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[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

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Camp Harvey Dec 15/61

Dear Elizabeth.

I have spent rather a lonely forenoon today as I had no church to attend, the answer from Mr. Durlin coming so late, that no other clergyman could be procured for the day. The camp is, as usual, Sunday afternoons, running over with Ladies, who seem to enjoy a stroll about camp, and a chat with the good looking officers! hugely. They are constantly sticking their heads into my tent (which, by the way, I keep buttoned up, as tight as possible,) and exclaiming "Why, what a home like place you have here. I shouldn't much object to stopping here myself." Of course I calculate every time, to blush a good deal, & to appear as much as possible, like a very modest, bashful young man, (they seem to like them the best.) but of course I don't urge them a bit. Oh no, not a bit, if they will



Persist in staying awhile, I make them  
take all the responsibility. Mrs. McNamara,  
wife of the former Chaplain here (He is  
now Chaplain in some Regt. I think it is  
the 1st. Col. Starkweather) with 5 or 6 other  
Ladies visited me yesterday. We had a  
very pleasant visit. Such calls I prize  
highly. I was very much disappointed  
yesterday when the Cars came in, for  
I did expect to see Mr. Durie & Bertie,  
but upon my return to the Post Office,  
I found Mr. D's and your letter, which  
explained why he could not come at  
present, and I tried to be reconciled.

I am not certain that I shall be able  
to get a furlough, even, to go home Christmas,  
but hope to. The Col. is shutting right  
down on furloughs, except in cases  
of severe sickness or death of friends.  
He has got his Col's Commission now.  
(so he says) and he is going to let us  
know, that he commands this Regt.  
I think however, I shall manage to get

him on the hip, as he promised to let  
me go back as soon as we were paid  
off, before we left Ripon. I wish you  
would tell Mr. Robinson, that if he will  
get some boards and make a Cover over  
my old Thrushing Machine, to keep off the  
snow and rain. I will pay him for it,  
when I come up. When I came away I  
left my Drum under the bed in my  
room, (the first room I occupied, on the  
2<sup>d</sup> floor) I wonder, if Bertie could not  
find it, by enquiring of Mrs. Tracy. If he  
can, I wish he would get it with the sticks  
and take it home. He may want it, when  
he gets a little larger. I am glad to learn  
that you intend dipping up the Church  
a little for Christmas. I am bound to  
be there any way, and stay over New  
Years. Give my regards to Mr + Mrs. Bingham  
and Hattie also to Mr + Mrs. Bentham, and  
to every body else in and about Ripon.  
Tell Bertie, his time will come by + by. Kiss Mary  
Camille + Big Mary for me + get some body to kiss yourself.  
+ charge to my account.  
Henry. -



... of the ship, as he promised to do  
... as soon as we were clear  
... we left before we left before we  
... Mr. Robinson, that if he was  
... and make a good one  
... to that of the  
... that they were for it  
... when I came away  
... left my room in the end of my  
... (the first year I occupied, on the  
... of that year of that year  
... of my opinion of the good  
... in a word to be with the  
... the way went  
... of an old man  
... of the  
... I am  
... and  
... to the  
... and  
... the  
... the



Camp Norway Dec. 5 / 61

Dear Elizabeth

I am once more safe in  
Camp attending to my regular business,  
Have been Officer of the Day today, and  
consequently have not been out to Church.  
I found Company B, all right when I  
returned and all very glad to see me  
back again, Our Regiment had marching  
orders while I was away, but the Col.  
got the order Countermanded, by representing  
that we were not fully uniformed and  
equiped, our destination was Ft. Seavernsworth  
the orders were sent to us the same time Col.  
Barstow got his orders, Barstows Dr. Master  
was in my tent today, and tells me that  
Barstow dont think of marching on the  
8th as is stated in the papers, & says  
they have not more than 700 men, all  
told, We distributed Sabres to our boys

yesterday, and they are a first rate  
article too. The boys looked & felt  
finely when they came out tonight at  
Driss Parade. It was a splendid sight  
at the command "Draw Sabres", to see  
a thousand of those bright blades flash  
out in the sun, at the same instant.  
The boys feel proud of them, and handle  
them with a will. 1000 Army Revolvers  
are on the way and will be here in a few  
days. I found my Sabre & Pistol here  
when I returned, and the Sword is a  
perfect little beauty, it takes the shine  
off any thing in Camp yet, by a long  
ways. Mrs Townsend is here in Camp  
sick. I have not called upon her yet,  
but shall of course, as soon as she is  
able to receive Company. I found a  
lady occupying Siut. Coursauls tent  
when I got back and he had taken  
possession of mine, so you see we have  
a woman Cook now. It happened in this  
wise. Mr. Chapin from Waupun (one



of my Company) wrote for his Wife  
to Come down to Racine and spend the  
Holidays with him, at a relatives of  
thins who resided there, but after she  
got to Racine he found out that he  
could not get a furlough (as he had  
been away the week before, 3 days) and  
so he wrote to have his wife come on to  
Camp and she bundled up her two  
children and travelled, and when she  
got here she had got to go into a tent  
with 16 men, (15 beside her Husband) or  
else somebody had got to give up their  
tent to them, so St. Cousaul stepped  
out and let them into his tent, and  
she seems to enjoy it first rate. She  
Cooks for us, and we should be disposed  
to take her along if it was not for the  
two babies, but as it is shall be obliged  
to send her back. I have no more news  
to write at present, and no time to write  
it, if I had, so, good by, Love to all, Mary,  
Myra, Burtie & little Carrie & the ghals - Homey,



of my Company) wrote for his wife  
to come down to Wexham and spend the  
holiday with him at a residence of  
three or four miles there, but after she  
got to Wexham he found out that he  
could not get a carriage for her and  
so he wrote to have his wife come on to  
Camps and she brought up in the  
Chichester road and he went to meet her  
and she had got to go into a boat  
with the boatman (he brought her things) so  
she immediately had got to go up there  
that he had to go to Wexham and  
out and he then went into the boat and  
she went to Camps and found out she  
could not go there for she should be obliged  
to take her things if it was not for the  
two boats, but as it is what he should  
to send her back, I have no more news  
to write at present, and in time to write  
it if that be good by, due to all, many  
times, I wish to see you - Yours



FIRST REGIMENT

Wisconsin Cavalry,

CAMP HARVEY,

Kenosha, Wis., *Jan*y 18. 1862

Rev. F. Dublin

Dear Pastor

I rec<sup>d</sup>.

your very welcome letter of the 15th Inst. today. Your proposal to be at Kenosha on the second Sunday of February, I will communicate to Mr. Bond tomorrow, and will keep this letter open until after I see him. I know how difficult it is for you to leave your Parish, & especially upon short notice, but had hoped that you could have named an earlier day on my account. I know



I am selfish in this, but I did  
so want to hear one more of your  
sermons before I left, but I fear  
now I shall not, as the prevailing  
opinion here at present is, that  
we shall move from here very soon  
unless we are disbanded. If it is  
possible, I shall run up home (if  
we are ordered off) before we go, but  
very likely shall not be able to stay  
more than one day, I shall try and  
have that day Sunday, if possible,  
but it is more than probable that it  
cannot be so arranged. I am glad  
you are coming however, as the  
friends here are all very anxious  
to see you, and I know they will all  
enjoy it so well, that it will be a  
partial atonement to my disappointment.  
In regard to the temptations of a  
camp, I must say, that my short  
experience proves to me, that a  
person who is so disposed, may be



just as free from its enticements,  
in Camp, as at home. "Birds of a  
feather, will flock together;" but no more  
so here, than elsewhere, and I am thank-  
-ful that I am enabled to assure you,  
that as yet, I have no more or greater  
crosses to bear, in resisting temptations,  
than falls to the common lot of mortals,  
and I am fully persuaded that a person  
going into the Army, with a determination  
to do his duty and be a man and a  
Christian, will find the performance  
of his baptismal vows, a safeguard  
against temptations, and his exemplar-  
-y walk as a soldier of the Cross,  
even in Camp, far easier than he  
had dared to hope. This has been  
my Experience thus far, and I trust  
& believe too, that it may continue.  
I will now close for tonight, and finish  
Monday after seeing Mr. Bond. —  
Monday Morn July 20. I attended  
Church yesterday, and listened to



our good Bishop Kemper, Mon.  
& evening, and I need not assure  
you (for you already know) that it  
was a great pleasure to see & hear  
again, one whom I know and app-  
reciate as I do him, I took dinner  
with him at Mr. Bonds, and passed  
the day pleasantly, & I hope, profitably,  
Mr Bond says they shall expect  
you the second Sunday in February  
if they hear nothing further from  
you, but hopes you may conclude  
to come the first, instead of the 2<sup>d</sup>.  
to all of which I say, Amen, In that  
case they would of course expect  
to hear from you to that effect, as  
they will try to supply the pulpit  
from some other parish, if they  
do not hear from you by the last  
of this week, Mrs Daniels sung for  
us today in the choir, nothing more  
that I think of, that will interest  
you, so good by

Yours affectionately  
Henry S. Eggleston



FIRST REGIMENT

Wisconsin Cavalry,

CAMP HARVEY,

Kenosha, Wis., *Jan.* 12, 1862

Dear Elizabeth

Another week having rolled around, I eagerly improve the opportunity to spend a few moments with the "dear ones at home". The last week has been marked in Camp by no very startling developments, except that the vacancies in the Field & Staff officers have all been filled, and we are now a fully organized Regiment. Our Lt. Col. is Doct. J. C. Lewis who was formerly Surgeon of the 2<sup>d</sup> Regt. and was taken prisoner at the Battle of Bull Run and taken to Richmond. You have probably read of him in the newspaper accounts of that engagement.



They speak very highly of his behavior upon that occasion. Our 3<sup>d</sup> Major is Wm H. Tomy who has been some way connected with Fremont's or Fremont's Command in Missouri. I have learned but little of him as yet. His appointment was announced last evening, at Drift Parade. The 3 Battalion adjutants are also appointed. I know but little about any of them, their names are Gore - Brooks and Clinton. the first is Mrs. Daniels' Brother. The Col. is now at work assigning the Companies permanently to their position in the line, and I think Co. B. will get its rightful place in the line, (on the right) - shall know in a few days. Capt. Mars claims equal rank with me on the ground that he was mustered into U.S. service on the same day I was. In that case we should be obliged to decide the seniority by lot. but I think it will be decided by date of Commission



in which case, I am all right. We  
are all in the dark yet, about moving,  
but I hardly think we shall move this  
month. We have not received our Pistols,  
or clothing yet (all of it). About 200 suits  
of Uniforms + Overcoats + 2000 Pairs of drawers  
came in last evening but this does not  
fit us out. I have just finished up my  
Pay Rolls and am now ready for a visit  
from Paymaster Wright any time he may  
choose to give us a call. Shall try to run  
up home once more before we leave, if  
I can get a furlough, and I guess I can  
for the Col. and I am on pretty good terms  
just now. If you see Brockway before  
you answer this, I wish you would enquire  
of him whether Lawson took my Rapier.

The last 2 or 3 days have been very cold  
and windy, but I have not suffered any  
as yet, and I begin to believe I am rather  
a tough cud after all, as my men while  
out drilling have complained bitterly  
about freezing ears, toes, fingers &c. but



I have no difficulty at all in keeping comfortable. The worst time is at Dress Parade when we have to stand entirely motionless for half an hour or more. you would think by the rickling through the line, that the entire Regiment were freezing their feet entirely off, but I have seen no time yet, when I have not been able to stand perfectly still until the Parade was dismissed. You may say to sister Mary that Mrs. T. is reported convalescent, but I have no experimental knowledge of the fact. I only state this upon rumor. Give my regards to Mr Durlin and say to him that I have not received that letter from him yet, announcing his appointment for Penosha. I shall expect to receive it this week. Tell "Betsy" that owing to the multitude of matter, I found upon my return, to attend to, I have not had time to do justice to her commission, but hope to soon. Love to all the children, & best respects to every body else

Henry S.





FIRST REGIMENT

Wisconsin Cavalry,

CAMP HARVEY,

Kenosha, Wis., July 19 1862

Dear Elizabeth

I have just returned from Church and will now improve the time before supper in writing to you. I have no news of importance to write, but of course you will expect a letter, news or no news. I had the pleasure of listening to Bishop Kemper today, and I enjoyed it immensely, you must know. Mrs. Col. Daniels and our Dr. Master Mann sang in the Choir. Mr. Durbin has written me that he will preach here the second Sunday in February, but I am in hopes he will change it to the



first, as I am afraid we shall be ordered off before the second, or be disbanded, in the latter case I should not care much if he did not come at all, though it would be a great disappointment to the people here, as they want very much to hear him.

We are having fine sleighing here now, snow about a foot deep, and more coming tonight, I have not tried it yet, except in drilling, we drill every day forenoon & afternoon, in the forenoon I wade on foot at Company Drill, in the afternoon we have Regimental drill, and I act as Major, and am mounted, Major Pomroy has not appeared yet on horseback, and I have been detailed to act in his place, I don't know whether he is afraid of tumbling off, or what the reason is, that he does not come out, some say he is unwell, but I see him poking around every day, - guess he is afraid,



I saw today the trimmings on their  
Church here, and it makes a slim  
show, when compared with ours. It  
would take all the trimming in the  
entire Church to make one of our end  
wraths, and I very much doubt if  
it would do it. If we are ordered off  
soon I shall try and get a furlough  
for a day or two if possible, to run  
up home. don't know whether I shall  
succeed, but hope so. It is not at  
all certain that we shall be ordered  
off, but it is generally believed here  
now, that we shall move into Kansas  
very soon, or be disbanded. Wouldn't  
it be too bad, if we should be disban-  
-ded now? "Fox" is as cute as Campfire.  
He is one of the best saddle Horses I  
ever saw, and is not afraid of any  
thing. He has improved wonderfully  
by training, and I think will make  
decidedly the best riding Horse in the  
Regiment. Mastico puts him through



a regular "course of Sprouts" every  
forenoon, and I put him through  
a regular "course of larger bushes" every  
afternoon. Am very happily disappointed  
in the old fellow. Hope Fathers fall  
will not result in any thing serious.  
How did it happen? Tell Bertie that  
he must learn his apprentices, not  
to handle hot irons, as that is a very  
important part of the instruction,  
to be taught young Blacksmiths. Has  
"Carrie's" hand got well? My Company  
has not got its position yet, but the  
thing is working all right. I think, I wrote  
to Mitchull to get an order from the Gov.  
or Adjutant General to that effect, and  
last night received a letter from him  
saying that he had laid the case before  
them, and they decided that there was  
no question as to my signority, and that  
they would issue the necessary order to  
Col. Daniels forthwith. I shall expect to hear  
from it tomorrow or next day, if the Col.  
gets back, (he is away from Camp at present.)  
I have got to the bottom & must close. Kiss  
all the babies for me & tell them to be good "Children"  
Good by, Henry S. - P.S. I send Photograph for Aunt Clara.

Camp Harvey  
February 2, 1862.

Dear Elizabeth,

I am using fancy  
note paper tonight as you will  
see by a close examination of the  
edges, but you need not infer  
from this, that I am "putting on  
airs", as I am forced to use this  
shut, or none, it being the only  
shut of paper in the Shanty, &  
a stolen one at that, I was at  
church this forenoon & heard  
Mr. Mc Namara preach. He is  
at home for a short time on furlough  
and is to lecture Tuesday evening  
on the War & what he has seen since  
his Regiment left. I like his app-  
earance much. I am very glad  
you have concluded to come down



next Friday with Mr Durlin.  
I will be at the Depot with old  
"Fox" and a Cutter, when the Cars  
come in. Mr. Bond asked me  
today if I had heard anything  
more from Mr. Durlin and I  
told him, he would be here on  
Friday next. sure, so he must  
not disappoint us. Myra I  
was so well pleased to see your  
letter, you done first rate, and  
many your part of the letter is  
a perfect gem, so plainly and  
nicely written. Mother will have  
to look out, or you will take  
the prize right away from her  
on penmanship. Bertie, is  
busily engaged, I learn, perfecting  
himself in the Sabre exercise. &  
I shall expect to find him, when

I return, an expert swordsman,  
and Carrie, the next time Myra  
writes me a letter, you and Bertie  
must put in a line or two apiece,  
just by way of vanity. The Col.  
has not returned yet from Wash-  
-ington, and we are all anxiety  
to know what is to become of us.  
Our prospects ahead, are not very  
flattering, but still we hope on,  
and cannot bear to think of  
being disbanded, without getting  
out of the State at all, after being  
in Camp six months. The Paymaster  
has not made his appearance yet,  
but will be a very welcome visitor  
at any time, we have now three  
months pay due, and most of  
the boys think they could use  
a portion of it, to good advantage.



My health river was better  
than it has been for the last  
month, I dont think I am  
gaining much in flesh, but am  
tough as a Knot. Lieut. Howland  
is all right again, with the excep-  
-tion of that front tooth he lost.  
Mr Blake preached here this after-  
-noon, (the same one that preached  
on the Hill at Ripon, before Mr. Hawley  
came) He is trying for the Chaplaincy  
of our Regt. but I do not think he  
will get it. A Mr. Wright from Mil-  
-waukee (methodist) seems to have  
the inside track at present. I see  
I am getting to the bottom of my  
shut and as I have no news of impor-  
-tance to write, I will dry up, and will  
tell you the rest, when you come  
down, affectionately, Wm. H. Combs,



FIRST REGIMENT  
Wisconsin Cavalry.

Col. E. Daniels, Commanding.

Camp Harvey, Newsha  
February 9 1862

Dear Elizabeth, I arrived at Camp yesterday at  $\frac{1}{2}$  Past 2 and found the boys all in commotion. Orders had been read at Druff Parade at 1 o'clock that the Regiment were to be mustered in on Monday and that we were to start Tuesday morning for Benton Barracks near St. Louis. They were afraid that I would be left behind, and they insisted that the Sicut. should Telegraph to me at once. The Sicut went to see the Major about it, and he informed him that he had telegraphed to me to come, still the boys were not satisfied, and they all sworn that if I was not here they would not be mustered in, or stir an inch, but when



They saw me ride up to Camp they were  
all right, and such a hurrah as they  
gave would have done you good to hear.  
We are to move Tuesday if the road can  
get cars by that time, and they think they  
can. We are all busy packing up & getting  
ready as well as we can, but I find I have  
altogether too much plunder to be convenient  
to move, but shall manage it some way.  
I may send my Buffalo Robe & Stove up home  
but cannot tell certainly, until I ascertain  
tomorrow, what it will cost. If it will  
cost about as much as they are worth,  
I shall take my Robe, and leave my Stove  
here. We take our position on the Right  
of the Regiment today. Gov. Harvey told  
Major Torny (who was at Madison, while  
I was at Ripon) that "Capt. Eggleston  
was entitled to the right, and he should  
have it, and that he ought to have  
been placed there long ago"; so the agon  
is over, and we are to have our rights,  
at last. I think I should have enjoyed

this day a good deal better, with you &  
the children at home, and at Gran Church,  
listening to those excellent sermons, (I  
know they are good,) of Mr. Durlins; but  
I suppose it was for the best that I came.  
Co. K. had another election yesterday, by  
order of the Gov. (I believe there was some  
irregularity in the former one) and it  
resulted in "scooping out" our friend  
Sint. Adams, who is now nothing but  
a high Private, after the election he  
started for the Cars, swearing that he  
never would serve in the ranks, after  
wearing Shoulder Straps so long, jumped  
aboard and started for home. The Major  
as soon as he heard of it telegraphed to  
Milwaukee to have him arrested, upon  
the arrival of the Cars, so I suppose we  
shall see the young gentleman back here  
tomorrow, It had a hard Thunder storm  
here last night, and it is raining about  
half the time, today, Mrs. Chapin leaves  
for home tomorrow, Onions will be in



Dear Dear "My Dear" Papa, & Harry.  
demand about that time, I will leave  
this "open" (minnie) till night, in order to give  
you the latest news possible, - 1/2 Past 8 P.M.  
and nothing new having transpired I will close  
this letter. We have just learned however that  
some of the prominent men here have been  
telegraphing to the Gov. to have him counter-  
mand the order, and keep us here until we  
are paid off. but I do not believe he will  
do it. The major is now at the Telegraph  
office corresponding (or talking) with his Hon.  
the Gov. urging him to hold out faithful,  
and I think he will do it; believe we shall  
go. Tell myra, Bertie & little Carrie that I will  
try and make up to them for the shortness of  
my visit, by writing a good long letter as soon  
as I can get time, after getting into our new  
quarters, and will tell them all about all the  
funny things I see on the way, I dont know  
what to say to pacify our little "Sweet Sixteen",  
unless it is to promise her a copy of her favorite  
Pope's works, as soon as "uncle Samuel" does the  
fair thing. Tell her, I rather think I will, if she  
will be a good little girl. In writing to me,  
before I have time to give you exact directions,  
it will be best to direct to me as follows: (I  
mean of course, if we move, which you will know  
by the papers) "Capt. H. S. Eggleston  
1st. Regt. Wis. Cav. near  
St. Louis - Mo."  
A letter directed thus, will reach us anywhere in  
that vicinity. Love to all, good by. Henry,





FIRST REGIMENT  
Wisconsin Cavalry.

Col. E. Daniels, Commanding.

Camp Hawley  
February 16 1862

Dear Elizabeth

I have been in Camp all day, and have not been to church at all. The major took it into his head to have a grand inspection and review of the entire Regiment, and fixed the hour to commence at 12 m. so that I could not get back from morning service in time, and had not time to get to afternoon service, after the performance was over, and was consequently deprived of both. The day after you left camp was the warmest, pleasantest day of the winter, and we had great doings here. In the first place we



had a big flag pole raising, and after that was over, the Regiment was formed in a hollow square, and after a long and windy address from Judge Webster, a Mrs. Lovell step<sup>d</sup> out from the crowd of Ladies that were present and presented to Maj. LaGrange, a flag, the same we saw at Capt. Decker's tent, after which the Maj. responded in his easy and graceful! way, and the performance closed with singing the "Old White & Blue", by the ladies present, <sup>playing</sup> the "Star Spangled Banner", by the Band, and "Three times three with a Tiger", by the entire crowd,

The next day (Thursday) it was cold & blustering, and Thursday night was the coldest night of the season. It was fortunate that you was not in camp then, although we managed to sleep comfortable, Friday & Saturday were also very cold. Friday night the Masons had a Ball here. Nearly all of the officers of the Regiment were there, but myself. I

preferred to stay in Camp. If you had been here we would have gone. They tell me it was a splendid party, about 150 couples were present. Next Friday evening the Band (our Band) gave a Ball, and I see by a ticket which they have handed me, that Capt. Eggeston is one of the managers, but I shall not honor them with my presence. The fact is, I have failed yet to see any young lady in Kenosha, that would please me for a partner. If I could only have our Ripon girls here to select from. I should go, of course, Ahum! Capt. Smith's trouble with his Company seems to be quieting down, and I guess he will have no more trouble with his boys. Matters in general in and about the Camp, are all running along smoothly, the cheering news we get from the South every day when the mails arrive, give us all fresh courage, and still we fear that it lessens our chances, for



ever seeing active service. The boys  
are almost wishing that the next news  
may be of a defeat. They are so fearful  
they will not be wanted, I begin to think  
myself that our show, is growing  
beautifully less every day. The Colonel  
does not return yet, and although  
he writes occasionally, giving us what  
few crumbs of comfort & encouragement  
he can gather, yet the tone is so very  
different from his letters generally,  
when he is at all positive, that it  
serves rather to dampen our hopes,  
than otherwise. I hope you found  
the children all well when you got  
back, write me all about it in your  
next. Give my regards to Father and  
mother Eggleston and Father & mother  
Bingham & all of their children individ-  
ually and collectively, and to all the rest  
of our friends, in the same manner or less.  
Kiss the babies; all but Mary. (She's a little bigger  
than I can kiss, either in person or by proxy.) However  
if she is disposed to be mad about it, you'll have to kiss her  
too, I suppose. Love to Mr Denton - Good Bye Henry S. E.



FIRST REGIMENT  
Wisconsin Cavalry.

Col. E. Daniels, Commanding.

Camp Harvey  
Keosha, Feby 23, 1862

Dear Elizabeth

Mr. Bond was at my tent last evening and informed me that there would be no service at our Church today, consequently I shall stay in Camp. The weather yesterday and today is soft and Spring like and the snow is disappearing rapidly, and it would be very muddy here in Camp, were it not all clear sand, Capt. Brutt has his Company paraded in front of his tent and mine, and is now reading to them "Washingtons Farewell Address," good, of course, but somewhat tedious, think I shall let our boys read for themselves. We



had an exciting time here in Camp  
last evening. Just after retreat, the  
news was circulated through Camp  
that one of Capt. Herndon's men and  
one of Ellsworth's Lancers, (who has been  
hanging about Camp, for a week or  
ten days) had been shot in a Dutch  
Saloon down town, and we soon  
began to notice squads of men  
forming in different parts of the  
camp, and ascertained that they  
had arranged to run the guards  
and go down and clean out the  
establishment and string up the  
Dutchman who shot the boys, to the  
mainst tree. The guards were immedi-  
ately doubled, and strong patrols  
sent down town to pick up and  
bring into Camp all straggling soldiers  
who might be out. About the time this  
was arranged, word was brought up  
that Co. I's man was dead, and then  
the excitement was uncontrollable.

Men in every part of the camp  
were screaming at the top of their  
voices. "Get your Sabres men, and  
fall in; Whaley is dead". Messengers  
were at once sent about camp to order  
all commissioned officers to report  
immediately, fully armed, at the  
Guard House. Before we all got  
there, the men had begun to crowd  
the guards at the main entrance  
swearing they would go out, at all  
hazards. In a few moments there  
was at least 400 men in the crowd,  
surging backwards & forwards, only  
restrained by the moral influence  
of their several officers, as one after  
another attempted to lead off over  
the line. Of course ~~any~~ attempt  
at physical force, on the part of the  
officers, would have been worse than  
useless at that moment, as it would  
be like a boy attempting to hold an  
Elephant by the tail. I looked hastily



over the crowd and saw that but a few of my boys were in the crowd & they were not armed, and did not seem to be as much excited as the rest of the boys, and I concluded to make a trial of their discipline, although I had some misgivings under the existing state of excitement. I called out to "Company B. to fall out on the right, every man". As quick as spoken, the line began to form at the point indicated, in perfect order, and in 3 minutes every man of my Co. was in line. I then marched them to their tents, and broke ranks. The rest of the Captains afterwards succeeded in getting portions of their men away, and in half a hour the crowd around the lines were reduced so that we could manage them. In about an hour it was ascertained that the dead man, was not shot at all, only in the neck, with poor Whisky, and when the Dutchman fired his revolver he thought he was hit and dropped on the floor senseless. After taking him to the Hospital & examining him to find the bullet hole, they found that he was not hit.



FIRST REGIMENT  
Wisconsin Cavalry.

Col. E. Daniels, Commanding.

Camp Harvey Menasha  
February 28 1862

Dear Elizabeth, I am so used to writing "February" that I make the mistake every time I have occasion to date a letter or other paper, but of course I generally correct them. In this case however, after having made the mistake, I concluded to call it a birth day letter, although not in fact written till the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Taking the Old family Bible and common traditions, as conclusive proof, I have today made the 42<sup>nd</sup> scratch on my tally stick, more by some 8 or 10, than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the number, usually allotted to those we are accustomed to call "old men", and probably already, more, than the average of human life, and were it not for an occasional glimpse



which I get in the mirror, of those gray hairs, silent, but impressive monitors, to warn us that we have reached the summit, in our journey of life, and that our future is at best, but a gradual descent to the grave, - I could hardly be made to realize the fact, and should almost be disposed to suspect the veracity of the old family record. How thankful should we be, to our Heavenly Father, that our feet have been directed in such Pleasant Paths, all our lives,

There is no more of importance to write you, that I now think of. Sicut Burrows of Co. C. has been sick at the Hospital for the last two weeks. The boys say he is troubled with the "Snakes", (Delirium tremens) and I suppose that is so. Word came into camp yesterday that he was dead, but it proved to be a mistake. The doctor told me that he did not believe he would ever leave his room alive, but that he might live along

a number of days yet. We have had 2  
deaths here the past week. One a Mr. Stratton  
of Co. C. he has been in the Hospital ever  
since we came here. He first had the measles  
and afterwards took cold, which run him  
into what the doctors here call Quick Consumption.  
The others name was Bergh of Capt.  
the Mass Co. I have forgotten now, what they  
said his complaint was. Our Company  
have been very fortunate, no deaths, and  
only a few that have been very hard  
sick. S. R. Brown is and has been for  
a long time at the Hospital, and I am  
trying to persuade him to apply for a  
discharge, as I do not believe he will  
ever be much better. I think he has the  
Consumption. He is Dea. Browns brother.

You done just right in regard to my  
taxes, as I do not propose to pay  
them until Uncle Samuel pays us.  
I do not believe government has any  
right to require any more promptness  
on our part, than she practices herself,



Tell Bertie that I have nailed up his  
painting or drawing in a very conspic-  
-uous place on the side of my tent, and  
as it seems to attract a good deal of  
notice, I should not be surprised if  
it might be the means of securing him  
some orders in that line. May your  
very gentle hint, in regard to your  
approaching birth day (and by the by I am  
inclined to your mother's opinion, in regard  
to the "sweet.") so beautifully interwoven  
with that touching appeal by Fennyson,  
which you borrowed for the occasion, would,  
under ordinary circumstance, have  
brought down the house, or in other words  
the Piano, but under the present collapsed  
state of the Treasury, you force me right back  
among the Poets in self defence and oblige  
me to answer this, as I do all others of  
like import, in the words of the immortal  
Doddridge, "He who steals my purse steals  
trash!!" You can doubtless make the application  
yourself, Myra & Carrie are just as good as ever  
I know, and shall see Papa pretty soon, so  
they shall, I cannot tell you anything definite  
about coming home yet, but mean to come soon either on  
a visit or to stay, Love to Father & Mother, Brother & Sisters, Children  
of course, Mr Bingham & Family, Mr Durbin, Broadway, Mead & in  
short every body but the girls, I will attend to that part, after this myself,  
as I have opened a corns, & intend to keep it open

Henry -



FIRST REGIMENT  
Wisconsin Cavalry.

Col. E. Daniels, Commanding.

Camp Harvey  
March 11. 1862

Dear E. Great and sudden changes  
have followed my last letter. First the  
order for moving our Regt, was Counter-  
manded yesterday, for what reason, no  
one knew. Some surmised it was for  
the purpose of paying us off, and some  
one thing and some another, but nobody  
knew anything. Telegraph messages  
flew thick and fast, but no satisfactory  
solution of the thing could be obtained.  
Time wore off slowly, - all in suspense  
and anxiety, - every man in Camp eagerly  
questioning, each man that came up from  
town for the latest news, but nothing at  
all definite or official could be gleaned  
from any, although an innumerable



number of rumors were peddled about camp. This morning news was received that the Gov. would be in on the morning train. Then again all was excitement and commotion in camp. Our late preparation for moving had littered the grounds all over with rubbish of all descriptions, Boxes, Chests, Satchels, bits of boards, old Boots thrown away and in short every imaginable kind of litter, was scattered "around loose". Details were at once made in force, to police the camp, and put things to rights. Officers were flying around after their servants to send for their Horses, and the entire camp were as much excited as they would have been, if the "long roll" had sounded to call them out to fight the enemy. As soon as we could get our Horses out we started, about 50 of us, for the Depot, to escort his Hon. to Camp. Upon arriving at the Depot

we found Gov. Harvey, Atty Gen<sup>l</sup>, Howe  
and Inasum Hastings then waiting  
for us. Upon reaching Camp it was  
decided that we would have a review  
at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11, and while we were at  
the majors tent conversing with the  
distinguished gentlemen from Madison,  
in stepped another distinguished  
gentleman from Washington, Col Daniels  
himself! After a little, I suggested to  
the major that it would be well to  
issue the order for placing my Co. in  
their proper position on the right,  
(as we did not take our position yester-  
day as he promised we should, there  
being no Dress Parade) and he informed  
me that he would attend to it directly,  
and I left. In a few moments he came  
to my tent and informed me that the  
Gov. had decided that precedence must  
be decided by lot, and that he wanted  
me to come at once to his tent, for the  
purpose of deciding the matter. I went down



and found the Major had provided two envelopes, one he said had a slip of paper in it marked "Right" and the other "Left." I asked him if the Gov. had decided that the matter must be decided in this way. He said yes. and we drew. I drew the left. (I ought not to have drawn at all), I went at once to my tent and wrote my resignation to take effect immediately and sent it to the Gov. by St. Consul. He told him he wanted to see me after dinner, and what it will result in I do not know. They are going through the Review now, on Evening; after the dinner the Gov. sent Major La Grange to my tent to request me to go over with him to Mr. Denke's to dinner. I went and found there the entire Madison delegation including the Gov's Wife, the Col. & the 3 Majors. He (the Gov.) tried to induce me to take back my resignation but I told him my mind was made up upon the subject, and pressed him for an acceptance. He finally pretended to me that he had not the authority to accept it, and that I must apply to the War Department if I was determined to resign. Since they left the Major has been in my tent assuring me that everything had been fairly conducted in the matter, and that he could convince me of that, if I would give him time. How the matter will end, God only knows. My boys have got their backs up, and wont come out to

roll call or any thing else, I have been  
trying to Persuade them this evening, that  
it was better to go along and do duty regularly  
than to undertake to fight themselves in this  
way, but it is no go, They say "we have  
been misused ever since we have been in the  
Regt. because we have patiently and quietly  
submitted, until now they begin to think  
they can use us just as they please, and  
we have not spirit enough to resent it,  
and we have made up our minds not to  
submit to this kind of treatment any longer,"  
They think there was collusion between  
the Col. & the Gov. and that by representations  
made by the Col. the Gov. was induced to  
change his former order, The boys tell me  
that under the circumstances they cannot  
ask me to withdraw my resignation, but  
that no other live man can command  
them, I do not know but I shall be obliged  
to remain, in order to save them, if necessary,  
I of course shall do it, but not without,  
I will write again soon, Henry



Z

4

4







Benton Barracks Mo.

Sunday Apr. 6. 1862.

Dear Elizabeth

Another week has rolled its slow length around, and I am consequently indebted to you another letter. Would that all my debts were as easy to pay as this, it would be a blessing to be in debt. or rather to pay them. Since I last wrote you, various changes have taken place in and around Benton Barracks, We have now in Camp here only Wisconsin troops, all the others, with the ~~exception~~ of a very small fraction of an Illinois Regt. have been sent away, some to Tennessee others West. to Ft. Seavonworth and other points, and the only Regiments now remaining (with the small exception above mentioned) are the 1<sup>st</sup>. - 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Wis. Cavalry and the 1<sup>st</sup> Wis. Infantry (Irish). The 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Wis. Batteries left for Ft. Seavonworth this morning, they received their horses yesterday & the day before. I think we will have our horses now pretty soon, as we stand next on the list to be supplied, and they are



receiving about 100 a day, at the government stables, so  
that in the course of 8 or 10 days, I shall expect to see the  
Regt. mounted. When we shall be sent when mounted  
I cannot say with any thing like certainty, but it is  
generally believed here that we shall go West, upon the  
Plains, I hope this rumor may prove to be correct, as  
I think it will be healthier there, than in the Gulf States,  
and then again it will be such a magnificent field  
for Cavalry evolutions:—those vast, boundless plains, I  
must not forget to tell you that day before yesterday (Friday  
April 4th, Anno Domini One thousand Eight hundred & Sixty  
two) at precisely 8½ minutes Past 2 O'clock P.M. of said  
day. Lieut. Frank S. Hobbs and Squadron "B." of the 1st.  
Wis. Cavalry, Parted Company, or in other words were  
divorced for life! He was by common consent, trans-  
ferred to Squadron "J." (Capt. Hoyt's Squadron,) and their  
1st. Lieut. (Porter) was transferred to fill his place. In  
short it was a swap, a kind of Horse Jockey trade, no  
boot paid, and no money changed hands, Our boys, although

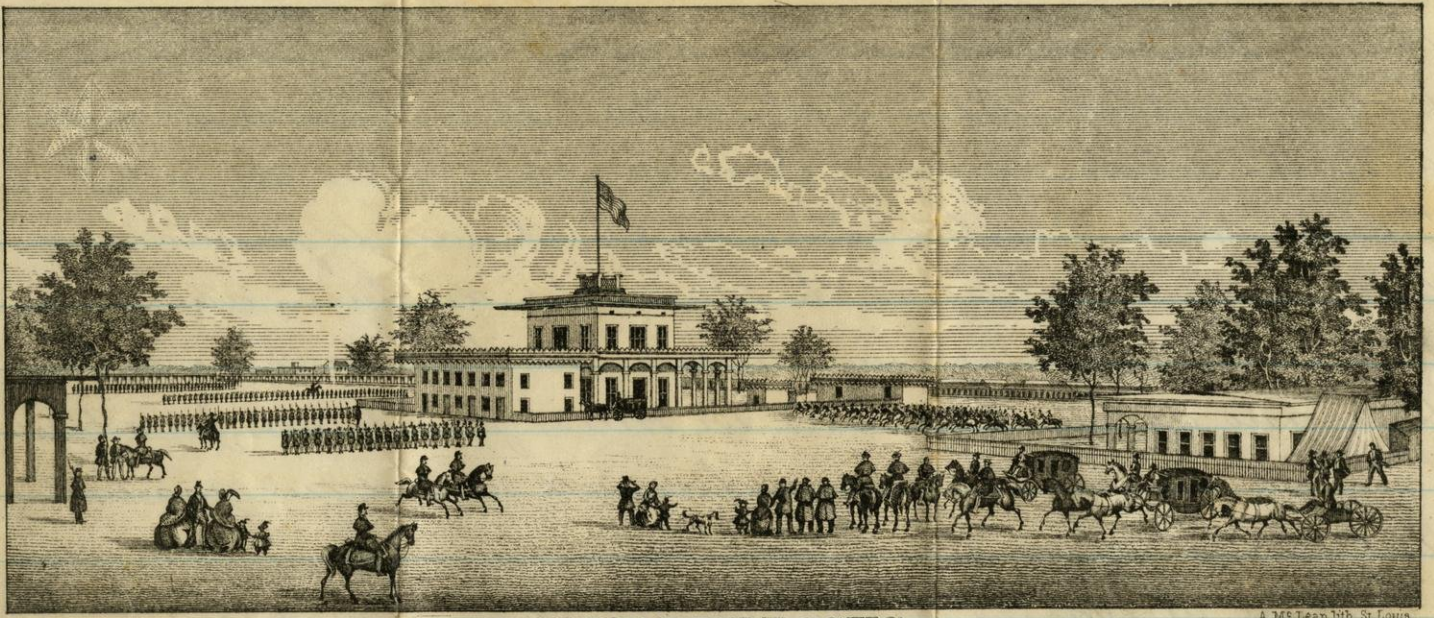


they would have very much liked to choose for themselves,  
still are in extacies, with the change, as it is. The weather  
here is beautiful. like our May, although the nights are  
rather cool, I wish you could be here some of these fine mornings  
it would do you good I know. Do you still calculate upon  
commencing housekeeping next month? if so I would like  
to drop in and make you a visit just after you get settled,  
Dont misunderstand me now, and get it into your head that  
I meant just before, instead of after. for I did'nt mean any  
such thing. If you do move, get a good strong girl to clean  
up and put things to rights, so as not to make yourself sick,  
and then just throw yourself back upon your dignity. (or upon  
mine just as you choose) and let her do the work. Mind now,  
this is a peremptory command, and I am in the habit  
of being obeyed, now a days! I think when the weather gets  
warm, and the ground is in order (dont be in too much of a  
hurry as I always am.) you had better have Jim Medhurst  
work the garden upon shares, if he will, if not, get some one  
else, who will, Mr. Brookway or Mead will find some one to do



it, if they know you wish it, I have written Mr. Brookway  
today and requested him to dispose of my Plunder, in the line  
of farming tools, as fast as he has opportunity, hope there  
will be a great demand this Spring. I think you had better  
sell our Cow for \$25. if you have a chance, and buy milk, what  
you will want, as it will make you a good deal of trouble to  
look after her this summer. If Father wants her, let him have  
her, and endorse the amt. on my note, due next fall. How are  
the dear Children? Mel. - I hope, Tell them for me, that they  
must be good children, (I know they will,) learn all they can -  
help Mother when not at school, and be very very careful &  
not get sick, my health was never better, than at present.  
~~Col. Daniels is and has been, for the last 5 or 6 days, trying to~~  
be sick, is threatened with Fever, but I think is today, a little better.  
Mrs. Daniels sends love, Our Boys are usually well, no cases  
of serious sickness in the Squadron, some 8 or 10 however  
just sick enough to be excused from drill, I attended  
divine services this forenoon at our Amphitheatre, heard our  
Chaplain Rev. Mr. Dunmon preach, He is decidedly smart.  
I think we were very fortunate, in the selection we made.  
We have services again at 4 P. M.; I shall attend of course.  
Tell "Minnie" I received her nice little note day before yesterday,  
and intended answering it today, certainly, but will not  
have time, Some future time however when I have leisure I  
will repay her with usury. Remember me to Father, Mother & the  
rest of our family, Mr & Mrs Bingham, Mr. Durbin and the rest,  
and believe me, as ever, your own - Henry.





**BENTON BARRACKS**  
from South East.

A. McLean lith. St. Louis.

March 22. 1862.

Dear Wife,

As I have now a moments leisure, I will improve it in writing you a line, in order to redeem my promise to write every week, not because I have anything to communicate in addition to what you will learn of Mr. Brockway much more full than I can write it, You see above a partial view of our Barracks, it is an extensive arrangement, to say the least of it, and I have no doubt that in any weather it would be very pleasant, It has been wet since we have been in Camp and the grounds have been awful, The soil is a black loam, something in appearance like our Ripon Prairie soil but more slippery when wet, The water here is pretty thick, and I think must be unhealthy, but I dont think it will trouble me much, as I do not touch a drop of it, until it is made up into Coffee or Tea, We shall probably stay here 3 or 4 weeks, as I learn that they have no Horses for us yet, The Colonel informs us that we shall have them in 2 or 3 weeks, We found our Barracks in



an awful dirty condition when we came, but have got them scrubbed out so that we can live in them now, and upon the whole, are quite comfortable. We are notified that there is some prospect that we shall have to go into our tents immediately as the Barracks are full, and more Regiments coming in, who have no tents and no place to go, and as we have tents we must give place for others.

Since writing the above we have all moved our quarters, but instead of going into tents we had doubled up, and still remain in Barracks, two Squadrons being put together Capt. Chittenden's Squadron and mine are together. We are said to be the best Regiment ever in Benton Barracks and judging from the Regiments now in Camp, I believe it. Our Band is the only one in Camp and there are 20 or 30 Regiments here.

Three or four new Regiments come in every day, and old ones are constantly going out. The 8th 9th + 10th Wis, Ballin's, came in Thursday also the 23<sup>d</sup> Mo. and 15th Iowa. Friday the 16th Iowa came in and today, the 17th Wis. Tomorrow morning the 14th Wis. leave for Tennessee. I was very much disappointed when I learned that you had concluded not to come, but I am now very glad you did not, as it would have been anything but pleasant for you or me either, it is so wet & muddy. I will write you more at length next week, if we remain in the same quarters, as I shall be nicely settled before that. Tonight I am obliged to write as I can catch it. Remember me particularly to the "Bairns" Mary, Myra, Bertie & little Carrie and generally to all the rest of my Ripon friends. I enclose an envelope directed, in order to show you how to direct. Yours affectionately Henry.



your letter with the "Pictor." arrived safe. I think the likeness first rate. I have  
sent it comparing away, for fragment taken reference, I wish you could get a good picture  
of yourself & the children all together to send me. I should think do much of it, but out of  
it would be preferable, the better if he can stand to have his little picture at once, he will be a great satisfaction  
to me, or make it

Benton Barracks, St Louis Mo.  
Thursday April 10. 1862.

My dear Wife,

I am breaking over my old established  
rule, of writing to you only on Sunday, and I do not know  
but you may feel hurt, because I did not wait till my  
regular day, but the day being somewhat to us, like Sunday,  
and the news I have to communicate, being of such importance,  
I felt that I must write. Company B. have just returned  
from "Wesleyan Cemetery." when they have been, to deposit the  
remains of one of their number, Harrison Knowlton, (Nephew  
of Squire Pickett on the Oshkosh road) died yesterday morning,  
He had been sick at the Hospital 8 or 10 days, but was not  
considered dangerous, until a short time before he died. His  
complaint was a type of Typhoid fever, My entire Company  
accompanied the Corpse to the Cemetery, together with the Band,  
the Chaplain of our Regt. and our Capt. Surgeon. We gave him  
a regular military burial, the ceremony was very impressive.  
Harrison was a rugged, hearty boy, and was about the last  
one I should have picked out, as the first to be taken. Mr.  
and Mrs. Robinson will probably remember him, as I  
understand he occasionally took part in the Baptist prayer  
meetings at Ripon. The Cemetery where we buried him, is about  
half way from Camp to the City, and is a beautiful site, high,  
and beautifully shaded with forest trees, and a great variety  
of drooping trees & shrubbery, that I do not know the names of.



Our boys had their new uniform distributed to them last night (Jacket & Pants) and they all wore them today, for the first time. We have moved our quarters 3 times since we came into Camp, and tomorrow we move again! I guess they intend to keep us cleaning barracks all the time we are here. We are going into a more Aristocratic part of the Camp, next, so I suppose we must not complain. They are moving us now, up near Head Quarters. Brockway will know where it is. It is in the north row of Barracks, directly opposite Col. Bonniville's quarters, (when you see the flag, in the plate I sent you) Last evening our boys presented me with a \$10. Hat and a \$14. Sash, and at the same time presented Lieut. Porter a \$20. Sabre. Of course we both spread ourselves, a la Demosthenes. My Hat & Sash are perfect beauties, and I believe, make my outfit complete. I bought me a Saddle a short time since, gave \$40. for it, without any Holsters or Bridle. (I had a bridle, that I bought at Kenocho.) My Horse is sick, and it would be a good deal like my luck to lose him, but I do not propose to borrow any trouble about it in advance. George Wright, (I don't know whether you will remember him, he was from East Troy) is cooking for us, (myself & Lieut's) We have a large room just back of my Office, for Kitchen & Dining room, and we live in fine style. George is a first rate cook. The weather for the last 3 or 4 days has been rather cool, and we have had considerable rain. I am in hopes it will get settled before long. I suppose however, it is a good <sup>deal</sup> Pleasant that it is in Wisconsin. You will have full particulars of the big fight at Pittsburgh (near Corinth)



before this reaches you. That was the fight of the Campaign, was it? Oh, how I wish I could have been there, and lived through it. I should then be perfectly satisfied, to go home, if they wanted to disband us. But I think now, that our chances of ever "Smelling Powder," are nothing to brag of, and I consider it a burning disgrace to somebody, that we have been kept in Camp for 8 mos. fooling away our time, and shall now probably be sent home, or stationed at some Fort or Barracks to guard prisoners, with no probability of ever having a brush with the enemy at all. It seems to me that this last blow, (if at all in magnitude as represented) must wind up the hard fighting, and I expect now soon, to hear that overtures are being made by the South for a compromise, of course it will take time to effect this, but I think the fighting (with perhaps the exception of occasional slight skirmishes to keep up appearances) will be ended, with this fight at Corinth, if our forces there succeed, as it seems now that they will. A day or two more, will decide it.

Major Genl. Halleck started yesterday afternoon, for Tenn. and we three Wisconsin Regts. are left here to run the institution about in our own way. No new developments yet as to when or where we are going. I send you a St. Louis Paper 3 or 4 times a week. Do you get them? You of course get the telegraphic news, much earlier in the Mil. & Chicago dailies, but I thought perhaps the local news might interest you.

I also send occasionally to Brockway, Mad. About. Father, Pine & others. wonder if they get them? I received a good brotherly letter yesterday from about, am going to answer it in a few days.



as soon as I get time. I have been very busy for a day  
or two, corresponding with Knowlton's friends and getting  
his matters in proper shape, and am not through yet.  
The forms, statements, entries, inventories &c &c required  
in such cases by the Army Regulations, in every case of  
death in the Army, whether the soldier dies possessed of  
much or little, makes a vast amount of writing, and this  
in addition to our regular daily routine, with the still  
further addition of preparation for moving our quarters  
keeps me on the qui vive. You may say to him however that  
I hardly know what our friends in Ripon can send us, that  
will be most useful, as I have no kind of an idea yet, where  
we are to go, or what we are to do when we get there. I  
presume, (if they want to send us something,) that the united  
wisdom of the ladies and gentlemen who are concerned  
in the movement there, would select better for us, than  
we could for ourselves, I do not apprehend that we are  
likely to be placed in any position at present, where we  
shall suffer for any of the necessaries of life. Still, anything  
sent to us, as a present from our kind friends at home,  
would be precious to us all, not so much for its intrinsic  
value, as for the assurance it would give us that we were  
not forgotten, by those we love. Remember me kindly to  
all, but especially to the "bairns". How I would like to see you  
all, just a moment, if we are to stay here 10 or 12 months longer,  
I will try and get a furlough by and by when the weather gets  
settled, and run home a few days. Don't set your heart too  
strongly on another letter Sunday, I may possibly write a  
short one, and then again I mayn't. Good by  
Henry.



Benton Barracks April 23. /62

Dear Wife Lib,

As I am at leisure again this eve. I improve it in the usual manner. I suppose it would be somewhat difficult to make you believe, that I spend all my leisure time in writing home, but that assertion, if made, would not be a great ways from the truth. as the fact is, my leisure time in each week does not make a very large aggregate. The weather here for the last 2 or 3 days has been beautiful. Last Friday night, Saturday & Sunday it rained steady, and the weather was decidedly chilly, but since that time, it has been warm & summerlike again. The trees are all leaving out finely! (not much to brag of, the 23 of April, but I suppose it is a little ahead of Fond du Lac Co.) We received the last of our horses today, and at last, the 1st. Regt. Wis. Cavalry are all mounted. We have a fine lot, far better than I expected, our boys are well satisfied, and are improving their time drilling, to good advantage. It will take a long time however to get the horses thoroughly trained. More or less of the boys get unhorsed every day, but no serious accidents have happened yet, except in Squadron H. (Capt. Smiths), a young man by the name of Darling from Mich. got thrown about a week since, his horse falling on him, and he died a day or two after, supposed to have been injured internally. Sent



Howland got thrown again a day or two since, and the Horse  
kicked him with both feet in the breast, as he fell, but it only  
knocked the wind out of him for a few moments, when he  
picked himself up out of the mud (it was about 10 or 12 inches  
deep when he fell) and went off laughing. He was running  
his horse with 2 or 3 others. Maj. Sa. Grange among the rest,  
and they all came mighty near being sent to guard house, to  
pay for it. The Post Adjutant ordered the Patrol Guard to  
arrest them, before he knew who they were, but afterwards  
let them off with a reprimand, They ought to have been  
arrested every mother's son of them, if they had been privates  
they would have been, as it is in violation of orders, of  
the Post. We are yet in the dark in regard to our destination,  
but the Majors are of the opinion that we shall be sent  
West or South West, in Battalions, and they think, pretty  
soon. This however is mere conjecture, as they have as yet,  
only the opinions of military men here, to found their belief  
upon. The Majors are working hard to have the Regiment sent  
out by Battalions, and the Col. I understand, is working the  
best he knows, to have it kept together, It is difficult telling  
which will win. The Col. & the Majors don't hitch at all,  
they are fighting worse than we used to, at Ripon. This I  
suppose is considered Contraband news in military circles,  
and must not be published, I went down to the City yesterday  
and was examined by the military board, convened for



that Purpose. It was not half as much of a Bugbear as I anticipated, at all courts I had no difficulty in answering every question they put to me. The Board consisted of two Col's and one Lt. Col. and they were all gentlemen. My examination did not occupy over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour, but some of our officers they have kept on the stand nearly half a day. Capt. Decker was kept over the Court 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The Col. has his turn tomorrow. They ordered him to appear before them 8 or 10 days ago, and they do say, here in camp (of course they say it, in a whisper) that that order was the cause of his sickness. I of course, do not believe any of these games. We are all of us anxious (!) that he may pass a brilliant examination. My sick boys are all getting along finely. Stevens does not get along very well, but I think we will get him a discharge. Muzzy is coming out all right. Almost every body here has a bad cough, it seems to be a kind of epidemic, but no one seems to mind it much. They take to it "kind o' natural" as boys do at school, to the itch, and other kindred maladies, rather unpleasant, but not particularly alarming, because so common. I saw Lt. Col. Mufson & Lady of LaCrosse (wonder if Mr. Dublin knows them) at the Planter Hotel, the other day. He is Lt. Col. of the 14th Wis. and was wounded by a piece of a shell, at the Pittsburgh fight. He thinks his life was saved by one of those steel vests, he had on. Said the fragment that struck him, took every thing clean to the steel plate, and the



force of the blow was so great that it paralyzed his side  
entirely, but did not break the steel. Pretty good recommendation  
for the vest, think I will get one before I leave. It is getting  
late and I must turn in. One of the 3<sup>d</sup> Regt. boys got shot  
in the leg the other day, while out in the bushes a short  
way from camp digging some roots. There is some sneaking  
scoush hanging around our camp here, that will get  
picked up one of these days, and be very politely invited  
to pull hump. Give my love to the friends generally, in  
and about Ripon, as far as your circuit extends. Mr.  
Humphrey returned yesterday or day before & brought me  
the plate for our Flag Staff, with the inscription "Presented  
by the Ladies of Ripon, to Capt. H.S. Eggleston 1st. Wis. Cav."  
God Bless the Patriotic Ladies of Ripon, - says Capt. Eggleston.  
So say we all. Kiss the babies all round once more, and  
believe me as ever, yours for better or for wasser

Henry

From Henry  
New



Benton Barracks Apr. 27. 1862

Dear "Old Woman".

This is probably the last letter I shall write you from this "Rookery," as we are under marching orders for Commerce, Mo. You will see on the map that it is a short distance above Cairo, on the Missouri side. We are sent there to relieve an Infantry Regt. there, which is ordered to Pittsburgh. The 1st. Battalion leaves here tomorrow. We shall probably go about Wednesday. What kind of a place it is when we are going I do not know, but we are glad to move any way. I will write you again as soon as we get located, and post you as well as I can.

Yesterday our horses were all taken from us and assorted in colors. Bays, Browns, Blacks, Sorrels & Chestnuts, Greys, and "Calico," viz: Roans, Grays, Spotted & White. Our boys had made up their minds to take the Calico tribe, as they thought their Capt. did not understand gambling, judging from my failure in drawing for position last winter. The Bays were the favorite colors, Browns next, Black next, Sorrel & Chestnut next, Greys next and Ring straked and speckled last on the list. We each drew an Envelope, and upon opening mine I found on the slip of paper inside the magic word, Bay! You may as well believe that our



Boys screamed some, when the result was announced, and what is better than all the rest, is, that the horses are all A. No 1. We have improved our stock 25 per cent in the exchange. Our boys were pretty well suited before, but they are perfectly happy now. We have just come in from the first Mounted Inspection, we have ever had, Our Regt. looked finely, and performed well, considering that it was their first effort on horseback. We are obliged to be in the saddle now about 5 hours each day, 2 1/2 in forenoon + 2 1/2 in P.M. and as my Pantaloones are not accustomed to such treatment, it makes them a little sore about the seat, but they are not complaining as bitterly now, as at first, and I think they will be all right in a few days, at all events I do not propose to favor them much. Storms has just come in + bid me "good by", he leaves this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and will probably be at Ripon Tuesday night. He is mightily well pleased to think he has got his discharge, I think, he is a little sick, and a good deal frightened, and this latter complaint grows upon him, the further South we get. I presume his health will improve now, rapidly. The weather is oppressively hot, regular Wisconsin July and August weather, we are all sweating and sweltering with our Coats off, in the shade. How does that make you feel, up about the North Pole? eh? Today does not seem much like Sunday, in Benton Barracks, the forenoon was mostly occupied in Inspection + Review +



this afternoon we are all busy in making preparations for a move. Blacksmiths, Shoing Houses, Quarter Masters issuing 4 days rations, Privates, Non Commissioned Officers and Officers, doing the thousand and one little jobs, always to be done before moving, all bustle, bustle, bustle. Occasionally you can see small knots of men in front of their quarters, playing ball or pitching quoits, (men who make it a principle to take life about as it runs, and never prepare for anything) but as a general thing, all are busy, I am obliged to write by odd spells, as I am every few minutes called off to look after something, or decide some disputed point, that nobody but the Capt. can determine. There is a lot of about 900 Infantry coming here from the Convalescent Hospital at Point Pleasant, just below Island No 10. They are fractions of Companies who were sent to the Hospital there to recruit. Some of them wounded, and some sick, They are sending them up here to organize into new Companies, and they have detailed 3 Sints. from each of the 3 Wis. Cav. Regts. here, to drill them, and have detailed a Dutch Major (I forget his name) from the 3<sup>d</sup> Regt. to have command of the entire force. The Sints detailed from our Regt. are St. Howland, St. Consaul & St. Comstock.

The boys are in a good deal of a fever about it, as they are fearful they intend keeping them here after the Regt. goes. I hardly think they will, but do not know certainly. It will be too bad, if they do, We laugh at them a good deal about



thin foot Cavalry drill, They make decidedly a hard appearance,  
those that are here, they are mostly missouri troops, although  
there are some from nearly all the Northwestern States, a  
few from the Wisconsin 8th. I must close this letter now  
as we are now called to form again. I have done better  
than I expected I should when I commenced, did not  
expect to get time to write more than two pages at most.  
Your letters that are directed to us here, will follow us  
when we go. We shall get them all, I will tell you how  
to direct to our new camp, when I write again. Love to all.  
good by.

Henry S. Eggleston



Cape Girardeau Mo.  
April 29. 1862

Dear Elizabeth

I am going to snatch just a moment, to inform you that we have moved, a little earlier than we expected.

We were notified yesterday at noon, that it was necessary to send 5 Squadrons instead of the 4 as at first designed, & as they would have only 3 hours to prepare, he should have to call on my Squadron, as he knew it was the only one in the Regt. that could make the time. We were on time, but our rations were not very thoroughly cooked, and our luggage was not very carefully packed. I don't exactly know what is to be done now, but the Col. told me just before I left St Louis (he has not come yet) that our Squadron would be sent back



into the Country somewhere, probably  
to Pilot Knob, or Jackson. I think  
most of Regt. will make Head Quarters  
here, but 2 or 3 Squadrons will be sent  
back on detached service, into the  
Country from 20 to 50 miles. This  
Place is high, and I think must be  
very healthy, Mrs Northrup can  
tell you all about it, I must  
stop now but will write again, as  
soon as I ascertain certainly where  
we go, Direct to me here at present,  
or till you hear from me again,  
Love to all, good by.

Henry S. Eggerton



Cape Girardeau Mo

June 26. 1862

Dear Wife,

I have today commenced boarding with Mrs. Beckwith. They have just moved in from Camp, and are now occupying a very neat little Brick Cottage, belonging to a noted Secesh who left town a long while ago. The Col. took military possession, and put Beckwith in. rent free. Old Mrs. Daniels is stopping with them. Her health is first rate. She says she never enjoyed herself better than she has the past 6 months. I think I shall like my boarding place first rate. have been stopping at the St. Charles Hotel, the landlord is Secesh all over, and dont know how to keep a Hotel either. two very grave charges, Mrs Col. Daniels has left for Wisconsin, Mrs. Paine is still here waiting for her husband. dull music I should think. No other ladies here, belonging to the Regt. that I think of. We hear good reports from St.



Consaul and his little crew about the Boat. He is now out of shallow water, and will have no further trouble getting her around to this place if they are not attacked by Secesh along the banks of the St. Francis. They are reported to be in that vicinity somewhere in considerable force, and I am fearful they may give the boys trouble before they out. but am sure the boys will give a good account of themselves if attacked, and will bring the Boat out, if there is any such thing on the Programme. It will be a most brilliant achievement if they succeed, and is worth an effort, even if the chances are a little doubtful.

St. Col. Sa. Grange came in day before yesterday accompanied by Sergt. Wan of my Squadron. They return today. Wan has made himself quite a Hero since I left. You will see an account of his adventure in the "Eagle", although that is not exactly correct. The next Paper will give a corrected version. He has written it out himself since he has been here. George Brown & Wm. Baker are stopping here, waiting to assist me in superintending the work on the road & Bridge. if I ever get the lazy Board of Directors here, at work. It takes a Missouri

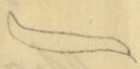


man about 24 hours to turn around. I am getting almost tired waiting for them. There is no one of them, that dares to answer the most simple question, without first calling the Board together, and as the President lives out of town 4 miles, it makes slow work. I am in hopes however to get the Preliminaries settled & commence work now soon. I have been trying the Col. to let me go back into the Country, but he thinks I must stay awhile. I am in hopes to get away from here in the course of two or three weeks. Quite a number of my boys are sick at Bloomfield, among them is Ed. Town. I think I wrote you before that Seavitt was sick. I do not understand that any of them are considered dangerous. The farmers are all harvesting now, some are nearly through. Corn is tassel'd out (some fields), new Potatoes are quite plenty, and green apple Pies are an every day treat. The weather is warm, but the nights are cool and comfortable. I wrote Col. Pinkney a day or two since, shall expect an answer soon. They have prohibited issuing furloughs to Officers entirely, except upon certificate of Surgeon that it is absolutely necessary to save life! Wasnt I lucky in



applying in season? I have not received those letters  
yet from that fishing party. I shall send up an  
order soon, if they neglect it much longer; no news  
of importance further that I think of. My health is  
good, as usual. Remember me kindly to all enquiring  
friends, and particularly to the "wee ones" at home

Affectionately Henry S. E.





Bloomfield May 13/62

Dear Elizabeth

Our teams are just starting for Cape Girardeau and I improve the opportunity to drop you a line as I cannot tell when I will have another opportunity to send. We have no mail here except as we can send to the Cape for it, and cannot send mail in any other way, so you must not be surprised if you do not receive letters as regularly as heretofore. We have no paper, Ink or Envelopes here except as we occasionally have opportunity to confiscate an old writing Book, this letter is written from a leaf torn out of one of the District Court Books. We are right in the heart of the Secesh District here, but the villains are afraid of us as they are of death, and are all in the swamps and woods about here. We are constantly on the scout after them, but they run as soon as they know of our advance, my Squadron has just come in from a two days scout about 20 miles south of here. We found the Camp we were after, but the rebels got word we were after them, and deserted. Numbers are every day coming in from the woods, and giving themselves up, and promise better fashions hereafter. I don't place much dependence upon their promises. We have no tents with us, all sleep in the open air, under trees and in the corners of fences, and I find it all just as well, after getting used to it. I can drop down on the ground now, anywhim and am asleep in a minute. This is bushwhacking in earnest. I am as hearty as a buck, and think I can stand it with any of them. I have been in the saddle the last 3 nights until after 2 o'clock each night, and make up for lost sleep nights by improving each upon moment days. The teams are starting & I must stop. Will write again the next opportunity. Keep writing as usual as it will all come through here in time - Send as before to the Cape - Good Bye Henry



Bloomfield, Saturday May 17. 1862

Dear Elizabeth

I have this morning confiscated a leaf from a Scotch Day Book, and have concluded to use it for a "more noble and glorious purpose", viz: to post you and the rest of my friends at Ripon, in regard to our present position & future prospects, here in this beautiful Portion of God's Unity. In the first place let me relieve your mind of any fears you may have for my safety, so far as any danger exists of getting shot in an engagement with the enemy. The first time I went out on a night expedition, we had information of a rebel camp of 50 or 60 men about 11 miles South in the woods, and I am almost ashamed to confess that I was fooled into the belief that we were really to have an opportunity to try ourselves in an engagement with the enemy, and exchange salutations, in the homoeopathic way. (little pills), I had been foolish enough just before leaving St. Louis, to invest \$12. in a Stur Vest, and upon this memorable night, I was foolish enough to buckle it on, as a matter of precaution, and we all started from camp (about 100 of us) firm in the belief that we were now about to accomplish something wonderful & that would answer (in the absence of any greater achievement) to "brag on" a little, when we got back home, of course we expected a fight, for we had no idea that ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~number~~ <sup>number</sup> ~~reported~~ <sup>reported</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the character they had been reported to be, ("Backwoodsmen - Old Hunters - Bloodthirsty Dan Devils &c") would allow themselves to be surprised & taken, without giving us a warm reception. We moved forward, cautiously & silently, with advanced guards, rear guards and flankers on each side, to guard against surprise, through dense timber, over hills & along ravines, expecting every moment to be fired into, until at last the guide announced that we were in the immediate vicinity of the rebel camp. We then divided into two divisions, one going to the right, the other to the left, and we crept stealthily through the woods in the dark, (it was about 10 o'clock at night) until we had surrounded the camp, then at a preconcerted signal, we closed in upon them with a rush, - when, lo & behold, we found that we had taken an old log house, and any amount of Bacon rinds, corn husks, & other evidence that a Camp had just



broken up them, but nary a Secesh. The valiant bushwhackers had vanquished the ranch. The scoundrels dare not face Union troops, any where, they will occasionally fire upon these Missouri State Militia, (who are made of the same material) but you cannot coax them to stand their ground when any of the Wisconsin boys are around, We ran their Col. down, the other day in the woods & captured him, and have him now in the guard House, He is evidently a smart well informed man, for this country, I had a long talk with him yesterday, and he told me that we were the first troops he had ever met here, who would dash out into the woods & swamps to follow them, He said Indiana troops & Illinois troops besides these Missouri troops had at different times been here & would dash along the roads bravely, but had never in a single instance, been known to turn into the woods, even when fired at, My Squadron started last Tuesday night, and took a scout through a large Cypress swamp lying S.E. of here about 10 miles, We knew there was a lot of Secesh in there, and were bound to smoke them out if possible, We were out all Tuesday night, Wednesday & Wednesday night & got back to Camp Thursday afternoon, but did not have a chance to fire a single gun, We took 14 prisoners & passed within 15 rods of Col. Phelan with 40 of his men (he told me about it himself yesterday) but not a soul of them dare fire, It was decidedly the most dismal place I ever was in, For  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile upon a stretch we would wade through a sea of mud and water, Horses would every moment or two go down, and their riders would be obliged to get off and flounder about in the mud, to get his horse out, but no serious accidents resulted, and the trip, although a very unpleasant one, paid, for I know now something how a Cypress swamp looks, and when I get back again to Ripon, and we sing together that good old song the "Dismal Swamp", as we used to, in olden time, I will occasionally stop & explain to you, from personal observation, Now I put on airs though, I laid aside my Stul Vest after wearing it once, and propose to let it lay there, until I get shot at, at least once, I would like to dispose of it for old boiler Iron, I am going to write a little on another sheet, and will direct the other to Myra, My envelope I borrowed an so small I cannot put both sheets in one, Our train has just come in from the Cape & brought our mail, with 2 letters from you, including Sister Myra's & Mr Durlins, last one dated May 11, Henry



Bloomfield, Wednesday May 21. 1862

Dear Elizabeth

The last letter I wrote you, was written on a leaf torn from a Book taken from the Court House, this one, is from the Roll Book of the "Bloomfield Female Seminary", Squadron "B" is now running that Institution, and we flatter ourselves that we can offer the usual inducements, for a liberal patronage, Parents who are desirous of giving their daughters a classical Education, can here rely, upon their receiving the undivided attention of the entire faculty, No pains will be spared to render the School and its surroundings, as perfectly homelike as possible, and my chief study as Principal, will be, to so blend discipline & amusement, that the course may prove to each and every Pupil, a source of enjoyment & pleasure, Any number of good looking Misses, between 16 and 20, can be accommodated, none other need apply, The best of references given if required - Principal & President; The Capt. - Professors; the 2 Supts & Nov. Coms, - Tutors; the entire troops, -

The rainy weather drove us from our bivouac in the Woods yesterday, and each Capt. had the privilege of selecting quarters for his men in town. There are any number of empty Houses here, belonging to both Parties, To Union men who were driven out by the Secesh before we came, and to the Secesh, who run, when or before we took possession, so that our Regt. (what is left of it here) are quartered all over town, in dwellings, Stores & Shops, My Squadron occupy the Seminary, a very convenient building for the purpose, as it large enough for the entire Squadron and the benches & desks, an very handy for tables, chairs &c. There is a large yard around the building, with a high board fence around it, which makes us a very safe & convenient yard for our Horses, This yard of about 2 acres, was not long since a beautiful flower garden, and the outlines of the Diamonds, Triangles, Circles, Crescents &c. &c. are still visible, but the flowers and beds were all tramped down, by Jeff. Thompsons men & Horses, before we came, it is too bad, but such is war, I am quartered in a little House in a yard adjoining the Seminary, and am as comfortable as a Sultan, I am boarding out now, get my meals at a



House directly across the road from my quarters. If you  
was only here now, with your Old Copper tea Kettle and a  
small invoice of Crockery, we would commence housekeeping  
at once. There is a large old fashioned fire place in the front  
room, and if I only had a little woman & a tea Kettle, I should  
be all right. Strawberries have ripened here and are now nearly  
gone (the first crop), Cherries will be ripe in the course of a  
week or ten days. Lettuce, Radishes & such vegetables we have eaten  
until we are sick of them, Peaches will begin to be ripe in about  
6 weeks, and such signs of them, The trees are beginning to  
break down already, & they, not more than half grown. If we  
are here the 1st. of Aug. wont we go in, though, They are as free  
as water here, Thousands & Thousands & Thousands of B.P. rotting on  
the ground every year. I have just been out (about a mile) and called upon  
Mrs. Col. Philson, She is a very intelligent appearing woman and lives  
in a very pleasant place. She took us out and showed us her  
her flower garden, where she has a great variety of beautiful  
flowers. The garden has evidently missed its usual care this  
spring, but is still well worth looking over. She picked me a  
very nice bouquet and handed me as I was leaving. She seems  
to be well pleased that we have her husband a prisoner, as  
~~she says she is sure to rejoice that the cause he espoused, is~~  
a hopeless one, and she had much rather he should be in our  
hands, a prisoner, than to be hiding in the swamps, an outlaw,  
in danger of being shot every hour. The Citizens here have quite an  
exalted opinion of our northern troops, but hate these Missouri  
state troops, with a perfect hatred, I suppose they are not much,  
if any, better than the secesh. I forgot to tell you that when we  
took possession of the Seminary Building, we found in one  
of the upper rooms, a large dry goods box, marked, "From  
the ladies of Murfreesborough". Upon opening this box, we  
found it filled with shirts, bandages, lint, drawers, night  
shirts, Towels, Pillows and a variety of other articles in that line  
for the sick & wounded soldiers of the Confederate army. Our  
boys took to them as naturally as a duck would to water,  
and the entire pile was appropriated in short order. I have  
on my bed, two nice little feather Pillows, with Brown Drill  
Cases, marked "Mrs. S. A. E. Summerhill, for sick & wounded  
soldiers, No. 17, & 19," part of the contents of the aforesaid box. &



\*

There was 20 or 30 more, I propose to mail mine on my saddle when I leave here & take them along, as I find they fit my head a little better than my Saddle does. Mrs. Summerhill has my thanks for her attention to my comfort. No intimation yet as to the length of our stay here. The Col. is still at Chalk Bluffs. Messengers have just arrived from them, & bring word that Maj. La. Grange with 150 men & a Cannon, had just started for the County Seat of that County, to attack about 100 rebels, who are reported to be there, with 2 Pieces of Artillery. I presume they will run, before our boys get to them, Major Pomroy will not let Squadron B. go. We have tried our best to persuade him, but it's no go. I do not know when I shall have an opportunity to send this to the Cape, but concluded to have it on hand ready for the first opportunity. If I do not get a chance to send within a day or two, may have some news from the Col's expedition, to write, if so, I will stick it in. I am glad to hear that my Wheat is all in, in good shape. I hope to be at home to see it harvested. Does Brockway really think of leaving Ripon, or will he build again? I hope he will stay. How are Father, Mother, Harriet & Albert's folks getting along. It seems almost a year, since I was at Ripon. I am going to try hard for a furlough, when we get back to the Cape. Don't know as I can get it. Sicut. Postur is at the Cape yet, has not been here at all, I am perfectly satisfied to have him stay, if he will only keep away. I sent a line by Sicut. Merrill a day or two since. You will probably see him before you get this, and he will be able to answer all the questions you can ask him. I did not write you any particulars about the fight at Chalk Bluffs, because he was there himself, and I know he could tell you about it much better & fuller than I could write it. I will save the other page, to write any news that I may have, just before sending. Provided I have time, after learning of an opportunity to send. Love to all & especially to the Children. - Good night

Henry,



Capu Girardeau June 19. /62

Dear Wife

I wrote you from St. Louis last Tuesday that I would be here yesterday or last night, but, "the best laid plans of mice & men will sometimes fail", you know, (Perhaps this is not exactly in the words of Cowper, but it must be very near.) I went aboard the "Perry" at 5 o'clock, as I wrote you I should, and enquired of the clerk when the Boat would leave, he informed me that owing to the great amount of freight to put on, they probably would not get started before 9 o'clock. They were loading government stores for Memphis Columbus, and such a pile of it, you never saw in your life, put it all together, Army Wagons, Ambulances, Cartridges, Hard Bread, Pork, Beans, Tents, Rope, 2000 Chickens in Coops, Lumber for Barracks, 150 Mules, Saddles, Harness, Meal in Sacks, Hay, and in short every thing else that you can think of, needed by an Army, and such an amount; the Hole was packed full, the lower deck, the upper deck & the Hurricane deck was piled up, just as high as they could pile them. They had



50 men steady at work all day Tuesday & Wednesday  
till 6 O'clock P.M. before we got ready to start, and we  
did not reach here until noon today. I found the Col.  
and Mrs. Daniels well as also the rest of the men here.  
I learn that St. Conrault with a part of my Company  
have gone on to the boat taken at Hornersville, and are  
to take it out into the Mississippi if possible. The Col.  
tells me however, that he fears the water is so low, that they  
cannot get it out. St. Porter with the bal. of the Company is  
about 12 or 15 miles below Bloomfield. Maj. (or St. Col.)  
La Grange with about 400 men have gone down into Ark.  
after some Bushwhackers reported to be there. Maj.  
Torrey with a small force is in the vicinity of Chalk  
Bluffs, and Maj. Pomroy is still at Bloomfield. I  
am going to stop here for a few days as the Col. wishes  
me to superintend the repairing of the roads and Bridges  
between here and Bloomfield. How much of a job it will  
be I cannot now tell. I will write you again as soon  
as I get ready to leave. They had learned of my appointment  
here before I arrived, the Col. had received a letter from the Gov.  
giving him notice of the appointment. Every man I met had  
to congratulate me, upon my promotion. I of course



have not yet seen Capt. Mars, he will not be so cordial  
I presume, Love to all - good by -  
Henry S.

Kiss the children all around, and tell them I am  
going to write them a letter as soon as I get time,  
I enclose \$10. in Confederate scrip as a curiosity, I bought  
it at St. Louis for 20 cts.



Planters House Mo.  
Tuesday, June 17. /62

Dear E,

I arrived here this morning at 11 a.m. I shall start down the River on the "G. D. Perry" this afternoon at 4 o'clock, and shall probably reach the Cape about 1 in the night. Have just seen Sicut. Cooper (of Co. I: the one who was under arrest when I left.) He informs me that Capts. Bruntt, Chittenden and Dickin and himself, have all been released, and that the Col. & Capt. Bruntt have been for some days at St. Louis; says he heard before he left the Cape, that the Col. had been ordered to report himself here, under arrest upon charges preferred against him by Maj. Torrey Capts Bruntt & Dickin, and that he requested Capt



Bruntt to come up with him and  
help him out of the scrape, and  
Proposed if he would do so, to  
"bury the hatchet," and forget every  
thing past, Whether this is so,  
I cannot say, doubt it though,  
I have been trying since I have  
been here to find when the Col.  
stops him, but cannot, have just  
seen a gentleman who tells me, he  
thinks they returned to the Cape  
last Saturday, The Supt. tells me  
Capt. Connattys Co. is at the Cape;  
Cos. I (Hobbs). - II (Hydes) & E. (Chittenden's)  
are at Bloomfield, and the balance  
of the Regt. are below, at Chalk Bluff  
and around in that vicinity, Doct.  
Gregory is dead. I learned at Ft.  
Atkinson Wis. (where he lived) that  
they had funeral services there  
last Sunday, the day before I got  
there, We left Chicago last evening  
at 9 o'clock, and about 10, it began



to rain and has kept it up ever  
since, and such Thunder and  
Lightning I never saw, <sup>or heard</sup> before, it  
was a perfect sheet of flame, all  
night, I had taken a berth in the  
sleeping car, and as I wanted, if  
possible, to get value received for  
my \$1. that I had advanced to the  
Contraband who had charge of that  
part of the institution, I made up  
my mind about 12 to let it Thunder  
& Lightning alone, the rest of the night,  
rolled over & went to sleep, Waked up  
this morning and found it pouring  
as hard as ever, but it has not  
troubled me any, as I have been  
under cover all the time. What  
a nice good visit I have had, haven't  
I. I just begin to realize it now; I  
believe the best people in the world,  
live at Ripon, such dear good  
women, and such mighty fine  
fellows, I almost blame myself



now, that I did not rip em  
around when I first got there, and  
then again when I came away, I  
should have had such a good excuse,  
you know. Now dont get jealous  
Lib. of course I dont expect to  
marry 'em all, wouldnt if I  
could, and perhaps, couldnt if  
I would, am not positive about  
that, but at all events, I pledge  
you my word, that I wont, so  
just rest easy on that "point". Tell  
Mr Brockway & Mr. Durlin that  
I shall expect a long letter from  
each of them as soon as they get  
back, Love to every body, good by.

Henry S.

P.S. of course you will write, most  
all the time, thats a good girl.



Cape Girardeau July 4. 1862

My Dear Elizabeth

We have had a great celebration today but I have not time to give you a description of the performance, but will defer it until my next. We administered the oath of allegiance to about 800 persons. We start tomorrow morning for Bloomfield, and perhaps shall go on to Arkansas, and I shall need to be busy all the evening in getting ready. The Col. goes with us, and we shall take the entire Regiment, except a few to be left here and at Bloomfield for guard, if we go to Arkansas. We shall probably take a force of 6 or 700 men, and fearing that I may not have an opportunity to send a letter again until I return. I write this, that you may not feel uneasy, if you do not receive your letters regularly for two or three weeks, or in fact if you do not receive any at all, for that time, I will improve every opportunity to send, but they will probably be few & far between. I have bought me a Horse. He is small but rides easy, and I think is tough. Tell Aunt that when I go home, if I do not use him up before. I



will let him ride him. He will do finely for him,  
my health is fine. I have got me a Contraband  
who takes care of my Horse, blacks my Boots;  
brushes my clothes and makes himself generally  
useful. He says he is a first rate Cook. I have  
had no occasion to test his qualities in this line  
yet, but shall have when we get into the field.  
I have received no letter yet from Mr. Brockway or  
Mr. Dulin and shall not probably get them now,  
(if written) for 2 or 3 weeks. We hear nothing yet  
from the boys on that Boat. I am fearful they  
have got into difficulty down there, Love to all

Henry,



Bloomfield July 7. 1862

My dear Wife,

I have just a moment to write, & I improve the opportunity to inform you that Lieut. Cousaul has just ridden in from the Cape, and brings word that the rest of the boys that were with him on the Boat are all at the Cape safe & sound except Crocker (Corp.) He was out scouting when they left and will probably follow soon, if not taken. They got the Boat out into good water at the mouth of "Little River", but learning that there was a force of 1500 Men & 6 Cannons on the river below at Madison, they dare not attempt to run her out, and left her tied up to shore. They took her engine to pieces so that the Secish could not start her off, and then went across the swamps & woods to the Mississippi, about 38 miles. Halted a Boat coming up, and got aboard. John looks hard & is very thin. Has had the fever & ague, but is feeling fine to think he is back. We start down South tonight, shall probably go into Arkansas a piece. I sent out \$1100. by Pay Master Sullivan this morning, to take to St Louis and express through to Brookway. If it does not get through in due time write & let me know. The Pay Master deducted the amount of my allotment \$160. from my pay



and this amt. the Treasurer of the State of Wis.  
should send to Brockway; Enquire if he has  
received it. I am assigned to command the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Battalion, and have Squadron "B." in my Batt.

The boys are feeling first rate about the arrangement.  
I am hearty as a Buck, now better. Have not time  
to write more now. Love to all. Keep writing the  
same as though I was here, the letters will all  
come in play when I get back. Direct as usual,  
to Cape Girardeau. — Capt. Chittenden started for  
the Cape this morning, he has resigned.

Yours affectionately

Henry S.

P.S. Sicut. Friedrichs of Squadron "D." (Capt.  
Brutt) died at the camp about 18 miles  
south of this place, last Friday. He was  
buried here last evening. Capt. Brutt tells  
me it was an old complaint of his, (Plumisy)



Madison St. Francis Co. Arkansas  
July 31. 1862

Dear Wife

As I have a little leisure this morning and have had the extra good fortune to find an Ink bottle & Steel Pen, I concluded to improve the opportunity and write you another letter, hoping to have a chance some day (I can hardly guess when) to forward it. I have just sent you a line by a boy (St. John's servant) who left here this morning on his way home to Wisconsin, sick. He lives at St. Atkinson and if he gets through, will mail the letter then. I also sent by him a nice little shot gun, which I hope to have some fun with, when I get back to Wisconsin. I forgot to write you that there is a load in it. Get some one to fire it off. I was in so much of a hurry when I sent it, that I forgot it. I took it from a Scotch at Milledgeburgh, and as it was a nic little plaything, I concluded to send it home. We have had rather a hard trip from Chalk Bluffs here. most of the way, the country has been poor, & for 40 or 50 miles, water was very scarce. No one can tell until he has tried it, how necessary good water is, and what an amount of it is required, to supply a Regt. of Cavalry. Some days we were obliged to depend entirely upon Wells, for watering our Horses, and poor Wells at that & far between. The result was, none of the Horses had enough, and large numbers could get none at all. I pitied the poor things, but could not help them. The Col. went down to Memphis & Helena a short time since, and when he got back to this place, he wrote me (I was then 20 miles back, at Milledgeburgh,) that we were going to join Gen. Curtis' expedition against Little Rock. Gen. Hindman was there with 15 or 20 thousand Confederate troops. But he has now vacated that place, and is said to be moving his Command to Texas. This, if true, will alter the programme somewhat, and where we will go now, I am unable to say. Col. Daniels told me this morning, that we would



Probably go to Helena, and then wait for further developments, The 1st. & 3<sup>d</sup> Batts moved from here to a new Camp 25 miles south, the day before I came in, The Col. staid until this morning, and went out on the little Steamer "Carl," sick, as I wrote you this morning, The boat took along all the sick of the Regt. and about 100 Contraband (nigger) women & Children, The men & Women without babies, follow the train, I have over 200 with my Batt! rather odorous, this warm weather, I shall move my command to the new Camp south, as soon as the roads are in proper condition, (it is raining now) probably in a day or two, Shall be glad if I ever get out again, when I can have mail facilities, Have not seen a Paper since I started from Bloomfield, except one or two old ones, that were so aged, they smelt musty, There was a rail road running from Memphis to this place, until after Memphis was taken by our troops, but since that time the Cars have not run, a few weeks before our Regt. arrived here, the scoundrels burned the Bridge over the St. Francis at this place, It was a magnificent structure & cost 200,000 dollars, It is now nothing but a pile of ruins, The tall neatly proportioned abutments still stand in the bed of the River and on either bank, and between, is a mass of massive Iron bolts, Caps, plates & Chaired timbers used in its construction, It is truly a sorry sight to look at, but I console myself by thinking, that the barbarians here do not deserve, and cannot appreciate such privileges & advantages as they seemed to be enjoying here after the completion of this road, and as they destroyed it themselves, I am inclined to think they do not deserve our pity, still it was a sad destruction of valuable property, & probably will not be replaced



Helena Ark. Aug. 5. 1862

Dear Wife

I am waiting here to report to Gen. Curtis, and as I know you will be anxious to hear from me, I will just drop you a line to let you know I am alive and well. I suppose you will get news of our recent fight at Sanguille Ferry, in advance of this, and will of course be anxiously awaiting tidings of my safety. I have not time now, to give you a full account of the engagement, but will in a brief manner give you some particulars that will interest you most. My Battalion, or a detachment of it, were encamped at the Ferry awaiting orders from Head Quarters, (eight miles beyond, at Marianna) At  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 o'clock Sunday morn. the Pickets were driven in by 600 Texas Rangers under command of Col. Parsons. Our force all told, was 120 men, about 25 of this number were sick, leaving us less than 100 effective men. In less than 3 minutes from the time the first alarm gun was fired, they were in our camp, and entirely around it. Our men were mostly in bed asleep when the Pickets fired. Perhaps 20 were up. I got up and threw on my clothes, and when I got to the part of the camp where the firing was the sharpest, I saw at a glance that there was no probable chance to save the camp. The firing almost instantly became general on three sides of us. (in front, on our left and in our rear.)



enemy

and I expected, <sup>every</sup> moment to see our boys break and run, but not a single man flinched, I saw it would be impossible to form a line, and under the circumstances, I was convinced that it would not be prudent. if I could, the disparity in our forces being so great, and the enemy being all mounted, ready to charge upon us as soon as a line was formed, I consequently gave the order for every man to pick his position, as best he could behind the trees. For about 30 minutes the hail of bullets and buck shot was terrific, they were mostly armed with double barreled guns, loaded with 12 or 15 buck shot. How one single one of us escaped, is and always will be a mystery to me. Our boys would every little while be obliged to fall back a little from tree to tree and then would pour in their fire again so hot that the enemy would give ground and they would recover their old position, they would fire first to the front and then to the rear, as the enemy approached man on either side, after about 20 minutes fighting in this manner and after the enemy had become partly well convinced that we knew no such word as "surrender", they drew in their forces from our flanks, concentrating them in the center thus giving us, (the few that remained) an opportunity to fall back into the woods on either side, this we done gradually, every man backing out with his face to the foe, I did not see a single man run a step during the whole engagement or in falling back.



into the woods. The result as near as I have been  
able to get at it is as follows: Crown killed & two  
that have since died making 13. - Among these were  
6 from my old Squadron B, viz Seryt. Ware - Corp. Mead -  
Corp. Bushnell - Corp. Hazard, (wounded & since died) Privates  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Bantier & Bradley Brown, Chaplain Dummer  
was shot in the head & killed while dressing. The other  
6 that were killed were Corp. Wallace of I Squadron, M. F.  
Mills of E, Edward Oxner of F. Nicholas Fridell of I,  
also C. C. Webb of I wounded & since dead, and Philander  
Tinsdell of K. We had 37 wounded; of these 8 were  
from Co. B. I will name these because you will probably  
know most of them Mastick who has a buck shot through  
his left lung, He appears smart however & thinks he will  
get along. A. D. Farrar slight, - Ed. Hallumbuck buck shot through  
his neck. A. P. Kendall two or three buck shot wounds. but  
is doing well. Chas. Edgerton not very serious I think.  
D. S. Flowers two in head, one in hand & one in leg all buck shot,  
doing finely. U. C. Eddy, in arm, & S. B. Davis in both feet,  
the others you probably would not know. Geo. Brown was  
wounded slightly in the leg & taken prisoner. St. Consaul  
was taken prisoner, picked up by scouting party in the  
woods after the fight was all over. I suppose they were out  
picking up their dead & wounded. They took some prisoners  
how many, I cannot tell. There are about 30 missing in  
all, not accounted for. Every Commissioned Officer except  
St. La Grange is missing, either prisoners, or in the wood.  
There was only a few with us at the time viz. Seryt. Getchell



Sinck Owen, Hobbs, Consaul, & Sa. Grange, Sicut. Porter was sent last Tuesday with 20 men to Chalk Bluffs. We have just heard by one of his men that has come back, that he was attacked at Jonsboro and all cut to pieces ~~or~~ taken. Sicut. Jones of Co F was sent out on a scout, about 30 miles the day before we were attacked & I expect to hear that he too is taken. All this is the result of the most culpable mismanagement which has characterized this command all the way through, viz. Keeping our force divided up in small detachments, and that too in the very heart of an enemy's country. It will cost somebody his Commission, if not his head. I have not time to write more now but will improve the first leisure moment I have to write again. I cannot tell you what I shall do or when I shall go next, but I have no command now, as my battalion has not more than 50 effective men in it. I shall try to have them attached for the present, to the 1st. or 3<sup>d</sup> Batt, thus relieving me for a time at least, (until it can be filled) of my command. Love to the children and to all enquiring friends - good by  
Henry S. Eggerton

N.B. Perhaps you had better show this to the Editor of the "Times", and let him publish the names of the killed, for the information of friends. The wounded with the exception of 2 or 3 are doing well & will recover.



# WISCONSIN STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

[No. 1.]

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To Taggart Bros

Wis

786

By Telegraph from

Dec 11 1862

Maj Eggleston 1<sup>st</sup> Wis

Cavalry died at the New Hall House this one  
Ocer PM of Diphtheria inform his family.

(20 1000 Od)

Sig  
A. J. Lewis

Capt 11 Wis Col