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Ault, William, 1832-1888
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TWO UNWILLING SOLDIERS

**My two grandfathers
and the part they played
in the Civil War**

Compiled by Raymond Buker



THE AULT FAMILY

Taken at Monroe, Wisconsin, about 1880

Standing - Mary Alice (Jacobs - Travis) Sep 9, 1864-Mar 24, 1961
 Christina (Ableman) Jul 13, 1855-Jan 20, 1894
 Barbara Catharine (Buker) Oct 11, 1866-Nov 22, 1955
 Perry Austin Mar 7, 1871-Mar 17, 1956 m. Effie Allen

Sitting - Lorenzo D. "Ren" Aug 11, 1860-Mar 23, 1930 m. Lillian Smith
 George Washington Aug 7, 1858-Sep 26, 1913 m. Louise Sheare
 Father - William Apr 1, 1832-Jun 30, 1888
 Mother - Elizabeth Bechtolt Jun 16, 1833-Nov 19, 1886
 Alvin Anson Sep 19, 1873-Jul 8, 1959 m. Caroline "Carrie" Bucher

There were three other children - Henry Mar 13, 1857-Oct 15, 1857
 John Wesley Nov 23, 1868-Feb 10, 1872
 Olive Jan 25, 1878-Mar 9, 1878

It has now (1980) been 115 years since the close of the Civil War. Not too many persons now living can say that both of their grandfathers served in that war but both of mine did, even though unwillingly. And both of them were old, even then, for the life of a soldier.

People sometimes ask me where they enlisted from They did not enlist. They were drafted.

Henry Bucher was 43. He served from Sept. 18, 1864 to June 26, 1865, as a private in Capt. Daniel Webster's Company, 1st Battery, Wis. Horse Artillery.

William Ault was 32. He served from Dec. 10, 1864 to Oct. 9, 1865, as a private in Co. D, 14th Regt., Wis. Vol. Inf.

I dedicate this book to my mother, Barbara Ault Buker, whose habit of "keeping everything" has made it possible for the contents of these letters to be made available to future generations.

Personal Recollections of Eugene Davenport,
former Dean of the College of Agriculture,
University of Illinois, from his column in
Prairie Farmer of August 24, 1940

Having just passed his 84th milestone,
the Commentator has been listing some of
his most significant recollections among
which are the following:

The old log house, with its stick "chim-
bly," in which he was born just across the
road from where this is being written.

The almost unbroken forest, for it had
not yet been 20 years since the first tree
was cut in the township.

Livestock running in the road, and the
excitement among the neighbors when it was
reported that pork could actually be sold
for money.

Having seen when "quite a boy" his great-
great-grandfather who was born in 1776, the
two of us spanning the entire history of
the United States as a nation.

Knowing for some years two grandparents
who were born ~~was born~~ while Washington
was still living.

Recalling how his father one day came
rushing in from his work and said: "Esther,
they have fired on Fort Sumter and that
means war." Fired. Fort Sumter. War. New
words all.

Attending "rallies" where men "enlisted"
and went away. Some never came back. Fun-
erals at night from "black measles" (small
pox). Robart and other "walking skeletons"
from Andersonville.

Three things demanded of "Old Abe": to
"free the slaves, lick the Rebels and hang
Jeff Davis." The air was full of hatred
and there were many fist fights.

Abuse of Lincoln for calling out 75,000
men for 90 days. "Any 25,000 Yankees could
lick the Rebels in 30 days."

Bull Run, Wilderness, Chickamauga. "What
was the matter with Old Abe?" Some said he
was a coward, some a fool, while others sus-
pected that he was "in cahoots with the
South."

For months, even years, nobody spoke well
of "Lincoln the butcher." "He had no boys

old enough to go to war. What did he care?"
"We know now that all the time he was working
to prevent any European power from recognizing
the South as a nation--in which case they would
have been a separate power, which was all they
wanted. Even our histories are silent on
Beecher's great address at Liverpool.

Even much of the press joined the clamor.
One of the Springfield papers said that "noth-
ing could be more inappropriate than to have
invited that prince of jokers, Old Abe, to be
present at the consecration of the Gettysburg
Cemetery."

Then when it was over the press and pulpit
were filled with plans for "getting the Rebels
back into the Union," always with severe pen-
alties.

But Lincoln, that master statesman said:
"They have never been out of the Union; just
thought they were. There is nothing to be done
but to stop fighting." How wrong was the pub-
lic most of the time.

What a lesson here to all of us of the im-
portance of keeping our heads in times of great
excitement, even as now, when the foundations
of civilization SEEM to be breaking up.

Following are copies of Grandfather William
Ault's letters home from the Civil War, 38 of
them, also 5 letters to William Ault. These
have been preserved by my grandmother, Eliza-
beth, and my mother, Barbara, who was born one
year after her father returned from service.
I copied the letters in 1940, as nearly as
possible setting down each word exactly as it
appears, except that I took the liberty of
correcting the spelling in some cases (Perhaps
I shouldn't have corrected spelling, but I did).
You will find a few spaces,, where
I couldn't make out the writing. There may also
have been other letters that didn't get saved.

It seems to me these letters have not only
a personal interest to members of the family
but also a general interest because they tell
things not told in history books,--things as
seen through the eyes of a private who, in this
case, was an unwilling soldier whose main con-
cern was to get back to his family and his farm
in Wisconsin.

Compiled by an interested grandson,

Raymond Buker
400 S. 10th St.,
Oregon, Illinois 61061

(By the fall of 1864 the Civil War had been raging for 3½ years. Voluntary enlistments no longer provided enough men even for replacements. Most men suitable for army or navy service were already in, or had served their time. It was necessary to draft and there was great resistance,--terrible draft riots in New York City and other places. Draft boards were scraping the bottom of the barrel. My grandfather, William Ault, age 32, was a farmer, living 7 miles northwest of Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin (Section 23, Jordan township). He and his wife, Elizabeth, had 4 children, Christina, 9, George, 6, Lorenzo, 4, and Mary, 2 months. William Ault was a religious man,--now he would be listed as a conscientious objector. Leonard and Mary Baughman Ault and their 8 children, William the oldest, had moved from Coshocton County, Ohio, to Green County, Wisconsin about 15 years earlier. Now, William, learning that his name had been drawn in the draft, left home and went back to Ohio to visit relatives. This first letter he wrote home from Ohio. Evidently his wife had written to him that she thought it would now be safe for him to come back home. The Wm Baughman mentioned in his letter was his uncle, his mother's brother, and Peter Beckholt his brother-in-law, his wife's brother.)

November the 21, AD 1864

Dear Brethern and Sisters, ⁿfriedly wife, it is with pleasure I take my pen in my hand to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health at present and I hope and trust in God that these few lines will find you all enjoying good health and the same blessing of God. Well, Betsy, I expect you have put over many lonesome nights since I have been gone but so it is the case at this time. With hundreds of families to weep and mourn for their dear companion. Some have gone to their long homes where we all hustling to as fast time can move us on but long as there is life there is hope. There is a that cheers my heart if we live faithful a few days more here on earth our parting will brought to a close. There is many things, too, to try us in this life but we must hope for the best in all trying hours. The Lord is a sun and a shield to them that put their trust in him. May God help us to look to him for our sustenance here in life, if we do this it will be well with us in this life and also after death. I am this evening writing this letter on Peter Beckholt's stand. I write a while and drink cider a while and it goes off first rate. I came from Wm Baughman's to-day and I blistered my feet so bad that I can't hardly walk. It is 16 miles to uncles. But I was made glad to hear from home that all was right and that I could come home. You don't know how I felt. I do think that God will aid in time of need. We must give God the praise, let the people do as they may. This is perilous times among the human family. There is no prospect at this time for any better. They have drafted two times this fall here to fill up this call and there is a prospect to draft the third time for all have run off. John Baughman and Samuel have hired a substitute for 3 years for 425 dollars each. I must bring letter to a close for it is getting late. Wm Ault. You may look for me in 2 weeks if nothing happens. I have not got enough money to bring me back. I can get \$1.50 for husking corn.

(However, as soon as William Ault returned home he was picked up. He refused to go and spent 3 days and nights in the Monroe jail until he changed his mind. Next is the diary that he kept December 10, 1864 to March 31, 1865 and following that, letters that he wrote home, until mustered out of service at Montgomery, Alabama, October 9, 1865.)

1864 December the 10 Thursday night left home. Put in Monroe jail 3 days and nights. We got in Prairie du Chein th/19. Examined the 20. Christmas tough beef and coffee. New Years in Madison the same. Left Madison the 19 of January. Stayed all night in Chicago. 20 I started for Took supper in Indianapolis. Took cars half past 10 o'clock. Got into Louisville in the morning the 21. Got into Nashville the 22. Stayed in the Yolicaffe house 5 days. 26 started for Eastport. Got on Liddy Pike. Went down the Cumberland River. Left Eastport the 5 day of February. Got to Memphis the 11.

Left the 12, got to Vicksburg the 13. 6 days camp 6 miles east of Vicksburg. Left camp the 19 of February on board of Katzkinny and 20 going down the Mississippi past Natchez. Got New Orleans the 21. Went out in camp in old cotton field. Sat up all night and slept some. 23 still in camp. Rain and mud. 24 still in camp. Rain and muddy. 26 Sunday morning fair and 27 on picket on the bank of the river. 1st day of March still in camp at Orleans. 6 day of March still in camp on drill to-day. 7 on picket on the Mississippi. 11 left camp 2 miles north of New Orleans camp for the night then the camp on bank of Lake Pontchartrain. 12 on board of a sail boat, 12 started for island. We landed the 13 in the forenoon. 17 still on the island. We leave for Mobile. I am now help loading on provisions on the wagon to reload on the boat. I stand guard last night 19. I am on board of the boat. We got on hair past 10 A.M. Monday the 20. We left ^{the} Delphin Island and started for Mobile. Half past 3 o'clock on board of ... Lockwood. Landed at the mouth of Dog River. Said last night we are going up the river. It looks hard on both sides, swamp and scrubby pine. The 21, this is 2 o'clock now we have come to a plantation where there is 40 or 50 cavaliers is foraging. We have bad water. This river is 50 feet wide. We are now landed 21 day of March. I have got my supper eaten and now we have our tents stretched up. I can hear the cannon roaring. I am now in 10 miles of Mobile. I have been to prayermeeting. There was 9 united. There was other that had good feeling for the cause. It is sunset. Just been on dress parade. We commence building breastworks. The Rebs fired into our picket line last night. Still cannonading the 22. 23 still building forts, still firing on the picket line, no news front yet. 24 I am on picket the first time I have stand on two hours and for a 25 still on picket the troops is moving out of camp toward Mobile. Everything still on the lines. 26 on the road we the road was shaded with nice pine trees. My health is good. We camp by a big 27 I am now sitting on a big hill. I have eaten my supper. This is Sunday evening. I have travelled all day. The boys is fetching in beef, and hogs, calves, chickens, geese, and young pigs to cook for supper. 28 Commence firing on the works. It commenced 10 o'clock, heavy cannonading. 29 commence firing at daylight the Rebs is firing on us. There was shell that struck where there was 10 or 15 men stood. There was a camp bittle tore all to pieces. There wasn't a man hurt. I was in 15 feet of it. 29 There was a man got his head blowed off with a cannon ball. There was a man killed in our regiment. There is heavy firing. There is cannon balls laying in our camp that was fired in by the gun boat that did not bust. 30 Still fortifying to-day built a fort to fortify our regiment from the cannonballs. 96 killed and wounded that I heard of. 31 Our division was called out last night at 10 o'clock on picket. We had to build our rifle pits to stay in. The Rebs commenced firing on us just before we got our work done. We have been under a constant firing ever since 1 o'clock. Our time is out at 10 to-night. May God be with me. There is a man that is wounded within 20 rods that was wounded last night ... he lays between the ... Now I am released Still cannonading on the fort. I will send this home with letter. If I come home I will write it over. I have not seen a man I knowed since I left the boys at Janesville but I found Marie Vanwinkle's little Jamie. Perry Vanwinkle in the 11 Iowa Co. F. James Vanwinkle in the 19 Co. C the first brigade 19 army corps. Direct to Avon P.O. Fulton County, Ill. Eliza L. Ross. I found out where Vanwinkle.

December the 26, AD 1864

(from Prairie du Chien, Wis.)

Dear Beloved Wife I take my pen in my hand to let you know that I am well but of hope these lines may find you enjoying the same blessing of God. Well, wife, this is a trying time but may God bless you my little children that you may bear this with patience and I will do the same by the assisting grace of God. I don't want you to fret. You can help it if God is for us. How can he be against us? But let us not fear what man can do to us but let us put our trust in God in his power than man for it is the only place we can look. My case was tried to-day but the board thought that they must hold me to the service so they passed me as So I was stripped and I had to put on the blue. So I have my whole rig on. I drew two coats, one pair of pants, two shirts, two pair of drawers, one cap, and one blanket and when I get to my regiment I will draw one more one oil cloth blanket, one plate, one knife, one fork, one tin cup, canteen and haversack. So I will

send my two coats, old pants by the express so you can get them. I will send them in Daniel's name and I will the rest of them when I leave Madison. We low to start to Madison in the morning. I want you to look at them old letters that I got from Wm Within and let me know what regiment that he belongs to. I think it is the 22 volunteers. I want you to write as soon as you get this. Brethern pray on. May God help you to pray. Pray for me that God may keep my head above the waves. I can't write much this time. When you write direct your letter to Camp Randle, Madison, Wisconsin. Camp Randal, Madison, Wisconsin. from Wm Ault to Elizabeth Ault We had a very dry Christmas. This will not always last. My dear wife bear this with patience.

January the 9, 1865

(from Madison, Wis.)

Dear Brother and Sister I take my pencil to let you know that I am still alive. I have not been well for 5 days. I have caught very bad cold but I am getting better. This is the Sabbath day but it does not appear like Sunday here. The Devil has his saints busy engaged in his behalf playing cards and cussing and swearing and all manner of devilments that man can think of but I hope and trust in God that the time will soon come when men will see their dependence before a just God but it looks like that man has sinned away the day of grace. But let man do as they may let us do right, let us live for God and die for him. My chance is slim but I don't know what they can do yet for me. The Colonel has wrote to the Captain Clark. I have not heard from them yet, but I hope and trust that I will be favored yet. I have been taken out and my clothes all done up to be sent I was assigned to the 18 Regiment of Wis. They piled my haversack full of hard tack and cheese and marched up to the headquarters and they called me out and another man took my place and I was sent to the bull pen. The bull pen is a big board fence around two acres of ground and a big barrack in it to eat and sleep. I have not suffered any with the cold since I have been here. Our feather bed is made out pine boards. I have two blankets. That blanket I fetched from home come very good. Daniel, I want you to see that young man that is in the Monroe jail if he is there if he will go for a substitute and will take forty acres of land either one of the forty acres I don't care which for I want to come out of this it cost what I have got. That young man has been in the service three years and not subject to the draft. If I fail of getting out here then I to do the next best if .. permitted to here. This is Monday morning. I have been up to the headquarters. They told me that they had got letter from Captain Clark, they say can't do anything for me. They are bound to hold me so let them do as they may. I hope and trust that I will come out at end all right. I don't know what day I will have to leave here. I have not received no letter since I have been here. I don't know what is the reason. I wrote you to write as soon as you get this. I sent you my clothes in your name. You will find them at the express office. No more this time. Brethern and sisters for my sake pray for me.

Wm Ault

January the 14, AD 1865

(from Madison, Wis.)

Dear Brother and Sister and My Dear Beloved Wife I take my pen in my hand to let you know that I am getting along first rate. My cold is leaving fast as it can. The change of beds and change of food it makes a good deal of difference with a man but this we must expect in this time of trouble. My prayer this may soon cease by the kind hand of God. He has been so kind to us. He bless us all together many times. I hope that he will bless us all together once more. I feel to be willing to let his will be done and not mine in all things. Let us keep an eye toward the high calling which is in our blessed Jesus. Finally my brethern be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Because he is trying to destroy the happiness of man and the comfortable life my brethern the Lord has said 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' So then we may boldly say the Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Pray for me for I hope that I have good conscience in all things willing to live honestly and upright before God and man. My brethern you know that I am from you and need your prayers to bear me up through sorrows of life which I may have to pass through. Well Elizabeth this seems hard but you are not left alone to weep. But may we bear this the best we

can. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I write unto you with many tears not that ye should be grieved but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you. Elizabeth we must bear this with patience and look to God for help. Although we are troubled on every side yet not distressed. We are perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not destroyed. But though our outward man perish yet the inward man is renewed day by day. I want you to keep them two colts if you can and one set of the harness and the wagon if you can. Joseph Blaine, Daniel, they must do the best that they can to make that money for it is hard enough on them but I can't help it. A few lines to my brethern and sisters. Farewell. Be of one mind. Live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you. I have wrote five letters to you and Daniel Bechtolt and I have not received no answer yet. I don't know what is the reason if you write to me and if I have left here the letter will be forwarded on to me. I received two letters last night and I was glad to hear from home the first time. No more at this time but remember your affectionate husband until death. Wm Ault

February the 9, 1865

(from Cairo, Ill.)

My dear beloved wife I take my pen to let you know that I am still alive and am permitted through the mercy of God to write to you. I hope these few lines will find you all well. I have wrote you one letter, I have not received none yet. We have left Eastport last Monday. We are now at Cairo in Illinois. The news is that we are going to New Orleans, God knows where we are going from there. There is fifty boats that is loaded with men and provisions mules and horses and cannon. Everything is provided to kill men. Man is not thought of no more than a dog. If I had as good a place as my dog has at home I would think myself well off. We was put on top of the boat. The first night it snowed and rained. The next morning there was three inches of snow on us. I am used the same as the rest of the soldiers. God bless the day that I am a free man once more. If gets me in such a place as this is will be me first. I have eight months to put in from the 6 of this month. There is great talk of peace here but it don't look much like peace here. Elizabeth put your trust in God for in him we can find rest. May God bless you and my little children. Christina I received your letter. I was glad to read it. You asked me to pray for you. You have my prayers by day and by night. Be a good girl and mind your mother and when your mother writes you write too. Well George your pap would like to be at home with you but I can't at this time. Be a good boy. Well Lorenzo do you and Albert still fight yet. I guess not, be kind to one another and I will like you very much. You must excuse my poor writing for I wrote this letter on my knee. Direct yours Co. D, 14th Regt., Wis. Vol. by the way of Cairo and it will follow the regiment. Write as soon as you can and tell the brethern to write and pray for me. Brethern I need your prayers for this is a hard place. No more at this time but remember me. Wm Ault Co. D, 14th Regt. Wis. Vol. By the way of Cairo

February the 17 day 1865

(from Vicksburg, Miss.)

Dear wife Take my pen to let you know that I am well and enjoying myself spiritually very well. I feel willing to be reconciled to God for his mercy that he has shown toward me. May God keep me from the strong hold of Satan's power. Elizabeth I hope and in God that you may stand firm and pray for me that God may give me grace to stand firm in the Lord that I may not shrink when the evil time comes. I hope for the best in time of trouble, there's nothing but sorrow to the heart. I can say as our Saviour said 'the birds have nests, the foxes have holes, but the Son of Man has not where to lay his head.' I hope and trust that when this comes to hand find you my little children all well and the rest of my good friends. I tell you this not home to me. If the North would give me all the greenbacks that Old Abe has issued would not buy me for one year. There but little mercy shown toward man. If he keeps his health he can get along but it is not the place for sick man. We are now camped within six miles of Vicksburg in the Mississippi State in heavy timber. We have good water and nice dry place. It is warm and pleasant. I am now sitting in the shade writing this letter to you in my shirt sleeves. The negro is plowing and making garden. Vicksburg is hard looking place. The negroes has dug large

rooms in the hill to keep the bombshell to hit them. The white folks have left. Most all the town is filled with negroes. Fighting for negro is about played out in this army. They're getting tired of this war. There is a prospect to fight the same ground over this summer that was fought over last summer. There is talk that we are going to take march up Red River from here but we can't tell to-day what to-morrow will bring forth. We may stay here for two months and we may stay here two days. God knows where we will have to go to. May God bless the day when this cruel war is over but I can't for my life see how it can close. I do think that we have the wickedest men at the heads of this army. Our officers is drunk much of the time. I do think God will let them go till they will be out of existence. When the abolitionist talks of they ought come down here where Dina lives, take a squint at the officers and the soldiers and at Dina then their heads will fly back then they will say God save us from destruction. There more than half of the army disabled for duty on account of these negro women, the rest you can guess for yourself. Men that has good honest families at home degrade themselves lower than the swine. May God save me from such. May I live and die an honest man to you my only earthly treasure I have in this life. My dear little children remember your father how he so often has taken you on his knee and played with you. Could I be with you I would give all had in this world. Be good children to your mother and Lord will bless you. Mother pray for me now more.

 New Orleans, Louisiana
 February the 23, AD 1865

My dear wife Take my pen in my hand to let you know that I am well and thank God that I am enjoying good health at this time and I hope and trust in God that these few lines may find you all enjoying good health and all the love of God I feel to put my trust in God for his mercy that he shows toward me for in him I find peace and consolation. For if I put my trust in man I think I would come short of the mercy of God. There is one thousand men in our regiment. There is not enough of them that will turn out to have prayermeeting once a week. We have preaching every Sabbath that we can convenience. Last Sabbath we marched back to Vicksburg. We got on board of the boat Sunday evening and started at midnight for New Orleans. We got there Thursday evening then we marched two miles out on old General Jackson's battleground that was fought in 1812. It commenced raining when left the boat and it rained all night. We got our tents up but it was so bad that we got some brush to put in the bottom of tent to keep us out the water and mud but we did not make our bed. But we laid our knapsacks down on the branches and set on them and slept. There is four men in one tent. We set our backs together and slept the best that we could through night. In the morning we went and got two loads of hay and put in our tents. We have a good place to sleep and set. I had a good change for dinner. I got cabbage and boiled with pork and it went first rate and put hardtack in the broth so I made in a good dinner. Everything is as forward here as it is in the last of June in Wisconsin. The boys make the gardens suffer. There is nine thousand of men that is camped here and where the army stops to camp they make a rich man as Ludlow poor as the poorest in one night. They generally take all he has got. The army is the hardest place that I ever was in. He is exposed to all kinds of weather to disadvantages that is not good for man. Well Daniel and Matilda a few lines to you if you are together yet. I want you to put your trust in God and pray for me for prayer is the vital breath of faith that lifts our souls to God. I would like to hear from you and hear if the draft went off or not. I am afraid that you will have to come or leave home and every man that is able for old Abe is going to whip the Rebs and farm all the plantations in the South. He has over the thousand of men now housed on these plantations. I think has too big a thing on his hands. It would make me feel bad if you would have to leave home. I know what it is to leave home. I would choose death rather than to do it again. But I hope this will not be your unhappy lot but as it is mine I will bear it with patience and wait till my chance comes. I must bring my letter to a close. I can't tell where we will go from here. I have not received no letter from yet. We keep moving so that the letters can't catch up. Wm Ault to you all.

 March the 2, AD 1865

(from New Orleans, La.)

My Dear Wife, Brother and Sister It is through the mercy of God and his goodness that he shows toward me that I am permitted to take my pen to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health and feel thankful to God that this is so for health is the greatest blessing to man down in this destructive place. I hope and trust in God that these few lines may find you all enjoying good health and enjoying your good home for home is more like heaven than this place. Daniel I hope and trust in God that you will not have to come to be a soldier for it is a hard place for God know for it appears that man is gone and .. left alone the spirit of God does not strive with him. It appears so at this time. You may know that the boys is hard cases for it takes one third of the army to guard the rest of the army. If they did not this they would rob and plunder everything that is near the camp. A negro woman is not safe to travel if she is a decent woman. It is so man has threw himself away to everything that is mean. Out of our regiment I have found five men that is willing to have prayermeeting. We had a good time last night. The Lord was in our midst and that to bless. Our minister don't believe in prayermeeting. You may know what kind of a man he is. But we thought of holding prayermeeting twice a week if God would give us grace to discharge our duty. Elizabeth pray on, pray for me. Brethern and sisters I say pray on. Remember me at a throne of grace. For God will hear prayer if we will put our trust in him. Don't fret for it may be for our good. Let us not fear what man can do unto us but let us fear God who is able to bring us out of these troubles. Brethern if I am not permitted to see you no more in this life brethern I expect to meet you in heaven if we get there. We will have no more parting tears to shed. Brethern there be no war there. Bless God for the religion of Jesus Christ. My dear brethern and sisters you all feel near to me. May Lord bless you all and keep you all faithful until death. Oh do not let the trouble of this life betray you but so stand firm on the rock that was cleft to take us in. My dear wife this is from one that loves you as he does his own soul. May the Lord bless you and my little children. I do think time will come when the cloud will burst and the sun will shine on us around the fire circle. I know how to sympathize with you. It is not my will to be here God knows. But so it is. I will do the best that I can and that is all that I can do and you must do the same. I have wrote one letter

....., one to Albert Smith Received no letters from yet. But expect to get one to-night. I am not looking for one much yet but I begin to feel like that I want to hear from home. We expect to move from here in a day or two for Mobile. It has rained the most of the time since we have been here. It been so muddy that mule teams has stuck with the empty wagon but the mud is drying up. If we stay here in this place the men is bound to die because it begins to stink as bad as an old backhouse. No more at this time but remember your brother. Direct your letters to Wm Ault, Com. D, 14 Reg. Wisconsin volunteers and it will follow us.

 Orleans, Louisiana
 March the 5, AD 1865

Dear Wife I take my pen in my hand to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health. I hope and trust in God this letter will find you all enjoying good health and also spiritual. If we enjoy the love of God in the heart it makes our burden light and we can bear them with patience. I feel strong in the Lord. I feel he is my only refuge and my only hope in this life. I do think that all things will work together for our good. May God help you and I to be reconciled to him and may we feel and realize as Christina wrote to me in her letter how good and kind the Lord is to them that put their trust in him. This is so for the Lord all things if we

..... I thank God this morning that I am permitted to live and enjoying the light of another Sabbath morning but it does not appear like Sunday here. Sunday is not regarded if anything there is always little extra Daniel, you want me to write if there was any that enjoyed the love of God in their hearts. I was much disappointed. When I got in my regiment I could not find but five men that was willing to join in a prayermeeting so we appointed one last Friday night. There was six of us joined in prayer. We had good meeting and when the meeting was out the brethern said this was the first prayermeeting that they had been at for one year. So you may know the cause is very low. There is need of great exertion here in the army. May God bless the effort. We had meeting last night. We appointed one for to-night. May God of Heaven meet with us. I received

your letters. The first letter that was wrote the 14 I received the 4 day of March and the one that was dated the 17 I received the 3 day of March. I was glad to hear from home and that you was all well. I was much surprised to hear that Brother Ableman had enlisted and the rest of the boys. It looks hard for men to leave their family to come down here in this cruel war. If there was ever a time that the Devil was loose I think that he is set at liberty to reign at this time. Above all the wicked places that ever was in this world is in the army. I can't believe that this war is going to close any way soon for I do think that we must be humble to God before it will be brought to an end for to think that we are going to starve the Rebels out is mistake. They may cut off their communication, they may evacuate their places yet they can fight the North in the swamps and hills and hollers for years yet. But I hope in God it will soon cease for it looks to me there has been sacrifice enough to reconcile the world but this will not do for the big bloodhounds in the North and in the South that stay at home and There is no man knows what the poor soldiers has to pass through. I thought I knew something about it. I give up that I knew nothing about it. Enough of this. We have been assigned to the Mississippi corps so we won't have to go to Mobile. We will be stationed on the Mississippi, where I don't know yet. This is Monday morning. I say to you good morning with my pen although many miles between us be. This seems My faith is strong that there is better days coming to you and I. Let us therewith be content in our condition. We had another prayermeeting last night and we had a good time. The cause is prospering. The first night there 6, the next 4, last night 11. We have one to-night. Keep up your prayermeeting. Let us do all the good that we can in this life then God will receive us when we come to die. No more this time from Wm Ault to Elizabeth Ault. I have seven months from to-day to serve. God bless the day to my good.

March the 7, AD 1865

(from New Orleans, La.)

My dear little girl I was glad to receive your little letter and read it. It done me as much good to read it as it did your mother's. May Lord bless you and keep you from sin and that you may be kind to your mother and your little brothers. Christina, remember your father, how he loves you. My little boys, how your father would like to see you. Elest be the tie that binds my heart in love to my little family. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. When we asunder part it gives me inward pain but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again. This glorious hope in me, my courage and my way while I in expectation live and I long to see the day. May God bless that day to your father for our good. How sweet the name my children sounds in a distant father's ears. It soothes my sorrows, it heals my wounds and drives away your father's tears. But weak it the effort of my heart but warmest is my thought to you, my child. Well. Christina, I send you this letter to you. I hope you well. Answer it as soon as you get it. Christina, life ... to serve the Lord and is the time to insure that great reward while the lamp holds out to burn. My little girl you may return to your Saviour and you shall find rest to your soul. Remember this from your father to you, my child. Well, Elizabeth, while I am writing these few lines it brings me to memory those enjoyments that we enjoyed around the old family circle. But I hope and trust that will not change us as Christians. Put your trust in God for the prospect of meeting once more on earth. It warm and pleasant. Everything is in full bloom now. Onions is as tall as they will get. The cabbage has heads as big as a tin cup. We expect to leave here in day or two. We will go to Mobile yet. I have been washing this morning. I am now sitting in my drawers and shirt sleeves and it is too warm to have them on. We have bad water to use.

March the .., 1865 AD 1865

(from ^{an} Daphin Island, Ala.)

My dear wife I am glad that I am permitted in good health to set down and answer your letter and also I was glad to hear that you was all well but I was sorry to hear about the death. But so is the case. We are all born to die. The great object is to be prepared to our God in peace. It ought to be our greatest care to watch for that time. May God help us to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation in this time of need. This is a beautiful morning, warm and pleasant. We left Orleans the 12 and landed on this island.

We are within thirty miles of Mobile. We are kept for reserve if Thomas is repulsed back from Mobile then A. J. Smith's command will have to reinforce Thomas. We look for a call every day to be in battle. I can hear the cannons roar but we may not be called out at all. I don't want you to fret about me no more than you can help but I say pray for me and I will try to pray for myself. Let us leave the events with God. I do feel willing to put my trust in God let come what will. I feel this time to be reconciled to him. I feel if I die in the army I will die the death of the righteous. I feel the Lord is my shield and no good thing will be withheld from me. The Lord has been kind to me. He has brought me through many a dangerous place. Why should we fear what men can do unto us. I feel the Lord will spare our lives, that we will be permitted to see each other once more on earth but let us leave this with God. You want to know how I got my washing done. Bill does the washing. I draw soap twice a week. I change my clothes once a week. Bill got so that he can wash and cook first rate. I have got tobacco enough to last three weeks. I have got fifty cents yet left. We have been expecting to be paid off when we was at Orleans but we did not and can't tell when we will. If you have any money that you can spare you can send it and if I get paid off before I get it I can send it back. I don't need much as long as I keep my health. You need not send much. My health is good as it ever was in my life. I can eat hard tack and sow belly. We get coffee three times per day, sugar enough to do us, beans twice a week. It is the exposure that is the hardest. Some times we have no better place than it is in the road but we have got a good place to camp here. We have prayermeetings every night. There is 13, sometimes more. We have good meetings. I hope and trust that it may Well Daniel my kind brother and sister Matilda I thank God that I am permitted to write to you. I send my love to you and I ask the blessing of God to rest on you and in your hearts may enjoying the love of God. Many happy times have we had together and pleasant hours in the Lord and I hope that we will have many more. When I think of the past it fills my eyes with tears. But I hope for the best through all this. I feel for you and your family. I hope and trust that you will not have to pass through what I have had to pass through since I have left home. I want you and Matilda to write me letter as soon as you can and let me know how you and the little folks get along. Try by the grace of God to keep up them prayermeetings. Such is the life of the church of Christ. Let me know where Brother Miller is. Brother Smith I have wrote you and Sister Smith a letter. I want you to answer it. If don't I will tell the rest some other time. Daniel I want you to try to keep them two colts and the wagon you can, if not do the best you can. I know that you will do that. Write where boys went, what regiments. I hope you have passed the draft. I sent my overcoat home from Vicksburg. I received, Elizabeth my wife, the 17 of March dated the 4. William Ault to all inquiring friends.

 (The last part of a letter, the rest is missing)

As soon as you get this will you do it or will you not. I think that you will. May God bless you all brethern and sisters for my good for the prayers of the righteous avail much. I say pray on till the last breath is gone. If I can keep my health I can get along. I have eaten one mess of the butter that you sent me. I have got provisions enough to do me for two weeks and I draw more to-morrow. I will not tell you anything about the soldier's life this time but it is hard enough, God knows. There is not much prospect for peace yet. The soldier thinks this war is not settled this spring it will not be settled in old Abe's time. I hope and trust the Lord God of Heaven and Earth will lay to a helping hand and save us from destruction. Do the best you can and I will try do the same. No more at this time but remember me from Wm Ault to Elizabeth Ault.

 March the 31, 1865

(from Spanish Fort, Ala.)

Dear Wife I received your kind welcome letter that was wrote the 9 of March and was glad to hear from home. It does me good to get letters from home and I would be glad to get letters from my brethern. It does appear that they have been kind careful not to write but I feel thankful to God that have their prayers offered in my behalf. Elizabeth pray and put your trust in God. Be in good heart. Fret not and may the blessing of God rest on you. My little family I do remember you in my prayers. We have

prayermeeting when the case will permit. May the blessing of God rest and abide in my heart. Well I can tell you that I am now in a dangerous place where man is killed by the hundreds. Men is tore all to pieces in a moment, their head taken off, not a piece of it can be found. We got here the 27. The name of this is Spanish Fort. It is within twenty miles of Mobile. There has been a constant firing ever since. I have had the bullets fly over my head fast as you could count. I had one to come so close that I had to catch my breath but I have not had any fear yet. My trust is in God for strength in time of need. In him is my only hope. I have not much to write. I will let know more if I live through this battle. There is no prospect for this cruel war to close this summer nor the next to come but I hope it will. I will send my notes in this letter. I want you to keep it. You

.. your Don't let him you out of your money. You can show this note to him. You must do the best you can. I feel to be contented. Let my condition be as it may. My health is good. I have had plenty to eat such as it is, good enough for the kind. Wm Ault

Alabama

This 4th of April, 1865

(from Spanish Fort, Ala.)

My dear friends whom my soul loves. I thank God this day that I am still alive through all the firing of guns and the roaring and flying of cannon balls. I have escaped so far. This is nine days since we commenced firing on this fort. There is good prospect for ..

..... fight around Mobile but I can't tell nothing about only I guess we have not made anything yet. We have advanced our lines a few rods further since we made our stand. We have got heavy breastworks thrown up within five hundred yards of the fort and the picket line inside of that. If a man holds his head above the ditch there will be five or six guns fired at him. He must use judgment. It is awful to see how men is cut up. There are men shot through the head and still they are alive yet but I can't help this. It makes my heart ache to see how much of wickedness in the army. It does appear that man has no feeling. Death has no impression on them. Oh God, save me from destruction. May I stand firm to that living hope within me. My brethern it is through the mercy of God that I live. My health is good and has been since I left Eastport. The squad that I come down with is half of them I expect is in the hospital and killed and wounded. There was five of them wounded one morning by our own cannon. They was on picket. The ball busted before it got to the Rebs. There was a ball fell in the 33 Reg. of Wisconsin and killed and wounded 17 when it busted. A man is not safe within four miles of this. You may dig holes in the ground then they will now and then drop into it. The Rebs captured two companies of the first division. They was on picket. Steel he commenced firing on the north of us at a town name of Blakeley. He has a command of the negro troops. He takes a fort and it is reported in camp that he is repulsed back and one brigade of his troops. I tell you there is nothing certain about war but death to many a good man's life. The prospect of peace by fighting is gone. The North has promised peace in every call. In a few months after they get the men then all is still till the next call then hurrah for peace again. This has been the case ever since this war has commenced but I can't see no end yet. The Rebs is as far as can hear is as much determined to fight now for their independence as they was. I think all of them that is our neighbors that is howling so loud will have a chance yet. This is my impression. Elizabeth, a few sympathizing woras to you. My kind wife be of good faith in Lord. Let not troubles weight you down. I have a strong faith in the Lord he will deliver me from this wicked and cruel war. There is better days coming for you and me if not in this world it will be in glory. Pray on brethern I say pray on and pray for me. My mind lingers around the old family altar. I six months from to-morrow to stay if I live. May Lord bless that day to my good and my family. If you have not sent any money you need not. I am out of tobacco. They say that we will draw tobacco from the government. It cost sixty cents per pound. You can't buy tobacco for eight dollars pound. I will go without before I will pay that. Daniel, Daniel my friend and Matilda and my sister love the Lord. Wm Ault

April the 10, 1865

(from Spanish Fort, Ala.)

Dearest Wife The day rell to praise God that I am permitted to live and enjoying health.

I received four letters from my friends home One from you, one from Christina, one from Barbara, one from Daniel. It my soul to read them. How it encourages me to know that my friends do pray for me. All I can say, still pray on and don't forget me for I think the Lord has favored me so far. I have been through nine days of heavy firing. Many has been killed and wounded. I have escaped so far. May God help me ... to put my trust in him. He is able to shield me from harm and from all danger. The Rebs they evacuated this fort the 9th. There was between ten and eleven hundred that give themselves up to our men and we marched three miles toward P..... and camped. The news came in last night that Blakeley had surrendered. They took the prisoners past our camp to-day. I had judged there was between 1 and 2,000. There was a long string of them so we stayed here till further orders. The next move will be Mobile. There is a great talk of peace here but I will believe when it comes. I don't know the loss on our side. I can't find out. It is not for the private to know this. All he does know is what he sees. My prayer is to God that this will soon end for it is awful to think of to see how many of our young and old men that is cut to pieces in a moment. May the God of Mercy save us from destruction. May the wrong be removed and peace return is the full desire of my heart. We had prayer-meeting last night. The present was in our midst. There was five that prayed. There was a good feeling in the camp. I do the best I can to live a good Christian but this is hard place to discharge our duty but if ever there was place a man should try to do good is in the army for I do think that it is one of the wickedest places that I ever saw. I feel more and more to live and put my whole trust in God for it is comfort to my soul to feel that I have a living evidence in my soul that the Lord does dwell within. I have been washing my clothes to-day. I have filled this day up by reading those letters and writing. It does me good to get letters from home and from my friends. You must not think it strange when you do not get letters for there is times that I can't mail letters. I .. do the best I can and you must do the same for God knows that I know how to sympathize with you. May the blessing of God rest on you and my little children. from Wm Ault to wife and family

 May the 3, AD 1865
 Alabama, Montgomery

Dear Wife I take my pencil in hand to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive. I am still gaining fast. I am now taking cough powders. I have got a good appetite for my food. I can get anything that I want if I had money but I have got 10 cents and that I expect spend for post stamps to-day. If I had little money now it would suit me first rate. I look for a little money the next letter. I wrote to you for some when I was at Dolphin Island. If I don't get it I can get along. The Southern people is very clever. They will give me anything I ask of them if they have got it. I received a letter when I was on this march. It was dated 19 of March. This was a hard march on me. I was sick four or five days before I started. I got a bad cold one night when I was on picket. I had to lay on my back or side right on the ground behind a big log for four hours and it rained all the time. I got chilled plumb through. If I raised my head above the log there would be a gun fired at me. The Rebel picket was about 15 rods apart. If I had went to the doctor when I was at the fort I would been all right but I put it off till I had to do something or die. He helped me right away and thanks be unto God for his mercy toward me. Well Elizabeth this cruel war is brought to a close I think. I think there will be no more fighting. There is hundreds of the Rebels passing and going home every day that have laid their arms down and have taken the oath returning home. There is news in camp that peace is declared but this is not to be relied upon yet. But there is good prospect for it. I think that we will stay here till we are sent north. We are in a nice place for and good health. We have got good water and nice grove of timber. We got our bed fixed up from the ground and got corn husks under us so we got good place to sleep. If peace is declared we may get home by the 4 of July and we may not. It is no use for me to write any news for you get them in papers before we get them. The cannon was fired from sunrise to sunset in the memory of the Old Honest Abe's death. I hope and trust when this comes to hand that will find you all enjoying good health and also find you all enjoying that love that makes the Christian happy. Put your trust in God and I will try to do the same. There is rumor in camp this afternoon we will move for St. Louis as soon as there can be transportation got on the boats down the Alabama River. We may

stay here for four weeks but we can't tell what to-morrow bring forth. I must bring my letter to a close. Pray for me that God will give me grace to stand firm until death.

Wm Ault to Elizabeth Ault

(this letter not dated)

Dear Wife Take my pen in hand to let you know that am still on the mend. I am getting so lazy that I am getting like a fat hog. When I get my belly full I don't want to get up when I get down. You must excuse my plain writing. We get plenty to eat such as it is, hard tack and sow belly and sugar and coffee, twice a week beans for one meal a day. .. I am almost starved for milk and butter and good bread. I haven't had quart of milk since I left home but I hope and trust in God that this will not always last. time is coming if it is God's will. You wrote in one of your letters that you sold Brind. I think you sold the cream of the farm. I am afraid you can't keep me in milk if I get home. But the greatest object is to get home. But I think there is no doubt but what we will come home as soon as we can get transportation on boats. There is a fleet of boats coming up the Alabama River to Montgomery. There was a fleet come up this week with provisions and now is gone back. There is good news coming in camp every day for peace and good will to man.

(this letter also not dated)

My dear wife This is a nice and pleasant Sabbath day. I have been made to rejoice in love of God and also I received a letter from you and Mathias. It done my soul good to read it, like food from heaven. Well Mathias, if ever I tried to live a good boy it has been since I have been in the army although I could not do as I would like. The army is hard place but thanks be to God he has brought me through so far. I received two dollars in this letter. If ever little money come good it is at this time. I am just out of tobacco. It appears that I have been favored. I was down to the branch and washed myself. As I came back I found good big piece of tobacco. Uncle Sam's tobacco is played out. I think the war is played out. There is good prospect for us to start up the Mississippi River this week and leave this place I think. Well all I can say, live faithful, pray for me and I will try to do the same. We have meetings every night. We have had warm times. Many has come forward seeking the Lord. I not attend yet. I have been afraid of night air I can't keep in. Wm Ault

May the 8, AD 1865

(all letters from here on from Montgomery, Ala.)

This is Monday evening. There is no particular news but there is from 100 to 300 per day from Lee's and Johnson's army returning to their homes. We have not heard that permanent peace is declared yet but I hope in God to hear it every day. I don't care how quick, it will suit me. I don't think that will ever fire another gun but they tell that we are going from here to Canada or Mexico but this is played out. If they was to force this army there there would not be officers left in one week. If the war is over which we have all reason to believe it has we will strike north. We have nice weather here. It rained last night hard. It has cleared off this morning. I feel first rate today. I am gaining strength fast now. This from Wm Ault, wrote to his inquiring friends. You will think it long time between letters. I had no chance to mail a letter on the march.

May the 10 AD 1865

Well my dear wife you know I will not forget you. Home is a sacred thought to me. You and my children live warm in my heart some time it makes no difference how sacred that feeling is it must be broken some time such is the case with us but I thank God I can bear it with patience and look forward with of hope that flow warm in my heart for better days to come. I have eaten my dinner and feel first rate. It has cleared up and it looks like we are going have nice weather. That money you sent me has done me a good deal of good. It come in time of need. I have bought light bread. If we stay here six weeks longer peaches will be ripe. There is prospect for our division to stay here at Montgomery for all the rest of the troops have moved off some one place some another. We will stay here till we are mustered out we can't tell when that will be but I hope

it will be before the hot weather sets in. It will be awful to come up the river on the boats. I must ask you if the bees is alive or have they froze out and another thing what have done with I don't hear from him. I wrote letter Charles Waggener but I never got no answer from it. Well Christina I received them letters from you but they contain good deal of meaning for a child. May the Lord bless you and keep you faithful little girl obey your mother this write and it will please your mother. Well George would you like to see your paw I would like to see you. Be kind to your brother and mother and others. Well Lorenzo how is with you I expect you growing so big that I can't Well I have not no more news to write only one thing I have this much to say for Sam Rayington that he did not take the thirty dollars from me for arresting me but it appears the has got caught at his I guess he know how to sympathize with Bill. Uncle Sam, so they call him, owes me 112 dollars up to the 5th of this month I muster for months pay. Some said we would be paid off here but I can't tell this come when it will it will come good. Wm Ault

May the 19, AD 1865

My only dear wife and children that near to my heart. The only way we have to talk to each other is with our pens, now I sit down to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and have gained very fast for eight or ten days but still when I come to drill it makes me fagged before I get through. I can eat too much for my own good. I just eat my dinner and I don't feel much like writing. I feel as well as ever I did in my life but I have not got my strength yet like I had. I got no news to write to you there is no more prospect of moving now than there was a week ago. I don't know but that we will stay here for some time yet. This is hard for me to tell. They tell me there is four hundred thousand to be mustered out in this month but we may not be. We may have to stay here all summer at the place we are now here all we do is to guard our own soldiers and the plantations to keep the boys from stealing the things on the place but I am in hope of seeing home between now and the 4th of July. I would like to come home but I must bear this with patience and put my trust in God and it will come around all right. By and by I want to keep one hundred dollars clear of all my expenses. Will soon owe me one hundred twenty eight dollars. You wrote to me about your State this is the neglect of the officers. I am reported every month to Madison. I hope trust this letter will find you all well and the rest of the folks. Of chance you can tell the folks that I am glad that peace has come. There is trouble in yet but this will not last long. I have not received no mail. I got one letter from you since I have been here. The mail has been We had but two mails since I been here but we look for a big mail in a day or two. I look for two or three letters when it comes. The health of the 14th is good with the exception of a few of the boys have the ague. Company D has not lost a man since I have been in the company but two, the one died with the the other with chronic diarrhea. This company was lucky in the fight at Fort there was not a man nor hurt.

May the 23, AD 1865

My dear wife It with pleasure I take this present opportunity to write to you to let you know that I am well and enjoying myself as well as I can in the present condition. My condition is far from home and from those my heart would delight in associating with but the Saviour teaches us whatsoever state that we are in therewith be contented so I am willing to put my trust in God and leave the with him for know he is just and true and what is done when a man puts his trust in him is right. I think all things will work for our good in the end of time. Elizabeth I think if God spare our lives that in less than two months we will be permitted to bow around the old family altar. I thank God that I am permitted to answer your letter that was wrote the 28 of April and was glad to hear from home and that you were all well and well. I hope and trust in God that when this comes to hand that it will find you all enjoying good health. I know you must be enjoying yourself spiritually when brethern and sisters feel willing to meet together twice a week to mingle their friendly voices together there is a good Christian feeling that develops among you. I say pray on and keep the Gospel ship moving. By and by there will be others will step on. I eaten my dinner and me and my bunkmate went out

to the plum thicket and got some plums to stew. The plums is getting ripe and while I was gone I saw wheat cut and in the shock, corn is waist high to a man, strawberries is ripe and all gone. This is quite a great fruit country. If I had a good farm here and my family I would be satisfied to bid farewell to Wisconsin. This is a pleasant climate, you get the cool breezes of the sea.

 May the 24, AD 1865

Montgomery Camp 3 miles north I have eaten my breakfast. I feel well this morning. I feel thankful to God for this privilege this nice and pleasant morning. I told this morning the Colonel of our Reg. that we would be mustered out by the 15 day of June. I hope this may be so but I can't tell. A private is not permitted to know anything more than a mule, they try to keep everything from them all they can. Well I eaten my dinner. I feel first rate in body and in spirit. This forenoon I was writing and there was a friend come in to see me that was in the same that I was and we camped together in Madison. I did not know that he was down here but they sent him as they did me. While I had a pleasant talk with him the mail came in and one of the boys fetched me a letter and I opened and read it. I found in it the warm sympathy of kind wife feeling toward me. It done my soul good to read the kind instruction to me. It to me, it filled the cup and think it run over. May Lord bless you and my little children and keep you faithful until Death. Above all things in this life give me Jesus. He is friend that sticketh closer than a brother. If Jesus dwell in the heart be fit for life and fit for death. How merciful and how kind he has been toward me and toward you. I must say this is for our good, eventually works out for our good in the end of time. We may not see it at the present time. In this letter I found a little letter. There was not many words, there was great meaning to them. My lettle girl I feel as a father to you. My child you have a father's praise, you have a father thinks about you. By day and by night be kind toward your little brothers. Love your mother, you got a good mother. If it was not for Christina I would not know we had a Mary. She writes her name every time. It appears like a dream to me about her. I want to know whether she has and if she can crawl. Elizabeth, don't work too hard, take it easy. I have good time here now since I been here I have 3 hours to drill and the rest of day is ours. I will be so lazy if get home I can't do nothing. Nor more at this time. Wm Ault

 May the .., AD 1865
 Montgomery Co. Alabama

Still in camp. To you I set down to write a few lines to let know that I am well and enjoying the pleasure of life. I am getting fat as a hog and lazy. Have been out in the country this forenoon about one half mile to get blackberries and plums. I got a pailful. We have all the fruit that we can make use of. I ate ripe apples yesterday. There will be plenty ripe apples and peaches It beats all the places for peaches I ever saw. There will be thousands of bushels of peaches they grow here. They grow here like plums does on Skinner. Everywhere apples and There is no end them. Corn is from knee high to as high as man's head. Wheat is good and most all cut. Rye is not cut yet. They have it for pasture and hay. Pasture it late. We have good time. We have nothing to do. I have to stand picket once a week. We get plenty to eat now. They are sending the negro back to Massy again. They're glad to get shed of them that way. The abolitionist have found out that they have caught the elephant but they have not got hay and oats fo feed him.

 June the 1, AD 1865

No news at present but there is great many rumors we hear every day. There were orders that come this morning to release all three month men and send them home to the capitol of each state to be mustered out. The next will be the one year men so they say we will know in few days. If this be so I will be glad to start for home at any time. If they keep me till my time is out it will only be four months. I think this is close at hand when we will be sent home. Wm Ault

Jun the 6, AD 1865

This morning is cool and pleasant. I thought I finish this letter. I am almost ashamed to send this letter for I have been long in writing it but I have been waiting for some news about sending us home but can't tell yet how soon it will be. It is the general opinion of the men that we leave here this week. I have given up the idea of getting home by the fourth of July. I don't want you to look for me till you see me coming. I am a thousand miles from home the way I have to go. My health is good at this time. I hope this letter will find you all enjoying good health. Last week is first time I have missed writing to some of you. The paymaster is here and is paying off the men. We will get our money to-morrow or the next day. If we are kept here I send it home I will put ten dollars in each letter. I want you to write as soon as you can. I have to send this letter home unpaid for I can't get postage stamps.

Alabama
June the 10, 1865

Dear Wife Take this present opportunity to inform you that I am well enjoying good health and enjoy myself as well as I can in the present condition. I would feel more contented if I was at home with you and my family but so it is at present that we can't so we must do the best we can in the present condition and bear it with patience and put our trust in God. He is friend to me. I feel thankful this morning that it is as well with me as it is. I have ... through many dangerous places since I left home. How thankful I ought to be. May God give us grace to bear our cross and resist temptation and make a due preparation for all the shifting scenes of life for we can't tell what a day will bring forth. A man cometh forth as a flower and is cut down and where is he then. How necessary it is to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation. I say let us pray on. I can't tell you when we will start home. We have orders to report to Louisville, Kentucky to be mustered out. If we go there it will take us over one month to get home. It takes but little paper to muster a man into the service but it takes a large sheet to muster him out. There was over two hundred of the one year men that had less than four months to serve is to be mustered out Monday. I lacked five days going out with them. We are to be paid off Monday. I have not heard from home since 8 of May. The mail is stopped somewhere on the road. We may get another mail before we leave here and we may not. I want you still write. I will get them when we get where we are ordered to. You must not look for me till you see me come for life is uncertain and this order may be disbanded and we kept until our time is out. This military operations is hard find out by such a blockhead as I am. A private is not permitted to know more than a mule. I hope trust these few lines will find you all enjoying good health. The health of the army is good. There is but very few sick. I got a letter from Joseph Ableman and the rest of the boys. Joseph Smith wrote the letter. They was all well. Joseph wrote very nice letter. He asked interest in my prayers. May the blessing of God be with them. Joseph Ableman wrote that liked soldiering first rate but I differ with him. I dislike soldiering but I don't differ on Christianity. He wrote that he was endeavoring to live a Christian. My prayers is for the brethern and sisters in Christ. May the blessing of God rest and abide with his kind family in their lonesome house. I know how to sympathize with Sister Ableman. Sister Ableman prove faithful. All things will work together for our good if we put our trust in him. There is no good thing will he withhold from us in this world. We must expect trouble and tribulations to try us but Lord has promised blessings on them that withstand them then like good Christians let us bear it with patience and not grumble nor fret about it.

June the 11

This is Sunday morning but it does not appear like Sunday to me. Every day is alike in the army. It is not regarded no more than any other day. I would be much pleased if I could be at home this morning and to go to church with you but miles prohibit us of this privilege at this time. I was to meeting last night. We had a good time. We have prayer-meeting every night that we can. The Devil has great influence in the army. It does appear that man that professes at home is the worst man that we have in the army or else

they are noticed more. They don't care what they do. There is class of men that as soon as they are gone out from under the watch care of the church their religion is gone. A man can live a Christian the army as well as he can at home although he has more to contend against than he has at home. But I contend this is what proves a Christian. We must bear these things we can do by the grace of God. There is nine hundred men in this regiment. There is but 25 or 30 men that take a part in the cause of Christ. Oh how little a man regards their family and eternity. May the God of mercy save me from what man is guilty of down here. Well Elizabeth I must bring my letter to a close. May the blessing of God rest with you and keep you faithful until death. Remember me in your prayer. I sent two letters without postage. I don't know whether they go through or not. Wm Ault

June 16th, AD 1865

Again I try write to inform you that I am well and still in camp. I don't know when we will leave here but there is good prospect for part of this corps to go to Texas yet. I don't think the drafted men will have to go because their time is too near out. It appears that the veteran troops is to be kept till their time is out. I wrote a letter last week but I did not mail it. I thought I would wait till I was paid off. We was paid from October up to the first of March. I got \$77.30 and I went down to town yesterday and as I was going down I separated that which I wanted to send home in to another pocketbook. I had between 5 or 6 dollars in that old pocketbook I fetch from home and when I got down town I bought some things to eat and while I was eating someone stole it out of my pocket. I have sent 60 dollars to Daniel Bechtolt by express to use. I have not heard from home since the 8 of May. The mail must been stopped somewhere on the road. I want you to write as often as you can. No more at this time.

Alabama
June 16th, 1865

I received your letter about 12 o'clock. I have put one in the office this forenoon. I thought I answer it. I was made glad to hear from home and from my neighbors in this letter. I found three handwritings. I am glad to know that you are all endeavoring to serve God. It does me good to hear of them prayers that is offered to God in my behalf. I am glad that you keep up those prayermeetings. I hope and trust in God the time will soon come when that vacant seat will be filled among you. It may be good while to you but the time is slipping along fast. We have plenty to eat. We can get all the vegetation of all kinds if pay for them. We can get all the apples for nothing if we go and get them. Blackberries is most all gone. Peaches will be ripe in a few days. I can buy milk for 10 cents a quart. Butter is worth from 25 to 50 cents per pound as we can We can't get no hard butter. It is like oil. The weather is hot. A man sweats in the shade but night is cool and pleasant so we can sleep comfortable. All I have to do is to eat and drink and sleep. I am fleshier now than I have been for long time. I have but three months to stay here if I stay till my time is out but I think if I live I will be home before my time is out. I would like to be home to help Daniel but I am here under military bondage. I must do as they say and not as I would like. We are here doing the government no good and nobody else. There was an order issued to muster out all three month men. Their muster roll is made out. They still keep them here. I think they release them I will be too. The Devil is trying to raise between Mexico and France. There is strong talk of sending the to the frontier of Mexico. If they do they may take me but don't think that I will go if I can help it. I may be sent .. next week and I may be kept till my time is out. It is hard for me to tell at this time. There not as good prospect now as there was two weeks ago. Well, Elizabeth, when we look back the time looks short but when we look forward the time is long. But .. thank God that the appointed time will soon come if we live that we can see face to face and we can mingle our friendly voices together in praise to God for his mercy.

June the 25 AD, 1865

Received this letter last night and was glad once more to hear from home. This letter

found me still on the old camp ground alive and well and enjoying good health. I am now heavier than you ever saw me. I thank God for good health. What better than good health and a contented mind. Feel more content if I was home. So it is. I must be content in my condition. You must do the best you can. I may be home sometime in August and I may not. What I can read and find out I think that we will be mustered out between now and the first of August. I sent you sixty dollars by express. I don't know whether you can draw the money or not till you get the order. If you can't write as soon as you can and I will send you the order. You must inquire at the express office. I had eight dollars left when I settled up my washing bill and I bought a blanket for it. I commenced last Tuesday morning to buy things on the road and fetch in to camp and sell to the boys and Saturday night I had \$26.10. I expect to keep this up till I leave here if I keep my health. We have all peaches we can eat if we go and get them. Butter is worth 50¢, honey 25¢, Irish potatoes is 5 to 6 dollars per bushel, eggs, 50¢. Wm Ault

 Montgomery, Alabama
 July the 2, 1865

My dear wife I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health. I hope and trust in God that these few lines may find you all well. I received your letter the 30. I was glad to hear from once more and I am glad to hear of them old prayer meetings. Prayer is the life of a Christian. I know when I neglect duty I soon wander away. I still put my trust in God for sustenance of life. I hope and trust the time will come soon when we can mingle our voices together in prayer to God for his long continued mercy. There has been a order issued to muster us out as soon as possible. How long that will be I can't tell. I hope it will be this week but I don't want you to look till you see me. It is a long road home and we may have to pass through dangerous places before we get home. Man's life is uncertain here in this life but let us not fret but let every day provide for itself. I received 50 cents, 3 post stamps. I was glad to get them for they can't be had here. The money I don't want. I could spare 50 dollars to you. I have been buying butter and eggs and honey, potatoes. I live first rate. I sold over 1 barrel of eggs this week. I sold 49 pounds of honey Saturday. If don't get to start home this week I will send you fifty dollars. I have sent 60 dollars to Daniel by express. I hope this will be the last letter I will have to write at this place. from Wm Ault to
 Elizabeth Ault

 Montgomery
 July the 10, AD 1865

To Elizabeth Ault from Wm Ault I thank God this pleasant Sabbath morning that I am permitted to write to you and to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health. I hope these few lines may find you all enjoying good health. I thought when I wrote last Sunday it would be the last letter that I would write at this place but I have been disappointed and think there is good prospect now at this time for me to serve my time out here at this place. The prospect of the war in Mexico is what keeps us here for there is no use for us here. We have nothing to do only to put on military style. We have very hot weather and very dry. Corn and everything is suffering for the want of rain. We have plenty of fruit, apples and peaches, and pears. Since I have been trading I have plenty to eat, butter and honey and eggs and chickens. I have 10 chickens now on hand. I think if I get done writing in time I will have a mess for dinner. I have now on hand 75 dollars. I commenced on 8 dollars. If you want any money, write and I will send you 75 or 80 dollars. It may be that I will get out between now and the first of August but I don't make any calculation. I have been disappointed so often I will wait till the appointed time come for my discharge. Thank fortune I have only 2 months and little better to serve. I would like to be home to help harvest if it could been so I could. You must do it the best you can and I will do the same by the assistance of God's help. If had the privilege I could talk to you better than I can write but so it is. We must carry our words by our pens. The time will soon come if it is God's will that this writing will be done away with. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts together on earth but break that tie it affects the whole body. Love is what unites us together here on earth although we may separated for

long time yet does not separate the love that we have toward each other. May God increase our love toward him for his goodness. Write as soon as you can. I will write one every week.

July the 24, AD 1865

My kind and only earthly friend. To you I write the sentiments of my heart. I feel to praise God that I am permitted to receive your letter that was wrote the 9 of June. I found in it that you were all well. I thank God that it is one great blessing to enjoy good health. I would feel thankful if could be at home. I think the time is close at hand that we will leave here for home. They are mustering out troops every day last week. There is but three or four regiments left here. The officers said they had orders to report at Louisville. They say that we will leave here as soon as we can get transportation. God knows I want to get away from this place as soon as possible but I can't grumble of this place. We can have anything that want if we pay our own money for it. We have moved from the old campground. We are in town. You wrote that you were homesick or sick of home as you have wrote. I write that I am sick of this place. All we are doing is guarding this miserable, low-life, good-for-nothing whore-house to keep the boys from fighting and officers. The horrible destruction certainly will follow us as a nation yet. God save us from destruction. Maybe you will think this plain talk. It is no plainer than true. Can say to you I would rather be at home than to write home. I must leave the events with God. In him I trust. I am enjoying as good health as I can wish for. Brethern and sisters a few kind words to you. Stand pray for your brother that is far from you. But thank God my prayer is for you faithful for Christ is the way, the truth, the life. I did not write last week. I have written one every week I could write if could find anything to write. I to It may be we won't leave for two months, maybe to-morrow. The officers will keep us as long as they can. No more at this time. Remember me in your prayers. Wm Ault I have got enough of postage to send all the letters that I will write. I received ... this letter to-day.

August the 4, AD 1865

Brother Daniel I happy say to you this evening in this letter that I am well and enjoying good health. I received your and Elizabeth's letter the 28 of July. I was glad to hear from home but I sorry to hear that Matilda does not gain much. My dear brother and sister bear your affliction with patience, let us put our trust in God. I want you to forgive me for not writing for it is going on two weeks. I will try to do better. I am sorry that I can't be home to help harvest. There is no prospect for us to leave here till my time is out. Thank God I have but two months and one day to stay here. I must bring my letter to a close for it is getting dark. Good bye.

August the 12, AD 1865
Montgomery, Ala.

We are still in this city doing provost duty and patrolling the streets and guarding these miserable God forsaken houses where our officers spend most of their time. This is hard place. It does appear that Devil has the full possession of our officers and soldiers. It is the fault of them that we are here. There was orders to muster the 14th out but they reported back to the War Department that we are needed here to keep down the insurrection of negro. The negro is the topic of the day. They have become far superior to the white man. If man knocks one down he is put in prison. If the people of Wisconsin could see the condition of negro this day in Southern States their feathers would drop off and they would not stoop down to pick them up. There's hundreds of them is starving to death. They have no place to lay their head only on the ground. A man out from this place he the old that can't walk crawling along. Sick women laying in the shade of some old tree and not thing to put over them. The boys has found young children laying at the roots of trees bound there and left there to perish. I tell you my friend the negro is in a hard place. They are dying off very fast.

I can't give any encouragement to you about me of coming home till my time is out if I live so long then you may then begin to look for me. Life is uncertain and death is sure. We have not the promise of to-morrow. I will send you ten dollars in this letter. I will send twenty and run the risk. I have made over one hundred dollars since I have been trading but the officer has stopped me from selling. I have some of my money in silver I can't send very well. I will send you sixty dollars by letter. No~~o~~ more at this time. William Ault to Elizabeth Ault I am enjoying good health. I hope and trust this will find you all enjoying the same.

 Montgomery, Ala.
 August the 20, 1865

My Brethern and Sisters It is through the mercy of God that I am permitted to write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and enjoying good health and it is my wish when this come to hand will find you all well. May God have mercy on us as travellers to eternity. I received your letter. I glad to hear that you were getting along with the work so well. I would like to been home to help you but it is so that I could not. You will have to do the best you can. I think that if I live and keep my health that I will be home in time to help you thresh and gather corn if I don't get home in time to help thresh. I like if you could keep a few dozen of oats unthreshed to cut up. I was glad to hear that my cattle were doing well. I was afraid that they would be a good deal of trouble to you. A few lines to that brother down the creek, his name Albert. He wanted me to forgive him for not writing. You tell him I will see about it and let him know when I get home although I was glad to receive his letter. Well, Albert, I think of some of them good old times that we have had together it makes me feel though I would like to spend a few hours together once more. I think that we could have good old time. Well, Albert, forget me not. Remember me in your prayers. I love you as a brother and Lucinda as a sister in Christ. Live faithful. God will reward us with a crown of joy. May Lord bless you is my prayer. Daniel I will send ten dollars in this letter. I have sent twenty in one and ten in the other before this. We will have to run the risk of it coming through. I will have to run the risk if I keep it here for the boys is out of money. If they know that I had it I don't think I keep it long. They half sick or starved for we don't get no more than half rations. I live as saving as I can. I have not drawed no more than the first suit. It cost ...25 to 50 cents a I will have plenty to eat long as I have money. I will send twenty dollars more. The balance I will keep for I don't think that I get any pay till I am mustered out. Wm Ault

 October 8th, 1865

This is Sunday and I have eaten my dinner and thought that I write few lines to let you know that am well, enjoying good health. I expected when wrote the letter before this that I would be on my road home before this time but the regiment got order to be mustered out immediately so when they commence to make out the muster roll they put my name on the roll to be mustered out with the regiment. If stuck out for my discharge they would had to make out eight new muster rolls so they persuaded me to stay. We will be mustered out to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock. But we will start from here Tuesday if nothing happens. Wm Ault.

 (And so, grandfather William Ault's hope of getting out of service finally materialized. He came into Monroe, Wisconsin by train. There was no one at the depot or around town that he knew and no way of getting word to anyone, so ex-private Bill Ault walked the seven miles to his home in Jordan township. My Uncle Ren--the younger son, Lorenzo, then five years old--told me he remembered being out playing and seeing a man walking up the road and turning in the lane. He ran and hid for he hadn't seen his father for almost a year and had never seen him in uniform so he didn't recognize him. Grandfather took off his uniform and never put it on again. He would not go to town on days such as Memorial Day or the 4th of July when there were patriotic doings. Some of the old veterans liked to tell of their experiences in battle, perhaps adding a little with each telling, but grandpa was the other extreme. All he wanted was to forget about it. He got home in October, 1865. My mother, Barbara, was born in October, 1866.)

(The following are letters written to William Ault. In his diary, on March 31, 1865, he had noted, "I found Marie Vanwinkle's little Jamie." This first letter is from "little Jamie")

Ft. Gaines, Ala.
May the 9th 1865

Respectful Cousin With pleasure embrace the present moment of writing you a few lines to let you know my whereabouts and how I am getting along. I am well and hearty hoping when this comes to hand it may find you enjoying the same great blessing. Since I last saw you at Fish River Landing we have saw some tolerable hard times as you are aware of yourself as you had some of the same kind of experience. You doubtless was at Spanish Ft. the time of its fall and consequently it is no use for me to say anything about it. We remained there until the 4th of May when we embarked on the steamer Landis for this place where we arrived at 5½ P.M. We came here and relieved the 3d Md. Cavalry which was here doing duty and was dismounted some time since they went to New Orleans to be remounted and expect to go to Texas. We are the only troops on the island except the garrison in the Ft. and the sick and convalescent the latter will be removed as there is a hospital boat laying at the wharf to take them away. We are laying here in good quarters our duty is light and have plenty to eat and are as well furnished as a soldier could ask for. Well what is your opinion about this thing called Rebellion. I think it is about played out on this side of the River and I don't think it will take 75,000 troops long to play it out on the other side. I think with surrender Lee, Johnson, and Taylor old Kirby will be pretty easily brought to terms as Texas has never yet been invaded and I think the Texas troops will be opposed to having it invaded which will be the best thing they can do in my opinion. I rec a letter from Eliza Ross and also one from Mary Robinson to-day. They are all well and hearty. I believe I have no news to write at present of any importance. The health of the Regt. is good. I will close for the present hoping to hear from you soon. I will subscribe myself your cousin and well wisher. James Vanwinkle, Co. C, 19th Rgt., Iowa Vol. Inf 1, Ft. Gaines, Ala.

(The following letters are from William Ault's
brother-in-law, Daniel Bechtolt)

Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin
June the 9, 1865

Dear brother and sister Well I made a mistake. It is through the mercy and tender care of God that we are yet alive and on mercy's side of eternity and hope these few lines will find you well and all right. We have had only five letters from you this week and seventy dollars in money. Well it is raining a little and it is needed very much. We have had a very dry time but crops looks well considering chances for the chinch bugs are very thick in the earth. We sowed 8 bushels of barley and the bugs have killed half of it. We sowed 24½ of wheat and they are to work in that. We sowed 45 bushels of oats and that looks well. Corn is doing well. We are doing lots of work with our horses but they are in good condition and feel well. Matilda has been sick since the first of April and is not gaining much yet. The doctor thinks or calls it inflammation on the lungs. We are glad you better believe that the war is closing and peace returning. We think we have a good president now. There is a piece in the paper this week that the order is to discharge five hundred thousand immediately and I hope it is true. If this letter don't reach you before you are discharged you must not be angry. I want you to come home and help cut the grain for I think it is too much for me and Silas. The grass is growing nice and fast in the bottom but people think there won't be much tame hay on highlands. Sunday the 11, 1865 Clear as crystal and warm. Prospects for crops looks dull, it did not rain much. Brother William, if this letter reaches you before you are sent home my advice will be to trust in the good Master the only hope who is strong to deliver and mighty to save. The Lord will answer prayer though he bear long with the cries of his people he sees their humbleness. Oh wrestle with the Lord like Jacob of old wrestling. I will not let thee go till a blessing thou bestow. Like Esau oh father is there not one blessing left for me. God grant the request of his humble followers now and in glory where the wicked cease from troubling them and the weary are at rest. Pray on and give God the praise for he is just and good. Who can stand before him no witness is needed.

to plead a case. from D. Bechtolt, Matilda, Albert, Lydia C. Bechtolt to William Ault.
No more this time.

~~from~~ the 13, 1865
 (July~~2~~)

We received this letter last night and was glad to hear from you that you was well. We are all well at present except Matilda. She is getting some better. I received them sixty dollars the first day of July safe and sound and paid it to S. Mack. It cost \$2.25. I helped A. Smith cut rye and wheat Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday we finished our corn and this is Thursday. This forenoon we helped Mat cut rye and after noon I got the reaper together and greased and cut that timothy below the field. We can cut grass till wheat gets ripe and that won't be long, the bugs are killing it. You never see a better prospect than we have for oats this year. Answer this. D. Bechtolt

 (And this final letter is from his wife, Elizabeth. Its preservation was due to the fact that there was space left on the sheet of paper and he used it to write his letter back to her, date of August 12)

July the 22, AD 1865

My dear husband It is through the kind mercy of God that we are yet spared and well. I hope and trust in God that you are well and enjoying yourself wherever you may have to be. May God be with you for he is able to preserve from all danger in soul and in body. I received your letter last Wednesday night at prayer meeting. Mathias brought it over. We was glad to hear from you. We had a good little meeting. It is appointed at Blaine's schoolhouse next Sunday. I am writing this letter on Mathias' table. I am going to town with Lydia Baughman. She has come. I must close my letter and get ready. from Elizabeth Ault to William Ault

 Who They Were--

Elizabeth Ault's brother Daniel Bechtolt lived less than a mile from the Ault farm. He, with help from others, did the work on the Ault farm while William was away. Daniel's wife, Matilda, their children, Albert and Lydia

"	"	"	Mathias (Mat) Bechtolt, pgs. 11 and 20
"	"	"	Peter Beckholt, lived in Ohio, pg. 1
"	"	sister	Lydia Baughman, pg. 20. Her husband, John Baughman, had died in 1861. He was a brother of Wm Ault's uncle, Wm Baughman in Ohio, pg. 1

Barbara, pg. 10 Wm Ault's sister, Barbara Ault Merrill

Joseph Ableman, pg. ⁷⁴14 A neighbor of Wm Ault, also in the army. His son, LeRoy, would marry Wm Ault's daughter, Christina, in 1874

"Brother Smith" pg. 8, "that brother down the creek, his name Albert" pg. 18, "A. Smith" pg. 20 - Albert Smith. His granddaughter, Lillian Smith, would marry Wm Ault's son, Lorenzo, in 1896

S. Mack, pg. 20, Sam Mack, implement dealer in Monroe. Evidently Wm Ault owed him money

"peaches-----grow here like plums does on Skinner" pg. 13, Skinner creek flowed through the Ault farm

 Although not mentioned in these letters, William Ault's brother, John Ault, Co. L, 1st Reg. Wis. Cav., died Jan. 23, 1864 in the government hospital at Nashville, Tennessee. He is buried in the National Cemetery at Nashville, Sec. D2991. He was not married.

Henry Bucher was born in Switzerland in 1820. He and his brother, Jacob, came to America in the 1850s, working their way on a cattle boat. Jacob settled in St. Louis and has descendants there, but none living who carry the name of Bucher.

In New York State, Henry Bucher met Anna Mary Utiger. They were married January 3, 1860. She had come with her family, the Benedict Utigers, from Switzerland in 1851. At the age of 12, she was going blind. A doctor said that a sea voyage might help her eyes, evidently the salt air. So, the Utiger family came to America--eleven weeks on a sailing ship, the name of it, the "Second Mayflower." It must have helped, for at the age of 70 Grandmother Bucher won first prize at the Ogle County (Illinois) Fair on a quilt which she made.

Louisa was born at Schenectady, New York, then the Buchers moved to Wisconsin. Emma was born in 1863. In September, 1864, Grandfather Bucher was taken into the Union Army. His language was German, he couldn't read English. Going down the Mississippi River on a boat a sign was posted, only one cup of coffee per man. He asked someone what the sign said and was told that it said, all the coffee anyone wanted. So, because he insisted on more coffee, he was punished for disobedience, tied up by his thumbs, with just his toes touching the floor.

Grandfather's job in the Artillery was taking care of the horses. This, being a farmer, he knew how to do. He was discharged June 26, 1865 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. See discharge paper, next page. Even government documents are not always accurate. He is listed as born in Germany, which was not so. They probably put down Germany because he spoke German. He wrote some letters home, in German, but I don't know what has become of them.

Grandfather Bucher arrived home in Wisconsin in July, 1865 (July 6 in Chicago). My father, Edward, was born in May, 1866. Concerning the discrepancy in the spelling of our name - when my father went to school a teacher told him that "Buker" was the American form of "Bucher." She was mistaken, but my father took the spelling of Buker.

Grandfather Bucher now has more than a hundred living descendants but I am the only one who bears the name. So, when I am gone,-- whether it be "Bucher" or "Buker"--the name will be gone, for both Grandfather Henry and his brother, Jacob.

To all whom it may Concern:



Paid in full June 29 '65
 P. H. Howard

Know ye, That Henry Bucher a
 Private of Captain Daniel Webster's
 Company, (1st) Battery ~~Regiment~~ of Horse Artillery ~~Vol.~~
 VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the Eighteenth day of September
 one thousand eight hundred and Sixty Four to serve one years or
 during the war, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States
 this Twenty Sixth day of June 1865, at Baton
 Rouge, La. by reason of G. O. No 94 War Dept. A. G. O. Current Series
 (No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)*

Said Henry Bucher was born in Germany
 in the State of _____, is 44 years of age,
 5 feet 1/2 inches high, Dark complexion, Grey eyes,
 Brown hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Farmer

GIVEN at Baton Rouge, La. this Twenty Sixth day of
 June 1865

E. H. Hawk
 Capt. 114th Ohio Vol. Regt.
 A. G. O. _____
 Mustering Officer

* This sentence will be erased should there be anything
 in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier
 rendering him unfit for the Army.

[A. G. O. No 99.]

W. C. H. Muttling, 1st Lieut
 Coind's Battery



THE BUCHER FAMILY

Taken at Rochelle, Illinois, about 1894

Standing - Louisa (Kasper) Sep 20,1860-Aug 7,1920
Marie (Butler - Herbert - Burbank - Davis) Jul 1,1869-Jan 27,1928
Edward D. Buker May 20,1866-Nov 28,1920
Emma (Johnson) Aug 9,1863-May 20,1896

Sitting - Caroline "Carrie" (Ault) Apr 20,1874-Apr 23,1924
Father - Henry John Dec 12,1820-Feb 12,1897
Mother - Anna Mary Utiger Jan 8,1839-May 23,1912

Henry and Mary Bucher and their five children are all buried in White Rock
Center Cemetery, Kings, Illinois