimate with her, since our falling out, to be sure I want to be friendly with her, but that is as far as I want to go. I should chose [sic] not to be very intimate with any girl, but I had rather be so with the other Hellen, than with her.

Hunt

You said in your letter, before the last one, that Emma claimed the attention of my pen, I do not see how she can, she is but a new aquaintance, to be sure I was quite intimate with her that evening, my sister has told you so probaly [sic] mabey [sic] more so that I ought to have been, but I thought that it would stop there, not stop entirely, but I did not intend to write to her as she expected me to, or as I suppose [sic] she expected me to, by what you wrote. I thought that I would tell you how I felt so that you might know how to take them, I feel just as I have written [sic]. You know that I want to keep
friends with them all, and if I can do them any good by writing to them.
I am willing to do so, for I am glad to get letters from almost [sic]
any one or dozen [sic]. I have not room to write half that I want to
but I will write some of it to Emma and you can read it. If you have
a good chance to talk with Hellen Clark you can tell her as much as
you are a mind to of what I have written [sic], but do not tell her
that I told you to. I must bring this letter to a stop. Love to all,
and a good share for your self. Good night please write soon and all
the news, and how Hellen Clark feels from your son Fr. H. Bailey.

[Written on tops and bottoms of pages to fill in]
I wrote to Lydia Ann, and Clary Strery, and Nat Hunt. I have got an
answer from Lydia since I wrote your letter, she wrote write [sic] off.

I thought some of sending Mert green a couple of dollars [sic] she spent
very near that for me. I shall either send it to her or send it home.

when you write, tell me how you like such a letter as this scritted [sic]
all over town. I like them for it take [sic] study to read them.
Camp Barke, A.L. March 10th 1862

Dear Father,

I wrote a letter to Martha last Friday, and I intended to write to you and, Emma, the same day, but as I did not have time, I have neglected it until now; but I will try, and write them both today. I was intending to write yesterday, but did not have time. Yesterday morning, and for part of the forenoon, it was very dark; the sky was black with clouds, it thundered and lightened a few times, very hard, and rained nearly all day; this morning it rained very hard for a little while, and then turned cold, and before ten o'clock it snowed equally as well as it had rained, but it has stoped now; the camp is nearly all covered with snow, and it is hard work to get around. I have not drilled at all inside of the camp.

I have been very well for nearly two weeks with or lead cold. I did not drill but once last week; as my cold began to abate, my voice began to return, and I think it was about five times since then it had been from 15 to 20 times that I have not sneak that the Doctor will not allow me to drill or do any work at all. He gave me
injection in the now, with a note of silver, it did not feel very good & I can tell you, the God said that it felt more like cold salt than anything else, and I thought of you. I have just come back from dinner, and will resume my writing. Another point in his last letter, that you thought so as if going to Pikes Peak, or that you wished you were there. I think that in what he said for my part I had rather go north into the Valley of the Elkhorn, than wish that you would come from there. I may have exaggerated his statement a little, but he was a man that I should think would tell the truth, and I believe that he did. I will describe the country as near as I can in a few words. The Elkhorn river runs through the counties of St. Joseph and Newaygo, and although it is a little and a degree north on us, it is not so cold as it is here, and account of its being surrounded by a rise of ground, and numerous fine forests. The land is bought by farms, for the sake of the timber, which grows there, is great quantities, and after the lumber is cut, the land does belong for almost nothing. Although the soil
is very good. The country is very thinly settled. I said that people are just beginning to find out the immense wealth of that region, and that in a few years, it will be a great agricultural country. Even now by looking at the map that the north of the state begins, is but a few miles north of Grand Haven, a town at the north of the Grand River.

Edwards wrote upon the bank that I would like to go there, for it would lead me to stay in Michigan, and I could again get plenty of work there, but I would rather gather to go any farther west. On some account I should like to try there, or others I would not. Edwards thought that it would be a good place for your farm, on account of its being a growing place, and a great deal of killing going on. It was soon after one got our pay that I heard him telling about the place, and he described the place in such beautiful language and in being such a delightful place, that I almost wished Edwards were, instead of being shot up here in camp Barker. He said that he had 68 acres of good land, and he had bought it for $5,000, and that any amount of land could be bought
March 10, 1862

Here for some one text obscure and I guess that I have talked enough about Washington, merely. Then did you make out last week calling blocks.

Tell Mother that Mr. Sage already got back from the hospital and he got up in my bank a few minutes ago, for he is to relate the incident of his. He said in his letter about his father, he gets a letter from his father the morning, he said that they write that they want that I should describe the place to him which I shall do as well as I could.

I am glad that you have got a new suit of clothes for you needed them very bad, but did not pay older Whing, the Author, and Bob's Here. If you have not I should rather have you with out my spending money than to have them unpaid. It all amounted to $27.50. My shirt is nearly full and I must close, please write some more for I love to hear from home, and write all the news. Tell me how you are getting along, and what you intend to do, if you had just a letter. Goodnight.

This is from your affectionate son

Franklin H. Bailey
Camp Barker, Niles. March 10th 1862.

Dear Father.

I wrote a letter to Mother last Friday, and I intended to write to you and Emma, the same day; but as I did not have time then, I have neglected it until now; but I will try and write them both today. I was intending to write yesterday but did not have time. Yesterday morning, and fore part of the forenoon, it was very dark; the sky was black with clouds, it thundered and lightened a few times very hard, and rained nearly all day; this morning it rained very hard for a little while, and then turned cold, and before ten o'clock it snowed equally as hard as it had rained, but it has stoped now: the camp is nearly all covered with matter and it is hard work to get around. They do not drill at all in side of the camp.

I have been very unwell for nearly two weeks with a hard cold; I did not drill but once last week; as my cold began to abate my nose began to bleed; Friday I think it was, it bled five times since thin it has bled, from times 15 to 20 each day. I am so weak that the Doctor will not allow me to drill or to do any work; Saturday he gave me an injection in the nose, with nitrate of silver, it did not feel very good I can tell you, the Doc said that it felt more like cold lead than any thing else, and I thought so too. I have just come back from dinner, and will resume my writing; Mother said in her last letter, that you thought some of going to Pike Peek, or that you wished you were there, I think that is what she said; for my part I had rather go north into the Valley of the Muskegon:
[March 10, 1862 - page 2]

I wish that you could hear a man, who was here in camp, about a month ago, describe that country; he had just come from there, he may have exaggerated his statement a little, but he was a man that I should think would tell the truth. and I believe [sic] that he did. I will describe the country as I can as near as he did, in a few words. The Muskegon river runs through the counties of Ottawa [sic] and Newaygo, and although it is a little over a degree north on us, it is not so cold as it is here, on account [sic] of its being surrounded by a rise of ground, and immense pine forests [sic]. Th [sic] land can be bought for almost nothing. Although the soil is very good, the country [sic] is very thinly settled; he says [sic] that people are just beginning to find out the immense [sic] wealth of that region [sic], and that in a few years, it will be a great [sic] agriculturally [sic] country [sic]. You will see by looking on the map that the mouth of the Muskegon is but a few miles north of Grand-Haven, a town at the mouth of the Grand river.

I do not want you to think that I would like to go there, for I would rather stay in Adrian, could you get plenty of work there, but I would rather go there to go any farther west. On some accounts I should like to go there, on others I would not. I thought that it would be a good place for your trade [sic], on account of its being a growing place, and a great deal of building going on. It was soon after we got our pay that I heard him telling about the place, and he
March 10, 1862 - page 3

described the place in such beautifull sic language and as being such a beautifull sic place, that I almost wished I was there, instead of being shut up here in camp Barker. He said that he had 60 acres of good land offerd sic to him for $50.00. and that any amount of land could be bought there for from one, to two dollars sic. well I guess that I have talked enough about Muskegon valley. How did you make out last week cleansing sic clocks.

Tell Mother that Mr. Gage's boy has got back from the hospital; and he got up in my bunk a few minutes ago, for me to reed sic to him what she said in her letters about his folks. he got a letter from his folks this morning, he said that they wrote, that they had rented a house in Adrian and that they thought of bying sic it some time, he wanted that I should describe the place to him which I did as well as I could.

I'm glad that you have got a new suit of clothes, for you needed them very bad, but did you pay Mr King, Mr Aldrich, and Doc Leier, if you have not I should rather have not gon sic with out my spending money than to have them paied sic, it all amounted to $2.75. My sheet is nearly full and I must close. please write soon, for I love to hear from home, and write all the news, tell me how you are geting sic along, and what you intend to do, if you had just as leive. Good night. This is from your affectionate son

Franklin H Bailey
Camp Barker, Ills.  March 18th, 1869.

Dear Mother,

Received your and Emma's kind letter yesterday afternoon. I was very glad to hear from you, and to hear that you are all well, my health is improving, but very slow. I was under the Barques care about five weeks, and growing worse all the time. The doctor and people thought that I had better have another Doctor as the orderly called in the orderly sergeant of the company F. (who was a sympathizer) and he done me more good in two days than the other Doctor did in two weeks. Every day has asked every minute since last Wednesday night, almost one week yesterday and today it has not asked very hard, it is growing better fast, and although I have a very hard cold yet the Doctor says that he thinks a change of climate will do that more good than all the medicine that I can take.

Tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock we leave camp Barker for St. Louis it is now about three o'clock. We, and we have eaten our last meal that we are to eat here in Camp Barker, we are to eat our supper and breakfast out of our knapsacks the same as we
are to do untill me get to St Louis.

Mother you said that you always try
me when you recieve a letter from me, for
sure that there may be something in
it, that will worry you, and I know
that you cannot help worrying about me
some, but do not any more than you
can help, for I shall be as carfeul of
my health as I possibly can.

This is called a very unhealthy place by almost
every one, and a great many are sick
not so much on account of neglect and as
the unhealthiness of the place. The
find as I was not aware until yesterday
is full of water-folds, some of them
are very lisy, the boys call them
"rattles", they are nothing a long ways.

I saw three dead ones that the boys
did not kill and pulled out out to the shore.

Mother you said that you blamed your
self for letting me go at all, I do not
want that you should feel so. I want
you to feel that you have done right
in letting me go to serve my country,
feel pround that you had a son that
you could concerate upon the altis
of your country. If I should come home or with poor health, I could have
one consolation and that is that I lost
my health is a good one.

You wrote to me to keep my money for my own use, I sent one dollar to you in a letter, which you have not before this time received. I suppose I have 55 cents left, and I guess that will take me through until pay day, unless it is the first of May.

You said that you wished that I had some of your casepuss for it would be better than our food, it would be a great treat for me to eat down to a good plain meal of rice.

I have had bread and milk a number of times and it wasn't good, I can tell you, I would love it every day were I able to buy the milk. I spoke about my coming home to stay awhile until I got better, I shall not come home again until we are discharged which I have good reasons to think will be before July. The camp is in a perfect state of confusion today, and we must go to the cook room and have our batters cut out, but that are to last me on our journey. I must close this letter, please excuse all mistakes, and this miserable writing, for I can hardly keep my hand steady.
Dear Mr. [Name],

Please do not show this letter to any one not let anyone see it for it looks so very bad. I think that you had better not write to me again until I write to you. For me do not know as some will stay in London any length of time, we may not. Love to you and all friends.

From your son,

[Signature]

Tell [Name] that I cannot write to her this time very well but I will write to her after I get to St. Louis or our destination where ever it may be.
Camp Barker, Miles. March 18th 1862

Dear Mother,

I recived [sic] your and Emmas [sic] kind letter sunday afternoon. I was very glad to hear from you, and to hear that you are all well; my health is improving, but very slow; I was under the Surgons [sic] care about two weeks, and had the nose bleed, earache, growing worse all the time, the Captain and Orderly thought that and was pretty well used up, I had better have another Doctor; so the Orderly called in the Orderly Sergant [sic] of company F. (who is a homopathy Doc.) and he done me more good in three days, than the other Doctor did in about one o'clock two weeks; my ear has ached evry [sic] minute since last Wednesday night, almost one week, yesterday and today it has not ached very hard, it is growing better fast, and although I have a very hard cold yet, the Docter [sic] says that he thinks a change of climate will do that more good than all the medicine that I can take.

Tomorrow morning at 7 Oclock we leave camp Barker for St. Louis, it is now about three o clock. PM. and me have eaten our last meal that we are to eat here in camp Barker, we are to eat our supper and brekfast [sic] out of our knapsacks, the same as we are to do untill [sic] we get to St Louis.

Mother, you said that you always tremble when you recive [sic] a letter from me, for feer [sic] that there may be something in it that will worry you; now I know that you cannot help worrying about me some, but do not any more than you can help, for I shall be as carefull [sic] of my health as I possbaly [sic] can, this is called a very unhealthy place by almost every one, and a great many are sick not so much on account of negligence [sic] as the
unhealthiness of the place. The pond as I was not aware until [sic] yesterday is full of watter [sic] dogs, some of them are very larg [sic], the boys call them aligaters [sic], they are simply a larg [sic] lizard. I saw three dead ones that the boys killed and pulled out on to the shore.

Mother you said that you blamed yourself [sic] for letting [sic] me go at all. I do not want that you should feel so I want you to feel that you have done right in letting me go to serve my country, feel proud that you had a son that could concacrater [sic] upon the alters [sic] of your country. If I should come home lame or with poor health, I could have one consolation and that is that I lost my health in a good cause.

You wrote to me to keep my money for my own use, I sent two dollars [sic] to you in a letter which you have got before this time I suppose I have .55 cents left and I guess [sic] that will take me through until [sic] pay day, which is the first of May.

You said that you wished that I had some of your corses [sic] fare for it would be better than our food, it would be a great treat for me to sit down to a good plain meal of vitals [sic]. I have had bread and milk a number of times and it went good.

I can tell you, I would have it evry [sic] day were I able to buy the milk. You spoke about my coming home to stay awhile until [sic] I got better, I shall not come home again until [sic] we are discharged which I have good reasons to think will be the month of before July. The camp is in a perfect state of confusion today, and we must go to the cook room and have our rations dealt [sic] out to us that are to last us on our journey [sic]. I must close this letter, please excuse all mistakes, and this miserable writing for I can hardly keep my thoughts about me. Please
do not show this letter to any one nor let any one see it for it looks so very bad.

I think that you better not write to me again untiill [sic] I write to you, for we do not know as we will stay in St. Louis any length of time, we may and may not. Love to you and all friends. Good night From your son

Franklin Bailey

Tell Emma that I cannot write to her this time very well but I will write to her after I get to St. Louis or our destiny where ever it may be.

Dear Father, Mother, and Sister,

This is to let you know where I am and how I am getting along, you can see by the writing that I am in St. Louis, or rather on board of a steamer which is here at St. Louis. It is quite cold here this morning, and my fingers are so numb that I can hardly hold my pen, but I will try to write a few lines and wished we could write a history of the journey, and how Don will write when he gets to the end of our journey. I will write a little longer and let you know which way we came, but to tell you half I can, which I would like to would take a page of paper.

The left Camp Baker, mediate day morning about 12 o'clock, left the city and after about 3, we passed around the southern end of Lake Michigan, and I had the pleasure of seeing it twice, one then wrote the Juliet coat of, and must write the 8th, beside I had the pleasure of seeing a number of large prairies as large that one could see nothing but prairie as far as one could see in every direction, and thus I had
a chance to get of the train and look around at Old Alton, natin City, for the train stop there to cook up; we got of the train at Alton city and took a steam boat for Old Louis, it was the same boat that Gen. Lee brought the army to, took from the rebels last summer; we got off at Alton where he put them aboard the cars. I saw a number of rebel troops in the pilot house, where the rebel tried to shoot the steers man, and a number of dents in the smoke pipes. Alton is just 25 miles above St. Louis so you see I had a ride on the "Father of Waters," we arrived here in St. Louis about 10 o'clock P.M., got off the boat and stood in the street in a battalion, but could not get to 4 o'clock, again bitter cold. I was told, we expected when we came she to march up to the celebrated baracks in Camp Benton, but our Colonel got on the right side of Generall Holcomb, and as we were full rigged, and well drilled she concluded to send us right along, and follow up the 5 Regiments, that left yesterday the day we got here one boat left just as we came in one cleared atten, and they answered my name was marched up to the boat called the "Tempeal," and clear into the hole of the boat, where it was a dash
as pitch, and took to take care of our selves, the heat we could see might not be bad about the tough, it might. I have had some over me, shelled, a few time, without any thing we had, and slept the best we could on the forward stairs, and a few shots that we could find. 

This beat is the boats that was taken from the rebels at Fort Donelson, it is pretty well made up and layed here for repairs. I saw one hole made by a cannon ball, one ball done good damage. I can tell you, it went its high above the locomotives and indented things pretty well. We were told by the Colonel last night that we would clean here today for Tennessee, that we would sail down the Mississippi, to the mouth of the Ohio, up the Ohio to the mouth of the Tennessee, and up that river again, and take it apart to Memphis. He said as much as to say that we wanted to come to the army that was on their way to attack Memphis. This morning we heard that we would go down the river to Island no. 10, where we heard last night there was a fight going on, it is the same place where had a battle sometime ago and took so many prisoners. We are not exactly among the rebels.
now, but there are so many here that the officers will not allow any further to come aboard the boat, for fear that we will get演习. Other in another the
I must tell you I have seen a number of boats go up the river with prisoners on
and on the boat we came down on there was two and I had a little talk with
one of them, he was a young fellow, a reckless looking being, he pleaded that
he was forced in to the rebel army, but
I would not listen a word he said, he had
on his uniform, and a mean looking one it was, all light gray. We have got I believe
20,000 rounds of ammunitions on board which will
be distributed to us soon, and we expect
that we will have a chance times. Then
before long of horses, we were kept in Camp
Wanker along time, but from then we are on
our way. In the field of action, and
am glad that we have not got to stay
far in Camp Benton, as a result of the
Reg, sent here to St Louis, some had to stay
a month or so. It is snowing here this
morning but I guess before Sunday that we
will be in a warmer climate. I cannot
write half so want the, Web, say tell Dr. Watts
when we are and where we expect to go to.
Don't worry if you don't hear from me again for
something, but I will write as soon as I have
enough chance I think that I have not filling 15 much
writing the latter. Love to all my friends goodby
from the就越 to Galien.
Dear Father, Mother, and Sister.

This is to let you know where I am and how I am getting along, you can see by the heading that I am in St. Louis or rather, on board of a steamboat which is here at St. Louis. It is quite cold here this morning, and my fingers are so numb that I can hardly hold my pencil but I will try to write a few lines, you wished me to write a history of the journey; maybe I will when we get to the end of our journey. I will write a little however and let you know which way we came, but to tell you half I seen, which I would like to would take a guire of paper.

We left Camp Barker Wednesday morning about 7 o clock, left the city of Miles about 9, we passed around the southern part of Lake Michigan, and I had the pleasure of seeing it twice, we then took the Joliet cut of, and went on to the Ill. centrall. I had the pleasure of seeing a number of large prairies so large that we could see nothing but prairie as far as we could see in any direction, and then I had a chance to get of the train and lock around in Old Abes, native city, for the train stop there to coal up; we got of the train at Alton city and took a steamboat for St. Louis, which took it was the same boat that Gen' Lion brought those guns, and so forth from the revolt last summer on from St. Louis to Alton where he put them aboard the cars, I seen a number of bullet holes in the pilot house where the rebels tried to shoot the steersman, and a number of dents in the smoke pipes. Alton is just 25 miles above St Louise so you see I had quite a ride on the "Father of waters"; we arrived here in St Louise about 2 o clock on. got of the boat and stood in the street in a battallion line until about 4 o clock, you better believe I was tired,
we expected when we came he [sic] to march up the celebrated barracks in Camp Benton, but our Colonel got on the right side of General Halleck, pretty and as we were full rigid, and [sic] well driled he concluded to send us right along and fellar up the 5 Regiments, that left yesterday the day we got here one boat left just as we came in we cheared [sic] them, and they answered us, we was marched on to the boat called the "Imperial" and down into the holt [sic] of the boat, where it was as dark as pitch, and toled [sic] to take care of our selves the best we could over night we had about the tougest night I have had since we enlisted [sic], as we had to watch every [sic] thing we had, and sleep the best we could on the hard floor, and a few bunks that we could find.

one of

This boat is the boat that was taken from the rebels [sic] at fort dolison, it is pretty well used up and lays [sic] here for repairs: I saw one hole made by a cannon ball, one ball done good damage, I can tell you, it went us righ [sic] above the lower deck and rideled [sic] last night, that things pretty well. We were told by the Colonel we would leave here today for Tennessee, that we would sail down the Mississippi [sic], to the mouth of the Ohio up the Ohio to the mouth of the Tennessee and up that river a ways and take it afoot to Memfiss [sic]. He said or as much as to say that we wanted to overtake the army that was on their way a attack Memfiss [sic]. This morning we heard that we would go down the river to island no 10 where we heard last night there was a fight going on, we it is the same place where that had a battle some time ago and took so many prisoners.

We are not exactly among the sickess [sic] now, but there are so many here that the officers [sic] will not allow [sic] any pedlers [sic]
to come aboard the boat, for fear that we will get prisioned. O there is another thing I must tell you, I have seen a number of boats go up the river with prisoners on, and on the boat we came down on there was two and I had a little talk with one of them, he was a young fellow, a reckless looking being, he pleaded that he was forced in to the rebel army, but I would not beleive a word he said, he had on his uniform, and a mean looking one it was, all light gray. We have got, I beleive 20,000 rounds of ammunition on board which will be distributed to us soon, and we expect that we will have a chance to use them before long I hope so, we were kept in Camp Barker along time, but from there we are on our way to the field of action, and I am glad that we have not got to stay in Camp Benton, as most of the Reg. sent here to St Louis have had to do, a month or so. It is snowing here this morning but I guess before Sunday that we will be in a warmer climate. I cannot write half I want to. Wed. say tell Dr Wats where we are and where we expect to go to. Do not worry if you do not here from me again for some time, but I will write as soon as I have a chance I think that I have not been 15 minutes writing this letter. Love to all my friends good by from your son Franklin H Bailey.

[On top of page 1]
The inhabitants of St Louis say that we are as good a looking Regiment as they have seen, and that they think we will stand our ground with any of them.
Tennessee
March 27th, 1862.

Dear Parents,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I now undertake to write upon a letter. I should have written while on board the boat if I had been able, but I was not. I am in the hospital now, but getting along finely. While on board of the steamer, the boat that we came from St. Louis on, I was taken with the ague, they took very poor care for the sick on the boat, and I could not think, what a difference between being sick in the army, and being sick at home, when I had the ague. I will not read the smelt fish on the other end of the steamer, and when the fever came on, I lie upon the bed in the sick room with my head upon my knapsack, and sweat like a bather. I made a shot like this one, while in St. Louis, which I suppose you got; I do not know how long it will be before this letter will leave camp, but I am sure I would write one and let you know where we are and where the boat will go out on the next boat which leaves here. To find out that we are just beginning to be soldiers, we are camped in a graveyard place about two miles back from the Tennessee river, and twelve or fourteen miles west of Memphis. I have not ascertained the name of this camp, but it is a very long one, it extends for a good many
miles along along the lines, there are men in main camp, all in tents, there is no end to the tents one can see them scattered in all directions as far as we can see, across the river there is an army of 80,000 men, making in all 196,000. I never saw any of the like before, here are boys from nearly all the western states, there is a part of a Regiment camped next to us which had not 200 men & 80 of them having been killed at Fort Donelson, you may depend upon it, that it is so, for our boys have a chance to talk with the them, and last night I saw them out on dress-parade, a little band and not larger than two companies ought to be. The reason we cannot send letters any time we want to, is because but few boats come up as far as this on account of the rebels having fired into boats while coming up. But three or four miles above us on the river is a rebel post, and about 16 miles from us a large army of the rebels. A day or two before we arrived, a party of our scouts run on to a party of the rebels and drove them clear out of their camp, and then sent back to our camp as fast as possible; this morning a party of our cavalry went out scouting, they had not returned yet. I wish that I could describe our camp to you so that you might know a little how it looked, I will try and do a little toward it each Regiment has a piece of ground
by its self, and a little space between each other; each company has five tall round tents pitched in a row, and very closely together for the privates, and at the head of them a square tent for the officers; then there is some 10 or 15 feet between the companies so as to give them room to eat, wash, and so forth; the quarter-master department, and the hospital are off a little one side. The weather, how is it that I have written so much and said nothing about it. I expected while on the way here to see pretty mason weather, but I did not expect to see it so very hot, it seems to me that it is nearly as warm here now, as it is there in the middle of summer; but I suppose that it is on account of coming from so cold a place into a warm one, without getting broken in by degrees. The vegetation does not appear to be as far along as the weather; however, the grass is green, but not very tall yet, the trees are leaving out, and some kinds are in blossom; right beside our hospital, there are a number of peach in blossom, they look sweet I can tell upon. I wish that I could describe our journey to you, and right all that I saw on the way here, I will tell you a little remover, and then if I ever come home I can tell a long story. Our Colonel or Assistant Colonel I am not sure which told me that those men of us, who lived through it would go home by the way of New York or Baltimore.
I had the pleasure of seeing Birds Eye Point, I have read so much about; our boat stopped there quite a while; the army which was there has nearly all left and gone further south, but one or two hundred men are there now, and a few wounded guards. From Birds eye Point we went across to Cairo, and stayed for a little while; we passed about along side of the fort on the point as we had a good chance, took right down into the fort and saw it all. At Cairo I saw a gun boat, the first I ever saw. It looked savage I can tell you. The river at its junction is 25 feet higher than usual, the Tennessee and Ohio rivers are higher than the Captain of the boat said he ever saw them before. The city of Cairo is surrounded by a large and it would be all ear-splattered; a small part of it however is fee water and they have small boats to get from Cairo to house, I saw them myself. The water is pumped out by steam pumps, but that they say is quite fine to get it all out. From the mouth of the Ohio into Lost River, and to not know fine as the banks and are one often for as far as we could see. There are some places lined along the river where there are high bluffs and almost perpendicular sound of rocks, sound with their stones and sand, and bounded by the sandbanks of Shelby Bridge which it is against the law to build upon. I saw some pretty house built along the river, boats docked and some of the articles left on top of them, and hence I saw, where the waters had reached the land. A great many horses were spread out by water and the folk had small boats to get water, more. The house in my sight was old and I cannot bring my little to a close. I will write to Emma I guess and send it in this same letter. The news is all the enemy being long in the point it is so. In the morning stand on hill back longer, some of the men's hear fire whenarrison (the General gives them orders). Do not worry about me at all for I think that I shall be able in some sort battle, it will surely be very large or lager, the army battle that I have yet been tonight, and I will remain out of all of it. Probably can. Give my love to all my friends. Write me as often as possible and tell you how directed on a separate piece of paper. Good day for the present join after son.
(P.S.) Direct, if you please, in as plain a hand as you can to

Franklin W. Bailey
Army of Eastern Tennessee.
Dear Parents,

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I now undertake to write you a letter; I should have written while on board the boat if I had been able, but I was not; I am in the hospital now, but getting along finely.

While on board of the Meteor, the boat that we came from St. Louis on, I was taken with the ague, they had a very poor place for the sick on the boat, and I could not help thinking, what a difference between being sick in the army, and being sick at home; when I had the chills I sit beside the smock-pipe on the upper-deck; and when the fever came on I lie upon the floor in the sick room with my head upon the rest of the day full my knapsack, and sweat like a butcher. I wrote a sheet like this one while in St. Louis which I suppose you got; I do not know how long it will be before this letter will leave camp, but I thought I would write one and let you know where we are and the letter will go out on the next boat which leaves here.

I find that we are just beginning to be soldiers; we are camped in a beautiful place about two miles back from the south of Savannah, Tennessee river, and twelve or fourteen miles north of the look on the map and you will see, that we are within 6 miles of Henry. I have not ascertained the name of this camp, but it is Alabamah a very large one it extends for a good many miles along the river; there are 16,000 men in our camp, all in tents there is no end to the tents we can see them scattered in all directions as far as we can see; across the river there is an army of 80,000 men, making in all 196,000. I never saw any of the like before, here are Reg.'s part of a Regiment camped next to us which has but 200 men
800 of them having been killed at fort donison; you may depend upon it, that it is so, for our boys have a chance to talke [sic] withe them, and last night I saw them cut on dress-perade[sic]; a little band not larger than two companies ought to be. The reason we cannot mail letters any time we want to, is because but few boats come up as far as this on account of the rebel rebels having fired into boats while coming up. But three or four miles above us on the river is a rebel post, and about 16 miles from us a larg [sic] army of the rebels. A day or two before we arrived[sic], a party of our scouts ran onto [sic] a party of the rebels and drove them cleare [sic] in to their camp, and then put back, to our camp as forst [sic] as posible; this morning 200 of our cavalry went out scouting, they have not returned yet. I wish that I could describe our camp to you, so that you might know a little how it looked; I will try and do a little toward it; each Regiment has a piece of ground quite a [sic] by its selfe[sic], and a little space between eachother; each company has five tall round tents, pitched in a row, and very closely together; for the privates, and at the head of a row a square tent for the offcers [sic]; then there is some 10 or 15 feet between the companies so as to give them room to cloak, wash, and so-forth; the quarter-masters department, and the hospital are off a little one side. The weather, how is it that I have witen [sic] so much and said nothing about it. I expected while on the way here to see pretty warm weather, but I did not expect to see it so very hot, it seames [sic] to me that it is nearly as warm here now, as it is there in the middle of summer; but I suppose that it is on account of coming from as cold a place into a warm one, without geting [sic] broke in by
degrees. The agitation does not appear to be as far along as the weather; however the grass is green, but not very tall yet, the trees are leaving out, and some kinds are in blossom; right beside our hospital there are a number of peach trees in blossom, they look sweet I can tell you. I wish that I could describe our journey to you, and wright all that I saw on the way here, I will tell you a little however, and then if I ever come home I can tell along yarn. Our Colonel or Lient. Colonel I am not sure which told us that those men of us, who lived through it would go home by the way of New York or Baltamore [sic]. I had the pleasure of seeing Birds Eye Point, I have read so much about; our boat stoped [sic] there quite a while; the army which was there has nearly all left and gone farther south, but one or two hundred men are there now, and a few mounted guns. From Birds ey [sic] Point we went across [sic] to Cairo, and stoped [sic] for a little while; we pased [sic] clost [sic] along side of the fort on the point so we had a good chance to look right down into the fort and see it all. At Cairo I saw a gun boat, the first I ever saw it looked savage I can tell you. The river at the junction is 25 feet higher than usual; the Tennessee and Ohio rivers are higher than, the Captain of the boat sais [sic] that he ever saw them before. The city of Cairo is surrounded by a ldy or it would be all over-flowed; a small part of it however is in water and they have small boats to get from house to house, I saw them my selfe, the water is pumped out by team pumps, but that they say some time to get it all out. From the mouth of the Ohio up to fort Henry, and I do not how far above us the banks are over-flowed for as far back as we could see. There were some places however along the river where there are high bluffs
and almost perpendicular formed of rocks covered with trees and shrubs and inhabited by thousandes [sic] of Turkey buzzards [sic], which it is against the law to kill, in this country. I saw some pretty hard sight along the river, houses deserted and some of the articles left on top of [sic] them, one house I saw, where the water [sic] had reached the eaves. A great many houses were opened in by water and the folds had small boats to get nearly water wood to the house in. My sheet is \[ full and I must bring my letter to a close, I will write to Emma I guess and send it in the same letter; We expect to attack the enemy before long for it is so hot that we can not stand it here much longer, none of the officers [sic] know however when untill [sic] the General gives them orders. Do not worry about me at all for I think that I shall be able to go in the battle, it will probably [sic] be as large [sic] or larger than any battle that has yet been fought, and I am bound to be in it if I posibly [sic] can. Give my love to all my friends. Wright [sic] as soon as you recive [sic] this, I teel you how to direct on a separate piece [sic] of paper.

Good By for the present from your son. in the army.

[On separate piece of paper]

(P.S.) Direct, if you please, in a plain a hand as you [sic] can
to

    Franklin H. Bailey

    Co. D. 12th Reg. Mich;Inf;

    Army of Western Tennessee.

[On the back of this separate piece of paper]

    Co, D. 12 th Reg Mich Inf Army of Western Tennessee
Savannah, April 3d, 1861.

Dear Parents,

I hope this note finds you well and that you are not worried about me, as I am still in good health. I have heard of the terrible battles at Fredericksburg, Virginia, and in Richmond. It is said that Union forces have come within a few miles of losing my life against many times. One will hear of the battles before you get this letter, and probably most of the fighting will be at Petersburg. I am not afraid of any undertaking to describe it, for you should not be beyond your powers.
I have read, and heard tales of the battle-field, but last Saturday morning & saw them myself; and although I have been in the service nearly 6 months, it was the first battle I have seen and as it will be the last one. O how a sight, it almost makes me shudder to think of it, although at the time, I did not think any more of seeing a man shot down by my side than you would of seeing a dumb beast, killed. Strange to say, I never pray you, but the more men I saw, the more reckless I became, when Sergeant Galt (not Gate) who was the first man hit in the battle and the third next to me on my right hand, was shot. I was so enraged I could have
store the heart out of the rebel could I have reached him.

The 12th Regt of Gren. Inf. were a part of the 12. and 2 companies of 3rd Regt. I should have said, nine were sent out skirmishing about three o'clock Sunday and reached the rebel's camp just before daylight. We were ordered to meet us, and be ready for action, we returned the fire and then commenced the battle, we with less than 250 men and they with at last 700, in the course of 3 hours (they not knowing our strength) when they got reinforcements and dumoniac.

That was the beginning of the great battle it lasted about an hour and a half, I should think 3 times a piquing to what it was in the early morning hours. There was one missed piece of artillery and musketry,
1828

I would have General Weiss conduct 23,000 men and 1,000 horses, but a few miles from the battle-ground: they all in my opinion, the rebels having to seek another line of battle in the mean time. Weiss, with a few thousand men, can hold the field and keep up a defense as long as the morning sun will shine. The enemy now is in the rear and will make the attack. I am writing to you to give you the necessary instructions before we go back after 10 o'clock according to.

Storms through were annoying at the time. Some Petworths brought in to carry the mail. General nan developed the place has been taken by the rebels. This morning the gates are found in the possession of the rebels. They are leading their own affairs as if it were not deeded to them. They must hear this. It is not far back that the enemy is.
I said that I was not going to try to describe the battle, but I could not help saying a little about it. One thing more about what the rebels had started, but we will come to that. In their camp not only in the camp but clear across the camp, and then set fire to it, burning up some of our men and wounded, which we could not get out of their way.
I lost every thing that I
had, my knapsack, haversack
canteen, sperceout, fatigue
blanket, in fact every thing
that I had with me
I now had but one suit
of clothes and then no one.
Tell Hellen Clark that
I had a long letter on my
knapsack ready to mail
before, but the rebels have
confiscated it. I haven't a
shirt. I must now tell you how
I came to be in the battle
and now near Freeman's
being here.
The captain told me that I was not able to carry on, being sick nearly two weeks before the battle) to go, and actually refused to give me any cartridges, but by the help of our orderly sergeant I got some of a sick man who was not able to go. Lieutenant MacIver said glad to say is safe, and while I was last evening for I saw him down here at Sancaraka. I have he told by general.
that he acted full as bravely on the battle field as any of the officers. He has had the name, in our company, of being more calm and self-possessed than any other officer, in fact, the boys all say they like him more and more every day.

It has been with a great deal of trouble that I got the papers and envelope, I tried all day yesterday to find them but I was not able to get along but a few words at a time this morning.
I started out today to search for snake poison, there is not a stove or hearth at the house all been converted into hospital beds for the wounded. This morning I could not buy any thing to eat, everything had been snatched up. In the afternoon yesterday crackers and such as you could buy for 10 cents a pound were selling for 10 cents a dozen. I could not think it hard to have nothing to eat, but small crackers and a piece of ham, but it is harder...
not to have any thing.

Please don't show this letter to any one, you I am ashamed of it.

Write as soon as you receive this, and keep what I forgot this.

Mendenhall in safe and sound.

I expect, he was the last I heard of him, at least.

Tell me, my dear, you got a letter from me, written since I came here to Tennessee.

Good look into your papers.

Yours affectionately,

S. T. Bailey.
For fear that you did not get my last letter, I will send you the others again.
Franklin the 10th 
by De 18th Sepemb. 
In the Army of western 
Tennessee.
Savannah April 8th 1862

Dear Parents,

As I was aware that you would be worrying about me, as soon as you heard of the terrible battle at Pittsburg Landing, I thought that I would write a few lines to let you know that I am alive and unhurt, although I came within a few inches of losing my life, a great many times.

You will hear of the battle long before you get this letter, and probably most of the particulars, so there is no need of my undertaking to describe it, for I could not if I should, it would be beyond my power. I have read and heard tell of the battle-field, but last Sunday morning I was there myselfe; and although I have been in the service nearly 6 months, it was the first battle I have seen, and I hope that it will be the last one. O what a sight, it almost makes me shudder to think of it, although at the time, I did not think any more of seeing a man shot down by my side than you would of seeing a dumb beast killed. Strange it may seem to you, but the more men I saw killed the more reckless I became; when George Gates (not Gage) who was the first man shot in the battle, and he stood next to me on my right hand, was shot I was so enraged I could have tore the heart out of the rebel could I have reached him.

The 12th Regt. of Mich. Inf. were the first men in the companies of another I should have said fight, we were sent out skurrying about three o'clock Sunday morning and reached the rebels' camp just before daylight, they were out to meet us, and began to fire into us, we
April 8, 1863 - page 2

returned the fire and then commenced sic( the battle, we with less
than 1,000 men and they with at least 5,000. we drove them 3 times
(they not knowing our thought) when they got reinforcements sic(
and drove us. That was the begining sic( of the great battle
it lasted about an hour and a half, I should think; it was not a
priming sic( to what it was when the main armys sic( met; there
was one imcesive sic( roar of artillary and musketry, so loud
that General Bueells men heard it 23 miles of sic( , and thought
it was but a few miles from them. This battle raged very hot all
day sunday, the rebels having the upper sic( hand of us. Sunday
a part of night General Bueells sic( division reached the field and the
rest kept pouring in all day monday. Monday morning the sic(
renewed the attack but we were too much for them. We drove them
back about 10 miles monday.

Steam boats were running all the time from Pitsbough sic(
down to Savannah sic(, with the wounded, and Savannah sic( is
full of them. Every house in the place has been taken for hos-
pitals. This morning the boats are bringing in the prisoners.
Whether they are fighting or not I dont sic( know, if they are
it is so far back that we cannot hear them from here.

I said that I was not going to try to describe the battle,
but I could not help saying a little about it. One thing more,
about noon the rebels had drove our men back to their camp, not
only to the camp but clear throug sic( the camp, and then, set
fire to it burning up some of our sick and wounded, which we
could not get out of their way. I lost everything that I had,
my knapsack, haversack canteen, overcoat, fatigue coat, blanket;
in fact every thing that I had with me I now have but one suit of cloths )sic( and them on me. Tell Hellen Clark that I had a long letter in my knap sack ready to mail for her, but the rebels have burnt it up. I must now tell you how I came to be in the battle and how near I came to not being there.

The captain told me that I was not able (having been sick for nearly two weeks before the battle) to go, and actualy )sic( refused to give me any catriges )sic(, but by the help of our orderly Sergant )sic( I got some of a sick man who was not able to go. Lieutenant )sic( Mc day I am glad to say is safe, and whole, or was last evening for I saw him down here at Savannah )sic(. I have be )sic( told by a number that he acted full as bravely on the battle field as any of the oficers )sic( he has had the name, in one company, of being more calm and self-possed )sic( than any other oficer )sic(, in fact the boys all say they like him more and more every day.

It has been with a great deal of trouble that I got this paper and envelope, I tried all day yesterday to find some but I was not able to get along but a few rods at a time, this morning I started out again to search of some paper, There is not a store in Savannah )sic( they have all been converted into hospitals for the wounded. This morning I could not buy any thing to eat, everything has been eaten up. yesterday crackers such as you could buy for 10 cents a pound were selling for 10 cents a dozen. I used to think it hard to have nothing to eat but 4 army crackers and a small peace )sic( of ham, but I find it is harder not to have anything. Please do not show this letter to any one, for I
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am ashamed of it. Write as soon as you receive sic this, one thing more I forgot Wet. Mendenhall is safe and sound I expect, he was the last I heard of him, at least. Tell me in your letter whether you got a letter from me, written since I came here to tennessee. Good by from your son

F. H Bailey.

For feer sic that you did not get my last letter I will send you the direction again.

Franklin H Bailey

Co. D. 12th Regiment, Inf.

Army of western Tennessee.
A soldier's letter describing the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing. This was written by a boy of 17, Private Franklin N. Bailey, Twelfth Michigan Infantry after his first baptism of fire. His mention of leaving a sick bed, and taking bullets from another sick soldier so that he could join in the battle is typical of the reckless bravery of the boys on both sides. His reactions to his experiences are those one might expect of a lad of his age.