Correspondence

Nov.-Dec. 1861
(Pendent part of first letter from person first rendezvous at Bruswick, N. B.  
On envelope was—Nov. 1 '61)

Please write as soon as you get this, for we may leave at any moment, and we may not leave for much, as I should have said, either of the telems are nearer to the sea than what they were, and I hope they are so much better suited to me for if Reid in the military scale I must spend the rest of my time studying it, and that I cannot do without the books which will cost $1,500; there is but 2 in the company one the Captains, and the other belongs to a boy that is afraid to let anyone else see it at $200 now might be worth hundreds of dollars to me, and I suppose that you see nothing without any telling again.)
You must stop without much ceremony or I will not get in office in time. Tell the girls the reason I cannot invite if you will. Tell Emmie to write home to all good news from your affectionate son

Franklin Bailey
[ Probably part of first letter home from first rendezvous at Grass Lake Mich. On envelope was——Nov. 1, '61 ]

Please writte[sic] as soon as you get this, for we may leave at any moment, and we may not leave for weeks, or days I should have said. Father if the times are any easir with[sic] you than what they were,(and I hope they are) a little money would be worth a great deal to me, for if I rise in the military scale I must spend the most of my time studying it, and that I cannot do with out the books which will cost $1.50, there is but 2 in the company, one the Captains[ sic], and the other belongs to a boy that is afraid to let any one else see it. $2.00 now might be worth hundred's of dollars to me, and I suppose that you see why without my telling you. I must stop with out much seromony[ sic] or I will not get it in ofice[ sic] in time tell the girls the reason I cannot write if you will, tell Emma to write, love to all good by, from your affectionate son.

Franklin Bailey
Jackson, Nov. 13th 1761,

Dear Parents,

I received your kind letter of the 3d., the 10th I think it was. I was very glad to hear from you, and I should have written to you before had it not been contrary to my Captains wishes. He wanted that I should wait, and not write, to go home untill after he had been to Adrian and secured the papers that held me. which he done yesterday, and now I am just to see whether Dick Wats goes or not.

Father, if you remember how the papers read upon you will see at a glance that I am all right whether Dick goes or not, for upon signing the papers which gave me leave to go in the company of which some of your captains were, Captains, and Dick Wats first Lieutenant, but Dick
is not yet an officer he has only
had the promise of the office, which
he will get when the company gets
full, which will be before long
thing, for they are coming in 3 or 4
almost every day. The Stonemason
gave me 3 weeks from last Sunday
to fill up our company in, if not
in that time we cannot go on the
10th Reg. Garrison in about dreamed
there is not hardly a man in
Garrison yet to make a soldier of
they have almost all gone, and
there is a town ship out west
of here, where they have all went
except one water, as I should have
said that one water went in the
town, God bless that town, may
the whole north do equally as well
if needed. Our Captain, it as
nice young man as you find
every day, and you seldom find
a smarter one, he is a lawyer
and was admitted into the bar ab-
out a year ago, and he might have
had his company fall long ago if
he had taken every one that came
along, but he wants a company
of good respectable young men
such as we have here now, and
he will have them if he can get
find them, whether we go in the
10UBY or not, he won't take an
oaking man in the company, and
d out of the 20 men now here but
3 or 4 ever swore and then not of L
when they do they are twisted of
it. I do not know if but 2 tobacco chum-
ners in the company, so you may
make up your mind that we will
have a crack company, and a well
drilled one too. I cannot borne
some water till after we get to
Shirlet at any rate and then
but once, we will get our uniforms as soon as we go to Flint, we will get there as soon as we get enough men in, over 110 men have enlisted in our company, and 64 is all we need in order to draw our uniforms, but we want more. If we can get them, all we have to do is get them in to send a corporal guard after them, but it takes a good while where they are so scattered in order to get them, some of our men are about 40 miles away from us, some of the others are formed into a corporal guard to bring in men, so we have but a few here now. I got this paper about 29 this morning I think instead of 30. The captain says that we may leave for Flint say the middle of next week, and not know what we will do, one day before another.
Jackson. Nov. 16th 1861.

Dear Parents,

I received your kind letter of the 3rd, the 10th I think it was. I was very glad to hear from you, and I should have written to you before had it not been contrary to my Captains wishes.

He wanted that I should wait and not write, nor go home until after he had been to Adrian and secured the papers that held me, which he done yesterday, and now I am first whether Dick Watts goes or not.

Father if you remember how the papers read you will see at a glance that I am all right whether Dick goes or not, for you signed the papers which gave me leave to go in the company of which James Mcclay was Captain, and Dick Watts first Lieutenant; but Dick is not yet an officer he has only had the promise of the office, which he will get when the company gets full, which will be before long I think, for they are coming in 3 or 4 almost every day. The Governor gave us 3 weeks from last Sunday to fill up our company in, if not in that time we cannot go in the 10th Reg. Jackson is about dreamed there is not hardly a man in Jackson fit to make a soldier of they have almost all gone, and there is a township out west of here, where they have all left except one voter, or I should have said there is but one voter left in the town. God bless that town, my the whole north do equally as well if needed. Our Captain is as nice a young man as you find every day, and you seldom find a smarter one, he is a lawyer and was admitted into the bar about a year ago, and he might have had his company full long ago if he had taken every one that came along, but he wants a company of good respectable young men such as we have here now, and he will have them if he can find them, whether we
go in the 10th Reg. or not. He wont [sic] take a drinking man in the
company, and out of the 30 men now here but 3 or 4 ever swore [sic] and
them not often when they do they are twitted of it. I do not know of
but 2 tobacco chewers in the company, so you may make up your mind that
we will have a crack company, and a well drilled one to [sic]. I cannot
come home untill [sic] after we get to Flint at any rate and then but
once. We will get our uniforms as soon as we get to Flint. We will
get there as soon as we get enough men in, over 110 men have enlisted
in our company, and 64 is all we need in order to draw our uniforms but
we want more if we can get them, all we have to do is to send a corprals [sic]
guard after them but it takes a good while where they are so scatered [sic]
in order to get them, some of our men are out enlisting, others on furlow [sic],
others are formed into a corprals [sic] guard to bring in men, so we have
gut a few here now, 29 this morning I am told insted [sic] of 30. The
Captain says that we may leave for Flint by the midale [sic] of next
week, we do not know what we will do, one day before another.
Jackson Nov. 17, 1861

5th Clock Monday Nov. 17, 1861

Dear Mother & Father,

My eldest son is going to Adrian tomorrow. I thought that I would send a few lines by him. I wrote a letter to arrive Saturday, but I saw that I did not get it in the office letter after the mail was read out. Mr. Menchel and I myself have been to Miss Jones a few times. He went to see Caroline, and I went to see someone else. We are getting along nicely without drilling today. The Captain is coming to see his Ladys Love, his better half, his son, his wife, and do you understand this.
Let others do what they please. I am afraid that by the time I come to bed tonight, the bucket which I bought me a pair of shoes by the time I received them, I thought they were not worth taking, if I guess I shall have to throw them away, as I cannot afford to carry them to Shiloh and then back home, the bell is ringing, I must go to supper.

Tuesday morning, I have just finished my breakfast and as there is a few minutes before we commence drilling, I will write a few more words, or scratch my paper a little more. The sun is just peeping at my window now, over the buildings at the east, as I am now in my room in the third story of Stanton's Exchange. This is a beautifully ...

[^]
bound to be a Soldier, a soldier 3 months I cannot write at all, morning and I cannot stay in my room much longer at you should see our sleeping rooms, the beds stand as close to each other as to just give us room to get in between them, which we have to do a 6 o'clock P.M. and out at 5:30 A.M. I find the hardest rule we have is to rise up to stay in the barrack room at what time we are obliged to. I can put up with almost every thing but getting still and doing nothing, it is about impossible to read or study in the barrack room when the soldiers are there, there is such confusion, and I cannot read or write in the commissary as I cannot get lights and there are.
will be both true to you, and his country now and forever quietly
sustain honor of the day that we cannot leave the building, so here we are, I forgot to
tell you we have organized a debating school in our company, and we have a
hall in the city to meet in an empty store rather.
It is about time I went down stairs (as I will have a corporal's guard after me)
to commence drilling which we do on the fair grounds and a splendid place it is.
But Adrian grounds all out. Please write soon before we leave the place and send me some stamps.
If you can, give my love to all inspiring friends, from your ever true loving mother.
Jackson  Nov. 17, 1861

5½ O clock Monday, Nov. 17th or 18th '61

Dear Mother & Father,

As Adelbert Jones is going to Adrian tomorrow I thought that I would send a few lines by him. I wrote a letter to you saturday [sic] but I guess that I did not get it in the office [sic] untill [sic] after the mail was maid [sic] out. Mr. Mendenkall and myself have been to Mrs. Jones a number of times, he went to see Overline, and I went to see someone else. We are geting [sic] along nicely [sic] with our drilling today Lieut. Chieftain drilled us as the Captain is away, to see his Laday-love, his better half, his frow, his wife, now do you understand me.

Sutuarday [sic] the Lieut'. bought me a pair of shoes my boots having given out and I thought they were not worth taping I guess [sic] I shall have to throw them away, as I cannot afford [sic] to cary [sic] them to Flint and then back home. The bell is ringing I must go to supper.

Tuesday morning I have just finished my breakfast and as there is a few minutes before we comence [sic] drilling I will write a few more words, or scratch my paper a little more. The sun is just peeping in at my window, over the buildings at the east of us, I am now in my room in the third story of Stanton's Exchange. This is a beautifull [sic] morning and I cannot stay in my room much longer you should see our sleeping rooms, the beds stand as close to each other as to just give us room to get in between them, which we have to do a [sic] 8 o clock [sic] P. M. and out at 5.30 AM. I find the hardest rule we have to live up to is staying in the barroom what time we are obliged to. I can put up with almost every thing but sitting still and dosing [sic] nothing, it is
about impossible to read or study in the bar room when the soldiers are there, there is such confusion, and I cannot read or write in the eve-
ing [sic] as I cannot get lights, and there are surfen [sic] hours [sic] of the day that we cannot leave the building, so here we are. I forgot to tell you we have orgermised [sic] a debateing [sic] school in our company, and we have a hall in the city to meet in, and empty stoer [sic] rather. It is about time I went down staires [sic] (or I will have a corprulls [sic] guard after me) to commence [sic] drilling, which we do on the Fair grounds and a splended place it is beets [sic] Adrian grounds all out. Please write soon before we leave the place, and send me some stamps if you can. give my love to all injnering [sic] friends. from [sh] your ever true son, who I trust (top of the page) will be both true to you, and his country now and forever goodbye.

[on top of middle pages:]

Let others be what they cheus [sic] I am bound to bee [sic] a Soldier. I am afraid [sic] that by the time I am a soldier, 3 months I cannot write at all.
Jackson Nov 23rd 1861

Dear Mother.

On account of the snow storm we are not drilling and I thought that I would improve the time in writing to you. If you think as much of a letter from me as I do from you you would be glad of one every day. This morning when I arose and looked out of the window the ground was covered with snow and it has been snowing & blowing all the forenoon. It is very cold here in my room in the attic but still I had rather sit here and read or write than sit in the barroom a train of cars has just passed by. Under my window a little to the left and at the right runs the train
Tull stream called the grand river; it is as clear as a crystal, I had a delightful ride and at the other day with my friend tphq in a little skiff, we sounded some of the grand river falls, that were now completely covered with spray. There comes another train, the enemy has dropped in only surrender and consider, to work up, I guess it comes terribly, it is the Defiance, by reason quite an observatory, it is quite delightful but it is not home, and she thinks the 8 may never again see home. Although we expect to in the cove of St. Louis, Daines must perhaps own, the Captain told me (about ancasecmp that next Sunday we are to leave packers for Fort Wayne, probably we shall not go to St. Louis at all, but I am
do not know you need not write again until I write to you and let you know where I am. And when you do write I have Fatty and Emma both to write. Tell Mother that I am afraid he is offended at me, for my agree- ing with the Captain that Emma should have a plan for her to secure the papers of Dick, when he escaped through Adrian, which he said, but I could not bear the thought of leaving my company. I am determined to live a soldier 3 years of my country need that long or 4. I have been looking out of the window for the last 15 minutes at the snow, and the whole company were wrestling, sliding, and tumbling in the snow, while Pinkewell went to Mendehall changing his
cloths to go and see Evelina Jones. I must postpone until tomorrow and go down to supper on Sunday, unless it gets very cold.

This morning attended meeting and Sunday-school, at the Presbyterian church.

It has been snowing all the morning (although very fine) and a quite a mountain are out sleigh-riding already, sleighing is very good. Supper being prepared, in the close, till the Rev. Clark that I have not forgot about potatoes, and if he did not come from town at dining time, I will write him a long letter. There are plenty of books to read, until dinner comes; hence, I have been in packets or giving any letter to all incoming friends. Goodnight from yours, son Franklin S. Bailey.

P.S. Please direct any letter to Franklin S. Bailey.
Jackson Nov. 23rd 1861,

Dear Mother,

On account [sic] of the snow-storm we are not drilling today, and I thought that I would improve the time in writing to you; if you think as much of a letter from me as I do from you, you would be glad of one every day. This morning when I arose and looked out of the window the ground was covered with snow, and it has been snowing and blowing all the forenoon, it is very cold here in my room in the attic, but still I had rather sit here and read, or write than sit in the barroom, a train of cars has just passed [sic] by under my window, a little to the left, and at the right runs the beautiful stream called the grand river; it is as clear as a crystal. I had a delightfull [sic] ride on it the other day with my friend Hurleyer [sic], in a little skiff. we rowed so near the grand river falls, that we were completely covered with spray. there comes another train, the Engine has stoped [sic] nearly under my window to wood up I guess it smokes terribly, it is the Defiance. My room is quite an observatory, it is quite delightfull [sic] but it is not home, and to think that I may never again see home, (although I expect to in the course of 3 or 4 weeks) almost makes me shudder [sic]. The Captain told me, (about an hour ago)that next Tuesday we are to leave pack for Fort Wayne, probably we shall not go to Flint at all, but we do not know; you need not write again untill [sic] I write to you and let you know where we are. And when you do write have Father and Emma both write. Tell Father that I am afraid he is offended, at me, for my agreeing with the Captain that it would be a good plan for him to secure the papers of Dick, when he passed [sic] through Adrian, which he did, but I could not bear the thought
of leaving the company. I am determined to live a soldier 3 years (if my country need that long) or die. I have been looking out of the window for the last 10 or 15 minute [sic] at the boys, nearly the whole company were wrestling, and tumbling [sic] in the snow, while I am writing; and Mendenhall is changeing [sic] his clothes [sic] to go and see Eveline Jones. I must postpone untill [sic] tomorrow [sic] and go down to supper.

Sunday 2 o clock P M, Nov. 24th

This morning I attended meeting and sunday-school, at the Plymouth church. It has been snowing all the forenoon, although very fine, and a quite a number are out sleigh-riding already. sleighing is very good. I must bring my letter to a close, tell Hellen Clark that I have not forgot my promise, and if I do not come home soon after ariveing [sic] at the fort I will write her a long letter. I have been expecting to come home, untill [sic] now ever since we have been in Jackson. give my love to all inquering [sic] friends. Good night from your son Franklin H. Bailey.

PS. please direct any letters to Franklin H. Bailey.
Fort Wayne, Detroit, Dec. 12th 1861,

Affectionate Father.

After waiting a long time, in order to find out more of the particulars about our company, I now improve this opportunity to write to you. Yesterday I was quite unwell, and today not fit for duty caused by getting wet while standing on guard night before last.

During the night I stood on the corner of the fort 6 hours, 2 hours at a time, the first time it rained very hard, and I was pretty well soaked. Tomorrow I shall have to go on again, the reason we have to stand so often is, there is but two companies in the fort, and the Fort must be taken care of as much as though there was a whole regiment here.
Clothing required of denizens of the city.

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dirt out of the fort, and I had to go as well as I was, but I was relieved at 3 o'clock, and I will try to finish my letter.

Another reason why we do not go to Flint is this; if we go there our company will be consolidated with other companies that are in the same condition we are, that is only part full, in that case our 34 young men would be mixed with old men, and our Captain wants nothing but young men in the company, the majority of our 34 men are between 17 & 21 years old.

About my coming home, you probably know, or would if you had read the Detroit Free Press that we are deprived of what other soldiers have had, that is free passes home, and if I come home I must pay my own way home.
Please write as soon as you receive this, and a long letter if convenient.

about our pay, the state pay is very uncertain, it is good enough, but on account of the treasury being delayed, we must wait for it. We do not expect to get any of if it be quite next summer at any rate.

Our government pay we will not get until after we have been sworn in to U.S. service two months.

We will be sworn in to U.S. service as soon as our company gets fully and we join the Regt. so you see I cannot come home without you send me the money, and not at all without you send it before our company gets fully, for we are not allowed to leave after we are sworn into U.S. service.

I must bring my letter to close by sending my best respects to you, from your affectionate son.

Franklin V. Bailey

Affectionate Father.

After waiting a long time, in order to find out more of the particulars about our company, I now improve this opportunity to write to you. Yesterday I was quite unwell, and today not fit for duty caused by getting [sic] wet while standing on guard night before last, during the night I stood on the corner of the Fort 6 hours, 2 hours at a time, the first time it rained very hard, and I was pretty well soaked. Tomorrow I shall have to go on again, the reason we have to stand so often, is because there is but two companies in the Fort, and the Fort must be taken care off [sic] as much as though there was a whole regiment here.

The reasons that we are here in the Fort, and without our clothing, instead of being at Flint, (the 10th Reg. rendezvous) and have our clothing, and equipments are these, as nigh as I can ascertain [sic]; if we go to Flint, or if we stay here and draw the uniforms that belong to the 10th Reg., we shall have to stay in that Reg. which will probably [sic] never [sic] leave the State, but if we wait until [sic] our company is full, and it gets full in time we shall go into the 12th Reg. which will probably [sic] go direct to Washington into the U S service [sic], instead of the state service.

It is now a little after 3 o clock, I wrote the forepart of my letter this noon; while I was writing Sargent Baker came up here, and ordered me down stairs to wheeling dirt out of the Fort, and I had to go unwell as I was, but I was relived [sic] at 3 o clock, and I will try to finish my letter.
Another reason why we do not go to Flint is this; if we go there our company will be consolidated [sic] with other compays [sic] that are in the same conditon we are, that is only part full, in that case our ¾ young men would be mixed with old men, and our Captain wants [sic] boys nothing but young men in the company; the majority of our ¾ men- are between 17 & 21 years old.

About my coming home, you probably [sic] know, or would if you had in other Regs. read the Detroit Free Press that we are disparrived of what other soldiers have had, that is free-passes home, and if I come home I must pay and back.

About our pay; the state pay is very uncertain, it is good enough, but on account [sic] of the treasury being drained we must wait for it. We do not expect to get any of it [sic] it before next summer at any rate. Our government pay we will not get until [sic] after we have been sworn in to [sic] U.S. service [sic] two months. We will be sworn in to U.S. service [sic] as soon as our company gets full, and we join the Reg. so you see I cannot come home without you send [sic] me the [sic] money, and not at all without you send it before our company gets full, for we are not allowed [sic] to leave after we are sworn into U.S. service [sic]. I must bring my letter to a close by sending my best respects to you, from your affectionate son.

Franklin H. Bailey

[top of last page]

Please write as soon as you recive [sic] this, and a long letter if convenient.
Fort Wayne  
Dec 17th 1800

Dear Mother

Amid all the noise of our camp, I take my pencil in hand to write a few lines to you. I recall your and Father's kind letter and all the overcoat you sent me. I was glad of the coat, but my heart leapt with joy when on putting my hand into the pocket, I found a letter there. I think more of that letter than I would of a gold-watch. I am very sorry that you are so destitute of money, not for my sake only, but for all of yours. You said that it was very sold there, it is here, also, the first or 2 or 3 days of the week. It was quite warm, and one might it rained very hard, but it has turned cold again, and that is the worst of it. The most of our company are in want of clothes to keep them warm. I have to spend a great deal of my time mending.
Two dollars per month is to be retained from the pay of each and 18.4 cents per month from all enlisted men, for the purpose of my clothes, my stockings are a little better than none at all, still I suppose that I am well off, to what a great many soldiers are. It may seem strange to you to hear me say that I am suffering for my Country, for my sake, my being so far from the field of action, but still it is so; there are a great many sufferings for the soldier apart from the field of battle, or those caused by being on the field of battle. Still Mother I do not want that you should feel sorry for me, your trials at home are all that you can bear. Nothing, but the thought that I was doing my Country and my God's service, would induce me to live a soldier's life.

Sunday morning Dec 15th.

I should have gone to church at the city 3 miles distant from the camp, this morning, as usual, God I felt able,
private soldier until the expiration of his term of enlistment at the Colburn House, An Act of Congress passed March 13, 1861.

but I did not, so I thought that I would finish my letter. We have just returned from the Battalion drill, no dress parade as it is called, last night the Adjutant Special received orders from the Secretary, that suggested our company very much, they were these:

That every soldier in Fort Wayne should be uniformed immediately. I don't know what to make of it, it looks to me that the Secretary said he had to keep me in the 10th Reg. Our men were desirous of going into the 12th Reg., but they need the clothes as bad as they will not get uniformed. The first lesson that a soldier has to learn is not to grumble, submit to what ever comes, until he learns that lesson. As we'll be a miserable creature. But I must begin to answer your questions; you asked me how I got my washing done. It is by trading writing papers for washing. Previed that we better make the stamps, from a stead, etc. the day after you wrote it. I wish Emma had had a chance to send her. I should like to hear from her. Tell Shadly that I will come home.
and hear him whistle sometimes. I hope
his name for me. It is not a few
since I wrote the first line and half a Few
pages, just as you are telling me to do,
fore me, DO not release prisoners from
the Sixth armed ship at the Fort, and
were ordered to fall in with our guns and
mount them. They were released on condition
that they now took arms against the
grab of our prison and Bury our. I am not
sure again, and were sent in here to
from a part of a Shaw guard, should
England find out too. They belonged
to a landing ship, were unshorn and
Warded attended. Tell Ellen that I am
very sorry that she had found such an un
favorable occasion of me. I shall tell
her her letter, when I receive a word.
O dear, I must not leave enough,
you and remember some some time ago to
write what I want to. Letter
Let letters for these as soon as
we can, for I could not get it all on
Fort Wayne Dec. 14th 3 o clock P.M.

Dear Mother,

Amid all the noise of our camp room I take my pencil in hand to write a few lines to you. I received your and Fathers kind letter and also the overcoat you sent me; I was glad of the coat, but my heart leaped with joy whenon putting my hand into the pocket, I found a letter there, I from home think more of a letter than I would of a gold-watch. I am very sorry that you are so destitute of money, not for my sake only but for all of yours. You said that it was very cold there, it is here also, the first 3 or 4 days of the week it was quite warm, and one night it rained very hard, but it has turned cold again, and that is not the worst of it, the most of our company are in want of clothes to keep them warm. I have to spend a great deal of my time mending my clothes; my stockings are a little better than none at all, still I suppose that I am well, to what a great many soldiers. It may seem strange to you to hear me say that I am suffering for my Country's sake, my being so far from the field of action, but still it is so; there are a great many sufferings for the soldier apart from the field of battle, as those caused by being on the field of battle. Still Mother I do not want that you should feel sorryfull or unhappy for me, your trials at home are all that you can bear. Nothing but the thought that I was doing my Country and my God's service, would induce me to live a soldiers life.

Sunday morning Dec 15th

I should have gone to church at the city 3 miles distant, this morning, as usual, had I felt able, but I did not, so I thought that I would finish my letter. We have just returned from the Battalion drill, or dress parade as it is called. Last night the Adjutant General received orders from the Governor, that surprised our
company very much, they were the Those every soldier in Fort Wayne should be uniformed immediately. I do not know what to make of it, it looks to me that the Governor didn’t keep us in the 10th Reg. Our men were desirous of going into the 12th Reg., but they need the clothes [sic] so bad [sic] they will not grumble. The first lesson that a soldier has to learn is not to grumble, submit to what ever comes un][sic] he learns that lesson he will be a miserable creature.

But I must begin to answer your questions; you asked me how I got my washing done, it is by trading [sic] writing paper for washing, I recived [sic] that letter ith the stamps, from Adelbert, the day after letter you wrote it. I wish Emma had had a chance to send here would like to hear from her. Tell Charley that I will come home and hear him whistle sometime, I hope, kiss Anna for me. It is about 4 hours since I wrote the first line and half on this page; just as I was telling you to kiss Anna for me, 200 released prisoners from the south arived[sic] here at the Fort, and we were ordered to fall in with our guns, and escort them in; they were released on condition that they never took up arms against [sic] the south again, and were sent up here to form a part of a home guard, should England pitch on to us. They belonged to a Cavelery [sic] Reg., were uniformed, and looked splendid [sic]. Tell Hellen that I am sorry that she had formed such an unfavourble [sic] oppinion [sic] of me. I had just sent her letter when I recived yours. O dear. I have not half room enough to write what I want to. Let Father read this letter for there is some news in it for him to. I could not get it all on this sheet.

[Letter continued between lines--writing from bottom of page to the top]

Please write soon as you can find time, and a long letter tell me all the news. Tell Mrs Green and Hellen if you see them, that they must excuse
me for not writing to them, but I will try and write next Sunday [sic], if I do not find time, before. Tell Ellary Strong I am ashamed to write to her she knows why. Give my love to all inquiring[sic] friends. Please write so that I can get a letter this week for a letter is good for what ails me, as the saying is. I have been working hard for about 3 hours to day, I was not able to walk to the city to church this morning, but I had to work, my arm aches[sic] and I must stop writing.

Good night, from your affectionate son.

"Two dollars per month is to be retained from the pay of each private soldier until [sic] the expiration of his term of enlistment and 12½ cents per month from all enlisted men for the support of the "Soldiers Home."

An act of Congress passed May 1st 1861.