

Civil War letters, 1862-1865. Wis Mss 75S [unpublished]

Richards, Robert, 1844-[s.l.]: [s.n.], [unpublished]

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Civil War Letters of Robert Richards dr.

Robert Richards was the eldest son of Robert and Mary Richards who were pioneers in Sauk City, Wis. Robert Senior was born in England and came to America about 1840. He came to Wisconsin with his bride, Mary Chase Richards and was an overseer for several years in land projects and Wisconsin river ferry service, largely associated with the Hungarian refugee, County Harazthy.

Robert Junior was born in 1844, having two brothers, Charles and Frederick, and a sister Caroline. Charles served in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry. The accompanying letters were written to the sister (mother of Elwood R. McIntyre, donor) and cover most of the period of his war duty--the ones sent to his Mother not being in existence. He was about 18 when he enlisted and his sister was born in 1848 and was therefore 4 years younger than he.

He enlisted from Adams county as a private in Co. E. He and his comrades were sent right into the battle of Shild without sufficient training, hence he was taken prisoner therem and spent nearly a year in Confederate prisons in Tuscaloosa and Andersonville. None of the letters cover that period.

Later he wasmplaced under parole and sent to Superior, Wis. to be interned according to the rules, waiting for an exchange. Enroute to thefront again, he had a short furlough at home. At that time the family were living in some delapidated buildings on the site of Ft. Winnebago, Portage.

Late in 1864 he was wounded in the knee cap near Hunssville, Alabama. He was taken to a Federal hospital at Jeffersonville, Indiana and later transferred to Jefferson Barracks, Sgint Louis. It took him nearly six months to recuperate and his suffering and longing for home are told in some of the last letters written.

He lived to be a flour miller at Kilbourn City, Portage and other places and finally he moved to Chatfield, Minn. where he owned and operated Orion Mills, grinding buckwheat flour as a speciality.

Throughout his life he was troubled with his old wound and his leg never actually got straight and strong. His eldest son, Frederick, was manager of the Madison Gas & Electric Co. awhile in the early 1900's and Robert himself moved to Kansas to live with a son and died there along about 1925.

Madison, Wis., October 21, 1955

Elwood R. memlyes

SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN OF '64.

(Air: The Irish Volunteer.)

On the second day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, When we commenced this great campaign with the 14th army corps, We met the rebs at Tunnel Hill, and Rocky Face also; And Hooker with his flanking corps did prove their overthrow. CHORUS:-Hurrah for General Sherman's boys,

No dangers do they fear; He starts them for the Johnnie's works, They go it with a cheer.

They evacuated Buzzard Gap; they said they were determined,-For Johnston he had set a trap to bag old General Sherman; But Sherman knew a thing or two, sent Hooker to the right, Where the 20th corps fixed bayonets and put them all to flight. CHORUS.

They faced about and traveled on, and halted at Resaca, Where they asked our pickets if they would trade coffee for tobacco; But Johnston saw it would not do, the Yanks were two to one, And from behind his works withdrew and retreated further on.

CHORUS. The Coosa River next they crossed, and also burned the bridge, For Johnston swore he'd have revenge for the loss of Rocky Ridge. At Dallas they thought 'twould be no harm, to stop they'd all conclude, Although the weather being warm close behind them we pursued. CHÓRUS.

One day said Johnston to his men, "On Kenesaw we'll stand, And from that hill we'll never move till we loose every man." Then fortifications were quickly made by fifty thousand strong, When the roar of cannon told the Rebs the Yanks were coming on.

CHORUS.

When up within artillery range we fortified also, And Hooker with his flanking corps straight to the flank did go : The Johnnies sent us their respects, with cannon we replied; The 16th corps being on the left, and Hooker on tother side. CHORUS.

the Chattahouchee Johnston crossed to Milledgeville he went, W.L Said he to Brown, Old Georgia's lost, there was no reinforcement sent; Said Gov. Brown to Johnston, "Do you think it is too late For us to make another stand, or shall we leave the State?" CHORUS.

But Sherman thought to play a trick, to the river he fell back, It took Old Hood a day or two before he found his track, We started for the Railroad line to cut off their supplies;

It made the Johnnies think quite strange and open wide their eyes. CHORUS.

On the first day of September, Old Cleborne for his spite, He thought to have a little fun, the acorn boys he'd fight; But Davis with the 14th corps, or "Old Pap Thomas's pets," Learned Old Cleborne a lesson he never will forget. CHORUS.

Where are the commissaries, what have you been about? Why don't you give us pork and beans and leave the blue beef out; Just bring along your greenbacks now for this campaign is through To pay off Sherman's army, for there is nearly eight months due.

And yet you hear the cheering news, our Sherman is all right, His army 's around Savannah, and our flag waves there so bright; He's going down to Charleston next to make the rebels clear, And then from there to Richmond like a Veteran Volunteer. CHORUS.

So long will be the day before this war will be forgotten By the heroes of the North and West who have trod the land of cotton; And from this generation down, and then forevermore, Their names will be recorded in the history of this war.

CMORUS.

Composed by M. B. Norr, Co. E, 85th Ill. Vol. Inf.



A SOLDIERS APPEAL. BY W. F. WILDER.

Air. - America.

Let patriots now awake! And each fresh courage take, Resist the foe!

Our cause we must maintain, Though millions more are slain; Our hopes are not in vain, Though blood shall flow.

Our fathers fought and bled, On us rich blessings shed, Ne'er let them fade! But O, with heart and hand, Preserve this glorious land; In union let us stand 'Till peace is made.

Though traitor bands unite, In treason take delight,

Firm let us stand ! Our cause we know is just, In God we'll ever trust, And fight, if fight we must, On sea, or land.

With union for our prize, We'll look with longing eyes

'Till peace return; We'll sing of vict'ries won When treason's race is run, 'Till then, with sire and son, Let freedom burn.

Though Sumpter's wall displays To traitors fiendish gaze, The stars and bars ; The Union flag shall wave, O'er treason's self made grave, Though patriots blood shall bathe Those stripes and stars.

Soc States R. D. LINDLEY, Printer. ###

..... The following is ingenious, as a specimen of two meanings in the same words, after the manner of the old revolutionary quibble, in which King George was at once denounced and applauded. The one sense is found in reading the two columns, the other in reading across as if there was but one:--

I always did intend Single my life to spend, It much delighteth me To live from woman free, It's sure a happy life To live without a wife. A female to my mind I ne'er expect to find A bachelor to live My mind I freely give To take to me a wife, Would grieve my very life, To think upon a bride, I can't be satisfied. "Tis woman is the thing Such troubles on us bring The joy I can't express So great in singleness I never could agree A married man to be.

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A. S. Christian Commission Booms. Pefferson Barrocke April 20 the 1865.

Dear Sister -US it is five days since I wrote home I suppose it is about time I wrote again although I was in hopes of gatting a letter before I wrote again-but being disappointed in getting a letter this morning I have concluded to write now and again when the letter comes_ I have not got much news to write - In the first place my wound has entirely healed up: so there is no more danger of getting the gangrene. unless it should take a notion to break out again. and I don't think it will do that as it were was a deep wound I traveled around a good deal yesterday with only one crueth-but I find it is not so easy a matter to walk on a crooked by that you have not put to the ground for four or five months - at first - it did not hurt at all all but towards might I had to use both crutches - it did not seen to hurt the wound but the pain was in my foot and knee- the pain in my post feels just like the pain does in an ankle that has been sprain practing bad by stepping on the side of your foot - but I think it will soon get over that I am going to keep trying to walk on it and I think the frain will finally leave - I have been thinking whether it is best- to be mustired out and go home as wait a spell to see if this the transfer comes off - if I go home now I shall have to go with out a cent and shall not be able to earn any thing in some time - and I suppose Mother has all she can do to get along now. So that my coming home wold only make it worse Do I think I will wait a few days and see if that transfer does not come off- if it don't know but I had better do the other thing

I read the two papers Mother sent day before yesterday I wrote to bharley yesterday - I get some paper and envelopes of the christian commission and by taking letters to the house where the agent stops he will put stamps on them and mail them - es I think after this I shall not leave any letters imanswered for the want of writing material - if you get any Portage papers with a good deal of State news I wish you would send me a few I dont want any bull of war news for we get that here before they can get it at Portage - a father with something in it concerning Portage or any other place in Wis suits me and the rest of the Wis boys better than war news - every paper you send to me is read by every Wis. and Minn. man in the word - Well & can think of no more to write now so good. I will write again next sunday - I want you as Mother to write as often as twice a weak and I will do the Dame Robert. Richards in of first and the has I then them it at a first

Benton Barrack Stlowis Sunday Augst 31th 1862 Fear Dister i received your letter of the the this morning and now takenny from in hand to write a fine how well you write i think you minst have went to school pretty steady and Tried to learn to have got along as well as you have i hope you have got alone as well in arithmatic georgraphy and aller things i wish you would write a letter to me ever week for you and Frid always write something interesting to mid it does no good to read my thing that has happened at home among the folle that i an acquainted with if it happened dust string it is new to me so i wish you would write

as often as you can and every thing you can think of tell me if Charley writes home how he gets along and if he is coming home i am going to write a letter to him when i get this finished and try and git tim to come home so that mother will not have so much to su to, i should think it was about time i had an answer to the letter i wrote to him, if he got it and mather secured to think he would when lafe got there. i wish My Bannister would book down here to benton barrache and see what she can see when she does that and tells just how things look and what is going on i shall belowe she is a seen and not before i have been in tennesse and i Know it is a practicy long looki from Wis to Series and after your got there you can't see a rod a head of you bor brush

Sunday night half past Year Sister & again Take up my hen to try to finish my letter i was taken with a chill about two eclock and had to stop writing about six oclock the child went off and a perce came on and has not quite left me get i have gat to take some medicine at ten and i thought i would got a candle and finish writing i hope another wout hay fan a cont till after he fetches that shave horse back and i would not promise to then the three shillings is weath more to mother, than the shave house, i think if mother could sell that so for more than two dollars she had better pay loyd but if she and she had better let bin have ber for the more will be worth more to pertuite sou

i hope Andrew Seausous will write to me, i wish that some the rest of the neighbors would write to me i thought Brownwas going to write but i haint heard anaption of him yet it wats a good deal for paper and stantes after all, i have got to buy 51 cents worth to put on the things i am going to mail to morrow, the likness will take 25 cents worth, but i got the case for 25 cents less than the price Do i thought i could appoind to buy stamps and send it in a case Ed says it don't look a bit like me and i dont Know but i will have it taken over again in the morning of i do you will know it by my bar my watch in my shirt pocket write as often as you can and All me all the news Good by Robert. Richards

. Jong of the Conscripts When first I came to Memphis big and walked around the place Streets I wondered what could be the matter with some I there did meet They lookal so wild and dreadful frightened and why I could not find They would not stop but hept on runing with their cout tails straight behind Chorus_ Oh now they run Ha: Hon and doolg the guards Hor. Hor. But now I see they are conscripting and thatis 2" The streets by soldiers are blockaded with form a hollow square to ever When the Victimis in he looks around and they begins The grand says halt and asks for papers which broad cloth fails to show For which at length he has to prest a fifty spot or so Chorus - Oh how they run Ha Ha

They rush in scores to be examined poor man what nermerous ails They's deaf and dumb and have the colic there cycsight often fails They limp on one fort then the other they full and blow and wheeze and blow The Dottors wits are oft times proggled. Their the complaints to know "The guards creates the greatest terror as they seour the city through The Megroes they are always willing to wear the Unit of Blue The mules and houses they are logal the The rendezvous around the commons and they 5 The conscripts meet to drill very often say time a week a more They soon will do to drive yourillas from the Arkansas shore The other night they heard the cannow they thought their time had come How mice they felt when some one total them the reds were on the run

Here Oll grant and that most willing in Lest loyal men of Memphis bitz should think That some there is that love there country. above all cle besides And hope that through the storm that raying Haging our Bark may safly ride Jefferson Barracks. March 27 th 1865 Written by Robert Richards at Jefferson Barracks Mr. His time, three years, had expired in Dec. 1864, but he did not receive his discharge until July 1865 Uncle of the donor, a Wis. soldier.



Bunton Barrach > 1812 Monis Dept. 11 Dear sider i have Just received your totar of the 4th and mothers loog and i thought i would areswer your first I was glad to hear that the inglian prairie has all blorg our i have been uncary ever since I gat your last letter for pear you might have trouble but all such hear. have remished since i read your letter this Abternoon. I expected to get a letter aday on two ago, by mother saying in her taist that she was a going to write again the next day I should think Completelle - folks would peel rather cheap for making duch a fus about he indans

i am going to accalout golling my discharge tomorrow the committee meet every day at head quarters but there is no use in new going there yet autile for there is about porty ahead of me they have togo there and got a licket with your number on it and when your number is talled your Can shaw your light and be Clamined, they are not going to give cent any means licher till day after tomarrad I am going to be an hand then and got a ticket i am going to do every thing i can to got my discharge i know i and entitled to it and and going to have it if there is any such thing ...

I have been pretty well for the last two or three days with the exception of the pain in my breast and side which has troubled me some but not as much as it did a few days ugo à an gaing to send a couple of song books with these letters and i want you to put them away a keep them chan lill I get home there is some of the best songs in them i ever head i wish you would bear to sing the red white and blue, the star spangled banner, do they miss me at home, the boys used to sing these sough when we were in prison at turcaloora und it second to me they were the best sough i ever heard, i terpe mother event let my del fille go for if i

get home i should like to play mit again, i clout see why tharly don't write to me he must have second one of my lettery and if he haden't i should think he would have wrote any way when he found where ina, tell Fred i cant write to him, This time so your man Tima he this titles do for both of you i hope you will write every week and tell in all the news there is no news here for me to write only about myself and that don't amount to much but i will try and write some thing when ever you write good byc bor the present Robert. Richard

Inherios bit Nov 28/62 Dear sister 1' recieved your letter of the it last night i was glad to hear that mothes got the money i seat has i was glad that mather paids Fran so there will be no the troubly wintering the calle ig at a letter from Charly the they day he wanted to know what i thought about buying It. the lewis place, i wrote to him if mother thought it best he had better buy it but i think after all it is Sest not to buy any land yet ithink if he wants to buy any the he had better by young cattle i think we shall be haid off about the first of farmary the hiert told me the backt was going &

you need not be at all to troubled about getting letter from me and doo me bor the mail comes in regular three time a week and has not mised but and in three years i wish mother would rend me. a bew stants i have not got but a few and if i don't get some i shall have the stop writing till i and haid app, direct your latters to superior bity i don't see what made you send this to Baybield write as soon as you get this, i think it is about time a had an answer from the feller i conte the day we hundred i have no more to write at present and i want to wash 3004 shirt to day so a must bid you Good bye from your Brother Robert Richards Edwants you to let his bolk, he is all sight

Juliar City Was Lec. 9. the 1862 Lear Dister i received a letter from you to day dated Nor. 26th it is the first letter i had since i got that one you sout to Baybill i began to think i weres should get another letter forom how it secons by your letter you have moved some where but you don't tell where, i think there must be some letters on the road some where for it has been wearly a month since wrote forom here frist and it seems to me this cannot be the first letter you have wrote "have Rept running to the feast Office till i got discouraged and i sevore i wouldent write again till i got a letter as good luck would pare it i got one to day

i think Charley has had a good offer and if thinks is so day to be a soldier and a prisoner of war why let him try it i have a word to say i guess by the time he lives on grass a week or two the wont like it so well & some bolky can't leave, any thing unless they learn it by experience wish you would write and let me Know if you hear samy thing about the harolled trisoner being exchanged let we know where you live and what beharly is going to do Ed wants you to tell his bolk, he is all right p' an well and have been ever since i have been here i am getting bat as a log i weigh ter the it is so dark " shall have to stock. writing so good by from your Brother Robert Richarch

Suberior City Dec. 11 62 Dear Dister a received a letter to day from you and one berow Charley and a' found out to day where you had moved to, teacharty said in his letter that he was yoing to see a man to make a bargain with him to go as a substitute a I don't think he will make out much it that because the men that are drafted are sound men and they will not take him in the place of a sound may but i don't think he can do better than to yo if he cou get on or two hundred dollary if i had my discharge & would ga in a minute " wild stand it bon nine months easy enough ' should like to have seen how dehesebra looked when he was drapted

I am glad you have got back to the Stepper mill again & Think it Charly stap to have you will git. a long agreat deal better there than you would in town for you will have a good garden and if thereby is a mind to be can raise a good deal off of sie acres i think II dollars is plenty cheap enough if it wasant for Bill Campbells balk, i would as soon live there as any places i know of we have been boarding at the taver till yesterday, the boys got dissatisfied with their living at the lavere so they drew there ration, scherately and have hired there board at private houses around & bourd a with a dutch parity i have to pay 50 cents a month the same as i'did at the lavern some of the bays hay 5's centra well and have will and butter to use and get only two meals a day when i get there which make, at for the milt's and butter

i am getting pretty hard up bos every thing i am out of tobacco and out of stamps i am going to put the last stamp on this letter, i have run in debt for a hat i hated to wear that old but all winter that i wore when i was to have they have not got any take large enough bor me or i should have drawn one, i a feet expect i can get tobacco there at the same stone that where i got my hat und he will wait till pay day but & can't get stamps the letter i got broom you to day went to Baybield one of our boys way down there and he brought it up here mour this immediately and let me throw whethe Charly & is going away and i wrote to beharly to send me that bigs book i got of bill bauhbell if basent sent it i wish you would remember and send your the likenesses as quick as you and Robert Richard

. Superior bity Jany 1863 Dear Gister I received a letter provingon today dated the 21th of Dec. it seems you have had quite exciting times around home I don't see why Brown dident thrash Old Farker when he swore at him despect Bill would have done it if it had not been for Mro Brown The light got a letter from Madison today Ordering us to report to Machinon right aways that it seen to be an order from. indirectly brow bot Boale of the 18 th regt, but the Capt says he is not going to comply with it the says if they was properough to send us up here with inne on the provision he is just feel enough to stay here and eat them whe

I sout see how they expect are are too get to Madison we could not carry our clothes and rations enough to last up to It hands for there is no learne here we could get to carry our things but I don't thingk they is any danger of our leaving here tell Thing, I do not feel very well to day I had the aufulest head ache yesterday I ever had in my life I did not get to sleep till about ten adoct last night They are going to give the soldiers a suppor to night and we have ben to work to fix wha room we have got it fixed up with plage. evergreen. ved white and blue richous and I don't know what not, this atezons are petching in dishes and the estable, now and I expect we shall have a pretty youd suppor good by Robert Stachard

ENCLOSURE C. Richards Julierion City Janny 8. 163 Dear Fister . I read a letter bran you last twestay. and to day I got and form you and mother and Charly liken I think this one looks exactly like him I air going to send you ... the and you sent to me him I have not got stamp enough to send the one i got to day, I had to get a new crystal put in my watch, and that took some of the money you dent to me I hope washall have some maney by and by they are making out the pay rolls and the Lieut is going to start for alladisoris a few days I have just wrot a latter to Charly

but I don't le pect he will get it, you want to know what kind of a live we had her Christmas we did not have much of a time here unless you call standing grand over two or three etrusken men a good time, but we had a gaid time here newyeard I told you about it when I wrote to you last saturday I have no more to write now with to me as after as you lay ... to same of the m from your brother some the course Robert Richards rold and the dring & in gaing a to start gov, station in a fair alays I have give where a lefter to thank

Evelosed in R. Richards 1863 June Dear harris - of you have got a Geography Prish you would send ing a list of the names of all the states with the square males and propulation of sache and the population of ten ar 15 of the largest titles in the multi States. and the date of your Gragoraphy -get as late a one as you Pain- Robert Reichards

Superior Jamy 22 #1863 Dear Fistes. I recoved your letter mailed the 15 lt to day it is the best letter I have had in a good while and I wish you would send such a ow every mail I am sorry you have not get along my better in arithmatic but you must have putience and find The rules of division when you get So you, can do and sun, you can do all of them you want to know how I get along without any one to show me we have got two school teachers in the Company and one of them is as good a fellow as wer kind and he shows me how to do sams and sets copies for me you seem to Think I can write pretty well I expect that letter was the last one I wrat before I should my gold her

since that I have not built to write with these old steel hers I sent to your for that pen I give you if it was not shailt as I have not heard any thing about it I expect the letter is lost I wish you would send it and send that abd fiddle book if it is not all to peices you want to theme have bar I have got in arithmation I have got to practions you want to know which I would nother fight the indians or the rebels I would rather fight the indiany for I shall not die tell my time comes whether I fight indian or rebels and if I am up hear Sichall not be sich and supper as I should of I was clown south, I hope you will not get your likness takes till you get one that is good lasting, with as soon as possible Reobert, Joseburds

Superior billy Felig 5 It I got a letter the atter day from his mother and she total him. that mothin chad gone to Madison and that thanky was sick I am sorry to hear that Charley is sick. and that mother has go to madison for it must with a good deal but if he gets the small for I shall not? be sorry that she went for it is very little care any our gets in the hospital this is the first letter S have had since a week ligh last tuesday I should have written before but I did not get any stamps till yesterday and I thought I would wait till

I have weld my gold per bon tion ten shilling bor I could not write very well with it and I thought it was as much as it was worth, write as soon as possible from your brother Robert Reichards . the second for the factor of the second seco

Dear Fister with my promise I mass to day, as mother is not at how I will have to write To you I have nothing of importance to write other is nothing going on here to keep up any excitement it is almost as dull as Cheford, we have Tinging Schools here and a Lyceum and meeting Cundays and that is all und that is enough unless they are better I expected to get a letter from mother gesterday but was disappoint I should think she would write from Madison and let me know how Charley is getting along write as soon as possible . Robert Reichards
Dear Histor & rect a letter from you last thursday with a paper and a paper and song book yesterday I have not reid a letter from mother Since she went to Madison I sent you a copy of the paper that is printed here a few days age I have no mews to write this time, we are going to work at the slock ade to morrow so as to be ready for the indians if they attack us in the spring the citizen are going to heppus so I think we shall be prepared for they do not come till they are going to they say they are canning when the grass gets big enough for w they horses to hive any all we know about it is what the indians tell us here and we can't lets whether there is any the truth in it or not but it is best to

I have you will send me that other paper if you have got our that I have not read I like to study out the huggles in them I have found out the puzzles in these i have got I have no more to write at present so good by that this time form your brother Nowhert Richards -

[Enclosurestoen and Quibble] Superior City April Funday 19103 Fear Fister it is some time since I have writter to you and I have concluded to swrite to you to day I haven't much to write but a dotter is a letter if it has tent two lines Car Jeyeenin and Tinging Schools how closed on account of the evening being so short . I have not ver a letter from mother since I what last, the weather is getting very warm here now the sarow is all gons and the ice is young out of the bag very part the schooner that laid ower on the point all writer was brought across the bay to the ware house to be repaired and loaded and I suppose it will start out prom here is a bew days I am going to send you some verses controsed by own poet they were sung at the last Sycann after a lecture on the cause of the rebellion there were some more verses called the particing hyrn sung but I could not got a copy of them if I can get a copy of them I will send them to you write as after as you can and send my all the papers you can get a Good trye for more No. Reichards

Helena Arthansal Sept 24 th 163. Dear Carrie with Freds liking a weekage today, but as I had wrote the day before I thought I avoild. wait till I got your likenes to send that week but as it did not come in yesterdays mail of have concluded to answer your lad letter. I think Fireds likness is the best he had had taken he looks though as if he had been sick. I hope you will send yours and it will be as good a one as Freeds. I have been on the sick list ever since got your letter but I am getting better and shall go on derty tomorrow if nothing happens

when I write to you before we were camped up above toins we are now about healf amile, below town on the bank of the river they have given us tents but not have nothing but one rubber blanket a preier which makes sather en poor bed, and it is almost cold enough to freeze here nights and hot enough to road a fellow day times. it is very sickly here bler is a great many of the boys got the ague, the 25 the firs is here and have got about gol men in the regt and only 95 per fit for duty Sept 25. I had to stop writing ! greaterday for there was an order come that we should strike durlands which we did and they were sent ash white nives to little Rock bos the

Soldiers there and we had to go in to the woods and get brush the to make sheds to keep the sun off for it would almost kill any our to lay in the hat sur here there is not a the or bush within a mile. I do not feil as well to day as I did yesterday the report is this morning that our things have been suit for atticksburg and when they get have are going when the river either to Meinfichis or to reenforce Reosenerans and I don't car as long as we here going up the river 21 I hapt you will write just as the as if we were at Arichsburg & I shall get your letters of you direct via Cairo. I don't expect to and shall be paid off till Oct. but I hope you will try and get along as well as you can

I hope it will not he many months before I shall be and of this and then I guies we shall all of us get along a good deal better so thech why good shirite and get along as well us you can and help mother get along. till that day evines. this is the last sheet of frake I have got her but I will try and get mongh to write once a week till they come good by for now Robert Reichards

Huntoville Alabama pannary 4th 1864 Dear Sister I rice your letter of the 21th with your likness this evening and take this appertunity to answer it your lithness looks first-rate much better than I expected - but there is one thing would have improved your looks a great deal - and that is head dress of some Reind when I get my pay a gain, I will send you the money for another and when you have it laken I want you to sit in the same position you ofor this one for I think it looks as well as any day you san have it taken those gloves Mothers sent to me have not come get I got the letter she sent the same tim new years noth

I am afraid they are lost some where on the road for one of our boys got a pairs the night-I got the letter and he got a letter that was sent the same day the gloves were sent but I will not give them up as last yet awhile for I have had papers come three weeks behind the letter that was sent with them I am glad to hear that mother has found that con at last although a low is not worth a great deal it is quite a loss for us There is a great excitement here about enlisting in the veteran, service- por have had orders road to us every evening on dress parade about the bounty- plug- and the fur longing that are to be granted to vederens there five or six companies that Mans nearly all gone in to the

ther is but two or three of our ta going into it. And I would not enlist again for three years for all the money I could earry I think three years of a mans life is a enough to give to his country if it is out at least it is all & van appored to give for it is actually throwing away so march of his life, there is a great many of the boys that are enlisting for the sake of the furlough - but I do not want a purlough of thirty days lad enough to enlist for two years longer One year more and I shall get a purlough for life to go where and when I please and will not be obliged to live on hard canakers and stinking bason - I hope barrie you will keep 17 in good spirits til that time comes 29 and then I will get a better home for you and mother and I think we can live better than you could if you had the

I have no more to write now and it is almost time for lattoo to beat hesides that I have got to go on guard homorrow so I will bid you good night with the acquest that you will answer this as soon as possible from your Brother Robert. Richards To cloin Partin Richards and a agreat and adjust and a that are en hat any for want a prodough at thirty day but Clare year mare and I shall get of findingly for left to go where and. archer I please level and mit so soliged the an hard anothers and stanking Carows I have the there you will thank in good shirting lass that that form and and these I have got got a Settler have for you any marking and of their to get an this bitter there any touted if you had the

Huntsville Ala fon 20. 1/64 Dear dista I reich your letter of the 10th of Jan night before last together with four newspapies the gloves have not yet made their appearance and I had about given them wh for good till last night one of our boy, got a pair of gloves from home that had been on the road six weeks-so I think mine may some yet if they don't some with soon they may sting away for the cold weather will soon be over with and they will only add to the weight of my Rnapsuch I reid some bodys likness and ran quess who the original is not because the likness looks any like the her but by what you said about it in your letter. I am going to write to Charles and I guess

I read the stamps you send to me and they came just in time too for of was just out of stamps I see by the papers that you hre having some pretty cold weather up in Wisconsing the culdest day we had here was newyeurs day I was an quard that day end I thought should press, every one thought the marenzy was 10 or 15 degrees below zero but instead of that it was 17 degrees above where ever it was it don't sum to me ever saffered more with the cold up northy I suppose the reason is that our blood is in a different state here in this warms elimate than it is up north and unother reason why we belt the cold so much was the sudden change the day before newsars the morenzy was into 70 which I suppose is warmer than you have seen in some time

yesterday marning we got up and pound the ground coursed with snow to the depth of half an inch which is the deepest snow we have had this winter and that all disappeared before night, the weather has not been very cold for the past beer dags but the weather is so changeable that you can make no calculations in it one day it will be proze up tight as a drum and the next to warm to wear a coat I have tried to draw an over coat but have not succeeded yet and if I don't get it pretty some I will any at all for if I can't send home I shall have to throw it a way if we have any unarching to do, I wish you could take a walk through this town, and see some of the gardens and walks in front of some of the dwellings in this place. you never read a discription of any such thing that 1 can beat these gardens here. I don't know the names of the trees and shrubberg they we as green now as They are in summer

some gardine, got marble statutes they are enclosed with a hansome iron bence, in side is a hedge as high as the bence, it is trimed so that it looks like a green wall about two bert thick, the houses are not good as they are up north _ there is quite a number of citizens here more than I have seen in any other town in the south, there are niggers here with out number and they have a dance about every night, the other I was on guard and we went to glance to get some boys that were there the black cusses had been dancing some time and got pretty well warmed up and if they dident smell strong I am Judge of skunk, the room smelt worse than our house did in Jackson when I shot that shunk I guess I have wrote enough bor this time so I will quite write up often hs you can Hobert Kichards Robert Richards Co & 18 th Reyt 40 the Alabama

Huntswills Ala Jan. 27 th Dear Dister I rece your letter of the 15th last night. I came off of quard this morning and will not have to drill till this after noon and I improve the few leisure hours by writing to gon and Charley if I have time and if I don't I must take time as you say for I have neigher written to him or heard from him since we have been here I am glad that mother is going to get her state many for there is no show for our getting hand very soon, the beterans are getting discourgad about getting home, ther don' seen to be any show for there getting home till next summer and I can see by the away they talk that they are sorry they enlisted and I don't plame them for I no to

you want to know what I think about your going to live at bongod I will lelle I don't want you to do mother need in trouble about my reenlisting, I am as anxious to get out as any one can be and g intend to go out wert and get me a farm when I do get out and then I think I can enjoy my self first rate and you and mother could too the reks a hovering around us here our eavely scouts have had a few skirmishes with they the rebel Gen Readely took a called thems the other day, yesterday our eavely went out there captured 400 rebs and drow the rest across the river, so I guess now they will let us alone a little solile the rebs are describing and coming in here every day they take the oally of alleigrance and go north the most of them live in Tennesses and Hentucky and some in this state

1 me are having very fine weather here it is almost as warm here now as it is 1 y whe month in the summer, we do not have any fire in our room and it is to warm to be comportable they We have to live on short rations since we have been here but they have got the brigde finishe at Brownsboro and the car are expected in here toot ag so I expect after this we shall 1, get the mail regular besides gatting full rations which is a matter of great importance to soldiers I have finally some to the conclusion that the gloves matthes sent to me are bost for have certainly had 10 time to get here if they were soming I. got the two newspapers and exfra, night before last, that mother sent me I have no more to write now so good s bye swrite as soon as you san and in the let me know how you are getting along Rochert, Reichards 1

Whitesburg Alabarus : Bunday frine 12th Dear Sister I reid gaur Setter of the 5th night before last and yesterday morning I went on ficket so I could not and wer it milit today - I am very glad to herr that you are going to school which I hope you will continue to do every day this summer that it is possible for you to ge - I am glad to see you improv in writing as you have since you wrote the letter before this - and if you are getting along as fast with your other studies your will soon havy a good education I have not read a letter from this ley since he left home but I suppose he is waiting tell they get into campo - the wor fraid the fourth of tais monthe I sout mother ten dollars that day, which she has reid by this Time I suppose

The sixth I sent her another letter with twenty dollars in it and the same dag I sent Tam Booberts fire dollars if mother gets the thirty dollars I sent her and gets her state money it aught make you comfortable for some time or untill of get my fing again Delyon remember where I was a year ago today Bill tett you I found your a year ago this morning at that God foroaken det shanty partage if I ever find you in an other such anodd shed I will furn the enaded all thing down_ What a nice pleasant day that was take that is get home and here to day it has been raining ever since & Click. but that is nothing strange for this country has it has rained every day for the last two weeks and it look's as if it would rain six a right weeks larger The were on picket yesterday on the

bank of the river and I and aunthis of too & set a lot of fish hours but Mary fish did we catch but to make up for it we catched four soft shelled twitter and we cleaned one and field him for supper it lasted exactly like fish we got one a perodays topore and boiled it and it laster so near like chicken that you could not tell the difference - When I get home I am going to catch every and I can find and have you could them. you ought to see the preices of meat squirm when you put them into a - pan and put salt on their but it is getting dark and I must Itop writing sorite as soon as your can and let me Know how you are getting along at school and tell me to how Pared is getting along at school food by for this time figher your brothis Fir Reichards

In Camp near Stevenson June 29 the 1864 Dear Bister I reci your letter. of the 19 the night supere last - we did not export then to sta here langer than that night but we are going to stay here till louight we are then going to Stevenson take the Cars and go to the front or as some Say (and I hope it is true) guard some filace on the sail road - I am glad you are getting along so well at school I lid not Suppose Ared was getting atons so well at the is in reading and writhmatic. I think as you do that the reason he does not learn to write fastes is because he is lefthanded but I think the will soon get over that if he is abliged to leave school you ought to set copies for him and have him practice writting at home 20 that he will not porget what little he learns at school Par grad Mother had that has cut for it will go a little way

you want to the now what I say about your going to take care Mers Mongypins Children I say let the young ones go to the devil and take care of them selves and do you a go to school every dy that you can I got a portage paper with your letter dated fine of the I think it must be the one that was sent with a letter I got at Whitesburg _ I have wrote to mother since we have been here and I think I shall write to Charley today but I hardly know where to direct to for they say our men nave left Baton Bourge - I hardly think that report is true - the dy before we left He waterill I went our where the 6 than's Batter, way camped and pound an old friand there it was Bill Harrington he belongs to that . Battery and the Battery belongs to and Brigade so we shall not be far apart where har we go he same down here last fan and was. there at the court house lats of hines to see the boys unto never pappened to come a cross him till just hefore we left Huntsville

and shouldent have found him their if it hadent been for Ed Mc Dougal they say there has been an order just issued to muster out all non veter and three years from date of enlist to next new year you can calculate I am. malling tracks for wiscansin six months some it tooks a great way aff and our going The front makes it look darker still but I don't would and prospects are as bright as the were last fall when we were on the march for Chittanoogas we got through without the loss of a man and we may this fall there is one thing sure the regit will go home this fall and we shall have a good time for a couple of months while they are gone and if we go thome with the reg (which a great many think we will) we shall have a better time yet I can think of no more to write now so good lize writ as soon as prescible and direct to Bridge port or else where Poabert Richards

Altoona breek feorgia 2 Bear Dister . As & have Mot rece a letter from you ar mother. in dome time I have come to the Conclusion to write to you and wake you wh and see if Can't get you to write a bittle afterior than you shave alone latty of wrote to Mother about a week ago and have recel no letter from home since then I recit a letter from tharles day before yesterday dated Any 20 He says he says has got to be Commissions Descent and is having a first rate easy things and I do not doubt it for he had got a first rate position, for my part I don't see how he has got prosmated to last but here in the army such fellows as he is will get promoted a dozen times Nohere more steady ones. won't get promotes once

& person to get promotion here must have a good gift of Gal. and Charley the is certainly not lacking in That respect I answered this letter pesterday and directed to Balon Goinge but I expect he is either at Michshurgs or with that expedition that left M. Oslan and was supposed to be going to frontreas Monros, when he wate they were expecting to go to Wieks burg and think there is where he is many We are still here quarding the rail road but they day any be is going back to town to foir the regit again I have they will let us stay here for I know Got well mow and just begins to snjoy myself out here in the woods alone by ourselves but I suppose they will move us par if they see any and rating a little constant they are sure to put a stop to it if they can

. Of your see a higher with a ful recent of how gey Me Sher son Was Killed I wish your Would send it to the for all these cuesed papers day is that he was shat an sich a day through the lunge, aur reg. resid to be in this Corps and the boy think by was the beat man in the united states, the veterans are in mighty good shirits They Mary Mard that the 26th Menter Missouri a viteran reg. was not send home till their and time was out and Now they are going to be unstered out, and our witerans are in hopes this will keep them til ligter than ald term is out so that they will be dischard this winter, there aint one but would give all he has got if they could get and of the scrape, but they will find they are not going to get out as easy as that and since they have said so princh to there I have they will have to care out.

in Moriste as after as you can I now? no stamps and will have to get my letter franket until you send me. , can get etamps O Can think of Mo Mary to write mow do good by for the presend from your Brothes. Robert Reichards 10 Meiß. Caroline. Richards

altootha breck Ga. Monday Sept 12th 164 Dear Vistor & soil your letter of the 25th of last month last night also the portage paper and a letter from beharles mailed long 9th he said he had not reid a letter from me since he had been hours. I dont see what the reason is for I have witten three or four siner we have been here: It is a year loday that Me left Micksburg for Helena how quick this summer has passed hway but how it will be with the next four month I don't know Men years seems a great way aff and when I think of hebaline went Atowigh with last full between the 12 th of Sefit, and new years it seems as if I never should get home

Au heard yesterday that any chivision year going to be releined and was going to A Hanta to pairs our carps and it may be the buckiest think that could happen to us for I think all the rebels will by do now here in Georgia will be to destroy our Communité tions and in that case of would rather be with the main army than to be quareling such a poor is this on the Read Read and I think if we get to our early that the veterary will be sent how and a great many think the non resterans will be taken to the state. when the meterais go as the time of a good may of them will expire before the rig gets back but if we don't go with the reg us will have " first rate while they are gone One hundred and nine days is not a great While and if I don't remagainst relis bullat

I am pretty lucky this fall I am well and never fielt better in my life while nearly all the boys are have a turn at the ager - some times You & are down with it at once the last we heard of the roy they had releaved a reg. of 100 day men that we Mationil up near Mansfreeboro I can think of nothing more er to white now write as soon and after as possible and I will do the same I are going to write to letus & now from your Brother Robert Striburg if you sanget a potelage paper with a list of the drapted send it to me

ente I will now tell you about the hoop class of women some of which are so ignorant I dont believe they can tell their right hand from the left they are poorly dressed the most of them being barefooted ther was three old worners stoped at our cook Shanty are day to get a drink of coffee and something to eat one of them looked a good deal like and Princly and another a good deal like Mars Hyat - one of them asked us if we were you kees we told them we were not "wal" said she "I dielent think you was Cause you look just like re'ans" one of the begs then ashed her what state the supposed the yankers came from " Wal." she said thars George Owens he's a yanker and we arid him what They crows from and he said they come from yan Rum" She said george Owens anound a grist will and they used to go there

to get plane and that is all see hura about him. I guess I have said enough a bout the mouses down here as I will drap Them for there is not one in a dayen can read or write or tell the differences between ten cents coud fifty in postage currency I said in my last latter to mother that and neg had gone to Chettanooga - we have since heard that they left Chattanover with & force of about six thousand with 20 days ration to go to Renoville to clean out old Wheeler notes is in there tearing up the rail road we were very lucky once is our lives in king here we have escaped a long march and it may be a fight there are some rebs around here get but they do not trouble us any last faider night they fired an iron on the track which ran the trains off Killing four and isunding Thirteen - they began to fire into the trains as soon as it stoped but a lat of the 9th Ohio Cavely being an board with their seven shoters

and have months more and I shall be I got the stamps you sent in your letter and the next day I got a sentimed and register - I have not had a letter from Charley in a long while I dont see what the nearon is he don't write I want your to answer that as Avon as you get it - and tell me all you can tuas about the Reichardests or any one else for it will be interesting to me although it may not seen so to you - I cant think for the bifs of me who lit stirling is. there "is a good many names mother has mentioned in her letters that I do not Know from adam - heleine Thave Norte about enough I quess I have bost my dimmis now for I am at the picket post reciting as it is quit here and shaely - I heard them holler dinner but I thought I would finish reriting Now you write a long letter Good lige your brother Revbert Reichards

Idlowna Ga (et 27 the 1864 Dear Sistes_ I reid gour Setter mailed the fifteend Instruct it was an Answer to one & wrote since I was wounded but it seems you had heard wothing of it when it was wratten you say that Mors Roberts would not let fired have the calle if I do not couse home on furlough & will write to her about it and if I do come home why let her keep them till I get this and will go and get them if she has to field theirs any between now and then I shall Not hay her any thing for it you say Desies has got married to Chamberlain of Briggsvills I think she made a great bargain when she got him

I never supposed she would Marry any such fellow as he is if such fellows as he is canget anarried I should think almos une one can I got a letter from Hellen Beaberts I think it was dated Dept 1 the said she had a secret to tell me that was if nothing happeared Desies was going to be married to Chamber she did not want me to write how any thing about it and as she had toth me the secret I throught it would the most be fair if I did not Reep it We have been expecting to go to Chattanoiga ever since I wrote last yesterday morning we jot wh had our breakpast and were ready to start by sit clock but fen. built telegraphed to the Dr. to help the sich and wounded till afus
that may be in two or three days and it may not be till meet week- our furloughs went to barp. Head quarters two or three days ago and if they come back approved we shall soon he on the road home I kup ne shall stag here lill the fur long the get back but if we don't we shall go to Chattanorgo and stay there till they come ther may something there why that I cannot come home to you must not calculate to min ch on my coming home but if dont think there is much doubt but I shall be at home some tim in Hovember my wound is healing Me very fast and I don't know but it will shail my furlough get but if it does I don't care I don't think much of Mary landforde Admie about witing-if I get a chance

I have just read over your letter again and found that you had hourd there had been a fight here and huped I was not in it I suppose you know by this time that I was in it and did not come and with a whole hide, as it was it was the best think for mi that I dident I don't think you had better write to me for I may be on the road bome before a letter sould get here Good by now till you here prom me agains I may elrop in some morning and then I will take that cup of coffee you spoke about from your Brother Robert Reichards

Enclosore sketch of knee woongefferren Hospital Ward 10. Annday Jan. - 1 St 1865 Dens dister It has been a long time since of have written to you and I thought stwould try and write you a letter heday getting along - I have left the gaugrene ward and an in ward ten (10) where I want you to direct my letters after this the Dr in the gangreni ward is one of the best dittle fellows that over lived he is from Meichagan and his name is b. Le. Brandall - the gaugiere has been out of my wound for three weeks but I had the chills and he would not let me go unicy for fin I would get into some ward that had a poor Dr- when I was the siekest I told him I wanted

him to ever mie why for my time was about out saje he never you pear Ill straighten you out ald "fellow" and the has the has Runcked the chills higher than a Rite and is still giving me medicine to keep them there Do Acandall was appointed In for ward 10 a few days ago sy he had me brought over hear where he could look after me instead of sending me back to word 21 I rect your letter of the 21st and Mucthers of the 25 th last thursday in pristay but I had pust renote a letter to Mother so I thright I would not answig them right away I was glad to get the maney and envelopes & wanted to bug a prencil so I could when I was a mind to but I had ent money enough till

the letters came I have get and a peneil now and Mether says she is going to write Moile a week and I will do the same is I can get paper and envelopes any regard is decking frictly well I am gaining strongth slowly my appetite is pretty good and on the gain. take it all around I think I am doing about as well as I could expect Mother talks poolish when she says she would come down to see me and take me home if lepharley winded only send that money they coming hear to see me arrild not heat ing wound any and as for getting me she could get the state of Indiana Just as easy I an in the service yet you must remember-, if Charley sends any money I hope Mother will put

it to some ketter use than spendi at consing down here to get me for it will be money thrown array I shave to posite dying in my back in bed with my paper in on old. dook cover- I am going to take a perce of paper and mark out the size and shape of my wound so you can see what the burning done while I wint there it was about as large as a silver half dollar the marks running towards the center is to show how deep it is at the place I have more to rarite sugood by write as after as possible and direct to ward 10 From your Brother Reabert, Reichards

the wound of think is wash and rinch longer than I have marked it but I have done as will as I could that double mark is to shaw - show it has out in underbut I did not have room there either it is cat in about this ca as far- that will give your to supper with it is one of the sorestthings ever was I beledue it sums as it it would kill me to touch it Re Re

[Enclosed in R. Riccardo to C. Richards -1865, Jan. 1] La all



"The U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

pefiliensen Hospital for 10 thes Dean Sinting To rece your letter and Mothers mailed the 6th last night I expected to get a letter saturday night and sent to ward 21 to see if there was one these for me but there norie for me so I had to regit till monday night for one as the mail dis not some in sundlay mights when minder night it brought your letter I have not been very well since I wrote last day pepare menterelon I had a pretty hard chill but no pever yestenday I had quite a fiver but no shill to day I have had a little finer and it has not quite gome yet but I wanted to write to you beday and as it is 4 Celock. P.M. P. thought it had better begin to with it if the hever wasn't quite off - my wound is haling all around the edge pretty post but in the middle it does not look as yell us I wished

when Dr Reandall was here he had any roomed dressed with a weak Solition of Bromine and my wind looked clean and nice but since the other Do has been here he has had it dressed with simple cerete and since that has been put on the matter will not wash out clean in the middle of the wound The it has healed it pretty fast around, the edge- they dressed it this morning with solution and I think Tunight when they dress it will look a good deal better - This Bronnine achich is formonneed Bromean) is the name of the stuff they burn out the gangrene with a few drops of at in a print of water makes the weath Solution - I wrote to the commander of the prost the other day served from my glogesifiting unll I got an answer the same evening saying my description roll was roced at his office Dears the so I am all. right on that seare and I think I shall be paid off when pay day comes

I suppose that will come some time After Supper I have had my avound dressed and had my supper and an now writing by gas light - the mail has come in and I got the hook and paper and envelopes your letter spoke about it has been snowing all day as hard as I ever saw it snow in my life I suppose you would like to Know how we live here - I have been on heavy diet since This Dr has been here - for breakfast of get copper bread and either hash a price of boiled keef or a little much and molasses for dinner a bowl of beef somp bread a chunk of fat boiled port that a well man could not eat or boiled beef and mashed Turnips - pridays we get macerel for dinger in stored of meat- for supper we get tea bread and two or three sprons full of apple sauce sometime a chunk of Johnny cake and brother and a bowl of tea is our allowance

I believe I have written all I can Tonight four the light is awful froor - I hope mother will be able the sent mayor little more money for I am out of tabacco and have to beg what little I get now good by for now From your Brothes Renfeit Reichards

Jefferson Hospital Wardio Jefferson ville Ind. Jan. 24th 165 Dear Sister & recida letter from you last friday evening but did not answer it because I had just written a letter to Mathis and I mentioned in the letter that I had real yours and I thought that would do mutit I got time to write an answer. you say you should think it would not be long befaje I get home Peanint tell you how soon I shall get home but I don't expect to get home much before spring if I keep on gaining as I have for the last week I shall apply for a transfer in two or three more weeks - my getting home this will depend on how long it takes me to get my discharge at madison

I got the paper you mentioned about sending and read that peice about the murder up at Lea brosse I knew that pacob. A. Wear well he belonged to loo. He. he was not thought much of in the ba he would borrow money of every one that would . lend to him at Henntsville to get. rid of paying his delts after he had read his veteran bounty he pretended some one state his money me night I get my pants yesterday and put them on for the first time in seven weeks I find on getting up that I am not half as strong as I thought I was_ I cannot set up more that two hours at a time I have been sitting, up about two hours and I am getting pretty lived the murses are bringing in one bread and beef and somp for dinnes so I will quit writing for a little while

My wound is healing up very fast it almost seems as if a person could see it close up - some of the boy say it is not more that half as farge as it was when I came here It laoko considerable bigger to me. though than one half 1 I recio a letter from Mother last night mailed the 19th with a sheet of paper and stamp- I yas going to wonte a letter to mother aples " I finished this but I guess I will write one to Charley and you and Mother must divide this letter between you I can think of no more to write now after the ing mail comes in I will write a fen lines more 2º I have just written a letter to bharly us and total him if it was possible for him to send mother some money to do so by all means I talked to him the

· after Supper) The mail has come in and no letter for me and but two for the whole ward so I have nothing of any account to write unless I tell you about the funeral here today in this ward - ten men were taken to their graves to day from this hospital the famerals of two of them was hald in this ward this is not much over the daily average of deaths at this hospita some mornings there is over 20 in the dead house - there is some thing the matter with the gas lights they have almost gone out so I will have to quit writing Good Bye From your Brother Robert Richard

gefferson Hospital Feb. 6 th 1865 Dear Vister_ Or is two Oclock in the morning of in the might rather of Norked up about midnight and as the murse that is setting up is writing and I am not Steepy I thought it would be a gover time to answer your letter - I was going to answer it yesterday but when I got ready to write one of my old Schills come on to me and that wound up the wegiting for that day the chill kind fever together lasted from 11 till 5 Holvek I took some quinine this evening and shall take more at day light if it does as much good

as it used to I shall not have a chill tomorrow I did not know any one in our reg by the name of grace nor any one by the mane of fame Halihane or what ever his name is if they were in the 18th they must have been new recruits for I knew all of the old ones - up shy you Think it must be dreadful to See so many soldiers dying Well Suppose it would be to you ar any one else but a Doldier - Sit does not affect them any more to see dead men laying around than so many dead dogs would I got your letter of the 29th last friday I was very glack to get the two stamps for I had borrowed one so paid that back and have got one to put on this letter

I did not get the writing paper till gesterdag & have not got the portage paper get my tobacer give out yesterdag and I would have been out efore if one of the 1st wis Cuvely had not bought some for me - My wound has not done very well for the last five or six days it looked at one time as if should be obliged to go back to the congrene ward- but I had it dressed with solution of broming and that made it look better but it does not look as well now as it used to I hope it will begin to do better for I want to be on the road to Wisconsin net week This time I have no more to write now so I will bist you good night R. Reichards

Horis Marracks March 9 th 1865 Dear Gister Add have just bought arms paper and Inveloped and have nothing write a few lines to you hass in an time of porole a letter lo mother day before gostiday und ald her that I was going to The and get a Arano for to Modison but the Dip hold us gesterday morning that the Mein and his men would be hansford to this own states the thought before the week was and 20 concluded to wait and go with the real my wound is not looking quite as well as it did on the boat to it will be best for me to sty here a week as so till it looks better

I have got into a pretty good hospital and I don! Know but I may as well stay here a few clays and give my formall a chance to head as the go to Madison and stay there my wound will do bettes her than it. will there for it is pretty colet up there yet - und going out with the cold is what has always made my wound look lad Creese alvin mie have affecto it and I pan lett every time there is going to be a clorin a stay is two hepoto it comes pust as plain as a person can that has the Rehenmatisms - I have alway. been in hopes that I would get home early enough in the spring to go to work in a farmi if of Could not get a chance to woak in the Jorlage mill but I clout thank I shall be able

a work on a farm if I get. there in time to commence for I sarnot straighten my leg and it may be some time after it heals up before I have the use of it enough to follow a lehin - 20 I have made up my mind to takes things as cool as I can and give my les all the chance I san to get well and when it does get well and I get home if I can't get work where I can. make pretty good wages, I will take what money I have and start out to Meinnesota and get nie a farm- and I don't know but I shall go out there any way for the quicker I go the beller. chance I shall have for getting a good farm - I think I can get money from thanky so that we can live the first year and after had I have no fears but what we say

I don't know as I have my thing more to write now I have got two more stamps and will write again in two as three days do good by for this time From your Brother . Morest. Seriem J. O. I don't soppose itari be worth while for you to write for I may go away from here the

THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION SAG Sends this as the soldier's messenger to his WESTERN BRANCHES EA) home. Let it hasten to those who OF THE U. S. Christian Commission wait for tidings. CHICAGO: J. V. FARWELL, Chair-man; B. F. JACOBS, Secretary. PEORIA: A. G. TYNG, Chairman; WM. REYNOLDS, Secretary. ST. LOUIS: J. W. MCINYIRE, Ch.; J. H. PARSONS, Cor. Sec'y. ą. Ş. Christian Commission Pooms, Jeffer Low Bassacks 1865. Loss dister and the I read your letter of the 16 the this morning and I can assure you I was very glad to hear from your and that you were all abive got Simes of wrote to you last I have been having another hard all time with my wound - it turned black when I first came here and has been getting worse and lasger every since I have been here and all they done for it seemed to do no good till justerday morning when he burnt it out with Costie and had a flax seed poultice part on to it when it was dressed last night a lat of burnt flesh came off and it still looked as hack as ever and I tell you I was about dis courged I could not sleep till war & midnight for I kept thinking what a time I have had ain co I now wounded

and another thing the poultics on my wound seemed as if it would do and the bone right out of my leg and I went to sleep fuling about as bad as I have any time since I was in the gaugrene ward when my wound was drest this morning I was almost afraid to look at it but when I did I found that the black had all das appeared und it looked just as mice as I could have wished it too my spirits gegan to revive right area and shortly after I got your letter and after I read that I felt about as well as the next fellow - I think. now the wound will begin to get better when I Came here there was a place about the size of this mark I have made now it is more than three times us big - one above and one below of the old sore and quite as big - I beave laid a bed nearly all last weath - O got up to write This letter and I find that I am so nervous that I can harly write at all - as soon as ing wound begins to do well I shall get out of bed for good it was all I could do to stay in bed last week best the wound dresser loted me if I wanted to get well I must keep still

they took the names for a transfer the 13-14 but they would not take mine because I couldnot walk to the depot but it was pust as well for those they did talk have not been sentaway and I don't think they will till the next transfer which will be the 1th of April and then I shall be ready to go to- and by that time I think the river will be open and we can go right to Prairie du chein on a boat I am glad to hear you have all the milk and butter you want and I want you to let Fred to take care of that call for I want all the cattle I can get to take out west when ever I go - I was very glad to get that letter of Scharley I shall write to him this afternoon or tomorrow - I see he likes to let it be known what an important personage he is in the 4 the Wis Cavely Mell I hope he will get to be some body of importance some time I want you to write as soon as you get the for there is no danger of my going awaynery soon Good Bye Robert Bichards

Altoona Georgia Mondag aug. 2.9 # 1864 Dear Gister & recid your letter of the sixteenth last wednesday but as I had fast written a letter to mother of thought I would wait a few days befor answering yours you wanted no not to porget the long letter & promised you and I am going to try and write now if I can think of an mongh to be called a long letter I told you in my last letter that I was going to write to Harriet but I have not dow soget but I think I will rebend get this one pinished - I don' know what to write Mext unless I write something about the warnen dowen south here they cause here in camp nearly every day some times you can see twenty in camp at on ce loaded down with apples proches green even a fing or two of butter will once in a while a pint cup full of the poorest

butter you ever saw-some times a bay of polatoes - and encumbers which thy sell at pive cents a price they fetels " great many tomatoes which they call lomattuses - they always want to trade there stuff for flows meat coffee sugar rice and any thing that they can live an the citizens is this part of the country since our aring same here have tived on the over plus rations the soldiers have had to sell but what they will do now god any herows for grover ment in raising our wages cut off down our rations so that we have but very little more than we make some of our selves and that little we are for biddins by an order just issued to sell to catizens except on certain days the order has not been put in porce here at the bridge and since they cannot go to lown the women came here in, Awarms we have no way of weighing groceries here so every thing is bought and sold by measure and a pint oup is the

article used to decide the value of . what ever happens to be in market a print of butter called found worth 50 cent h u " Augar u " u 25 u in in coffee a helf lb v 25 v in a butter with 5 " n " sweet milk - 10 m un bider - 5 this will give you an idea of how we us deal down here in divis this is the f greatest place for butter mick I ever saw they bring in a barrel of butter will to sell to every fround of butter & and then the butter is about half milk , and as while as this praper n Sarry Warnen that come in here are well educated well dressed well appearing as you will see in any state and were before the vor independently rich at least a grow many of them say they very and I should go Judge from their appearance and the costly

a young to man came here the other day with some green corn to sell the was well Iducated well dressed and was of very mild and quiet disposition she vent all through camp tring to sell her com but with out any Increass of could see by her looks it reas very humiliating to her to be pedolling com to the you kers at last the officers cook hought her com out of fitz for her and he finally got into conversation with her She said her folk vere rich before the war and that she had never done an hours work in her life - she said the rebels left her (and I think) her mother and sister to live the best way they could she said they had nothing to live and nothing to get any thing with and she said the believed they vould really have to stague - the fell so bad that she cried like a child In Carrie you can see what this was is dring if the people of the worth are seeing hard times what are these poor people suffering not only this one that I have mentioned but every Carries between here and Challa noogo is in nearly the same situation, that she is Rochert

[Part 1 of 3]

Transcribed items from the State of Wisconsin Historical Society. All original items handwritten, except as noted. Added comments and explanations in brackets and/or in red. Tildes (~) indicate each new item. --transcribed by Rose Richards, great-great-grand daughter of Robert Richards Jr. in the Spring of 2000

[Typed donor letter accompanying the correspondence:]

Civil War Letters of Robert Richards

Robert Richards was the oldest son of Robert and Mary [Chase] Richards who were pioneers in Sauk City, Wis. Robert Senior was born in England and came to America about 1840. He came to Wisconsin with his bride, Mary Chase Richards and was an overseer for several years in land projects and Wisconsin river ferry service, largely associated with the Hungarian refugee, Count Harazthy. [Robert Richards Sr died in 1855.]

Robert Junior was born in 1844, having two brothers, Charles and Frederick, and a sister Caroline. Charles served in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry. The accompanying letters were written to the sister (mother of Elwood R. McIntyre, donor) and cover most of the period of his war duty--the ones sent to his Mother not being in existence. He was about 18 when he enlisted and his sister was born in 1848 and was therefore 4 years younger than he.

He enlisted from Adams county as a private in Co. E. He and his comrades were sent right into the battle of Shiloh without sufficient training, hence he was taken prisoner there and spent nearly a year in Confederate prisons in Tuscaloosa and Andersonville. None of the letters cover that period.

Later he was placed under parole and sent to Superior, Wis. to be interned according to the rules, waiting for an exchange. Enroute to the front again, he had a short furlough at home. At that time the family were living in some delapidated buildings on the site of Ft. Winnebago, Portage.

Late in 1864 he was wounded in the knee cap near Huntsville, Alabama. He was taken to a Federal hospital at Jeffersonville, Indiana and later transferred to Jefferson Barracks, Saint Louis. It took him nearly six months to recuperate and his sufferings and longing for home are told in some of the last letters written.

He lived to be a flour miller at Kilbourn City, Portage and other places and finally he moved to Chatfield, Minn. where he owned and operated Orion Mills, grinding buckwheat flour as a specialty.

Throughout his life he was troubled with his old wound and his leg never actually got straight and strong. His eldest son, Frederick, was manager of the Madison Gas & Electric Co. awhile in the early 1900's and Robert himself moved to Kansas to live with a son and died there along about 1925.

Madison, Wis., October 21, 1955 Elwood R. McIntyre [signature]

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Benton Barracks, St Louis Sunday, August 31st 1862

Dear Sister,

i received your letter of the 26th this morning and now take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you. i am glad to see how well you write. i think you must have went to school pretty steady and tried to learn to have got along as well as you have. i hope you have got along as well in arithmetic, geography and other things. i wish you would write a letter to me every week for you and Fred always write something interesting to me. it does me good to read anything that has happened at home among the folks that i am acquainted with. if it happened last spring it is new to me. so i wish you would write as often as you can and everything you can think of. tell me, if Charley writes home, how he gets along and if he is coming home. i am going to write a letter to him when i get this finished and try and get him to come home so that mother will not have so much to see to. i should think it was about time i had an answer to the letter i wrote to him, if he got it and mother seemed to think he would when hers

got there. i wish Mrs. Bannister would look down here to Benton Barracks and and see what she can see, when she does that and tells just how things look and what is going on, i shall believe she is a seer and not before. i have been in Tennessee and i know it is a pretty long look from Wis. to Tenn. and after you get there you cant see a rod ahead of you for brush.

Sunday night, half past eight oclock

Dear Sister, i again take up my pen to try to finish my letter. i was taken with a chill about two oclock and had to stop writing about six oclock. the chill went off and a fever came on and has not quite left me yet. i have got to take some medicine at ten and i thought i would get a candle and finish writing. i hope mother wont pay [probably Enos] Dean a cent till after he fetches that share horse back and i would not promise to then. the three shillings is worth more to mother than the share horse. i think if mother could sell that sow for more than two dollars she had better pay loyd but if she cant she had better let him have her, for the money will be worth more to her than the sow.

i hope Andrew Pearsons [?] will write to me. i wish that some of the rest of the neighbors would write to me. i thought Brown was going to write but I havent heard anything of him yet. it costs a good deal for paper and stamps. after all, i have to buy 50 cents worth to put on the things i am going to mail to-morrow. the likness will take 25 cents worth, but i got the case for 25 cents less than the price, so i thought i could afford to buy stamps and send it in a case. [I understand that a private's pay was \$16 a month and that there was a stretch of at least four months when no pay was forthcoming.] Ed says it dont look a bit like me and i dont know but i will have it taken over again in the morning. if i do you will know it by my chain, my watch in my shirt pocket. write as often as you can and tell me all the news.

Good bye, Robert Richards

~

Superior City Nov 28th/62

Dear sister,

i recieved your letter of the 7th last night. i was glad to hear that mother got the money i sent her. i was glad that mother paid Dean so there will be no trouble wintering the cattle. i got a letter from Charley the other day. he wanted to know what i thought about buying the Lewis place, i wrote to him if mother thought it best he had better buy it. but i think after all it is best not to buy any land yet. i think if he wants to buy anything he had better buy young cattle. i think we shall be paid off about the first of January. the Lieut. told me the Capt. was going to start for Madison after the money about the 22 of December.

You need not be at all troubled about getting letters from me and too me for the mail comes in regular three times a week and has not missed but once in three years. i wish mother would send me a few stamps. i have not got but a few and if i dont get some i shall have to stop writing till i am paid off. direct your letters to superior City. i dont see what made you send this to Bayfield. write as soon as you get this. i think it is about time i had an answer from the letter i wrote the day we landed. i have no more to write at present and i want to wash 3 or 4 shirts today so i must bid you good bye.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

Ed wants you to tell his folks he is all right.

~

[Stationery has emblem of a shield emblazoned with the stars and strips, sitting on a radiating five-pointed star with the words "NORTH," "SOUTH," "EAST," and "WEST" arranged like a compass.]

Benton Barracks, St Louis Sept. 11th 1862

Dear sister,

i have just received your letter of the 4th and mothers too, and i thought i would answer you first. I was glad to hear that the indian panic has all blown over. i have been uneasy ever since i got your last letter for fear you might have trouble, but all such fears have vanished since i read your letter this afternoon. I expected to get a letter a day or two ago by mother saying in her last that she was going to write again the next day. I should think Campbell's folks would feel rather cheap for making such a fuss about the indians.

i am going to see about getting my discharge tomorrow. the committee meet every day at headquarters but there is no use in my going there yet awhile, for there is about forty ahead of me. they have to go there and get a ticket with your number on it and when your number is called, you can show your ticket and be examined. they are not going to give out any more tickets till day after tomorrow. I am going to be on hand then and get a ticket. i am going to do everything i can to get my discharge. i know i am entitled to it and am going to have it, if there is any such thing.

I have been pretty well for the last two or three days with the exception of the pain in my breast and side which has troubled me some, but not as much as it did a few days ago. i am going to send a couple of song books with these letters and i want you to put them away & keep them clean till I get home. there is some of the best songs in them i ever heard. i wish you would learn to sing the red white and blue, the star spangled banner. the boys used to sing these songs when we were in prison at Tuscaloosa and it seemed to me they were the best songs i ever heard. i hope mother wont let my old fiddle go, for if i get home i should like to play on it again. i dont see why Charley dont write to me. he must have received one of my letters and if he hadnt i should think he would have wrote any way when he found where i was. tell Fred i cant write to him this time so you must make this letter do for both of you. i hope you will write every week and tell me all the news there is. no news here for me to write only about myself and that dot amount to much, but i will try and write some thing when ever you write.

good bye for the present, Robert Richards Superior City Wis. Dec. 9th 1862

Dear Sister, i received a letter from you today dated Nov. 26th. it is the first letter i have had since i got that one you sent to Bayfield. i began to think i never should get another letter from home. it seems by your letter you have moved some where but you dont tell where. i think there must be some letters on the road some where, for it has been nearly a month since wrote from here first and it seems to me this cannot be the first letter you have wrote. i have kept running to the post Office till i got discouraged and i swore i wouldn't write again till i got a letter. as good luck would have it, i got one today.

i think Charley has had a good offer and if [he] thinks [it] is so easy to be a soldier and a prisoner of war, why let him try it. i have one word to say. i guess by the time he lives on grass a week or two he wont like it so well. some folks cant learn anything unless they learn it by experience. wish you would write and let me know if you hear anything about the paroled prisoner being exchanged. let me know where you live and what Charley is going to do. Ed wants you to tell his folks he is all right. i am well and have been ever since i have been here. i am getting fat as a hog. i weigh 162 lb. it is so dark i shall have to stop writing, so good bye

from your Brother, Robert Richards

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Superior City Dec. 11th/62

Dear Sister, I received a letter today from you and one from Charley and i found out today where you had moved to. Charley said in his letter that he was going to see a man to make a bargain with him to go as a substitute. I dont think he will make out much at that because the men that are drafted are sound men and they will not take him in the place of a sound man. but i dont think he can do better than to go if he can get one or two hundred dollars. if i had my discharge i would go in a minute. i could stand it for nine months easy enough.

i should like to have seen how Chesebro [?] looked when he was drafted.

I am glad you have got back to the Pepper mill again. i think if Charley stays to home you will get along a great deal better there than you would in town, for you will have a good garden and if Charley is a mind to, he can raise a good deal off of six acres. i think 11 dollars is plenty cheap enough. if it wasn't for Bill Campbell's folks, i would as soon live there as any place i know of. we have been boarding at the tavern till yesterday. the boys got dissatisfied with there living at the tavern, so they drew there rations seperately and have hired there board at private houses around. i board with a dutch family. i have to pay 50 cents a month. the same as i did at the tavern. some of the boys pay 50 cents a week and have milk and butter to use and get only two meals a day, when i get three, which makes up for the milk and butter.

i am getting pretty hard up for every thing. i am out of tobacco and out of stamps. i am going to put the last stamp on this letter. i have run in debt for a hat. i hated to wear that old hat all winter that i wore when i was to home. they have not got any caps large enough for me or i should have drawn [requested] one. i expect i can get tobacco there at the same store where i got my hat and he will wait till pay day, but i cant get stamps. the letter i got from you today went to Bayfield. one of our boys was down there and he brought it up here. answer this immediately and let me know whether Charley is going away or not. i wrote to Charley to send me that fife book i got off Bill Campbell. if he hasnt sent it, i wish you would. remember and send your likenesses as quick as you can.

Robert Richards

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Superior City, Janry 1st 1863

Dear Sister,

I received a letter from you today dated the 21st of Dec. it seems you have had quite exciting times around home. I dont see why Brown didnt thrash Old Parker when he swore at him. I expect Bill would have done it, if it had not been for Mrs. Brown.

The Capt. got a letter from Madison today Ordering us to report to Madison right away. it seem to be an order indirectly from Col. Beale of the 18th regt. but the Capt. says he is not going to comply with it. he says if they was fool enough to send us up here with nine months provisions, he is just fool enough to stay here and eat them up.

I dont see how they expect we are too get to Madison. we could not carry our clothes and rations enough to last us to St. Paul [?] for there is no team here we could get to carry our things, but I dont think there is any danger of our leaving here till Spring. I do not feel very well today. I had the awfulest head ache yesterday I ever had in my life. I did not get to sleep till about ten oclock last night. They are going to give the soldiers a supper tonight and we have been to work to fix up a room. we have got it fixed up with flags, evergreens, red white and blue ribbons and I dont know what not. the citizens are fetching in dishes and the eatables now and I expect we shall have a pretty good supper.

good bye, Robert Richards

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Superior City, Janry 8th/63

Dear Sister,

I rec'd a letter from you last Tuesday and today I got one from you and mother and Charleys likeness. I think this one looks exactly like him. I am going to send you the one you sent to me first. I have not got stamps enough to send the one i got today. I had to get a new crystal put in my watch and that took some of the money you sent to me. I hope we shall have some money by and by. They are making out the pay rolls and the Lieut. is going to start for Madison in a few days. I have just wrote a letter to Charley but I don't expect he will get it. you want to know what kind of a time we had there. Christmas we did not have much of a time here, unless you call standing guard over two or three drunken men a good time, but we had a grand time here new years. I told you about it when I wrote to you last saturday. I have no more to write now. write to me as often as you can.

from your brother, Robert Richards

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[Enclosure with letter of Jan. 8th 1863]

Dear Carrie--if you have got a Geography I wish you would send me a list of the names of all the states with the square miles and populations of each and the population of ten or 15 of the largest Cities in the united states. And the date of your geography--get as late a one as you can. --Robert Richards

~

Superior, January 22nd 1863

Dear Sister,

I received your letter mailed the 15th today. it is the best letter I have had in a good while and I wish you would send such a one every mail. I am sorry you can not get along any better in arithmetic, but you must have patience and find the rules of division. when you get so you can do and sum, you can do all of them. you want to know how I get along without any one to show me. we have got two school teachers in the Company and one of them is as good a fellow as ever lived and he shows me how to do sums and sets copies for me. you seem to think I can write pretty well. I expect that letter was the last one I wrote before I spoilt my gold pen. since that I have not tried to write with these old steel pens. I sent to you for that pen. I give you if it was not spoilt. as I have not heard anything about it, I expect the letter is lost. I wish you would send it and send that old fiddle book, if it is not all to peices. you want to know how far I have got in arithmetic. I have got to fractions. you want to know which I would rather fight the indians or the rebels. I would rather fight the indians for I shall not die till my time comes, whether I fight indians or rebels and if I am up hear, I shall not be sick and suffer as I should if I was down south. I hope you will not get your likeness taken till you get one that is good looking. write as soon as possible.

Robert Richards

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Superior City, Feby 5th [1863]

Dear Sister,

I recieved your letter mailed the 28th. Ed got a letter the other day from his mother and she told him that mother had gone to Madison and that Charley was sick. I am sorry to hear that Charley is sick and that mother has gone to Madison for it must cost a good deal. but if he gets the small pox, I shall not be sorry that she went, for it is very little care any one gets in the hospitals. this is the first letter I have had since a week ago last tuesday. I should have written before but I did not get any stamps till yesterday and I thought I would wait till the mail came in today.

I have sold my gold pen for ten shilling for I could not write very well with it and I thought it was as much as it was worth. write as soon as possible.

from your brother, Robert Richards

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Superior City, Feby 8th/63

Dear Sister,
in accordance with my promise, I must write to day. as mother is not at home, I will have to write to you. I have nothing of importance to write. there is nothing going on here to keep up any excitement. it is almost as dull as Oxford. we have Singing Schools here and a Lyceum and meeting Sundays and that is all and that is enough unless they are better. I expected to get a letter from mother yesterday but was disappointed. I should think she would write from Madison and let me know how Charley is getting along. write as soon as possible.

Robert Richards

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Superior City, Feby 15th [1863]
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Dear Sister,

I rec'd a letter from you last thursday with a paper, and a paper and song book yesterday. I have not rec'd a letter from mother since she went to Madison. I sent you a copy of the paper that is printed here a few days ago. I have no news to write this time. we are going to work at the stockade tomorrow so as to be ready for the indians if they attack us in the spring. the citizens are going to help us, so I think we shall be prepared, for they do not come till they are going to. they say they are coming when the grass gets big enough for there horses to live on. all we know about it is what the indians tell us here and we cant tell whether there is any truth in it or not, but it is best to be ready for them.

I hope you will send me that other paper if you have got one that I have not read. I like to study out the puzzles in them. I have found out the puzzles in these i have got.

I have no more to write at present, so good bye for this time.

from your brother, Robert Richards

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Superior City, April Sunday, 12th/63

Dear Sister,

it is some time since I have written to you and I have concluded to write to you today. I haven't much to write but a letter is a letter if it has but two lines.

Our Lyceum and Singing schools have closed on account of the evening being so short.

I have not rec'd a letter from mother since I wrote last.

the weather is getting very warm here now. the snow is all gone and the ice is going out of the bay very fast. the schooner that laid over on the point all winter was brought across the bay to the warehouse to be repaired and loaded and I suppose it will start out from her in a few days.

I am going to send you some verses composed by our poet. They were sung at the last lyceum after a

lecture on the cause of the rebellion. There were some more verses called the parting hymn sung, but I could not get a copy of them. if I can get a copy of them, I will send them to you.

write as often as you can and send me all the papers you can get.

good bye for now, R. Richards

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[Enclosure poem and Quibble] [Printed poem, long and narrow, with ornate border.]

BEWARE OF SOUTHERN PRISONS By W. F. WILDER, 18th Wisconsin Volunteers, A PAROLED PRISONER

Now soldiers your attention, A story I'll relate, About the Southern prisons And of a prisoner's fate.

CHORUS--Now Jeff you'll surely pay for this. And that before 'tis long, Your neck get ready for the rope, Old Abe is pressing on.

'T was on the sixth of April, As very well you know, Our force it was surrounded And taken by the foe.

They marched us off to Corinth, Through mud six inches deep, And stowed us into freight cars Full fifty in a heap.

And thus we rode to Memphis; The road was rough as sin, And many oaths were uttered, And many more kept in.

They thought to starve the Yankees No grub did we receive, Untill we got to Memphis, And this was Tuesday eve.

They arrested Gen. Prentiss, Because he made a speech, And told them in plain English, What Davis did'nt teach. From here we went to Mobile, Hoping there to stay, But they shipped us up the river At early dawn of day.

The boat was old and rotten, The pumps they would'nt work. The darkies they were lazy, From labor they did shirk.

Three days and nights we suffered On board this rotten craft, And arrived at Tuscaloosa With prisoners fore and aft.

They marched us up to prison, Exulting loud and high, They here had Lincoln's army, The Union now must die.

They kept us here and starved us, For thirty days or more, They fed us all on mule meat That well might walk on four.

The prison rules were rigid, And each we must obey, None could look from windows Nor near the windows stay.

They shot two noble fellows Who fought on Shiloh's field, And many more were threatened, And they through fear did yield.

The vermin gathered round us, In filth and dirt we lay, And many fell the victims Of grief and sore dismay.

Now soldiers in the army, One word of kind advice, Beware of Southern prisons--Beware of Southern lice.

Don't let the rebels take you, To the river don't you run, But fight like gallant soldiers Till victory you have won. Helena, Arkansas Sept. 24th/63

Dear Carrie,

~

I rec'd your letter today, but as I had wrote the day before I thought I would wait till I got your likeness which you said you was going to send that week. but as it did not come in yesterdays mail, I have concluded to answer your last letter. I think Fred's likeness is the best he has had taken. he looks though as if he had been sick. I hope you will send yours and it will be as good a one as Fred's. I hae been on the sick list ever since I got your letter, but I am getting better and shall go on duty tomorrow if nothing happens.

when I wrote to you before, we were camped up above town. we are now about half a mile below town on the bank of the river. they have given us tents but we have nothing but one rubber blanket a peice which makes rather a poor bed, and it is almost cold enough to freeze here nights and hot enough to roast a fellow day times. it is very sickly here, there is a great many of the boys got the ague [fever and shivering chills]. The 25th Wis. is here and have got about 800 men in the regt. and only 95 fit for duty.

Sept. 25

I had to stop writing yesterday for there was an order come that we should strike our tents, which we did and they were sent up white river to Little Rock for the soldiers there. and we had to go in to the woods and get brush to make sheds to keep the sun off for it would almost kill any one to lay in the hot sun here. there is not a tree or bush within a mile. I do not feel as well today as I did yesterday. the report is this morning that our things have been sent for at Vicksburg and when they get here are going up the river either to Memphis or to reinforce Rosecrans and I dont care as long as we keep going up the river. I hope you will write just as often as if we were at Vicksburg. I shall get your letters if you direct via Cairo [Illinois]. I dont expect we shall be paid off till Oct. but I hope you will try and get along as well as you can.

~

[Enclosed in R. Richards to C. Richards 1863, April 12; printed lyrics]

A SOLDIERS APPEAL BY W. F. WILDER Air.-America

Let patriots now awake! And each fresh courage take, Resist the foe!

Our cause we must maintain, Though millions more are slain; Our hopes are not in vain, Though blood shall flow.

Our fathers fought and bled, On us rich blessings shed, Ne'er let them fade! In union let us stand 'Till peace is made.

Though traitor bands unite, In treason take delight, Firm let us stand! Our cause we know is just, In God we'll ever trust, And fight, if fight we must, On sea, or land.

With union for our prize, We'll look with longing eyes 'Till peace return; We'll sing of vict'ries won When treason's race is run, 'Till then, with sire and son, Let freedom burn.

Though Sumpter's wall displays To traitors fiendish gaze, The stars and bars; The Union flag shall wave, O'er treason's self made grave, though patriots blood shall bathe Those strips and stars.

J. D. Lindley, Printer

[separate newspaper clipping "quibble"]

The following is ingenious, as a specimen of two meanings in the same words, after the manner of the old revolutionary quibble, in which King George was at once denounced and applauded. The one sense is found in reading the two columns, the other in reading across, as if there was but one:--

I always did intend	To take me a wife,		
Single my life to spend,	Would grieve my very life,		
It much delighteth me	To think upon a bride,		
To live from woman free,	I can't be satisfied.		
It's sure a happy life	'Tis woman is the thing		
To live without a wife.	Such troubles on us bring		
A female to my mind	The joy I can't express		
I ne'er expect fo find	So great in singleness		
A bachelor to live	I never could agree		
My mind I freely give	A married man to be.		

[Civil War Letters of Robert Richards Jr, Part 2 of 3, 1864]

Transcribed items from the State of Wisconsin Historical Society. All original items handwritten, except as noted. Added comments and explanations in brackets and/or in red. Tildes (~) indicate each new item. --transcribed by Rose Richards, great-great-grand daughter of Robert Richards Jr. in the Spring of 2000

~

Huntsville Alabama January 4th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 21st with your likeness this evening and take this opportunity to answer it--your likeness looks first-rate. much better than I expected, but there is one thing would have improved your looks a great deal and that is head dress of some kind. when I get my pay again, I will send you the money for another and when you have it taken, I want you to sit in the same position you did for this one for I think it looks as well as any you can ever have taken. those gloves mother sent to me have not come yet. I got the letter she sent the same time new years eve. I am afraid they are lost some where on the road for one of our boys got a pair the night I got the letter and he got a letter that was sent the same day the goves were sent. but I will not give them up as lost yet awhile for I have had papers some three weeks behind the letters that was sent with them.

I am glad to hear that mother has found that can at last. although a can is not worth a great deal, it is quite a loss for me.

There is a great excitement here about enlisting in the veteran service. We have had orders read to us every evening on dress parade about the bounty pay and the furloughs that are to be granted to veterans. there [are] five or six companies that have nearly all gone into the veteran service. There is but two or three of our Co. going into it. for 1 - I would not enlist again for three years for all the money I could carry. I think three years of a man's life is enough to give his country. if it is not, at least it is all I can afford to give for it is actually throwing away so much of his life. there is a great many of the boys that are enlisting for the sake of the furlough, but I do not want a furlough of thirty days. bad enough to enlist for two years longer.

One year longer and I shall get a furlough for life to go where and when I please and will not be obliged to live on hard crackers and stinking beans. I hope, Carrie, you will keep in good spirits till that time comes and then I will get a better home for you and mother and I think we can live better than you could if you had the [___?__]

I have no more to write now and it is almost time for letters to be out. besides that I have got to go on guard tomorrow, so I will bid you good night with the request that you will answer this as soon as possible.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

To Miss Caroline Richards

~

Huntsville Ala Jan. 20th/64

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 10th of Jan. night before last, together with four newspapers. the gloves have not yet made their appearance and I had about given them up for good till last night one of our boys got a pair of gloves from home that had been on the road six weeks. so I think mine may come yet. if they dont come pretty soon they may stay away, for the cold weather will soon be over with and they will only add to the weight of my knapsack.

I rec'd somebodys likeness and can guess who the original is, not because the likeness looks any like her, but by what you said about it in your letter. I am going to write to Charley and I guess I will send it to him.

I rec'd the stamps you sent to me and they came just in time too for I was just out of stamps.

I see by the papers that you are having some pretty cold weather up in Wisconsin. The coldest day we had here was new years day. I was on guard that day and I thought should freeze. every one thought the mercury was 10 or 15 degrees below zero, but instead of that, it was 17 degrees above. where ever it was, it about seem to me I ever suffered more with the cold up north. I suppose the reason is that our blood is in a different state here in this warm climate than it is up north. and another reason why we felt the cold so much was the sudden change. The day before new years the mercury was up to 70, which I suppose is warmer than you have seen in some time.

yesterday morning we got up and found the ground covered with snow to the depth of half an inch, which is the deepest snow we have had this winter and that all disappeared before night, the weather has not been very cold for the past few days, but the weather is so changeable that you can make no calculations on it. one day it will be froze up tight as a drum and the next to warm to wear a coat. I have tried to draw [requisition] an overcoat but have not succeeded yet, and if I dont get it pretty soon I will not get any at all for if I cant send [the coat] home, I shall have to throw it away if we have any marching to do. I wish you could take a walk through the town and see some of the gardens and walks in front of some of the dwellings in this place. you never read a description of any such things that can beat these gardens here. I dont know the names of the trees and shrubbery. they are green now as they are in summer. some gardens have got marble statues. they are enclosed with a hansome iron fence. inside is a hedge as high as the fence. it is trimmed so that it looks like a green wall about two feet thick. the houses are not as good as they are up north. there is quite a number of citizens here. more than I have seen in any other town in the south. there are niggers here without number and they have a dance about every night. the other night I was on guard and we went to a dance to get some boys that were there. the black cusses had been dancing some time and got pretty well warmed up and if they didnt smell strong. I can judge of skunk, the room smelt worse than our house did in Jackson when I shot that skunk. I guess I have wrote enough for this time, so I will quit. write often as you can.

Robert Richards Robert Richards Co. E 18th Regt. WV [Wisconsin Volunteers] Alabama

~

Huntsville Ala Jan. 27th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 15th last night. I came off of guard this morning and will not have to drill till this afternoon and I improve the few leisure hours by writing to you and Charley if I have time. and if I dont I must take time, as you say, for I have neither written to him or heard from him since we have been here. I am glad that mother is going to get her state money for there is no show for our getting paid very soon. the Veterans are getting discouraged about getting home. there dont seem to be any show for there getting home till next summer and I can see by the way they talk that they are sorry they enlisted and I dont blame them, for I no I should regret of it if I had been such a fool.

You want to know what I think about your going to live at Congers [?]. I will tell you I dont want you to do any such thing. You and mother need not trouble about my reenlisting. I am as anxious to get out as any one can be and I intend to go out west and get me a farm when I do get out and then I think I can enjoy myself first rate and you and mother could too.

the rebs a hovering around us here. our cavelry scouts have had a few skirmishes with them. the rebel Gen Readdy took a town called Athens the other day. yesterday our cavelry went out there captured 400 rebs and drove the rest across the river, so I guess now they will let us alone a little while. the rebs are deserting and coming in here every day. they take the oath of alleigeance and go north. the most of them live in Tennessee and Kentucky and some in this state.

We are having fine weather here. it is almost as warm here now as it is up north in the summer. We do not have any fire in our room and it is to warm to be comfortable then.

We have had to live on short rations since we have been here, but they have got the bridge finished at Brownsboro and the [railroad] cars are expected in here today, so I expect after this we shall get the mail regular besides getting full rations, which is a matter of great importance to soldiers. I have finally come to the conclusion that the gloves mother sent to me are lost, for have certainly had time to get here if they were coming.

I got the two newspapers and extra [edition] night before last, that mother sent me.

I have no more to write now, so good bye. write as soon as you can and let me know how you are getting along.

Robert Richards

~

Whitesburg Alabama Sunday, June 12th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 5th night before last and yesterday morning I went on picket, so I could not answer it untill today. I am very glad to hear that you are going to school, which I hope you will continue to do every day this summer that it is possible for you to go. I am glad to see you improve in writing as you have since you wrote the letter before this. and if you are getting along as fast with your other studies, you will soon have a good education.

I have not rec'd a letter from Charley since he left home but I suppose he is waiting till they get into camp. We were paid the fourth of this month. I sent mother ten dollars that day, which she has rec'd by this time I suppose. The sixth I sent her another letter with twenty dollars in it and the same day I sent Jim Roberts five dollars. if mother gets the thirty dollars I sent her and gets her state money, it might make you comfortable for some time or untill I get my pay again.

Do you remember where I was a year ago today. I'll tell you. I found you a year ago this morning at that God forsaken old shanty [in] Portage. if I ever find you in another such an old shed I will burn the cussed old thing down. What a nice pleasant day that was that I got home and here today it has been raining ever since 5 o'clock. but that is nothing strange for this country, for it has rained every day for the last two weeks and it looks as if it would rain six or eight weeks longer.

We were on picket yesterday on the bank of the river and I and another of Co. E set a lot of fish hooks, but nary fish did we catch, but to make up for it we catched four soft shelled turtles and we cleaned one and fixed him for supper. it tasted exactly like fish. we got one a few days before and boiled it and it tasted so near like chicken that you could not tell the difference. When I get home I am going to catch every one I can find and have you cook them. you ought to see the peices of meat squirm when you put them into a pan and put salt on them. but it is getting dark and I must stop writing. write as soon as you can and let me know how you are getting along at school and tell me too how Fred is getting along at school.

Good bye for this time, from your brother, R. Richards

~

In Camp near Stevenson June 29th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 19th night before last. We did not expect to stay here longer than that night, but we are going to stay here till tonight. We are then going to Stevenson, take the [rail] cars and go to the front--or as some say (and I hope it is true) guard some place on the railroad. I am glad you are getting along so well at school. I did not suppose Fred was getting along so well as he is in reading and arithmetic. I think as you do, that the reason he does not learn to write faster is because he is left-handed, but I think he will soon get over that. if he is obliged to leave school, you might to set copies for him and have him practice writing at home so that he will not forget what little he learns at school. I am glad mother had that hay cut, for it will go a little way towards wintering the cattle next winter.

you want to know what I say about your going to take care Mrs. Magppins [?] children. I say let the young ones go to the devil and take care of themselves and you go to school every day that you can. I got a portage paper with your letter dated June 4th. I think it must be the one that was sent with a letter I got at Whitesburg. I have wrote to mother since we have been here and I think I shall write to Charley today, but I hardly know where to direct it to for they say our men have left Baton Rouge. I hardly think that report is true. the day before we left Huntsville I went over where the 6th Wis. Battery was camped and found an old friend there. it was Bill Harrington. he belongs to that Battery and the Battery belongs to our Brigade, so we shall not be far apart where ever we go. he came down here last Jan. and was there at the court house lots of times to see the boys and I never happened to come across him till just before we left Huntsville and I shouldnt have found him then if it hadnt been for Ed McDougal. they say there has been an order just issued to muster out all non-veterans three years from date of enlistment. so next new year you can calculate I am making tracks for Wisconsin. six months more. it looks a great way off and our going to the front makes it look darker still, but I dont know but our prospects are as bright as they were last fall when

we were on the march for Chattanooga. we got through without the loss of a man and we may this fall. there is one thing sure--the reg't will go home this fall and we shall have a good time for a couple of months while they are gone and if we go home with the reg't (which a great many think we will), we shall have a better time yet.

I can think of no more to write now, so good bye. write as soon as possible and direct to Bridgeport or elsewhere.

Robert Richards

~

Altona Creek, Georgia Saturday, July 30/64

Dear Sister,

As I have not rec'd a letter from you or Mother in some time, I have come to the conclusion to write to you and wake you up and see if I cant get you to write a little oftener than you have done lately. I wrote to Mother about a week ago and have rec'd no letter from home since then. I rec'd a letter from Charley day before yesterday dated July 2nd. He says he got to be Commissary Sergeant and is having a first rate easy time and I do not doubt it for he has got a first rate position. for my part, I dont see how he has got promoted so fast, but here in the army such fellows as he is will get promoted a dozen times where more steady ones wont get promoted once. A person to get promotion here must have a good gift of gab and Charley is certainly not lacking in that respect.

I answered his letter yesterday and directed to Baton Rouge but I expect he is either at Vicksburg or with that expedition that left N. Orleans and was supposed to be going to fortress Monroe. when he wrote they were expecting to go to Vicksburg and I think there is where he is now.

We are still here guarding the railroad bridge but they say our Co. is going back to town to join the reg't again. I hope they will let us stay here for I have got well now and just begin to enjoy myself out here in the woods alone by ourselves, but I suppose they will move us. for if they see any one taking a little comfort, they are sure to put a stop to it if they can.

If you see a paper with a full account of how Gen. McPherson was killed, I wish you would send it to me for all these cussed papers say is that he was shot on such a day through the lungs. Our reg't used to be in his Corps and the boys think he was the best man in the United states.

the veterans are in mighty good spirits. they have heard that the 26th Missouri, veterans reg., was not sent home till their old time was out and now they are going to be mustered out. and our veterans are in hopes they will keep them till after their old term is out so that they will be discharged this winter. there aint one but would give all he has got if they could get out of the scrape. but they will find they are not going to get out as easy as that and since they have said so much to me, I hope they will have to serve out there full time.

write as often as you can. I have no stamps and will have to get my letters franked until you send me some stamps or I get where I can get stamps.

I can think of no more to write now, so bye for the present.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

To Miss Caroline Richards

~

Altoona Georgia Monday, Aug. 29th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the sixteenth last Wednesday, but as I had just written a letter to mother, I thought I would wait a few days before answering yours. you wanted me not to forget the long letter I promised you and I am going to try and write now if I can think of enough to be called a long letter. I told you in my last letter that I was going to write to Harriet, but I have not done so yet, but I think I will when I get this one finished. I dont know what to write next unless I write something about the women down south here. they come here in camp nearly every day. some times you can see twenty at once loaded down with apples, peaches, green corn, a jug or two of buttermilk, once in a while a pint cup full of the poorest butter you ever saw, some times a bag of potatoes, and cucumbers which they sell at five cents a peice, they fetch a great many tomatoes which they call tomattuses. they always want to trade there stuff for flour, meat, coffee, sugar, rice and anything that they can live on. the citizens in this part of the country, since our army came here, have lived on the over plus [surplus] rations the soldiers have had to sell, but what they will do now, God only knows. for the government is raising our wages, cut down our rations so that we have but very little more than we make use of our selves and that little we are forbidden, by an order just issued, to sell to citizens except on certain days. the order has not been put in force here at the bridge and since they cannot go to town, the women come here in swarms. we have no way of weighing groceries here, so every thing is bought and sold by measure and a pint cup is the article used to decide the value of whatever happens to be in market.

a pint of butter is calculated a pound worth 50 cent

a	"	" sugar	"	"	"	25 "
"	"	" coffee	"	half lb.	"	5 "
"	"	" rice	"	"	"	5 "
"	"	buttermilk	"	"	"	5 "
"	=	sweet milk	"	"	"	10 "
"	"	Cider	"			5 "

this will give you an idea of how we deal down here in dixie. this is the greatest place for buttermilk I ever saw. they bring in a barrel of butter milk to sell to every pound of butter and then the butter is about half milk and as white as this paper. some women that come in here are as well educated, well dressed, well appearing as you will see in any state and were, before the war, independently rich, at least a great many of them say they were. and I should judge from their appearance and the costly clothes some of them wear that what they say is true.

a young woman came here the other day with some green corn to sell. she was well educated, well dressed and was of a very mild and quiet disposition. she went all through camp trying to sell her corn, but without any success. I could see by her looks it was very humiliating to her to be peddling corn to the yankees. at last, the officers cook bought her corn out of pity for her and he finally got into conversation with her. she said her folk were rich before the war and that she had never done an hours work in her life. she said the rebels left her (and I think) her mother and sister to live the best way they could. she said they had nothing to live [on] and nothing to get any thing with, and she said she believed they would really have to starve. she felt so bad that she cried like a child. so, Carrie, you can see what this war is doing. if the people of the north are seeing hard times, what are these poor people suffering. not only this one that I have mentioned, but nearly every family between here and Chattanooga is nearly the same situation that she is.

Robert

~

[No date or place, may be another page enclosed with last letter.]

I will now tell you about the poor class of women, some of which are so ignorant I dont believe they can tell their right hand from the left. they are poorly dressed. the most of them being barefooted. there was three old women stopped at our cook shanty one day to get a drink of coffee and something to eat. one of them looked a good deal like aunt Cindy and another a good deal like Mrs. Hyat. one of them asked us if we were yankees. we told them we were not. "Wal," said she. "I didnt think you was cause you look just like we 'ans." One of the boys then asked her what state she supposed the yankees came from. "Wal," she said. "thars George Owens, he's a yankee, and we axed him whar they came from and he said they came from yankum." she said George Owens owned a grist mill and they used to go there to get flour and that is all we know about him. I guess I have said enough about the women down here, so I will drop them for there is not one in a dozen can read or write or tell the difference between ten cents and fifty in postage [?] currency.

I said in my last letter to Mother that our reg. had gone to Chattanooga. we have since heard that they left Chattanooga with a force of about six thousand with 20 days ration to go to Knoxville to clean out old Wheeler who is in there tearing up the railroad. we were very lucky once in our lives. in being here, we escaped a long march and it may be a fight. there are some rebs around here yet but they do not trouble us any. last Friday night they fixed an iron on the track which ran the trains off, killing four and wounding thirteen. they began to fire into the trains as soon as it stopped, but a lot of the 9th Ohio cavelry being on board with their seven shooters, the rebs soon got sick of that fun and left.

I got the stamps you sent in your letter and the next day I got a sentinel and register [newspapers]. I have not had a letter from Charley in a long while. I dont see what the reason is he dont write. I want you to answer this as soon as you get it--and tell me all you can hear about the Richardses or any one else, for it will be interesting to me although it may not seem so to you. I cant think for the life of me who lib stirling is. there is a good many names mother has mentioned in her letters that I do not know from adam. I believe I have wrote about enough. I guess I have lost my dinner now for I am at the picket post writing, as it is quiet here and shady. I heard them holler dinner, but I thought I would finish writing. Now you write a long letter.

Good bye, your brother, Robert Richards

~

Altoona Creek Ga. Monday, Sept. 12th/64

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 28th of last month last night, also the portage paper and a letter from Charley mailed Aug. 9th. he said he had not rec'd a letter from me since he had been home. I dont see what the reason is, for I have written three or four since we have been here.

It is a year today that we left Vicksburg for Helena. how quick this summer has passed away, but how it will be with the next four month[s] I dont know. New Years seems a great way off and when I think of what we went through with last fall between the 12th of Sept. and New Years, it seems as if I never should get home.

We heard yesterday that our division was going to be relieved and was going to Atlanta to join our Corps and it may be the luckiest thing that could happen to us, for I think all the rebels will try [to] do now here in Georgia will be to destroy our communications and, in that case, I would rather be with the main army than to be guarding such a post as this on the Rail Road. And I think if we get to our corps that the veterans will be sent home and a great many think the non veterans will be taken to the state [where they are from] when the veterans go, as the time of a good many of them will expire before the reg. gets back. but if we dont go with the reg. we will have a first rate while they are gone. One hundred and nine days is not a great while and if I dont run against a rebs bullet, I guess I can stand it.

I am pretty lucky this fall. I am well and never felt better in my life, while nearly all the boys are have a turn at the ague--some times 7 or 8 are down with it at once. the last we heard of the reg. they had relieved a reg. of 100 day men that were stationed up near Murfreesboro.

I can think of nothing more to write now. Write as soon and often as possible and I will do the same. I am going to write to Charley now.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

if you can get a portage paper with a list of the drafted, send it to me

~

Altoona Ga. Oct. 27th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter mailed the fifteenth last night. I expected before I opened the letter it was an answer to one I wrote since I was wounded [October 5], but it seems you had heard nothing of it when it was written. You say that Mrs. Roberts would not let Fred have the cattle. if I do not come home on furlough, I will write to her about it. and if I do come home, why let her keep them till I get there and I will go get them. if she has [fed?] them any between now and then I shall not pay her anything for it.

You say Desire [Dean] has got married to Chamberlain at Briggsville. I think she made a great bargain when she got him. I never expected she was to marry any such fellow as he is. if such a fellow as he is can get married, I should think almost any one can. [Robert Richards Jr later marries Desire's sister, Esthma Ida Dean.] I got a letter from Hellen Roberts. I think it was dated Sept. 1st. She said she had a secret to tell me, that was if nothing happened Desire was going to be married to Chamberlain. she did not want me to write home any thing about it and, as she had told me the secret, I thought it would not be fair if I did not keep it. We have been expecting to go to Chattanooga ever since I wrote last yesterday morning. We sat up, had our breakfast and were ready to start by six Oclock, but Gen. Smith telegraphed to the Dr. to keep the sick and wounded till after the road was completed.

That may be in two or three days and it may not be till next week. our furloughs went to Corps Headquarters two or three days ago and if they come back approved we shall soon be on the road home. I hope we shall stay here till the furloughs get back, but if we dont we shall go to Chattanooga and stay there till they come. there may something turn up that I cannot come home, so you must not calculate to much on my coming home. but I dont think there is much doubt but I shall be at home sometime in November. My wound is healing up very fast and I dont know but it will spoil my furlough yet but if it does I dont care. I dont think much of Mary Sandfords advice about voting. if I get a chance, I shall vote for Old Abe.

I have just read over your letter again and found that you had heard there had been a fight here and hoped I was not in it. I suppose you know by this time that I was in it and did not come out with a whole hide. as it was, it was the best thing for me that I didnt. I dont think you had better write to me for I may be on the road home before a letter could get here.

Good bye now till you here from me again. I may drop in some morning and then I will take that cup of coffee you spoke about.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

[Civil War Letters of Robert Richards Jr, Part 3 of 3, 1865]

Transcribed items from the State of Wisconsin Historical Society. All original items handwritten, except as noted. Added comments and explanations in brackets and/or in red. Tildes (~) indicate each new item. --transcribed by Rose Richards, great-great-grand daughter of Robert Richards Jr. in the Spring of 2000

Jefferson Hospital, Ward 10 Sunday, Jan. 1st 1865

Dear Sister,

It has been a long time since I have written to you and I thought I should try and write you a letter today and let you know how I am getting along. I have left the gangrene ward and am in ward ten (10) where I want you to direct my letters after this. The Dr. in the gangrene ward is one of the best little fellows that ever lived. he is from Michigan and his name is C. L. Randall. the gangrene has been out of my wound for three weeks, but I had the chills and he would not let me go away for fear I would get into some ward that had a poor Dr. when I was the sickest I told him I wanted him to cure me for my time was about out. says he "never you fear, I'll straighten you out old fellow" and he has. he has knocked the chills higher than a kite and is still giving me medicine to keep them there. Dr. Randall was appointed Dr. for ward 10 a few days ago, so he had me brought over hear where he could look after me instead of sending me back to ward 21. I rec'd your letter of the 21st and Mothers of the 25th last Thursday or Friday, but I had just wrote a letter to Mother so I thought I should not answer them right away. I was glad to get the money and envelopes. I wanted to buy a pencil so I could write when I was a mind to, but I hadnt money enough till the letters came. I have got me a pencil now and Mother says she is going to write twice a week and I will do the same if I can get paper and envelopes.

My wound is looking pretty well. I am gaining strength slowly. My appetite is pretty good and on the gain. Take it all around, I think I am doing about as well as I could expect. Mother talks foolish when she says she would come down to see me and take me home if Charley would only send money. her coming hear to see me would not heal my wound any and, as for getting me, she could get the state of Indiana just as easy. I am in the service yet, you must remember. if Charley sends any money, I hope Mother will put it to some better use than spending it coming down here to get me, for it will be money thrown away.

I have to write lying on my back in bed with my paper on an old book cover. I am going to take a peice of paper and mark out the size and shape of my wound so you can see what the burning done while I was in the gangrene ward. when I went there it was about as large as a silver half dollar. the marks running towards the center is to show how deep it is. at the place where the marks are made.

I have no more to write, so good bye. write as often as possible and direct to ward 10.

From your Brother, Robert Richards

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[enclosure note with sketch of knee wound]

the wound I think is nearly one inch longer than I have marked it, but I have done as well as I could. that double mark is to show where it has eat in under. but I did not have room there either. it is eat in about twice as far. that will give you some idea of what I have got to suffer with. it is one of the sorest things ever was, I believe. it seems as if it would kill me to touch it. --R. R.

[drawing is an oval approximately 3 1/2" x 5" with occasional lines radiating inward 1/4" to 1/2" long; an extra arched curve indicates eaten area approximately 3/8" x 2 3/4"]

[Stationery with printed image of pigeon carrying a letter and "The U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."]

Jefferson Hospital, Jan. 10th 1865

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter and Mothers mailed the 6th last night. I expected to get a letter Saturday night and sent to ward 21 to see if there was one there for me, but there [was] none for me, so I had to wait till Monday night for one, as the mail does not come in sunday nights. when Monday night came it brought your letter. I have not been very well since I wrote last. day before yesterday I had a pretty hard chill, but no fever. Yesterday I had quite a fever, but no chill. Today I have had a little fever and it has not quite gone yet, but I wanted to write to you today and, as it is 4 Oclock P.M., I thought I had better begin to write it if the fever wasnt quite off. my wound is healing all around the edge pretty fast, but in the middle it does not look as well as I wished it did.

when Dr. Randall was here he had my wound dressed with a weak Solution of Bromine and my wound looked clean and nice, but since the other Dr. has been here he has had it dressed with simple caustic. and since that has been put on, the matter will not wash out clean in the middle of the wound, tho it has healed it pretty fast around the edge. they dressed it this morning with solution and I think tonight when they dress it it will look a good deal better. this Bromine (which is pronounced Bromean) is the name of the stuff they burn out the gangrene with. a few drops of it in a pint of water makes the weak Solution. I wrote to the commander of the post the other day to send for my description roll. I got an answer the same evening saying my description roll was rec'd at his office Dec. 6th, so I am all right on that score and I think I shall be paid off when pay day comes. I suppose that will come some time.

After Supper

I have had my wound dressed and had my supper and am now writing by gas light. the mail has come in and I got the book and paper and envelopes your letter spoke about. it has been snowing all day as hard as I ever saw it snow in my life. I suppose you would like to know how we live here. I have been on heavy diet since this Dr. has been here. for breakfast I get coffee, bread and either hash, a peice of boiled beef or a little mush and molasses. for dinner a bowl of beef soup, bread, a chunk of fat boiled pork that a well man could not eat--or boiled beef and mashed turnips. fridays we get macarel for dinner instead of meat. for supper we get tea, bread and two or three spoons full of apple sauce. sometime a chunk of Johnny cake and butter and a bowl of tea is our allowance.

I believe I have written all I can tonight for the light is awful poor. I hope Mother will be able to send me a little more money for I am out of tobacco and have to beg what little I get now.

good bye for now.

From your Brother, Robert Richards Jefferson Hospital Ward 10 Jeffersonville Ind. Jan 24th/65

Dear Sister,

I rec'd a letter from you last friday evening, but did not answer it because I had just written a letter to Mother and I mentioned in the letter that I had rec'd yours and I thought that would do untill I got time to write an answer. you say you should think it would not be long before I get home. I cannot tell you how soon I shall get home, but I dont expect to get home much before Spring. if I keep on gaining as I have for the last week I shall apply for a transfer in two or three more weeks. my getting home then will depend on how long it takes me to get my discharge at Madison.

I got the paper you mentioned about sending and read that peice about the murder up at LaCrosse. I knew that Jacob H. Clearwell. he belonged to Co. K. he was not thought much of in the Co. he would borrow money of every one that would lend to him. at Huntsville, to get rid of paying his debts after he had rec'd his veteran bounty, he pretended some one stole his money one night. I got my pants yesterday and put them on for the first time in seven weeks. I find on getting up that I am not half as strong as I thought I was. I cannot set up more than two hours at a time. I have been sitting up about two hours and I am getting pretty tired. the nurses are bringing in our bread and beef and soup for dinner, so I will quit writing for a little while.

My wound is healing up very fast. it almost seems so if a person could see it close up. some of the boys say it is not more than half as large as it was when I came here. it looks considerable bigger to <u>me</u> though one half.

I rec'd a letter from Mother last night mailed the 19th with a sheet of paper and stamp. I was going to write a letter to Mother after I finished this, but I guess I will write one to Charley and you and Mother must divide this letter between you. I can think of no more to write now. after the mail comes in I will write a few lines more.

I have just written a letter to Charley and told him if it was possible for him to send Mother some money, to do so by all means. I talked to him the best I knew how.

After Supper) The mail has come in and no letter for me and but two for the whole ward. so I have nothing of any account to write unless I tell you about the funeral here today in this ward. Ten men were taken to their graves today from this hospital. The funerals of two of them was held in this ward. This is not much over the daily average of deaths at this hospital. some mornings there is over 20 in the dead house. There is some thing the matter with the gas lights. They have almost gone out, so I will have to quit writing.

Good Bye From your Brother, Robert Richards

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Jefferson Hospital Feb. 6th, 1865

Dear Sister,

It is two Oclock in the morning or in the night rather. I waked up about midnight and, as the nurse that is sitting up is writing and I am not sleepy, I thought it would be a good time to answer your letter. I was going to answer it yesterday, but when I got ready to write one of my old chills came on to me and that wound up the writing for that day. The chill and fever together lasted from 11 till 5 Oclock. I took some quinine this evening and shall take more at day light. if it does as much good as it used to, I shall not have a chill Tomorrow.

I did not know any one in our reg. by the name of Grace nor any one by the name of Jame Halihan or whatever his name is. if they were in the 18th, they must have been new recruits, for I knew all of the old ones. you say you think it must be dreadful to see so many soldiers dying. Well, I suppose it would be to you or any one else but a soldier. it does not affect them any more to see dead men laying around than so many dead dogs would.

I got your letter of the 29th last friday. I was very glad to get the two stamps for I had borrowed one, so paid that back and have got one to put on this letter. I did not get the writing paper till yesterday. I have not got the Portage paper yet. My tobacco give out yesterday and I would have been out before if one of the 1st Wis. Cavelry had not bought some for me. My wound has not done very well for the last five or six days. it looks at one time as if I should be obliged to go back to the gangrene ward, but I had it dressed with solution of bromine and that made it look better, but it does not look as well now as it used to. I hope it will begin to do better for I want to be on the road to Wisconsin next week this time. I have no more to write now, so I will bid you good night.

R. Richards

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Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis MO March 7th 1865

Dear Sister,

As I have just bought some paper and envelopes and have nothing to do, I thought I would write a few lines to you [and] pass away time. I wrote a letter to Mother day before yesterday and told her that I was going to try and get a transfer to Madison, but the Dr. told us yesterday morning that the Minn. and Wis. men would be transferred to their own states, he thought, before the week was out. so I concluded to wait and go with the rest. My wound is not looking quite as well as it did on the boat, so it will be best for me to stay here a week or so till it looks better.

I have got into a pretty good hospital and I dont know but I may as well stay here a few days and give my wound a chance to heal as to go to Madison and stay there. My wound will do better here than it will there for it is pretty cold up there yet--and going out into the cold is what has always made my wound look bad. Every storm we have affects it and I can tell every time there is going to be a storm a day or two before it comes. Just as plain as a person can that has the Rheumatism. I have always been in hopes that I would get home early enough in the spring to go to work on a farm, if I could not get a chance to work in the Portage mill, but I dont think I shall be able to work on a farm if I get there in time to commence, for I cannot straighten my leg and it may be some time after it heals up before I have the use of it enough to follow a team. so I have made up my mind to take things as cool as I can and give my leg all the chance I can to get well and when it does get well and I get home, if I cant get work where I can make pretty good wages, I will take what money I have and start out to Minnesota and get me a farm and I dont know but I shall go

out there any way, for the quicker I go, the better chance I shall have for getting a good farm. I think I can get money from Charley so that we can live the first year and after that I have no fears but what we can get along.

I dont know as I have anything more to write now. I have got two more stamps and will write again in two or three days. so good bye for this time.

From your Brother, Robert Richards

P.S. I dont suppose it will be worth while for you to write for I may go away from here the first of next week.

R.R.

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[Printed stationery--left side: WESTERN BRANCHES of the U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

CHICAGO: J. V. Farwell, Chairman; B.F. Jacobs, Secretary. PEORIA: A. G. Tyng, Chairman; Wm. Reynolds, Secretary. ST. LOUIS: J. W. McIntyre Ch.; J. H. Parsons, Cor. Sec'y.

--right side: Image of pigeon carrying a letter and "The U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION ROOMS]

Jefferson Barracks Mar. 19th 1865

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 16th this morning and I can assure you I was very glad to hear from you and that you were all alive yet.

Since I wrote to you last I have been having another hard old time with my wound. it turned black when I first came here and has been getting worse and larger every since I have been here and all they done for it seemed to do no good till yesterday morning when he burnt it out with Costic [caustic] and had a flax seed poultice put on to it. when it was dressed last night a lot of burnt flesh came off and it still looked as black as ever and I tell you I was about discouraged. I could not sleep till nearly midnight for I kept thinking what a time I have had since I was wounded. and another thing, the poultice on my wound seemed as if it would draw the bone right out of my leg and I went to sleep feeling about as bad as I have any time since I was in the gangrene ward. When my wound was drest this morning I was almost afraid to look at it, but when I did, I found that the black had all disappeared and it looked just as nice as I could have wished it too. My spirits began to revive right away and shortly after I got your letter and after I read that, I felt about as well as the next fellow. I think now the wound will begin to get better. when I came here there was a place about the size of this mark I have made [oval approximately 1" x 3/4"]. now it is more than

three times as big--one above and one below of the old sore and quite as big. I have laid abed nearly all last week. I got up to write this letter and I find that I am so nervous that I can hardly write at all. as soon as my wound begins to do well I shall get out of bed for good. it was all I could do to stay in bed last week but the wound dresser told me if I wanted to get well I must keep still.

They took the names for a transfer the 15th but they would not take mine because I could not walk to the depot, but it was just as well for those they did take have not been sent away and I dont think they will till the next transfer which will be the 1st of April and then I shall be ready to go to. and by that time I think the river will be open and we can go right to Prairie du Chein on a boat. I am glad to hear you have all the milk and butter you want. and I want you to tell Fred to take care of that calf, for I want all the cattle I can get to take out west whenever I go. I was very glad to get this letter of Charleys. I shall write to him this afternoon or tomorrow. I see he likes to let it be known what an important personage he is in the 4th Wis. Cavelry. Well I hope he will get to be somebody of importance some time. I want you to write as soon as you get this, for there is no danger of my going away very soon.

Good Bye, Robert Richards

~

[added hand-written notes--

Donor: E. R. McIntyre of Portage, Wisc. August 7 1915

Written by Robert Richards at Jefferson Barracks Mo. His time, three years, had expired in Dec. 1864, but he did not receive his discharge until July 1865. Uncle of the donor, a Wis. soldier]

March 27, 1865

Song of the Conscripts [draftees]

When first I came to Memphis City and walked around the streets, I wondered what could be the matter with some I there did meet. They looked so wild and dreadful frighened and why I could not find. They would not stop but kept on running with their coat tails straight behind.

Chorus--Oh how they run Ha Ha and dodge the guards Ho Ho. But now I see they are conscripting and that's what hurts them so.

2nd

The streets by soldiers are blockaded who form a hollow square. When the victim in he looks around and then begins to swear. The guard says halt and asks for papers which broad cloth [civilian] fails to show, For which at length he has to forfeit a fifty spot or so.

3

They rush in scores to be examined, poor man what numerous ails. They're deaf and dumb and have the colic, there eyesight often fails. They limp on one foot then the other, they huff and wheeze and blow. The Doctors wits are oft times puzzled, their true complaints to know.

4

The guards create the greatest terror as they scour the city through. The Negroes they are always willing to wear the Suit of Blue. The mules and horses they are loyal; the Draft they never fear The rendevous around the commons and there they volunteer.

5

The conscripts meet to drill very often, say twice a week or more. They soon will do to drive geurillas from the Arkansas shore. The other night they heard the cannon; they thought their time had come. How nice they felt when someone told them the rebs were on the run.

6

Here I'll grant and that most willing in closing up my song Lest loyal men of Memphis City should think my motives wrong That some there is that love there country above all else besides And hope that through the storm that raging our Bark may safely ride.

Chorus--

Jefferson Barracks March 27th, 1865

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[Printed stationery--left side: WESTERN BRANCHES of the U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

CHICAGO: J. V. Farwell, Chairman; B.F. Jacobs, Secretary. PEORIA: A. G. Tyng, Chairman; Wm. Reynolds, Secretary. ST. LOUIS: J. W. McIntyre Ch.; J. H. Parsons, Cor. Sec'y.

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U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION ROOMS]

Jefferson Barracks April 20th 1865 [Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox April 9; Lincoln was shot April 14]

Dear Sister,

As it is five days since I wrote home, I suppose it is about time I wrote again although I was in hopes of getting a letter before I wrote again. but being disappointed in getting a letter this morning, I have concluded to write now and again when the letter comes. I have not got much now to write. In the first place my wound has entirely healed up: so there is no more danger of getting the gangrene unless it should take a notion to break out again, and I dont think it will do that, as it never was a deep wound.

I traveled around a good deal yesterday with only one crutch, but I find it is not so easy a matter to walk on a crooked leg that you have not put to the ground for four or five months. At first it did not hurt at all, but towards night I had to use both crutches. it did not seem to hurt the wound but the pain was in my foot and knee. the pain in my foot feels just like the pain does in an ankle that has been sprained pretty bad by stepping on the side of your foot. but I think it will soon get over that. I am going to keep trying to walk on it and I think the pain will finally leave. I have been thinking whether it is best to be mustered out and go home or wait a spell to see if this transfer comes off. if I go home now I shall have to go without a cent and shall not be able to earn any thing in some time, and I suppose Mother has all she can do to get along now. so that my coming home would only make it worse, so I think I will wait a few days and see if that transfer does not come off. if it dont I know but I had better do the other thing.

I rec'd the two papers Mother sent day before yesterday. I wrote to Charley yesterday. I got some paper and envelopes of the Christian Commission and by taking letters to the house where the agent stops, he will put stamps on them and mail them, so I think after this I shall not leave any letters unanswered for the want of writing material. if you get any Portage papers with a good deal of state news I wish you would send me a few. I dont want any full of war news for we get that here before they can get it at Portage. a paper with something in it concerning Portage or any other place in Wis. suits me and the rest of the Wis. boys better than war news. every paper you send to me is read by every Wis. and Minn. man in the ward. Well, I can think of no more to write now, so good [bye]. I will write again next Sunday. I want you or Mother to write as often as twice a week and I will do the same.

Robert Richards

[Enclosure with no date; printed sheet.]

SHERMAN'S CAMPAIGN OF '64 (Air: The Irish Volunteer.)

On the second day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, When we commenced this great campaign with the 14th army corp, We met the rebs at Tunnel Hill, and Rocky Face also; And Hooker with his flanking corps did prove their overthrow.

Chorus--Hurrah for General Sherman's boys, No dangers do they fear; He starts them for the Johnnie's works, They go it with a cheer.

They evacuated Buzzard Gap; they said they were determined, For Johnston he had set a trap to get old General Sherman; But Sherman knew a thing or two, sent Hooker to the right, Where the 20th corps fixed bayonets and put them all to flight. Chorus.

They faced about and traveled on, and halted at Resaca, Where they asked our pickets if they would trade coffee for tobacco; But Johnston saw it would not do, the Yanks were two to one, And from behind his works withdrew and retreated further on. Chorus. The Coosa River next they crossed, and also burned the bridge, For Johnston swore he'd have revenge for the loss of Rocky Ridge. At Dallas they thought 'twould be no harm, to stop they'd all conclude, Although the weather being warm close behind them we pursued. Chorus.

One day said Johnston to his men, "On Kenesaw we'll stand, And from that hill we'll never move till we loose every man." Then fortifications were quickly made by fifty thousand strong, When the roar of cannon told the Rebs the Yanks were coming on. Chorus.

When up within artillery range we fortified also, And Hooker with his flanking corps straight to the flank did go: The Johnnies sent us their respects, with cannon we replied; The 16th corps being on the left, and Hooker on tother side. Chorus.

When the Chatahoochee Johnston crossed to Milledgeville he went, Said he to Brown, Old Georgia's lost, there was no reinforcement sent; Said Gov. Brown to Johnston, "Do you think it is too late For us to make another stand, or shall we leave the State?" Chorus.

On the first day of September, Old Cleborne for his spite, He thought to have a little fun, the acorn boys he'd fight; But Davis with the 14th corp, or "Old Pap Thomas's pets," Learned Old Cleborne a lesson he never will forget. Chorus.

Where are the commissaries, what have you been about? Why don't you give us pork and beans and leave the blue beef out; Just bring along your greenbacks now for this campaign is through To pay off Sherman's army, for there is nearly eight months due. Chorus.

And yet you hear the cheering news, our Sherman is all right, His army's around Savannah, and our flag waves there so bright; He's going down to Charleston next to make the rebels clear, And then from there to Richmond like a Veteran Volunteer. Chorus.

So long will be the day before this war will be forgotten By the heroes of the North and West who have trod the land of cottom; And from this generation down, and then forevermore, Their names will be recorded in the history of this war. Chorus.

Composed by M. B. Nott, Co. E, 85th Ill. Vol. Inf.

[Private Robert Richards mustered out of Co. E July 12 1865]