

THOMAS KEADY TO MRS. MARY F. KELLY, SOUTHAMPTON, ILLINOIS.

Black River, Miss., Oct. 12th 1863.

Sister Mary:-

My pen is idle just now, & with your consent, I'll jot a line to your account. Whest with your domestic duties & gossiping tours you may not unravel my mysticisms soon. No difference, it will move my filial stake a week ahead and make a balance in my favor.

You have got dinner over & those impudent men out of sight for another little season — what an ungainly lump of flesh is man; and yet he can do little acts of usefulness.

The memorable nocks and by-ways of "Fowhead" are before me. My "Mouth waters" while thinking of those purple clusters of Black Hawk, — trifles of themselves, but I was a school-boy then, & append a world of romantic memories by them suggested.

What am I but a school-boy now, taking less ideal & sterner lessons in life? Time whisks us along through varying scenes, but ever shaping for the shores of immortality. Are we rightly impressed with the "lessons of life"? If so, how much brighter will be the path.

I think quite pleasantly of those days on the prairie — that brief visit from Dixies somber shades. It was a goodly change; is now a theme for reflection.

News items are not very reliable here just now, rumor being a large ingredient. One easily disturbed by visions of the foeman would get little sleep here. New alarms every night and men sent out to patrol the roads. Guess there is not much real cause, but vigilance is wisdom on the borders.

Indications point to an early move on our part; think it likely a 3rd. raid to Jackson is brewing. I would greatly prefer a new track if as

THOMAS KEADY, OCT. 12th. 1863.

conducive to the interests of the Country; all charm is gone from that country, --but then the "Third is the charm".

We may not go. I continue to wield the pen diligently at Head Q'rs. Have a tent nicely floored, with my desk in one corner & bunk at the side. Good board - a variety & a good cook. Few in the army have their wants better supplied. Scarce enough of exercise though to keep up a good appetite, sitting all day long & all week.

It is night and the rain is pattering on my tent; have had supper & a good cheery teasing letter from Nathans Folks. Its visit done me untold bushels of good; what a funny fellow he is with his double column of jokes.

I must meet him boldly or he will bring me to confusion. Mat talks quite maternely of her son. They are bound to assume all the decorum of their station, and with it a ripple of their more playful life.

By the way, today marks a month since I received certain clusters of grapes & sprigs of evergreen -- tokens, I thought, of a maids good wishes for our Army & Cause. It seems to be a mine of witticism at my expense. Poor me, so innocent, and yet so deeply implicated. Whether the maid loves me or not, I must be arrayed in battle with the punning archers. I can parry their pen thrusts, but wo betide me if I venture home. What a peacefulness grows up in ones bosom at the thought that a sweet lassies' heart swells & throbs for him alone. Surely traces of my destiny are cropping out on the surface. A guiding star is rising to bid the wanderer return.

Lous letter by Young is my latest from the prairie. Have Chicago papers of Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, & today got a Mobile paper (rebel) of the 6th.

THOMAS KEADY, OCT. 12th, 1863.

Hope Rosecrans will yet be able to drive Bragg out, & charge the "last ditch". The 47th. is 6 miles below here, camped on the R. R. Have not visited their camp but once since getting back. Tom Hervey is camped close by here.

A. Young came up a few days since & staid all night with me. He said that Aaron L. was quite sick & was sent off to General Hosp't at Vicksburg. Over 500 sick were sent from the Division at the same time, this in anticipation of future events.

Tell Alex how I admired his bright eyed young maid, & might have become a dangerous rival had she honored me with her presence that Saturday eve, probably she feared Sanders frown.

My respects to Peter & Kirk. Tell Peter to send me a profile of the Blue Dog. I must to my couch and dream of luscious grapes and of ----- Good night & write to me

M. F. Kelly.

Brother Tom.

THOMAS KEADY TO MRS. MARY F. KELLY, SOUTHAMPTON, ILLINOIS.

Memphis, Tuesday evening,

August 2nd, 1864.

Sister Mary F. K.

I have again the doleful tale to ring in your ears -- no letters; Why is it? I do not know; there are mysteries too deep and solemn for me to fathom & make to responsive echoes. I feel mad, bad, & independently "don't carish" by turns and then flit off into other fitful moods.

These efforts however bring no letter. I am now subsided into hopeful patient waiting & am withal buoyed by a cheery glimmer of faith "feeling in my bones" that silent home messengers are sighting me out from the bosom of listless old "Father Mississippi".

The missives rec'd since coming in from Tupelo are now filed before me in a meagre row; they are Alecks of July 3rd, James of July 10th and Matts of July 16th, none others. "Like Angels visits, few & far Between".

Ah well, I can "grin and bear" many a hurtful grief. Manifestly they will prune up my chafing spirit and fashion it in ways of sweetness ready unto the coming days of domestic docility. The restless grimace of a figety soul you know ought to be mellowed down to a calm quietude, when we near the bowers of matrimony. Do'st think this will apply in my case?

This was to be a chuckfull news letter, void of all the flash and any nothings of fancy. Let us "simmer down" to a sober gait and discuss items as they occur.

Towhead I take it, is well flushed out in its Summer green -- a paradise of doves & black-bags. Remember to have those rabbits fat for this Winter. Peter should lead his "Blue dog" into ways of gentleness, not permitting him to dash savagely through the copses to the dismay of my favorite game.

THOMAS KEADY, AUGUST 2nd. 1864.

What progress at gathering in the harvest? Too much corn has tussled out between my arena of labor & the Tow Head Mansion to permit me a view of the "Dinner sight" flowing out from the South window. I suppose it to be yet there & am frequent in mental surveys of the smoking viands spread out before ye lusty harvesters.

Could you crowd in an extra plate for a lank & not remarkably voracious "Blue Coat"? If there are enough ravenous maws to consume all the "chicken fixens" I can wait a little, if you will make me a neat little pot of mush or a good granny cup of tea.

That new farm, seems to me, will be a cool place when grim old Winter comes blustering on; however the idea of sola proprietorship will probably modify the cutting blast.

Wonder if this stray deponent will ever creep into possession of a Manor heritage? — improbable quite. Guess I shall continue to beat up & down the world loose, keeping out of the way as much as possible.

Have you a Melon patch? Would ask 70 questions if in tongue range; 'tis a job too cumbersome to eke them out at pen point & I'll give it up. You can make a long talk without my propositions.

About affairs here; We have had a few days of quiet in camp, but this is being changed. The Division is now all gone out the R. R. but those Head Q'rs & they are to go tomorrow. The 47th started this morning by train for Holly Springs, Miss.

The Miss. Central is opened down that far from Grand Junction. We will likely be at Holly Springs by evening of tomorrow. The expectation is that another expedition will strike out from there. Look over in the heart of Miss. for a town called Columbus. That is the objective point talked of now.

THOMAS KEADY, AUGUST 2nd, 1864.

It will be a longer march than the last. Corn being now filled out, we can subsist longer on the country. You have no full idea of how oppressive these long marches are in Midsummer, but we should cheerfully address ourselves to any task that will assist Sherman in completing his giant job.

I earnestly hope that our labors may contribute something in this grand movement, & that the Rebellion may soon fall powerless. Those Northern conspirators need watching. Union men should be thoroughly organized & prepared all over the land & no ways slack to throttle the hissing serpent the moment he shows his fangs.

The cause of the Union has cost too much & progressed too far to allow Secession to prevail through home miscreants & base traitors. I have an abiding faith that all will yet be well through the workings of the Almighty Hand.  
August 3rd.

The order to move has not come yet but may come at any hour. Mower is again given command of two Divisions. He had two on Red River. This doubles the number of reports & of course increases the work of the Hd. Qr. scribes.

The prospect of getting discharged in this month continues getting no better fast. There will be much dissatisfaction in the regt after the 15<sup>th</sup>. It would be of more advantage to the government to act in good faith by its soldiers for it has need of more. However some have greater cause for complaint. We will likely stop out on the R R for a few days before striking out from our base, so that I may be able to send another letter.

Yours most respectfully

TOM KEADY

Alexander Keady to Louise Keady

Quincy Illinois  
Feb 20, 1865

Sister Lou:

We are not very busy this morning so I'll just scratch you a few lines to you so that you may know that I have not played out yet We are looking for orders to fall in for Muster every minute so you must excuse this child if this letter is not got up in very good style. Our head quarters are still at the Broadway House at night and grub up at the Commissary. We get good Beef Coffee and Salt Bread Sometimes Beans. enough for comfort

The reason we dont sleep in the Hall is on account of the gas in the room There is some defect in the pipes thereby making it very unsafe to sleep in the room. One of our company died Saturday from the effects of it and there are any quantity in the hospital from the same cause The expense of sleeping in the Tavern is about 25 cts per night not enough to pay for risking our lives Our Squad consist of Wakefield and I from Rudnor Isaac Clayton Andy Graham and John Cameron from Trivolia. They are just as good a Squad as ever went to War There are a great many men here that I knew before I came here Some very good men and some mean ones. We have all got in Andrews Co but Cameron he is in Snows They are both so good that we want to go with both I believe I had not got my Blue when I wrote last We got it Saturday afternoon, and shipped our clothes (Wakefield and I) to R Emory in Peoria the same evening it cost us 65 cts apiece for expense and 50 cents for Box.

Yesterday was rather a curious Sunday for a boy from the quiet country Military affairs went on just the same as on other days. We had no duty to do except to famm in and escort the body of our dead comrad to the Depot I went to Presbyterian meeting at Eleven and Seven Yesterday heard two good sermons Will go to Methodist Church tonight Since writing the above our Reg had to fall in to be reviewed by Gen. Prentiss. he read some orders made speech and issued some orders on his own hook among which

were that all should be ready to march by wednesday morning as we would all be shipped by that time \*our Cap says if we can get mustered and Transportation we will go sooner We go to camp Butler to Fight Grey Backs

Spent quite a while today going through two very large Hospitals in the City They are larger than any buildings in Peoria and four stories high are nicely arranged clean and quiet there are not many men in them two died in one of them today This is one of the most grand old towns I ever saw It has a population of about 25,000 I saw some of the handsomest ladies at church last night that I ever saw in my life I only dared to peep at them from the corner of my eye Have the Prospect folks made up their minds that I am going to war yet

How does Tom get along with his department has he got them posts made yet and has he got the blues as bad as usual I never enjoyed my self better in my life than I do here Have not lost or had anything stolen yet and that's something none of our Squad can say. What manner of pictures were them that I got taken if good you may give my girl one What think you

If you direct letters to Co A, 151 Reg Ill. care of Andrews, Springfield, I will get them

Give my best respect to all prospects to write to

Brother

Alex

Addressed to--  
Miss Louise E. Keady--  
Southampton--  
Peoria County--  
Illinois--

Alexander Keady to Louise Keady

Dalton, Georgia  
Friday May 5, 1865

Sister Lou:

I will write you a few lines tonight as I may not have a chance to write or mail a letter for some time as we are going to break up this camp early in the morning and march to Resacca and join the Regt. They have orders to march for Kingston at 7 oclock on Sunday Morning so we will not get much rest. I am stronger and more healthy now than at any time since I Enlisted and if nothing happens I hope to go through all right.

We have had a busy time this afternoon packing and loading our Camp Equipage We will not get it near all along but we have done our best Most of the stuff left will have to come off Uncle Sam

I put my Blanket Over Coat and one Shirt in a Box with our First Sargent's Clothes and will express them in the morning I will not get them till he and I get home but I did not want the expense of shipping alone and did not want them If I find I need anything I can draw from the Quartermaster after the March or pick up anything I want on the March I have had a fine time here since Sunday. I have not had any letters from anyone since I left Murfreesboro but I look for some soon If you dont get any from me for some time you may ascribe it to the want of Transportation You may direct by way of Chattinooopa I may get them I must go to Bed and sleep ready for the March So Good Bye

Alex Keady

Addressed to--  
Miss Louise E. Keady--  
Southampton--  
Peoria County--  
Illinois--

Clerks, Office Crumb Hospital, Nashville Tenn.  
Thursday Night, Aug. 17 /65

Sister Lou:

You are to be honored with one of my excellent Spistles tonight for which I hope you will be thankful in proportion to the greatness of the occasion. I do not expect to hear from you any more except through a second person now that your attention is so much taken up in another direction. I advise you to be a little more careful of your health and eyes than to be found awake so much in the small hours of the night. I almost wish I could slip in some night and see for my self wheather indeed these things be true. You must have a gay time now when all the boys are home. Wish I could see the 47 boys. Why is it that John Longshore has entirely quit writing to me. He went off 3 years ago before we got done stucking and has come back to finish the job now. I got Barbs letter on the 12. It is the only one I have had from home yet. Got a real good one from Nathan last week. Heard lots of news from him round by Ohio. he said he had read a letter from Joe. Why is it that I am not favoured from one from the same source. He will have to make it up in Beer and Oysters if he dont look out, for he knows we did not have any the last night I promanaded the streets of Peoria in Co with him. Guess old father Moor has not forgot that night either. Hope that new daughter may prove a rare jewell but I think there are too many girls in the U.S. now. John C. did not serve a very long term at the Court of Mars. think he should have remained faithful to the end. I am going to stay till the war is over.

We have heard from the 151 several times this week. They are at Columbus Ga. They are reporting a goOd time and light duty. Yet I do not feel muchtemp-  
ted to leave my present position for the honor of carry-  
ing a musket in the hot sun. My health is very good  
now better than it has been for some time. Can do ample  
justice to good rations. Went out into the country  
near 3 miles the other day to steal peaches got all I  
could eat and all I could carry in, have a Haversack  
half full yet. I went down to town this afternoon for

Clerks Office Crumb Hospital  
Nashville Tenn. Aug. 31

Sister Lou:

I received a letter from you today which I will answer tonight as my weekly report is due and must be made. I got one from Jane last Sunday which is unanswered but once a week is often enough for me to write and more than can be interesting for you to read. Wish you would write twice every week. Was rather surprised (from former experiences) to hear that Nathan had bought him a Farm so soon. I did not know that he had any notion of going West this fall till I got a letter from Nat informing me that he was going.

I don't believe he will live in that part of the country long unless he has found better land than any I ever saw in that section. If his land is good he got a cheap farm. I can stop and visit them on my way home if they move this fall won't that be real handy? Perhaps there will be another little cottage there or somewhere for me to call in. If there don't be I fear there will not be much Beef left for me. So Louisa, Sargt. Merwin of our Co and Sargt. Gray of Co E. passed through here this morning on their way back from Peoria where they have been on Furlough. Merwin says he saw Nathan and Longshore on the Carrs as they came out to Ellpisso. They report gay times in Peoria since the Soldiers came home. Wish you could have saw him. he is such a clever fellow. You could have sent your letter with him and saved 3 cents. He came out to the Hosp but the guards would not let him in so early but he sent him down to our office or Bed Room rather for we was not up yet. So Hulse and I hauled on our Pants and rushed down to the Depot and found them and I tell you we had a gay time for an hour or so. He says he had 2 letters for me when he left the Regt. but some Rogue stole his carpet Sack and away went the letters and all they contained. The 148 ill is here to be mustered out. They were or-

the first time since leaving last winter. I viewed the various Lions of the city Got a new shirt and socks at the Sanitary Commission, got a nice white shirt but could not get what I went after which was a pair of Office Slippers. They gave away the last pair they had yesterday. The Aid Societies have forsook the commission so their stock is slim. I drew me a new pair of pants this morning as my old ones were beginning to get thin on the back. I got a pair at Kingston but they were to small so I let one of the other boys have them. Will be under the necessity of renewing my boots when I go on duty out of the Hospital. I dont feel as though I had wrote enough so Ill stop and finish tomorrow.

Friday Morning 18--

I must finish this letter this morning and send it on the way rejoicing. Ill bet you cant guess where I went when I quit writing last night You must not be scared when I say I went to a dance. dont you think that is a great place for a soldier to be yet it is true they had quite a number down in one of the large dining room to which the Clerks were all invited I went over about 9 o'clock and sat on a bench and watched till I got sleepy when I sought my couch. There were quite an array of the Fair ones of the South present. I hear rumors from various sources of a correspondence between Barb and a certain Ex Military Officer. I can hardly understand what all these things mean. Think I must hasten home to regulate things or I will have no home to go to. Guess Mom and I can win the machine through if all the rest do desert it. Does Tom still indulge in the English notions or has Sally succeeded in winning his affections away from Maggie. I see very plainly that I am going to be left to trend the old Bachelor path alone. I advise you to stay with your Maning till I come home for I want to help move you off the old farm if it has to be done.

Alex Keady

Addressed to Miss Louise E. Keady, Southhampton  
Peoria County, Illinois---

ganized in Quincy the same time our Reg was Our Co. was assigned to that Reg. Cap Andrews left or got his Co transfered to the 151 because he could not get to be Co A. You see I came near having to go home this fall. I think our Reg. will go out in November if there is no more trouble in the South. I saw the famous murderer Champ Ferguson this morning. He is rather an ugly looking character but does not look like the terrible scoundrel he has been proved to be. Will have the pleas- of seeing him hung some of these days if it is done in public.

My health still continues good am doing well and never was so fat and stout since I left, your bed and board. The worst thing I miss is some one to wash my shirts. have to wash twice a week as I have only got 2 white shirts yet. will have to wash tomorrow.

Friday Sept 1

I did not write 3 cents worth last night so will put in another slip this morning. We had a fine rain last night and it is raining some yet. It is the first time the dust has been laid in Nashville for more than six weeks. Sept has come in fine and cool if it only continues. They had another dance here last night I went over and looked on for a while but did not shake my toes any

I dont know what to think about the maids getting married off so if Cynda is gone my last hope must die out. I must apply for a Furlough and come home and see about it. There is some talk of breaking this hospital up this month but I dont believe they will as long as there are so many soldiers in the field as there are now. It would be rather hard for me to go back and shoulder a musket after such a nice time as we have been having. I have not stood guard since we were at Enharler Mills last spring and I dont think I will soon again. Musket Soldiering is played out since the war is over. Recon Tom and Sam will soon scour up the plows for a vigorous fall campaign. They are getting along so nice that I dont want to come home and disturb them. Guess I had better get a position down here. I must go to my days work so good morning to you.

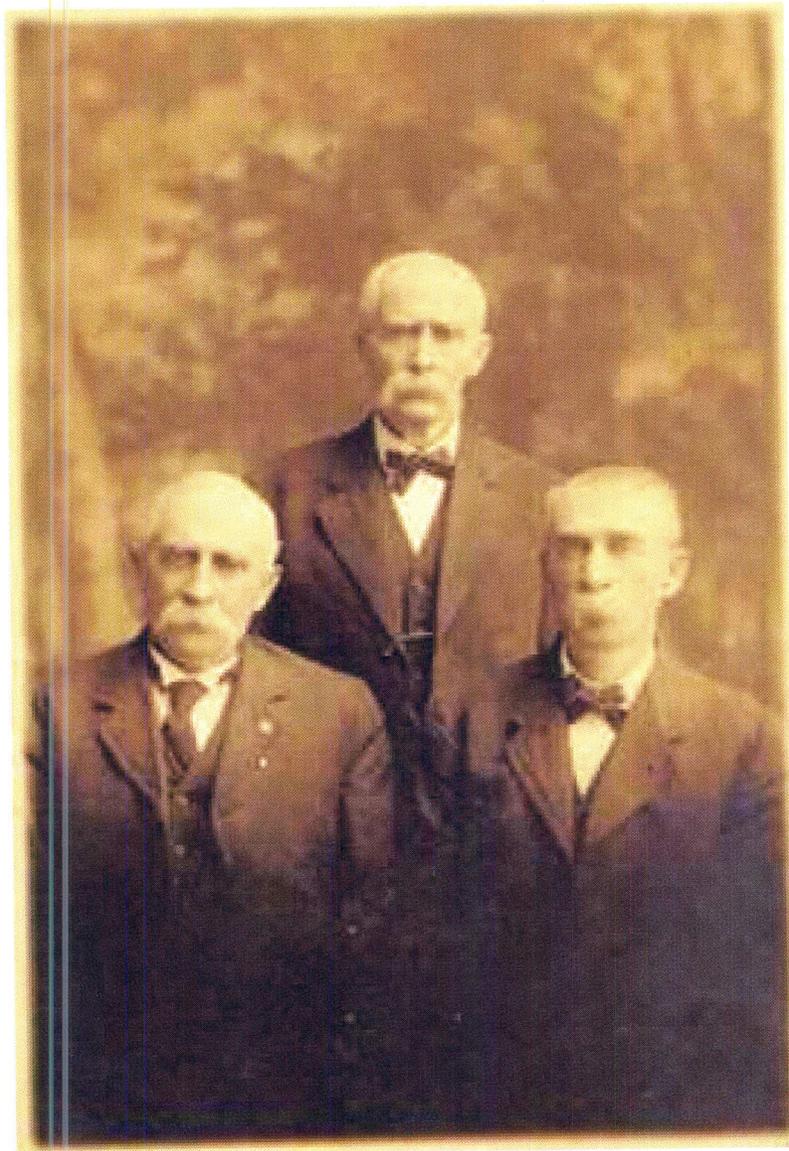
Addressed to Miss Louise E. Keady, Southhampton  
Peoria County, Illinois---



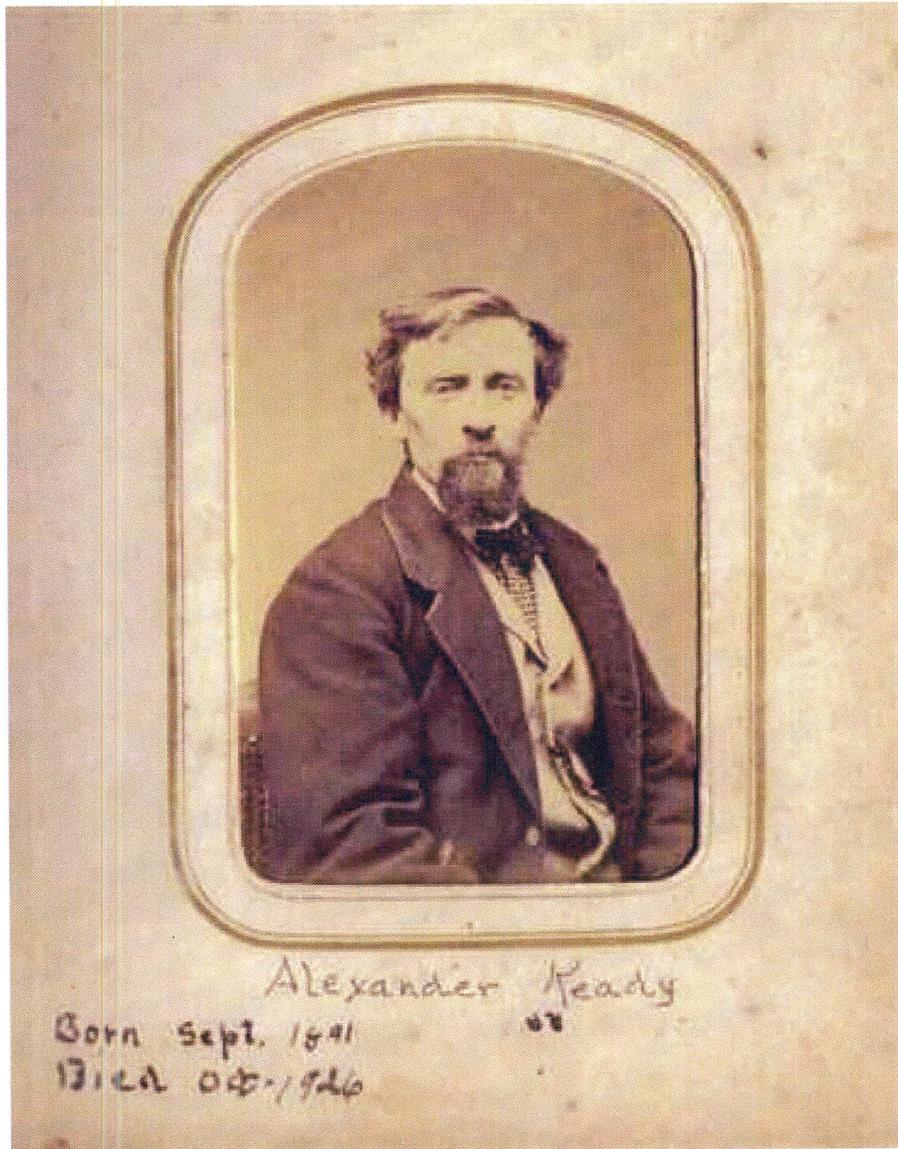
Alexander Keady



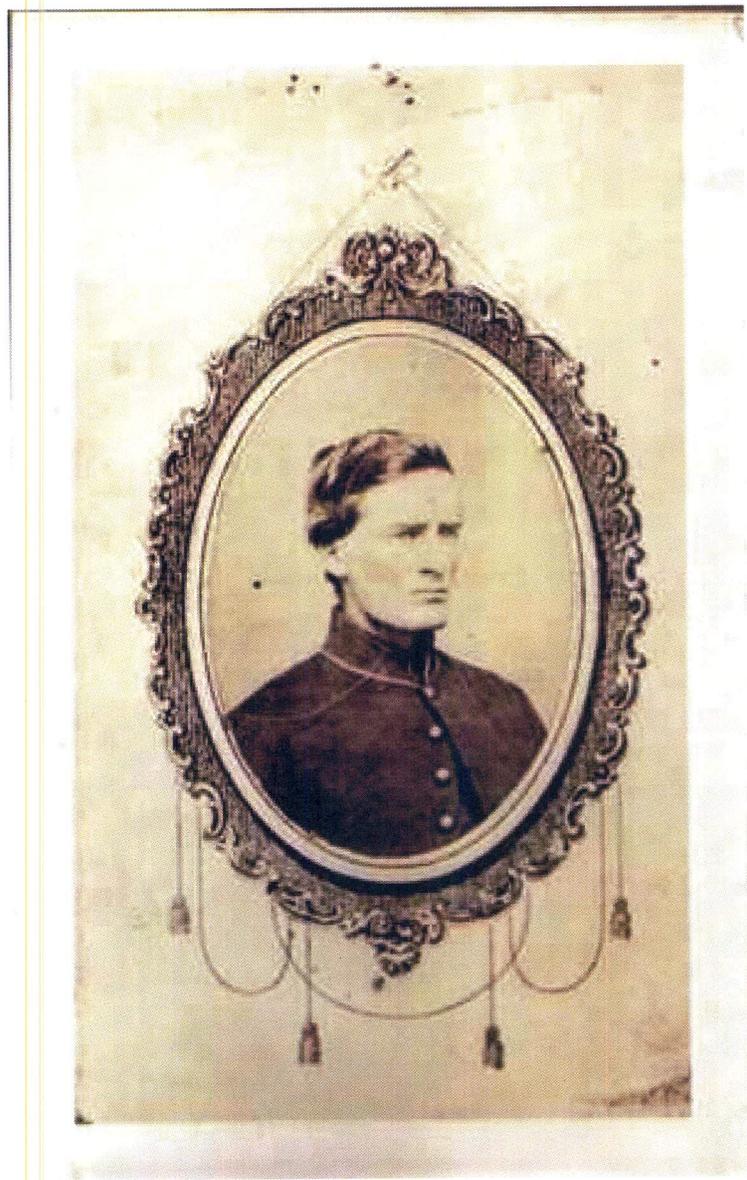
Louisa Ellen Keady and Alexander Keady



Keady brothers, L to R  
Thomas, Alexander, Samuel 1914



Alexander Keady (b 9/17/41 - d 10/1926)



Thomas Keady (b 12/6/36 - d 4/26/1918)  
Co A 114th Illinois Infantry

# Record of Practice firing at Fort. Brashear Boston B.

Date	Kind of Gun	Kind of Projectile	Charge in Pounds	Elevation in Degrees	Range	Length of Fuse in Seconds	Kind of Powder used	No. of Cartridges	Remarks that failed	No. of Rounds fired	State of Wind	Drift	Remarks
1865 April 21 7/26	24 Pm		8	1	865								
	D	Shot	6	1	900								To left to high
	W	Shot	6	1 1/2	900								To high to the left
	D	"	6	1	900								To left to high
	W	"	6	1 1/2	900					4			Left low
	D	Shot	6	1	900	2 1/2							Left burst right
	W	"	6	1 1/2	900	2							burst to down
	D	"	6	1	900	2 1/2							burst right
	W	"	6	1 1/2	900	2 1/2				4			burst to down
	W	Shot	6	4 1/2	1600	4							Left to right
D	"	6	1 1/2	900	2 1/2				2			burst to down	
32 Pm	Shot	8	1	865									Left to down
	"	"	2	1 1/2	865								To right
	"	"	8	1 1/2	865								To right
	"	"	2	1 1/2	865								right
	"	"	8	1 1/2	865					5			left

Davis  
Carr

Johnson  
Jackson

Hartley  
Carr

Wanas  
Johnson

Wright  
Mare

Crisden  
Ellis S

Ellis B  
Elkenthier

Gowdhart  
Jaggard 40

Alister

Hobson  
Cott

Dicks  
Watkins  
Kinsell  
Nagel