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Letters, 1865. SC 2026 [unpublished]

Felker, Charles W., 1834-1901

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

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WALTER GRESHAM
1264 OLD MILL ROAD
SAN MARINO 9, CALIFORNIA
SYCAMORE 6-1684

August 21, 1956

Alice E. Smith
Chief of Research
State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Miss. Smith:

I received your letter of April 19, 1956; however so much has taken my time and, wanting to read each letter of Grandfather Felker's carefully, I have not answered you.

I now have read all the letters of Capt. Felker and find them interesting and informative, e. g. buffalo hunts on the Kansas plain, description of weather, Officer's quarters, Officer's duties and uniform, diet and personal touches. The yearning to be mustered out of service was the same then as for me over ten years ago. Soldiers of all wars pretty much think and feel the same and always they desire letters from home. If anything is universal, it is the need of soldiers for mail and the hope of civil life. Capt. Felker spent at least nine months soldering as evidenced in the letter dated November 21, 1865.

All in all there is something here, no doubt, to document those times and there is much here to reveal the character of Charles Felker. Certainly, he was a man of strong character (see the way he speaks of deserters) and a man of determination and a keen sense of duty. Sometimes he addresses his wife, Sarah Douty, as My Dear Sis; sometimes My Dear Pet and other times My Wife and My Dear Wife. It is evident he had a terrible case of typhoid fever and almost passed away in May of '65. Note the difference in his hand due to extreme weakness. His interest in newspapering and reporting is obvious, for he started a camp paper called the "Plains". Yes, there are many facets to show the period and the man and one can readily step into his civil war boots and slosh along with him across the rain-streaked Kansas prairie.

In accordance with Mr. Frank N. Elliott's letter of June 2, 1954, that these letters (sent under separate cover) will be preserved in a fireproof vault and be made freely available for research and to researchers, I tardily send on Grandfather's correspondence. As soon as possible the book Statutes of the Territory of Wisconsin will follow. May I hear from you when in receipt of these items.

Sincerely yours,

Walter Gresham

Walter Gresham

23 August 1956

Mr. Walter Gresham
1264 Old Mill Road
San Marino 9, California

Dear Mr. Gresham:

You were very kind to remember your promise to send to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin your grandfather Felker's letters written at the close of the Civil War. Thank you for the collection and the accompanying letter.

I too read the series of letters, finding them considerably above the usual soldier's letters both in tone and in coverage. There are a lot of delightful touches in them: the remark about the men eating with their hats on in the dining hall, the description of the crowd waiting for the mail bags to be emptied, the inability of Felker's fellow officers to fill the pages of their letters home -- in contrast with his tightly written double sheets, and the various points you mentioned.

Captain Felker's name is vaguely familiar to me, but I can't quite remember where I have run across him in the wide researches I have carried on in Wisconsin history. I think it may have been in connection with the Bennett Law affair around 1890, but I can't place him exactly. He did return to newspaper work, didn't he (in spite of his parenthetical "cuss the paper"); we have him listed as a part owner of the Oshkosh Times after 1884, at that time the city's leading newspaper.

Thank you once more for your gift to the Society. We shall look forward to receiving the Statutes of the Territory of Wisconsin at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Alice E. Smith
Chief of Research

S:s

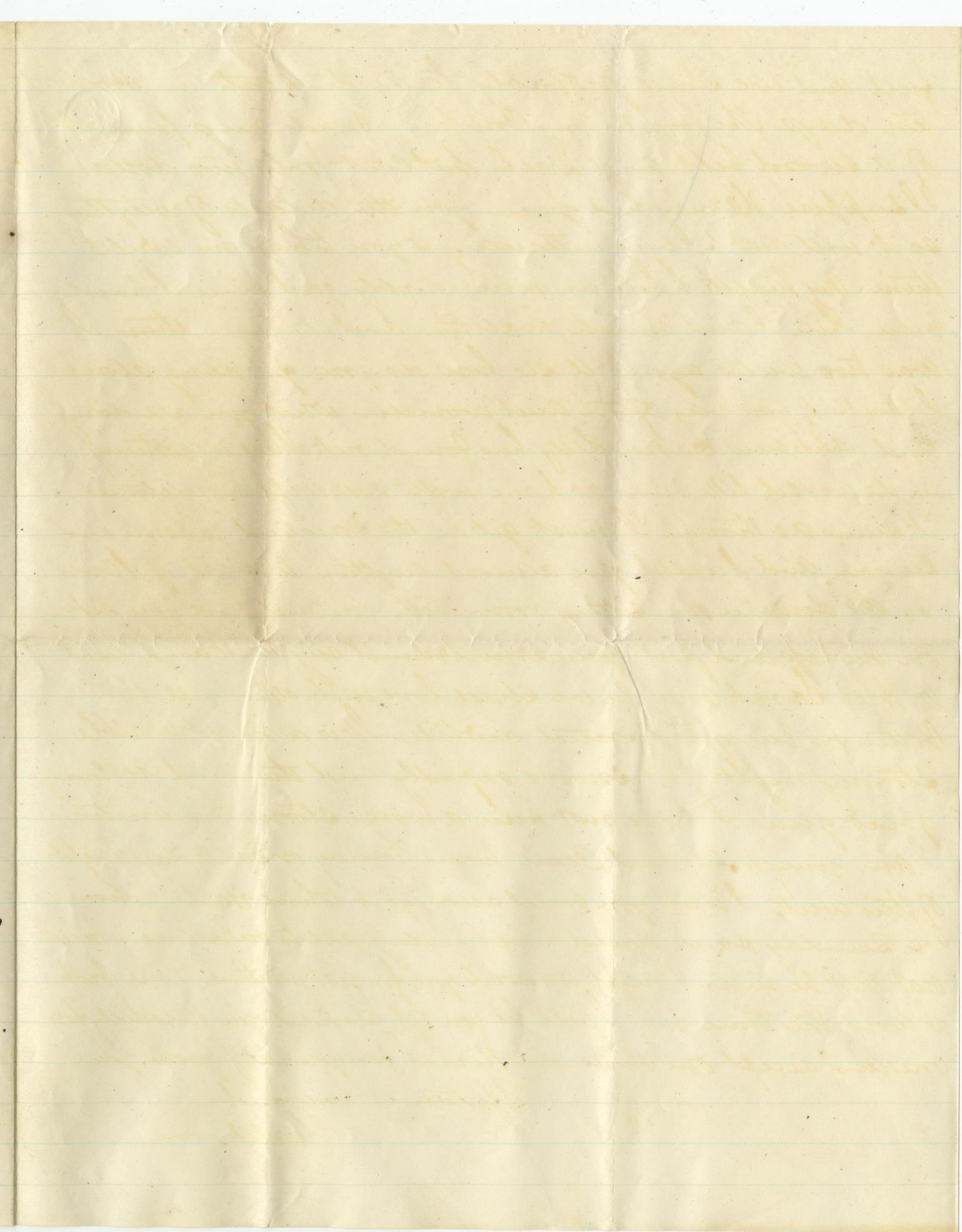
Camp Washburn

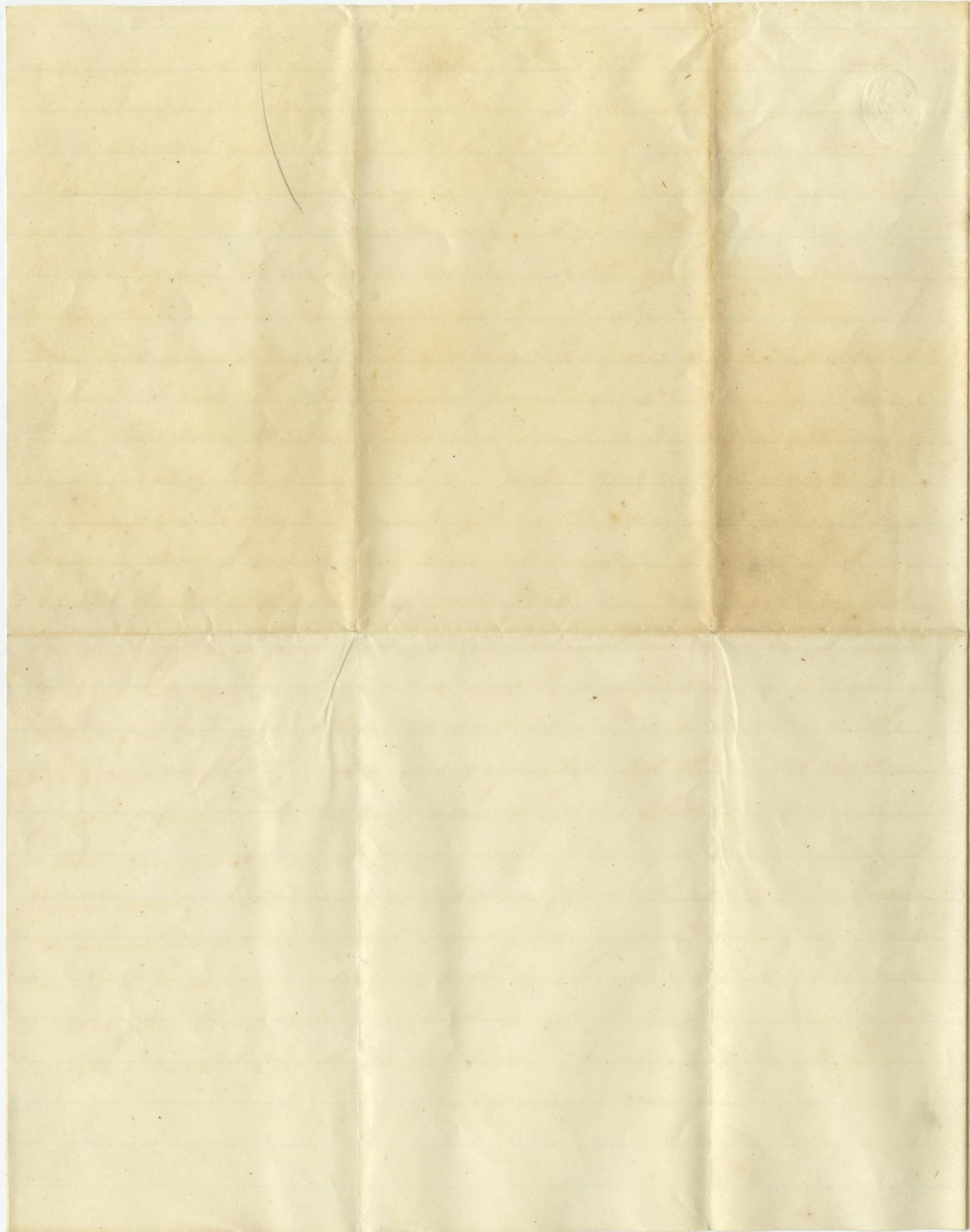
Monday Night - March 13th 1865

My Dear Wife

Having got fairly located in what in military parlance are called "my quarters" I thought I would write you a letter and give you something of an idea of how I am situated. Well "my quarters" consist of two rooms in Camp which said rooms are got up on the same principle as our back kitchen only higher and are about fourteen feet square. I have a stove in each room. In the front room is my bed which is a square bunk made of boards and filled with hay. My overcoat and two blankets answer for sheets bedquilt pillows &c I think I have slept on softer beds but then you know I always liked a hard bed. Willie Reed is my clerk and he sleeps with me at present. Willie is a good boy and I like him very much. We board at the sutters all eat with our hats on. Col. Shears has been absent a day or two and I have been in command of the Regiment during his absence. I told the Col. when he came back to-day that it was not much of a job to command a regiment. Andy has his quarters with the Col. He is well. All the boys are well except a few that have colds. I commenced to drill my Company to-day. It appears rather awkward work. It is so much different from what I have been used to but I shall soon get used to it. Our Regiment is nearly

full and we shall probably leave the state in about
ten days. The boys in my Company made me a present
of a sword belt and scabb. that cost forly two dollars
I suppose Henry has given you the details of everything
so it will not be very interesting to you to have me write
them. My health has been remarkably good since I have
been here I am much healthier and stronger than I
was two weeks ago. Well sis how do you get along alone
I think of you very often and wonder what you are doing
and what new Capers Lilly has found out. There is nothing
in the world like being at home with our wife. Sometimes
it seems as though I must get on the cars and go home and
see you and I would give almost anything to night if I could
be set down in our sitting room with you and have you sit
on my lap and put your arm around my neck as you used
to. Well Sarah maybe we shall love each other all the
better for being separated awhile. It is a most terrible
stormy night. It snows rapidly and the wind is blowing
great guns. I have not seen a worse storm this winter
I am going to try and come home Friday or Saturday night
of this week I wish you could arrange it to have Hattie go home
on Sunday so we could have one day all to ourselves. Would
not that be nice. I ought to scold you for not writing to me but
I wont this time but I will let you off provided you Kiss Lilly for
me and accept one thousand kisses for yourself from your
Affectionate husband
Charles





Camp Washburn
Milwaukee March 19th 1863
Sunday Eve. 9 o'clock

My Dear Wife

The officers have all gone to the city and I am left quite alone. I believe there is but one officer in camp besides myself. I suppose they are having a good time but I thought I would stay at home and read and write you a letter. This is probably the last letter I shall write you from this camp for we are ordered to St. Louis Wednesday. It is has been a beautiful day, the first spring like day we have had since we have been in camp. The soldiers were paid a part of their Government Bounty to-day and they are feeling well drinking, wetting, eating, singing and fiddling have been the order of the day. How strangely some men act when cut loose from home and the influences of home I wonder if they don't sometimes think of loving wives and little ones and of mothers and sisters. There are now over a thousand men in this camp. A party of soldiers set fire to and burned up a house of ill fame located near the camp the other night. Since which time we have not been troubled with abandoned women. You hardly have an idea how wretched and despicable these women are. They used to come into camp at the night and crawl away into old nasty deserted

barracks and into the straw and even under the
fences to have intercourse with drunken soldiers
Sometimes the guard would catch them and put
them into the guard house or "bull pen" as the boys
call it. It is almost impossible to believe that a
woman, who when pure and good is the very best ideal
virtue and goodness and loveliness can become so
miserably depraved and wretched. I never hear a
woman swear without a shudder. I feel quite gloomy
and lonesome to-night and I can't tell why I feel so I tell
you what I would like. To sit in a rocking chair and have
you come and sit in my lap and put your arm around
me and put your face close to mine and sit so for an hour
or two without hardly saying a word, in a sort of half dreamy
state without thinking of anything except that I was
holding you close to my breast. Some of the happiest hours
we ever spent together (at least to me) were passed just
in that way although I don't know that I ever told
you so before. I enjoy writing to you very much and I
shall write as often as I can. It seems to be a sort of relief to
me to sit down and write to you and tell you how I feel and
what I am thinking about. And I wonder what you are doing
and what you are thinking about. I suppose you are
asleep and perhaps asleep now for it is twenty minutes to
ten o'clock. I have just been reading your letter again. That is
the first letter you ever wrote me. I was really a little curious
to see what kind of a letter you would write. Without wishing
to flatter you I really think it is a good one. You must write

to me often Sarah. You can hardly imagine how much
I prize a letter from you. Write once a week at least and often
if you can. As soon as I get to St. Louis I will write the first moment
I can get. How does our little Lilly getting along. ~~How~~ ^{How} pretty
and interesting she is. She will be quite a little girl when
I get back. I do not believe you are sorry now that you
had a baby as you are. How badly you used to feel when
you first found out you were going to have Lilly. I love
you better for Lilly's account - I never shall forget a couple
of lines of Coleridge they are quoted somewhere in Lamb's
works they are I believe as follows

"Dear was the child for the mother's sake

And dearer was the mother for the child"

I wrote you a letter last night and sent it up by Mrs Reed
You will probably get it tomorrow. But inasmuch as I cannot
write to you for some days I thought I would write you again
to night. Kei and George are sitting by the stove smoking
as contented as two kittens. Please call on Mrs Kimball once
in a while. Read and study all you can while I am gone sis and
write me about it. If I run across any books that I think you
would like to read I will send them to you And now good
night and good bye my sweet little wife. Kiss Lilly for me
and I kiss you a hundred times in this letter

Your Charles

All talked bad about me
the boys tell me behind he did
not get a commission. He certainly
is in the wrong and I have written
him about it

to the other world. You are kindly inquiring how much
I give a letter from you. Not once a week or two or three
of you can. As soon as I get a letter I will write the first moment
I can get. You can see the little things I am doing every
day interesting to me. I will be glad to give a little of the
I get back. I do not believe you are doing any thing that you
had a copy in your air. I have had a copy of your book and
you feel comfortable you are going to read it. I have
you better in on the account. I have had a copy of a couple
of lines of letters. They are printed in the same way in which
works they are a little in format.

"Dear me the child for the picture book
and the child for the picture book
I wrote you a letter last night and I will write you again
you will probably get it tomorrow. But I am sure you will
write to me for some days I thought I would write you again
to night. The book I have is a copy of the same book
as I mentioned to you before. Please get on the picture book
in a while. I had a copy of your book while I was in and
write me about it. I had a copy of your book that I think you
would like to read. I will write you again but you know
right and good for my next little work. I will be for me
and I will give a beautiful time in the letter

Your affectionate
son

All the best
to you and
I hope you will
get a copy of
the book and
I will be glad
to hear of it

Benton Barracks
St. Louis Missouri
March 25th 1863

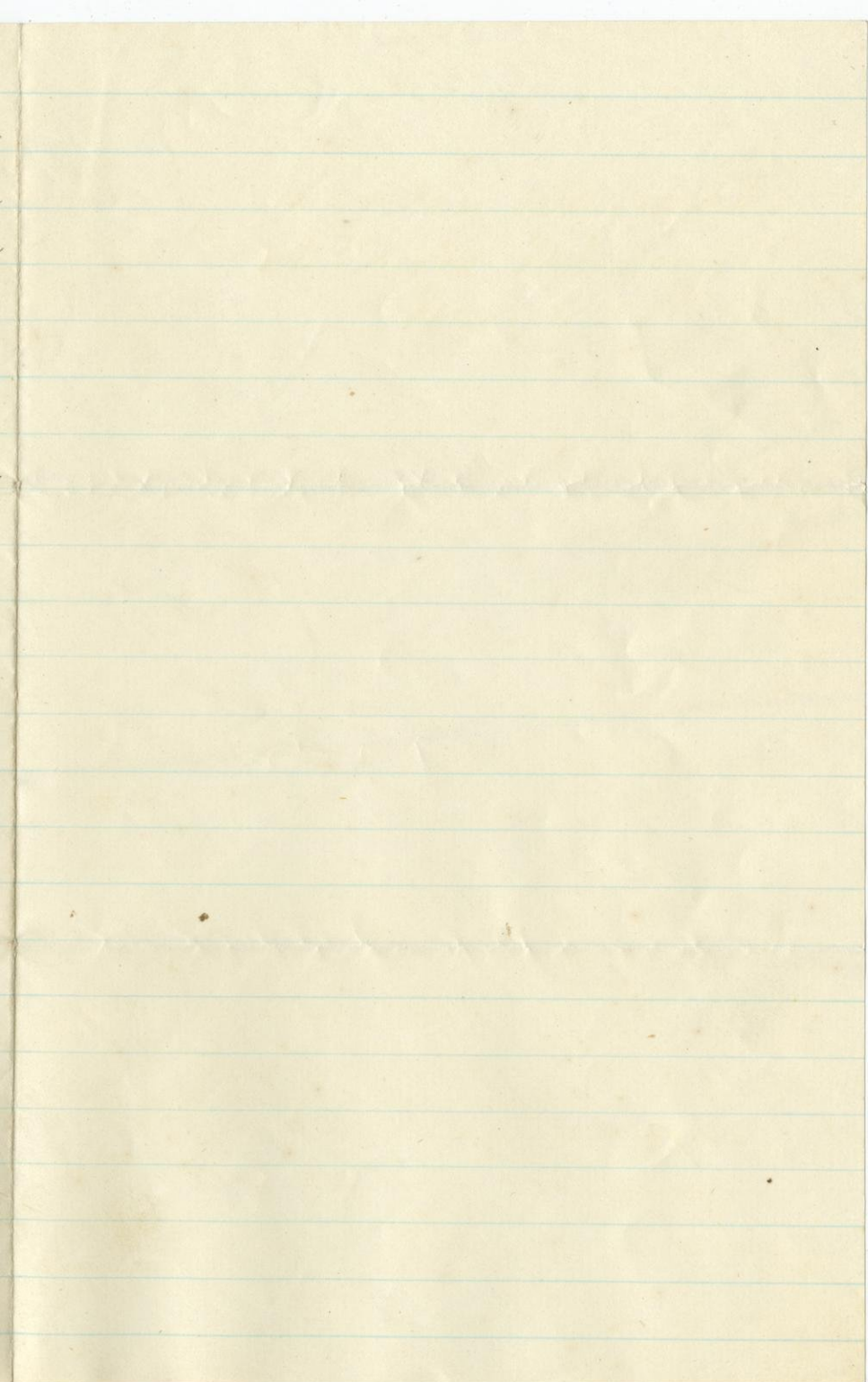
My Dear Wife

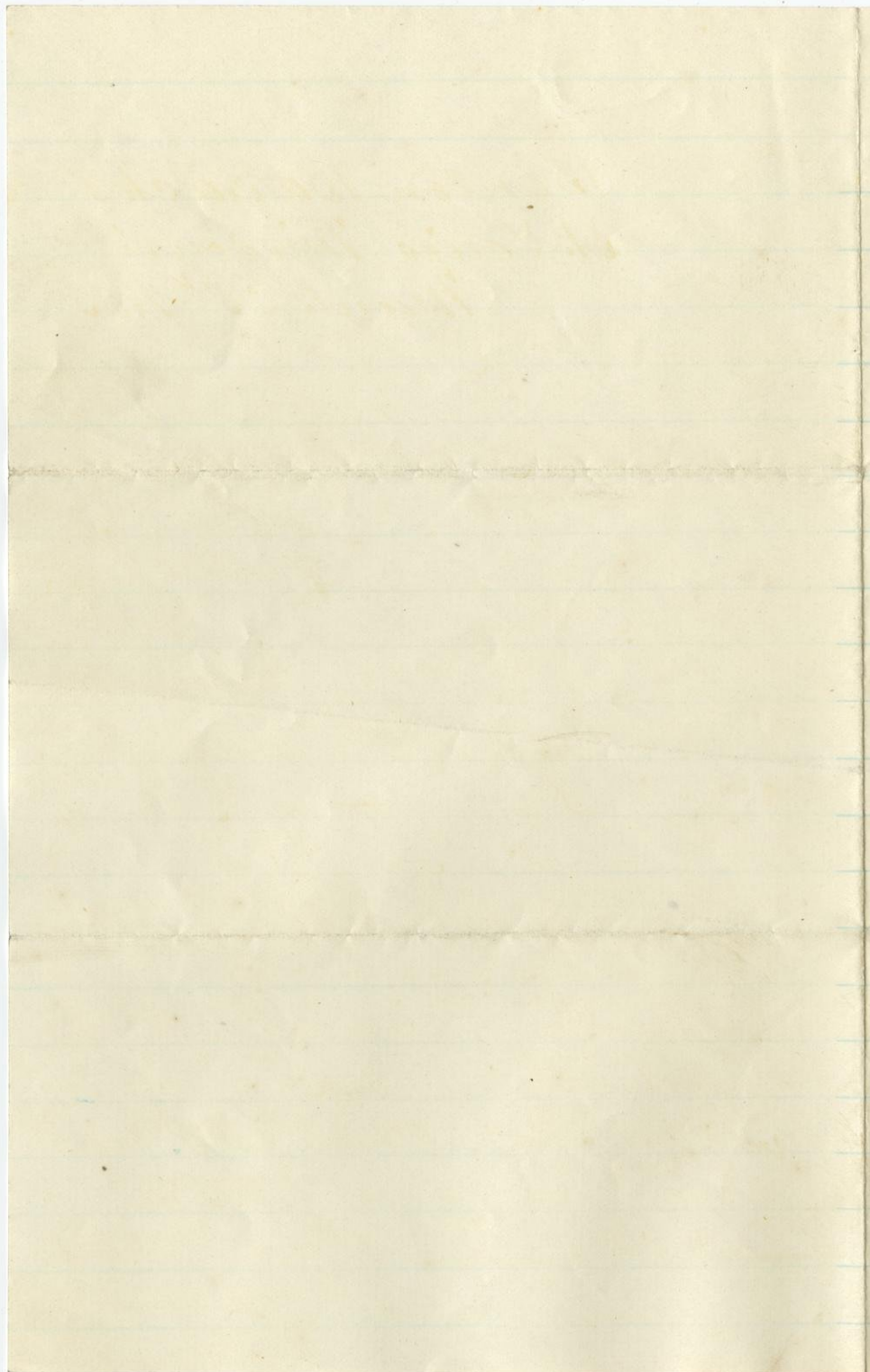
We moved from
Milwaukee Wednesday morning
and arrived here Thursday night.
Got into Camp about two o'clock
at night. This Camp is a great im-
provement on Milwaukee. It is
warm & dry. We are working hard
drilling. I am getting as black
as an Indian. I wish you could
be here a few days & see the place.
I have not been down to the City yet
since we came here. One day will
I go to bed at nine o'clock & get up at
five. Dont that astonish you. How
are you getting along and Lilly. I
~~have~~ just got Biers letter containing
news of Charley's death just about a

hour before we left Milwaukee
Poor War how bad he feels. I cant
fully sympathize with him for we
have never lost a child. Oh how
I should feel if Bill should die
I have just got time to put this
in the mail. Goodbye sis. write
as soon as you can. I send you
a whole handful of kisses + kiss
Lill for me. Goodbye

Chauncy

Direct to Capt. C. W. Felker
Co. "A" 48th Regt. Wis vols
Benton Barracks
St Louis. Missouri





Camp Shears Near Warrensburg Missouri
April 5th 1865

My Darling Wife

I have not really written you a letter since I wrote you at Camp Washburne Milwaukee. Although I dropped you a line and sent you my photograph just as we started from St. Louis. We have been on the move ever since and I have had neither time nor place to write you. And I write this in my tent with my portfolio on my valise for a table holding a candle in one hand. I am Officer of the Day to-day and have got to be up all night and I am putting ⁱⁿ part of my time writing to you. It is a very dark windy rainy night and we are lying here in the mud and water waiting for it to get dry so that we can move. We are now about two hundred miles west of St. Louis. our destination now is Paola, Kansas sixty five miles west of here. We shall probably be kept on the border fighting bushwhackers and indians during the whole year. We are just getting into a country where the bushwhackers are pretty thick. We came on the Cars from St. Louis to Sedalia and from there here we marched. Marching is pretty hard on the boys and they were all pretty tired when they got here night before last. This soldiering is pretty rough business and tells pretty hard on the men. We have passed through a beautiful prairie country but it lacks both wood and water. The people generally are a miserable shiftless race

I have not seen a barn on the road not on Churchland
but one or two school houses. The women are the homeliest
dirtiest specimens of the feminine gender I ever saw
I cant conceive how a white man could be induced
to live with one. Niggers are quite plenty. They are of all
Colors and sizes. Little black niggers with a great row
of ivory in front and yellow niggers and big niggers and
all very dirty niggers. The wind blows so that I had to
Shift my position and in doing so I tipped over my candle
and put it out but I have got started again all right
My health has been pretty good. I was pretty sick one
night on the march but I feel pretty well now. We heard
to day that Richmond had been taken. Keope it is true
Well now my sweet sis how are you getting along. It is now
ten o'clock and I suppose you are tucked away snugly
in your bed probably asleep. Maybe you are awake and
thinking about me. I know you think of me often and I
certainly do of you. Well I have not written any for half an
hour. I have been thinking over how we got acquainted and
our courtship and marriage and the first time and the
last time I kissed you my dear girl how fresh every
little circumstance connected with you seems. I do
not believe I ever realized how much I loved you and
how dear you were to me until I had to leave you. How
badly you felt when I last went away. When I get
back I mean to hold you in my lap for a whole week.

without letting you get up. I wish Sarah you would
send me your photograph. Send it if possible in the
next letter you write. You can get it taken in Onondaga without
much trouble and I shall prize it so much now please
send it as quick as you can. Send Lillie too if you can
but send yours at any rate. How is Lillie getting along
does she grow any does she talk any more how is
her health. Write me all about her. How much I
would like to see her. I suppose she has forgotten
all about "papa" How is your health. Have you got well
yet. And Alf and Hattie I suppose they enjoy themselves
as all newly married folks only can. How is Sam
Does he get any better. Write all about them. How
does William make it go. Has he got a house yet
Tell him I will write him as soon as I can get a place
that is dry land enough to set an interest in. Now
do I have got to stop and go the Grand Rounds that
is visit all the patients. Please kiss Lillie for me when
you get this and I have kissed many times I assure
you while writing this. Good night my sweet wife
Your Charley

My Dear Sis. I have got a chance to send this letter to
the office this morning. Excuse an error. When you
write direct to Capt. G. H. Foster Co. A "41st"
Regt. Wis. Vol. Paoli Kansas
Charley

without letting you get up. I wish I could
 send me your photograph. Send it if possible in the
 next letter you write. You can get it taken in Ohio without
 much trouble and I shall prize it as much as you please
 send it as quickly as you can. Send the bill if you can
 but not more at any rate. How is the sitting doing
 does the group seem to be all right? How is the
 for the matter. What are we about for the month of
 would like to see her. I suppose she has forgotten
 all about "Papa". How is your health? How are you getting on?
 It is all very well. I suppose that is all right.
 Do all sorts of things for me and my family.
 Do it as soon as you can. Write me as soon as you can.
 Love to all.
 Your affectionate
 father

My dear father,
 I received your letter of the 10th and was glad to hear
 from you. I am well and hope these few lines
 will find you the same. I am still in the
 city and hope to be home in a few days.
 I am, dear father,
 your affectionate
 son

Kets. Cos. 48th Regt. Paola. Kansas
April 13th - 1865

My Darling Wife

We arrived here last night after a hard weary
march. In less than a half an hour after I got here I had your
letter in my hand reading it. Oh how glad I was to get it. I read it so
many times I can almost repeat the whole of it. My dear girl I
thank you a thousand times for your letter. We start this afternoon
for Fort Scott fifty miles from here. When I get there I will write
you a long letter and give you an account of our march. I
have been acting as Major of the Regiment so I have had
a horse to ride. I shall ride through to Fort Scott. Expect
our Major will not be with us till we get there. My health
is good. I am heavier and stronger than I was when I
started. I wrote you a letter from Warrensburg. Have you
got it. I wrote in that letter for you to send me your
photograph. Do sis send it as soon as you can and I assure
you I won't let the "naughty folks" trouble me. Now darling I would
like to write you a long letter but we start right away and if I
don't hurry I shant get this in the office So I kiss you and Lill
and stop. Cant you write me twice a week. Do at least once
a week. And I will write you just as often as I can. Good
bye sis

Charley

The boys from Onno are all well

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

April 13th 1848

My Dear Sir

I have been thinking much of late about the
 state of the world and the progress of
 civilization. It seems to me that we are
 in a very interesting and important
 period of our history. The great
 questions of the day are those of
 liberty and justice for all. It is
 our duty to stand up for the
 rights of the oppressed and to
 strive for a more perfect union.
 I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Fort Scott Kansas April 18th 1865

My Darling Wife

Inasmuch as I cannot be with you to-night it gives me the next greatest pleasure to sit down and write to you. I think of you very often every day but for some reason you have scarcely been out of my mind during the entire day to-day. I have not had much to do to-day and when I am off duty the first thing I generally think of is Sarah and Lilly. More of you Sarah a great deal than Lilly for although I love Lilly very much as much probably as any man loves his child yet you seem dearer to me than all else in the world. I dreamed about you last night and I was just as certain until I awoke that you were lying on my arm with your head on my bosom as I lived. But I awoke and it was all a dream. And yet although a dream the recollection of it and of the feelings of joy I experienced in the short moment of its duration I would not part with at any price. My dear girl I am so glad we had those talks together and understood each other before I came away. Perhaps we might not have done so for months it may be for years if we had not done it then. I have felt so happy when I have thought about it and felt that we now fully understand and appreciate each other and what is more darling entirely love each other. Don't you recollect - Per that night I came up and took you in my lap and we talked everything over and you told me you would like to sit in my lap and lay your head on my bosom but you was afraid to. Oh Sarah how bad I felt then and how many bitter recollections it has given me to think I had made my darling little wife afraid to lay her head on my shoulder. You have not -

been afraid to sit in my lap and lay your head on my shoulder since
then have you sis. How much it seemed like old times didn't it
When I come home I want you to kiss me twenty five times regularly
every day besides extras. There now what do you say to that. I know
and feel Sarah that we were not as affectionate towards each other as we
should have been and I think I was to blame. I can see it better now
when I am away from you. But sis when we come to live together again
if you will only kiss me and caress me more I know I shall do a great
deal better. Some mornings I have gone down to the office feeling cross
and blue and down hearted when I would have given everything
if you had only kissed me before I started. But now ^{as} I sit here in my
tent five hundred miles away from you trying to write you a letter I
feel so happy that we parted loving each other and understanding
each other as we ought to. And I know my Pet you feel happy too. I
received your letter dated April 2nd at Paola. I did not hardly dare
believe I should find one there. I broke it open and read it through
right in the Post Office and Darling you may rest assured I was
not only glad but very grateful to you for your good womanly
letter. But I am going to scold you. Now listen, dear sis do write to
me often. I have received but two letters from you during the whole
time I have been gone. One at Milwaukee and one at Paola. Now
Sarah can't you write once a week at least and if you would
write twice a week I will be doubly thankful. I will answer them
unless I am away on duty and then I know you will excuse me. But
I will always make it up when I come back. I wrote you a few
hurried lines at Paola which you have probably received by this
time. And I presume you have received also the letter I wrote you
at Warrensburg. I am glad Sarah you like to have me write to you.

and that you like my letters and I shall always write as good a letter
to sis as I can. I commenced writing this letter late on the
night of the 18th in my tent. Between eleven and twelve it
commenced to blow and rain terribly and I was obliged
to stop. Since that time it has rained every day and you
cannot conceive how uncomfortable it has been. To-day
the (22nd) it has not rained but it is still cold and muddy
Our camp is about a half a mile from the village and
I have been here in the village all day and shall be here
till to-morrow morning acting as officer of the day. So I
have brought along your port folio and ~~had~~^{taken} a room at the
hotel as my head quarters and shall finish my letter to sis
at my leisure. I have been quite sick to-day. I have tattered
cold sleeping on the damp ground and this afternoon
I have had a chill and fever. But I feel better to-night
I must give you some account of our journey from St. Louis
here. When we had been in Benton Barracks one day we got orders
to go to Paola Kansas. We took the cars from St. Louis to Sedalia
about one hundred & fifty miles and then marched from
Sedalia to Paola about one hundred & ten miles and from
Paola we were ordered here about sixty miles more. So
we have marched about one hundred and seventy miles
It was hard work for the boys. The weather was bad and as there
were no ~~bridges~~ over the streams we were obliged to ford them
The boys got very tired and food sore before we got here. I
wrote you in a former letter that I had a horse to ride so
I got along quite easy. The country from Sedalia here is all
prairie with narrow belts of timber along the streams

In Missouri we marched for miles without seeing an inhabitant
The houses along the road were entirely deserted. We camped
one night in a little village called Thornstown about as large
as Waukan and there was not a person living in the village. The
only living thing we saw that belonged there was a cat. The village
had been inhabited by bushwhackers and the troops drove them
all away. The houses were all still there except the doors & windows.
In one house there had evidently been a desperate fight. We found
several balls lodged in various places and in the front room there were
three or four places marked with buckshot and smaller shot.
The stains were covered with blood and we could see where the
blood had spirted on the walls and the marks of bloody hands
on the door and window casings. Along the road many of the houses
had been burned leaving the chimneys standing. In Missouri
they build a large brick chimney at each end of the house on the
outside and we could often see half a dozen of these chimneys
standing alone and bare against the sky on the prairie. The few
people we saw in Missouri were a most miserable ignorant race.
It will be a blessing to the State that they were cleared out to leave
room for decent people. Our little nest on the hill looked pleasant
as when I contrasted it with the desolate Cherokee County through
which we passed. Eventually Missouri will be rich and thousands of
cattle will be raised there. It is one of the finest grazing countries I
ever saw. As soon as we struck the Kansas line we found the country
quite thickly settled and that was a race altogether different
from those we saw in Missouri. We also found school houses
and churches and barns these things that Missourians seem
to have no idea of. We are now located at Fort. Scott where

we shall probably remain until we return home. Fort Scott has about two thousand inhabitants and has no particular importance except as a military post. Our camp is about half a mile from town. We live in tents cook by our camp fires and have plenty of dirt smoke mud and fresh air. I have invented a stove in my tent I dug a hole two feet long and eight or ten inches wide inside the tent and about a foot and a half deep. I then dug a trench to the outside & made a little chimney. The hole inside covered with a piece of sheet iron cutting a hole out of one end to make it draw. It works pretty well I cooked my breakfast on it this morning and it warms the tent considerably. Leah and Piggy and Rainball Bishop & Willie Red and in fact all the boys from our neighborhood are well. How does Mrs Leah and the rest of the women folks get along. Since I commenced writing I have received another letter from you dated the 9th inst. I hope you have got the letters I have written before this. I was so glad to get your letter, you want me to write you long letters. I will always do so when I can but will you do the same. I am glad to know your health is good and that Silb is well. How does she get along talking. How do things look in Wisconsin. Have you made any garden yet. How do the strawberries look. Has Mrs David Willwe got back yet. I do not want you to pay that note. I will send the money to Brock in a few days. That matter is all right enough. But there is another matter I wish you would see about for me. When I came away I took with me \$100 belonging to Geo. Croft left with me by Mr Arnold. I intended

to get in Milwaukee for Craft an interest bearing treasury note
and send it home. I had already got one for him of a hundred
dollars which I left in the safe. When I got to Milwaukee the
Colonel and some other officers borrowed this money of me
expecting to pay it back before we left the State. But our
Regiment was hurried away here sooner by two weeks
than we expected and they left me in the lurch. William
has written me that Craft has come home and wants
his money. I wish to ^{write} to pay it. If he has not done so please
pay that for me and tell Mr Arnold how the matter was. I
left over \$200 which I shall get pretty soon which together
with my pay I will send home except what I actually need to
live on. Keeny is well and is at present acting as Quartermaster
of the Regiment. Now darling I have written you a pretty long letter
and I must close and yet I almost hate to because it seems almost
like talking to you when I sit down to write to you. And often when I
am writing I stop to think as I have just now done where my dear
little wife is and what she is doing and how she is dressed and how
she has got her hair combed and whether she is well and wonder when
I shall fold her in my arms again. And so I dream away a good many
hours. You promised to write me about what you were reading. Be
sure you do or I shall scold awfully, with particularity about your own
health and Lill's. Give my regards to Alf and Mattie & Sange. I will write
to Sange as soon as I get fairly settled. And now sis when you get this
please write me a good long letter. Tell me all about yourself and Lill
and recollect everything from you will be interesting. Once. And
now I must kiss you and Lill and bid you good night—

There!! Good night my own dear wife

Charley

Direct to me at Fort Scott Kansas. Put on Post & Company
as usual

Fort Scott April 30th 1865

My Dear Wife

It is Sunday night and I propose to as far as I can to obey the injunction "remember the Sabbath day & keep it holy" While away from you, by sitting apart and dedicating the Sabbath to writing and thinking of my dear wife. The Sabbath is always quite a gala day in the army. In the morning we have a general inspection. That is all the arms & accoutrements clothing cleanliness and quarters of the men are examined and a general cleaning up is had. Then in the afternoon we have dress parade. So you see I cannot give you all the day, but I always have part of the day and all of Sunday night and that I dedicate to you. And you know Sis that I always Sunday night to you for a long time before we were married. And we used to enjoy them to didn't we. Now I used to wait week after week for Sunday night to come around and then — well Sis you know the rest as well as I. Those were precious Sunday night weren't they. I love to think of them don't you? I don't want you to think that I am only going to think of you Sunday nights but only that I am going to give to you that night as I used to. So you you may expect at least a letter from me every Sunday night. I could write to you often and write short commonplace letters such as I see some of the officers write to their wives; just merely telling them that they are well and hoping they are the same, and making a few inquiries about friends and neighbors and closing

by subscribing themselves "affectionate husband &c" but
it is no pleasure for me to write so to you. When I write to
you I want to be alone and then sit down and talk to
you as near as I can as though you were sitting by my
side. I always see you when I am writing to you just as
plainly as though you were present. Your form features hair
and eyes; your hands and feet, your face, everything is as
distinct to me now as though I had just kissed your sweet
lips and was looking straight into your eyes. And that is
the way I love to write to my own sweet Sis.

I have just managed to get some ink and will finish my letter
with a pen instead of a pencil. The last letter I received from you
was dated April 9th. I have been looking every night for a letter
but none have come. I shall be so glad to get another letter
from you. Have you received the letter I wrote you at Warrensburg
and the one I wrote you at Paola and the one I wrote you
since I have been here then in all since I left St. Louis. You
wrote me you had received my photograph. How did you
like it. Did I look natural. How did I look in military
uniform. You wrote I looked well. I want to know if
you thought I was good looking. In my three last
letters I have written you to send your photograph. Now
do send it Sis I shall be so pleased to have it. Send Lill's too
if you can. Our Colonel arrived this last week with the
last two companies of the Regiment. The eight companies
that came when we did were commanded by Lt. Col. Shears
We all like the Colonel. He makes us all stand around
when on duty but off duty he is a social genial

gentleman. I like soldiering pretty well as well as I expected
 The greatest drawback is being separated from you and
 Sill. If I could have you here I should be perfectly happy
 Mr Allen is here. I think the boys will like him pretty well
 I dont think he will find a very heavy work of grace going on
 in the 48th Regt. and but a small chance to get up one —
 Religion is at a very low ebb in the army out here and
 in fact among the people generally as far as my observation
 has extended. I do not know much about the society here
 I understand there are a few old residents here together
 with some of the officers and their wives who reside here
 that make up the respectable part of society. The balance
 is rather mixed particularly the female portion of it. ~~There~~
 There are a great many refugee women here that have
 come here from the South who rely mostly on their personal
 charms for a living. Army officers tell me that this is
 the case in all places along the border occupied by
 our troops. And all officers are unanimous in the
 opinion that northern women are a thousand times
 more chaste than southern women. What a condition
 the south will be in when the war is over. Their property and
 homes destroyed their niggers free, thousands upon thousands
 of their people killed and worse than all the terrible
 prostitution among their wives and daughters. Will
 they deserve it all and more too for getting up this
 rebellion. The bogus confederacy is about played out

at last. How proud we shall all be of our Government and
our Country and our flag when the last rebel is
whipped and we know and feel that the jurisdiction
and authority of the United States Government extends
over all every foot of the territory of the United States
It has cost an immense sacrifice of life and treasure
to put down this rebellion but it is worth all it has cost
Don't you think so Sis. I wonder what such old copper-
heads as Cleaves and Pete Shafer think now about
putting down the rebellion. What a terrible thing the
assassination of President Lincoln was. You know he
never was a great favorite with me yet I always regarded
as one of the most honest and kind hearted of men whose
greatest fault in administering the Government during
the war was his too kind treatment of rebels. How
terribly his poor wife must feel for although he was the
President yet to her he was a husband - the husband
of her girl hood. I hope President Johnson will stretch
plenty of scotch necks to pay for it. What is the news in
Orms. Do things run about as they used to. How does William
get along and Sanger how is his health. Give my
respects to him. What is Alf. doing. and how is Mattie. I
suppose Mattie has'nt got a baby yet. How are Willard's
folks & Murphy's. And finally darling how do you
get along and how is your health. Have you got entirely
well. Tell me all about yourself and Lill. What you
are doing and what you read & whether you play the
Guitar any. Have you got your black silk dress

(3)

made up yet. Do you get the Sentinel regularly
Are goods any cheaper than they used to be. Everything
is very high here. Please darling write me as often as
you can. I prize your letters more than anything else
and I should be so happy to get a letter from you every
week. My own health is pretty good now although
since I wrote you I have had an attack of chill fever
But I took quinine and have not felt it for several days
Leady and the boys are all well. Henry's health is good
And now my dear wife I must close and bid you good
night. Next Sunday night I will write you another
letter and in the mean time I do hope to get one from
you. Good Bye darling I put in twenty kisses for your
forehead ten for each eye ten for each cheek and forty
for each lip and if they get out of this letter before
it reaches you I will give them myself when I
get home. Kiss Lill for Papa and kiss me darling
when you get this letter from

Your own Charley

Direct as before to "Fort. Scott Kansas"

I have not yet received your letter of the 10th inst. and
 am sorry to hear that you are not well. I hope
 you will soon be able to write again. I have
 not much news to write at present. I am
 well and hope these few lines will find you
 the same. I have not yet received your
 letter of the 10th inst. and am sorry to hear
 that you are not well. I hope you will soon
 be able to write again. I have not much news
 to write at present. I am well and hope these
 few lines will find you the same. I have not
 yet received your letter of the 10th inst. and
 am sorry to hear that you are not well. I
 hope you will soon be able to write again.

Yours ever affectionately

Robert as before & "Hot. Best Wishes"

Fort Scott May 2^d 1865

Dear Sir

I wrote you a long letter Sunday night (April 30th) but I am on duty here in the village to-day as "Officer of the day" and as I have not much to do this evening I will write you again. I shant promise you a very good letter this time for I am writing here in the sitting room of the hotel where everybody is running in and out with a billiard table running in one of the adjoining rooms and dancing going on in another. As I have written you several times when I have been officer of the day I will try and explain what the term means. In every regiment on duty, or at a post (we are doing duty at a post.) there is detailed a certain number of men to do guard duty with them is also detailed an officer of the guard who is generally a Lieutenant who has immediate charge of the guard and also an "Officer of the Day" who is generally a captain and under whose instructions the officer of the guard acts. The officer of the day from our Regiment is obliged to come down into the village and remain on duty twenty four hours. He is always recognized by the way he wears his sash

Instead of passing his sash twice around his body he passes it across the breast over the right shoulder and once around his body. He also while on duty always wears his sword. My photograph I sent you was taken while on duty as officer of the day. While on duty he has general supervision of almost everything in the camp or post when he is on duty. See the camp is kept clean arrests all drunk or disorderly soldiers and in the village here also all drunk or disorderly citizens. In the morning he goes to head quarters and receives his instructions from the commanding officer and gives them to his guard. One day while on duty here I arrested and put in the guard house some twelve disorderly ^{soldiers} persons & citizens. Soldiers without passes are also liable to be arrested & sent to camp or guard house. It has been pretty quiet to-day My guard have made but three or four arrests. It is a pretty rough place here. There are some Kansas troops here and some of them are but little better than bushwhackers. Every few days somebody gets shot or shot at. Almost everyone wears one or two revolvers and when men are accustomed to carrying weapons they soon become accustomed to using them too frequently. It seemed a little odd at first to wear a sword and revolver but I soon got used to it. Fort Scott is rather a pleasant little village.

of about fifteen hundred or two thousand inhabitants. There
are a few citizens here who do a legitimate business, a few
officers who are permanently stationed here the balance of the
population is made up of soldiers speculators gamblers
thieves prostitutes and rebel refugees all trying to rob
the Government and each other. Quite a number live
in tents in the suburbs of the village. It is a great town for
niggers and mules. They have the largest and finest
mules here I ever saw. The niggers are as usual lazy and
shiftless and dirty. I have got a nigger for a servant. He is
the ugliest looking nigger I ever saw. The Government is building
quite extensive fortifications here. About two hundred of our Regts.
work on them every forenoon; in the afternoon we drill. Years
ago Genl. Scott built a fort here and some dozen buildings
for the use of troops; which are still here. It was here Genl.
Taylor fitted out his army and marched with it to
Mexico at the time we had war with Mexico taking with
him all his ammunition & supplies in wagons. They are
having quite a dance in the dining room of the hotel here to night.
As near as I can learn it is quite a select and aristocratic
affair. I had an invitation to join the party but I thought
I would rather sit down and write this poor gossip letter.
The leader of the band is a son of the Mr. Buttrick who played

for us last winter. Her belongs to the 3rd Cavalry & plays in the brass band here at the post. There were pleasant parties last winter weren't they Sarah. How vividly the music to-night recalls old scenes and recollections even back to the time when we went to dancing school together and first learned to love each other I wonder darling when we shall dance together again

Ah well I must stop writing in this strain or I shall feel blue, and I only intended to write you a sort of Military letter. Well Sir I have got along so far in the army without drinking any whiskey and I think the most of our officers do not drink. I do not keep any in my tent so I am not troubled with whiskey acquaintances. The health of our Regt is good. I think we have not more than a dozen sick in the Regt. I have not had any more Chills yet. and feel pretty well to day. I have not received any letters yet since yours of April 9th and yet you must have written since then. How is your health. Be sure and take good care of your health. How much it would grieve me to hear you were sick. Have you entirely recovered from your sickness of last spring. I have just looked at my watch and it is one minute after twelve. The dancing party is breaking up, and I must close. I suppose you and Lill are sleeping quietly in our little bed room. I would like to just step in for one moment as you lie quietly sleeping and kiss you both. So I will send you each a kiss in this letter and you may give Lill the kiss papa sent her and I will kiss her now as I have often done before in imagination hoping & wanting to kiss her again in reality. Good night my darling wife. Do not forget to write to your own Charley

Fort Scott Kansas May 7th 1865

My dear wife

I wrote you a long letter last Sabbath evening (which I presume you have not got yet) in which I told you I was going to obey the command to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" by devoting as much of the day as I could to you. And although I have been on duty to-day and have been very busy, being officer of the day in the village I can devote this evening to writing to you. I also wrote you a letter last Tuesday night both of which you will probably have received before this reaches you. I regret to say darling that I have not received a letter from you since the one you wrote dated April 9th. That letter was directed to Paola and was sent to me here. You can hardly conceive how eagerly I have watched the mail and how disappointed I feel when the post-master says "nothing for you". I think you must have written and the letters have been miscarried for I cannot think you would delay writing to me for so long a time. Oh Sarah if you have not written me when you get this do write at once. If you only knew how much I prize your letters, how I have read them and re-read them and how keenly I have felt the disappointment of not hearing from you I know you would write me at least once in a week.

I have thought about it so much to-day and have thought that perhaps you were sick and could not write or that something was the matter I have written you four letters since I have been here at Fort Scott and have not yet got a word in reply. Aint it too bad sis. I am going to write to Samy also to-night and see if I cant get a letter from him ready yet. I get one or two letters a week from home and it does seem as though I am as worthy to receive a letter from my wife as he is from his I dont feel much like writing to night sis. for it has been a long hot day and I have been on my feet since five o'clock this morning and I have had a dull pain in my head and I feel tired and feverish and I must say lonesome. I would give six months pay if I could sit down by you to-night and have you hold my head and talk about half asleep and half awake as we used to do. I tell you a man dont think much about the comforts of home and what a precious treasure a good wife is until he goes away and leaves them. I dont think I ever should have understood and appreciated how inseparably every happiness is bound up and connected with you had I not been thus separated from you. And so I shall love you all the more tenderly if we both live to meet again. Dont you love me better than ever Sarah I have got something to tell you. I have got one lady acquaintance in Fort Scott. the wife of Capt. Pond 3rd Wis. Cavalry. When I was in the printing business in Oshkosh (Cuss the business) Pond worked for me. He has since got married and is now Captain in the army

He gave me an introduction to his wife the other day. She is a very good sort of an illiterate girl not very pretty nor lady like quite gabby and has got a very shrill harsh voice about like Mrs "Koolsters". I hate such voices in women. I learned from her that there is but one unmarried young lady in town that belongs to the upper crust and also was the upper crust-see. I took up a book lying on the table entitled "End joo love" and asked if she had read it and what kind of a book it was and she said it was "Splendid" I did not go into the "literary" any further. Speaking of "literary" puts me in mind of Jimmy Wilson how does she and Edmonds get along. I suppose they have clear sailing now that poor Dick is gone. You recollect the morning I went away the cars broke and we had to go to Oshkosh. I went up to Jimmy's with Edmonds & took tea. I really pitied Jimmy for whatever the true facts may be and I am afraid they are bad enough. The generally received opinion in Oshkosh is that she is criminally intimate with Edmonds. And I must say I think so myself. I know Edmond and I know he would never favor and hang around a woman as he does about Jimmy merely for the pleasure of her society. Well nous verous as a Frenchman would say. I am going to sit down one of these days and give you a history of our Regiment and a description of its officers. I have got the photographs of some of them and when I get them all I will send them to you together with another of mine and we

will have them in your album all together as a sort of Military
Photograph gallery. When Officers are together so much and
have so much in common and each having a pride in his regiment
they necessarily become much attached to each other. And I know
you will feel an interest in the Regiment and its Officers because
your husband belongs to it. I heard yesterday that a story had got in
circulation in Ohio that Lady gave the boys some money to buy
his sword and then got me to present it to him. Perhaps that was
what you alluded to in your letter. This was not so. I know the boys
in the Regiment raised the money themselves and a delegation came
to me and asked me to make the presentation speech which I did.
I heard also they had stories in circulation about our getting drunk.
I can only answer for myself I have not drunked a gill of liquor since
I left home and Willie and and Sergeants Morton and Pingry and
Kimball who are with me every day and in fact all the boys in my
Company know this and that I don't have any whiskey drinking
in my Company either. My men would just about as soon be guilty of
disobeying an order as to have me catch one of them drunk. I know my
space is growing less and I must begin to condense. And now how is
your own health my own sweet. Some home like to call you Sis. Do you like
to have me call you so? And how is our little Lilly. Does she grow fleshy as she
grows older and is she as pretty as she used to be. Now do you get
along making garden this spring. And what kind of weather has it been.
Now do Sawdy's folks get along and all the other neighbors. Now is
Sang and Alf and Hattie. Has your Aunt gone home yet. And did
you have a pleasant visit with her. I wish you would send me a Sentinel
once in a while. I should not only be glad to read the paper but to know
that it came from you. Now darling when you get this wrot you please
write me a good long letter and when I get home I will give you a hundred
Kisses for every letter you write. Now many will you give me for each
letter I write you? I want you to criticise my letters to you Sis; and if there is
anything you don't like you must write me about it. Do you think of me
often Darling. I wonder if you are thinking of me now. I wish our minds
were so constituted that when we thought of each other we could both know
it at the same time. That would be a sort of mental telegraph wouldn't it.
Good night my dear wife Kiss Lilly for me as you have done before and
for yourself a real long lovers kiss from
Your own Charley

Fort Scott Kansas May 14th 1865

My Dear Wife

Your letter of the 8th inst. was received last night I ought to give you a good lecture for not writing sooner for you will recollect your last was dated April 9th a month lacking a day; but upon consideration I have concluded to let the matter go until I get home and then give you a good scolding which I shall probably do as soon as I get into the house. So you can loose out. But really Sarah you ought to write often than once a month. I wrote you at Warrensburg a short note at Paola and have written you four letters since I have been at Fort Scott and in reply to them all you have only written this one letter. Have you received all my letters. You can hardly appreciate how much pleasure it gives one when away to receive letters from home, with how much interest one watches the arrival of the mail, how disappointed one is when there is nothing for him and how much brighter everything looks when one gets a letter or even a paper. I had been looking day after day and week after week for a letter from you till at last I was afraid to enquire for the last two or three days I did not go to the post office but last night Willie brought me a letter from you well I felt glad I tell you I read it over ~~and then~~ or

times before I went to bed and I have read it three times
to-day. You need not make any apologies for badly written
letters I assure you I can read all you will write. There is some
prospect of our being mustered out soon but there is no certainty
about it. I think we shall probably get out some time this
Summer or fall. You must not expect it too soon. Wouldn't
it be nice to get home once more and be with you and Lill
How many kisses will you give me if I come home in June
When I get out of the army I would like to look around and
find some place to settle permanently where we could have
a nice little home and fix it up to suit ourselves and I could
practice law and earn a good comfortable living I don't
think we had better stay in Ohio. We can get a living there
and that is about all. I want to go somewhere there is more
law business and a greater chance to make money and
more than that a better chance to become a good lawyer
How would you like St. Louis. What is your opinion and advice
about it. Write me about it. I want to do what is best and most
pleasant for both of us. I have just lighted my pipe and am
having a big smoke. I have got to be quite a smoker since
I have been in the army. I have whiled away many an hour
smoking and thinking of you. I am glad Mrs Willcox has
returned on your account you really must have pretty good times
and I am glad you are so pleasantly situated. Grass widows

must be pretty thick on the hill this summer. Give Mrs Lane and
Dan my regards. Do you women are really making garden. Do
everything in apple pie order I suppose. The weeds will undoubtedly
suffer this summer. They ought to feel highly flattered to be pulled
out of the ground by ladies fingers only. By the way what has become
of the irrepressible Mrs Beckwith. I know to laugh last Sunday
How she getting along I should think he would almost get
discouraged Martin said when he was at home he was
looking badly. Does Mrs Mary Ann associate with common
people now or does she still keep on her dignity and cur
the Blackburne family and Larrabee tribe You spoke in your
last of Alft being away when has he gone. How does the straw-
berry bed look this spring and the currant and gooseberry
bushes. How does that pump work, and is there plenty of
water in the well. You see I am going back you more questions
than there is in a cornucopion to take testimony. How does
working in the garden agree with you. Are you any more fleshy
than when I went away. I am waiting very patiently for your
photograph. It will almost be like seeing you when it comes
I hope it is on the way before this time. I wonder if you have not written
me a letter to-day and put it in. I am very glad that you and Lill
are well. You generally are pretty healthy except that pain in your back
Does that trouble you much this summer. My own health is pretty
good. On the whole better than it was by far than last summer

I have been troubled more than ever before with the kidney
disease. I am much more fleshy and feel stronger than when
I went away. The weather is getting very hot here. and I presume
we shall ^{have} considerable sickness before long. Ague and typhoid
fever ~~are~~ prevalent here I am told in the summer and
fall. But perhaps we may get away before then. A telegram
came in to-day saying Jeff. Davis had been caught. I hope
it is true and that they will hang him as soon as they can
try him. What has become of Murphy's folks. I heard from
some of the boys that Murphy and his wife had parted and
that he had gone to California. Is it true. There have been no
deaths in my Company since Raymond died at Milwaukie
Albert Lewis had the small pox and is now in the hospital
at Paola doing well. He had it very light. No others have
had it. There are no sick in my Company now. The boys are
making great calculations on going home soon. Lady and
all those you know are well. Henry the same as ever. I am writing
to you on the head of a barrell box. and as my pen is about out and it
is getting late I must close. Write as often as you can. Darling and
I will be most grateful to you and when I get home I will love
you enough more to repay you for all extra trouble if you are
willing to take your pay in that way. I want you to send me a Kiss
in your next letter you did not send me even one in your last. Be
sure and not forget it. Kiss Lily for me as usual and tell her Papa
thinks of her every day as he does very often every day of her sweet
mother and accept one good long kiss from your own
Charley

Fort Scott Kansas July 11th 1865

My dear Wife

Since I wrote you last I have had a sort of poor spell and ^{I laid} ~~was~~ up till I was really strong enough to write & do such like things. You can see my hand is not very steady yet. I will give you a short account of my sickness. I had not been very well for a month or so and had been running down so that when I was taken sick I had but very little strength. On the 25th day of May I was taken down. The first week I seemed to have a complication of diseases. the second it settled into the typhoid and then for two weeks I knew nothing. then the fever gave way but I was so low that no one hardly thought I could get up. When my firm broke a Mrs M^o Donald who used to live at Hankan sent down word to have me brought of there. So they took my tent & things up there and

The boys carried me up in my bunk
It was about three fourths of a mile
from camp. and with Mrs McDonald
Mr Red + Pepper I had the best of care
The Surgeon too is one of the best phy-
sicians and men I ever saw. During
all my sickness I have not been in a
room and it is to plenty of fresh air and
the good nursing I received after my
fever broke that I attribute my re-
covery. Just think Sarah of my sleeping
with the tent raised two feet from the
ground at the head of my bunk and
the front of the tent all open so that I
lie and look right out on the stars
so I have slept all the time. I have not
taken any cold during the whole time
I sleep with my drawers + woollen
stockings on and a sheet + one woollen
blanket over me. The nights are very
cool here. It is very hot in the day
but as soon as the sun goes down it
begins to grow cool. There are no

Mosquitoes here. I am gaining my strength slowly but as fast as I could expect I suppose. To day I feel much stronger than I have any day since I began to get well. I have to be very careful not to overdo on account of a relapse. A relapse in my weak state would be fatal. My general health all except strength is better than it was before I was sick. I have no dyspepsia no biliousness. I am thoroughly cleaned out. all I want now is strength and that time and eating alone will bring. It was very fortunate for me I had no whiskey in my system. If I had I should have gone up the spout. I suppose you are disappointed in my not coming home. But when you come to think a moment you will see how much better for me it ~~is~~ not to come. I should have to stage it to Leavenworth over rough roads & rivers 125 miles

and I am not now able to stand the
fatigue. The railroad is then very rough till
you get to Chicago and when I got home
I could stay only about twenty days
for the longest I could possibly get a
furlough for would have been thirty days
and it would take ten days to go and come
at least Besides it would cost me sixty
dollars to go and come and they pay =
master would have deducted one half
from that that thirty days pay which
would have been about seventy five
dollars more. But the Surgeon would not
consent to it so there is no use for explaining
How are things in Ohio. Did you have plenty of
strawberries this year How do the apple trees
look Do any of them bear How is that
nice Cherry tree East of our bed room. How
does the wood hold out. How do Alfred
Kettie get along Give them my regards
I wish you would say to William I will
write him as soon as I get a little stronger
How is Sams health and what is he doing
How is your health and Lills I am so
glad Lill is so healthy and so good
I have heard that it is quite dead in Ohio this
Summer. Is it so. I shall not stay
there much longer. We should starve
to death. I hope to have a little money when
I get back and I shall not invest it in Ohio
We are all looking for the paymaster. We have not
yet got a cent of pay it went to send you some
money are you not wholly out. Was the policy
all fixed. My shirt is out and my strength
nearly so so good by dear Sarah. Write
as often as convenient

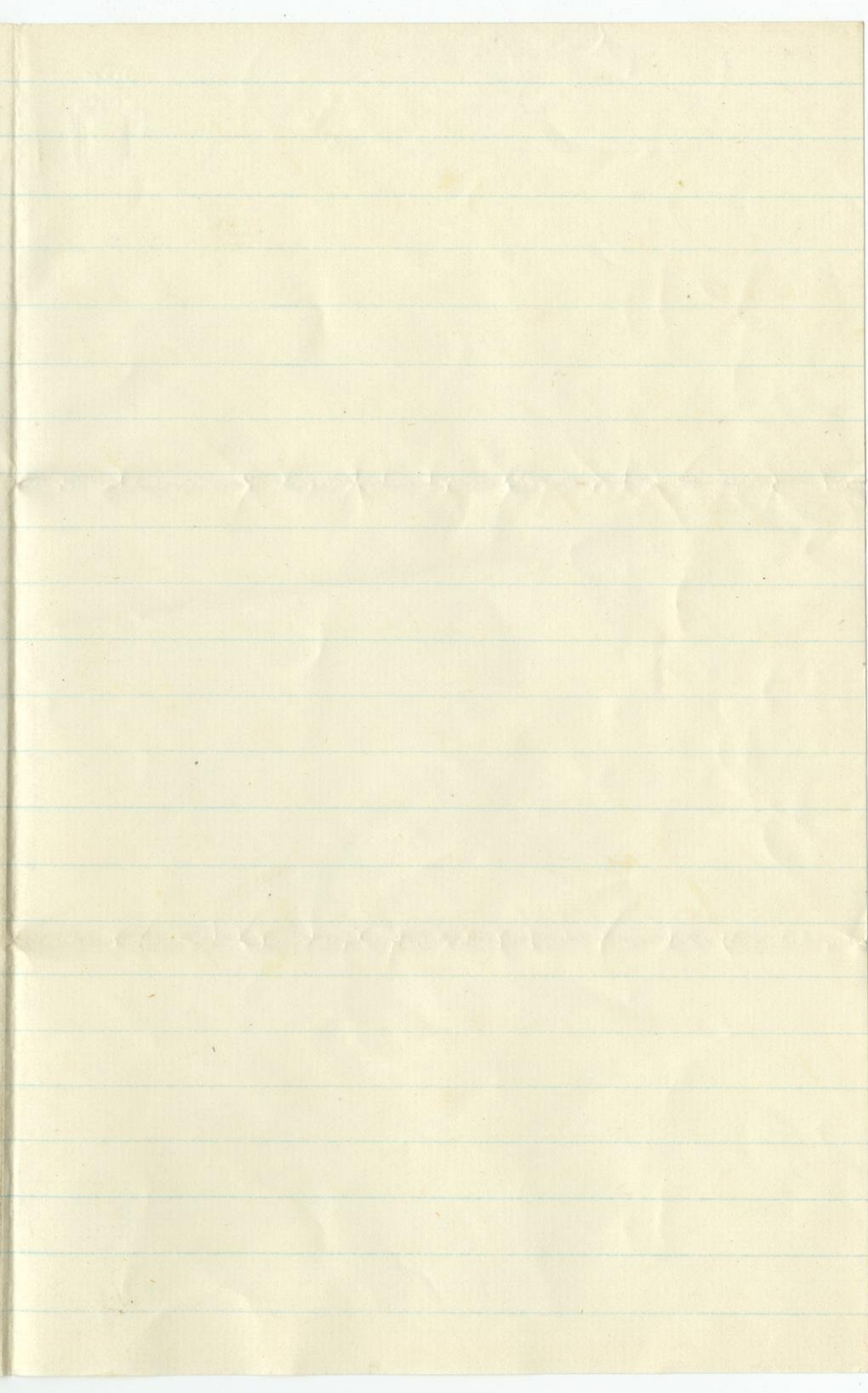
Charley

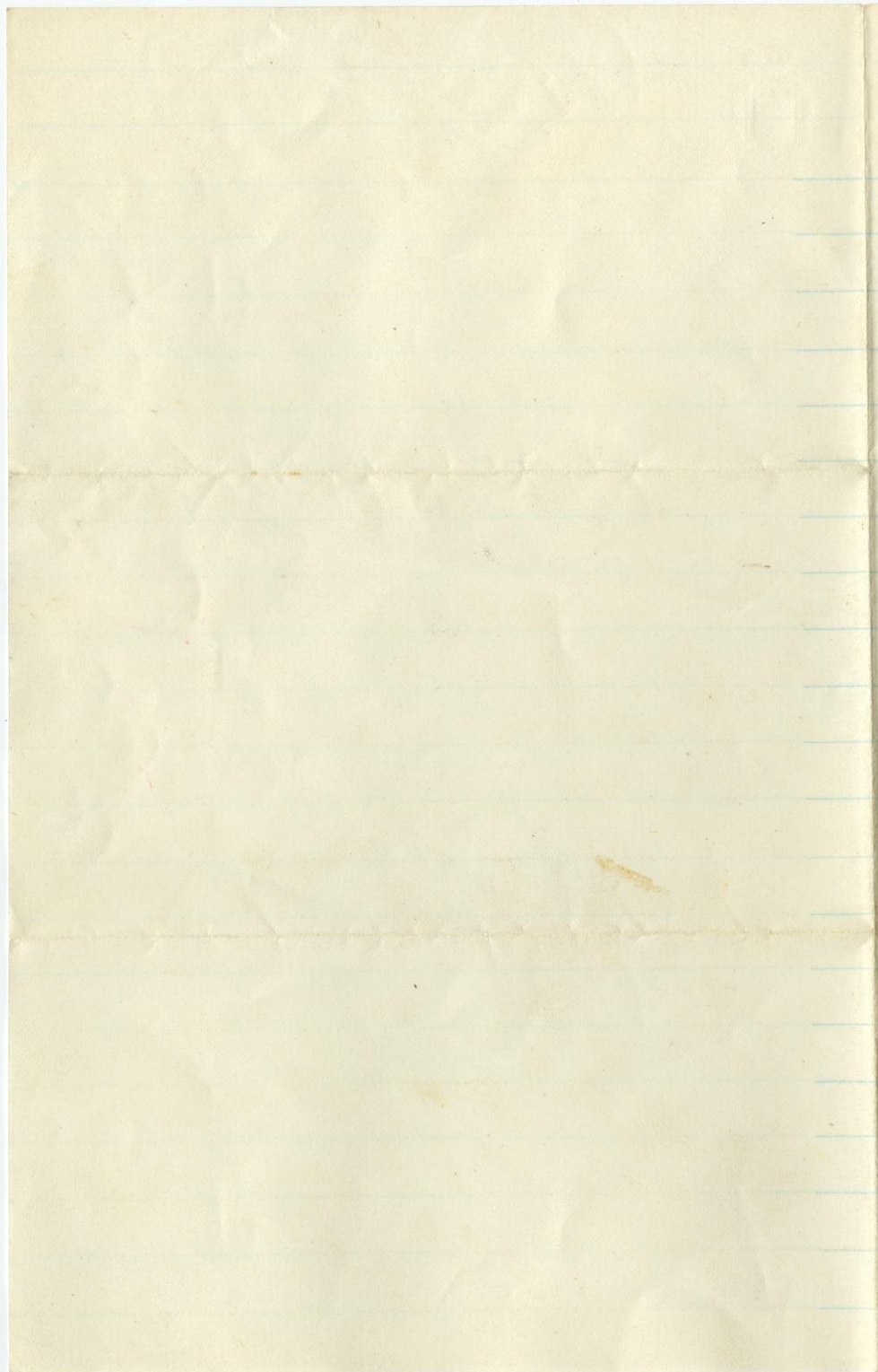
Fort-Sott Kansas

My Dear Wife

I have at last got strong enough to write you a few lines. I was taken sick the last of May with the typhoid fever or typho-malaria as they call it here for two weeks I knew nothing & at last got so low that for two or three days I picked the bed clothes. My fever then broke but was not hardly thought I would get well I could hardly raise my hand & was so weak. I weighed about eighty pounds. Since then I have been slowly gaining I can now walk around a little with a cane. Have got a good appetite & I think in a month will be quite well. I cannot get a furlough to come home. The Surgeon says he will not grant it

He says I am better of here and
that if I go now I may have
a relapse & if I stay till I get
well there is no need of it. So
Sis I cant come. I have got
a good place to stay & get any-
thing I want to eat. Phylander
Ruel & Mr Pepper have taken
care of me all through my sick-
ness They have stood over me
night & day Oh how faithfully
they have worked. and the task was
so disagreeable I smell so very
bad. How is your health & see
Kiss Lill for me. How thankful
am I am allowed to live Oh darling
you dont know & never can how low
I was. I am very weak now and
cannot write any more. Good
bye Dear. Write & send that photograph
Your Charley







Lawrence Kansas
Aug 7 1865

Dear Wife

Since I finished
the letter on Messcher
I thought of Express
Receipt. I had mailed
the letter with Check for
\$300 Enclosed in Express
Rec^d I could not
pay charges because
they would not tell
what it was so now
Good bye Chanley



Younger
May 1 1852

Dear Wife

The letter of the 1st inst.

I thought of you

Receipt. I had written

The letter with the check for

\$300 enclosed in it

But I could not

pay charges because

they were not the

same as those

of the

last year





Lawrence Kearns

August 27th 1865

My dear Wife

It is a long time since I have written to you and I know you have been impatient to receive a letter. There has been no communication for the past six weeks between Fort Scott and the civilized world and that is the reason I have not written. On the mail route between Paola and Fort Scott there are some half dozen streams to cross over which there are no bridges. These streams are nearly dry in dry weather and are easily forded but in wet weather they are very deep and rapid. Since about the 15th of July it has rained almost every day until about the 20th of August. Some of these streams

were forty feet deep and of course
impassable and from the 13th
of July until we left Fort Scott
on the 20th of August no mail
left the Fort. Two mails were

brought in by private conveyance
by which I received two letters from
you one containing Liddy's pho-
tograph which is all the mail
we have had during that time
Our Regt. has been ordered from Fort
Scott to Lawrence and we started
for this place the 28th inst. and
are now here. What our destination
is I do not know. We hope to be
mistaken out but I am afraid
we shall have to remain in the
service some time longer. Oh how
much I want to get home and see
you and Lill again. It seems as
though I should get well if I
could get home once more. Since
I wrote you I have had a hard

time. I had got strong enough to
walk around without a cane
but the wet weather came on and
seemed to take all the strength
from me It also set me into a
diarrhea from which I have
not yet recovered. I found I must
either die or leave camp and
get a dry place to sleep. So I went
over to the city to board the 27th
of July & since then I have been slowly
gaining. Since the rainy season
the weather has been intensely hot
the thermometer ranging day after
day from 90 to 100 degrees. I am very
weak and nervous yet but if we
are mustered out and I can
get home this fall I know I can
get my strength and health
again. We arrived here yesterday
and shall probably leave for
Fort Leavenworth to-morrow
or next day. Do not write until

you hear from me again. If we are
not mustered out I will write you
where to direct and if we are I
will get to you sooner than a
letter I assure you. How have you
got along my dear sis all this long
time. I expected to be able to send you
some money before this time but not
a cent of pay have we got yet. and
I know you must have needed
some before this time. If we are not
mustered out we shall be paid as
soon as we get to Fort Sumner with
and I will send you some by the
first mail. How do Alf & Mattie
and Sang & William & his wife
all get along. What are Alf and
Sang doing and how is Sang's
health. We left Willie and Phi-
Red & Mr Pepper in the hospital
at Fort Scott Willie & Phi. I do not
think are dangerously ill in
fact they both were nearly well

Enough to sick in the ambulance
but I am afraid Pepper is going
to have the fever. If he does it will
go hard with him. I am afraid
his constitution is not strong enough
to stand it. How sweet Lily
looked in the picture Dear little
girl I thought a good many times
about three or four weeks ago that
I should never see her or her mother
again. You complain in your
last letter that my letters were rather
cool. Well I think they probably
are but ^{you} need not expect anything
better until I get better than I
am now or have been. It is pretty
hard work to write a good letter
when one is hardly able to hold a pen
I hope you may never have to
test it by experience as I have
done I have always written

as good a letter to you as I was able
to write My dear wife if you could
have seen how feeble I have been
and how hard to write it had
been you would have spared
that last remark at the close
of your letter. As soon as I
ascertain what is to become of
us I will write you again and
if we are mustered out I shall
soon be at home and then
we will have our happy time
Kiss Lue for me and I hope to
Kiss you again soon
Charley

Lawrence Kansas Sept. 3rd 1865

My dear wife

Your welcome letter came to hand two days since but I have been so busy that I could not answer it till to-night. I am so weak yet it takes me a long time to do a little and then I get so tired. Our Regt. is being paid to day and I have been obliged to work and I am thoroughly exhausted to-night. We are not to be mustered out but are ordered to go on the plains to fight Indians. I suppose. They are getting very troublesome and have murdered a good many emigrants and have killed some small detachments of troops. I go to Fort Larned about three hundred miles south west of this place. You will see it on the map in the south west corner of Kansas near the Arkansas River. When we were ordered from Fort Scott to Lawrence we all hoped we were going to be mustered out but when we got here we found orders awaiting us to go to Fort Riley. These orders were countermanded and then we felt quite sure we were going home but they have now sent us two hundred miles further off. I felt bad when

when I found it out. I had got my mind made up to go home and see you and Lill and have such a good time this fall. I felt as though I could get my thoughts so much sooner. I did not intend to do a bit of work except fix up around the house and prepare for winter and hunt some and read. And I thought it would seem so good not to go to the office at all but stay around the house all day. How would it seem to have me around the house all day during work days? But all these pleasant anticipations are now exploded. I have no idea I can get home before the first of May next. Perhaps not till June. 'Tis too bad sis, we would have had such a pleasant time this fall and winter. Our Regt. will start to-morrow. The paymaster has been paying the men to-day to-morrow morning he will pay the officers I will then buy a draft and enclose it in this letter. I cannot tell to-night how much I shall send to you for I do not know how much pay I am going to get. We shall only be paid up to the 30th day of June last and probably will not be paid again until we are mustered out. I will also send some money to W^m to pay that note and to pay some little matters beside. He can get to Oshkosh easier than you can. You will have to endorse the draft and you had

better consult with him about the way of doing it for they are very particular at the Bank. and unless it ~~was~~ ^{is} done right it might trouble you to get the money. I shall also send to you by Express from here a valise with some things in it which I cannot carry. They for the most part cost me nothing and are too valuable to throw away. Among them is a little white handled knife which you may consider yours. You used to borrow my knife to fix your finger nails because it had a rasp in it. This has got a good one. I wish you would let W^m have some of the paper if he wants it. Let him have that which is loose. Give him one of the blouses also. Pick out the best one for me when I come home. You may also let him have the steel pens or as many as he wants. I very seldom use them. I will pay the Express charges and enclose the receipt in this letter. Be sure and keep the receipt till you get the valise. It is the only evidence that I paid the charges. Had you not better have the water pumped out of the well and have a hole cut in the platform and a ventilator put in. The water will be bad unless plenty of air gets to it. I think I would have it fixed so as to use the water if you have to put in a windlass and bucket like the old one. It will be so inconvenient for you to go to the neighbors for water. Write you will me about it.

The weather has been very hot since I wrote you last. But
is somewhat cooler to-day. For the last week I have gained
in flesh and some in strength. Strength seems to come very
slow. I weighed myself tonight and found out that I was
one hundred and thirty pounds better off than nothing
which is fifty pounds heavier than I was the 20th of June
last. I am much better of the diarrhoea than I was when
I wrote you last. From this place I wrote you as soon as I
could after I got here and I felt sorry that you were ex-
grieved and out of patience about receiving no letters from
me. I explained the cause in my other letter. You must not
blame me too severely or scold me too hard for sometimes ~~in~~ I
cannot write and sometimes when I can I do not feel
like it and I cannot write letters when I have to force myself
into it. How do the Mrs Willco's get along and Mrs Leady
Give them my regards Leady has been quite sick for a day or
two past but is getting better. She is around to day as usual
all the rest of the boys well. I must now leave the balance of
this page till to-morrow morning. So good night my dears

I send draft of \$300 I want the
Bank note at Wash DC paid out
of this also \$75⁰⁰ to William. The
balance is for you. I will try and
send you more as soon as I collect it
when I have lent it. William will
give you the amount of the note and
interest. We are just starting & I write this
by the mess chest. Good bye dear Kiss till
for me. A thousand kisses for you from
Your Charley

1
Fort Riley, Kansas
Sept. 13th 1865

My dear Sarah

After a tedious march of eight days we arrived at this Fort yesterday. We start for Fort Larned to-morrow and amidst the hurry and bustle of preparing to move I sit down to drop you a line to let you know when I am. It has been all hurry and confusion in camp all day. We have been busy drawing rations and clothing preparing for our long march of one hundred and seventy miles from this place. My Company is quite lucky for we only go to Fort Larned while some of the Companies go two hundred and forty miles further west to Fort Lyon. We are now camped on the bank of a stream called the Republican. The men are engaged in various ways to while away the monotony of camp life. Some are singing some are sleeping some I hear as I sit in my tent arguing the question

as to when we shall go home while a party of Officers (pretty tight by the by) are now engaged in putting a poor tired Captain who has worked hard all day out of bed to make him drink. "Shaking him down" they call it. There is some of the most beautiful Country between here and Lawrence that I ever saw. It is high rolling prairie covered with a most luxuriant growth of grass often higher than a mans head. As far as the eye can reach you can trace the course of the streams by the belt of timber lining the banks as they wind their way through the fertile valleys. Some of the Country is hilly the Bluffs rising abruptly two or three hundred feet. In about four days more we shall be in the land of the buffalo and there I propose to do some bigger hunting than I used to on Top of River. How would you like a piece of buffalo tongue. We left Hi. Keimball sick at Topika. He is troubled with his old back complaint. George Pingry and Ed Thrall deserted on the 10th inst.

I presume you will soon see the white livered babies in Omro. I should think they would be ashamed to show their faces at home. Both were well and hearty and had never been sick a day. Mr. Lady has been quite sick but is rapidly getting better. I have walked almost the whole distance. At first I was so weak it seemed almost impossible for me to move but I am now getting quite stout. Have you got the letters I sent you from Lawrence and the draft of \$300 and the express package and receipt. Have the draft cashed as soon as you get it. It is safer to have money than a draft. Now I have written you a much longer letter than I intended to when I commenced for I was off for the day yesterday & was up last night and am so tired and sleepy to night I can hardly keep my eyes open. Write me often as you can and direct to Fort Larned Kansas

When are you going to send me
your photograph Please do send
it as soon as you can I want you
to look as well as you can for I
shall show it to the officers unless
you object Give Alf & Hattie my
regards also the neighbors. How does
Lill prosper. Does she improve in
talking How glad I shall be to get
back to you and Lill once more
And now no more ^{to write} from
your own
Charlie

Fort Larned Kansas

October 4th 1865

My Dear Wife

I have just time to drop you a line before the stage leaves which I send by a ~~friend~~ who starts for Fort Leavenworth this morning. We arrived here Sept 30th. I am in good health and growing very fleshy. We are now at work fixing up our winter quarters. We shall undoubtedly stay here all winter. I have not received any letters from you since we left Lawrence. Do write and let me know how you are and whether you have received the draft I sent you at Lawrence. I cannot write more at present but will write you at length by next stage. Good bye dear Wife

Chauncy

Not found

October 1844

My dear Mother

I have just been to a shop & bought a pair of shoes
the shop keeper told me I had bought a pair of shoes
that were made in the morning of the same day
I got 50¢ I was in good luck to get a pair of shoes
for my money. I was not finding any shoes
anywhere else. I have never seen a pair of shoes
like these before. I was very happy to find
them. I was very happy to find them. I was
very happy to find them. I was very happy
to find them. I was very happy to find
them. I was very happy to find them.

Fort Larned Kansas

October 9th 1863

My dear Wife

Your letter of Sept. 23rd is just received and it certainly was a most welcome one to me. It had been so long a time since I heard from you that I was extremely anxious to hear from home. I wrote you a few lines nearly a week since which I had an opportunity of sending to Leavenworth by a Lieutenant who was going strong which apprised you of our arrival here. We had a long and tedious march from Lawrence here. The distance is nearly three hundred miles. It is one hundred miles from Fort Scott to Lawrence so you see we have marched about four hundred miles since the 19th of August at which time we started from Scott. I marched nearly all the way from Lawrence here. Werry bought a pony at Fort Riley one hundred and fifty miles from here and we then took turns riding him. I am now healthy and strong I think healthier than I was when I left home. I have got an appetite like that of an elephant. It seemed a terrible job to start for the plains from Lawrence and I was quite weak when we started but I gained strength every day. I could not get discharged and of course I would not

leave the Regiment unless I could do so honorably and I do not think you would want me to. I wanted to go home very much when we were at Lawrence, but I enlisted for a year and I am in duty bound to stay if ordered to do so. George Priggy and Ed. Thrall are deserters and will probably have a little account to settle with a court martial one of these days. God have mercy on them if I ever get my clutches on them while I am in the service for I shant you know it is not my disposition to sneak out like little white livered Allen and others who went with our Regt. and who have got mustered out by feigning diseases of various kinds. Allen lied like a Turk to the Colonel about the sickness of his wife although there was no need of it for we were all glad to get rid of the little sneaking Cuss. Not the least reliance can be placed on the stories of the sneaks who come home. You did perfectly right about the money and I will send you some more as soon as I get paid again. I think you are a much better farmer than I am you have beat me out of sight raising potatoes. I wish we had a few bushels of them here. I have not tasted a potatoe for a whole month. How did you get them in the cellar. How does your wood hold out. What are sauges and Alf doing. How is Amy. got well entirely. Do Alf and Hattie stay with you yet. Lady has been quite unwell for some

time but is getting along now. Henry is well I do not think he has been a sick day since he left home. He is quite popular in the Regt. Our quarters here are not very comfortable. The men are fitting up houses along a ravine by digging holes in the bank and covering them with bushes and earth. Some have made rooms as large as our sitting room with doors windows &c and are quite snug and tidy. The officers quarters are what are called adobe houses (built of unburnt brick) and shingled with bushes ^{which are} covered with dirt. Bugs and lice do abound. You had better examine me pretty closely when I get back. I am sorry to learn that Mrs. Wilcox is sick. When is Dave expected home. Give Mrs. W. my regards. also Mrs. Lady. How do those grape vines get along that I planted and those dwarf chinnis apples and pears. Is Shaw and Louisa married. Well on the whole it is a good match. Shaw has some good qualities but a large number of soft streaks about him which with the soft streaks Louisa has inherited from the Webb family will undoubtedly insure a happy union. Hatter Webb undoubtedly feels in restraint. How do Uncle Sander's people get along. You have never written a word about them. I Killed a real genuine wild buffalo on the march. What huge creatures they are

Larger than a large ox. Some of us mounted dashed into
a herd of fifteen or twenty. Off they went with a sort of rolling
gallop we following at a dashing pace. Each man singled his
buffalo and commenced firing. I gave mine two or three shots
and then he turned on me. I wheeled my horse and got out of
his way lively I tell you. He only followed a few rods and
stopped. He appeared very indignant at the treatment he had
received. I shall never forget him as he stood looking at me with
his head lowered his tail sticking straight up in the air
and his huge shaggy mane bristling with rage. When he
stopped I commenced pegging away again and off he
started and I after him. When I would get close to him he
would wheel and charge and of course then it was my turn
to run. After a while however he got so weak he had to
lie down and then I went up to him and fired at close
range. The old fellow tried hard to get up but he had too many
bullets in him and finally turned over on his side and
gave up the ghost. That was the biggest game I ever
killed. I went up and sat down on him. He would weigh
probably two thousand pounds. We do not hunt much here
on account of the Indians who are skulking around
ready to kill any unfortunate straggler who gets too far from
the post. The country is full of hostile Indians but we do not
apprehend any danger of an attack on this post. I do not now
expect now to get home before May or June next. So dear sis we
must wait through the long dreary winter before we see each
other again. I know you would feel bad when you learned I could not
come home but I thought it best for both of us that it would be best
for me to ^{do} my duty well as a soldier and then when I do come home
you will not have reason to be ashamed of me. Tell little Lilly Papa is
way out west fighting Indians & killing buffalo. Papa thinks of Lilly great
deal and wonders what kind of a little girl she is. And how plain I think
of her dear mother too. It will be a joyful day indeed when I see the
old home once more. Tell them be patient dear sis. The time will soon pass
away and we both will look forward with fond hopes and bright
anticipations for the coming spring. Please write at least once a
week to your own
Charles

Fort Larned Kansas

October 24th 1865

My Dear Sarah

The mail came in yesterday (we have a mail once a week and it comes in on Monday) and I have just seated myself and lighted my pipe, preparatory to writing you a letter. Now having just got comfortably seated and having taken a few whiffs in ruskies Drury and Captain Herbert and Supt. Chappelle of the 17th Ill. Cavalry and insist on playing a game of cards called Pearoggle. I have insisted that I had a letter to write and here I am writing it with the aforesaid nuisances sitting around and talking various kinds of nonsense. I dont blame the boys much for talking nonsense; for the opportunities for amusement are decidedly few. Consequently all the small jokes and good things that each one can devise or remember are talked over and laughed at with as much gusto as though they were really witty and worth laughing at. Life in the army is just do your duty obey orders and then eat drink and be merry if you can. As we are in all probability here for the winter we have

been fixing up our huts and making ourselves as comfortable as we can. You ask me to tell you all the news. Now that is a pretty good joke on me away out here on the plains. Two hundred miles from a railroad newspaper or telegraph when we get our news out of newspapers two or three weeks old. Two men have died at this post since I wrote you last, one to day and one last sabbath morning both strangers. I was officer of the day last Sunday and consequently conducted the funeral. Poor fellow he was brought in on a train going to New Mexico and died among strangers, without one friend to whom he could commit a parting request. It seemed so lonely to bury him here in this almost barbarous region so far from home or friends. Perhaps he had a wife and children or a mother or brother or sister who for long weary months will watch for his return. And yet after "life's fitful fever he slurs well" as well as though lying beneath the green turf of the churchyard near his own home. Yet I would not like to be buried thus. I should love to think even in death that some kind hand would strew flowers over my tomb and that the eye of some loved one would often rest upon my burial place. It is a terrible thing, my dear

to be sick away from home and friends. The man who died to-day died of Typhoid fever. Last night the Surgeon told me he could not live and asked me to go and see him as he said he looked and acted as I did when I was sick. But I did not go. He was a Soldier and will be buried by his comrades in the 19th Ill. Cavalry. I wonder my dear sis when I shall be home again and can take you and Lie in my arms. Time seems to move so slowly when I think of spring and the long months till then. And yet the days pass by as rapidly as ever I suppose. How soon we should grow old if we could make time fly as swiftly as we sometimes wish. I am glad you made the acquaintance of Mrs. Wheeler. I think she is a most excellent woman. I am sorry to hear that Mrs. Willing continues so ill. What is the matter with her. I regret to learn that Mrs. Leady is concerned about my correspondence but I should much more regret to be the author of such miserable apologies for letters as this same Mrs. L. receives from her husband. A half sheet of small sized note paper contains most ample room for all he wishes to say in a letter to his wife and when I have been mailing letters to you he often wonders what on

earth I can find to write about to my wife that I can fill
a sheet of letter paper. It is perhaps well that some folks dont
know the difference between a letter and a telegraphic
dispatch. I am glad Johnson paid you the \$30. He ought
to have paid you \$30 more and if he dont before I return
I will quickly put him in a way to. In case I should
not get paid again till Spring will you have money
enough to last you till then. Please write me about this
How does the wood hold out. I want you to have everything
to make you comfortable this winter. Have you read any
new books lately. Write me what you are reading. Do you
play the guitar any. How does that scoundrel Saxton
prosper Is he still a resident of Orms I am glad to
learn Sang. has regained his health. Give him my
regards also compliments to Hattie and Alf. How
do you and Hattie get along. As well as you used to?
The boys in my company are all well. The climate here
is healthy and the water is good. By the way have you
heard anything of Mrs Murphy since she left. I heard Murphy
was lost on a steamer. And now I must bring my letter to
a close and bid you good night my dear wife. Write
as often as you can for your letters are always eagerly looked
for by me. Kiss Lillie for me and that we may soon meet
and once more exchange a warm kiss is the dearest wish of
Your own Chailey

Fort Sarned Kansas

October 31st 1868

My Dear Wife

It is with feelings of no ordinary nature that I sit down to write you a letter. I have just received yours of Oct. 8th to night. You can hardly conceive how eagerly I watched the mail for our Regt. as it was being taken out of the bag and assorted - each Company by itself. Handful after handful of letters were pulled out until they were nearly all delivered and the bag nearly empty when lo! at last your letter made its appearance and was placed in my hand. How eagerly I grasped it and in my inmost heart I thanked you I was expecting your photograph and as soon as I felt of the letter I knew it was there, and so with the dear picture lying before me I write this letter. I do not think the picture hardly does you justice. In the main it is correct but the expression of the eye is as you state in your letter poorly given. It seems almost like seeing you once more as I sit looking at your photograph. And as I sit here so far away from you in this almost Sahara-like desert of the plains I think over all the little circumstances that have occurred with

which you are connected since I first knew you. How I first met you at the dancing school in that little dusty dingy smoky hall at Lansing. How I first waited on you home and our walk there that bright moonlight evening, our first sleigh ride when in company with Lib. Hills we went to Berlin and a thousand and one other little things like these which to relate to a stranger or even to a friend would seem so small and insignificant in themselves and yet to me are filled with thoughts and recollections most delicate and tender. Ah what a blessed thing is memory that like a living picture ever bears a true impression of the thoughts and feelings and things of the past especially of our younger days. These days as the poet says when "the freshness of thought and of feeling were ours,

As they never again can be"

What a perfect blank would our past be, if to-day we could have no thought or recollection of the things of yesterday. So you combed your hair as you did because you thought it would suit me. Well I am glad you did so for it makes you look more as you did when I first saw you. You know you used to comb your hair in that way and that is the reason why it has always been partial to seeing you wear it so, when you get

married again as you intimate in your letter perhaps your second husband will prefer seeing you wear it some other way. Please send me word early because I may have something to say on that interesting occasion. So Miss Emma is going to get married. Was to pray tell you did not write me. I don't think Henry's heart is very tender on that point. It is a great event in a girl's life when she gets married isn't it. How many fond hopes and bright hopes for the future bear date of that ~~of that~~ time. Are you sorry you got married sis? Sometimes I wonder if you are. Perhaps you had better caution Em. not to let her husband go soldiering. What has become of Shaw and his "Bonny Eloise" since his marriage. I should judge by your letter that you were having far finer weather in Wisconsin than we are. About three inches of snow fell the 29th inst and it is quite cold. The wind is blowing terribly to-night a real howling wintery wind. The wind blows a great deal here and very hard. And no wonder for over hundreds of miles of clean open prairie it meets with scarcely an obstacle as large as a bush to oppose it. I am sorry and I do not see why you do not get my letters. Perhaps by this time you have got some of them. We arrived here the 29th of September I think and this is the fourth letter I

have written you. The fault is undoubtedly with the mails
The mail leaves here once a week and I shall always send
you a letter therein. It is always a pleasure to write to you
when I am situated so that I can do so and I shall
write you at least once a week while I remain here. Please
write me what date you receive this letter. You are worthy
my dear sis to receive as dear letters and as good ones as I can
write and I do not mean to neglect you in this particular
It is rather dull here now since the rough weather has set in
I have sent for a grammar and am studying French. Lieut
Smedell who rooms next to me speaks it. He is a Frenchman
and I can study some here as well as not. So you can expect
me home next Spring Church full of "parlez vous Francais"
You speak of the army being a rough place and wonder why
men are so rough when they are away from home. Well there is a
good deal to make men rough. They have rough food a rough
place to sleep and rough men to deal with. Just a rough
time generally and moreover are entirely removed from
female society and influence from wives and mothers and
sisters that goes so far towards smoothing and taming down
the rough edges of men. I will try and be tolerable good
and not swear much (I didn't swear at all when I was sick)
and not cut up any naughty tricks for your sake. Ain't that
a pretty good promise? My shut has nearly run out and I
must bid you good night. I kiss your picture and wish the picture
could return the kisses. Kisses till for me and I will pay you in
kisses when I return. Good night my darling wife
Charley

Fort Larned Kansas

Nov. 7th 1863-

My Dear Sarah

Your letter of the 23rd ult. came to hand last evening and I write you to-day so that this can go out in the mail tomorrow. The arrival and departure of the mail at this post is about the only event of any importance or of interest here. The mail arrives here from the East on Mondays and goes East on Wednesdays. So that Monday is a day of "great expectations" with us each one eagerly watching for what the mail may bring. The time intervening between Monday and Wednesday is usually spent in perusing letters received and writing answers thereto. So you see our time is pretty well occupied for nearly half the week. And what with hunting and reading and loafing the balance of the week slips away quite rapidly. I wrote you last week that I was studying French cannot say however that I have made very rapid progress thus far. I sent to Kansas City for a grammar but it has not come yet. You ask me if the roads

any use of sending our Regiment here. Undoubtedly
then was or the War Department would not
have so ordered. The time of the troops stationed
here was out and they were as anxious to go home
as we were and had a much better reason for
wanting to go because their time was up and
ours was not. We would think it very unjust
to be kept in the service after we had served our year
out if other troops who still had some time to serve
were mustered out before we were. There were
no other troops in this department to relieve
those here and so we were sent. There are no
inhabitants this side of Fort Riley which is
one hundred and fifty miles east of here. But there
is a great road from the City of Leavenworth to
New Mexico and California and Pikes Peak and
the gold regions generally. This road runs through this
uninhabited hostile Indian Country. And it is on
the line of this road that the Government has established
at suitable distances apart forts called in military
parlance "posts" which are garrisoned with soldiers
to protect the trains and stages. The amount of freight
carried over this road is immense. Almost every

day one or more trains pass here with from twenty
to two hundred wagons each wagon drawn by
from six to twelve yoke of cattle. The wagons
are great heavy affairs and are all covered and
are usually loaded with from fifty to ninety
thousand pounds of freight each. Notwithstanding
the presence of soldiers the Indians sometimes capture
a train kill the teamsters and plunder and
burn the wagons. This country probably never will
be settled except in the immediate vicinity of these
military posts. It is impossible to raise crops here owing
to the long droughts I do not doubt Mrs Allen was sick
but Allen represented her at the point of death. He told
me the night before he started that she was so very sick
and weak that she could not bear to have any person
enter her room and that she could not raise her
hand which I am inclined to regard as all bosh.
How do the deserters from my Company get along. The
boys will make it warm for them if they are there
when they get back. H. Kimball is probably mus-
tered out before this. He has had a pretty hard time. He
came very near dying at Leavenworth. The health
of the men from ~~Ohio~~ is generally good. Early has

got quite well again. My own health is very good
I have got a slight cold now which has assual
settled in my head and I have got the Catarrh
The cold snap we had the last of Oct. has passed away
and the weather is now warm and pleasant. I dont
see how you come to have berries so late in the season
this year. It must be a remarkable season for Wisconsin
We have no vegetables here. Once in a great while we get a
few potatoes. but they cost seven dollars per bushel
They have them at the mess house but they charge a dollar
a day for board them and I can mess for about forty
Cents a day. I think of you very often as the winter ap-
proaches and wonder whether you will be real com-
fortable this winter. Have you got so that you can make
a good fire Now tall has I'll got to be Now I should
like to see the little Chub. I cant find the picture of her
you sent me. I think it must be in one of your letters I
sent you in that valise. It is election day to-day and the
boys are voting and as it is time to close the polls I must
close this letter and make up the returns. So good bye sis
for this time. Be sure and write me a letter every week and
often if you can. I am so glad you sent your photograph
I look at it every day. Kisses lie for me. Good night my dear
Gire
Charley

Fort Larned Kansas

November 13th 1865

My dear Pet

I have just received your letter of Oct 29th

I do not see the reason why you did not get my letters. Every week I have put in the Post Office a letter for you. If the mail left oftener than once a week I would write you oftener but if I did they still would go out once a week I presume before this you have received some of my letters that for the past few weeks have been wandering around in Uncle Sam's mail bags. I am sorry that you do not get my letters regularly. Every week for some time past I have got a letter from you and it would be a great disappointment to me if I did not get one and I know you must be disappointed when one and as you say in this letter two weeks elapse without a letter from me. We are getting along as well here as could be expected in this barren desolate country. We hunt some and some do some duty and loaf round a good deal. We have had some pretty cold weather already this fall but it is warm and pleasant now. I think the weather here will be very changeable. That we shall have a

cold snap for a few days and then a spell of pleasant weather. The storms on the plains are sometimes very severe and I am told that many persons perish every winter. The cold weather and snow storms have put an end to your picking raspberries & grasses. I see by your letter that you and Keattie have been housecleaning. Well that is an interesting job we do not have to perform out here. The bugs and other vermin live on year after year in undisturbed security and repose. Indeed I fancy they would feel quite indignant at any such ill timed attempt to disturb their domestic tranquillity. Once in a while I catch a bed bug skirmishing around on my leg and then I visit him with condign punishment otherwise I let them alone. We get plenty to eat although some delicacies might be added to our table without in the least endangering our healths. A little butter and "salt" for instance. Some potatoes and onions arrived to day so we shall have them in future. We have buffalo meat tough as thunder too sometimes and that you certainly do not get. We had for dinner to-day bread wheat-buff molasses sweet cake and tea. Sometimes we do not have as much but then we eat more of what we have. I see by your letter that you have been taking

the new carpet and putting down the old one. Do you have been getting a new carpet-what kind of a one is it. Do as you think best about papering the dining room. Had you not better paper it this fall. If you paper it had you not better go to Oshkosh and get your paper at Eastman's. He generally keeps a good stock and the latest styles. What is William going East for. I have not received a letter from him for a long time. I see by the Northwestern that Emma Woodruff is married. I should think she was quite young to get married. I get the Northwestern and Madison Journal regularly and my room mate Char McKee & the latter gets quite a number of papers every week so that we get considerable amount of reading matter every week. Do you would like to peep into my room and see what we are about? Well it would not be a very interesting sight. You would perhaps see us reading or writing or smoking or playing seven up. or talking and laughing or sleeping perhaps. Sunday is rather a lonesome day generally. On Monday the mail generally comes in and then for two or three days we are pretty busy reading newspapers and writing letters to go out in the mail that leaves on Wednesday. I went out duck hunting the other day but did not get any. Have

you had any ducks this fall. I saw a copy of the "Omro
Union to-day. Quite a paper is'nt it. Do you like it
Perhaps you had better subscribe for it if you have not
done so already inasmuch as it is a sort of home
institution and I suppose they need all the subscribers
they can get. I see by the newspapers that there is a prospect
of a war with England. If war is declared it will be
some time I think before our Regiment is mustered out.
I would like to see England get a good thrashing now
while our hand is in. They deserve it for their treacherous
conduct towards us during this war. Lillian must be
quite an interesting child. How I should like to see her
and hear her childish prattle. She must be quite a
companion for you. Aint you glad now you had her and
you didn't want to did you. You spoke in your letter
about an express package you sent to me. I never received
out one and that is the one in which you sent my linen
Coats. Have you sent one since that? How do do not feel too
badly if you miss getting my letters. Recollect that I write you one
every week and that they will get around after a while.
How many have you received since I have been here. When you
get this tell me how many letters you have got from the 29th of
Oct till you get this. Write me at least once a week about
you my dear sis. I have saved all your letters and when I get
home we will compare notes. Till then god bye darling
Charley

Fort Larned Kansas
Nov. 21st 1865

My dear Sis

The mail came in to-
day and brought no letter from you
I was quite disappointed but there is no
way I suppose but to wait until another
week. I suppose I felt as you has felt when
you got no letter from me for a long time
And yet I have no doubt several are on
the way now. I wonder when our letters
pass each other on the road, and if
they ever recognize each other when
the mail is sorted and shifted from
one bag to the other and mine pur-
sue their journey eastward and
yours their long pilgrimage to the
west. I wrote you a long letter last
week and it is now on its way. Since
then I have been very busy and have
had no time to write and you see

I have not taken my usual large sized sheet of letter paper this time for my letter to you. I write this at eleven to night so that it can go in the mail this week for I am going off tomorrow morning on a great buffalo hunt and I knew a short letter would be better than none. When I get back which will be in three or four days I will give you an account of our hunt. Our party will consist of eight men well armed and mounted and we expect to make great work amongst the buffalos. We are going to have a little paper here. We have got a small press and some type and it will be printed on large sized letter paper. We call it the "Plains" I have been writing some editorial for it to night. We shall get out a number ~~two~~ time for the mail next week and I will send you a copy. It will be a big thing of course.

The weather is warm and pleasant just a little frosty nights and bright and sunshiny day times. I wish we could improve it in marching home I dread the march home. I fear we shall be ordered to Leavenworth when the weather is cold and stormy and in such a case we must suffer terribly. How I wish I could sleep with you to night in our neat little bed room with nice clean sheets on the bed instead of having to turn into my bunk between a pair of villainously gray suspicious looking woolen blankets coarse and harsh at that. What a luxury it will be to sleep in a clean bed once more. I suppose you and Lilly have gone to bed long before this and are quietly sleeping while I am writing this. The prairie is on fire to night and presents a most beautiful sight. All along the northern horizon for fifty miles

or more in a vast semicircle it is
one long line of fire. It has been
burning for several days. My health
is very good I have had a bad cold
but have quite got over it. How is
your health. Write me particularly
about it. It is a source of great pleasure
to me to know that your health is good
I think of you very often and I would
give almost anything to see you. Well
if we live the time will soon come around
when we shall be ordered home and
then we shall soon meet. Wont we
have a happy meeting. It was just
nine months yesterday since I was
mustered into the service. Henry is
well and all the boys from Omira.
Give my regards to the Mrs Willcox and
other neighbors. Write as often as you
can. I found Lill's photograph and
put it with yours. Please accept
this short letter with much love from
Your Charles