Correspondence

Jan.-Feb. 1862
Camp Baker, Jan. 14

Dear Father & Mother,

I learned by Charles Lane, who arrived at the camp this morning, that you felt uneasy about me, by any not having written to you. The reason that I have not written, is because I have been expecting ever since we came here to go home in a day or two. But Colley promised Henderson and myself that we should go as soon as we got our uniforms. 14 large boxes arrived at the depot yesterday containing dress coats, pants, and overcoats; they will be distributed amongst us today; the underclothes are expected here later this week.
If the Lieutenant gets some pay this week, and we get our provisions, I shall come home next week probably, but if he does not get them, I do not see how I can come home at all, for we will go south before we get any pay. The barracks are all ready built for our Regiments so, and three times the 9th Regiment have sent the station to meet us, for they heard that we were coming such a day, but we were not there. Our accoutrements will be here in a few days, we are to have the Austrian rifle and equal to the Enfield, our Colonel received orders from the President to that effect, so we are now of this. If I come home, I can stay but three days, it will take one day to go and one to come back, and they give furloughs for only 5 days.
and then with the condition that
we return at any moment, that
they call on us. It was so cold out
this night before last, at 9 o'clock, the
Thermometer stood at 32° below zero.
Last night it snowed about cinch
deep. We have to dig out on the
grounds. 8 hours a day colder
or worse; almost all the boys have
boots but I have nothing but shoes of
my feet are not as warm all the time.

I have been well since we came
here to camp. Barker, with the exception
of the toothache; I had one tooth pulled
while were at the fort, I have
two more that take their turns
aching, and ache nearly every night.
I must either have them filed or fill
ed when I come home. While we
were at the fort about half of our
company had the measles, all that
had not had them before.
The smallpox is within 4 miles of our camp. The Surgeon is vaccinating the soldiers as fast as he can. Have never had the smallpox. I have been vaccinated, but it does not work, as it ought to, it has been one week since, and I shall have it in the morning. They cannot make one coat to supply all the boys. I shall now try for the 4th time to finish my letter. Finish that you could see our barracks. They are not as tight as I think. Horse barn, they are built of pine boards, braced, and clothed of two apartments. There 100 men each, with a small window at the top, and a door under the window. I slept around the room, slept where the door matter fell, and Sergeant's desk and I am in my bunks the next to the top one trying to write but it is hard work, for the body does not seem together. Our head is break.
without anything to eat on it, and wild meat, and once in a while some beans & rice. I have just been drawing some clothes my pants cost $15 I am not sure if that was for a little hole that went through the bunks in the back side of my bunk. Miss Henderson has mine I mean for me have kept together like a brother ever since we left Adrian. In the daytime whiles during our spin time from rolling it is light on one of our little绕 which is about 10 inches by 2 and fixed with a slide so as to shut up, and lie in our bunks and read our Bibles, and in the evenings except Tuesday, Thursday & Friday evening which are prayer meetings, we lie.
there, and amuse our selves by telling stories, debating on questions, and so forth. I cannot bring any letter to close. Please write as soon as you receive this, both of you, tell me all the news that you can think of, and do not forget to write me from Martha's little is a going along. Give my love to all my anxious friends. Tell the girls that they must not be offended at one for not writing to them, excuse all mistakes and poor writing for it is hard work to write in a room where there are from 75 to 100 women singing, playing fiddles and dancing the cakewalk.

Good by from your own
Franklin Hill, Soldier
sitting in care of Captain Brown
Company A. 11th. Clinches
Niles. Camp Barker, Jan. 14th

Dear Father & Mother,

I learned by Charles Cones, who arrived [sic] at the camp this morning, that you feel uneasy about me, by not having written [sic] to you.

The reason that I have not written [sic] is because I have been expecting ever since we came here to go home in a day or two. Lieut McClay promised Mendenhall and myself that we should go as soon as we go our uniforms. 14 large [sic] boxes arrived [sic] at the depot yesterday, containing dress coats, pants, and overcoats; they will be distributed amongst us today; the undercloths [sic] we expect here the latter part of this week. If the Lieutenant gets some passes this week, and we get our uniforms I shall come home next week, probably, but if he does not get them, I do not see how I can come home at all, for we will go south before we get any pay; the barracks [sic] are all ready built [sic] for our Reg. in Kentucky, and three times the 9th Reg. have been to the station to meet us, for they heard that we were coming such a day, but we were not there. Our accoutrements will be here in a few days, we are to have the Austrian rifel [sic], a rifel equal to the Endfield, our Colonel received [sic] orders from the President to that effect, so we are sure of them. If I do come home I can stay but three days, it will take one day to go and one to come back, and they give furlows for only 5 days and then with the condition that we return at any moment that they call on us. It is very cold out here, night before last, at 9 o'clock the thermometer stood at 32° below zero, last night it snowed about 6 inches deep. We have to drill out on the grounds 8 hours every day cold or warm; almost all the boys have boots but I have nothing but shoes & my feet are wet.
most all the time. I have been well since we came here to Camp Barker, with the exception of the toothache; I had one tooth pulled while we were at the fort; I have two more that take their turns aching, and ache nearly every night. I must either have them filed [sic] or pulled when I come home. While we were at the fort about half of our company had the measles, all that had not had them before. The small-pox is within 4 miles of our camp. The Sergon [sic] is vaccinating the soldiers as fast as he can.

Have I ever had the small pox. I have been vaccinated but it does not work, as it ought to, it has been over a week since, and I shall have to be again; they cannot make it work on some of our boys. I will now try for the 4th time to finish my letter: I wish that you could see our barracks; they are not as tight as Uncle's horsebarn; they are built of pine boards, and bracketed, and divid [sic] of into apartments for 100 men 1 company each, with a small window at the top, end bunks 4 or 5' deep all around the room, except where the door, wetter [sic] pail, and lat Sargent's [sic] desk is. I am in my bunk the next to the top one trying to write but it is hard work, for the bunks are so near together. Our food is bread without anything to eat on it, and biled [sic] meat, and once in a while some beans & rice. I have just been drawing some cloths [sic], my pants, coat, overcost, & a pair of socks. I have just come in from a battallion drill. I could not see to write were it not for a little that I cut through the boards in the back side of our bunk, Mr. Wendenhall's & mine, I mean, for we have kept together [sic] like 2 brothers ever scince [sic] we left Adrian. In the day time wile it is light, during our spair [sic] time from dilling [sic] we open our little window (which is about 1' inches by 3, and fixed with a slide so as to shut up) and lie in our bunk and read our bibles, and in the evenings except Sunday, Tuesday, &
Friday evenings which are prayer meetings, we lie there, and amuse ourselves by telling stories, debating on questions and so forth. I must bring my letter to a close please write as soon as you receive [sic] this both of you tell me all the news that you can think of, and do not forget to write me how Sophie Strong is getting [sic] along. Give my love to all inquiring [sic] friends. Tell the Girls that they must not [sic] be offended at me for not writing to them excuse all mistakes [sic] and poor writing for it is hard work to write in a room where there are from 75 to 100 men singing, playing fiddles and dancing the cotillion.

Good by from you

Franklin H Bailey

(PS) direct in care of Captain Graves. Company Union Clinchers
Camp Parker, little town Oct. 5th 1862.

Dear Parents,

It is with a happy heart that I begin this letter. I am well and feeling well at this present time, although I have been very homesick since I left home. We arrived in Jackson about noon on a little post and cut our dinner in the depot consisting of dried beef, pritck cake and other. We waited until the train from the east came in which was about half past one and then jumped aboard but as we did not see any sign of Mr. N. Elroy we were obliged to get up and wait until one o'clock Sunday morning. We went out to visit Mr. Henry's, that we met on that train and saw him in Grass Lake that he would meet me at the depot in time for that train.

So I began this letter last night between drill lines and supper, but I did not have time to write but a few words before supper. I will try and finish it this morning, as it is so very wet and rainy that I do not think they will order us out to drill. As you will see by the first of my letter we had about 12 hours to spend in Jackson somewhere, some left ourretched at Stantovos Exchange and then went up to Miss Jones, where we stayed until midnight and a lonely 12 hours. I never spent in my life, clocks came at last.
and we took the train for Miles, where we arrived about day-break, we then started for camp Barker as fast as our legs would carry us, apart of the way in quick and a part of a double-quick time, we arrived in camp; in searching for our breakfast of milk, meat, bread and coffee, I was so tired and sleepy that I didn't go to church at all Sunday, but spent the time sleeping as much as possible. Monday was my turn to go on guard, but at guard mounting (which we at Fortlich, the Adjutant selected me from the ranks), to act as orderly in the officers quarters. I took my seat next to the around my waist for a stick, and walked around the room from morning till night keeping things in order about the quarters and the post office. It was a very nice place beside of having enough would have been but I didn't have to be out in the cold, but yet it was tiresome the best I could do. I had a chance of hearing the news about our Regiment, but there was nothing very encouraging; they do not know anything about the time when we will get our pay, nor when we will go south. The Colonel saw the Assistant Treasurer in Detroit (as he told me last night in dress parade) and he said that we would get our pay from the day that we enlisted up to the 31st of January, and that we would probably get at this meeting next. There has been quite a row in our camp this week, caused by the supervisors refusing to aid the soldiers, wives, and the Colonel refusing to give the men for long service.
Home is all about it, the married men call a meeting (unknown to any of the officers) to see what they could do about it. The officer of the day got wind of it, and went up to the chapel and dispersed them in less than three minutes. Tuesday might young men run away, in spite of the sentinels, since that we have had pickets posted around the outside of the camp, with loaded guns, and orders to shoot any man who should start in passing the inside guards and jump the fence, none have been shot at. But two more have run away. I was marching in when the trouble came together and asked one to go up to the chapel and write, we have got a fire raging in the store, and, I will try and finish any latter.

It's said in the front part of my latter I was very long home sick the first three days after I left Adrian, but Tuesday evening I attended a prayer meeting in the chapel, and there any homesick all left me. We had a blessed service. I do wish that you could have been here, and seen the enjoyment we have in our prayer meetings, it surpasses anything else. men it not for our prayer meeting here. In effect I do not know what I should do. I must bring my letter to a close. Please write as soon as you receive this, if you do not, I have little to write. It seems to me as long since I heard from you, and it did help me with none. Love to all. Your affection.

E. W. Davis
Camp Barker, Miles  
Feb. 5th 1862

Dear Parents

I am well and feeling well at the present although I have been very homesick a
last evening since I left home. We arrived [sic] in Jackson about noon or a little past
and eat our dinner consisting of dried beef, fried cake and cheese; in the
depot; we waited until [sic] the train from the east came in which was
about half past one, and then jumped aboard, but as we did not see any
thing of Mr. Mc cloy, we were obliged to get of [sic] and wait until [sic]
one o clock Sunday morning, he sent word to us by Mr Hurezer who was on
that train, and saw him in Grass Lake, that he would meet us at the depot
in time for that train.

Feb. 6th I began [sic] this letter last night between drill hours,
and supper, but I did not have time to write but a few words before supper.
I will try and finish it this morning, as it is so very wet and muddy [sic]
that I do not think they will order us out to drill. As you will see by
the first of my letter, we had about 12 hours to spend in Jackson some where,
some left our satchl [sic] at Stanton's Exchang [sic], and then went up to
Mrs. Jones'; where we stayed until [sic] mid-night; and a lonelier 12 hours
I never spent in my life, 1 o clock came at last and we took the train for
Miles, where we arrived about day-break, we then started for camp Barker
as fast as our legs would carry [sic] us; apart of the way on quick, and a
just part of double-quick time, we arrived [sic] in camp in time for our breakfast
of boiled meat [sic], bread and coffee. I was so tired and sleepy that
I did not go to church all Sunday, but spent the time sleeping as much
as I could. Monday was my turn to go on guard, but at guard-mounting
(which was at 9 o clock) the Adjutant selected [sic] me from the ranks
to act as Orderly in the officers [sic] quarters [sic], I tied my read [sic] neck-tie around my waist for a sash, and walked around the room from morning till night keeping things in order, about the quarters [sic] and the Col's office. it was a very nice place beside of standing on guard would have been, for I did not have to be out in the cold, but yet I was lonesome the best I could do I had a chance of hearing the news about our Reg., but there was nothing very encourageing [sic] they do not know any thing about the time when we will get our pay, nor when we will go south; the Colonel saw the Assistant Treasurer in Detroit (so he told us last night on dress parade) and he said that we would get our pay from the day that we enlisted up to the 31st of January, and that we would probably [sic] get it this week as next. There has been quite a riot in our camp this week, caused by the supervisors refusing to aid the soldiers wives [sic], and the Colonel refusing to give the men furloughs to home to see about it; the maried [sic] men caled [sic] a meeting (unbeknown to any of the Officers [sic]) to see what they could do about it, the Officer [sic] of the day got wind of it, and went up to the chapple [sic] and dispersed them in less than three minutes. Tuesday night 7 men run away, in spite of the sentinal; since that we have had pickets posted around the outside of the camp, with loaded guns, and orders to shoot every man who should succeed in passing the insinde guards and jump the fence, no one has been shot yet but two of our bunk more have run away. I was writing in Alexander when Mr. Mendinker came to me and asked me to go up to the chapple [sic], and write, we have got a fire going in the stove and, I will try and finish my letter.

As I said in the fore-part of my letter I was very homesick the first three days after I left Adrian, but Tuesday evening I attended a prayer-meeting here in the chapple [sic], and there my homesickness all left
me, we had a blessed season. I do wish that you could be here, and see
the enjoyment we have in our prayer meetings, it surpasses any things [sic]
else. were it not for our prayer meetings here in camp I do not know
what I should do. I must bring my letter to a close. Please write as
soon as you recive [sic] this, if you do not have but a little to write
It seems [sic] to me as long since I was home, as it did befor [sic]
I went home. Love to all. From your affectionate son. F. H Bailey
Camp Barker Feb 14th 1862

Dear Pendant Father

As I had a few words that I wanted to tell you I thought that I would write a few lines this morning. Last night I signed the pay roll, there 1st 1st 2nd and some others coming to me. She will get it this morning at 9 o'clock to day, the pay master is here and announces paying me this morning at 9 o'clock. I had to pay 3 cents a mile from Adirion to Fort and I did not have about 20 cents left. After paying the 1.40 that I am the 40 in our coin.
Attire I have spent for envelopes and stamps. We will leave here next Tuesday or Thursday, and will probably pass through Adrian, as within 3 miles of it, that is at the junction. I may through Jackson from there through out come with in 3 miles of Adrian, if we go closer on to the southern road we will pass through Adrian. I will try and find out which day and invite you Saturday or Sunday and let you know the same day or tomorrow. Therefore I cannot.
Dear Mr. Thurn

I wish that I had time to write you a letter, but I have not, for the mail goes out from camp in a few minutes, please tell both the Thurns, that if they wish to answer any letters Sunday, and put them in the after early Monday morning, that I will get them before I leave here otherwise not. The next time you write please send the Blay's things just opposite address as you can get it, and I forgot the name of the place itself. Emma and Smith will answer her letter as soon as I can.
carry my satchel, and if you could get it anything it would save my wherein it away, and if I could see you at the depot or the junction I could hand you the money. One pay will be

$6.33

Treasure notes we expect I can send you $30, and if I can see you I can split the other $35. If I send you $35 that will not leave me enough to pay my debts replenish my house, wife or get my picture taken buy stamps and so forth, will it count it up and see.
Camp Barker    Feb 14th 1862

Dear Father,

As I had a few words that I wanted to tell you I thought that I would write a few lines this morning. Last night I signed the pay role [sic], there is $42.00 and some odd [sic] cents coming to me. We will get it to day, the pay master is here and comences [sic] paying us this morning at 9 o clock. I had to pay 3 cents a mile from Adrian to Jackson and I did not have but 20 cents left, after paying the $1.40 that I owe to the boy in our comp[M S torn off] that I have spent for envelopes and stamps.

We will leave here next Wednesday or Thursday, and will probably [sic] pass through Adrian, or within 3 miles of it, that is at the junction; if we go through Jackson we will pass through not come within 3 miles of Adrian, if we go down on to the southern road we will pass through Adrian. I will try and find out which day, and write to you Monday morning and let you know [MS one word torn off] have got our knapsake, there fore I cannot carry my satchel, and if you could get it why it would save my throwing it away, and the I should see you at the depot or the junction I could had you the money. Our pay will be $5 & $10 in new notes we expect. I can send you $30, and if I can see you I can split the other $5. If I see you $35 that will hardly not leave enough to pay my debts [sic] replenish my house with some get my pictures taken by stamps and so fourth [sic], will it, count it up and see.

Dear Mother

I wish that I had time to write you a letter but I have not, for the mail boy goes out from camp in a few minutes, please
tell both the Hellen's [sic] that if they wish to answer my letters Sunday, and put them in the office [sic] early Monday morning, that I will get them before I leave here otherwise not. The next time you write please send me Clary Strong postoffice [sic] address [sic] if you can get it, for I forgot sister the name of the place. Tell Emma that I will answer her letter as soon as I can.

[Date at top of second page—Feb. 14, 1862]
Camp Barker, Sunday P.M., Feb 16th, 1862.

Dear Father and Mother,

It is still in camp Barker, contrary to our expectations, I thought that I would write home and let you know what I could about our affairs. It is but little that I knew myself, we are told a great many stories by the officer, but we cannot believe half they tell us.

Last week they told us, and the Colonel himself thought that we should leave here before today, but we are here yet.

It is now most probable that we will leave here next Wednesday. I have just been told by a citizen who says that such a good authority that we will go next Wednesday.

I was just writing the last line when one was called out to turn out for dress parade, it is over with now, and I will try to finish my letter.

We expected to go some here to Toledo, but the Central railroad company have made a bargain to take us through to Detroit, cheaper than we can go the other way, that will spoil my calculations of meeting you at the depot in Adrian.
He received our pay Friday night amounting to $42.50. I paid off the $4.00 that I owed. Bought me a pair of gloves that I could handle my gun in, and a portfolio to keep my papers, envelopes, and letters in, and got one handkerchief taken; I should have got three or four, but they asked $2.25 a piece for them on credit, and then they cannot take a good one in cash; tell Mrs. Green and the girls that I will get some more taken when I get where they can take a good one. Went to Lieutenant Lane in the morning about six o'clock and got paid out to go down to the city, the saloons were all full of soldiers waiting to get their pictures taken and I was not till six o'clock P.M. before my turn came at the saloon where I got it taken. It is a poor one but you can see by it what we have to carry about with.

I am very sorry that your teeth trouble you. I know what it is to have some teeth and be troubled about eating. I have not had the toothache since I was home until tonight, the meat that we had for supper tonight was so very tough that it made my toothache to eat it.

I was very sorry that I did not wait until afternoon the day I left Adirian, and then I should have seen Missy Stone, I wanted
to see her the worst way. You said that
Selden Clark thought that I did not
divide any time hardly fair, I think so,
but as she said it is passed and can
not be recalled. As for any one of the
girls having all the claim on my letters
they have not, I have written one letter
to each of them, and shall continue to do.
I need not tell the girls, but I do not
know as I think any more of one than
of the rest, if any one thinks that they
will get all of my letters they are mistaken.
I'll write to Clara as soon as I get her
address. It is hard work for me to write
this evening, for they are having a prayer
meeting in the barracks next to us. I should
have been there had I not wanted to
finish my letter, please do not let
any one see my letter for the writing
is so bad that I am ashamed of it.
I said that you did not think it right for
me going a boy as myself to go into the army,
and leave all the comforts that I could enjoy
at home, for you did not see as it was agony
to benefit me or my country. Let me ask
you one question what would become of our
Country were it not for the soldiers, and
a great part of our army is composed of boys,
did I not think that I was doing right, and
my duty, I never would leave home, and all its enjoyments, and the privilege of going to school, for this Prison.

The tutor is leaving and I must bring my letter to close as soon as I can. I must put out my light as a fee when it stops. Tell Emma that I was intending wrote to her in this letter, but I have not time. Love to all. Good night, from your affectionate son.

Franklin McFarley.

(B O) Fther go to the Express office and get your money. I will send $30.00 at least tomorrow morning.
Camp Barker, Sunday P M, Feb 16th 1862.

Dear Father [sic] and Mother,

As we are still in camp Barker, contrary to our expectation, I thought that I would write home, and let you know what I could about our affairs, it is but little that I know myself; we are told a great many stories by the officers[sic], but we cannot believe half they tell us. Last week they told us, and the Colonel himself though that we should leave here before today, but we are here yet.

It is now most probable that we will leave here next Wednesday[sic]. I have just been told by a citizen who says [sic] that he has good authority [sic] that we will go Wednesday [sic].

I was just writing the last line when we were called on to turn out for dress-parade, it is over with now, and I will try to finish my letter.

We expected to go from here to Toledo, but the Central rail-road company, have made a bargain [sic] to take us through to Detroit, cheaper than we can go the other way; that will spoil my calculations of meeting you at the depot in Adrian.

We received [sic] our pay Friday and it amounted to $42.90. I paid $4.00 that I owed, bought me a pair of gloves that I could handle my gun in, and a portfolio to keep my papers, envelopes and letters in, and got one likeness taken; I should have got three or four but they asked $7.75 apiece[sic] for them on steal plate, and then they cannot take a good one in Miles; tell Mrs Green, and the girls that I will get some more taken when I get where they can take a good one. I went to Lieutenant [sic] Grave in the morning about 8 o clock and got passed [sic] out to go down to the city, the saloons were all full of soldiers waiting to get their pictures taken and I was un [sic] till [sic] 4 o clock P M, before my turn came at the saloon where I got it taken, it is a poor one but you can see by it what we have to carry [sic] about.
I am very sorey [sic] Mother that your teeth trouble you, I know what it is to have sore teeth and betroubled about eating. I have not had the tooth-ack [sic] since I was home untill [sic] tonight, the one of meat that we had for supper tonight was so very tough that it made my teath[sic]-ack[sic] to eat it.

I was very sorry that I did not wait untill[sic] afternoon the day I left Adrian, and then I should have seen Clary Strong, I wanted to see her the worst way. You said that Hellen Clark thought that I did not divide my time hardly fare [sic]. I think so too, but as whee said it isia pasted [sic] and cannot be recalled. As for any one of the girls[sic] having all the claim on my letters they have not; I have written[sic] one letter to each of them, and shall continue to do so. Yo [sic] need not tell the girls, but I do not know as I think any more of one than I do of them of the rest, if any one thinks that they will get all of my letters they are mistaken. I will write to Claire as soon as I get her address. It is hard work for me to write this evening, for they are having a prayer-meeting in the barracks [sic] next to us. I should have been there had this I not wanted to finish my letter, please do not let any one see my letter ou for the writing is so bad that I am ashamed of it. Ya said that you did not think it right for so young a boy as myself to go into the army, and leave all the comforts that I should enjoy at home, for you did not see as it was a going to benefit me or my Country let me ask you one questioon what would become of our Country were it not for the soldiers, and a great part of our army is composed of boys, did I not think that I was doing right, and my duty, I never would leave home, and all its enjoyments, and the privledge[sic] of going to school, for this Prison.

The tatt[sic] is beating [sic] and I must bring my letter to a close as soon as I can for I must put out my light in-a-few when it stops.
[ Feb. 16, 1862 ][ Page 3 ]

Tell Emma that I was intending write [sic] to her in this letter but I have not time Love to all Good night. from your affectionate son.

Franklin H. Bailey

(FS) Father go to the Express office[sic] and get your money. I will send $30.00 at least tomorrow [sic] morning.
Camp Barker, Miles,
Sunday morning, Feb. 23rd, 1862.

Dear Father and Mother,

I have just come in from guard-muster, rain, and inspection, which we have at Steele's Sunday morning. I was on guard yesterday and last night. I am well at present, with the exception of a head cold, which I caught yesterday afternoon.

We have been having quite times here, for a week past; the weather has been quite worse, and our camp grounds are all mud, nearly ankle deep all over, therefore we do not drill in site the camp, but every afternoon we march out into an open field, about a mile from camp, and have our drills and roll call and our inspection drill, and our band practice, with our camp officers and blankets on.

It goes pretty well with our group of boys like myself, I have thought a number of times that I should give out, no time one of the boys in company B, I think it was, did yesterday, they got within about 40 rods of the shore men going to, and were so startled, they had to stop and rest, before they could go that distance.

The day that we heard the news from Fort Donelson, one troop was Armed,
up on the hill on the back part of
the camp grounds, and had a glorious
time firing it off, I forgot how
many times I have fired it. Friday
evening we had what they called a
sermon meeting at the Edgilds, and
two speakers one from our chaplain
Mrs. Eldridge the great military
revivelist. I presume as you have heard
of him, he has been lecturing through
the north west for some time back
until he came here. I heard him
in camp one while we lay more than
the other speaker was from our Colonel.

Not. Quite makes me think of you
Father, every time I look at him, you look
nigh enough alike to be brothers, his
eyes, his beard are about the same
color as yours; he makes his beard short
and from ear to ear. At the close of the
meeting we had a song sung by our
Choir under the direction of Dr. King.
Shine it was, I have heard it
a great many times but it never
sounded half as good as it did then, it was
a new song, the words were different. The
others heard them before. It concluded
with these words: "Then never mind your
mother, just go and be a soldier,"
So to fight for our happy land of Canaan.
Yesterday was the 130th anniversary of George Washington's birth day, we must have a celebration of course. We marched through the city about two o'clock, and then out in the country about two or three miles to the residence of Mr. Barker, we had on our knapsacks without our overcoats, and carried our rifles, you may guess they were pretty heavy by the time we got there, we met like butchers trudging through the mud, and then had to stand about an hour in the front-yard listening to the reading of Washington's farewell address, and some short speeches.

Although it was an guard, we were obliged to turn out every man to make the most of the big show and the guards were taken of their posts and just in to the ranks, it was pretty hard for them. It was an pricket guard, last night for the first time in my life I was home, although I have been on guard twice every week. If ever I felt like going to sleep in my post it was last night between 9 and 10 o'clock I could have done it early had it not been for the punishment. I guess that I have owed you enough with the few proceeding of the past week I will change that.
About our leaving here, I know nothing about it, probably not as much as no more than you do. Father received your letter last night at Freligh just as I was falling in to go out on picket! you felt concerned about the money, I gave it to our orderly Sergeant Monday morning he said that he would get it into the express office as soon as he could. That was Friday morning. I did not know until then but what it had gone before. They are so strict here in camp that they do not allow the mail carrier to go to the city now, the Major has it all to do. I thought out that the orderly sent the best he could, whether the Major put the money in the office Friday or not until Thursday I should suppose by your not getting it is more than I know. I will enclose the receipt so that you can have it if needed. Please write by return of mail so that I can know if you have got the money. I must bring my letter to address as the street is about full. I will get the letter as soon as we are, if you direct it as you did the last one.

I will write Emma a letter as I have not written all I wanted to in this. excuse this poor writing, for you can imagine how sleepy I am today. Ever your affectionate son Franklin H. Bradley
Camp Barker, Miles,
Sunday morning Feb. 23rd 1862,

Dear Father and Mother,

I have just come in from guard-mountain, and inspection, which we have at 8 o clock every Sunday morning. I was on guard yesterday and last night. I am well at present with the exception of a hard cold, which I caught yesterday afternoon.

We have been having great times here, for a week past; the weather has been quite warm, and our camp grounds are all mud, nearly ankle deep all over, therefore we do not drill in side the camp, but every afternoon we march out in to an open field, about a mile from camp, and have a guns, and our battalion [sic] -drill, with our knapsacks and blankets on. It goes pretty hard with our young boys like myself, have to I have thought a number of times that I should give out, as two of the boys in company A, I think it was, did yesterday, they got within about 40 rods of the house we were going to, and were so exhausted [sic], they had to stop and rest, before they could go that distance.

The day that we heard the news from fort denison we took our brass conon, up on the hill in the back part of the camp grounds, and had a glorious time firing it off, I forgot how many times we fired it. Friday evening we had what they called [sic] a union meeting at the Chapple[sic], and two speaches [sic] one from our champlain [sic] Mr. Eldridge the great military revivalist; I persume [sic] you have heard of him, he has been lecturing through the north-west for some time back untill [sic] he came here; I heard
him in Jackson while we were their [sic], the other speach [sic] was from our Colonel.

Col. Quin makes me think of you Father, every time I look at him, you look nigh enough alike to be brothers, his eyes, hair, & beard are about the same color as yours; he wairs [sic] his beard short and from ear to ear. At the close of the meeting we had a song sung by Mr. Skiner. it was Happy Land of Canegimer [sic]. I have heard it a great many times but it never sounded half as good as it did them [sic], it was a new song, the words were different than I ever heard them before. it concluded with these words. "Then never mind your mother, but go and be a soldier, For to fight for our happy land of Caniun [sic]."

Yesterday was the 130th anniversary of George Washing-
ton's birth day, we must have a celebration of course. We marched through the city about two o clock, and then out in the country about two or three miles, to the residence of Mr Barker! we had on our knapsacks without our overcoats, and caried [sic] our rifiles [sic], you may guess they were pretty heavy by the time we got there, we sweat like butchers travling[sic] through the mud, and then had to stand about an hour in the frount [sic] yard listening to the reading of Washington's farewell-address [sic], and some short speaches [sic].

Although I was on guard, we were obliged to turn out that we could the most of the every man to make a big show and the guards were taken of [sic] their posts and put in to the ranks. it was pretty hard for them. I was an [sic] pickit [sic] guard, last night
for the first time in my life, although I have been on guard twice every week. If ever I felt like going to sleep on my post it was last night between 9 and 12 o clock, I could have done it easily had it not been for the punishment. I guess that I have worried you enough with our proceeding of the past week, I will change the subject. About our leaving here; I know nothing about it, probably not as much as or no more than you do. Father I received your letter last night at 9 o clock just as I was falling in to go out on picket; you felt concerned about the money. I gave it to our orderly Sergeant Monday morning he said that he would get it into the express office as soon as he could, that was Friday morning. I did not know untill then but what it had gone before. They are so strict here in camp, that they do not allow the mail carrier to go to the city now, the Major has it all to do. I doubted not that the Orderly done the best he could, whether the Major put the money in the office monday or not untill Thursday (as I should suppose by your not getting it) is more than I know. I will inclose the reciept so that you can have it if needed. Please write by return of mail so that I can know if you have got the money. I must bring my letter to a close as the sheet is about full. I will get the letter no matter where we are, if you direct it as you did the last one. I will write Emma a letter as I have not written all I wanted to in this. excuse this poor writing for you, can imagine how sleepy I am today. From your affectionate. Franklin H Bailey.