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Letters, 1862-1863. SC 2480 [unpublished]

Bennett, James

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

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Rockford Sunday Feb 1st

Dear Sister

I received your letter last night and hasten to answer it

I am very sorry that James is wounded I cannot understand whether he is dangerous or not Oh how I wish I could know how bad he is wounded I fear he will suffer down there for the want of care you know that men cannot take care of sick or wounded as you or myself can I am glad that he is with friends

I have been very much worried about him of late

I have been looking along time for a letter from you I thought if you got bad news from him you would surely write to me, you know that I think very much of my Brother

I do think that this war is
so horrid and that does not
express half of what this war is
to us.

I have not enjoyed any
thing since this war broke out

Am in constant fear what
I may know or feel in consequence
of this war I can not say much
to comfort you in this time of
trouble I know that you must
feel very bad

but you must take care
of yourself and baby as well as
you can are you with your mother
this winter I thought you had
in town you wrote about going
to town Belvia will you
send me all the news that you
get from James I have no other
way to hear from him

Willmerth has been very sick
since I wrote you last his sickness
has settled in his feet and ankles and
one hand

he can walk now a little
with crutches for two months
he was confined to his room

he has suffered very much with
the neuralgias and nervousness

he is better now than he
has been I have been very busy
this winter hardly had time to write
I have been confined at home taking
care of him I was obliged to take
Louise out of school to help take
care of him he cannot write any
if he could he would write to you
he knows what it is to see the poor
wounded soldier I'll say to
you must write to us often and
tell us all you know about James
If you go after him write before
you leave home and again as
soon as you get where he is
and write all about how and
where he is wounded I shall
be impatient to know all about
him

afternoon it has been
communion season with us today

Louisa is in the country
a visiting this week she has been
confined home all winter

Willie goes to school
the older he grows the more he
looks as little Pa did

If poor father was
alive how he would worry
about James

Let her try to clear up
under this trial the best you can
we will for hope for the best and
prepare for the worst

I pray that you
may have grace to bear all that
is in store for you I know no better
way than to trust in God and rely
on his promises I need not tell you
that it grieves me to know that ^{brother} ~~some~~ ^{of}
is shot by those mean rebels must
suffer ~~from~~ pain and anguish away
from home Good by

wrote very soon

Edward Williams

a thousand kisses for you both
and especially little dear child
good by good by god bless you both

Camp at Louisville

Sunday morning nov 16th 1861

my Dear wife

here we are in Louisville
after 5 days marching we
have marched 84 miles in
5 days from our camp at
nicholsville yesterday we marched
^{in 6 hours} 20 miles from 7 o'clock till 1 o'clock
want that big marching I think
so I am well this morning
though I was pretty tired last
night but am rested this morn'g
I forgot to tell you in my last
that I received your letter with
the one dollar in it and am
ver much obliged to you for
it though I did not need it for
I have some money yet we shall
get paid pretty soon I suppose
and then I shall have some more

how do you get along boy
this time well I hope how
is my little Ella dear little child
how I do want to see her and you
but here I am a long way
from home but I shall see
you one of these days I hope
to take good care of her this
cold cold winter want you
my dear wife I know you
will to day is Sunday and we
are having a rest to day I don't
know when or where we shall
go from here. I will try and
write when we start from here
if I can if I have time I will
the weather is very fine here
now it is quite warm we can
go in our shirts sleeves is so warm
how is the weather up there
cold I suppose I staid the
march pretty well as well
as any of the boys do

there was one of our
company died last night
he has been sick some time
his name was Daniels
he lived out on badger prairie
I believe the rest are all
well I believe we marched
through Shelbyville the place
that uncle toms cabin originated
quite a nice place we have a
plenty to eat now so we
don't get hungry do you have a
enough to eat I hope my little
Ella does she get all she wants
to eat don't neglect her will
you who lives with you you
spoke of Sarah what Sarah
is it does gene live there too
I expect they will all live on
you now what makes you
depend on him to cut your
wood why don't you hire it
done and not cut it your self

you must not do it you
will get sick and then
what will my little Ella
do poor child no father to look
to she will die dont be so
careless dont for what will
become of her if you get
sick do look out for your self
do do wont you this ^{is} my wish
do it wont you it makes me
cry every time I get a letter
and you tell me how cunning
she is and how she acts I
cant help it I begin to think
it is pretty for me to be away
from my dear family that
I love so well but if you
only keep well I shall be
satisfied I must close now
Direct to Cincinnati O as usual
and they will be sent to me
this is from your dear husband
and father good by James Bennett

on On board the Steamer

J. H. Picken Thursday Jan 8th 1863

My Dear wife and child here we
are about 180 miles below Memphis yet
at the mouth of the white river the whole
fleet has stoped and whether we are to go
on up to Memphis or where we dont
know there is some talk that we are to
go up the white river in Arkansas but we
dont know, I am well now I was rather
unwell a few days with the Dibearea but
have got over that now and am perfectly
well now, I received your letter bearing date
Dec 21st Jan 3rd the same day I wrote one to
you I got it after I mailed it to you
you wrote me that you sent me some
stamps but there was none in it did you
put any in it, I was very glad to hear
from you and to hear that you and my
dear little Ella was well & how glad I am
that you keep well I hope you will
continue so as long as I am away
you wrote me that you was afraid the
reason that I enlisted was because you
did not do as you should ^{my} my Dear wife
that was not the reason I went because
I thought it my duty & duty to my
country nothing else would have tempted
me to go no nothing else I can assure you

we are going up white river

Do dont worry anny more about that
you may be sure I would like to be
with my dear family I would give
anny thing to be with you and my dear
little Ella, how is she is she well does
she say pa pa anny for me m thinks
I hear her say pa pa come home and see
your little baby and take care of her
but you will do that untill I come wont
you yes I know you will do do take your
care of her and your self wont you
I hope we shall be home pretty soon dont
you I am getting tired of it for we dont
seem to do anny thing to put a stop to
the war and I should like to be at
home with my family where I ought to
be so had every man of that has got
a family I am tired of being on the river
it is worse than to be in camp or on
the march there is a great many sick
in our regt our orderly Burnett is very
sick now and so is one Capt he is in
memphis. I shall have to close for this time
for want of room give my love to Maria
and all of my friends if I have anny
them so good by god bless you both
a thousand kisses for you and my dear
little pet Ella, this is from your
ever true and loving husband and father
Direct as usual
via Cairo Ill

Jas Bennett

received
Camp at Memphis Dec 18th

My dear wife and child how are
you this morning I am well and
hope you are the same yesterday I received
2 letters from you dated Nov 18 & 19 old ones
I received yours of Dec 1st and was glad to hear
from you B I dont go out as the other boys
do I stay at my tent when not on duty
I mind my own business for I think of my
dear wife and child at home how lonely
they are I feel sorry for you but I cant
help it can I how would you feel to have
stay at home and be drafted as others are
you would worse than you do now would
you not but keep up good courage for
I am in the right for I went when my
comdr called me and did not wait to be
drafted so cheer up my dear wife and Ella
B I think of you all the time I am sure you

B I will come back as pure in morals
as when I left you God blessing my helper
I will be true to you as well as to my country
I never could believe you and my little
Ella no never never nor will I no never
we are a going to leave here tomorrow
and go down to Vicksburg on boats so I
write you a few lines to let you know
where we are a going as I have every time
we have moved you will direct my
letters as usual till I write you in the
field and I will get them after a while not
very quick though but they are welcome
when they do come very welcome I
can tell you do take good care of my
dear little Ella for she has got no papa
to take care of her poor child your child
dont neglect her now please have you
I know you wont be kind to her
my dear wife and give her enough to
eat and dont wait you as long as you
it to give wont I will wait some more
Just before we start in the morning

Bethia be careful of your money for where
your money is gone your friends are gone
So be as prudent as you can but give my
little Elad all she wants every thing you see
I am selfish of my dear little but you cant
blame me for she haint got any paper
to look out for her O they do be kind to my
dear babe wont you see if I never come back
She will be all you will have left to remind
you of me O do be careful of her and your self
for if you or her get sick or should die
what will become of me that is all that is
all that keeps me up is the idea of once
more of being with you my dear family
So do be careful and keep well so you can
write me good news to cheer me in my
hard duty wont you I know you will
the weather is warm and pleasant here I am
sitting under a tree in my shirt sleeves & writing
to you so you see it is quite warm here now is
the weather there cold I suppose I am contented
in the army yet for I know I am doing my duty

I am not homesick as some of the boys
are but for all that I should like to be
at home as well as any body but there is
no use of worrying about it we must take
it as it comes that is the way I feel about
it and that right Thursday 18th
By the order is countermanded for
us to march for 4 or 10 days so you
we will not march for several
days yet we hear that we are
to get one pay to day or tomorrow
if we do then you will have your pay
you will get 10 or 20 dollars that
will help you some B if you can
I wish you would send me some
stamps and a quire of paper and
some envelopes if you can spare
the money it will only cost you
seven cts postage to send it no more
now all well good By Miss Ella Love me
J Burnett

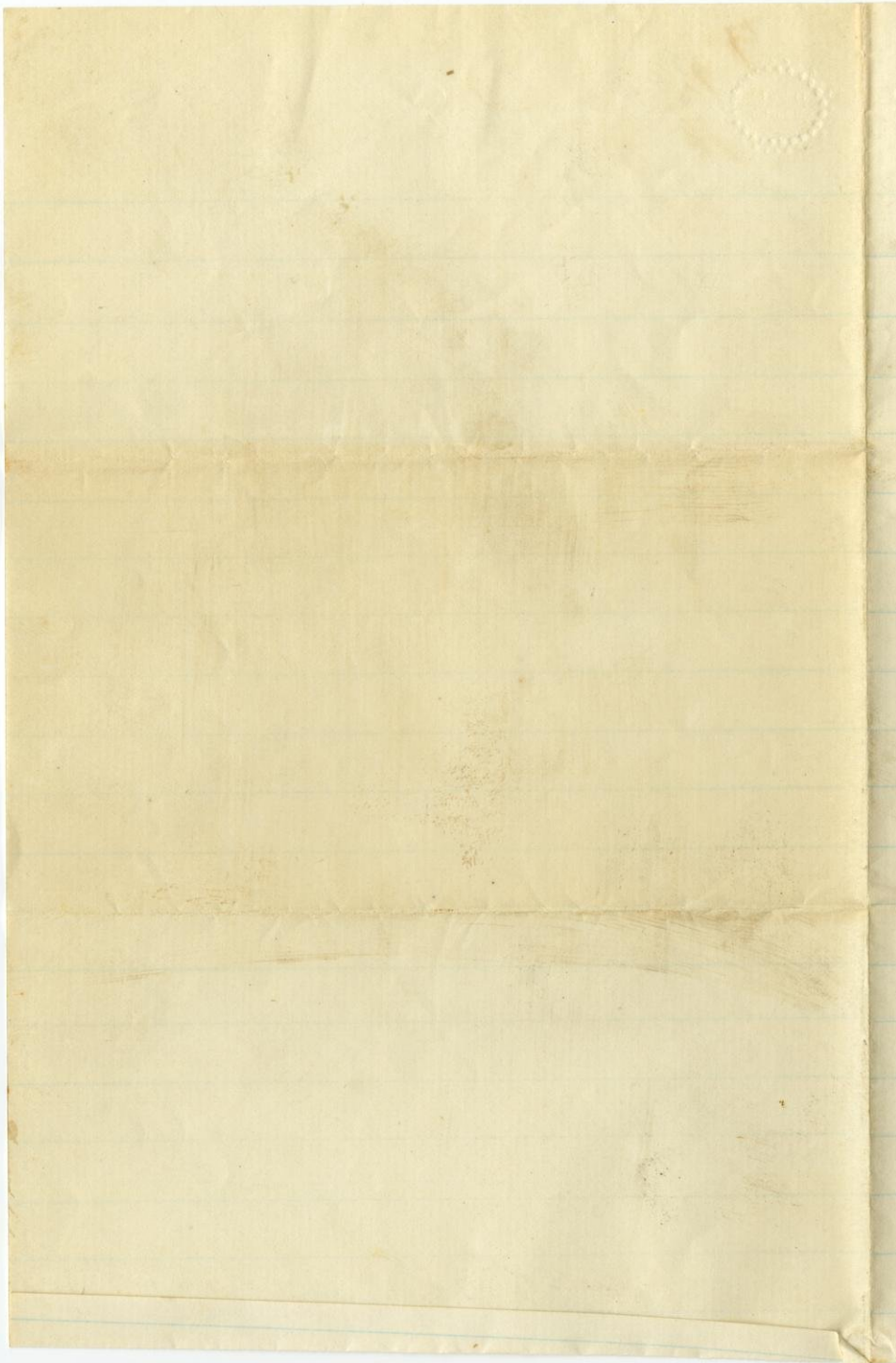
No 7

Cincinnati Sep 17

My Dear Wife to
day wednesday we arrived
here at 8 o'clock a.m. I am
well. how are you and
Elle we go to camp
some time to day there
is no rebellion here
so we shall have no fight
now so no more now
I well as soon as we
get into camp good bye
Kiss Elle for me
from your Dear husband

Geo Bennett

Dear Mr. Brewster
I have the pleasure to
acknowledge the receipt of your
kind letter of the 10th inst.
and in reply to inform you
that the same has been
forwarded to the proper
authorities for their
consideration. I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. H. Brewster



No 4

1866

Camp Porter Oct 2nd

N Y

Thursday

My Dear wife
after waiting for a
letter from you I thought
I would write again
I am afraid there is
something the matter
that you dont write
I feel very anxious about
you is there anything
the matter with you
or my dear little Ella
I hope not, I am well
as usual so is all of
our friends as far as I
know. It is very hot
here it is hot enough to
boil eggs how is the
weather up there in
wisconsin. write to me

I want you to write me
all the news, I received
2 papers last night that you
sent me. Bethu I guess you
need not send me the paper
any more until I write
to you for we shall not
stay here long I guess not
we probably shall leave here
next week some time I
hear we go to Lexington
Ky is about 150 miles
from here. I will write
to you the day we leave
if I can I will write to
you when we get to our
place of stopping, ~~you~~
~~may direct your letters~~
~~to Cincinnati Ohio and~~
they will be forwarded
to me. I want you
to write to me twice
a week if you can

New Port N. Y.
Direct as above now until.
I direct otherwise, you must
give my love to all of
our friends, my Ella dear
how do you get along kiss
papa wont you & your dear
little child you have not
got any Pa Pa to play with
have you your child it is to
bad but I cannot help it
they do take good care of
her wont you do do do.
dont let her get sick will
you dont neglect her
will you, tell Maria
that I have not forgotten
her tell her Fletcher is well
tell her to be a good girl
and keep a stiff upper lip
and not worry her self to
death about Fletcher for he is
all well so far than our

I wish you would
write to hannah I cannot
get time, I guess I will
close for this time
So good by
a thousand Kisses
for you and Ella

Dear Ella Dear
Dear Ella good by
love pa pa, this is
from your ever
true and affectionate
husband and ^{Ella's} father

Direct Newport R. I.

C O A 23rd regt v.
wis vol ^{James} James Pinner

New Port N. Y
No 6

Camp Bates Sept 28
Sunday morn 9 o'clock a.m.

My Dear Wife

Good morning

Good morning Ella, Bethie
I received your ¹¹ letter
Friday night and was glad
to hear from you and
to hear that you were well
I should have written yesterday
but we went to Covington
6 miles distant to a review
so you see I had not time
to write to you I am
well and hearty yet I stand
it, fast rate it rained here
last night how is the weather
up there it is very hot here
but cool night, I have to sleep
out in the open air yet

I will write again soon

all of the boys are well
I mean our friends, I wish
you would send me the paper
about 3 times a week I want
something to read you may
send them after you read
them, & the you may get
some flannel for Ell or
any thing else she wants
for comfort or to keep her
warm don't neglect her
10 1/2 o'clock we have just had
inspection of arms we are inspecting
every Sunday morning, I had
to leave off writing untill after
inspection so you see I resume
my pen, we have just elected
we had as cock I have bought
me a pair of shoes like John
Deaborn, Satoes, canvas to put
on nights I gave 2 dollars
for them, don't get uneasy,
and be a moving around

I will try and write twice
a week you write as often
as you can, if any thing
happens to you or Ella write to
me immediately, wont you
dont work to hard get your
wood sawed and split dont
do it your self, I hired my
my washing done last week
I had to pay 10^{ts} a piece I have
got \$6.50^{ts} left yet we have been
short of ration and I had to
buy some thing to eat that
is why I have spent so much
but we have a plenty now
fruit is cheap here we can
apples peaches cider &c cheap
so you see I have to buy
some such things, I dont
think of any more to write
this time take good care of
my dear dear little Ella
tal her her Pa Pa is well

you must excuse my writing
and my hand trembles
tel her ~~her~~ be a good
Baby, till Pa Pa comes home
tell her I send a thousand
kisses for her dear child
Oh that I could see her and give
now a few lines to Maria

Maria good morning
how do you do well I suppose
be a good girl wont you
remember your old friend
I often think of you do
you ever think of me
I guess you do write to me
will you I hear you are learning
to be a christian I am glad
you have chosen the good part
I hope you will remember me
in your prayers (Bethu Peary
for me wont you) Direct
your letters to New Port H^g V
I will get them quicker so
Co. A, 23 regt W. V.