Papers, 1858-1865, 1895. SC 331, Folder 2 [unpublished]

Taylor, Henry Clay, 1838?-1864
[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

Oct. 29th 1862

In Camp near Leabanon
Oct 29th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

As I have nothing in particular to do to day. I improve the opportunity of writing to you. it is a beautifull day. and I wish I could sit down on the steps on the east side of the house and have a good visit with you. if it was for only one hour I think I would improve it. I have writen you one letter from this camp and when I wrote before I had not recd. a letter from home in two weeks, but I recd. four letters the next day. and had a great feast reading them. I would like to hear from home oftener. say you and Mother write every sunday. and the Girls write some time during the week then they would not all get along at the same time. The night I recd. your

Tellin it snowed good four inches here which is a very unusual thing in these parts. I can assure you there were some dolefull looking faces the next morning for we had neither tents or overcoats we have as a general thing cold nights and warm sunny days. we have got part of our tents now and expect the others soon. We are under marching orders and do not know what minute we will pack up & leave. I have just got a letter from Mollie dated the 22nd and I would have got it two days sooner if the name of Co. had been on it. but better late than never it seems they have got to draft in Erie. Yet well I am sorry for it. although if I was home I would not Enlist to save the draft. I think you had better take a negro boy if you can get one that is not to smart. there are some of them that get so they know more than the Officers after they have

him in the army a while. I think the south is the place for the nigar, and that they aught to have a master over them. Well I must close this as I have got to go and help Orderly Adams make a pay roll. I will give you a list of the things that I want from home which are as follows
1 pr Shirts 2 pr drawers, 1 pr mittens 2 pr wool socks 1 Silk handkerchief 1 night cap. 1 pr Dogskin Glove and some chewing tobaco, Peacock Adams & Waller want some little things and I think they had all better be packed in one box and sent together will you or Azro attend to it French Fuller wants to have you (Mother) tell his mother to get him shirts drawers & mitt & send at the same time, have them all ready and when you hear from me where to send them send them

I just hear that we are going to leave here at 4 this P. M. I think we are going to Bowling Green I will write again as soon as we get into camp. take good care of yourselves. give my best regards to Slaven and Wife also Mrs Lowry & Louie Ed. is very much liked in the Regt. Kiss the children for me tell Lilly to be a good Girl and I will be at home by and bye and will not go away any more with much love & haste from your babie

Henry

I think you recive letters at home as often as I do you cant write any to often

24

Oct. 13th 1862
Account of a hard march
and a Battle
No. 5

In Camp near Danville Ky.
Oct 13th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I mailed you a short letter yesterday to let you know that I was well and that I came out of the battle all right, and now I have got some paper and will try and give you an account of our marching &c since we left Louisville. — Well we were ordered on the 1st day of Oct (at Louisville) to "fall out" and be ready to march in five minutes with nothing but our blankets well five minutes up and we formed in line and started on our march. of course we did not know where we were going we marched all day until about 8 P.M. and went into camp without tents, after Eating a piece of bacon & hard cracker I got under my blanket and went to sleep. 22 Miles march the first day

2nd Oct started of again at 8 A.M. and marched untill 5 P.M. but it was not near as warm as yesterday. went into camp near Taylorsville. Raining pretty hard when we got in to camp. the boys saw a flock of sheep about a mile from camp and it was not long before we had very nice roast Lamb cessesh of course there was five of them found their way into our company that night. well it rained hard when we crawled under our blankets and kept doing so all night. and in the morning the boys were all wet through and sick of soldiering. —

3d Oct. Worked all day keeping up a fire to dry our cloths. went about a mile to the Salt River and had a good wash but did not have any clean shirt to put on. I am Sergeant of the Guard to night to guard Gen. Starkweathers head quarters Starkweather recognized me as being one of his old boys and gave me a hearty shake

of the hand. left camp to night an passed through Taylorsville crossed the Salt river and went into camp again about midnight Saturday 4th rec'd letters from home this morn which done me much good. the clippings from the papers that Agnes sent were read by the whole company "and more too". We expect some fighting to do soon. Left camp at 8 P.M. and marched about eight miles and camped near Bronfilo for the night. — Sunday 5th Mailed a letter to you this morning that I did not have time to finish guess you thought strange when you rec'd it, but there was messenger going to Louisville and I did not know when I would get an other chance to mail a letter, and I hardly had time to get that one sealid and diricted. had quit an excitement in camp to day the 21st kept under arrest for detaining a negro from his master, but it did not amount to any thing there was two or three of the ring leaders that were fetched out and will probly be punished some time, been in camp all day and done some tall resting run over to see the 1st Regt they are in our brigade

monday 6th left camp this morn at 8 o'clock
crossed the Chaplain River passed through
Chaplain Town and went into camp
on the Chaplain hights. after a march
of ten miles & over the most hilly
country, I ever saw it was up and down
all the time, but we had a good supper of
sweat potatoes Bacon & Coffee.
Tuesday 7th called into line at 7 A.M. and
started off on our march and I can
assure you this has been a tough day
for us. it has been a very warm day
and all the water we have had to drink
is what we could dip from the mud holes
along the road and they were few and far
between. well we passed through Willisburg
and maxville and went into camp on a
high hill of heavy timber marched
Eighteen miles to day and I am weary
I have been down to a pond hole to wash
and was lucky enough to stumble on to
a chicken, and I was not long catching
it and ringing its neck, carried
it up the hill and gave it to our darky
to clean & cook {we Sargeants had a nigro
boy come to us yesterday and propose to have
him do our cooking, fetch water &c
Wednesday 8th Rouled out at 5 A.M. to Recive
rations and prepair for marching again
and I Expect to see fighting before night
we can faintly hear the booming of
cannon I should it to be about Eight
miles distant. 8 A.M. on the march
our Regiment is the rear guard of the
wagon train to day

Know when you well get this, but I think the sutler will take it to Louisville I think that K M Adams has written the list of killed and wounded, I recd a letter from mollie last night, do not think hat I do not write every chance I can get for I do. Francis Fuller is all right he was not in the fight but is with us now pleas let his mother know, for I do not think he has writen, our boys have made arrangements that when one writes he will speak of the others for we do not all get a chance to write at the same time send me some stamps, not more than two at a time

in haste from Henry

No 4 Oct. 12 1862
Ans on Sept 25

In Camp about 60 Miles from Louisville
Sunday Morn Oct 12 (1862)

Dear friends at home.

You have doubtless heard before this that the 21st has been in a fight. Well we have and I came out all right, although the chances were not very good a bullet cut off my sword belt, but I am all right and well. It was an awful fight we were under fire 7 hours. I will write the full particulars when I can get some paper. Money will not buy it here and I borrowed this little piece of the Captain. There is no regular mail now and I do not

Battle at Pittsburgh Landing.

Camp near Louisville Sept 30th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I recd your letter yesterday and can assure you I was glad to hear from home, and shall expect to hear again soon. I have mailed a letter to Az so since I wrote you and wrote hat we expected to have some hot work here, but that is played out. we have 150.000 troops here and can stand an attack of double that number. we have not been in camp in one place for two days at a time since

we left Cincinnati. we have only four tents and have twenty men in a tent. The 1st Wis Reg. is in Camp about four miles from us. I was over there Sunday and had a nice visit with Capt Green, and I find men in most every Reg. that I am acquainted with. The 2nd Minisota is here, and I expect E Pitcher is in it, but I have not seen him yet.
The letter from Lilly, was very good, and I will answer it when we get into some settled Camp: she must be a good girl and write to me often. I was about ten minutes too late to see the shooting affray between Davis & Nelson. You

probably heard the particulars

Sunday 5th Oct. I have got just one minute to get this in the Mail

I am well

Henry

in Camp
Near Williamsport 18 July 1861

Dear Father and mother

As I am on guard duty to day I have a chance to write a frivolage I have not had before since we left martinsburg, I wrote a good long letter there = we left Martinsburg the 13th and marched to Bunkers Hill a little town 10 miles distance, we stoped there with nothing but our blankets to cover us = and expecting to march every moment untill yesterday morning the order came to fall in we expected to march to Winchester and the Col said we would have a bloody fight before night, but such was not to be, as a messenger came in stateing that the road had been blockaded by falling trees across the road, for about a mile and we could not pass that way

with our Arlitary we then changed our course this way which is about 12 miles farther to Winchester we arrived here last night at 10 O clock & turned in with the Colⁿ Orders to be ready to fall in at a moments warning {nothing to eat since morning} well this morning the wagons were repacked and we pitched our tents the camp fire was soon smoking and thanks to our good cook we got some good Coffee, Hard crackers and — Salt Pork after which Corp Taylor had to go on Guard duty — about 7 O Clock orders came to have two days rations cooked as we had orders from Head Quarters to march imediately this did not suit me at all as I would have to be left behind to Guard the ~~tents~~ wagons &c, and consequently would not be in the fight if they had one, but it was late before they got the rations

cooked and it has been so very warm that, we donot start until 3 O clock in the morning then I shall be at my post with my Co, I beleave we March to Harpers ferry first for a fresh supply of Provisions, but am not sure, at any rate we shall have a hard battle soon at Winchester, as they have about 40 000 troops there we have only 30,000 but are good for them, I have been to day to see where John Brown was hung, some of the boys have got peaces of the tree that he made his last speach under and also of the scaffold on which he was hang and are going to send it home but I think it is useless dont dont you?

George Williams is here with us and says he is bound to stick to us until we go home it seemes quite good, he is well and also Charly

wishes to be remembered to You
Charley says his mustaches have
I fellow it right) have not grown a bit
since the fight — I recd a good letter
from You by Williams and one by
Revr Stone Jane wrote me a good
letter and I hope I shall get an —
-opportunity to answer it the boys
she spoke of as attending her school
Kelcy and norton mack send their
best regards to her, Mack said
she was the best teacher he ever,
attended well it is getting
dark and I must close this How
is Em and the babies how I would
like to see them and would not I
like to step in and take a warm
meal I am afraid You will
have to charge for my board if
I ever come home, Tom Green
wishes to be remembered to You and
also he is a friend of mine and
a fine fellow — I think,
the Capt is sick and Green has
the Command now, I am not sorry
well good night write as often
as You can Love to all Henry

I guess I addressed my letter to Father Harpers Ferry if I did it was wrong

(Charlestown Va.)

In Camp ~~Near Ferry~~ 20th July 1861.

Dear Brother

Having nothing to do this morn but loof round. I improve the opportunity of writing a few lines to you. I wrote a letter to Father & mother the 17th and sent it to Hagerstown to mail; by a man that was going directly there. When I wrote last, we expected to march the next morning at 3 O'C. but since then General Patterson has recd an order from Gen. Scott, to stay here and guard this place untill further orders. Winchester is now very strongly guarded as they have taken troops and carron from Manassas Gap and removed them there thinking that we were to attact them from this side. ~~this~~ I think that when an attact is made on them that they will advance from the other side the same time we do from this

I have nothing in particular to write of was knowes. This is a rabid rebel town and when we came here they had some thoughts of firing on us they had one cannon loaded to the muzzle with grape. and one co of Soldiers but when they saw our force they ran like sheep. the town was searched ~~to~~ yesterday and got a quantity of powder. And a number of muskets found.
I have been to see where John Brown was hung. I presume you will see some of the wood from the scoffold on which he was hung as some of the boys are getting it to send home. I have got a piece large enough to turn a small mallet from. and if it is not to much trouble will fetch it home with me.
You wrote in one of your letters that Rus Taylor was down this way some where is he in the Army; and

of so which Regt. is he in I would like to see him very much. I went in to a tin shop in Hagerstown and saw a man there that use to work in a shop with David (the dirty dutchman) somewhere in D.C. they do not give as good wages there as we do a good Jr only gets $6.00 a week and Board himself. I asked the foreman in the shop how the men lived and he said they could lay up more mony on 6.50/00 here than they could on 10.00 in this

Here comes the mail and I shall get a letter from Em— I guess — No nothing for me but those two papers you spoke of in your last letter dated the 25th of June — there is at least a wagon load of papers for the Regt. in Hagerstown but they do not think it worth while to forward them —

I recd a good long letter from
Jane from the hands of Lev Stone
he is at Martinsburg now.
George Williams is here and it makes
it seem some like home to see him here
he is well and wishes to be remembered to
you. Capt Green sends his love to you
and wishes you to tell us if he
is well, &c, C. He has been in comand
of the Co for nearly a week as Capt
Wd. ball is sick (not dangerous however)
I guess that the boys generally like
him as well as they do the Capt.
I am glad that Green gave you a good
acc. of me and I think he had no
reason to do otherwise. I believe he
is a good friend of mine, and I can
say without flattering my self
that I have made many friends
in the regiment, as a corp. I have
taken Sim & Milt. place more
than half of the time and by so
doing have made my self better
acquainted with the officers and
boys of the regt. and when we were
in Martinsburg if there was a corp.

[FRONT PAGE]

wanted to go down town with a guard I was chosen to go. And the last time I was on Guard duty (which was in this place) we were expecting a attack from the enemy. And about 2 O'C. A.M. the Col., came round to the guard tent to see if all was right, well he found the other two Corporals fast asleep. I was just about starting the rounds with my relief (20 men) and overheard the Officer of the Guard say to the Col, Taylor is the best corp. we have got, I dont believe he sleps at all in the night whether his relief is on duty or not

the Col made him some reply but I did not hear what it was but I guess I have given myself praise enough. it would sound better to you if it came from some one else — I guess that nearly all the letters that came from him were common praise I hope the one I wrote about my poison was not read aloud for I dont think it would sound well, well I must close this for the present but will write more tomorrow, for this cannot get to the mail until Monday

Henry

Oct. 27th 1862

Dear Brother

As J Bryant starts for home this morning I will write a few lines & send by him he is promoted to Lieutenant in D E Grout's Co and he is a good fellow and will make a good officer I am sorry to have him leave the first Regt, as they are along with us and I want all the good boys here. I rec'd four letters from home yesterday one from you one from Mother & two from Father. I would like to get a letter from home every morning for the only comfort I take is in reading your letters I believe it is colder here than it is in Fondulac Night before

No. 7 Oct. 27

last

it snowed about four inches, and last night it froze about two inches we have not got our tent yet but Expect to have them soon Tom will tell you all the news. It is so d d cold I cannot write any more this morning but will again soon You need not show this to Father & mother it is most to blue but is just as I feel this morning the Boys are all well Tom is waiting in haste with much love from your Loving Brother

Henry

Write often and tell Jane to write as often as once a week

tt

No. 6 Oct. 24th 1862 [1862, OCT. 24]

Ky

In Camp 8 miles from Lebanon

Friday Oct. 24th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

As I have nothing to do at present but eat I improve the opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you may know I am still alive and well and that is more than I know of you, for I have not heard a word from home in just two weeks; the last letter I rec'd was from Mollie and I have mailed three letters home since then. I think there must be some fault with the mail some where. You will see by this that we have changed our camp and done some marching since I last wrote (from Crab Orchard) where we were in camp three days the 17th. I wrote a letter to Azro

after which Dick Peacock & myself went down to the salt swed and washed our socks. Saturday the 19th we washed our shirts and Sunday I wrote a letter to the Girls by the way Sunday 20th was the first Sunday since we left home that has been quiet or that seemed any thing like Sunday after writing to the girls I had some corn the way we do it is to pound some holes in an old plate with our bayonets and grating the corn in the hole it takes about two hours to grate a cup full but makes good pudding when you get it Well Monday the 21st we were called out at 4 A.M. and ordered to be ready to march at 5 Dick & Cooked our mush and some coffee and at five o'clock we

orders to March for Lebanon, we had
a very pleasant March in the forenoon
but this afternoon was very dusty
we passed back through Crab Orchard
Stadville & went into Camp about
four o'clock on a beautifull hill
where we had a view of a plantation
in the valey below us. {I have made a
rais of some Ints}. I saw some darkies in one
of the fields diging sweet potatoes. and
I imediately started for them & got Enough
for supper. they were the finest ones I
Ever saw. and we had a good supper of
them. Tuesday 22. Called out at 5 o'clock. had
breakfast. and started on our march
which was about the same as yesterday
with the exception of our having to cross
over a young mountain of about one mile
high which was pretty tedious.
Wednesday 22nd had the hardest March
to day we have ever had. 30 Miles from
6 a.m. till 9 P.M. And the dust having

a perfect hurricane all day. We are in camp now on the bank of the Rocking Fork River Six miles from Lebanon. I do not know how long we shall stay here. But think we will get our tents & other things from Louisville before we leave as there R.R. running here. I would like to step in and see you all to day but must wait patiently. I do not think we shall have any more fighting in Ky. for Bragg has left the state. (so they say) My fingers are cold and I will close this letter. — I would like to have some one knit me a pair of mittens. Or a night cap such a one as Hallie was making at our house one day. the Mittens want a fore finger knit in them. I think there will be a chance to send them before long. — French Matt Will Potter & all the rest of the boys are well. I hope to hear from home soon. good bye. from Henry

which was the hardest task
I had to do was to hear the groaning
screaching and crying
I ever heard, that
was the most horrible. some
with a leg gone, some an arm
some dead & some dying, and all
that could were crying and
calling for water, which we could
not give them for we had not
had a drop of water ourselves
since morning. I helped carry
two men from the field a distance
of two miles on blankets
and at Midnight I had one
little drink of water
I did not realize anything about
the fight when we were in action

but the battle field at midnight will bring one to a realizing sense of war. I never want to see such a sight again. I cannot give such a description of the fight as I wish I could. My head is so full that it is all jumbled up together and I can't get it into any kind of shape. About three o'clock I turned down to bed and got a little sleep but had not got fairly down before we were ordered up to take a new position & prepare for an attack at daylight. but daylight came and all was quiet the rebels were gone. we changed our camp a distance of two or three miles

and had a days rest all was
quiet, and it seemed more like
Sunday than any other day
since I left home

Well I must close
close this, and seal, and direct
it so as to be ready to mail
at the first chance I get, I shall
commence another letter to you right
away. and if you get any
letters from me that are not
finished, you may know that
I had a chance to mail them
on a march. Give my love to
all the friends. Kiss Willie and
hear best regards, tell Mrs
Diggins not to let her boy
Ernest and tell Mrs Bowen

I would like to get a drink of water from her fountain. French Fuller is well Milt Ewen Rec'd a slight wound on the wrist from a piece of shell, but is all right now. Will Potter makes a good soldier. I would like to have you cut out some of the reports of our battle and send to me; Give my respects to Sam Lewell when you see him. I will write to the girls and Ann when we get to some camp where we know we will stop two days. We are bound for Mill Spring, on the Cumberland River now. Good bye with much love to all from Henry

1862, Oct. 13?

Well it is as I Expected after a march of 11 miles we passed the Baggage train and hurried to the front prepared for a fight. the report of Cannon and musketry was almost deafning. our brigade was formed on the Extrem lef of the division. and our Regiment was first formed in line of battle on a side hill, by divisions. and held that position about five minutes. when we were ordered to change our position at a double quick about Eighty rods over a hill into a field of corn and form in line of battle which we did in very quick time. while we were forming in line. the 4th and 2nd Battery X was being planted on a hill in our Rear

for our support, when we formed
in line our guide were thrown out &
we dressed up the same as if it was
for a battallion drill or dress parade
and all the while the balls were flying by
us like hail, and one of our company
had a ball pass through his leg before
we were fairly in line, well we stood
in this position about five minutes
and were then ordered to lay flat
down on our faces which order was
not given a minute to soon as the men
men were droppin down all along
the line some killed & some wounded
but the boys did not flinch a bit
~~and~~ but stood up and fuck like men
well I do not know how long we
were on the ground, but I do know

that while we lay there the balls were whistling by us. cutting down the corn stalks and plowing up the ground before and behind us. there were a good many wounded & killed while we were on the ground. but the most deadly fire we got was when we were ordered get up and give it to them. when we raised up the Prey Backs were about four rods from us sneaking along up. we gave them a volly and droped down again to load but just at this time a regiment on our front & left broke up and came running through our lines, which caused a gread deal of confusion we rose up again and gave them an other volj. there was so much confusion now that the men could

the not hear the comands. and
commenced retreating. Kelly. Dick
Milt. & Myself were the last to
leave the corn. we finly rallied
behind a fence. and gave it to
them again. Our Colonel was
wounded in the first of the Eng=
=agement and our Major Killed
and we had only our agt. to comand
well we were fighting in one
place ~~another~~ and other. untill
dark when the firing stoped
the ground that we first occu=
=pied was still contested. and
I was one of the number to go
with a flag of truce on to
the battle field to find
our dead and wounded —

Ky.

In Camp 1/2 miles from Covington
Sept Sunday 14th 62

Dear Father & Mother

We arrived in Camp last night all safe and sound although pretty tired. We arrived in Cincinnatti about 4 A M yesterday and after a good dinner got up by citizens sling knapsack and marched across the Ohio River to our present camp. We have got to leave here this after~~noon~~. I do not know our destination yet, the Rebels are leaving this part of the country. There are about 30 or 40,000 troops here I do not know who will be our chief comander yet. We rec.d our Arms last night and are all right for a fight. but I understand we are to march 20 mile

to a good camp ground where we can drill, as there is no chance here it is so hilly

I did not intend to write until I ~~could~~ ascertained what we were going to do, as we have ~~to~~ no tents and are scattered promiscously around the camp and the sun is pretty warm

How are you all at home; give my love to all, and kiss the babies for me Write soon and let me know all that is going on in Fishkill I will write again soon

with much love from

Henry

Direct to

Sergt Henry C. Taylor

Covington K.J. Co A 21 R. N.Y.

Some of the Boys are writing big stories that you can place no confidence in I dont thank there is a Rebel force within 40 miles of this place. the business in Cincinnatti is to be opened again tomorrow. I have just got back to camp with a wagon squad have been to a fine Residence and had our canteens filled with nice rain water. Peaches Pears Apples and all Kinds of fruit are plenty here I wish mother had some of them but if she had, she would give them all away to the children

I have written this since morning and am going to send it to the Office by Next Friday Good by from Henry

We passed a Negro Rig. — while coming to camp they look a as if they were ~~would~~ able to fight as well as we but they are only allowed to do fatigue duty

Yours Truly

No 2

From Covington
Kentucky
Sept. 14th

our Boys are complaining of hot weather but I think ~~there~~ it is [illegible] warmer there it is in Fonde Lac

Henry

this is [illegible] written on a ~~[illegible]~~ Cartridge

Camp Scott, Oshkosh Sept 4th 1862

Brother

How are all the folks at home this morning? Lieut Ewen is going to F.D. Lac this morn. and I take the opportunity to write a few lines and I address the letter to you as Milt will be more apt to see you than any other one of the family. We have very good quarters here although we are all huddled up together. good feed and plenty of it although we have no knives & forks, and have to eat with our fingers. I like our Colonel very much what I have seen of him. We rec.d our uniform hats yesterday and expect to get the balance of our uniform to day. I have not been out

of camp but once since I came in and that was to march a squad of 40 men down to the lake to bathe —, I am 3d. Sgt of the Co. I rec. the coat all right but did not see Orday we Expect now to be mustered in to the U. S. Service tomorrow if we are I shall try and come home Saturday. tell Mattie and Em. not to come up here until they hear from me again for if there is not some different arangements made it would not be very pleasant for them —
I do not know of anything more to write of interest, and now I will let Mother know some of my wants. I want Mother to send me by Nate Leavitt (he is in F & S Co) a pair of drawers, a handkerchief, two or three collars a towel, comb, tobacco, knife & fork a pair of cotton socks, and my big boots if he can bring as much —

I believe this is all of my wants.
I am well with the exception of
a hard cold in my nose, my
handkerchief is ringing well
we like to froze to death the
first night we were in camp.
Well good by for now with
love to all

from Henry

This is for all

paper + Envelopes

[1861]

Camp McClure P. A.
Chambersburg June 13th 1861

Dear Father and Mother

I presume that you are quit anxious to hear from me by this time for I am sure that I am very impatient to hear from home & hope you will write as soon as you receive this = Well I will let you know in the first place how I am situated at the present moment. and then you can judge of the trouble it is for me to write. there are 4 Regiments camped here togather and they are all out on drill now each with a full brass band and our street faces the drill ground. imagine yourself for instance sitting before the shop on the 4th of July and you can judge something about it

perhaps you wonder why I am not on drill well we had a very severe drill yesterday on double quick time it was very warm and the sweat rolled of from the boys good. and this morning I find myself chafed so that I would not make a very Soldier like appearance on parade but it is not very often that I am excused We had a tiresome but very pleasant trip from mill-hire. I can tell you the mountains that we passed crossed and run through made me think of old Vermont we passed through one tunnel that was 1/8 of a mile long. I saw lots of peach orchards, in Ohio and if they are ripe before I return I shall eat a few for mother —
I was put on duty as soon as we got here (a corp of the guard) and it was pretty hard after the days ride, but there is one thing I can

say. I loaded the first gun that was loaded for service in the regiment. as my men were the first that had loaded guns on guard duty I did not have a mouthfull to eat for 24 hours after we came here but I had a tip top good dinner then. as the Officer of the day invited me down town with him and we had every thing we called for. Our camp ground is the same that was once occupied by Gen. Washington. there is a splendid large spring near it which is very lucky for as long as we have good water I am not afraid any sickness. there has been some report here that there has been seminole shot while on duty but I do not credit it much. although I do not feel quit as secure as when in Milwaukee. there is a man about one half mile from her (in the woods) that has got the smallpox. he was left

Capt Fairchild of Madison

by the regiment that left here when we came. there is no danger of our catching it as he is not allowed to come any nearer to us than he is now - well here comes the boys and I shall have to stop a while and I guess I will go down to the river and take a wash. there is a splendid place not far from camp.

Hagerstown June 25th 1861 =
When I commenced this letter I expected to have had an answer to it before now. but I will continue it from where I left off. you know the reason that I gave for not being on drill was that I was crippled. well when I got to the river and undressed my=self I found that my right leg was all covered with little water blisters I then knew what the trouble was with me. the day before. I had been out to perform the duties of nature. and as I had no paper with me I substituted some leaves

[1861, June 13 to 25]

as I supposed from a tree, well it proved to be poison I went imediatly to the Dr and showed myself he said it was prety bad but gave me some salve he said would cure me in a day or two. well it was very warm that night and in the morning I found it had spread considerable and was much worse, well we had to strike tents and leave for this place, I did not like to go with the hospital so I had to ride in a box car which was pretty hard. well after we got here I could not walk up to the camp which is about one & 1/2 miles from town well I rode to camp and then I had to go into the hospital as it was the only tent that was up. they did not get straighted round so as to do anything for me untill about 10 O C the next morning they gave me a wash which

was going to cure it right up. but it did'nt do me a bit of good and it kept spreading untill it was from my knee nearly to the small of my back a solid blotch. well about this time a sister of Henry T. Rose of T.D.2, came to see me. her husband is a D.D. and she said she would send him up to see me. the next day he came up and Examined my position and said I was very badly poisoned. I discribed the leafs to him and he said it was called a poison oak, but if our D.D. would not object he would send me some medicine that would cure it. as it was very comon in this part of the county and he was well acquaint with it. well at night there was a basket ~~bought~~ brought to me

and on opening it I found it to
contain a nice large puddling
a Loaf of nice Bread Butter biscuit sugar
tea two kinds of Jell — a bottle
of milk and — the bottle of
medicine for my poison. this all
came from Mr Rose sister and
her husband, and I want to have
you mention it to Mr R— and
have him remember me to his sister
when he writes to her, I have for-
gotten his name but I think it
Dorsey, At any rate his wash
has cured me nearly but they
will not alow me to leave the
hospital yet to drill as it will
not do to heat my blood yet
but I shall be all right in a few
days now — I guess Azro can
judge something about how I
have been situated, well I must
close this to git it in the mail

to night I recd your letter from Em, Mollie and ~~[illegible]~~ shall write again in a day or 2 I shall direct it to Azro

I borrowed $5 of Alf Fargo and made a draft on Azro for that amount I left some of you will pay it, and if I ever come back I will try and make it right the more was spent for Eatables I could not live on salt bacon while I was laying on my back it is not all gone yet though — Fargo has made about $150 gaining since he has been here

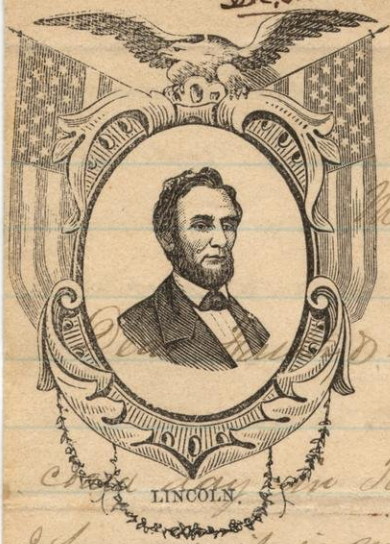
Well good bye I will write again soon. and I want you both to write as soon as you get this, love to all

from Henry

how is Johnny

Emma send a few letter correctly

Dec. 6th



Mitchellsville Station Tenn
Saturday Dec. 6th 62

Dear Father & Mother

This is a pleasant, but cloudy day here in Tenn - how is it in Indiana I presume it is much colder there than here. We manage to keep pretty comfortable in our tents by building a fire in the center although it smokes pretty bad. we expect to have a stove as soon as Capt. White gets back from Louisville. also that trunk which has not got along yet. I am getting quite impatient for the trunk for I have not changed my clothes for three weeks. We had quite a snow storm here yesterday but it is nearly all melted now and is quite muddy. Our regiment is called up every morning at 4 O'clock and kept in line of battle until about day light, we then {that is our mess} go to our tent, build a

fire & get our breakfast. we have drawn flour since we have been here, and got it baked into bread, which is some better than hard crackers. - I see by your last letter that you did not get my last letter as soon as you should. Now you may know that if you dont get letters regular from me that it is not my fault. for if I am sick or unable to write I will get some to write for me. this you may depend on. so dont worry an more on that score. (I think I shall make this letter short for it smokes so now I can hardly see my paper.) I expect we will leave this place soon. perhaps tomorrow. it is reported in camp that we are going to Nashville, and are to be Provost Guard of that place if this report is true, it will suit as first rate. but we do not know what we are going to do, or where we are going until we do it, or until we get there -

French Fuller is here now and is as fat as a hog. He has been detailed by Lieut Ordinance Sergeant, which will be a pretty good thing for him if it is permanent. Ed. Gould is well, and says he writes often home, he has more work to do than any other man in the Regt. You wish to know who it is that writes to the Reporter, (Right Center) it is Chas. Wyman. He is some relation to Mr Phillips, I do not like the style of his letters much. Lieut Davis is much better than when I last wrote, and is able to take command of the Co now. He wishes to be remembered to you. Em wrote that Cousin Emma was going to write to me, I would be very much pleased to hear from her. How does Charley get along? I am glad to know that Lizzy is all right again. I was some worried about her, I wish I was where she could get my slips for me or something of the kind, I think she would

jump to do it, how is it Sally?. how are all the children. I would like to see them all, to night, — Well we have just rec'd, Orders to be ready to March at 7 O'Clock to morrow Morning, we will probly have to get up about 4 O'Clock and get our Breakfast, & this days Rations in our haversacks, we are going to Edgfield, just across the river from Nashville, I will write as soon as we get there, and know what we are going to do. I should of rec'd a letter from home yesterday. but did not, and have not got it it to night I guess that I get as much as you do. ~~when~~ I'd if I do not get your letters regular. Agis does not write very often but writes good long letters. and as often as I can expect from him, as he is so busy, Well I must close this Remember me to all friends write long letters, and except much love from Henry

[1861, July 19 ?]

Sunday Morn 4 OC a.m.

Dear Brother

The camp is all astir this morning. we have orders to march immediately, the tents are all ~~[illegible]~~ struck the wagons packed and we are only waiting for the order to "fall in" we none of us know where we are going but think we will go to Harpers ferry, it is reported this morning that Menasses Jct has been taken, and that the 2nd wisconsin Regt has been cut to pieces, by a masked battery &c Our mail was taken yesterday by the secessionists on the Martinsburg road. = 22 of the NY Regt were taken prisoners yesterday also 4 of the Indiana Regt it was all the secessions ~~[illegible]~~ (there goes the call for "fall in" and I must close this for the present, I may have a chance to mail this on the road if so I shall not write any more so good bye, write as often as you can

from Bro Henry

Harpers Ferry 8 O'C P.M.

Dear Brother,

we have had a nice little March since morning a distance of 8 miles. there has nothing of interest transpired since morning, it was rather of a hard march as we ~~[illegible]~~ did not start from Charlstown until 12 O'C which made us on the road in the heat of the day We arrived here about sun set pitched our tents, got wood and water for coffee, and now we are ready to rest a while. - we are camped about one & a half miles from Harpers Ferry, it is a beautifull country we are within a mile of the Blue mountains and it makes me think of my childhood days in old V.t.

I donot know what we have been stationed here for, nor how long we shall stay here our tents are going to Hagers town to morrow after the balance of our tents and baggage and I presume a part of the

Regt. will go with them. It is
reported that we go to washington
but I do not know how true it is
= By bottom here comes a letter for
Corp Taylor and I must stop and
read it = well I have read a good
long letter from you and I can
tell you if it does you as much good
to hear from me as it does me to
hear from you I dont wonder you want
me to write often and I will write
every opportunity allthough it is hard
work to write even if we are laying
still in camp for we have 14 in our
tent now — and now in regard to
my writing that which is correct I shall
not write any thing for a certainity
unless I know it to be so. if I write
that which I am not positive about I
shall call it a rumor or report, Beaver
denies writing any thing about Tom John
I know that some of the boys write
home that which is but a mere report here
among the boys and write it as being
true, I would like to write more to night
but my time is up and I must close

I hope this letter will find William
better and the rest of the friends
all well My love to all
and a kiss for the children
how does Billy get along
the Boys all send their love
to you Remember Mist Tom
and my self to Francis Robins
Jonathan Fuller and all of the
boys that are left in Isaac
is Charly with you yet give
my love to him Alic Oscar
I have seen Col Hamilton
and I intend to go over to his
camp tomorrow it is about
two miles from here
Well good night - write often
and accept this from
your loving Bro Henry
W. H.

[1861?]

VIA Manassas Junction, Harper's Ferry, or Norfolk.

Martinsburg 3d July

Dear Brother

I mailed a letter to the friends at home well we have marched only five miles to day, and expected a big fight, but that we will not have until tomorow "the 4th of July" I wonder if the 3d Vol Regt will give 3 cheers for us to morrow I am perfectly well now and stand the march much better than I expected Tim & Milt both send their best regards to yourself and friends

the secessionists (about 20,000) are encamped about 10 miles from here, we expect to be on the march for them before morning, I notice that some of the boys are writing about how many of the secessionists were killed & wounded yesterday but they know nothing about it — they have commenced to celebrate the 4th already, and it is only 9 o Clock P.M. —

I have got to "fall in" for rool call now and cannot write any more tonight remember that I am well and in good spirits and want you to keep the same, I will write again tomorrow if I am all right — in haste from

Henry

ware out in time to make out pay Rolls

I have got to stop & help Riley which is not a very pretty job

Comparing the place we have to write

View of the Capitol at Wash.

Camp near Bowling Green

Friends at Home ——— Nov 5th 1862

My last letter to you I mailed at Lebanon. and you will see by this that our Regt has done some marching since then. We left Lebanon the 29th at Sun rise and marched twenty two miles the first day. Our Lieut Col. {Hobart} being in comand we got along with the march very well. as he gave us a rest of from 10 to 15 minutes every hour & like him very much and as a general thing I think the Regt would rather have him in comand. than Swert — We marched five miles farther than was intended in the morning in order to camp on a Cussish farm. which we did and used his Rails for wood and his cattle for our supper & Breakfast. and he when we left

set fire to the house. (the owner is in the Rebel army) P. 36th. We were placed as guard of the wagon train which is the most tedious kind of marching we ever all day and until twelve o'clock at night getting about five miles. as it was very bad road up & down hill all the while, and the teams could not go more than an rode at a time but did not stop long enough to give us a chance to sit down and such is the hardest kind of marching. We passed throug the country I expect that the songs of the hill & dale of Old Kentuck are made from. but I think that I should prefer to sing the songs at home. rather than marching & countermarching over the original of them here. Our Co A & I were detailed to go on before the teams and stop a riot in a little town called Williamsburg. the Provost Marshal was drunk and arresting all the soldiers that came along. and putting them in jail. he had two of our men in and our Col. went to the Jailor & demanded them, he refused at first, but

when the Col. told him that if they were not out in five minutes he would send men enough in to take them out, he came to his milk & unlocked the door. And the Provost Marshal did not molest any more of our men — 31st we were still guard of the wagon train but as it was pretty good road we had a hard march of 30 miles. and went on to camp at 10 P.M. with five men, Capt. & both Lieut. out — we crossed the green river & had to ford it was about ten inches deep. 31st Left camp at 8 A.M. Marched throug Glasgo which is a very pretty town of about 2.000 inhabitants and went in to camp about noon. after marching ten miles. on the bank of the little Barron River. after getting something to eat I went down to the river & had a good wash put on a clean Shirt {Goverment Shirt the tails comes about to the small of my back} put my old one on a log and it crawled of and I have not seen it yet I dont know but it has gone home. — the men are most of them clean to day which

before in some time. Sunday 2nd Nov we have had hard march to day of 22 miles & are in camp ~~some~~ four miles from Bowling Green about 2½ P.M. as we were marching along through the dust. My thoughts went back to Forest Home I imagined Ed & Mollie at home (it was not quit time for Em.) Father writing to me. Mother getting supper on the table. Willy has just got the chairs to the table & gone in to call Father, and I presume very likely you will all think of me when you get down to the table. 3d Got up this morn at 6 O'clock got Breakfast Brushed up my clothes. sewed some buttons on my coat, and just got ready to eat as we were ordered to fall in, which was done and we changed our camp about a mile crossed the big Barren River water about two feet deep. cleaned up the camp ground pitched our tents. & here we are. Expecting every hour to get orders for three days rations and be ready to march at a moments notice I Expect we will go from here to Nashville Ten I do not think we will go into winter quarters unless it should rain so hot our teams could not get along, and I allmost wish it would We have not over twenty five men in our Co now fit for duty. and they keep dropping out ~~at~~ every march. As yet I am all right. but Stone will

No. 9 November 5th & 7th [1862?]

Thursday Nov 6th 8 O'clock P.M.

I have been writing all day, with Kelsey making out pay rools and am not done yet. it will take us about two days Longer, but I will try and finish my letter before taps which sound at 9 O'clock for "Lights out." You have doubtless heard ere this of the death of Dr Carolin. he died on the night of the 3d about one O'clock with heart deseaze. he was only sick an hour. I was talking with him the Evening before his death, and I presume death was far from his thoughts. he was pretty well liked in Regt although some of the Boys were prejudiced against him, he had always been very kind & freindly to me. Dr Reaves will probably be the head Surgeon now, and will for I presume have more freinds than did Carolin as he is more familiar with the Soldiers. Ed Gould is very much liked by every one, and well he should be for he attends to his duty faithfully he is well at present although he some times gets pretty well tired out. French Fuller is quit-

sick with the "Kentucky quick step" nothing serious however. Kelsey, Dick, Milt, & Will Potter are all well Capt. White & Lieut Leavitt are both well and send their best regards. Leavitt would give all he is worth to get out of the service, Captain White expects to be Major of the Regt: I think the Company would be better suited with their Captain if he should, although I do not think he will get the promotion for I do not think he is competant to fill the position, {this must not be read publicly} I supose Jim Strong is at home, if there were not quite so many such Officers in the army I think this rebellion might be put down, but as it is I think that powder and ball never will put it down, and our country in the end will be a bankrupt, Broken down, institution some will make themselves independant for life, while others will be mad beggars for that indefinite time. I am heartaty sick of war not so much on my own individual account, as I am for others who have families depending on them, If you could have but seen the piles of amputated arms and legs that I have seen at the diferant hospitalls, you might well say

Friday 7th

thank God Conny is safe. —— I did not have time to finish this last night — I have recd three Letters from home this morning, one from Father one from Em one from Ed. & Mollie, and I can assure you I was glad to hear from home, but am very sorry to hear that Lilly is unwell; and hope this letter will find her all well. She must go up to Aunt Ema and kiss all the children for me, and get her Map and see if she can find out where I am on it, {Bowling Green}. The letter you say you have not recd of mine must be on the way some where as it was properly mailed by the sutler, there was eight pages written full in it and I hope it is not lost. Have you got the box & packed yet. Dick write John Peacock to be sure & get his book in. You can send it to Bowling Green. Direct the same as you would a letter, Unless you can send it in care of Lieut Strong when he joins the regiment. It is very pleasant weather here now, but rather cold nights & mornings. Well I must close this and go to bed. I shall keep the Envelopes that are stamped & directed to me on a march

our Regiment numbers 520, present this morning it does not look quite as large as it did in Oshkosh.

Well I have dize nothing but work for two days and am pretty tired, and now I will go to bed.

This is a Family Letter

Good Bye from

Henry

P.S. I was clerk of the Election tuesday, there was twenty votes cast, by our Co, for Bragg, Tiny all the votes cast by our Co.

But Quartermaster Hamilton voted at our polls and voted the Democratic ticket right through "for Eldridge of course"

In haste Henry

In Camp at Michillsville. Ten. Nov 13th 1862

Dear Brother Azro

As I have an opportunity to write a few lines this morning I hasten to improve it. You will see by this that we have changed our camp again since I last wrote. I mailed a letter to Lilly. last saturday. Sunday we were ordered in the morning to clean up our clothes & arms. and be ready for a general insp=ection. but before we got cleaned up the order was countermanded. and the order given to get ready to March in ten minutes. which we done. and were on the March in fifteen, we passed through Bowling Green. Which I think has been a very pretty town. some time, but is now about half in ruins. well we went into camp four miles south of town. near a Large spring. by the way they have very curious springs here. they most of them. come from Caves and we some times have to take a light in with us after water. and they look dismal

I was informed of the Death of

Enough by candle light I can asure you.
Monday Morning we were called up at 5 O'Cloc
got our coffee and started of on our March. which
we have got so acolomed to that we do not puzzle
when we get the order to "fall in." we marched
twenty one miles & went into camp near a
little river. where the boys all had a chance to
wash up. and there was mud Enough of it, for
the roads ar very dusty. and when we get
in to camp we are all the same color. which
is a dirty brown. as soon as we got our
supper. the Surgeon told us he would deal
out a ration of whisky. to Each company
which is about a table spoon full to a man
we have had rations in this way twice
before. and it is the only Liquor I have drank
since I left Louisville. not because I could not
get it but I have not had any desire or taste
for it at all. Tuesday we left camp at 8 A.M.
marched in to Ten. about a mile south of
where we now are. we crossed the line at 11 A.M.
previously. We left camp Wednesday morning at
8 A.M. and came back to where we now

are. at Mechellville. station. and I think we will remain here one or two weeks. at any rate until they get the R.R. repaired through to Nashville. which will take them some time as they have got one tunnell to clean out that has been blown up. the 1st Wis. and the 24th Illinois. are with us. we are doing guard duty by companys now, and our Co is on guard to day. Kelsey & Dick are sick and I have been acting Orderly Sgt. for the last three days. conequently I do not have to do guard duty. but it keeps me busy all the while and will for a few days untill we get our camp regulated, Our duty here is guard of Government suplies. at the R.R. Station. {and it seems some like home to be where I can see and hear the cars again} unload the cars. picket duty. & Camp Guard duty.
The weather is beautifull here now. rather cold nights & Mornings. but fine warm days. the tent that I am in. is a Sibley and we keep a fire in it all night. and manage to keep warm. I recd. a letter from Father

Sunday morning a good long one just
such a letter as I like to read —
in it he spoke of French Fuller & running
I would like to know the name of the reporter of the
report. for it is false. French was left
back about 12 miles the morning of the
sally. but as soon as he heard of the fight
he hurried up to the regiment and was there
the next morning. by 10 O'clock. French is no
coward. and has done his duty well.
he is now at Bowling green Hospital also Ben
Cole. neither of them are very sick but are
unable to march. I think they will join the
Regt. while we are here. Dick & Kelsey are sick
but are with the Co. and will probably be
all right in a few days. I had a letter from
Mollie & a few lines from Em yesterday. So Tom
has got a stack eye has he. well it is time
he had some thing. I think he will have trouble
when he gets home. as he had no leave of absence
from the Regiment — Do you know what Regiment
Ely Ritchie is in? the 2nd Minnesota was
Camped near us yesterday. they have gone on
to Nashville now. Well I have got to go and see
about getting some Water & Straw hauled. our
Quartermaster does not suit very well. Father
wrote that my letters were read by others
than the family. I do not wish to have
any but the family read them. as they will
not bear criticism — Give my love to Jane and
the children. and except a share for your self
Write soon & often & I will do the same. Good bye
from your affect Brother Henry

No 10 Nov 15th

Write Lost &c—
write from Zhem
I'll get some Cinnamon auds I am going to come to Jackson

Mitchelsville Station Tenn.
Nov 15th 1862

Dear Father & Mother

I am seated once more to to communicate with friends at home, through the medium of a pen, but I would much rather have my lung for the medium, and be where I could see you all to night as such can not be I will try and make myself contented where I am. which is in the 2nd Lieutenants tent. with a rough stand, that he an I made this morning. (for a writing desk)

I guess I may as well tell you who our 2nd Lieut is. — He is a Young Man from Stenah Wis. Veram K. Edwards by name he was 2nd Sergeant in Co. of the 3d Regiment. {Col Hamilton} I like him very

well, but the boys do not all like him
in fact we have got some hard ones to
please in our Company. Edwards wants
to have me tent with him. but I cannot
do it without leaving Dick Peacock in
the lurch as we have blankets with
each other, otherwise we would ~~not care~~
as we have but one blanket each —
I saw Mr Cole from Tandy Sat last nigh
but have not had time to talk with him
yet .. { I have got to go and detail two men
for fatigue duty, to report to the Adjutant
immediately. which I have to do about every
ten minutes which I do not like very well
as acting Orderly. } I think it would have
been a nice chance to send that box down
by him if you had known it in time —
When do you think T. T. Strong Jr will start
for the Regt? I think he will have to stand
a Court Martial when he gets here, the
Col. says he cannot report him in any other way

than about without Leave, which I am afraid will make it so hard with him. Tuesday nov 17th. I have been so busy since I commenced this letter that I have not had time to finish it before now. And now I am sitting by the side of Lieut. Leavitt bed, as he is quite sick with the fever & ague, and I have helped to take care of him today, he has been pretty sick for two days, but is more comfortable to night, and will get along with good care. I have had a chance of getting into the Regtl Quartermaster department but Captain White would not let me go. Hamilton came down to the Regiment last Saturday morning and said to him that he had a good place for Hart as Clerk in the Regtl Quartermaster department. White said he was much obliged to him but that

he could not spare me. First Lieut
heard the conversation and told me he
was going to write to Gen about it.
I was on duty and did not know any thing
about it until it was all over with.
I would like to have got the place as
it would relieve me of a gun and give
me a horse to ride, which is no
small thing on our long marches.
I hear to night that they will have the
R.R. finished through to Nashville
in five weeks more if so, I think
we will move from here soon
although our col. Capt White
we would stay here four or five
weeks. He {The Col.} is away now
acting as judge Advocate of a Court
Martial. I like him very much
and think he will do more for his
men than Swett would. I don't think
enough of his men but he will
get the good will of but very few
— I heard from Francis Fuller
yesterday he is in Bowling Green

5th

[1862, Nov. 15]

getting along first rate and will join the Regiment again soon. Milt Ed will and sends his best respects to You, also Ed Gouly & Will Potter. Still makes a good soldier and looks almost as neat as he used to at home. Kelley & Dick are well now. Mr Kelley is going to resume his duties again tomorrow as Orderly which does not make one feel sad any. but the contrary to a man would like to have me keep it. and more than one has been to me and said they wished they had known what they do now. before the Election in Fond Du Lac & Captain Wholt has told me that he was very much disappointed in Kelley. and that the Orderly business had never been half attended to. I hope this shot will not be read outside of the family. as it would not sound well

6th

Coming from me —

You wishes to know in your last letter if I could give any information of Young Boyle. all that I know of him is that I found him on the battle field at 12 O'clock at nigh and with the help of two others carried him about a mile in a blanket I then got an ambulance and got him in to it and held him up, in a sitting position for an other mile to a Hospital at a private house but it was not a private Hospital I got him a drink of water there. and help take off his shirt, he was wounded in the back the ball went in about two inches below the sholder blade, and about two or three inches from the back bone, and did not come out, there was an other ball passed through his arm, between the sholder & Elbow I did not think at the time that he would live, and have not heard

yet

[1862, Nov. 13.]

any thing from him since that night. His brother Charles left here last night for Concord and is going to try to find him. I told him to write to his father as soon as he heard anything from his brother. At the time that I gave him the water at the hospital, at 12 O'clock at night he was very exposed, but the water seemed to revive him. But at the same time I left a bottle of water the first I heard had been about noon, it was drunk out that night. I had two labels sent back to Roman.

I suppose you are having clear cold weather in Michigan now; while here it has been fine pleasant weather, until day before yesterday it commenced raining, and has been showering every since, I expect we shall have snow up to your knee after a while, although it will take a long time to get the

8th

Young filled with water. as the folks here say it has not rained here to amount to any thing since last spring. In fact the Big Barren river at Bowling Green, is now only about Eighteen inches deep, when last May it was twenty five foot deep. — We have to go about two miles here to get our water for cooking & drinking. part of it we get down by the time, but we have a squad of bit men detailed to carry water, in buckets. — I Enclose a quarter with some to Lilly have her keep it until I come home and I will wish with her. Henry Jewell bought 39. Quarts all ready dressed, and as he chose you meade out of them they call them Partridges here. I guess I have written all you will want to read this time, and will close this. I hope that Joe will get home soon. give my love to all friends, have Lilly kiss the children for me. and accept much love from you, Soldier Boy. Henry

Mitchellsville Station Tenn —
Nov 28th 1862 —

I have delayed writing for two or three days, for two or three reasons first I have been on duty most of the time 2nd it has been so cold, that we could not get along in our tents with out a fire and as we have no stove the tent is full of smoke most of the time, and that with children in the tent, does not make a very convenient place to write, it is not as cold here as it is in Fond Du Lac I presume, but it is damp & chilly, and freezes quite hard every night. — 3d I have been waiting, to get that trunk, I recd notice that it was in the express office at Louisville, and have written there to have it forwarded to this place, I shall probably get it soon, but I cant tell how soon as there is so much Sutlers goods coming all the while that the

Soldiers do not stand much of a chance
I hope it will come some time. for I need
the shirt & drawers. Well how do you
all do at home this morning? I wish
I could step in and see for my self. Mollie
writes that Mother is quit unwell. Father
writes she quit smart. from both letters
I have a pretty good chance to judge
how you are. if any of you are sick
I would like to know it. allmost every letter
you write, you want me to leave so and
let you know if I am sick. and that
you have had dreams about me. but
do not think the dreams amount to any
thing, only on special occasions. — I had
a very unpleasant dream of home a few
days since, viz. that I recd furlo to go
home, and when I arrived there I found
Father sick a bed and Mother, nursing a
young babie. I thought I went in & gave
Lilly a whiping & came away. I dont think
I should enjoy such a visit much —

I have not been sick a day since I left home. so but that I been on duty every time it was my turn. I have been Sergeant of the Picket guard once since we have been here, but did not see or hear any thing to scare me. Our Company I & K were detailed as guard of a forage train the other day. we went out about 6 Miles after corn. while they were loading the corn. Kelsey & myself found our way in to a cellar, and there found a 5 & 2 pt pail full of fresh milk. I can assure you we drank our fill of it. You have no idea how ignorant the people are here they can neither read or write. and the boys pass all kind of stuff on them for money — they do not know any thing about a stove. to cook with, and many of them have never seen a stove of any kind — they are a long lean lank looking set. and the nigger looks

more like men and women, than the the whites do, but speaking of negroes my idea of slavery, & negroes is not much as it was, before I left home. I think the place for them is south, and that they need a Master for they are a lazy indolent set, and those that get in to the army will run away, if they much of any thing to do I hope that Fond Du Lac will not get filled up with them, for I am sure I dont want one in sight when I get home. How does Azro get along with his; perhaps he will make something out of him if he is not to old Well I must stop writing for a while and go and see about getting some dinner, which will consist of Coffee Bacon & Crackers, the crackers I am going to soak in water and then fry them in the Bacon grease

[1862, Nov 28]

Well dinner is over. and I will finish this & get it in to the mail.

Yesterday was thanksgiving. and wouldnt I liked to have been home. did any of you make any extra ~~[illegible]~~ dinners. if so I presume you thought of me and that will do just as well. I did think when that trunk came that I should get some thing in it that would be good to eat. & perhaps a bottle of wine. but when the letter came with the list of things that were in it for me. I gave up the idea. We had some fresh pork for dinner yesterday. but it was so fat we could not eat more than half of our ration. We are going to draw tea instead of coffee to day. We are called up now every morning at 4 O'clock and formed in line of battle. and kept so untill day light. they some expect that Morgan will try and take this place

there is about a million Dollars worth of government stores at this station. but they are pushing it on to Nashville now as fast as they can. as they have got cars running through now, it looks some like home. to go down to the station there are trains arriving or leaving about all the time. there was quite an excitement here yesterday on acount of the passenger train being behind time. it was reported here that Morgan had torn up the track, stopt the train and taken one hundred & twenty five {125} prisoners. — they sent out a co of cavalry to look in to the thing. and when they came back they reported. the train run off the track but that it would be along as soon as they could get it on. Morgan has nothing to do with it. it is reported here that Morgan has been in our camp selling pies. and it is nothing but

Morgan from morning till night.
I do not know how much longer we will stay in this camp. I understand that the 21st Regt. has been reported as unfit for any thing but Garrison duty. this was told to me by a Officer but I cannot vouch for its truth.
There has been quit a number of deaths in our regiment since we have been here, and they say they keep a team running from the hospitals, with dead all the time French Fuller is quit well now, although he is yet in Bowling Green. Ed Gould Milt. Will Potter, Kelsey, Dick Peacock and all the rest of our boys are well.
Lieut Leavitt is quit unwell but will get along without going to the Hospital
I was disapointed at not receiving a letter from Home last night, as I have got a letter from Azro since I have been here that came through in three days, and it has been four days since sunday.

I was disappointed to ot the last letter I recd from you. for the others had been such good long ones, and that being so short, that it made me feel and look quite sober. The boys in the tent wanted to know if I had recd bad news from home. I got one of the long letters out of my napsack and compared the two together, and told them "that's what's the matter". Well I have got to close this & brush up, for does parade give my best respects to all the friends Mrs Lowry & Mrs Gould, Lilly, kiss the children for me and answer my letters, write good long letters and as often as you can. I will write again in a day or two, or at least as soon as I receive the trunk. Tim Strong has got along. Good bye with much love from your baby

Henry

Camp Andy. Johnson
Six miles south of Nashville Tenn
Sunday Dec 14th 1862

This is sunday and I may possibly have time to write a letter although I think it doubtful that I will finish it without being interrupted. One week ago to day we were called up at 4 O'clock. A.M. and ordered to be ready to march at 7½ O'clock. which we did, and after a March of 18 Miles we went into camp at a place called Eyles Springs. there was about two inches of snow on the ground in the morning and at night it was all melted of. and as our Tents were pitched on plowed ground. you can judge for your self what kind of a place we had to sleep. My rubber blanket kept the head and sholders of three of us out of the mud

the balance of them had to sit up and
keep fire. Ty La Spring has been a
beautiful place some time but it is used
up now. it was a watering place for the
Nashville upper ten. The house at the spring
is capable of acomodating 1500 people
but it is of little use now.
Monday Morning we were up at 4 O'clock
got breakfast and were off on our March at
6 1/2, it was a clear fine morning. but
I did not feel much marching as sleeping
on the wet ground made me rather stiff
but I got over it before night. well we
went on to camp at Edgefield Junction
after marching 12 miles, Our company
was detailed to go out on picket, and as
it was not necessary for all the Sergeants
to go, I got Excused. for the first time
Well I got some straw to sleep on, and
some water to wash with. and got
up Tuesday Morning. and started off
on our march feeling first rate

of those fine ripe apples like one of
those I have got in the canteen, you
and we passed some splendid residences
that are owned by Nashville. men
who make it their summer residence
you can not imagine how nicely they trim
up their cider trees. they have them all
shapes and sizes. I think I was well
paid for the 10 mile March. as that
was the distance we marched and went
in to camp at Edgefield, about noon
here I was detailed sergeant of the Guard
and did not get to bed until 2 O'Clock
in the morning. And we were called
up at 4 and on the march at 4½ O'Clock
so you see I did not sleep much that
night, Well we crossed the river {Cumberland
and passed through Nashville, and went
in to camp six Miles south, on a very
nice ground, the best camping ground
we have had since we left Louisville
Thursday I had just got my paper
out to write, when the order came for
our Regiment to get ready for picket

so you can see how much time we
can call our own. we did not have
any chu to frighten us on picket at
our end of the line, (Co K) but one of Co
H men had a buck shot shot through
his thumb. by a bush whacker, which
is the meanest kind of warfare I
think, Yesterday we had a Brigade
inspection & Review, And it is very
pretty to look upon, but not so pleasant
to think, what we are drilling for, We
also got new Bell Tents. Yesterday. and
now we have only 7 in our tent.
I rec'd Ed Mollie's picture which is very
natural, and I would like to have all
of you. I hope we will get paid off
so I can get mine taken in Nashville
before we leave here, Well I have
got to get ready for dress parade
and will close this and get it in
the mail to night, I am going to write
to Em — next, Love to all from Henry

a thousand different reports, tell them they will not know any thing about, who is killed or wounded untill they hear from some of their friends, or hear the official report I must close this, I will write again, as soon as I have an opportunity, to mail a letter, but I do not know when that will be, do not worry on my account, for I am all right, some may think strange that I am not in the battle, you can tell them how it is, in haste Captain Andy Johnson Decr. 25th/62

Henry

Dear Father & Mother

I wish you a merry Christmas, It would seem some better to be at home this morning and wish you a merry Christmas than being here, although I am a little better situated now than I have been before since, I left home they have formed a Brigade Provost Guard, making a detail of ten (10) men two (2) Corporals and one Sergeant from each Regiment. I was detailed from the 21st Regt. as Serg't. while we are in Camp, the detail from one Regt. does duty one day and another the next day & so on—. but when the Brigade moves the wole guard, are to gather and March in the rear of the Brigad, taking prisoners picking up straglers &c But better still I have been detailed, from the Sergeants of Provost Guard to attend to the business in the office, thus relieving me from Guard duty, drills, fighting &c, The Provost Marshal is from the 1st Wis Regt. Co. F, Captain W. M. Samuel, I like him very well so far. I have not had much of anything to do as yet. Judge Flint arrived at the regt. day before yesterday, and leaves tomorrow. I got the trunk you sent by him last night (Christmas eve) and the only way I can describe to you my feelings and actions is by carrying your memory back to a year ago, when Lilly opened her stocking, Christmas morning, I think I acted even more foolish than she did at that time &c I must stop writing

a while and go and see a presentation of colors to the 1st Ala Regt from the 4th Indian Battery for gallant conduct at the battle of Chaplin Hills Oct 8th 1862

Nashville Tenn. January 2nd 1863

Dear Father & Mother

More has transpired since I commenced this letter, than I could write in a week. You will doubtless here before you get this, that they have had a big battle, before Murfreesburg which will probably give you some uneasy rest on my acount, until you receive this, I have not time to write much, as I expect to have leave in a few minutes, as soon as trains can be loaded with supplies. I came from within four miles of the battle field yesterday with the Provost Guard, I had the whole charge of the Guard as Capt Samuel was at the head of the train, until we got in here the train of wagons was about five miles long and was ordered back to Nashville, and the Provost Guard had charge of the 28th Brigade teams, I do not know what they were ordered back for, unless it because they were afraid, they would be taken, as the Rebs were trying to work round in our rear, the train was attacked by a lot of ~~Reb~~ Cavalry, when within about ten miles of Nashville, which made a regular stampeed some of the teamsters tried to run by each other, & some got off from their mules and left them to run at will, I got mixed up between two of the wagons and got pretty well squeezed but got out of it all right, I heard from the battle, by a man that came from there last night at 12 O'clock, he said that our men were driving them some, at night, and would commence at daylight again this morn, our Brigade, (the 21st & 1st Ala, 24th Ills, & 79th Penn) were in front and opened the ball yesterday morning so you may know there are a good many lives lost but, tell the folks not to place any confidence whatever in the news

Come back [illegible]

Feby 1st 1863

Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn.
Sunday Febry 1st, 1863

Dear Father & Mother.

As this is Sunday and I have some leisure time, I will improve it by writing to you. It has rained all day and is a dreary lonesome day, and I wish I was at home. but of course that does no good, I wonder how you all are at home. I imagine you are just eating supper. as it is about 3 Oclock P. M. = Well I am getting pretty good living now. at I mess with the P. M. we had for dinner some Corn Beef. the first we have had since we have been in the service and it was very nice, I issued four days rations this forenoon. and got all done before dinner. I think I like the business better than I did the Provost Guard, I have men to help me. and all I have to do, is to figure the rations and boss the work.

You will probably see Nat Leavitt

before you get this, I did not send a letter by him. as I had mailed one to you a day or two before he left.

Hale is a good fellow but he has not made much of a military man. and I think he had better be at home. he promised me that he would go over and see mother and if he tells her half I told him to he will do well. he will probably tell you that I am Orderly Sergeant of the Co now they have put me in over Davis. I think now that there will be a sight for me a Comish before long, for Capt White told me that if he did not get promoted to Maj. that he should certainly resign Capt. White has treated me like a man and he said to me one day that he had been to the Col. to get me in Orderly in Kelleys place, the Col. told him that it would not do, unless he could bring a charge against Riley and reduce him to the ranks. and that the Capt did not want to do, neither would

I like to have had it done. — —
The Quarter Master did not like it a
bit. to think that I was going to leave
him, but Capt. White is going to let me
stay with him. a while, — I did not
receive but one letter from home last month
and that was dated the 20th. I think there
must some on the way for me, I think
among you all. you could mail about
three letters a week to me. I can assure
you Every mail is opened to hundreds
of spectators, some go away with smiling
and others with long faces, I have the
long face most every time, but the
mail is not regular now. and I
suppose that is the reason. I have not
recd more letters, In regard to the
Guard of the wagon train, Mother,
My Provost Guard. had to Guard
only the Brigade head quarters teams
five in number. we had with the
train, about 1000 Cavalry. the train
was attacked near the rear. we lost

about twenty teams, at that time
and at different times last month
we lost about 150 Teams, mostly
burnt up, I have just been out
looking at the robbins, the sky is
black with them, they fly from
the East every night and roost about
two miles from here in a cedar
swamp, the nigars go there and
kill them the same as they do at
Pigeon Roosts, they commence
flying about four O'clock and do
not all get past until after dark.

Well I must close this letter hoping
it will ~~reach~~ find you in good health
and spirits. Give my Love to Mrs
Lowry, & family, Mrs Gould &
all the friends, kiss the Children
take good care of my game Rooster.
Girt Co. and let me know how much it is.
Dont let the horses get away from you again.
tell them all to write to me
dont work to hard, and accept
this with much Love from
Henry

Murfreesboro Tenn. Feby 22/63

Dear Brother

As my duties as a Soldier are done for the day I will improve the opportunity of writing. this is Sunday and we have had inspection of arms, and parade which we have every Sunday. the men are divided in to four squads and are under the charge of the four Sergeants who have to be acountable for their cleanlyness &c. the men are examined every week and if any are found unclean the Serg.t in whose squad he belongs has to make a detail and have him washed the Orderly is excused from such duties you have doubtless heard before this that I have been promoted to Orderly in our company, it makes Davis look rather down in the mouth as he was 2nd and I 3d Sergeant. at the time of my promotion I was acting Com. Sgt and getting a little more pay than I do

now. which is $20 per month from the 25th day of Jany. Henry Adams is acting 2nd Lieut and will probably get his commish. before long. Capt White is acting major. and Major Fitch is acting Lieut Col. I do not think that Col Scott will ever take comand of the Regt. again, and I think I can see a sight ahead for your little Brother. a comish The Captains have all sent in their resignations once and they were returned. not accepted. Capt White says if certain thing dont happen he shall force his to be accepted I suppose Lieut Leavitt is at home now he did get sick of the service in good earnest. and would have given or done most any thing to get out of it. Leavitt is a good man at home but was of no use to the army, this of course does not want to be repeated as coming from me but it is true more the least I have

got to lay this away and go and make out a report of all those in our company absent without leave, and taken Prisoners. Corporal Theodore C. Snow is one. and he I understand is in Fond du Lac."

Febry 25th

Still Agro. I have been to work all most every moment, since I left of on this letter, and now hasten to finish it to send by Col. Hobart as he starts for Wisconsin this morning to hunt up paroled Prisoners. Our Regt. has been paid up to the 1st of Jany. I will enclose $10. in this letter. and ~~will~~ can probably send you some more but I have got to get me a pair of boots, and do not know yet how much I shall have left, I will send you a list of my expences since I came away, when I write again. I intended to do it in this letter but have not time this morning. I recd a good letter from

Em yesterday. and am looking for a one from You and mollie every day. I hope Em is well by this time. but I a afraid she is not. I had bad dreams last night and night before. of home.

Well I must close this as Col. H is about ready to start, give my love to all the friend, and accept this from your

Brother Henry

Thu 22. of Feby there was 21 Guns fired from each Balary in the Division. and I can assure you it was quite a fourth of July

C281 22/701D

Camp near Murfreesboro Mch 5th/63

Dear Father (&) Mother.

This is a fine clear cold day {that is, cold for this country} the company are out drilling, and I improve the opportunity of writing {a letter} I have been writing every day for the past week. making Muster Rolls Pay Rolls &c, Kelsey is sick with the Jaundes, and I have had all the writing to do. which with the other duties as Orderly have kept me pretty busy. I rec.d five letters from you last week, also two from Em and two from Mattie, besides, the ones I rec.d by Col Swat. these are the letters that I have been looking for so long. and I hope. you have got the back letters of mine before this, for I do not think that I have missed a week since I left home without writing a letter to some of you. but you speaking about sending the

letters to mail, leads me to think that perhaps some of my letters might have been destroyed for the stamps as I have been in the habit of sending my letters to mail instead of carrying them myself and stamps are pretty scarce here. I will mail my own letters in future and see if it will make any difference I sent a letter to Ayre by Col Robert, with a $10. Green back Enclosed, I have been so busy since that I have not had time to go down town. I have got to get me a hair of boots before we March again. I do not know how much they will cost yet, I shall send home more money if I can. at any rate I shall send Ayre a statement of what I have rec.d & paid out since I came away, and, I will here remark that I paid 25c for three onions yesterday, and one of them was hardly eaten, — Col Scott arrived here Monday. I rec.d the Envelopes all right also the Pepper & cloves, what paper there was

in the paper would be worth (or rather would
sell for 30¢ as it just filled a little box we paid
30¢ for.) Col Scott sends word by Lieut
Edwards that he would like to see Sgt. Taylor
Well I went up and saw him and had a very
friendly visit. he said he had a long talk
with you the night before he came away
and that you manifest a great interest
in me which he always liked to see in a
father towards a son, he talked some
about promotions. which did not amount
to much. perhaps I am prejudice against
him. but I think he is not half the
man that Col. H. C. Hobart is. by the
way. Col Hobart told me some time ago
to give his best regards to my father when
ever I wrote to him. he said he had been
over to our place with you several times
when you was building. (his pen is not worth
a snap) he is a man that takes a great deal
of pains to have his men comfortable
and they all like him very much. It
is understood here that he has gone to

Oct 28th 1862

Camp near Falmouth Va

Dear Father & Mother

I have just been down to the R.R. to see the men that were absent without leave, and taken Prisoners (or pretended to be) and paroled. Report says he has gone for a commission, as Col. of the Regt, and that he will not come back if he does not get it, at any rate there will be hot times there if he does come back, for Col Swat and Col Hobart, cannot stay in the same regiment I am sure I cannot imagine what Col Swat wanted to come here for, his arm is useless, and he has had to have it stretched upon since he came here. He has had a talk with the Captains, represents Col Robert as being ~~in~~ to blame for the hard feeling in the reg't, & C, the Capts think Swat is to blame, and so it stands he says he will, sign their resignations if they wish, take it all in all, our Regt is in a very bad fix, or I should say the officers of the regiment. Lieutenants Excluded. I rec'd the Envelopes all right but the Trunk, Diary, or letter I have not seen yet, I think I shall get the trunk some time if we stay here long enough, and report says our Division are going to be left here which I hope may prove true, at any rate we cannot leave here under a month on acount of the roads, well I have

[1863, Mar. ?]

List of what I want

Henry

One Gold Pen & holder

" Fine comb

2 Pocket Knives

Silles & Jurdan

Cegar Lighter & Punch

one Pocket Dictionary

And a leave of Absence of two months would suit me as well as any thing just now. And perhaps I can get it. if our Regt. remains at Murfreesboro

Henry

20
10
10

20

J. W. Taylor Esq

March 12 1863

Murfreesboro Tenne
Mch 12th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

It is evening in Tenne., and as I have nothing else to do but think of home I think I will improve the time by writing and thinking at the same time, I have just read your last two letters. (Feby 20th & Mch 3d) for the eleventh time. also one from Mollie of March 5th I rec'd to day. in your last you speak of my not writing how the bottle of wine lasted. well I have writen about it once. but perhaps you will never get the letter and I will tell you again. who helped to drink it. there were Eight of us tenting together at that time. Kilsey, Davis. Dick. Wallace. Jewell. Coleating. Pelton. and my self. and I divided it out in very small drinks to them. well after we had all drank around. there was a very small drink left in the bottle. and I was just getting ready to drink it as

Lieut Ed. Delany came in, and I gave it to him, so you see the wine was pretty well distributed I did taste like home, and made us boys all wish we were at home, the Apples (I have not had any thing taste so good to me since I left home,) I divided in the same way, the Butter could not be beat, such butter would sell here now for 80c. pr pound common pickin Rater, that ranks as high as Genl. Rosecrans, (as Capt Wiles Niggar says) sells for 70c pr lb. potatoes $5. pr bush. Onions from 5 to 10c a piece. and every thing els in proportion. I thought of home on Mothers birth day, also Agnes and Emy I had got set down to write to Agnes on her birth day, but an order came to draw rations and I had to put home it. My diary tells me we had a good dinner on that day, although a pretty sober party.

Our Regiment (in fact our Division) are out on a Reconnoitering Expedition. they left Camp the 9th with three (3) days rations in their haversacks, and have had six days rations sent out to them since, we heard

from them yesterday, they camped night before last. 17 miles from here, and five (5.) miles from a rebell camp, the pickets on ~~both~~ our sides were ~~near~~ ~~or~~ in sight of ~~one another~~ the rebbel pickets {My head is rather thick to night} the teams that carried out the rations started back to camp at 3 O'clock in the morning (Yesterday) and at the same time our troops sent out their skirmishers, and commenced the advance since then we have not heard from them. there was heavy firing in front last night untill after one O'clock we will probably get some tidings from them to morrow. and now you are probably wondering why I am not with them, which I will soon explain. we have nine sick men in the company. two with scurvy two with fever, and the balance with the quick step. also four men were left on guard, two men kept out of sigh untill the Regt. had gone, the two company cooks and one Officers Cook, with Kilany {sick with the Jaundice} and the captains Nig. makes 19 men left in camp. well the sick have

to be reported to the Dr. every day. and they all have to get their rations the same as if the Regt. was here. aside from this there were five pay rolls to make out for the month of January and Febry. and of course some one had to be left. and as I was the only one that could make out the pay rolls. of course I was the one to stay. and have saved a hard march. I do not think the Brigade will come back here again, but can not tell any thing about it. there are as many reports in circulation around camp, some say we are going to remain here. in the fortifications. Others that Gen. Granger is going to take command of the post at Nashville (Gen Granger has command of our Division now) and I read in the Nashville union that he was expected to take command there. but whether he will take us with him, or not, is a question, I am in hopes that we will be left at some post, but it is not our luck. The last thing is that Col. Starkweather has gone home, to get the 1st & 21st Regiments, to Wisconsin to enforce the draft. this would be to much of a good thing — and I can hardly credit it. — Have you seen Col. Roberts: if you have not, I hope you will try and do so before he returns to the Regt. I think he is a very fine man, he has spoken of you to me, several times The Tobacco you sent by Capt. Atkinson. I dont think will do me much good. as I understand he has left for parts unknown. also the Diary has not made its appearance yet. I wish you would send me one by mail, if you have no other opportunity. for if we have to march I think I can make my letters more interesting by having a diary to refer to. My old one

X

[1863, Mar. 12]

Dear

Your letter was very interesting to me now. if it had not been for it, I do not think I should have remembered Your birth days, and the question arises now quite often what day of the week it is, this may seem strange to you, but it is nothing uncommon here. I am glad that Patch is all right in the crush matter. for it did "make me so mad" (as Mollie says) when I thought he was playing off that I could not help spilling out something. I have not got it yet, but have written to Will Potter, to get it and send it by Express (it is in the Sanitary Commissions Office in Nashville) and if we stay here long enough I will probably get it, if I dont get it here, I shall give up all hopes of ever getting it, well I think I will put this up for to night. I may hear something more from the Reg't. to morrow, and will wait untill then before I mail it. I think I will sleep well to night I have washed all over to day and put on clean clothes, but I would like to get in to a good bed, good night I shall dream of home to night

Well the report to day is that our Troops have taken 8000 Prisoners. the reports came to Decatur this morning. I cannot say how true it is. I presume you hear any such News as soon as we do. — does it begin to look any like spring I Wis yet. or is it cold and blustering march weather. this is a beautiful day here. the Trees are begining to bud. and the grass is quit green. — I think the rainy season is about over now. and I can assure you we have had enough of it how is Em getting along? and will the burn that baby got leave a scar on her face? does Lilly go to school now. I enclose a song in this for her. and want to have her write to me again. Remember me to all friends Let me know how Mrs Francis is. and who Jim Farnsworth married. as Mollie wrote he was married talk to all the children about me. give my love to Cousin Emma when you see her and tell her I shall answer her letter some time Ed Todd & Milt are well. French is not very well he has had quite a run of the quick step but is much better now. Your baby weighs 165 — one hundred and sixty five pounds, and is quite as healthy as I ever was in my life

March 20 1863
and 21st
Birth day letter

Murfreesboro Tenn. Mch. 20th 63

Dear Father and Mother

As my duties for the morning are done I will spend what leisure time I can get in writing. Although I do not think I will get time to finish a letter to day as there is lots of work to do in camp.

I say my duties are done for the morning. Perhaps you would like to know what I have to do in the morning. Well I will tell you.

In the first place the Reville is sounded in the morning at 5 O'clock, at which the Co have to turn out. and by the time the Reville stops beating {they play five times} the Company have to be in "two ranks" at "right face" "Shoulder arms" {this they are obliged to do with out any order from me} the moment the Reville stops. I give the command "Front" "Right dress" = Order Arms = then proceed to call the roll. and if any are absent {without leave} they are checked and have to go on guard or Fatigue duty during the day.

after the roll is called. the Comander of the company takes comand. and we march to the front of our camp form in line of battle (and stack arms) One company is left to guard the Colors. the balance of the Regt. break ranks and return to their respective Companies streats to get their breakfast, &c {the arms remain where they are untill 7 O'clock the Regt. fall in and take their ...}

The next thing for me is to make out my morning report. and I guess I will give it to you now. and you can see how we are coming stand. {Just as I expected. I have got to put this up and go and draw five days rations}

Evening. well the rations were drawn and distributed. after which Kelsey informed me that he had a pass for us both to go down town {we are camped about 3/4 of a mile from town} and as I had not been out of camp for more than a week I thought I would improve the opportunity. Well while we were gone the Brigade was ordered out on double Quick. with two days rations in their haversacks. I do not know where they have gone or what for. but

think very likely it is to rout out some Rebell Cavalry. that are scouting around our front. I learned while down town that the yesterdays train between Louisville and Nashville was captured by a lot of — Morgans Cavalry. Mail, Express, and Every thing els of any value was taken or destroyed. and what passengers. and Convalescent Soldiers were on the train were taken and paroled. it is a great mistery to me. why he {Morgan} did not destroy the Cars. — now I will commence where I left off this morning. — We report for duty. 3 Commissioned Officers. 4. Sergeants 6. Corporals. 25 Privates. — On Extra duty 3. Privates — Present sick 1 Sergeant 1 corporal 6 Privates musicians present 2. Making in all present 48 Enlisted men & 3 Com^d Officers. Absent. there are 2 Privates on detatched duty. in the Pionier Corps. 3 absent with leave, 3 without leave. 8 Privates and 1 Corporal, absent sick. making 17 absent Strength of co. present 8 absent, Enlisted Men 65
Com^d Officers 3
aggregate 68

this report I have to make out every morning and it is deferant. most every morning as there are some geting sick, and some geting well every day, &c Next comes the sick list I have to go round to every tent, and see that the men that are sick, get out and wash them, and be ready for the sick Call, at which time I march them up to the Dr. {if a man is not able to do as much as this, we send him to the general Hospital} hand him my sick book, he calls the men up, each in turn, and examines him, I have to remain to answer any questions the Dr. may chose to ask, in regard to what the men eat &c, &c, well this done, and if I am right smart, and the coffee is done, I can get my breakfast about half eat, before the Sgt. Maj. comes round and says, Orderly, two men for guard, or so many men for fatigue or something or other. (he most always comes before I get my breakfast,) well after breakfast it is nothin but detail men for this and that untill about 10 O'Clock, I then get time to shake my blankets, roll them up and fix up my bunk generaly, after the details are all made the balance of the company have to turn in and police the street. it all has to be swept and every chip or straw taken up and carried away. every thing is under my supervision. and take it all to gether with what company writing I have to do {Kelsey has not done a bit of writing since he got promoted} it keeps me pretty busy, good night I will finish

Sunday morning

[1863. Mar 20+21]

Saturday Morning March 21st

Well mother this is the birth day of your baby, little did you think twenty five years ago that you was to raise a boy {a 165th baby} for the U.S. Arm but has been the case, and how little we know what the future may bring forth. an other birth day may find me happy with my friends at home. and it may find me in the cold clay of Dem. If I ever live to meet my friends once more. I will live with all my might to make your remaining days. days of sunshine and happyness but on the other hand. if I am one of the many unfortunate men who have to give their life a sacrifice to this unholy war. forget my least errors. and remember me as one who loved his Father & mother. Brother and sisters. dearly and fondly. but was unfortunate. —

One year ago to day we were all at home I wonder what you are all doing to day

I presume you will all think of me, and wish that I was home, well, I wish I was, but I have not experienced any great benefit from wishing yet and dont think I shall. I would like to know, whether you receive my letters any more regular than you did, for I do not like to write for nothing. I will enclose some flowers in this that I found down town yesterday. It is fine warm weather here now, in fact most to warm for comfort. I think the weather will take off some of the [illegible] for me. I also enclose my picture taken this morning, {My 25th Birth day} I think it rather a young looking man for 25 years old, it is not a very good picture but as good as I could get here. We have changed our camp since I wrote you last, and things look now as if we should have a right smart engagement here before long. Give my best wishes to all the friends, kiss the children, and wait patiently for this war to end, Col Hobart is expected back every day, French is all right now and is out with the regt. Milt, Ed & the rest of the boys are well, Ed. Pelton has got

friend and I have his leave for charge.

Apl 12 1863

Letter from a Son under in front of my tent

Murfreesboro Tenn

April 12th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

This is sunday again, and I am seated on my bunk writing to dear friends at home. how pleasant it would be if I could if I could be at Forrest Home. to day, I will imagine how you all are. {it is now about 3 o'clock P.M. Mother has just put the chicken on the table {I guess it is fried.} and Lilly has set the chairs up. and just called Grand pa. who leaves his letter to Henry. and takes his seat. I can see just how you look. perhaps Ed. and Mother are there. – if it is as warm and pleasant there as it is here. the children all aught to be at home some time to day all but one I mean, and if they wanted to so you as bad as I do. I do not think a right smart storm would hinder them from going home. But poor I must wait patiently.

There was quite an excitement in camp a few moments ago, caused by the sudden death of a Sergt. in Co K. He had just thrown a lot of letters in to the fire and was watching them burn, when he fell back dead. This is an other instance showing that it makes but little difference where you are, at home, or abroad, in camp or on the battle field, death is sure to find its victim. This young man was expecting his father here tomorrow, sad indeed will be his heart, when he arrives expecting a happy greeting, to find his boy, a cold motionless corpse, who but a few hours before was apearantly as healthy as ever, realy in the midst of life we are in death.

We have been making quite an improvement in our tents since I last wrote you, we went in to the woods and felt a large oak tree, and cut the body up into

block, the feet long, then split them in to shakes, about one inch thick, we have raised our tent two feet, and drove the shakes, around the outside for a wall, which makes much more room, and we have our bunks raised from the ground, now which is more healthy. We Sergt. commenced the thing in our Co. after which the rest of the boys in our Co. ~~were~~ took pattern, and the Col. was so well pleased with it that he has ordered the other Companies fix up their tents in the same way. We have the most men present in the Regt. {46 Enlisted men for duty and 3 sick} and at the inspection this morning the Major complimented Lieut Edwards {he has Command of the Co. while Capt. White is acting Major} by saying he had the best looking Co. the best looking street and the best looking tents in the Regt

and furthermore that he had the modell
Orderly Sergt. of the Regt. Which of course
was very pleasing to me, however I must
stop writing so many praises of myself
as it would doubtless sound better to you
to hear them from some other source.
I rec'd your weekly letter yesterday, you wish
to know what Col Hobart has to say in one
which was nothing very particular. he said he had
seen my father, and was pleased to give him
a good acc't of me, that he met a great many
of his friends in Fond du Lac that enquired
of me and seemed to take quite an interest
in my welfare &c &c, we have been
so busy since he returned that I have not
talked with him since. About
that dream, I have got it written down
somewhere, but I have forgotten what
it was now. I am glad the picture
pleased you, Captain White said he hopes
the next one I have taken, will show bars
on the shoulder. I would like to have
your picture taken when you was my
age, I presume the still would be some
different. Well I am nearly to the bottom
of the page, and will close this letter
as usual by sending my best regards
to all the neighbors, and kisses & love
to the children. I shall expect a
letter from Lillie soon. Ed. Gould
Frank & Milt are well, and wish to
be remembered. Frank does not get letters
from home as often as he would like
to. If you do not let Tompkins have your
ground to till, how would you like
to have Sam. Lovell work for you
this summer? — Good night with much love
from Henry

Camp Stanton on Potomac near
Aquia Creek Va

Murfreesboro Tenn
April 19th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

This is a fine pleasant sunday. and I have only time to write a few lines.

Our Brigade is ordered out to Morrow morning with five days rations. I do not know where we are going, but presume it will amount to a wild goose chase. as usual, although we may have some fighting before we get back.

We were paid off yesterday, {up to the 1st of Mch.} I shall leave my money with Captain White. he is sick and will remain in camp. I shal send home some money the first opportunity. but do not like to send it by Mail. at present.

I enclose a photograph of Col
J. C. Starkweather, perhaps
Mollie would like to put it in
her Album if so let her have it

Henry

The long expected trunk has at last arrived, I have not time to say any thing about it this time, every thing was in good order however. I have disposed of a part of Dick Peacock's things and will send the money to Agro for John. I rec^d the things by Capt Gran all right. the butter was splendid. Wm do I mailed a letter to Em the same time, that I mailed the ~~letter~~ Paper to Ed. Has she got it?

I have all I can do to get ready for the March in the morning and must close this Now mother dont worry

I will wait untill Morning before I mail this, I have not written as short a letter as this before since I left home so I think you will excuse it

Love to all friends and a big share for yourself

Henry

5 O'clock P.M.
The Regt are ordered out
immediately, with two
days rations

Henry

Apl 19th 1863

Received of A L Hancock and Isaac T. Blair Administrators of William Blair Deceased in full of our Distributive Shares of said Estate this the 30th day of September 1856

Seberry April 24th 1863

Dear Father & Mother

I mailed a letter to you sunday saying that we, had orders to march, with six days rations. Well this is the ~~fourth~~ fifth day we have been out, and in "four days more rations to day, We have ~~been~~, not had any fighting to do as yet, but have taken quite a number prisoners, (150, certain), burned bridges Mills Railroad stock, Bacon &c, &c, and finely we are here at Liberty, a little ciesch town 27 Miles from Murfreesboro but we marched about 80 Miles to get to it ~~[illegible]~~ We will probably stay here two or three days and then move again but whether it will be to or from Murfreesboro I cannot say I write this few lines to let you know that I am all right, and to tell you not to fret I never saw our regt in better spirits than they are now, I have got to send this to Brigade head quarters, right away quick as the train that brought out our supplies is going back, to night,

Good night from

Henry

Apl. 24 1863

This paper I picked up on our Camp ground which was occupied by Reb's yesterday morning we came here last night

I will write more particularly when I get back to Camp

H. Ency

May 14th 1863

Murfreesboro Tenn.

May 14th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I have delayed writing to you much longer than I intended, but I know you will excuse me, for I have been very busy writing since we returned from the Reconnoitering Expedition, and should not stop to write a letter now but I fear you will worry. I believe I informed you in my last letter that Capt White was sick, well when we returned he no better, and Lieut Adams was taken sick the next day. he ("Adams") had remained in camp, but did not do a stroke of writing while we were gone, it was the end of the month when we returned, Monthly reports and Muster rolls to make out

I shall write this little epistle over, I am afraid it is a very dull one, I will write again and the Good Lord bless you

and Lieut Edwards, told me if I would go to work and do it, I must not do any thing else, well the day that I was on the last muster roll. Capt White and my self were alone in the tent, and he wished me to give my attention to him for a few moments, which request I complyed with as a matter of course, well he read to me three or four letters that he had recd from home lately, from his wife and others, the sum and substance of them was that his business in Head Qr Lad was going to the D—l the then asked me to write out his resignation, giving the cause as Ulcered legs and long continued camp fever, rendering him unfit for duty for a long time, which is all very true, and others that I could mention would have tendered their resignation long before this, if they had, had the same complaints

but I think Capt White did intend to stick it through, and would have done so had it been for his business at Fond Du Lac, his resignation has been accepted, and he will start for home next week. Lt Olney has also applied for a furlough and I think he will go home with him he is very sick and if he does not get a furlough I do not think he will get well, — on account of Capt. Whites going away. the final statements, has to be made out of all the men that have died (thirteen in number) since we left home, there has never been one made out, until I commenced the job day before yesterday, and finished to day. there is considerable writing on one, and they have to be made out in duplicate, the next thing on the docket is the clothing book, to be written up. it has not been written up since we left Louisville, and

all the clothing that has been issued since that time. it is on slips of paper which has got to be picked out and put on to the book, with the men's signatures, and the Capt's to witness it which is going to be the hardest job of all, — after that comes the descriptive book, A list of all the men we had when we left, their description, register of Deaths, Discharges, Deserters &c &c
We have never had a Descriptive book untill we came here, so there is no one to blame for its not being wrote up
My recommendation for 2d Lieut has been forwarded to the Governor and will probably get around in course of time
I shal send by Capt white for what thing I shall want in my new position.
Your last letter made me feel quite homesick, I do wish I could have been there when my Cousins were there I would like so much to see Mary Dine.
I have not recd at letter from Ozro since Capt Grun came back, the last one from Mollie was by Capt Hall which I recd yesterday. well I must close this. I am well the weather is quite warm but our camp is well shaded. I presume this will not be a very interesting letter to you, but it will let you know that I am well: and that is the most it is intended for. say nothing about what I have wrote of Capt White or Kelsey out of the family
Love to all Friends, and Kisses for you all from Henry

May 20th 1863

Co. "E" 9th Iowa Cavalry
Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn.
May 20th 1863

Dear Father & Mother,

Captain White starts for home tomorrow and I take the opportunity of writing a few lines to day I do wish I could go with him, and have a good visit with you all but as that cannot be, you must visit with him. and ask him all the questions you can think of. as he has promised me that he would go over and see my mother, I rec.d a letter from Harvey also one from mother to day Harvey wrot a very good letter. said they Enjoyed their visit at Fondulac very much. but means Henry Hill it is only two years and three months longer, and then I shall be with you again. if it be the Lords will. Keep up good cheer and

the longer I am absent the better it will seem when I get home.
We have just rec.d Orders to have every thing packed up and be in readyness to move at a moments notice I do not know whether it is to be a general move or another reconnoitering expedition. I may find out something more definite about it before: morning or Capt. White may if we have to leave to night. — It will not be quite so hard on me if we do march as it has been before as I shall carry a sword instead of a gun {Acting Lieut}. I was in hopes my Commission would come before we left here but I am afraid it will not. Cant tell however I will enclose in this a list of what clothes I want. and also some other things. but I think you need not order them untill you hear from me again, I may not need any thing. this a very uncertain business —

I have sent by Capt. White a piece of Quartz to John. I thought it was a very nice specimine. I got it at a place called Snow Hill about thirty miles from Murfreesboro, on the Woodbury pike. when we were out on our last tramp. A ring for Lilly Azro and a Sam Leavell the one with the big b/p is for Sam. I have not time or I would write to him to day.
the rings are made out of muscle shell that come out of Stone river. a specimen of which I send you, the small plain ring I do not know what to do with I think you had better keep it for me.
The Horse shoe nail give to Tom Nuell the Blacksmith that used to shoe Capt we came in to the Reb so sudden at one time when we were out that they left their bacon by the fire and on their ground I found a little pile of Nails I thought I would send one to Tom for a specimine. perhaps he can improve this
state

The Cartridge is a Burnside Carbine cartridge, I send it to show what curious kinds of death pills they use in the army. I have nothing more of importance to write this time. I am as well as I ever was in my life. not quite as fleshy as I was a month ago. but fleshy enough for comfort, I think I have been very fortunate in having such good health since I left home.

Hoping this will find you all well at home. and in good spirits. I will close with much love from

Henry

Friday Eve May 22nd

Capt White has not gone yet but is going tomorrow sure Riley will go with him. I do not think he will ever leave his Company again. We have got every thing packed up. (with the exception of a change of shirts, socks, and drawers. which is all the men are allowed to carry) and they will be shipped to Nashville tomorrow for storage. we are all ready for a move at any moment and Effect it. I will write a few lines Lieut Edwards was thrown from a horse yesterday. and ~~I~~ was pretty badly bruised up, making him unable for duty. and I am in Command of the Company. I am at the bottom of the page and will bid you Good night

Henry

Camp near Murfreesboro Tenn

June 4th/63

Dear Father & Mother

This is beautiful morning in Tenn:. How is it at Forrest Home? How I would like to see you all this morning. since Capt. White and Kelsey have gone home. I have had the blues some. although I have not had much time for thought as I have been in command of the Company. since they left. Capt. Edwards. & Lieut E. was thrown from his horse a few days before Capt. went home and has not been able to do duty since. and perhaps never will be again. there has an abscess formed on his back it has been opned once and has. got to be opned again to day. Dr. Rice told me confidentialy. that he did not think that

Jun 4 to 1863

Chas all home at the Forrest Home in the Cheatham Cavalry

Capt.n Edwards would ever be fit for duty again. his papers have gone forward for a leave of absence and will probably be back to day if they do I shall send this by him. as I want to have him go over to our house.. I have rec.d four letters this week. one from Em one from Mother one from Harry. and one from Sam Lovell. Has Capt. White been over to see you yet. if so what does he say of his Company. and the boys generaly. (Just as I expected I have got to stop and make out five Descriptive rolls and acc.ts of pay. for men that would be unable to march if we should leave in a hurry. I dont know of a letter that I have finished for the last four months, without interuption) Well the company writing is done for a while. and I will now try and finish my letter. I have read one from Father since I commenced

dated Jan 30th and am glad to hear that you were all well at that time I am also glad to know that Capt White speaks well of me, although I knew he could not do otherwise. I presume he has made things all right that Bowly made all wrong, he was treated like a man while here, and from what I hear he paid as well for it after he got home, but I do not consider him worth noticing, and will say no more about him, We recd Orders last night at 12 O'clock to have three days rations in our haversacks and five days rations of Hard Tracks Coffee and sugar in our knapsacks and be ready to move at a moments warning. it is now nearly night again and we have not recd Marching Orders yet and this is just the way the thing has run for the last month we may have orders to move in five

minutes and we may stay here five months. Well Father Yours was the 2d letter I recd addressed to Lieut Tyler, and Harvy's last letter was directed the same, and arrived the same day my commission did I was afraid some of you would address me as Lieut before I was one, it would not have done any particular damage, but there is an Orderly Sergt in the Regt that has his letters directed to Lieut — there is not even a vacancy in the Co he is in yet; the Lieut is in a R.R. Office in Wisconsin. — My commission dates the 8th of may, and I shal recive pay from that time. $105.50 is some better than $17 Dollars a month and if my life is spared I hope to have something to come home to when I am throug with the service. —

As Agro has taken the responsibility of getting my outfit I will write to him on the subject. If Edwards papers do not come to day I think I will mail this and send a letter to Agro by him. do not say any thing to Capt White or Kelly about his coming home. or any thing to Edwards of wat the Dr said to me. Well I am down to the bottom of the page and will close with much love to all.

Henry

Six miles from Tullahoma Tenn.
June 30th 1863

Dear father and Mother

The Chaplain has just sent word to the companies that he can send mail to Murfreesboro if he has it in fifteen minutes and I will write all I can in that time, We left Murfreesboro on the 24th a 9 AM. and marched very slowly about 12 miles (raining hard all the time) fighting all around us we expected to be in it tomorrow, went into camp about Six AM, Capt Ewen and I slept together nothing but our rubber Blankets 25 up at 4 O clock wet to the hide but decidedly rough. 12 O clock M, waiting for Orders raining yet. 3 O clock P. M. three days rations in haversacks and move in five minutes — 26th Marched about 4 miles last night to hoovers gap, turned off from the main road and went up onto a hill in the woods but before we got into the woods there was

four shells fired at us from a Rebbel battery that we could see on our left there was one shell droped, not more than twenty feet from my Company we went into the woods and laid down the firing was kept up about fifteen minutes and then stoped for the night we were within muskat shot of them when we laid in the woods changed our position this morning Our regt support a battary untill 9 a m {our division is in front of the Corpes and our Brigade is in front of the Division} at 9 a m the 79th PA 1st Wis and 21st Wis were ordered as skirmishers to pass to the right flank of the enemy which we done the 79th in advance and we 21st supporting them, Well I have got to stop for this time as I am anxious to have you hear from me. I am well and so are all of my boys tell Capt Edwards if you see him that Every man that left Camp with me are with me now, and say they

will
stick by me untill the last, I have
no fears in regard to comanding
the company. Milt wants me to
say that he is well, he has no paper
to write, and this that I have I borrowed
Mine got wet through. this is the first
morning that I have been dry since
I left Murfreesboro it is Reumored
that our devision is to stay here
for a while to gaward the Suply
and Amuniton Train

[illegible]

[c. July 1, 1863]

about me before this time. however you may always know that if you do not hear from me that I am well. If I am sick I will certainly let you know it in some way. Although I will try and mail a letter to you as often as once a week, if I do not do it it will be because I have so much other work to do. My uniform fits me nicely. And my sword is pronounced the finest in the Brigade. 1st Lt. I had to stop writing last night to let them set the table on my desk. And now I am on picket. in charge of three Serg.ts Eight Corpl.s & fifty one men, of the 1st Wis. My station is in a swamp about two miles from Camp Kelsey has just sent me word that Capt. Edwards has rec.d his papers and will start for home in the morning probably before I get off from

duty. I shall finish this letter and send it by him. I almost wish that I could have a lame back, or be sick or something to take me home

Sam {My nigger} has come to tell me that Our Regt has orders to march, to Guard an ammunition train, to Bridgport and that Capt Edwards will have this afternoon, so I will finish this by wishing that I could see you all to day

Love to all friends. I will write again soon

from Henry

[N.D.]

And now Father a little matter of business.

Through the neglect of our adjutant I was not paid off when the Regt was last paid I will not try to Explain it to you but will leave it to Capt E. as he understands it. but suffice it to say that I had to borrow money, (and I did not know that I had got borrow untill all the Officers had sent their mony home, as there was an Officer left camp the next morning after we were paid, I have borrowed Eighty six $86. Dollars of the Derusha boys in our Company, which I want to have you rais and pay for me to their brother Ely Derusha, he works for Thomas Henry. one of the five brothers that Enterance in Water

company. I want to have you get a receipt from him and send to me, I could have borrowed $500, in the Regt, and paid it when I got it. If I had known that I was not going to get pay a day sooner, I do not know where you will get this money, and am very sorry to have to ~~send to you~~ call on you for it but I had to have money to live on, the U. S. Government now owes me $330. up to the 8th of August, and I shall get it next pay day for I have the papers in my own hands now, I shall be as prudent as I can, and get as much home as I can, well I must close this, and make out Picket Guard Report for the Officer in charge

Accept with this all the love of your

Boy Henry

July 6th 1863

Five miles from the Cumberland Mountain
July 6th 1863

Dear Father and Mother

I have marked the hasty writer letter to you since we left Murfreesboro and I think I will have time to write a few lines before we break camp again. I gave you a short detail of our marching and doings up to the 26th, and will commence at that date. After skirmishing all day (the 79th P.A. in advance and 21st Wis. supporting them) we drove the Rebs about three miles through woods, rivers, marshes, wheat fields and mud "till you can't rest." We retired about a mile and camped for the night. If I ever thought of home it was that night, we crossed one river three times up to our waists. I have often heard Grand Father tell about marching until his feet were blistered, but I do not remember of ever hearing him tell of his toe nails coming off. both of my big

II

toes blistered under the nails and were very sore, and I have to keep them tied up with rags now to keep the nails on.
27th. called up at three O clock at a false alarm of the Pickets, formed in line of battle and waited for the Rebels to make their appearance, but as there were none to come we retired back to our fires - got our breakfast which consisted of coffee, hard tack and cedesh sheep, and at Six O clock we started on our march, At 10 O clock we stopped and rested until one O clock, when we fell in and marched till 6 P.M. Got our supper and waited on the rain until 10 O.C. then marched six miles farther, in the rain, mud, and darkness to Manchester, where we went in to camp about 3 A.M. pretty well tired out
28th We were called up at 6 A.M. to draw rations and move across the River about a mile, here we pitched our dog tents and expected to remain all day, our wagon train came up with us, and we had just got them unloaded to get things that we wanted, when we were ordered to be ready to move at a moments warning, which we did, and then waited until Six O C

before we started, we then marched about 7 miles, and went into camp. Skirmishing all along the road. 29th called up in the night by Picket firing but did not have to form line of battle, laid down again and slept sound until morning. I awoke and found my self in about three inches of water and it was raining hard. Perhaps this is tough for you to believe but it is true nevertheless. Here we remained all day. I was on picket with my company. 30th been in camp all day rained hard all day. if I had paper I should write to day, but my paper that I carried in my pocket is all spoiled, and my desk and every thing Els Except what I have on my back has been sent back to Murfreesboro. it needs all the teams to draw rations. July 1st left camp at 2 O Clock P.M. marched about 4 miles slowly, rested about an hour then started on quick time and marched 7 miles and went into camp about 8 O Clock. heavy fighting in front to day, 2d left camp at 6 A.M., our Brigade, rear guard. we take a round about road, and are drawn up in line of

battle to guard against Cavalry coming in our rear, no cavalry make their appearance, and we move on, we come to the ELK river about 12 m, and are Brigade are ordered to cross the river, a rope was got, and stretched across the river, and the 1st Wis. commenced crossing, it was dark before the last man in the brigade was over, the water was deep (up to my neck) ~~and~~ very swift, and it was a wonder that none were drowned in our brigade the 1st Wis are the first over and had some skirmishing taking five prisoners our brigade on the Rebs. side of the river to night all alone, if they knew it, they might make some trouble for us, 3d the regular brigade crossed the river this morning and lose one man, (drowned), about 9 A.M we take arms and march about three miles through the woods and come out into the prettiest piece of ground I ever saw for a camp, here we stop for to day, and here for the first time since I left Murfreesboro I I got myself dry all over, had a good wash and a good rest ~~so not stud~~

4th of July left camp this morning about 10 A.M., marched about five miles and halted, (rained hard for about an hour,) formed Division by company, and stack arms. Great cheering all around us, what does it mean, we shall soon learn. Col. Looms (Chief of artillery) rides up to the front of our brigade and reads a dispatch, stating that the Reb. Genr.l Lee has been severely whipped on the Potomac, and we give three hearty cheers, Col L. then said that he proposed to fire a national salute of 34 guns which was done by each division in this army, and I believe (although the boys were wet to the skin from the hard rain) that they was full

as happy, and a great deal more
contented with themselves than
many that celebrated the 4th
of July in E. D. La C., it is certainly
wonderfull to see how cheerful our
boys all are, not a word of complaint
do you hear, they all say General
Rosencrans understand his business
and if he says march in the night
and in the rain, we'll do it, and
they do, do it, and I hope to God
that every man in the army of the
Cumberland to day, may live
to enjoy the comforts of a home
but that though not impossible
is very improbable, Well about
4 P.M. we changed our position
a little and put up our dog
tents to rest for the night
5th up at Six O clock, Got breakfast
(cracker & coffee) and the first order

we recd. was that we should live on half rations untill further orders, Our Supply train has not come up and the roads are so bad I do not know when they will be up, I have five hard crackers for three days rations and not a mouthfull of meat, unless the boys can get out of camp and forrage something, and I understand that our Regt. has more crackers than Either of the others in the Brigade, we will probably stay here untill we get rations, and get prepared to cross the Cumberland Mountains, to Chatanooga, whither the Rebs have gone as fast as their sore fut and poor Mules can carry them, there are lots of them comming in and Giving themselves up Every

8

day, and they say (those that come in are Alabama and Georgians) that if the Tennessee troops could get away there is hardly a man but that would give himself up, but they keep them in ~~the trenches~~ on their retreat and they cannot get away, — It is reported to day that our Division is to be divided up (it being the smallest one in the Corps) to guard the R Road, I hope it will not be done for I had rather be in a big battle, than to be continually harrassed by these infernal Guerrillas, Well I have written all I can think of up to this date, and it is night, I will put this in an Envelope and if I get time before the Mail leaves, I will write on business matters. if not Good bye with much love from Your Solder Boy —

July 9th - I have not had an opportunity of reading this letter yet, but the chaplain thinks he can get the mail off tomorrow well this is the Sixteenth day since we left Murfreesboro, and it has rained every day since we left, our supply train has not come up yet and we are living on 1/4 rations. I could relish the supper that Jennie will get to night, but I will not write in this way you will think I am complaining I never was in better health in my life, and if the news is all true that we have heard for last four or five days I am strongly inclined to believe that this war will be wound up this summer and I shall be with you once more, I have been gone from home nearly a Year and I can

assure you, there has not one day passed that I have not thought of home and friends

I have rec'd two letters from you since we left Murfreesboro, the last dated the 29th. you say Azro has not heard from me I wrote him a long letter also one to Capt Edwards, and mailed them two days before the one I wrote Lieut Adams, I presume he has rec'd it before this I lack #37. of Cap Edwards and I ~~in~~ intended to write by him to Azro and have him say it for me there but Edwards left when I was on picket and I did not have the opportunity, I want to have Azro send me a bill of the uniform, I can

pay it back to him on my next pay. My pay now amount to $105.50 pr month. and $10. pr month Extra while in command of the company.

I intend to send home $75. from every months wages I receive, after the first payment. I hope to get enough home to get me right side up. then I intend to keep so. In regard to Dick Peacocks things, I sold his boots for $7, Shirt for 1.50 making $8.50 in money that I recd and appropriated to my self. there was one pr Drawers, two pr socks, that I could not sell and I kept them my self. I thought that I had written you about it before, am sorry I have been so careless about it, but presume it will be all right now, there

was a pr of mitts and a bottle of Whisky. the mitts are in the company box and the whisky was <u>appropriated</u> - I am quite anxious to hear from Capt. Edwards I fear he is unable to be around. If he does not start for the Reg.' before you get this I would like to have you take some pains to find out how he is, whether he has recd my letter or not and tell him to write to me, The Boys in Co. A. are all well. Milt, French, Edd Gould and all the F du Lac Boys are well, and in good spirits although the 1/4 rations make them look a little cross-eyed Remember me to all friends, and accept this with much love from

Henry

Aug 9th

Camp Scribner
Cowan Station. Tenn
Augt. 9th 1863

Dear Father and Mother.

It has been some time since I mailed a letter to you. although I have thought of you and dreamed of you as much, as if I had written every day. I have been very busy since we came to this camp. Capt Edwards has not done any duty since he came. and I would as soon have Kelsy in Fond Du Lac as here as far as his helping me is concerned. Furthermore, since they have returned I have had the blues (I Expect I never new ~~not~~ ~~t~~ what they were before) and have not felt in a mood to write. and I fear this will not be a very interesting letter. I have just got the writing done up for the last quarter. (three months) and was calculating

to send in my papers for a leave of absence. day before yesterday. when the Division had orders to be ready to move at any moment with ten days rations. and of course. it would avail me nothing should I send them in, at present. unless it was very necessary that I should go home.
we expect now to march tomorrow morning. but where our destination is I do not know. I am in hopes it will be to some station along the R.R. so that I can get a chance to come home. for I do want to come the worst way.

Thursday Aug 13th 1863

You will notice that we have changed our camp since I commenced this letter. I was called to supper sunday before I had it finished. and eat so much green corn it gave me the belly ache and I was sick all night. and I can assure you I did not feel much like marching

monday morning but had to do it.
we left Cavan Station about 9 O'clock A.M.
and had a tedious march over the Cumberland
mountains. we only marched twelve miles
but it was very hot. and quite a number
were sun stroke. one droped down dead
The next day (tueday) we (our Regt) were Guard of
the wagon train. I rode in the ambulance
nearly all ddy. did not get into camp
untill after dark — I must stop writing
for a few moments and Eat some peaches
that one of the boys have ~~I~~ brought
in for me — well I have Eaten seven
nice ripe peaches. two for myself and
the balance for mother. they are much
nicer when you get them right from
the tree. than they are up north. and
there are thousands of bushells of them
in this country. again I have been
called from this letter. One of my Sergts
was detailed this morning to go out
with a forrage train. and has just
been brought ~~in~~ back in an ambulance

while the train was coming in loaded with wheat the wagon he was on tipped over, he tried to jump but his foot got tangled, and he fell under the wagon, the box striking him in the back and crushed him to the ground, he Doct says it may not be serious but will probably lay him up for this summer this is the way the men in the army get used up, if not by powder and ball, there is some other way to disable and cripple them for life, I wish that it would close

We came to this camp yesterday morning, it is not a very pleasant place you cant see any thing but mountains look which way you will, I do not think we will remain here any longer than to get our wagons repaired and then moved on, somewhere, we are in Alabama now, about five miles from the line, Our camp is about Eighty rods from what is called Crow creek, a low muddy hole, I am as well now as I ever was, but I was quite sick with the "quick step" for two or three days, I used Fathers Medicine, that is went without Eating, the warm weather has taken some of the flesh from me, my weight when I left Murfreesboro was 165 lb it is now 135, — I recd a letter from you also one from Azro last Sunday and I presume you are feeling anxious

Camp near Anderson Station Ala
Sunday Aug 16th 1863

Dear Brother Ayres

As this is sunday and I have nothing to do at present, I do not think that I can improve my time to any better purpose than by writing to you. I know I could spend this day much more to my own satisfaction if I could be at home, but that is out of the question, but I am in hopes that I may get an opportunity to come home before a great while. It rather looks now as if we would remain in this camp for some time. Our Regt. is camped by itself now and is doing duty by itself (Guarding the Ammunition train) We are camped on the side of the mountain. the Officers tents are about one hundred feet above the company tents. Our tents (Co A & F have one tent between them) was quite unfortunate crossing the mountain. it broke down and they had to leave our Wall tents. Miss chest & all the Co Rations. and all we have now to sleep under is a wall tent fly that Alf Fargo let us have, the Officers of Co A & F mess and lodge to gather. an arrangement I made with Mitt while Capt. E. and Lieut Adams were away. Mitt is a good boy. a good Captain. and a good friend

and I hope he will get the opportunity of going home His name has been sent in as one of the Commissioned Officers to go home. {or to Mis} after conscripts. had it not been for Capt. Edwards going home again I should ~~cy~~ ~~and~~ asked Col Hobart for that Job but it is to late now, and it probably would not have been my luck to get the chance. If Genl. — Starkweather was the only man that has to say about a leave of absence. I should be quite sure of going home, but it has to go clear up to Rosy. and I do not know how it will be. but I hope that I can get away. for a while.
I recd your last letter last sunday. I had just got back from a trip from Ca-aw Station to Deckard Station. after Rations. I had charge of fifty men. & thirty two teams. I was furnished with a horse. and it was rather of a pleasant trip, we were gone two days. I had some new sweet cider at Deckard the first of the season I was very glad to hear from you. and hope you will get along and not have any more trouble with your back. Father says it will be a long time before you are well. You must be very carefull of your self. I know you must feel very uneasy to be confined to the house. — Does Dall Alex still work for you. if so Remember me

to him. how many men do you Rep. now? and do you have much work on the R.R. now? Is Jim Lawrence in Fond Du Lac? how badly was he wounded Father's last letter which I recd. yesterdy. says that he is looking for me on every train from the south. I wish that I could be on some of them so as not to disappoint him so often, — You will probably see Capt. Edwards. before you get this he went off in somthing of a hurry. I was on picket. and finished a letter in a hurry to Father so as to have him take it along. but he had gone before my nigger got back to camp. By the way I have got the smartest nig in the army. and he thinks as much of me as any dog does of his master. I am pretty strict with him. which is the only way to get along with them. Sam says he is a guine to stick to me like death to a nigger. and is a guine home with me after the war is over. but I do not think I shall have any use for a nigger after I am out of the army, unless I come out disabled in some way that I cannot wait on my self. then I will have a nig — Well I am getting to the bottom of this page and will close. Give my love to Jane. why dont she write to me, {bicause I dont write to her probably} Remember me to all the boys, write soon and believe me to be your

Affectionate brother Henry

Thursday Aug 20th 1863

Dear Brother

I have delayed mailing this letter, thinking that I would find out something in regard to our movements. as it has been reported every day this week that we would move the next day. but we are still here and have had no Orders to move yet, but I presume we will have soon, as Genl. Rosy is getting his forces all down this way. and there was a train of cars passed here a few moments ago. loaded with pontoon bridge which looks as if some portion of the army was going to cross the Tenn. River, and it generaly understood that there will be some hard fighting at or near Chattanooga, Well I am not anxious for a fight but I am prepared, and perhaps if I should get in to a fight that I might get wounded, and get a chance to come home and perhaps I might go to my long home, — — — I recd. a letter from Mollie last night. I hope Father has recd. my last letter before this, and I will try and not let so long a time pass again without writing, home, and I hope you will write to me a little oftener, and a letter would be acceptable at any time from Jane, the pictures that I recd. of the children are very pretty, Lelly is getting to be

quite a young lady. Well I must close this and get it in to the mail. (this is miserable paper – Government furnishes it) Capt Evans & Pelny wish to be remembered. Frank Dulac boys are all well. — Milt does not wish to have any thing said about his coming home, as he does not know whether he will come or not yet —
Write soon, and accept this with much love
from Henry

I had sweet potatoes for supper last night

On Picket, near Anderson Station Ala

August 28th 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

My last letter to you was finished while on Picket duty, and as I am on the same duty to day, and all is quiate along the lines I will devote a while to you — Your last letter was recd last Saturday, only five days on the road, and I was glad to hear that you were all well at that time, as a letter from mollie a few days befor told me that Mother was quite unwell; And now in regard to my not geting any pay, in our last paymunt, I Expected to have Capt Edwards carry my last letter to you and that he would Explain the matter but he was of before my letter got to him and perhaps you have not seen him, so I will Explain the thing myself

Good Weather here — Stand

Allen A.

On the Road to Atlanta, Atlanta are another
Quilted Collected, Atlanta are another
Atlanta and me

I was mustered in to the U.S. service as a 2d Lieut on the 17th day June 63 to date & rank from the 8th day of May Well Capt. Millard (the mustering Officer) was sick the morning that I was mustered and could not sign all of the papers (which if he had done I could have taken them with me and run all right) but said he would do it as soon as he was able, and send the papers to my Col. well it run along until we got to Cowan (I had asked the Adjutant several times about him but he knew nothing about him) I began to think that I would have to be mustered again and I went to see the mustering Officer about it, and he showed me a receipt for the papers delivered to Col. Hobert, I told the Col. about it and he gave me a certified statement, that the papers had been rec'd by him, and were lost on the march from Murfreesboro to Cowan

will this have to be approved by Genl. Rosecrans before I could get a new set of papers. The Mustering Officer was confident that it would get around before the pay master left but it did not, until the day after he had gone. But the Adj was all to blame for my not getting pay, as the pay master had not been gone two hours when the Adj. handed me my old papers, which he should of given to me as soon as he got them in. Nevertheless they had got mislaid in his desk and he was very confident he had notice them, but I have them now and will be all right on an other pay day. I was very sorry it happened so, as I intended to send money home instead of sending home for money. I shall get quite a pile when I do get it, but it will probably be a month yet before we are paid again.

Private

I commenced this while on picket duty, but did not have time to finish it, and will now say a few words about Capt. Edwards He had plenty of time to get me word that he was going home, but he sent me word first that he would go in the morning, and when he was just ready to start he sent me word that he would go at night, this I care nothing about. — But he went off without saying one word to any of the Company, and he carried home with him over $100, in Company fund, which he has no right to do, and the boys have very hard feelings against him on that acc^t, as the Co fund is kept for their use, to buy blacking, soft bread &c, I am in hopes the Capt will mail the thing all right by mail, but he has allready made himself liable to be dismissed from the service, burn this after you read it, I owe him $37 but do not wish to have you pay it, untill I hear from him at any rate, I will write more about him at

Camp Near Rolla.
Mo. August 26, 1863

Brother Azro,

I recived the letter you sent by Charlie Adamson, and I was very glad to hear from you. I was sorry to hear that you had lamed yourself. I hope that you have recovered by this time. I also received those cans of fruit you sent for Hattie & Caddy obliged, if you see Proff. T. M. Bowen tell him that his extreme kindness I never shall forget, for favors received, he is a brave boy.

Azro we have no here what ever, we are eating Uncle Sams rations and wearing out his clothes in return we standing picket where it is perfectly safe. Bully for us

and on Camp guard, and drill occasionally keeps us disciplined but after a person has been in the service six months, all the discipline they get into them after that does not amount to much. the most of them get their eye teeth cut about that time, and generally become tough cusses, fortunate for me, as my people always said, I was done gone ruined years ago. my being in the service would not have a tendency [illegible]alize me. so you see I gained something by commencing early. We have heard no news from the South for a number of days. it was generally understood that the [illegible] were becoming badly discouraged, since the fall of Vicksburgh. it was a pity that Bread did not follow the victory up. by gobbling up some more

of Lees men, however it would have a bad effect. if some of our Gen go in to strong and gains to many fights, some of his friends will come back on him, and he is ousted, or there is an inferior command given him, that is what has played the deuce with us, ever since this thing commenced, I have heard that the Rebs have guards posted around the City of Richmond, for they are fearful that Jeff Davis will skeedaddle, that is a big joke on the Chivalric President, wether it is true or not I do not know. But I hope it is, I do not want you to think that I am getting discourage, far from it though I am just as anxious as any to be with my family, but as I am in the Mess, I do not

want to quit untill we whip them so God damned dead that they will forget all about the Southern Confederacy or that there ever was such an Institution. I see a list of names of those that were enrolled in the 7 ward of the City of T. D. L liable to the draft. and I discovered ~~several~~ the names of several of my friends I also see the names of several of boys that have been discharged from our Co they ought to let them flap. I will now close renewing my wish that you are all well and that you will continue so I am respectfully your

Friend & Brother

Hunt

P. S.

Give my respects to Sister Jane I hope she is well.

also to the rest of the Girls

anything in the shape of a letter sent here will come direct and when received will be carefully perused

[1863, c. Sept.]

The following is what I am
required to have, as an Officer
1 Dress Uniform Coat
1 do do Vest
1 do do pr Pants
1 Officers Sash
1 Sword and belt
1 Hat, size 7, & 1 pr White Gloves
Extra. ½ doz pr White cotton Gloves
1 pr congress Gaiters No. 8.
1 " Doeskin Gloves

The sword and belt I want as
soon as possible. I am using one
now, that belongs to the inspector
General of this Brigade, he is one
of my old friends of the first
Regiment. and was kind enough
to offer it to me untill I can
get one.

Henry.

Camp Dawson Ala
Sept 1st 1863

Dear Father and mother

I have waited two or three days thinking that I could write you something definite about our movements, but all I can tell you now, is that I have just got packed up, every thing in readyness for an early start in the morning We march to morrow morning at four O.clock with two days rations in haversacks and seven days rations on the company wagons We march to Sloanson {Eight miles} and there the wagons take on Eight days more rations. The boys have to back their Knapsacks which will be rather sore

on them. I do not know our destination as it so uncertain what Bragg will do, if he fights we will fight, if he runs we will follow him, and perhaps living in the Gulf of Mexico before the campaign is over, - I will take some paper in my pocket and will get a letter to you as often as I can, We are having very curious weather here now it comes very near to a freeze here nights and quite warm during the day, My health is good, and if it continues so I will be satisfied, I would like spend a month at Home but must not think of it for the present I have rec.d your two last letters of the 16th & 23d Aug.t and will answer them when I get to a stoping place again, and will

only say now, that letters from home are all the reading matter I have of interest, and your style of letter suit me. I want to hear of every little incident that transpires at home. If you could see my Eyes when I read your letter, you would not think that your letters were too affectionate

— — — — — — — —

I must close this letter go to bed it is now Eleven O'Clock and I must be up by three in the morning Give my love to all friends, Remember me to Mrs Lowry Mrs Gould and all the Neighbors, Excuse this short letter, and accept with it the love of your baby

Henry

Has Azro rec.d my last letter? In particular when you write to let me know just how he is. Good night, I will dream of home to night

Henry

Sept 18

I enclose a cotton
flower.

Georgia Sept. 14th, 1863

Dear Father and Mother,

It has been just fourteen days since I mailed a letter to you, and I presume you are beginning to get anxious about me, but it is not my fault, as I had a letter written all ready to mail the first opportunity, but when the opportunity came, my letter was completely worn out. — But Franch Fuller mailed a letter to his mother, and wrote a few words for me, which will let you know that I am well and all right. ~~bfor~~ but as you say, hearing from one friends by the way of others is not the thing, it does not satisfy me, and I know it does not you, only to know that I am well, Well since I last wrote we have done some marching — I must stop writing now as I have orders to report to the Brigade Inspector for Grand Guard —

Still here I am on the bank of a little creek, with sixteen men three Sergts & four Corporals, which is the reserve station of the picket, I have no sentinals out, but in case of an attact on the picket line, they all rally to my reserve, — and now to continue about our marching, we have been thirteen days on the march and have only marched about fifty miles, the first day we marched Twenty miles since then the distances have been short, very tedious. we have crossed three mountains also the Tennessee River, in which I had a nice bathe, we are now the valley {I dont know the name of it} about thirty miles south of Chattanooga with orders to be ready for a rapid march at a moments warning, we had a right smart little fight on friday last, and had to retreat, but I think we could of held our position

had it not been for rain, as the Rebs were trying to flank us and destroy it. one of Gen Stanleweather A. D. C. Lieut Robt. Nickols was shot through the heart, while taking an order to the skirmishers, he was a old acquaintance of mine in the 1st. Wis three Months men a very fine young man, and a good officer, — I expect we will have a hard fight before many days if they dont retreat faster than we can follow, the Enemy is reported to be in force about six Miles from here, Gen Rosencrans is concentrating his force here for an advance, and when he goes ahead I think the Rebs will "git" — It is very inconvenient for me to write on this post, and you will have to take the will for the deed and Excuse a short letter, Do not be uneasy about

me for if I am sick or wound
I will write myself or have
some one do it for me.
Capt. Ewen Co. Gould French Fuller
Lieut Adams and in fact all the
Fond Du Lac boys are well.
I have just
[illegible] to change my
the position of my reserve
and must close this and send
this into Camp.
write soon and accept
much love from
Henry
Love to all

Send me a pair of woolen
socks by mail