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Letters, 1863-1865. SC 3006 [unpublished]

Tubbs, Peter Stillman Cottrell, 1841-1919

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Kriers Point Jan. 3rd 1863

My Dear Sister Jane
Another year has rolled around
and I am permitted to enjoy
the same good health that has
ever attended me, as also is Alfred
Albert I believe is a little unwell
but not so but what he is able to
do duty. New Years was a happy
day for me for I had the pleasure
of receiving eight letters all of which
were very welcome. one was from you
Alfred got five with the one just
brought him. So we had a regular
old time reading letters. I suppose
you would like to know what we
had for new years. Well N. years was
Alfred and I and some of the
other boys drew a good fat
pig. I dont mean we drew it
from the commissary no we dra^{ped}
it by the ears across the field

and ~~now~~ years we had a spare rib
afford went foraging and had all
the honey he wanted, but I was on
picket guard and could not go;
There was a cow came along on the
picket line and the boys thought
they would have some milk for
new years, so we caught the cow
and two held her by the nose and
horns and one by the tail and I milk
ed her but as the cow was a dry one we
did not only get enough to put in
tea, You see when we want anything
here we dont pretend to steal it but
take it and welcome, Last night
we were called out in a fury of
the officers shins, and a peaceable
civif if you would have thought that
the whole rebel army were right
upon us, but come to find out it was
nothing but a tree that had fell and
the officers thought it was a waley
fired into our picket, There is a
man down here to get one of the men

That died at Camp Salomon Helena
In the hubbub last night some are
set fire to some of the buildings and
if the wind had been favorable would
have burnt the whole place, Lieut. Baring
is bragging that he stood up bravely
to the rack last night, but the boys
think he was pretty badly scared
one of the men asked him if he should
load his gun when we were falling in
last night. Yes said he for God's
sake load your gun load quick,
It is a hard task for me to live up to
the first and second verses of the 2nd,
Chapter of Timothy, where it says
pray for all that are in authority, I
am like the old woman that I have
heard mother tell about, that prayed
for her enemies and after she had
got done praying come to think
how mean they were she said God
worse than I can't bear now, I could
not pray for them with much faith

unless it was for them to be put
out of office, for I can't have much
faith in praying for the success of
officers that will keep men out for
the rebels to shoot at them while
they are guarding cotton for them to
speculate on, That is all that we ever
came here for. We have not done a thing
toward putting down rebellion. Our
Regt. is called the cotton Regt. We are
going to leave this place to day or to
morrow. Some day we are going back
to our old quarters, but I guess we shall
go to Memphis and join Grant's army
There was 20 prisoners taken where
we were before, after we came away. (E)
We hear they are fighting at Vicksburg
like fury, there was a boat came up
yesterday bringing the body Col. Winson
of the 13th Ill. Regt. that and the 4th Ill. and
Regts. were cut up, pretty bad they
say Banks is below Vicksburg with
3000 men and I think that
they will be pretty apt to take
the place at least I hope so
Continued. Louis R. R.

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Triars Point Jan. 8th 1863

Dear Sisters Jane & Eliza

I have washed and mended
hoed the house out and squared
the fire around generally and
now I am going to write to
my dear sisters at home
I am well as usual and so are the
other boys from our neighborhood
I believe. There has been one more
death in the Regt. A member of Co.
K. he died at Helena he was left
there in the hospital. There was
~~one left there from our Co. but~~
have rejoined the Regt. K. Burdick
the drummer, was sent to St. Louis
but it is thought he never lived
to get there. Ganning and Matthews
are at Helena yet but probably will
rejoin the Regt. soon. I have been
vaccinated for the small pox today
the Dr. is going to vaccinate the

whole Regt. There is none in the
Regt. that have the small pox but there
is some at Helena that have it.
There was three ^{four} boats came up the river
from Vicksburg last night some
that had been disabled in the fight.
They did not stop so we could learn
the news. It is perfect hubbub in
Camp here about the Col and affi-
rs. and every body is going to desert
or be taken prisoner. I have heard
so much that I am sick of it to
write anything about it, for my part
I would be willing to fight ten years
if our Gen. would try to do some
thing and as it is the rebels will
have to fight before they will take
me prisoner. You will probably hear
all you will want to from others
the general proceedings will most
likely be printed in the Home
League. We did not have that ^{man} 225

that I wrote you about. The chure^h
was burnt a night or two before
sunday. The talk has all been about
the Chaplain until within a day
or two. The Chaplain said that
we were getting bigger wages and
better clothes and living for the same
amount of labor than we had here
before and I am with him there but
the majority think he has told an
open false hood, and even Mort. Cook
boasted about his making a dollar
a day when he was at home, I told
him I had known him several years
and I had not seen anything to show
for his dollar per. day, nor never had
seen him wear as good clothes.
The amount of it is if any one did
not do any more at home than we
do here they would not calculate
in earnt his board. Guard duty
is the most we have to do and

we dont have to go on guard only once
in four day, and then we only have to
be on duty eight hours in all, and the
eight hours we are on we have a great
chance to think over affairs and strengthen
our mental abilities, When I go on guard I
generally take my testament and portfolio,
if I had no home and had to work for
myself I had rather be here than to be
a slave to some driving man, Of course
there is more risk of life here, in a climate
that we are unaccustomed to, and it can
not be expected that we can have things
to cook with when we are moving every day
or two as we could at home, The most fault
I have to find is with the commissary, in
not giving the privates all they are allowed
by law, It is universally known that the
officers are getting too much pay, and
that is what is lengthening the war, but
however I should hate to be under a major-
ity of the privates that are crying out
traitors about the Generals, if they were
set in their tracks and had the same
chance, Well I guess you have heard enough
of such talk so I will close, for I see the
paper is running short, You must write
as often as you can and you need not
be afraid but what I shall write every
time I get a chance, Give my best res-
pects to all inquirin friends if any there be
and keep after the Law your selves
Yours in Faith Hope and Charity Peter Tubbs

1863

Duval's Bluffs Jan 17th

Dear Sister Jane

I thought I would write you a few words and let you know how things are going on and not keep you a wondering what the reason you do not get any letters. When I wrote before I told you Alfred was well and I thought he was but he was taken sick that day and has been sick ever since but not so but what he has been able to crawl around I think it is rheumatism and a foul state of the stomach and the weather has been very bad and no chance to get into a favorable place for a sick person but I think that he will be well in a day or two as for myself I am not much

much better off, my arms being
vaccinated makes me sick to
my stomach. Albert is well
as usual I believe. It snowed
about six inches deep day before
yesterday, and then froze up
tight. And it is the coldest
it has been since I have
been here. The inhabitants say
that there was the most snow
fell that they had ever seen
at one time. We are up White
rivers about 150 miles, and
the miserablest place that
I ever saw. It is or what
part I have seen coming
here. It is regular swamps,
all the way. There is not but
three or four farm houses
between here and the mouth.
We expected to have had a halt
at St. Charles below from here
but the Debs skiddled but

took every thing with them
So we came on to this place
but the secesh played us
the same trick but went
off in such a hurry
that they had to leave some
of their things they left two
sixty four pound siege guns they
were trying to get them onto
a flat car when the gun boats
came and they left without
spiking them we got
about 30 prisoners and about
200 stand of arms. the pris
oners said that they were glad
that they were taken. I expect
we shall move up the river
as far as we can and keep
it clear and then probably
we shall go down to Vick
burgh. I dont know when
I shall get a chance to send
this It is such a hubbub

here that Alfred does not
feel like writing so I thought
I would write and send it
when I could and maybe
Alfred will write some before
I send it - I expect Albert
will write to Elimeard
tell all about the journey
I have just made & after
to our folks maybe you will
get a chance to read it -
I dont know when we will
get any mail from home
but I hope we will have
some before long. When I get
settled down somewhere I will
write to all hands. Give
my Love to all the folks
at home and receive largly
ly for your self. Yours
in Faith Hope & Charity
Direct to Kelina Peter S. Smith

Five miles west of Hlong
Sunday Feb 8th 1863

Dear Sister Jane

It is with much pleas^{re}
that I take pen in hand
to write you a few lines
although I do not feel in
much of a mood for writing
I am just so as to be around
and that is about the way
with the whole Co. I suppose
that Alfred has told you that
before now in his letter. The
Regt is in the same place as
when I wrote you last and
there is a likelihood of a good
m^{ny} staying here. there is hardly
a day but what as much as
one or two die out of the
Regt. There has so many died lately
that I have lost all account of
the number that dies. I guess there
has three died out of our Co.

Since I wrote you last, V^uer,
C. Mc Duffey, C. M. Wiley, & Leonard
the most of them have died with
the measles by having no suits
ble place and catching cold
The general sickness is Colds
and diarea, There was 25 ~~of~~
excused from duty in Co. C.
to day besides what were in
the Hospital. There is not over
30 privates in our Co. really fit
for duty, but I calculate to keep up
good courage and that is more
than half of the battle. I^d bet.
that any one will realize what
a comfort health is, if he has al-
ways enjoyed good health in the
north with all of the comforts
of life and then come down here
and be sick with what he will
have to take up with, lay on a
punch floor with the same

for a pillow and a hard crack,
to eat and no money to buy anything
with and even if you did have it
would take a fortune to live at
the prices here. Eggs 30 cts per doz,
butter 35 cts, and cheese 30 cts per lb,
beef 10 cts a lb. It comes pretty hard
on the tobacco chewers they have
to pay nearly the weight of the tobacco
in silver. There is no badger
at all harshful about asking the above
named prices. The way everything
work it is no wonder that the
soldiers are getting sick of the
programme, but I am going to trust
to luck hoping the war will come
to a focus before long. The soldiers
and officers of the 1st Regt. are
betting their whole wages that
the war will be closed before
the 1st of July, but I think it is
all of the officers doings to keep up
good courage in the Regt.

There is a good deal more sickness
than common just now, and the
sanitary supply is all out at
Helsing and the boys doctrs, agree
with herbs. Well I could tell you
a good deal more, but I guess you
have heard about enough, but
when the neighbors make any
more fuss about your drawing
five dollars per month from
the state, tell them to come down
here and saddle it a year, and
I will bet that they will be
glad to emigrate northward
and work for their board rather
than soldier, it and get all that
Alfred does plus \$5,00. But never
mind we are fighting for the good
old Stars and Stripes, so three
sousing cheers for the union
and let the southernness take
the whole southern confederacy
niggers and all and leave quietly
to parts unknown, for I would
not live here for the whole
Some to all yourself in particular
and I hope next time I write
we shall all be tough as tripe
like to sister Jane

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Mrs. Sarah J. Merrell
Neoshol.
Dodge Co.
Wisconsin



1863
In Camp near Helena Ark Sunday March 29th.

Dear Sister Jane

As yesterday was mail day and I looked in
vain for several letters. I will write to you seeing
that I have got no letters to answer. Alfred got a letter
in Frankes, Alfred is well and is on fatigue today.
We were calculating to write you a letter together
but now I will write and let him finish it tonight.
Albert is on the gain but Frank hangs about so that
I think he will weather the case after a while for
he is pretty good grip. The rest of the boys are so
as to be maddening. Why don't Allen and Sybil write
or have they got the influenza fever so they cannot
think of any thing else. Tell them a few lines would
be receivable. I had a letter from Carrie the other day
and one from Fermo also. He said he had recd.

from you and it seemed like getting a letter
from home, he said that I need to be proud of
such a sister, I told him that I was well aware
of it and farther more I was well aware that
I had several sisters that I need to be proud
of, I dont think that I shall disown any of my
sisters, I am awful glad that your health is so
much better for I want you to be well when I get
home so you will look good natured as you always
was when I went to your house, I think I am going
to stand it first rate down here, they ^{say} if any one
has strong enough constitution to stand soldiers
ing six months he will become tough and hardy
and can stand almost anything, We have lost twelve
out of our Co, and they were all young men, Spaulding
is the only married man out of the bunch,
There has been seventy eight deaths in the Reg.

fare if you can get a pocket bible I wish
you would send it to Alfred, he lost his testament
at Camp Randall, you see that I am interested in
the matter, I would send for one myself but I thought
seeing he had no testament, that if he had a bible
we could manage to get along first-rate with a
testament and bible, sand sand a little luggage,
I have Alberts bible now and he wants it,

It is a rainy day to day, the weather is just like
summer weather, The river still keeps raising, you
can go all around Helena in a skiff. Helena looks
as though it was all afloat, to go up on the hill
above our camp, the trees look quite green now, We heard
that Gen. Hindman was marching on to take
this place and they sent out some scouts to see what
was there was any thing in it or not, but I have not
heard anything about it for a day or two so I guess there is ^{in it} nothing

Tim. Prentice preaches to day up in the fort but it
is so rainy that I dont know as I shall go.
Alfred has got back he has been on loading a boat.
The 11th Reg. went down by here the other day. Frank
had a letter from Wild the other day. Wild said that
Grant said that he would have a dress parade in
Vicksburgh in ten days. Hope he will. The
guard has just went by with 20 negroes
I guess they came from the country. They will
probably set them to work. I think we shall stay
here quite a spell yet. Jane if you can run against
a good fine comb if you will send it to me I will
be your brother besides paying you too. I see you
spell too wrong lately where too is used as an adjective
it is spelled too instead of two. Tell Win. I would be
glad to see him down here but am afraid he would be home ^{sick}
Love to all Yourself in particular. Write and mail Petes

Feb

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Mrs. Strahy

Neosho

Dodge Co.
Wis.





Mrs Sarah J Merrill

Be sure to
read the enclosed

Neosho
Dodge County
Wisconsin



Vicksburg Miss. Saturday July 25th 1863

Dear Sister Jan

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I now sit down to answer your kind letter that I had the pleasure of reading a few days ago. We have at last landed in Vicksburg safe and sound and are now enjoying the fruits of our labor. We have had a hard time, but we feel well paid for our labor. Alfreds health is good as also is my own. George Wood is not very well. Albert & Anderson and Austin Wiley are not expected to live and there is several in the Co. that look miserable. We have not got over 25 men in the Co. fit for duty. The Co. looks like a small squad to what it did in Hartford when there was over one hundred and all well, but the dead are forgotten and one has to think twice to recall to memory the name of the deceased. I suppose the North is all joy over the recent victories on all hands and I assure you there is a good feeling among the soldiers and they begin to think that the days of the Confederacy are numbered. The way our Generals are working now ~~now~~ I don't think we need be ashamed to pray for the success of our arms, but heretofore I had but little faith in praying for success when things were carried on against God and all reason. If the war had been carried on with the same earnestness a year ago that it has for the last three months it would have now been ended, but there is no use of crying for spilt milk, so we might as well make the best of it. We had a rather hard march marching from Jackson here we made it in two days and a half but only about fifty in the Reg. come through with the Reg. and I was one of the number so you can judge about my health. Alfred was left behind the second day by the way got a ride on the cars from Black river. Gleins division went down the river yesterday they think they are going to Natchez. the 20th Reg. is in the division. I saw Lew Frictions. Some of the 18th Reg. boys was here this morning. I think we shall stay here quite a spell. We have a very pleasant location on the river bank about a mile below the city, but in sight of it. we are going to draw new tents and I understand that the Col. said we should draw caps and new clothes and look respectable so I think by that we are going to stay here. I have heard that Gen. Howie had his choice to garrison this place or Natchez. but whether true or not I shant say. The weather is pretty warm but I dare say we dont suffer as much with the heat as you do. in the middle of the day the sun shines down so that it heat the sand so that it is almost boiling hot, but we can generally sleep comfortable nights. Vicksburg presents quite a lively appearance and is thronged with soldiers and pies and cakes are in good demand. All that is in the city has been brought here since our forces occupied the place.

Give my love to Alfred and Eliza and the rest of the family and to all the folks and tell them I will
 I am to answer all the letters they are coming to write me, Lots of love,
 John Smith

10 July

I went up town yesterday prospected the city until I was tired out and then came back to camp but I am any going to take another view some day for I did not see more than half the place.

The hills are full of large caves that the women and children lived in when our fire was too hot for them. The citizens seem quite pleased with the change of affairs and some of them ^{have} gone in to business and trade a good deal more reasonable than our own men. I bought a first-rate pie of one of the citizens, it seems quite like home. Such a pie as you generally make in a square tin, would bring a dollar quick here. Cookies are worth two ct. a piece by the dozen. There some talk here that they are going to let one out of a Co. go home every ten days. if they do Alfred is going to try to go home and then Minnie can see his Pa. I saw the wicksburg paper that was printed on wall paper, it was about as big as a sheet of large letter paper and only one page printed. They asked 25 ct. a piece for the papers or I would have bought one and sent it home. I suppose you have made your visit out by this time and maybe got home, and I wish my visit was done so that I could go home for I don't see anything very attractive down here. Things are not so much more forward here than they are north as I thought they was and is nothing that has half the good flavor here that things have north. I thought I could eat anything that looked like honey, but I can't go the honey here. instead of having a good taste, it is fairly sickening. Alfred thinks the sweet potatoes are worth living here for, but I had rather have one Irish potato than a bushel of sweet ones. The confederate scrip has taken a fall since we came here. the rebels want take it themselves one green back is worth a hundred in scrip. The prisoners said if a man wanted money he would go to the printing office and get some skin plasters printed and they passed a money. There has a boat load of dykies just came up the river. there is two negro regiments here and they make a first-rate paper race. they look better in the ranks than any other place I have seen them. they seem to feel quite proud of being Uncle Sams boys. Our Capt. has not arrived yet but we expect him in a few days. Our Second Lieut. has got to be division master. The second Lieutenants are going to be mustered out the Reg. is so small. There isn't 300 effective men in the Reg. I suppose the folks in Wis. are harvesting their biggest ticks. I would like to be up there and help them add barrel round. I think I could eat about as much as my wage would come to. Well as I have about run a store for news I guess I will close. don't you think this will make up for the small sheet I sent you. There is a deaugarian office here and I guess Alfred and I will have our shirts taken and send them home. I expect we shall get our mail regular now until we leave the river again. Write as often as convenient.

I remain as ever yours forring
Brother Pats of Trilly's P. O. Sisco
to Co. 9. 1 24th.
Reg. 12th Division 13th Army Corps, and your letters will always come to us where ever we are!

Not read

Jan (63)

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Mrs. Sarah J. Merrell.

Neogho

Dodge Co.
Wis.



Camp of the 29th Wis Near New Orleans Aug. 30th 1863

Dear Sister Jane

I have waited to get a letter from you before I wrote but none has come yet and now I am going to write if I never get a letter from you for I know you want to be mad. I have the privilege of reading Alfred's letters and it does me most as much good as if they were written to me but then I like to get one for myself once in a while from sister Jane. My health has not been so good for a few days as it has been heretofore. I have a pretty hard head ache and spulb of being dizzy and I expect you will get a dizzy letter. Alfred's health is first-rate and he looks younger than when he was at home. Vest Burn is going to go home on a sick furlough and I expect if he gets home he will stay as long as he possibly can. I heard him say if he had the chance again that he had when he was at home before he would stay until he was obliged to go. Georg Wood is not very healthy the rest of the boys from our neighborhood are well. Some of the furlough men have got back but the two from our lot have not come yet. I expect you probably will be anxiously looking for Alfred to come home but I don't

think there will be any more furloughs granted to well men as we are under marching orders. We have orders to have our tents and knapsacks marked so that we will know them and to be ready in light marching order with such things as we will need on a hasty march of ten days to be ready to march at twelve hours notice. we are to carry plenty of ammunition and to have our things ready to defend ourselves for we are going through a country where we need it - and at the end of the ten days we are to go into comfortable quarters. there is going to be one man left out of each Co. to take care of the things and to load them to be brought along by order of Major Gen Washburn.

I think we are going to Mobile and probably we shall have some hard fighting but I think they calculate to take the place the first dash I am going to ask Alfred to have his likeness taken to send to you before we leave. maybe he will get a chance to go home after we get there for Banks has issued an order that there shall be furloughs granted to enlisted men when we are not in active service. I must go on
 Alfred's regards

Write as soon as convenient and I will keep you posted about affairs that
 have to do with all the folks. I remain as ever your Loving Brother Peter H. Jones

Monday Aug. 31st. I had such a sick headache yesterday that I had to postpone writing. Last night was a regular Oct. night, such as we have in Wis. and today is

a nice cool day, I told you last night we had marching orders but things don't look as though we were going in several days by the way they are fixing up and drawing wood but I suppose they want us to be ready to go when necessity calls for us. The 11th Ind. of our Brig. and the 1st regulars are going to have a drilling match to see who will stay here, and the talk is that if the 11th come out ahead that our brigade will stay to do picket-guard but whether the whole brigade will stay or not by the 11th I don't know I am real sorry that you broke the malasses bottle but I think the four pounds of butter will pretty well make up for it until I can get it. Alfred thinks you were foolish for bending butter but I think that you could not have sent a more necessary article and I want something that Jane made that is fit to eat. Jane I am just of your mind about money, I prefer comfort to many and it makes me as much out of patience to hear Alfred talk of soldiering it another year as it does you and he talks as though he could not afford to go home on a furlough. I tell him that I am able to go home for forty dollars is nothing in my pocket. I wish you was here to help me talk to him, but as you are not I will do all I can to have him go home so you can talk to him

Tell Alfred and Eliza to

I don't think you need to worry about Alfred's enlisting again as well as he likes money. We are going to be mustered for pay this afternoon. I think we shall be paid before we leave here. I we stay here there probably will be furloughs be granted. I have just bought a paper the news from Charleston is encouraging and I would not wonder if we had some of the monitors that are at Charleston now, to Mobile when we get there, I expect we shall get some more mail this afternoon. Barney has not come yet. - Peter

Don't let out the piece for more than one year if they quote their it in their news I think they ought to give half of the gain for the three other half to be but you can't see the little then any self effort the things there you have after for some officers effort being yours about this fact of the quantity is good about mine much if you don't the money to me but I want you to go as you think best for I can't see of yours self that being there effort the times do so you think best that get home the animals to get over by the father comes home to see him if I don't live to come the better of our regiment is pretty good off present this is from your husband Alfred Messer to I expect to come home

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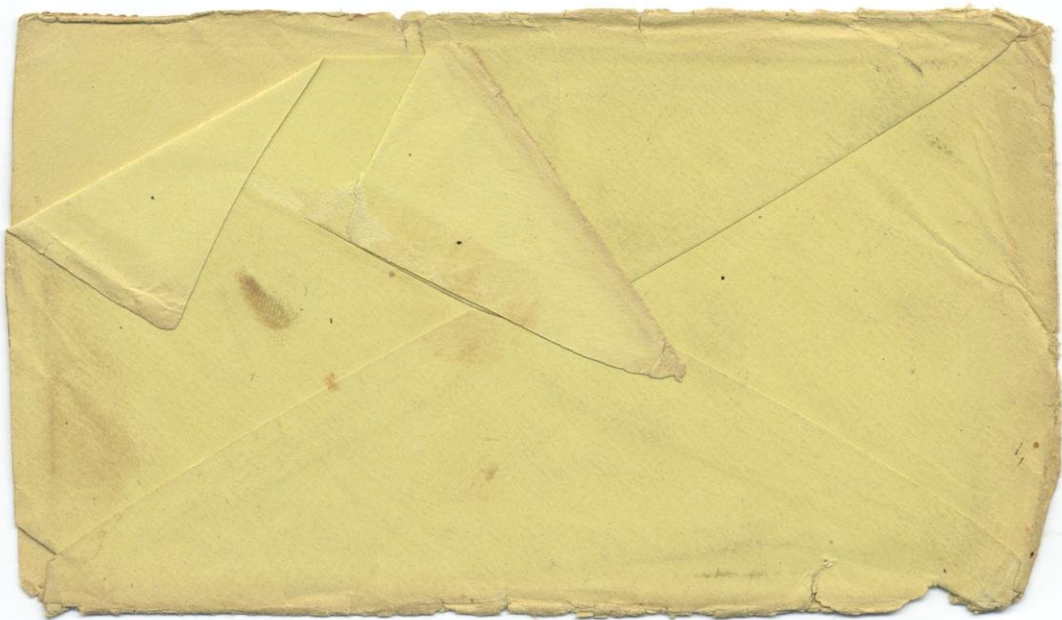
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Mrs. Sarah J. Merrell.
Washo.

Dodge Co.
Wis.

(Via Cairo)



Camp of the 29th Wis. Reg. Vol.
Near New Orleans La. Sept. 1st 1863

Dear Sister Jane

I thought as I had some leisure
time that I could not pass it off
any more agreeable than by
writing to you, I recd. your kind
letter a few days ago, but as I had
had answered it before I recd. it I
have not hurried about writing.
We dont get mail here more than
once a week and when it comes
I dont get any half of the time
when it comes, and it makes me feel
most poor, I have not had but
one letter from home in five
weeks, I wish you would tell them
to write, I dont never get a word
from Mother any more than as
though I had no mother, and I
begin to think she has forgotten
me, It seemed quite nice when

syd (many of boys pro
we first came here to see a woman
but I have seen all of the Sh. Bitches
that I want too. (I said Sh. Bitches
for such they have turned out to be)
and I don't care much how quick we
leave here, it dont seem much like
home society, every old jades that
passes carries a dozen or less
bottles of whiskey concealed in
their clothes. it is quite a nice thing
for some of the boys, and it is plainly
to be seen that the Co. is becoming
degraded, a good many of the Co. have
had ten dollars sent to them, some
of them have spent it for whiskey
and are worse off now than before.
Some of them seem to think they must
get tight so that they will be thought
some thing of, but I don't think they
would be very proud to have it
go home, that they had got drunk
on money that had been sent to
them to buy articles of necessity,

Lysony is pro for of me
Alfred and I and a chap by the name
of Daniel Ferguson tent together
We call him Berg, he is just as
good a boy as there is in the service
and I am proud of his company,
He does not belong to any church
but he is a good deal better than
some that do. He dont swear drink
whiskey lie steal or cheat and
he is accommodating and agreeable
reads the bible a good deal. So you
know something about what Co.
I keep. The mess that Alfred and
I are in has the name of being
the most peaceable one in the Co.
It seems to be a mystery to all
where we are going. There dont seem
to be as much prospect for a
speedy move as there was a week
ago. I think we shall go into Texas
when we move. I wrote you that
the 17th and the 1st regulars were
going to drill to see who should stay

but I guess it is all hoax although it
is still talked of. I understand
that Banks troops have left
here. Herins division are off on
a scout some where but I guess
likely they will come back here
again. Some think will be paid
before we leave here. I expect West
will tell you all of the particulars.
That base that was sent by
Sient-Barney has not come
yet but we expect it soon my
mouth is watering for the butts.
I want to canviced Alfred that
things that are made in Wis. is
better than any thing we can see
up here. He argues that it is all a
rump; that I have and I argue that
that he has no taste. Folks
that prefer to live in the south
because they can get sweet potatoes
I am willing they should but I
had rather have the good cold water
we have north than all they have here.
We here that the river is blacked
at the mouth of red river but I dont
think it will remain so long.
Gours in South Lake & Charitz City

And to night there is going to be
a meeting up to the 46th Ind. Reg.
It is pleasing to see and know
that all of the soldiers have not
forgotten that there is still a good
but it seems as though some of them
had. It is just as it was when we
were here before some are drunk nearly
every day. It would be heart-rending
to the folks at home if they knew just
how their nearest and dearest friends
conduct themselves. Here day before
yesterday Frank Harris and James
Blutkinson went down town and
got drunk and got into a fight and
got a good pounding (and I am glad of
it) Frank was ashamed of having his eyes
blackened and made the excuse that
he was drunk the reason he got
pounded. I think the remedy is worse
than the disease. For my part I had
rather have it go home that I got
pounded than that I got drunk
for I might have a good excuse

for getting frownded and I wouldnt have
an excuse for getting drunk, You need
not say anything about it for I had rather
it would get him some other way than
by me, Porter Langdon has been
here to day, he has just started for
Brash's in the cars to join his Regt,
West came yesterday, he looks quite well
Alfred got your phatograp to day,
I think it looks quite natural only your
eyes look dimes and look as though you
had been weeping about something
but I suppose they have been sore, but
I guess they will brighten up some when
the war is over and Alfred and I return
for when I get home I am not going
to let you feel down hearted, It make
me feel real bad to hear of the folks at
home having so much trouble, I realy
believe that the people at home have a
much again trouble as the soldiers, for
when a soldier is well he has nothing to
worry him, pretty much all he has to do
is to eat drink and meditate, only now
and then a few days at hard times

I recd. a letter from Sybil to day and I am
going to answer it soon. I don't know
but she will be jealous of my writing to you
oftener than I do her. But she need not
fear I have not forgotten her if I do write ^{to you} ^{so often}
than her. I think I had ought I would write to
her oftener than you, if Ellen was gone and Alfred
was at home with you.

They say that what don't go in to the regt
of the 34th and 46th. Ind. are coming
into our Regt. So you see that the 99th. Is
thought something of as other state troops would
not want to come into it in preference to
going with their own state troops. Gen.
McClelland has relieved Gen. E. C. O. and
to the great relief and joy of the whole Army
Corps. he used to be commander of the 13th. A. I.
I suppose Alfred will write you all the news.
Frank and Sophia's carriage found but Frank
don't care anything about her and she is a
good ^{girl} caring anything about him and I don't
believe she would if she knew how he talks
about her. Frank would like to get in to the
good graces of Adelaide York, but I guess
she has more respect than to let him. He writes
to her frequently. That butter is first rate
and makes a good living. And a thousand
thank to Sister Jane. I don't know how
long we shall stay here probably not long
and whole Div. is new now, as this
is full of rail road, this is stuck in
pretty thick and fast but I guess you can
pick it out just as you and I say you and
I never quarrel about poor writing. Your letters
are generally written the plainest of any I get and
therefore I find no reason to complain but if you
can read all of my writing I see you do well. Write
soon with all the love
Peter

Camp of the 29th Reg. Wis. Vols,
Natchitoches La, Saturday April 2nd, 1864

Dear Folks at Home

As I have a few leisure minutes I thought I would occupy them in writing to you although I don't know when I shall have a chance to send a letter but I will have it ready when I get a chance to send it.

My health is good as ever now. Alfred has been quite unwell for a day or two but is quite well now and I guess you will not think that there are any of the boys very bad off when I tell you that we marched twenty two miles yesterday forenoon. The way it happened the cavalry came through ahead of us expecting to find Gen. Smith here to support them but when he got here there was no one here and so they sent back for us to hurry up and I believe we made as good time as has been made in this war. We left Alexandria the 28th of March and laid over one day at Camp River waiting for pontoon bridges to be made and arrived here yesterday noon so we have marched about 75 miles in four days

Gen. Smith took another road to our right and although he had a day or two the start of us he got here about the same time we did. Natchitoches is about four miles from Red R, and is about half way between Shreveport and Alexandria.

We have not met with any considerable force of rebels yet. Some say they are in force not many miles ahead but it is rather doubtful whether they will muster courage enough to give us battle this side of Shreveport and they may leave that place as they did Little Rock without a fight.

We are laying over to day and we have orders to stay in camp and have our guns in shooting order.

The rebels burned all of the cotton and grist mills along the road ahead of us and drove off the cattle so that we could hardly get beef enough to eat.

We are getting into the country where there are more negroes than there has been and they think they are surely delivered from bondage. They are our only true friends and we get a great deal of information from them.

Along the road they came out with sweet corn bread and tobacco to give the soldiers. They seem to be willing to divide the last mouthful with the soldiers. There has never been any of our soldiers here before and it makes the darkies stick

out their eyes to see so many people,

Yesterday one old darkie followed along with us and we asked him if he had was going with us and he said no he was going to tell his brather how glad he was because the Yankees had come. They are perfectly delighted with the music some of them will dance as long as they can hear it and some will follow us up so as to hear it as long as they can. The best of the negroes have been run off but there are enough left so that uncl Sam is getting a good many soldiers out of them. They say that slavery has existed in its worst form in this part of the country and I suppose that is one reason the negroes are so pleased to get away. The plantations look like a small village where they have their buildings. There is generally one large nice house and from twenty to fifty negro houses and then cotton gins or sugar houses a blacksmith shop steam saw mill and grist mill together and sometimes many more buildings. Every man is perfectly independant, doing all of his work himself. Things are very high here, I tried yesterday to buy some meal for a pudding but could not for the people said they had not got but a little and and did not know where they was ever going to

get any more for there was none to be had and the mills were burned now so that they could not get any corn ground. They said that people did not think of using flour for it is one hundred ~~of~~ dollars per barrel and now to be had at that, coffee is twenty five dollars a pound and cotton cloth five dollars a yard.

The poor people are very tired of the war and would like to have peace at any terms. There is a woman here close by our camp that has got a brother in the army and she says he wrote to her that he had to eat corn like a horse for that was all he could get to eat. She said he was taken prisoner near Alexandria and she seemed feel glad for she thought he would get more to eat now.

Our boys was inquiring of a citizen about a skirmish that our country and the rebels had and the citizen said the rebels got up and run just as they always do. You see he was mad at them for they burnt his cotton gin and his cotton before they left. There is a citizen here that says there is some of the rebel soldiers that say the first chance they have to get into our lines they are going to

He says that if the rebels make a stand at Shreveport that it is so situated that we will take the whole army prisoners. The boys are just saying that

the above citizen is one of the rebel soldiers that has been pressed into the army and has escaped to our lines. They say he tells a true story about rebel affairs. He says he has got three sons in the rebel army that have been draged into the army. He says these are the first union troops he has seen and he doesn't calculate to get out side of our lines again. 1 1/2

Sheet No 2. the same day
only in the afternoon

When I got the above sheet done
I went out to see the man I last
spoke about. He and ~~the~~ two other
union men have come through from
the western part of Texas where
they had to leave their homes and
fill for their lives. They say that
there has been 90 old union
men hung in the county they lived
in and they had to leave as he hung

They say that we cannot imagine
the horrors that prevails.

There has four of escaped pris-
oners came in to day two of
them are officers and when they
came in they were dressed just like
the rebels. The way they got away
the rebs are moving the prisoners
to safer quarters and the night before
they were to march they dug a hole
in the ground and covered themselves

~~They~~ ^{They} ~~came~~ ^{came} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~rebels~~ ^{rebels} ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~such~~ ^{such} ~~a~~ ^a ~~hurry~~ ^{hurry} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~miss~~ ^{miss} ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~soon~~ ^{soon} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~left~~ ^{left} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~rest~~ ^{rest} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~got~~ ^{got} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~skedaddled~~ ^{skedaddled} ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~six~~ ^{six} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~divided~~ ^{divided} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~into~~ ^{into} ~~squads~~ ^{squads} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~each~~ ^{each} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~took~~ ^{took} ~~different~~ ^{different} ~~routes~~ ^{routes}.

When I got shut no one done of this letter I had a a job of dressing and coaking four chickens that were of my squad captives and so I have had a substantial meal. Six of us eat the four chickens and licked the dishes out but we had enough.

Orders are very strict now about going out to forage for us have had two men shot to day one belonged to Co. D. 24th Ia, of our Div. He and two of the 04 & 4th Ohio were out about a mile and a half without any

They are having a great fight

They are having a great fight

They are having a great fight

The soldiers are having great times having some fights
your own arms and a citizen took them
prisoners as he had a gun and
they had nothing and after he
had got them then he said he
would tie them and take them
in to the Gen. so he set his
negroes to tying them and after
he had got them tied he said he
was going to take them to one
of his neighbors to see what he
thought about it and he took
them off and got two other fellows
and then they took them off into the
woods and was tying them to a
tree and one of them kicked the
gun out of one of the rebs hands
and at that he stepped back
and shot him down killing
him instantly and then knocked
one of the other soldiers down with
his gun and at that the third one
broke loose and ran for dear
life and two of the rebs put

after him and while the third rebel was
loading his gun, the other soldiers
came too and got up and skulld
dled too and both of them and one
of the darkies came into camp and
reported the above and our Gen
sent out two Co's of the 6th Mo.
Cavalry and the negroes and the soldiers
that was next sent to find the rebels
but I presume they will get away

I have seen the soldier that was
shot. he was shot in the right
side with a ball and two buck shots
and they came out at his left side,
his head looked as though it had
been pounded with the butt of a gun
his arms showed the marks of the
cord that he had been tied with,

Our soldiers have took possession of
the printing office here and have printed
a Union paper. The men that
came in to day say the rebels are con-
centrating at Shreveport to give us
battle. You may write as often as
you can and I will write whenever
I can get a chance to send mail but
that may not be very often for awhile
Keep up good courage and do the best
you can, always hoping for the best
Yours with very much love Peter

Natchitoches La. April, 3rd 1864

Dear Folk

As the mail is going out tomorrow I thought I would write a little more in it and send it along (that is my letter). They did not find the rebels that shot that soldier so they brought all they had this morning.

The soldiers have printed a paper here in town with the particulars of the day in it and if I can get ^{one} ~~one~~ I will send it to you for I am sure it would do you good to read it.

Our men found two bags of rebel mail and some sabers yesterday here in town.

Our cavalry had a skirmish yesterday ~~out~~ a few miles and took seven prisoners.

The first paper that our men printed here had the picture of the rebels drawn up in line of battle to stop our cavalry from crossing cane rivers.

the force was represented by a horse,
and a mule, jackal, a sheep, and a goat
and three or four rebels and taking
the thing into consideration it was
really a amusing scene.

I presume we will stay here until
day after tomorrow that will be April
5th, but we may leave tomorrow.

There is a large fleet of gun boats
here in the river and if the rebels
make a stand at Shreveport there
will be a big noise for uncle Sam's
boys never ran without a fight.

There has been several of the
soldiers poisoned with tobacco that
was brought down town here.
and in our Regt.

I hope this letter will find you
well and enjoying yourselves
Write often

Give my best respects to
all who may inquire after my
welfare

Yours in Slaves of
Eternal life
Petes Tubbs

Morgan's Bend Ia, Aug. 11th, 1864

Dear Sister Jane

Yesterday I was the happy recipient of a long and interesting letter from your hand written July 24th. It found me in good health and spirits, Alfred also got one from you. He has sore eyes yet which as you very well know are nothing very much to be desired, one is getting better and the other worse, he is so as to be around and do duty.

You wanted to know if I did not think that was an old fashioned time you had ever to gettin, I must confess I think it was and I can imagine just how things looked, I wish that I had a part of that cart load of biscuits you made, just to save our hard tack for hard tack is a rather scarce article just now and I think the biscuit would be a good substitute.

I am sorry to hear that Mother is bothered with the erysipelas and I hope she will not be sick again.

You can tell her that I don't think her faith will save my shirt, at least I have lost all faith of ever getting it.

I rec'd a letter from Carrie a short time ago and she and George want me to go to Minn. to live after the war is over, they are going to settle on a claim eight miles from where they now live and they propose to file a claim for me near by.

them and then when my time is out I can take
it under the homestead act or buy it. It is on
the prairie six miles from woodland. I think a
good chance for me and I have written home to our
folks to see what they think about it. What do
you think about it, and how would you like to
go there too. Alfred talks very encouraging about
going too, and surely I don't know as I should have
any objections to living near sister Jane but think
I should rather encourage it and I guess Carrie is of
the same mind. I don't think that Alfred will
ever be contented where he is, for he very often
speaks about setting out, and I am sure you would
not want to come south, but if you could get a
good farm on the prairie. I believe Alfred would
be better satisfied. I did not give them any def-
inite answer but told them I would write home and
see what they thought about it and act accordingly.

We have some very good news from Mobile
which makes every loyal heart beat with joy
it is the capture and destruction of two rebel gun
boats and two forts at the mouth of the harbor
with 818 prisoners including sundry other
things of considerable importance. I don't know
whether the capture of the city is imminent or not
It would be a fine thing to get Mobile for it
would give us Miss. and nearly all of Ala.
I presume likely that we will be sent there

before long. We heard first that Mobile was taken
and the boys were very anxious to go there and make
a tour up in the heart of seceshia and help them
harvest a little. I hear that our Lieut. Col,
is raising a Reg. of his own up in Miss and
there has some of our Co. applied for an office
George Wood for one and also Lloyd Matthews
and James Lyles. George Wood has got an old
Sergt Major to intercede for him, I hope they will
get an office for I know they want one badly enough.

John B. Jennings has expressed a correspon-
dence with Annette Harris, have you heard anything
about it, He told me that he had had a letter
from a girl in our neighborhood and I asked
him the first thing if it was Annette and he
said no and then he said he would not tell
me if I did guess right, and I told him I would
find out who it was if it was any one in our
neighborhood, and the very next morn I got a letter
saying that Jennings had expressed a correspon-
dence with Annette, and then I made Jennings, over
the coin and he showed me the letter.

We are trawing brush and building a shed
over our whole Reg. The Col. says he wants
to get away from here and he thinks that will
be the quickest way to get away to go to fixing
up to stay. There has four beat loads of soldiers
just come down the river and I think that there
is trunks going to be sent to Mobile soon.

There is quite a large force here now and I think as soon as it gets a little cooler the most of it will be sent to operate against the hills are some other place. It is almost two years since I enlisted and I will soon be going over the ground for the last time and then it will count.

The nights are getting cooler than they have been and the evenings longer. We have had three meetings in our Regt the last three nights, night before last the Chaplain of the 99th Ill. gave us a very interesting discourse, his text was this The wages of sin is death but the gift of God life ever lasting. He showed forth the folly and uselessness of opposing against God's laws when we would live and be so much happier if we would keep his commandments. I think his services were worth a good deal to this Regt, and I wish we had a smart and interesting Chaplain of our own to keep a live the mouldering embers of Christianity.

There is but little attention paid to religious affairs by the officers. Some that used to be members of the church at home are so taken up with fishing for higher office that they seldom ever get time to attend a meeting. I am I guess you will have to excuse me this time and I will try to write again soon. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends if there should happen to be any. Write when convenient.
As ever your Affectionate Brother Peter



Frank
H

Mrs. Sarah Russell,
Neosho,
Dodge Co,
Wisconsin



Stamp of the 2.9 This Vol's
Morreanzy La August, 1868

Dear Lucy I received one of your ever
welcome letters Dated August 15 in side out
17th And was soerd to hear that you
had got hurt so badly but was thank
that it was no worse than it is You must
be shure ful of your self And winnie to
when you go to feed him take Honey
you Whip And Make him Stand back
if you by it Make for temper by good
one or none if you want finer one of the
Same color by one off some other color
try to And get one that will be
large And be good if you been finer
one to suit you Dont feed them to much
grain if you can keep them you order
you wrote that James Perrone wife sent word
that she had got 5 Dollars for you I sent
over in a letter to you from him perhaps
it will come yet if you dont get it write
to me he got Answer some 3 or 4 days ago
from his wife but no one can get it on
I sent a blanket to Hartford by express to
it seems as though you ought to off get them

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Marysville La. Aug. 29th 1869

My Dear Sister Jane
You will notice that I am back to Marysville
again we returned last night making just
five days from the time we started. We went
down to Port Hudson and from there we started
out into the country to a place called Clinton
about 25 miles distant where there was about
a thousand rebels and they printed a paper there
there was a force of cavalry started from Baton
Rouge about the same time we did calculating
to meet us there at Clinton and catch the
rebels but they (the cav.) got there 4 or 5 hours ^{earlier}
than we did and the rebels split out on ^{both} sides so
that we did not get many. The weather
was very warm and I never saw men ~~stand~~
up with a short march, a great many dropped down
by the roadside and there was so many ^{of} ~~of~~
used up that they had transportation that they
got behind and were taken prisoners, four
of our Reg. were left behind going out but two
of them hid and joined us when we returned the
other two are yet absent. We were all glad to get back
here, the boys called this home while we were gone and they
would very often speak about what they were going to
do when they got home. We had only just got to camp when
we had a rain in a shower. I have washed all of my
clothes this morning and now I ^{am} prepared to do a little
writing. Alfred says he is getting better as you will

Dear sister this is a long letter but I think it is worth the trouble of writing
 Please answer this as soon as you can
 Your affectionate brother
 William Lloyd Garrison

Dear to my dear brother,
 White River Landing Ark, Nov. 6th 1862

1075

My Dear Sister Jane

As I have no letters to answer and no body in particular to write to, I have done as you requested me to, (that is write to you) I have just got back from a meeting that was held at one of our neighboring Regts (the 99th Ill) and now as I have everything in order around the house I thought I would spend a few minutes in pleasant conversation with you,

We have rec'd a mail today but I did not get any letters only the one you sent me with these campaign documents in Alfred also got one of the same stamp and a letter No. 192, I believe I have had the full benefit of the three and feel thankful for it. I like to read such documents, for you know that that is what we are engaged in and we want to know whether we are justified in fighting and if we are we want to know what progress we are making and then if

we feel that we are progressing in a good cause,
it will infuse into us a new determination
to fight on until a successful end is accomplish-
ed, and I believe that Christianity and
humanity demand of us to fight this war out
to a successful end, for the success of both are
dependent upon the success of the union arms,
and surely the sky looks bright for an early peace.
you can see that by every evidence and it is visible
on every countenance, Every body confesses
that all is hanging upon the presidential
election and if so I don't see how the most scorn-
ful can refuse to take a part in the great
political struggle that is before ^{us} I believe that
it is as much the duty of a person to support
the union by every exertion as it is for him to
support the gospel, for one demands the success
of the other, I expect by the time you get this
that Abraham Lincoln will be elected by a
big majority, there are now even the Pres-
abites themselves that pretend to dispute that
and I don't believe but what more than half
of them had rather he would be elected than
not and would vote for him if they had not
said so much in the beginning of the war.

paige that they are ashamed to turn now, I am pretty certain that is the case in our Reg.

I feel quite proud of Co. Y, and I consider it a clean Co. for there ~~is~~ is only one copperhead in the Co. and he cannot vote, and cannot claim his name any way. His name is James Wilson he enlisted down to N. C. last year and he has been a curse to the Co. he is under guard now and has been two months, and if justice ^{had been} meted out to him he would have been hung long ago.

A good many ^{professors} ~~professors~~ that we will have peace in less than three months after election of Lincoln, is elected and election is near at hand and every thing looks favorable.

If you take the Sentinel I wish you would forward me a copy now and then for I don't get much reading for papers at two shilling, are to high to insert much in when you have an empty pocket.

We have just got us a house and a fire place so that we can live comfortably and now it is whispered through camp, that we are to take another tour up white river before many days, they say that the rebels attacked the darkies at St Charles and would have captured the whole of them.

if it had not have been for the gun boats, The
rebe have a great dislike to the negro soldiers
and they will fire into them on boats as an
sneak where they will not molest white troops
there was 15 or 16 of them killed and wounded
when they were going up the river to relieve us
but we passed up and down unscathed.

Oliver has been permanently detailed at Ft
D.S. to guard commissary stores, he is near
by the Reg, and as yet boards with the family, it is
a fine place in case of active operations for he would
have every thing carried and ride himself and would be
in no danger, but in camp, so he has full authority
to do as in the Reg, although no picketing,
and about as tight as you could have it, but
out from under the immediate rules of military disci-
pline, and is not drummed to bed ^{at night} and up again in
the morning besides being drummed to or from some
kind of business every hour in the day.

J. P. Gould has got his discharge and Corp.,
Edwin H. Gale, has been appointed orderly at the
request of the Co, and as yet gives good satisfaction.

I shall have to bring my letters to a close and make
some biscuit for supper, I have got so that I can make
biscuit that would take the premium, but alas we dont
got any butter to eat on them for it is so high we cannot
afford to buy it notwithstanding it fell half a dollar yes
thru day, The Duffes got some yesterday and put it up to
\$1.50 and then came down to \$1.00 and he may
keep it at that, Saleratus is \$1.00 per lb, per
sugar at the commissary 28 cts, pork 22 cts, bacon 2 cts, coffee
70 cts flour 6 cts, per lb, so you see it eats to the shoulder starts
something to us.

Kennerville La. Jan. 19th, 1865

Dear Sister Jane

Again I have taken my pen in hand to have a sly chat with my much loved Sister. I have not recd. any letter from you myself but I have had the pleasure of reading two of Alfred's letters and it done me almost as much good as it would to have had one myself. Alfred was here yesterday looking as well as usual. He gave me the envelope that I am going to put this into as I guess you will readily perceive. He said that he had six or eight ahead and they kept coming. My health is excellent and every thing goes on so encouraging that I can not but be in excellent spirits.

There is a constant rumor which seems to be pretty well founded that there are about to be negotiations for peace and although I do not fully credit all I hear I don't know that I have any reason to disbelieve but such is the case, for at the rate the rebels have been whipped for the last few months it must have set them to thinking. Some of the boys are so sanguine of peace that they have already got their summer campaign marked out up in Wis, I have concluded to wait a few days longer and hear more particulars,

We are having almost summer weather and the darkies both mallons & shequale are out thick as toads after a thunder shower preparing the land for a crop.

We are not so far from New Orleans so but what the pedlar man means first this way up here,

they generally come up on the morn-
ing train and return at night,

As several of the soldiers became
drunk very mysteriously, it was
mistrusted that the pedlar women
brought the whiskey into camp
and so the officers concluded to
correll the pedlars the next time
the train came in and so as quick
as the train came there was a guard
ready to conduct the pedlars into
a condensed position with a guard
around them surrounded out side
by about a thousand soldiers,
eagerly watching the performance,
well when they had got them all here,
(which was as near as I could count
over fifty women and one man) A
first Lieut. made the grand rounds
in search of barbar. I shall not
undertake to describe the programme
for it is better imagined than de-
scribed, but will say that these

was a small quantity found,
The ^{way} that it is generally carried, is
by tying a small cord around the
throat of a junk bottle and this
cord is attached to another cord
that spans the waist, some times
they carry six or eight bottles, and
I suppose if they were visible would
look like a string of bells or some
Indian ornaments,

We have not been paid yet and
I dont know when we shall. The ^{mess} ²¹,
Brig. has been paid four months
pay but I understand there is no pay
master assigned to our Brig, the
reason that we have not been paid,

There are no indications of active
operations here right away.

The 99th, Ill. are camped right by
the side of our Reg, and as they have a
Chaplain, I have a chance to attend ^{their} ^{own}
or prayer meeting several times a week,
and loved ones at home are never forgot-
ten, and I always feel sure that I am
ever remembered by them and I thank
God that I am. Concluded. Pts

120
DUE
6

NEW ORLEANS
MAR
6
LA

Mrs. Sarah J. Merrell
New Ho.

Dodge Co.
Wisconsin



14950

St. James DuRoi's Island Ala.
Friday Feb. 10th 1865

Dear Sister Jane

Your very kind
and ever welcome letter of Jan 12th
has just been received and it
is with the greatest of pleasure
that I now hasten to answer
it. It was accompanied by another
one for Alfred but he was left
back at Demerillo and has
not arrived yet and so I will keep
it for him. I also received a letter
from Carrie (& one from G.)

We left Demerillo the 5th
while it was raining and the
mud was knee deep and as
you might imagine we had a nasty
time of it but we are now landed
on a sand bank where the
water does not make mud.

The air from the sea is quite cold here but the sun shined down quite hot in the middle of the day. Last night it was so cold that the water was sealed over in the mud puddles with ice.

Oysters are free plunders here and the bays are feasting on them, but I am afraid at the present rate of consumption that they will run out ⁱⁿ shortly.

I have been into Pt. Gaines and took a squint at it, and it seems curious that the rebels should be driven out of such work so easily. Pt. Morgan is across the bay on the main land right opposite to Pt. Gaines, they say that it is somewhat damaged but it is a much stronger work than Gaines.

I expect as soon as everything is in readiness that we will go out prospecting and probably feel of Mobile. There are about fifteen thousand troops at Pensacola Fla.

that I expect will cooperate with us and I understand that there is a force about to strike into Miss. from Vicksburg and they think they are going to cooperate with us, and I expect the spring campaign will open with a crash and may be the rebels will be more willing to come to terms, they dont seem quite disposed to give up the contest and acknowledge themselves whipped and so we will give them another hundred or two.

You wanted to know if I recd the letter you wrote to Alfred in which you gave him a going over, I did and I guess Alfred did, but I suppose he thinks you will have to put up with inconveniences a spell longer and so he will get along as best he can until he gets home and then he will be independant of other people.

I expect Alfred will be along in a day or two, just as soon as there are boats to take the quartermasters stores.

Alfred has got a good place if we have
to go into active service, and I am glad
of it I would rather he would have
it than to have it myself. Alfred
is real good to me and always does me
a favor whenever he can and is always
willing to divide whatever he may have,
and I have also got some kind sisters
that I feel proud of, and I have been
thinking what I could do to pay
them for their kindness and interest
they take in my welfare, you may
ever be assured that you are kindly
thought of by your absent brothers
and I am a thousand times obliged
to you for your favors and if opportunity
nearly offers I shall do as much for you,
Tell Sybil that I return lots of love
to her in return for hers, tell her I am
afraid she never will write if she wants
for order. Please excuse this short
letter and I will try to write again
soon. Write as often as possible
for I am always more than glad to
get a letter from you.

With much Love I remain Yours
Affectionate Brother Peter,

TRANSCRIPTS OF THE LETTERS OF PETER TUBBS

Peter Stillman Cottrell Tubbs

Born 1841

Died 1919 at the age of 78

29th Regiment Company (I or T?)

Wisconsin Vol.

12th Division 13th Army Corps

See Letter 6 from Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Sixteen Letters of Peter Tubbs

15 are addressed to Sarah Jane Tubbs ~~Ms/???~~
Merrell (Merrill?), Sister Jane. Her
husband Alfred was in the same regiment.
Albert, frequently mentioned, must be
Albert Anderson, husband of Sister Cly-
mena.

1 letter is addressed to Peter's father.

All are, I believe addressed to Neeshe,
Wisconsin.

Peter's enlistment was at Hartland, Wisconsin
and his induction at Madison, Wisconsin. This
Wisconsin regiment became part of Grant's
Army.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1. | Friars Point, Mississippi | January 3, 1863 |
| 2. | Friars Point, Mississippi | January 8, 1863 |
| 3. | Duvals Bluffs, Arkansas
(De Valls Bluff?) | January 19, 1863 |
| 4. | Helena, Arkansas | February 8, 1863 |
| 5. | Helena, Arkansas | March 22, 1863 |
| 6. | Vicksburg, Mississippi | July 25, 1863 |
| 7. | New Orleans, Louisiana | August 30, 1863 |
| 8. | New Orleans, Louisiana | September 7, 1863 |
| 9. | Algiers, Louisiana | February 28, 1864 |
| 10. | Natchiteches, Louisiana
(Natchez?) | April 2, 1864 |
| 11. | Natchiteches, Louisiana
(Natchez?) | April 3, 1864 |
| 12. | Morganza Bend, Louisiana | August 11, 1864 |
| 13. | Morganza, Louisiana | August 29, 1864 |
| 14. | White River Landing, Arkansas | November 6, 1864 |
| 15. | Hennerville, Louisiana
(Hahnville?) | January 19, 1865 |
| 16. | Ft. Gaines, Dauphine Island,
Alabama | February 10, 1865 |
| 17. | | |

My Dear Sister Jane

Another year has rolled around and I am permitted to enjoy the same good health that has ever attended me, as also is Alfred. Albert is I believe a little unwell but he is able to do duty. New Years was a happy day for me for I had the pleasure of receiving eight letters all of which were very welcome, one was from you. Alfred got five with the one West brought him. So we had a regular old time reading letters. I suppose you would like to know what we had for new years. Well N. Years eve Alfred and some of the other boys drew a gated fat pig. I dont mean I drew it from the commissary no we drew it by the ears across the field and New Years we had a spare rib. Alfred went foraging and he had all the honey he wanted but I was on picket guard and could not go. There was a cow came along the picket line and the boys thought they would have some milk for New Years. So we caught the cow and two held her by the nose and horns and one by the tail and I milked her but the cow was a dry one and we did not get only enough for tea. You see when we want anything here we dont pretend to steal it but take it and welcome. Last night we were called out in a fury of officers shins, and a peaceable citizen would have thought the whole rebel army were upon us, but come to find out it was nothing but a tree that had fell and the officers thought it was a volley fired into our pickets. There was a man down here to get one of the men that died at Camp Salomon Helena. In the hubbub last night some one set fire to one of the buildings and if the wind had been favorable would have burnt the whole place. Lieut. Baring is bragging that he stood up bravely to the(rack) last night, but the boys think he was badly scared. One of the men asked him if he should load his gun when we were falling in last night. Yes said he for Gods sake load your gun quick. It is a hard thing for me to live up to the first and second verses of the 2nd Chapter of Timothy, where it says pray for all those that are in authority. I am like the old woman that I heard mother tell about that prayed for her enemies and after she had done praying come to think how mean they were she said God curse them I cant bear 'em. I could not pray for them with much faith unless it was for them to be out of office, for I cant have much faith in praying for the success of officers that will keep men out for the rebels to shoot at while they are guarding cotton for them to speculate on. That is all we ever came here for. We have not done a thing toward putting down rebellion. Our Regt. is called the cotton Regt.. We are going to leave this place today or tomorrow. Some day we are going back to our old quarters, but I guess we shall go to Memphis and join Grants army. There was 20 prisoners taken where we were before, after we came away. We hear they are fighting at Vicksburgh like fury. There was a boat came yesterday bringing the body of Col. Winn of the 13th Regt.. That and the 4th Regts. were cut up pretty bad they say. Banks is below Vicksburg with 10,000 men and I think they will be pretty apt to take the place at least I hope so.

.....Peter

Continued

(Miss)
Friars Point, Jan. 8, 1863

Dear Sisters Jane and Glim

I have washed and mended chored the house out and squared things around generally and now I am going to write to my dear sisters at home. I am well as usual and so are the other boys from our neighborhood I believe. There has been one more death in the Regt. a member of Co. K. He died at Helena he was left there at the hospital. There were four (or five) left there from our Co. which have rejoined the Regt.. H. Burdick the drummer was sent to St. Louis but it is thought he never lived to get there. Jennings and Mathews are at Helena yet but probably will rejoin the Regt. soon. I have been vaccinated for the small pox today. The Dr. is going to vaccinate the whole Regt.. There is none in the Regt. that have the small pox but there is some at Helena that have it. There was Giret gun boats came up the river from Vicksburgh last night Some that had been disabled in the fight. They did not stop so we could learn the news. It is perfect hubbub in camp here about the Col and affairs and evrybody is going to desert or be taken prisoner. I have heard so much that I am to sick to write anything about it, for my part I would be willing to fight ten years if our Gens. would try to do some thing and as it is the rebels will have to fight before they take me prisoner. You will probably hear all you will want to from others the general proceedings will most likely be printed in the Home League. We did not have that sermon that I wrote you about. The church was burnt a night or two before sunday. The talk has been all about the chaplain untill within a day or two. The chaplain said we were getting bigger wages and better clothes and living for the same amount of labor than we had here before and I am with him there but the majority think he has told a false hood, and even Mort. Cook braged about his making a dolar a day when he was home. I told him I had not seen anything to show for his ~~dollar~~ dollar per day nor never had seen him wear as good clothes. The amount of it is if any one did not do any more at home than we do here they would not calculate he earnt his board. Guard duty is the most we have to do and we dont have to go on guard duty only once in four day(s) and then we have to be on duty eight hours in 24, and the eight hours we are on we have a great chance to think over affairs and strengthen our mental abilities. When I go on guard I generally take my testament and portfolio. If I had no home and had to shirk for myself I had rather be here that (than) to be a slave to some driving man. Ofcousse there is more risk here in a climate that we are unaccustomed to, and it can not be expected that we can have things to cook with when we are moving every day or two as we could at home. The most fault I have to find is with the commissary in not giving the privates all they are allowed by law. It is universally known that the officers are getting to much pay and that is what is lengthening the war, but however I should hate to be under a majority of the privates that are crying out traitors against the Gensrals, if they were set in their tracks and had the same chance. Well I guess you have heard enough of such talk so I will close for I see the paper is running short. You must write as often as you can and not be afraid but what I shall write evry time I get a chance. Give my best respects to all inquiring friends if any there be and keep all of the love yourselves.

Yours in Faith Hope and Charity

Peter Tubbs

3.

(De Valls Bluff, Ark.)
Duvalls Bluffs
January 17th, 1863

Dear Sister Jane

I thought I would write you a few words and let you know how things are going on and not keep you a wondering what the reason you do not get any letters.

When I wrote before I told you Alfred was well and I thought he was but he was taken sick that day and has been sick every since but not so bad what he has been able to crawl around. I think it is rheumatism and a foul state of the stomach and the weather has been very bad and no chance to get into a favorable place for a sick person but I think he will be well in a day or two. As for myself I am not much better off, my arm being vascinated makes me sick to my stomach. Albert is well as usual I believe.

It snowed about six inches deep day before yesterday and then froze up tight, and it is the coldest it has been since I have been here. The inhabatants say that there was the most snow fell they had ever seen at one time.

We are up White river about 150 miles, and the miserablest place I ever saw Ark. is or what part I have seen coming here. It is regular swamp all the way. There is not but three or four farm houses between here and the mouth.

We expected to have had a battle at St. Charles below from here but the Rebs skiddled but took everything with them. So we came on to this place but the Secesh (Secessionists) played us the same trick but went off in such a hurry that they had to leave some of their things. They left two sixty four pound siege guns. They were trying to get them onto a flat car then the gun boats came and they left without spiking them. We got about 30 prisoners and about 280 stand of arms.

The prisoners said that they were glad that they were taken. I expect we shall move up the river as far as we can and keep it clear and then probably we shall go down to Vicksburgh.

I don't know when I shall get a chance to send this. It is such a hubbub here that Alfred does not feel like writing so I thought I would write and send it when I could and maybe Alfred will write some before I send it. I expect Albert will write to Cline and tell all about the journey I have just wrote a letter to our folks maybe you will get a chance to read it. I dont know when we will get settled down somewhere I will write to allhands.

Give my Love to all the Folks at home and reserve largely for yourself.

Direct to Helena

Yours in Faith, Hope, and Charity
Peter S. Tubbs

Four miles west of Helena (Ark.)
Sunday, Feb 8th, 1863

Dear Sister Jane

It is with much pleasure that I take pen in hand to write you a few lines although I do not feel in much of a mode for writing I am just so as to be around and that is about the way with the whole Co.

I suppose that Alfred has told you that befor now in his letter. The Regt. is in the same place as when I wrote you last and there is a likelihood of a good many staying here.

There is hardly a day but what as much as one or two die out of the Regt. There has so many died lately that I have lost all account of the number that dies. I guess there has three died out of our co. since I wrote you last. Victor C. Mc Duffey V. M. Wiley of Conant the most of them have died with the measles by having no suitable place and catching cold The general sickness is colds and diarea. There was 25 ? excused from duty in Co. C. today besides what were in the hospital.

There is not over 30 privates in our Co. realy fit for duty, but I calculate to keep up good courage and that is more than half of the battle.

I bet that anyone will realize what a comfort health is if he has always enjoyed good health in the north with all of the comforts of life and then come down here and be sick with what he will have to take up with, lay on a punch floor with the same for a pillow and a hard cracker to eat and no money to buy anything with and even if you did have it would take a fortune to live at the prices here.

Eggs 30 cts. per doz. butter 35cts. and chees 30 cts. per lb. bread 10 cts. a lb. It comes pretty hard on the tobacco chewers they have to pay nearly the weight of the tobacco in silver. There is no body at all bashful about asking the above named prices.

The way everything work it is no wonder that the soldiers are getting sick of the programe, but I am going to trust to luck hoping the war will come to a focus before long. The soldiers and officers of the Ind. Regt. are betting their whole wages that the war will be closed before the 1st of July, but I think it is all of the officers doing to keep up good courage in the Regt.

There is a good deal more sickness than common just now. and the sanitary supply is all out at Helena and the boys doctor a goodiel with herbs.

Well I could tell you a goodiel more but I guess you have heard about enough, but when the neighbors make any more fuss about your drawing five dollars per month from the State, tell them to come down here and soldier it a year, and I will bet that they will be glad to emigrate northward and work for their board rather than soldier it and get all that Alfred does plus \$ 5.00. But never mind we are fighting for the good old Stars and Stripes. So three rousin cheers for the union and let the Southerners take the whole southern Confederacy niggers and all and leave quickly to parts unknown, for I would not live here for the whole.

Love to all yourself in particular and I hope next time I write we shall all be tough as tripe

Peter to Sister Jane

In Camp near Helena Ark. Sunday March 22nd 1863

Dear Sister Jane

As yesterday was mail day and I looked invain for several letters, I will write, to you seeing that I have got no letter to answer. Alfred got a letter in Franks. Alfred is well and is on fateague today. We were calculating to write you a letter together but now I will write and let him finish it tonight.

Albertis on the gain but Frank hangs about so but I think he will weather the case after a while for he is pretty good grit. The rest of the boys are so as to be moveing.

Why dont Glen and Sybil write or have they got the Appleton fever so they cannot think of anything else. Tell them a few lines would be acceptable.

I had a letter from Carrie the other day and one from Fenne also, he said he had recd from you and it seemed like getting a letter from home, he said that I need to be proud of such a sister, I told him that I was well aware of it and farthermore that I was well aware that I had several sisters that I need to be proud of. I dont think that I shall disown any of my sisters.

I am awful glad that your health is so much better for I want you to be well when I get home so you will look good natured as you always was when I went to your house.

I think I am going to stand it first rate down here. They say if anyone has strong enough constitution to stand soldiering six months he will become tough and hardy and can stand almost anything.

We have lost twelve out of our Co. and they were all young men. Spaulding is the only married man out of the twelve. There has been seventy eight deaths in the Reg.

Jane if you can get a pocket bible I wish you would send it to Alfred, he lost his testament at Camp Randall. You see that I am interested in the matters. I would send for one myself but I thought seeing he had no testament, -that if he had a bible we could manage to get along first rate with a testament and bible and save a little luggage. I have Alberts bible now and he wants it.

It is a rainy day today. The weather is just like summer weather. The river still keeps raising. You can go all around Helena in a skiff. Helena looks as though it was all afloat to go up on the hill above our Camp. The trees look quite green now.

We heard that Gen. Hindman was marching on to take this place and they sent out some scouts to see what there was anything in it or not, but I have not heard anything about it for a day or two so I guess there is nothing in it.

Gen. Prentice preaches today up in the fort, but it is so rainy that I dont know as I shall go.

Alfred has got back, he has been unloading a boat. The 11th Regt. went down by here the other day.

1863.
(2nd page 'In Camp near Helena Ark.-Sunday March 22nd 1863)

Frank had a letter from Wild the other day. Wild said that Grant said that he would have a dress parade in Vicksburgh in ten days. Hope he will. The guard has just went by with 20 negroes. I guess they came from the country. They will probably set them to work. I think we shall stay here quite a spell yet.

Jane if you can run against a good fine comb if you will send it to me I will be your brother besides paying you too.

I see you spell too wrong lately, where too is used as an adjective it is spelled too instead of two.

Tell Win I would be glad to see him down here, but am afraid he would be homesick.

Love to all Yourself in particular. Write and I will.

Peter

61 ~~1116~~
Vicksburg, Miss. Saturday July 25th 1863

Dear Sister Jane

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I now sit down to answer your kind letter that I had the pleasure of reading a few days ago. We have at last landed at Vicksburg safe and sound and are now enjoying the fruits of our labor. We have had a hard time, but we feel paid for our labor. Alfreds health is good as ever, as is also my own. George Wood is not very well. Albert R. Anderson and Austin Wily are not expected to live and there is several in the Co. that look miserable. We have not got over 25 men in the Co. fit for duty. The Co. looks like a small squad to what it did in Hartford when there was over one hundred and all well, but the dead are forgotten and one has to think twice to recall to memory the name of the deceased. I suppose the North is all joy over the recent victories on all hands and I assure you there is a good feeling among the soldiers and they begin to think the days of the Confederacy are numbered. The ways our Generals are working now I dont think we need to be ashamed to pray for the success of our arms but heretofore I had but little faith in praying for success ~~of our arms~~ when things were carried on against God and reason. If the war had been carried on with the same earnestness a year ago that it has for the last three months it would have now been ended, but there is no use of crying for spilt milk so we might as well make the best of it. We had a rather hard march marching from Jackson here we made it in two days and a half but only about fifty in the Regt. came through with the Regt. and I was one of the number so you can judge about my health. Alfred was left behind the second day by the way got a ride on the cars from black river. Herins(?) division went down the river yesterday they think they are going to Mobile. The 20th Reg. is in the division. I saw Lew Fretwick (Fridwick?). Some of the 18th Reg. boys was here this morning. I think we shall stay here quite a spell. We have a very pleasant location on the river bank about a mile below the city but in sight of it. We are going to draw new tents and I understand the Col. said we should draw caps and new clothes and look respectable so I think by that we are going to stay here. I have heard that Gen. Hovie had his choice to garison this place or Naches but whether true or not I shant say. The weather is pretty warm but I dare say we dont suffer so much with the heat as you do in the middle of the day, the sun shines down so that it heats the sand so that it is almost boiling hot, but one can generally sleep comfortable nights. Vicksburg presents quite a lively appearance and is thronged with soldiers and pies and cakes are in good demand. All that is in the city has been brought here since our forces occupied the ~~city~~ place. I went up town yesterday prospected the city until I was tired out and then came back to camp but I am going to take another view some day for I did not see more than half the place. The hills are full of large caves that the women and children lived in when our fire was too hot for them. The citizens seem quite pleased with the change of affairs and some of them have gone into business and trade a good deal more reasonable than our own men. I bought a first rate pie of one of the citizens, it seemed quite like home. Such a pie as you make generally in a square tin would bring a dollar quick here. Cookies are worth two cts. apiece by the dozen. There nd (is) some talk here that they are going to let ~~she out of large Coleridge paper~~ nd ~~ten~~ days if they do Alfred is going to try to go home and then Winnie can see his Pa. I saw the Vicksburg paper that was printed on wall paper it was about as big as a

25 cts. apiece for the papers or I would have bought one and sent it home. I suppose you have made your visit out by this time and maybe got home, and I wish my visit was done so that I could go home for I dont see anything very attractive down here, things are not so much forward here as they are north as I thought they was and (there is) nothing that has half the good flavor here that things have north. I thought I could eat anything that looked like honey, but I cant go the honey here, enstead of having a good taste it is fairly sickening. Alfred thinks the sweet potatoes are worth living here for but I would rather have one irish potato than a bushel of sweet ones. The confederate scrip has taken a fall since we came here. The rebs wont take it themselves one green back is worth a hundred in scrip. The prisoners said that if a man wanted money he would go to the printing office and get some(skin, shin?) plasters printed and they passed as money. There has a boat load of darkies just come up the river, there is two negro regiments here and they make a first rate appearance they look better in the ranks than any other place I have seen them. They seem to feel quite proud of being Uncle Sams boys. Our Capt. has not arrived yet but we expect him in a few days. Our Second Lieut. has got to be division master. The second Lieutenant(s) are going to be mustered out the Regt. is so small. There isnt 300 effective men in the Reg.. I suppose the folks in Wis. are harvesting their biggest licks. I would like to be up there and help them and board around. I think I could eat as much as my wages would come to. Well I have about run ashore for news I guess I will close dont you think this will make up for the small sheet I sent you. There is a daguerian (daguerreo) office here and I guess Alfred and I will have our phiz taken and send them home. I expect we will get our mail regular now until we leave the river again. Write as often as convenient. I remain as ever your loving Brother
Peter S. Tubbs

P.S. Direct to Co. I 29th Reg. Wis. Vol. 12th division 15th Army Corps and your letter will always come to where ever we are. Give my love to Sybil and Clime and the rest of the Folks and tell them I will answer all the letters they have a mind to write me

Peter Tubbs

7.
Camp of the 29th Wis.
Near New Orleans Aug. 30th 1863

Dear Sister Jane

I have waited to get a letter from you before I wrote but none has come yet and now I am going to write if I never get a letter from you for I know you wont be mad. I have the priviledge of reading Alfreds letters and it does me most as much good as if they were writ* ten to me, but then I like to get one for myself once in a while from sister Jane.

My health has not been so good for a few days as it has been heretofore. I have a pretty hard head ache and spells of being dizzy, and I expect you will get a dizzy letter. Alfreds health is first rate and he looks younger than when he was at hone.

Vest Hern is going to go home on a sick furlough, and I expect if he gets home he will stay as long as he posibly can. I heard him say if he had the chance again that he had when he was at home before he would stay until he was obliged to go.

George Wood is not vary healthy the rest of the boys from our neighborhood are well. Some of the furloughed men have got back but the two from our Co. have not come yet. I expect you probably will be anxiously looking for Alfred to come home but I dont think there will be any more furloughs granted to well men as we are under march- ing orders.

We have orders to have our tents and knapsacks marked so that we will know them and to be ready in light marching order with such things as we will need on a hasty march of ten days to be ready to march at twelve hours notice. we are to carry plenty of amunition and to have our things ready to defend ourselves for we are going through a country where we need it-- and at the end of the ten days we are to go into comfortable quarters. There is going to be one man left out of each Co. to take care of the things and to load them to be brought along by order of Major Gen Washburn.

I think we are going to Mobile and probably we shall have some hard fighting but I think they calculate to take the place the first dash I am going to ask Alfred to have his likeness taken to send to you before we leave. Maybe he will get a chance to go home after we get there for Banks has issued an order that there shall be furloughs granted to enlisted men when we are not in active service. I must go on dress parade.

Write as soon as convenient and I will keep you posted about affairs here.

Love to all the Folks, I Remain as ever Your Loving
Brother Peter to Jane

Monday, August 31st

I had such a sick headache yesterday that I had to postpone writing. Last night was a regular Oct. night, such as we have in Wis. and today is a nice cool day. I told you last night we had

7. (2nd page Near New Orleans-Letters of Aug. 30th and 31st)

marching orders but things dont look as though we were going in several days by the way they are fixing up and drawing wood but I suppose they want us to be ready to go when necessity calls for us.

The 11th Ind. of our Brig. and the 1st regulars are going to have a drilling match to see who will stay here, and the talk is that if the 11th come out a head that our brigade will stay to do provost guard, but whither the whole brigade will stay or only the 11th I dont know.

I am real sorry that you broke the molasses bottle but I think the four pounds of butter will pretty well make up for it until I can get it. Alfred thinks you were foolish for sending butter but I think that you could not have sent a more necessary article and I want something that Jane made that is fit to eat.

Jane I am just of your mind about money. I prefer comfort to money and it makes me as much out of patience to hear Alfred talk of soldiering it another year as it does you and he talks as though he could not afford to go home on a furlough. I tell him that I am able to go home, for forty dollars is nothing in my pocket. I wish you was here to help me talk to him, but as you are not I will do all I can to have him go home so you can talk to him. I dont think you need to worry about Alfreds enlisting again as well as he likes money.

We are going to be mustered for pay this afternoon. I think we shall be paid before we leave here. If we stay here there probably will more furloughs be granted. I have just bought a paper. The news from Charleston is encouraging and I would not wonder if we had some of the monitors that are at Charleston now, to Mobile when we get there. I expect we shall get some more mail this afternoon. Barney has not come yet.

Peter

Tell Sybil and Cline to write

On this letter are 13 lines written by Alfred Merrell, husband of Sarah Jane Merrell (Sister Jane)

I would Not let out the place for more than one year if they would take it in that way. I think they ought to fence half of the grain for the Horses And half to So (sow) but you can tell better than my Self.

About the time there you have btter Ask Someones Advice About Selling your wheat this fall. If the granery is good, it wont hurte much if you Dont the monney to use. But I want you to Do as you think best for I cant tell As well as your Self Not being there. About the times. So Do as you think best till I get home. Tell winnie to be A good boy till his father Comes home to See him if I should live to Come. The location of our regiment is pretty good at present. This is from your Husband Alfred Merrell to S. J Merrell (and) to Winnie Merrell

§
Camp of the 29th Wis. Reg. Vol.
Near New Orleans, La. Sept. 7th 1863

Dear Sister Jane

I thought as I had some leisure time that I could not pass it off any more agreeable than by writing to you. I recd your kind letter a few days ago, but as I had answered it before I recd it, I have not hurried about writing. We dont get mail here more than once a week and when it comes I dont get any half of the time when it comes and it makes me feel most poor. I have not had but one letter from home in five weeks. I wish you would tell them to write. I dont never get a word from Mother any more than as though I had no mother, and I begin to think she has forgotten me.

It seemed quite nice when we first came here to see a woman but I have seen all of the She Bitches that I want too. (I said She Bitches for such they have turned out to be) and I dont care much how quick we leave here.

It dont seem much like home society, evry old jade that passes carries a dozen or less bottles of whiskee concieled in their clothes it is quite a nice thing for some of the boys, and it is plainly to be seen that the Co. is becoming degraded.

A good many of the Co. have had ten dollars sent to them, some of them have spent it for whiskee and are worse off now than before. Some of them seem to think they must get tight so they will be thought something of, but I dont think they would be very proud to have it go home, that they had got drunk on money that had been sent to them to buy articles of necessity.

Alfred and I and a chap by the name of Daniel Fergason tent together. We call him Ferg. He is just as good a boy as there is in the service and I am proud of his Company. He does not belong to any church but he is a good deal better than some that do. We dont swear drink whiskee lie steal or cheat and he is accommodating and agreeable reads the bible a good deal. So you know something about that Co, I keep. The mess that Alfred and I are in has the name of being the most peacible one in the Co.

It seems to be a mistery to all where we are going. There dont seem to be as much prospect for a speedy move as there was a week ago. I think we shall go into Texas when we move. I wrote you that the 17th and the 1st regulars were going to drill to see who should stay but I guess it is alll hoax although it is still talked of. I understand that Banks troops have left here. Herins division are off on a scout some where but I guess likely they will come back here again. Some think we'll be paid before we leave here. I expect Vest will tell you all of the particulars.

8.
(2nd page Camp of the 29th Wis. Reg. Vol.)
Near New Orleans, La. Sept. 7th 1863

That box that was sent by Lieut Barney has not come yet but we expect it-soon my mouth is watering for the butter.

I want to convince Alfred that things that are made in Wis. is better than anything we can scare up here. He argues that it is all a notion that I have and I argue that he has no taste.

Folks that prefer to live in the south because they can get sweet potatoes I am willing they should but I had rather have the good cold water we have north than all they have here.

We here that the river is blockaded at the mouth of red river but I dont think it will remain for long.

Yours in Faith Hope and Charity
Peter

Love to all and a hearty old play to Winnie
Peter

9.
Algiers La.
Sunday Feb. 28th/64

Dear Sister Jane

I was just agoing to write to you and a letter came to me from you but nevertheless that did not make but a little diferance only long enough to read it and I went to meeting and now I will write you a few lines and put in with Alfreds and save the stamp and envelope you sent me for another letter. You wont be mad about that will you, if I will send the letter to you some time when Alfred ont write.

I attended church down to town to day, and we had a good sermon and it seemed quite nice to have a church to hold meeting in. And we have just held a meeting under a big tree nearby here. And to night there is going to be a meeting up to the 46th Ind. (iana?) Reg. It is pleasing to see and know that all of the soldiers have not forgotten that there is still a god but it seems as though some of them had.

It is just as it was when we were here before--some one drunk nearly every day. It would be heart-rending to the folks at home if they knew just how their nearest and dearest friends conduct themselves. Here day before yesterday Frank Harris and James Hutchinson went downtown and got drunk and got into a fight and got a good pounding, (and I am glad of it.) Frank was ashamed of having his eyes blacked and made the excuse that he was drunk the reason he got pounded.

I think the remedy is worse than the disease. For my part I had rather have it go home that I got pounded than that I got drunk for I might have a good excuse for getting pounded and I wouldnt have an excuse for getting drunk. You need not say anything about it for I had rather it would get home some other way than by me.

Porter Langdon has been here today, he has just started for Brashiar on the cars to join his Regt. Vest cam yesterday, he looks quite well.

Alfred got your photograh(h) today. I think it looks quite natural only your eyes look dimer and look as though you had been weeping about something but I suppose they have been sore, but I guess they will brighten up some when the war is over and Alfred and I return for when I get home I am not agoing to let you feel down hearted.

It makes me feel real bad to hear of the folks at home having so much trouble. I really believe that the people at home have as much again trouble as the soldiers, for when a soldier is well he has nothing to worry him. Pretty much all he has to do is to eat drink and meditate, only now and then a few days of hard times.

I received a letter from Sybil today and I am going to answer it soon. I dont know but she will be jealous of my writing to you oftener than I do her, but she need not for I have not forgotten her if I do write to you oftener than her. I think I had ought to. I would write to her oftener than you if Helen was gone and Alfred was at home with you.

They say that what dont go into the veterans of the 34th and 46th, Ind. are coming into our Regt. So you see that the 99th is thought

9,
(2nd page Algiers La. Sunday Feb 28th/64)

something of or other state troops would not want to come into it in preference to going with their own state troops. Gen Mc Clernand has relieved Gen. E. Ole Ord to the great relief and joy of the whole army Corps., He used to be Commander of the 73 H.Q. I suppose Alfred will write you all the news.

Frank and Sophia correspond but Frank dont care anything about her and she is a fool for caring anything about him and I dont believe she would if she knew how he talks about her. Frank would like to get into the good graces of Adelaide York, but I guess she has more sense than to let him, he writes to her frequently.

That butter is first rate and makes a good living. And a thousand thank(s) to Sister Jane. I dont know how long we shall stay here probably not long our whole Div. is here now. As this is full I will close, this is stuck in pretty thick and fast but I guess you can pick it out for as you and I say you and I never quarrell about poor writing. Your letters are generally written the plainest of any I get and therefore I have no reason to complain, but if you can read all of my writing you will do well.

Yours with slathers of Love, Peter

Margin-notes in red ink

You spoke about Uncle D[?]ans folks thinking about getting rich out of Delancies enlisting and wanted to know what I thought about it and I will tell you that I dont think it would be right for Uncle Dan to draw five dollars a month from the government for I dont think he is a dependent on Delancy as father is on me and you know that I was not willing that father should draw it, as much as I was interested in it. I did not come for money, it was because I thought it my duty to. Write whenever you have time.

This is red white and blue. Dont it suit you?

10.
Camp of the 209th Reg. Wis. Vol.
Natchitoches La. Saturday April 2nd 1864

Dear Folks at Home

As I have a few leisure moments I thought I would occupy them in writing to you although I dont know when I shall have a chance to send a letter but I will have it ready when I get a chance to send it.

My health is good as ever now. Alfred has been quite unwell for a day or two but is quite well by now and I guess you will not think there are any of the boys bad off when I tell you that we marched twenty two miles yesterday forenoon. The way it happened the cavalry came through ahead of us, expecting to find Gen Smith here to support them but when he got here, there was no one here and so they sent back for us to hurry up, and I believe we made as good time as has been made in the war. We left Alexandria the 28th of March, and laid over one day at cane river waiting for pontoon bridges to be made and arrived here yesterday noon, so we marched about 75 miles in four days. Gen. Smith took another road to our right and although he had a day or two the start of us, he got here about the same time we did. Natchitoches is about four miles from(Eed?) R. and is about half way between Shreveport and Alexandria. We have not met with any of the considerable force of rebels yet. Some say they are in force not many miles ahead but it is rather doubtful whether they will muster enough courage to give us battle this side of Shreveport and they may leave that place as they did Little Rock without a fight. We are laying over today and we have orders to stay in camp and have our guns in shooting order.

The rebels burned all of the cotton and grist mills along the road ahead of us and drove off the cattle so that we could hardly get enough beef to eat.

We are getting into the country where there are more negroes than there has been and they think they are surely delivered from bondage. They are our only friends and we get a great(deed?) of information from them. All along the road they came with water corn bread and tobacco to give to the soldiers. They seem to be willing to divide the last mouthful with the soldiers. There has never been any of our soldiers before and it makes the darkies stick out their eyes to see so many people.

Yesterday one old darkie followed along with us and we asked him if he had was (???) going with us and he said no ^{he} was going to tell his brother how glad he was because the Yankees had come. They are perfectly delighted with the musik (music) some of them will dance as long as they can hear it and some will follow us up so as to hear it as long as they can. The best of the negroes have been run off but there are enough left so that Uncle Sam is getting a good many soldiers out of them. They say that slavery has existed in its worst form in this part of the country and I suppose that is the reason the negroes are so pleased to get away. The plantations look like a small vilage where they have their buildings. There is generally a large nice house and from twenty to fifty negro houses and then cotton gins or sugar houses a blacksmith shop steam saw mill and grist mill together and many more buildings. Every man is independant doing all of his work himself. Things are very high here. I tried yesterday to buy some meal for a pudding but could not for the people said they had not got but a little and did not know when they was ever going to get any more, for there was none to be had and the mills were burned now so they could not get any corn ground. They said that people did not think of using flour for it is one hundred dollars a barrell and none to be had at that, coffee is twenty five dollars a pound and cotton cloth five dollars a yard.

10.
10
Natchitoches La. Saturday April 2nd 1864

The poor people are very tired of the war and would like to have peace at any terms. There is a woman here close by our camp who has got a brother in the army (rebel) and she says he wrote her he had to eat corn like a horse, for that was all he could get to eat. She said he was like a prisoner near Alexandria and she seemed (to) feel glad for she though(t) he would get more to eat now.

Our boys was inquiring of a citizen about a skirmish that our country and the rebs had and the citizen said the rebs got up and run just as they always do. You see he was mad at them for they burnt his cotton gin and cotton before they left. There is a citizen here that says some of the rebel soldiers say the first chance they have to get into our lines they are going to.

He says that if the rebels make a stand at Shreveport that it is so situated that we will have to take the whole army prisoners. The boys are just saying that the above citizen is one of the rebel soldiers that has been pressed into the army and has escaped to our lines. They say he tells a true story about rebel affairs. He says he has got three sons in the rebel army that have been draged?) into the army. He says these are the first union troops he has seen and he does not calculate to get outside our lines again.

Peter

#5 11.
Natchitoches La. April 3rd 1864

Dear Folks

As the mail is going out tomorrow I thought I would write a little more in it and send it along (that is my letter). They did not find the reb that shot the soldier so they(burned?) all they had this morning. The soldiers have printed a paper here in town with the particulars of the day in it and if I can get one I will send it to you for I am sure it would do you good to read it. Our man found two bags of rebel mail and some sabers yesterday here in town.

Our cavalry had a skirmish yesterday out a few miles and took seven prisoners.

The first paper that our men printed here had the picture of the reb drawn up in line of battle to stop our cavalry from crossing the river. The force was represented by a horse and mule jack-ass a sheep and a goat and three or four rebels and taking the thing into consideration it was really an amusing scene.

I presume that we will stay here until day after tomorrow that will be April 5th but we may leave tomorrow. There is a large fleet of gun boats here in the river and if the rebs make a stand at Shreveport there will be a big noise for Uncle Sams boys never run without a fight.

There has been several of the soldiers poisoned with tobacco that was bought down town here one is in our Regt..

I hope this letter will find you well and enjoying yourselves Write often. Give my best respects to all who may inquire after my wellfare

Yours in Hopes of Eternal Life
Peter Tubbs

This letter was addressed to:

Mr. Jacob Tubbs
Neosho
Dodge Co. (County)
Wis.

Dear Sister Jane

Yesterday I was the happy recipient of a long and interesting letter from your hand written July 24th. I found me in good health and spirits. Alfred also got one from you. He has sore eyes which as you very much know are not much to be desired. One is getting better and the other one worse. He is so as to be around and do duty.

You wanted to know if I did not think that was an old fashioned time you had over to fathers I must confess I think it was and I can imagine just how things looked. I wish that I had a part of that cartload of biscuits you made just our hardtack for hard tack is a rather scarce article just now and I think the biscuits would be a good substitute.

I am sorry to hear that mother is bothered with the irysipelas and I hope she will not be sick again. You can tell her that I dont think her faith will save my shirt, at least I have lost all hope of getting it.

I recd. a letter from Carrie a short time ago and she and George want me to go to Minn. to live after the war is over. They are going to settle on a claim eight miles from where they now live and they propose to file a claim for me nearby them and then when my time is out I can take it under the homestead act or buy it. It is on the prairie six miles from woodland. I think (it) is a good chance for me and I have written home to our folks to see what they think about it and how would you like to go there too. Alfred talks very encouraging about going too, and surely I dont know as I would have any objections to living near sister Jane but think I would rather encourage it and I think Carrie is of the same mind. I dont think Alfred will ever be contented where he is for he often speaks of selling out, and I am sure you would not want to come South, but if you could get a good farm on the prairie I believe Alfred would be better satisfied. I did not give them any definite answer, but told them I would write home and see what they thought about it and act accordingly.

We have some very good news from Mobile which makes every loyal heart beat with joy. It is the capture and destruction of two rebel gun boats and two forts at the mouth of the harbor with 818 prisoners including sundry other things of considerable importance. I dont know whether the capture of the city is imminent or not. It would be a fine thing to get Mobile for it would give us Miss. and nearly all of ALA.. I presume likely that we will be sent there before long. We hear first that Mobile was taken and the boys are very anxious to go there and make a tour up in the heart of(Seceshia?) and help harvest a little.

..... Lieut. Col. is raising a Reg. of his own up in Wis. and has some of our Co. has applied for an office. George Wood for our George Wood has got Sergt. Major to intercede for him I hope to get an office.

John B. Jennings has opened a correspondence with Annette Harris. Have you heard anything about it. He told me that he had had a letter from a girl in our neighborhood and I asked him the first thing if it was Annette and he said no and then he said he would not tell me if I did guess right, and I told him I would find out who it was if it was any one in our neighborhood and the very next mail I got will say that Johnny had opened a correspondence with Annette and then I made Johnny(toss? flip?) the coin and he showed me the letter

12

We are(drawing?) brush and building a shed over our whole Regt.
(Much of this page is too faint to be deciphered.)

The Capt. says he wants to get away from here and I think that will be the quickest way to get away.....up to stay. There has four boat loads of soldiers just come down the river and I think as soon as it gets a little cooler the rest of it will be sent to operate against Mobile or some other place. It is almost two years since I enlisted and I will soon be going over the(ground?) for the last time and then it will count.

The nights have been getting cooler than they have been and the evenings longer. We have had three meetings in our Regt. the last three nights the night before last the Chaplain of the 99th Inf. give us a very interesting discourse. His text was the wages of Sin is death, but the gift of God life everlasting. He showed forth the folly and uselessness of sinning against Gods will when we live and be so much happier if we would keep his commandments. I think his services are worth a goodeal to this Regt. and I wish we had a smart and interesting chaplain of our own to keep alive the smouldering embers of Christianity. There is but little attention paid to religious affairs by the officers. Some that used to be members of the church at home are taken up with fishing for higher office that they hardly ever get time to attend meeting. Jane I guess you will have to excuse me this time and I will try to write again soon. Give my best respects to any inquiring for me if there should appear to be any. Write when convenient.

As ever your Affectionate Brother Peter

Morganza, La. Aug. 29th 1864

My dear sister Jane

You will notice that I am back to Morganza again we returned last night making just five days from the time we started. We went down to Port Hudson and from there we started out into the country to a place called Clinton about 25 miles distant where there was about a thousand rebs and they printed a paper there.

There was a force of cavalry started from Baten Rouge about the same time we did calculating to meet us there at Clinton and catch the rebs but they (the cav.) got there 4 or 5 hours sooner than we did and the rebs slid out one side so that we did not get many.

The weather was very warm and I never saw men so used up with a short march, a great many dropped down by the roadside and there was so many more used up than they had transportation that they got behind and were taken prisoners, four of our Reg. were left behind going out but two of them hid and joined us when we returned. The other two are yet absent.

We were all glad to get back here. The boys called this home while we were gone and they would very often speak about what they were going to do when they got home.

We had only just got to camp when we had a rousin old shower. I have washed all of my clothes this morning and now I am prepared to do a little writing.

Alfreds eyes are getting better as you will-----

(Peter's letter ends here-another letter on opposite side of original)
 (letter of Peter to Sister Jane has not been transcribed. It is by)
 (a different ? writer.)

Villa
White River Landing Ark. Nov. 6th/64 (1864)

My Dear Sister Jane

As I have no letters to answer and nobody in particular to write to so I have done as you requested me to, that is, write to you. I have just got back from a meeting that was held at our neighboring Regts. (the 19th Ill.) and now^{on} I have everything in order around the house I thought I would spend a few minutes in pleasant conversation with you.

We have rec'd a mail today but I did not get any letters only the one you sent me with those campaign documents in Alfred also got one of the same stamp and a letter no. 172, I believe. I have had the full benefit of the three and feel thankful for it. I like to read such documents, for you know that that is what we are engaged in and we want to know whether we are justified in fighting and if we are, we want to know what progress we are making, and then if we feel we are progressing in a good cause, it will infuse into us a new determination to fight on until a successful end is accomplished, and I believe that christianity and humanity demand of us to fight this war out to a successful end, for the success of both are dependant upon the success of the union arms, and surely the sky looks bright for an early peace. You can see that by every evidence and it is visible in every countenance. Every body confesses that all is hinging upon the presidential election and if so I dont see how the most scrupulous can refuse to take a part in the great political struggle that is before us. I believe that it is as much the duty of a person to support the union by every exertion as it is for him to support the gospel, for one demands the success of the other. I expect that by the time you get this that Abraham Lincoln will be elected by a big majority, there are none even the (Macerallites?) themselves that pretend to dispute that, and I dont believe but what more than half of them had rather he would be elected than not and would vote for him if they had not said so much in the beginning of the campaign that they are ashamed to turn now, I am pretty sure that is the case in our Reg..

I feel quite proud of Company I, and I consider it a clean Co. for there is only one copperhead in the Co. and he cannot vote, and we dont claim him anyway. His name is James Wilson he enlisted down to N.). (New Orleans?) last year and he has been a curse to the Co. he is under guard now and has been two months, and if justice had been meted out to him he would have been hung long ago. A good many prophecy that we will have peace in less than three months after election if Lincoln is elected and election is near at hand and every thing looks favorable.

If you take the Sentinel I wish you would forward me a copy now and then for I dont get much reading, for papers at two shillings are to high to invest much when you have an empty pocket.

We have just got us a house and a fire place so that we can live comfortably and now it is whispered through camp that we are to take another tour up white river before many days. They say the rebels attacked the darkies at St. Charles and would have captured the whole of them if it had not been for the gun boats. The rebs have a great dislike to the negro soldiers and they will fire into them on boats or picket where they will not molest white troops. There was 15 or 16 of them killed and wounded when they were going up the river to relieve us but we passed up and down unmolested.

Alfred has been permanently detailed at Hdqrs. to guard commissary stores, he is near by the Reg. and as yet boads(boards.) with the family. It is a fine place in case of active operations for he would have every thing carried and ride

White River Ark. Nov. 6th, 1864

himself and would be in no danger, but in camp so he has full as much to do as in the Co. although no picketing, and what suits him more than all the rest is he is out from under the immediate rules of military discipline, and is not drummed to bed at night and up again in the morning besides being drummed to and from some kind of business every hour in the day.

J.P. Gould has got his discharge and Corp. Edwin H. Cole has been appointed orderly at the request of the Co. and as yet gives good satisfaction.

I shall have to bring my letter to a close and make some biscuit for supper. I have got so that I can make biscuit that would take the premium, but alas we dont got any butter to eat on them, for it is so high we can not afford to buy it notwithstanding it fell half a dollar yesterday. The *Sutler*. (Sutler?)* got some yesterday and put it up to \$1.50 and then came down to \$1.00 ~~per~~ Lb. and he may keep it at that. Saleratus is \$1.00 per Lb. here sugar at the commissary 28 cts., pork 28 cts., bacon 28 cts., coffee 70 cts., flour 6 cts. per lb.. So you see it costs the shoulder *straps*.....(officers) something to live. Here is my Love to all.

Write soon and oblige Your only Brother Peter

Please excuse this scribbling as I have written it in the jerk of a lambs tail.

sutler: a man who follows an army and sells provisions to them.

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Hennerville, La. Jan. 19th, 1865
(Hahnville?)

Dear Sister Jane

Again I have taken my pen in hand to have a sly chat with my much loved Sister.

I have not recd any letter from you myself but I have had the pleasure of reading two of Alfreds letters and it done me almost as much good as it would to have had one myself. Alfred was here yesterday looking well as usual. He gave me the envelope that I am going to put this into as I guess you will readily perceive He said that he had six or eight ahead and they kept coming.

My health is excelant and everything goes on so encouraging that I can not but be in excelant spirits.

There is a courant rumor which seems to be pretty well founded that there are about to be negociations for peace and although I do not fully credit all I hear I don't know that I have any reason to disbelieve but such is the case, for at the rate the rebels have been whiped for the last four months it must have set them to thinking. Some of the boys are so sanguine of peace that they have already got their summer campaign marked out up in Wis. I have concluded to wait a few days longer and hear more particulars.

We are having almost summer weather and the darkies both male and female are out thick as toads after a thunder shower prepairing the land for a crop.

We are not so far from New Orleans so but what the pedlar women find their way up here. They generally come up on the morning train and return at night. As several of the soldiers became drunk very misteriously, it was mistrusted that the pedlar women brought the whiskee in to camp and so the officers concluded to correll the pedlars the next time the train came in, and so as quick as the train came there was a guard ready to conduct the pedlars into a condensed position with a guard around them surrounded out side by about a thousand soldiers, eagarly watching the performance, well when they had got them all pened (which was as near as I could count over fifty women and one man) a first Lieut. made the grand rounds in search of borbon. I shall not undertake to describe the programe for it is better imagined than described, but will say that there was a small quantity found.

The way that it is generally carried is by tying a small cord around the snout of a junk bottle and this cord is attached to another cord that spans the waist, sometimes they carry six or eight bottles, and I suppose if they were visible would look like a string of bells or some Indian ornaments.

Ft. Gaines Dauphine Island, Ala. Feb. 10, 1865

16
14 Dear Sister Jane,

Your very kind and ever welcome letter of Jan. 18th has just been received and it is with the greatest of pleasure that I now hasten to answer it. It was accompanied by another one for Alfred but he was left back at Henersville and has not arrived yet and so I will keep it for him. I also received a letter from Carrie & one from C. (Sister Clymena?).

We left Henersville the 5th while it was raining and the mud was knee deep and as you might imagine we had a nasty time of it, but we are now landed on a sand bank where the water does not make mud. The air from the sea is quite cold here but the sun shines down quite hot in the middle of the day. Last night it was so cold that the water was scaled over in the mud puddles with ice.

Oysters are free plunder and the boys are feasting on them but I am afraid at the present rate of consumption they will run out shortly.

I have been into Ft. Gaines and took a squint at it, and it seems curious that the rebels should be driven out of such works so easily. Ft. Morgan is across the bay on the main land right opposite to Ft. Gaines, they say that is somewhat damaged but it is a much stronger work than Gaines.

I expect as soon as everything is in readiness that we will go out prospecting and probably feel of Mobile. There are about fifteen thousand troops at Pensacola, Fla. that I expect will operate with us and I understand that there is a force about to strike into Miss. from Vicksburg and they think they are going to cooperate with us, and I expect the spring campaign will open with a crash and may be the rebels will be more willing to come to terms. They don't seem quite disposed to give up the contest and acknowledge themselves whipped and so we will give them another hunch or two.

You wanted to know if I read the letter you wrote to Alfred (her husband) in which you gave Cind a going over. I did and I guess Alfred did, but I suppose he thinks you will have to put up with inconvenience a spell longer and so he will get along as best he can and then he will be independant of other people.

I expect Alfred will be along in a day or two, just as soon as there are boats to take the quartermasters stores. Alfred has got a real good place if we have to go into active service and I am glad of it. I would rather he would have it than to have it myself. Alfred is real good to me and always does me a favor whenever he can and is always willing to divide whatever he may have, and I also have some kind sisters that I feel proud of, and I have been thinking what I could do to repay them for their kindness. You may ever be assured that you are kindly thought of by your absent brother and I am a thousand times obliged to you for your favors and if opportunity offers I shall do as much for you. Tell Sybil that I return lots of love to her in return for hers, tell her I am afraid she will never write if she waits for Alen (Sybil's husband). Please excuse this short letter and I will try to write again soon. Write as often as possible for I am always more than glad to get a letter from you.

With much Love I remain Your
Affectionate Brother Peter.

Ft. Gaines Dauphine Island, Ala. Feb. 10, 1865

16
14
Dear Sister Jane,

Your very kind and ever welcome letter of Jan. 18th has just been received and it is with the greatest of pleasure that I now hasten to answer it. It was accompanied by another one for Alfred but he was left back at Hennersville and has not arrived yet and so I will keep it for him. I also received a letter from Carrie & one from C. (Sister Clymena?).

We left Hennersville the 5th while it was raining and the mud was knee deep and as you might imagine we had a nasty time of it, but we are now landed on a sand bank where the water does not make mud. The air from the sea is quite cold here but the sun shines down quite hot in the middle of the day. Last night it was so cold that the water was scaled over in the mud puddles with ice.

Oysters are free plunder and the boys are feasting on them but I am afraid at the present rate of consumption they will run out shortly.

I have been into Ft. Gaines and took a squint at it, and it seems curious that the rebels should be driven out of such works so easily. Ft. Morgan is across the bay on the main land right opposite to Ft. Gaines, they say that is somewhat damaged but it is a much stronger work than Gaines.

I expect as soon as everything is in readiness that we will go out prospecting and probably feel of Mobile. There are about fifteen thousand troops at Pensacola, Fla. that I expect will operate with us and I understand that there is a force about to strike into Miss. from Vicksburg and they think they are going to cooperate with us, and I expect the spring campaign will open with a crash and may be the rebels will be more willing to come to terms. They don't seem quite disposed to give up the contest and acknowledge themselves whipped and so we will give them another hunch or two.

You wanted to know if I read the letter you wrote to Alfred (her husband) in which you gave Cind a going over. I did and I guess Alfred did, but I suppose he thinks you will have to put up with inconvenience a spell longer and so he will get along as best he can and then he will be independant of other people.

I expect Alfred will be along in a day or two, just as soon as there are boats to take the quartermasters stores. Alfred has got a real good place if we have to go into active service and I am glad of it. I would rather he would have it than to have it myself. Alfred is real good to me and always does me a favor whenever he can and is always willing to divide whatever he may have, and I also have some kind sisters that I feel proud of, and I have been thinking what I could do to repay them for their kindness. You may ever be assured that you are kindly thought of by your absent brother and I am a thousand times obliged to you for your favors and if opportunity offers I shall do as much for you. Tell Sybil that I return lots of love to her in return for hers, tell her I am afraid she will never write if she waits for Alen (Sybil's husband). Please excuse this short letter and I will try to write again soon. Write as often as possible for I am always more than glad to get a letter from you.

With much Love I remain Your
Affectionate Brother Peter.

Acknowledgements

To Sarah Jane (Jane) Merrell, who kept the letters written to her during the Civil War, at least ~~seven~~ ^{to fifteen} of them

All at Woodland Farm who were instrumental in preserving the letters

Vida Nickel Berry, who "discovered" them with the cooperation of Mattie McCord Tubbs

Vida Nickel Berry and Mildred Nickel Sager, who duplicated both Tubbs and Armitage records. These were sent to the Nickel "girls", all except Gladys Nickel Chapman, who was deceased by then.

Ellen Carter Neumann, whose aid was invaluable in deciphering the ~~eight~~ ^{seven} letters written by Peter Stillman Cottrel Tubbs, a joint project with Marjorie Nickel

A.G. Neumann for reference aid and interest while tolerating a number of working sessions in his home (gabby sessions)

Explanations

In general Ellen Neumann and Marjorie Nickel tried to preserve the original texts as written by avoiding editing or changing the rather free and quaint spelling in some instances.

Broken lines represent undecipherable words or phrases, generally because of the faded copy on which we were working. While Peter Tubbs a couple of times employed parentheses, most in the typed copy are our guesses or insertions, usually following broken lines.

The above pertains to 8 letters. Work on eight more subsequently found was done by Mildred Nickel Sager of Appleton and Marjorie Nickel of Milwaukee, granddaughters of Peter Tubbs, and daughter of Mary Tubbs, one of Peter's ten children.

Family Record of Peter Tubbs in his handwriting. Xerox copy.

Parents

Jacob Tubbs was Born
 Clymena Gb Tubbs was Born
 Jacob Tubbs was married to
 Clymena Gb Cothrel

Sept 1st 1800
 April 23rd 1800
 Oct 3rd 1831

Came to Wis. about 1846 from the State of New York

Children of above

Mary Alascona Tubbs was Born
 Sarah Jane Tubbs was Born
 Sybil E Tubbs was Born
 Caroline D Tubbs was Born
 Peter D C Tubbs was Born
 Clymena D Tubbs was Born
 Lydia E Tubbs was Born

July 3rd 1832
 July 13th 1834
 Dec 24th 1836
 March 29th 1839
 May 3rd 1841
 Feb 27th 1843
 Jan 28th 1846

*Correspondent during Civil War.

Marriages

Sarah J Tubbs was married to Alfred Merrell
 Mary A Tubbs was married to Charles Merrell Farmers
 Sybil E Tubbs was married to Allen B Merrell
 Clymena D Tubbs was married to Albert Anderson
 Carrie D Tubbs was married to George W Cooper
 Lydia E Tubbs was married to Martin M Stratton
 Peter D C Tubbs was married to Phebe Gb M Armitage
 Allen Merrell was married to Ellen Car. Some time in

Aug 29th 1852
 Feb 22nd 1853
 Nov 7th 1857
 Oct 8th 1860
 May 11th 1861
 Sept 15th 1864
 Jan 4th 1866
 Nov 1883

Parents of Phebe Armitage Tubbs were English immigrants. Settled in Wis. in 1848.