

## William Hart Letters 44<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry Company G

Camp Huntsville, Ala.

Jan 15th

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand and write to you once more hopeing [sic] these few lines will find you quite well and in good spirits for that is the way it leaves me at presant [sic] but I have been about sick for several weeks but I am better now it is a long time since I wrote to you but I hope you will forgive me for we have had a hard march and 2 days of hard fighting front of Nashville, which you have heard about it before now and I was in it all the 2 day but I was as lucky as before come out without a scratch and we are now at Huntsville Ala and we have built winter quaters [sic] by order of our Gen, and we have just ago got them done and we are all right if they will let us stay in them as long as they say 3 months it is a nice place and it puts me in mid of spring this morning the meadow larks is singing and the blue birds but I supose [sic] it is pretty cold there now but we have had some cold wether [sic] down here we espect [sic] to be paid before we leave here and I hope we will for there is a mo [sic] and 1 years pay due to me now about \$400 dol and that will be quite a pile but I would like to have got it before so that it would do you some good for I know that you have needed it but I could not get it but I hope that I can get it soon

I received a letter from George about 2 weeks ago and he was quite well and I shall write to him today and I have not had a letter from Louisa for some time but they was all well then and I am a going to write to them today and Elizebuth [sic] the same and John but I hope they are all well and Mary Ann and you and the Old Gentleman and and [sic] my best respects to him from your [illegible] Son Wm Hart

I am detaild [sic] as provost guard at Brigade headquarter and so Direct Head Quarter 7 Brig 2 Div 4 AC

May 24 Letter to his mother

Bacuda

May 24 Tennessee R Kenetucky [sic]

Dear mother I have got a chance to write to you once moore [sic] I supose [sic] that you think that I have forgot you but I have not for we have had a very long march we have marched over 200 miles since I wrote to you and we had know [sic] chance to write I

wrote a letter to you while we was on the march but I lose it we arived [sic] in Cape Gerods [sic] on the Misipi [sic] river there on the 21 and I received a letter there from you and I was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you got that money when I received the other letter I thought that you had not got the money because the [illegible] letter you answerd [sic] I wrote only 2 days before and that was the letter that Elizebuth [sic] wrote and I answerd [sic] it I cant [sic] tell weather [sic] I shall have a chance to write to you again for we are on the Tenessee [sic] River and is bound for the pitsburge [sic] landing at corinth [sic] and they say that they started a fighting this morning and it will take us about 2 days longer before we get there but dont [sic] fret about me for fear that I will be killed for I dont [sic] espect [sic] to be killed there for I think that it will be over before we get there and if not I dont [sic] think that I shall be killed so now dont [sic] fret for I think that this battel [sic] will settel [sic] it and then I shall soon be home and I dont [sic] care how soon for this life his [sic] a very hard one and the soner [sic] it his [sic] over the better for it his [sic] the ruination of any young man the way we have marched around but I think that now we have got on the river we will have so much hard marching and I think that this battle will shurely [sic] whind [sic] it up I have sorrow to think that we have got to go from our devision [sic] after we have run around all over Missioura [sic] and Arkensa [sic] [illegible] and we have drive the enemine [sic] from our devision [sic] but still if we are needed I ham [sic] williing to go and do what I can and I hope and to the Lord that he will take me through the battle safe and I hope that I may get safe home again I had a dream last night and I dreampt [sic] that we was marching through the town and I ask a man what the name of this town and they told me it was Rockford and after we campt [sic] I whent [sic] down town and then I come home and I seen you all and I thought that we had to leave the next morning and I hated to leave but I thought that I bid you all good by and left with good spirit I ham [sic] quite whell [sic] and in good spirit and I hope that you are the same and all the rest I will hafte [sic] to cloths [sic] my writing soon we are now a going up the Tenessee [sic] river and we think that it will take 2 days before we get to pitburge [sic] landing and I hope that I can be able to get home again now dear mother dont [sic] fret about me for I hante [sic] afaraid [sic] that I shall be shot and so dont [sic] you be afaraid [sic] and I hope and trust that these few lines will find you whell [sic] and Elizebuth [sic] and George and Mary Ann and Louisa and Charles and Culey [sic] and all other inquiring friends I still remain your affectionate [sic] son William Hart

Direct Geberal Ashbuths [sic] devision [sic]

Capegerado [sic] Misioura [sic] 44 Ill Ridg [sic]

May 25 letter to his mother

Tenasee [sic] May 25

Dear Mother we have got payed [sic] once more and I thought that I would send you 15  
do [sic] as I don't [sic] think that it will be of much account [sic] to us and I hope that  
these few lines will find you all well [sic] I wrot [sic] a few lines to you on the [illegible]  
before we got our pay and you said that you received the money that I sent from  
springfield [sic] and I was very glad to hear that you got it for I was afraid [sic] that you  
would not get it I am [sic] quite well [sic] and in good spirit and I hope that you are the  
same and all the rest and you must excuse my poor writing [sic] for I was in [illegible]  
and the shaking of the steamboat makes it rather bad but I only wrote this on account  
[sic] of the money and I hope that you will get it

I still remain your affectionate [sic] Son William Hart

January 24 Lett to his mother

Camp Bradley Murfreesboro

Jan 24

Dear Mother

I now take my pen in hand to rite [sic] a few lines to you and I hope that they will [sic]  
find you quite well [sic] and in good spirit for that is the way that leaves me at  
present [sic] and I hope and trust that it will [sic] find you in the same I have just come  
off of picket guard this morning and so I could not send this money quite so soon as  
[sic] I thought that I could but it was not my fault and so you must excuse [sic] me and I  
hope that you will [sic] receive it and I think that it will [sic] do you some good for that  
his [sic] mool [sic] than you ever got before together [sic] from me [sic] we got four  
months pay and so that his [sic] the reason that I can send you so much this time Mr.  
Miller that lives near you was here to see me and he says that his wife draws the bounty  
still and so I don't [sic] see how it his [sic] that you don't [sic] get it I have not heard from  
you since you went [sic] to Galena but I had one from George I wrote [sic] a letter to  
Lezzy [sic] but I have not received my answer and I will [sic] have to bring my letter to  
a close and I hope that these few lines will [sic] find you quite well [sic] and all of the  
rest and give my respects to all inquiring friends and please answer this as [sic] quick  
as [sic] possible [sic] so that I will [sic] know weather [sic] you got it and I still remain  
your loving [sic] Son William Hart

Direct Camp Bradley

Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

44 Ill. Ridg. [sic] Vou Co G

Gen Sheridans [sic] Division [sic]

Cap. L. H. Sabin

the amount of money his [sic] 44 dol 4 tens [crossed out 4 fives]

January 30

[written at top of writing paper]

THE BEST OF THE BRAVE.

“How sleep the brave who sink to rest

By all their country’s wishes blest!

When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,

Returns to deck their hallowed mould,

She there shall dress a sweeter sod

Than fancy’s feet have ever trod.

“By fairy hands their knoll is rung;

By ferns unseen their dirge is sung;

There Homer comes, a pilgrim gray,

To deck the surf that wraps their clay;

And Freedom shall awhile repair,

To dwell, a weeping hermit, there.”

Murfreesboro Jan 30 1863

Dear Mother

I have taken the pen in hand to rite [sic] to you once moore [sic] and I hope that they whill [sic] find you quite whell [sic] and in good spirits for that his [sic] the way that it leaves me at presant [sic] I received a letter from George yesterday and he was quite whell [sic] and all of the rest and they said that you had been there and I hope that you injoid [sic] your visit and I would like if I could have been with you all but it his [sic] out of the question but I still think that we whill [sic] all meet to gather again but it whill [sic] be some time first but half of my time his [sic] over now and I think that it his [sic] the hardest half for there his [sic] only one moore [sic] winter for this winter his [sic] over here the frogs and birds his [sic] a singing here now and it sounds like spring we have had some bad weather lately it has been raining for two or three days and it has been a snowing a little for two days but it has cleared off now and I think that we whill [sic] have

some nice weather now we was to work yesterday on a fourt [sic] at Murfs [sic] we are a fourtifier [sic] it very strong now we are a puting [sic] a big fourt [sic] up around the city and there his [sic] know [sic] sign of us mooveing [sic] from here soon we have a good deal of duty to do here with the guard and fouriging [sic] and all other dutys [sic] and there his [sic] know [sic] signs of any moor [sic] fighting for us here once in a while they charge on our fouriging [sic] trains with there [sic] cavelry [sic] and burn some wagons but it his [sic] only some of there [sic] gorilos [sic] I whill [sic] have to bring my letter to a close I have wrote a letter to George and one to Louisa but I dont [sic] know hardly weather [sic] she whill [sic] get it for I dont [sic] know how to dirict [sic] but I whill [sic] risk one I am quite whell [sic] and in good spirit and I hope that you are the same write has [sic] often has [sic] you can and give my respects to all inquiring friends and I still remain your afectionate [sic] Son William Hart

Direct 44 Ill Ret C.G.

Gen Sheridans [sic] devision [sic] Murfreesboro Tenn [sic]

Care Capt L M Sabin

May 8 Letter to his father

Line of battle

Atlanta Aug 8 H

Dear Father

I take my pen in hand to answer your kind letter that I received today I was very glad to hear that you was quite whell [sic] and [crossed out] but I am sorry that your crops faild [sic] so this season but I hope that you will do even better next season to make it up but I guess that you did not have much crops in this summer and it was a good thing has [sic] they have faild [sic] so you spoke about my discharge papers and I am shure [sic] that you done as well has [sic] you could with them but I thought that you would not want to be bothered with it as you was so far from [illegible] and has [sic] John was right there it would be better to let him have it than to put you to the bother of it and I got another paper and sent it to John so that he can get the money all right so you need not be afaraid [sic] of thing being wrong on your behalf I will tell you all I can of our prosion [sic] we are in plain sight of Atlanta [illegible] and we have them all most surrounded we are so near around them that we can hear the musketry [sic] from one flank to the other and our prosion is on the extream [sic] left wing I hope these few lines will find you quite whell [sic] from Wm. Hart

September 22 Letter to his mother

Atlanta Camp

Sep 22

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to write to you once more hoping these few lines will find you quite well and in good spirits for that is the way it leaves me quite well we have a very good time now we have got in camp it seems like geting [sic] home to get in to camp once more after being on the moove [sic] so long I received a letter a few days ago from Louisa and they was all well and she said that George had inlisted [sic] and I would like to know what Rigt [sic] if you know tell me in the first letter you write if you please I hope if he has inlisted [sic] that he will have as good luck has [sic] I have had in the great battles but I hope he has not inlisted [sic] for over one year and I hope he has took my advice about inlisting [sic] if he has he will have a better time than I have had if he has inlisted [sic] in the Army or heavy artillery for that is so much easier [sic] time than I have had but I think [sic] the war will soon be over after election I hope so anyway for it is time the news his [sic] here that they are a trashing the rebels very bad in Va. Gen. Sheridan his [sic] trashing them very bad and I am very glad of that we gained a very great vicyery [sic] over them when we took Atlanta from them for it is one of their best holds there is 3 railroads runs in to it and so you can tell that it is an important place for them and they had large arsenals there and facterys [sic] and other important things that made it a very important place but they had to get out of it and I think that it makes know [sic] diference [sic] who gets elected they will soon be peace if Lincoln or Mr. D. gets it peace will soon be made but the quicker it is done the better it will suit me if I had not inlisted [sic] again I would been on my road home now but if peace is made I will not be sorry for it for I can make more than I could home but still I should like to have come home with them for if I wanted to inlist [sic] after I got home I could get as much bounty for one year as I get now for 3 but I hope and trust that it is all for the better and I hope and trust that I shall be permitted [sic] to return home to you once more and that George may do the same Dear Mother I hope these few lines will find you and the Old Gentleman both quite well and in good spirits and give my respects to Elizebuth [sic] and John when you see them and give my love to Mary Ann and tell her that she must write to me if she will be so kind and give my best respects too all inquiring friends please write as often as you can and tell the Old Gentleman that I would be very glad to have him write to me and I still remain your ever loveing [sic] Son William Hart

direct as before

February 20 Letter to his mother

[image stamped on paper of General Nathaniel Lyon astride a horse with his cap in his hand]

Feb 20

Dear mother I take the pen in my hand to write you a few lines hoping [sic] they will find you quite well and in good spirit and good health [sic] and all the rest I am [sic] in the hospital [sic] yet but I am [sic] all most well I have some pain in my side yet when [sic] I cross [sic] the ridge [sic] is they say in [illegible] about 10 miles beyond Springfield [sic] and they are after Price [sic] and Segal [sic] and Jim Lane [sic] is trying to get around him Segal [sic] is on one side of him and Jim [sic] Lane [sic] is on the other side and they have got a good deal of train of provisions [sic] and they have got a good lot of men prisoners [sic] and I heard that they have taken 10 or 12 of his [sic] guns and I am [sic] in hopes they will catch him but he such a coward [sic] that he runs so fast that he makes our men travel faster than they have been used [sic] to marching [sic] but I think they will catch him before they leave him he was in Springfield [sic] when [sic] they first started toward him and they got within about 10 miles and he heard that we was a coming [sic] and he hurried [sic] off in the night and 2 or 3000 bushels of corn and wheat [sic] is he could take it away with him and that helped [sic] us very much I would like to have went with them but I could not go and so they have got so far that I don't [sic] think that I shan't [sic] see the ridge [sic] again for some time for they have got so far that if I [sic] was able to start now it would take me some time before I could catch up with them but I shan't [sic] leave the hospital [sic] until [sic] I get quite well and able to stand to march I wish that this war business was wound up and I could get home again I heard that they [sic] have had some hard [crossed out] hard [sic] battles [sic] in Kentucky [sic] and they have gained [sic] some good victories [sic] and I wish that they could gain more I think that a few such battles [sic] would soon wind up the south and I don't [sic] care how soon they do it for I am [sic] getting sick of this kind of a life I suppose [sic] that Louisa is now and I would like to be there to see her but I can't [sic] be there but if she is home I give my respects to her and I hope she is well and in good spirit I [illegible] think of much more to say now but I hope that these few lines will find you all well we got paid off the other day and I would like to send you 10 dol but we are in such a wilderness that I hate to risk [sic] it I can't [sic] think of much more to say now but give my respects to all inquiring friends I still remain your affectionate [sic] son William Hart

Direct Lebanon Misoura [sic]

Envelope

[image: eagle flying holding US flag with caption The FLAG of the FREE]

Written on envelope:

Lebanon Mo

July 21

Mrs [sic] Thomas Hart  
Rockford  
Winnebago Co Ill  
Care of Thomas Smith

Undated Letter to his mother

[image on writing paper: flags and a drum with a circle in the middle and this wording in the circle- THE CONSTITUTION FOR EVER. Rebellion must be Put Down.]

Mrs [sic] Thomas Hart

Dear mother i [sic] write you a few lines hoping [sic] they will find you quite well and in good spirit i [sic] expected [sic] a letter for i [sic] wrote a letter last week [sic] and i [sic] thought that you did not get it and if you get this you please to write as quick as you can and send me word how George is and Elizabeth [sic] is and Mary ann [sic] is and Louisa and Charles is and if Louisa as [sic] come home she [word crossed out] must write to me a [crossed out] i [sic] was over to John Macklays one day and i [sic] found them all well and John and Thomas Eggin was down to the barricks [sic] with me and they were all glad to see me and wanted me to come again but it is very seldom that i [sic] can get out of the barricks [sic] any further than the lakes but i [sic] am down there [illegible] every day in a swimming but we ave [sic] lotts [sic] of fun and i [sic] like it well and i [sic] hope you be the same we have good groob [sic] plenty [sic] of good bread and meat and potatoes [sic] and coffee and tea and we drill about 5 ours [sic] a day and i [sic] feel first rate and i [sic] give my respects to all the nabors [sic] we dont [sic] know wen [sic] we will leave wich [sic] there is so sines [sic] of it yet so i [sic] cant [sic] tell wen [sic] but write as quick as you can I remain your son William Hart Chickago [sic]

[crossed out: Direct to Camp Ellsworth North Rifel [sic] Rigmant [sic] Carnal]

Direct Camp Ellsworth  
Northwest Rifel [sic] Company G  
Chickago [sic] William Hart

Envelope

Mrs [sic] Thomas Hart



Rockford Ill Winnebog County

[illegible]

Care of Thomas Smith

[image on envelope: US flag, paper with Constitution written on it and 2 hands shaking]

Letter to his mother

[image on writing paper: wheat with AGRICULTURE written under it, Lincoln with a wheel and MANUFACTURES written under it, gallows with FINE ARTS written under it, wheel says hemp for traitors north or south]

Dear Mother 26

I write a few lines to you hoping [sic] they find you quite well and in good ealth [sic] i [sic] wrote you [crossed out] a few to you last week but i [sic] could not get time to write much for we ad [sic] not got our things fixed in the new camp and the captin [sic] ad [sic] so much to do that he could not write as you wanted him to do and he said he would write when he ad [sic] time and then on saturday [sic] we got orders to march to Jevson [sic] sity [sic] and then wen [sic] we got to Jevson [sic] we then got oders [sic] go on to Lexoniton [sic] sity [sic] were [sic] they have been a fighting and there is a great many troops a going into Lexoniton [sic] they intend to send troops anough [sic] too take it back and i [sic] espect [sic] to have a harde [sic] battle there before we can take it back but we must have it back they think that there is about 15 or 2000 rebels there and before we comence [sic] we will have betwixt [sic] 40 or 5000 solgiers [sic] ready for the field we have got 5 shooter rifel [sic] wen [sic] we went to the St. Louis itsenal [sic] to draw our rifels [sic] they were agoing [sic] to give us muskets and we would not take them so they put us under an erest [sic] till monday [sic] afternoon and we got on to a steamboat and it took us till thirsty [sic] night before we got to Jevson [sic] I cant [sic] think of much more to write but give my respects to Louisa and Elizabarth [sic] and George and Mary ann [sic] and Charles and tell him to write to me and give my respects to all inquiring friends write as quick as you can make it conveyent [sic]

I remain your son

William Hart

Mrs [sic] Thomas Hart

Direct to Nor West Rifels [sic] Jefson [sic] Sity [sic]

Misoura [sic]

Envelope

Mrs [sic] Thomas Hart

Rockford Wonebago

County Ill

Care of Thomas Smith

[illegible stamp on envelope]

January 17 Letter to brother

[image on writing paper: Face of George Washington with an eagle at the top]

Jan 17

Dear brother

Received your letter the 17 and I was very glad to get it as I had not heard from you all the time since you inlisted [sic] and now you have got home you must be a good boy to your dear mother and be a good boy at school and [illegible] [illegible line of text] and do not run around town with the boys to [sic] much and be good to your mother and when it coms [sic] spring you try and get another good place and be a good boy and dont [sic] think about being a solgier [sic] for it is a harde [sic] life and I think that the war will soon be settled and then we will be all glad to get back to home for wen [sic] you haft [sic] to march 20 or 30 miles a day and then haft [sic] to go on guard or if you did not haft [sic] to go on guard you would haft [sic] to sleep on the bair [sic] ground and then you would have to get up in the morning and get a hard cracker and a bit of raw pork and start off in the morning and then travel all day and take my advice if you [illegible] know wen [sic] you are well off you stay were [sic] you are free and well off for the solgiers [sic] life is like a dogs [sic] life you cant [sic] tell what time you may be called out and then you fight to take down your tents and load them and then start off now take my advice and dont [sic] let any one coaks [sic] you away I wrote a letter to mother the 14th saying that we was agoing [sic] to start to springfield [sic] again the next morning but the Doctor reported that we was not abel [sic] to march and so we did not go I have wrote two letters to Louisa but I have not received no answer I think that [illegible] direct right give my respects to all other and Elizabarth [sic] and Mary Ann and all inquiring friends

I remain your Dear Brother

William Hart

Undated Letter to his Mother

[image on writing paper: flags and a drum with a circle in the middle and this wording in the circle- THE CONSTITUTION FOR EVER. Rebellion must be Put Down.]

Dear Mother

I rite [sic] you a few lines hopeing [sic] that thay [sic] may find you quite well and in good spirit and dont [sic] fret about me for i [sic] am quite well and in firstrate [sic] spirit and i [sic] like it in [firstrate [sic] and our commpany [sic] full but there is none of the others commpanys [sic] quite full but we all espect [sic] to be full soon and there is quite a lot of boys in my commpany [sic] that i [sic] am aquanted [sic] with for one is George Willmert and mother dont [sic] fret about me i [sic] dont [sic] know how long it will be before we will be [crossed out] go away from chickago [sic] we have not got our uanyform [sic] yet but we espect [sic] to get it this weak [sic] and i [sic] cant [sic] think of any thing else to rite [sic] about now i am quite well my respects to George Mary ann [sic] Elizaburth [sic] and Louisa and Charly and all other inquireing [sic] frinds [sic] and if Louisa is [illegible] [illegible] her to write to me Dear Mother write as quick as you can

And I Remain Your Dear

William Hart

Chickago [sic]

Direct Camp Ellsworth

[illegible]

[illegible] Captain Sabin

North Western Rifel [sic]

Regiment Company G

William Hart

William Hart

North Western Rifle Regent

Company G

Chickago [sic] Ill

August 8th Letter to his Mother

In line of battle

front of Atlanta

[illegible] Aug 8th

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to answer your kind letter that this afternoon and I was so glad to hear from you for it is so long since I had a letter from you but I got a letter from Elizabeth [sic] last night and one from George and they said that you was whell [sic] [on the 4 of July and George said that he had been rather sick for 20 or 30 days and I was very sorry of that but I hope he will soon be quite whell [sic] again I received a letter from Louisa about a week ago and they was quite whell [sic] and Charles has gone on a visit to his Brother and Louisa sent me Lilys [sic] likeness and it is the most nateral [sic] picture I ever see of the little chick well Mother you think that we have had very hard times and some say hard fighting and you may depend that we have but we have all ways had enough to eat and that is the main thing but we have done some severe fighting but we have not had so verry [sic] hard marching for the rebels has halted us by dark so we couldnt [sic] get moor [sic] than 10 miles a day and sometimes not that but we have it pretty easy now but we are a fighting on some part of the lines our lines has his [sic] about 13 from Atlanta and we are in plain sight of the city but they have got very strong works and large fourts [sic] and a great many very large guns but if we could have about 50,000 reanfoursement [sic] we could take them all priseners [sic] we are allmost [sic] all around them now we are so near around them that we can hear the musketry [sic] from one flank to the other quite plain and so you may judge for your self how far much we lack of being around them at the furtherest it is not moor [sic] than 2 miles and 50000 moore [sic] would close that up for there would be some very hard fighting to close that for they would put the whole fource [sic] there before they would be [illegible] and I think that General Sherman will stay till he gets moor [sic] they can never drive us from where we are our core [sic] holds the extream [sic] left wing well Dear Mother I must bring this to a close and I hope and trust that these few lines will find you quite whell [sic] [illegible] and I hope you will keep up good spirits please write as often as you can and I will do the same and I still remain your loveing [sic]

Son

William Hart

Direct the same

February 4 Letter to his mother

Camp Near, Huntsville, Ala

Feb 4 [illegible]

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to answer your kind letter that I received this morning dated Jan 27th I was very glad to hear you was all well and in good spirits for that is the way it leaves me I received the letter from Mary Ann you spoke about and I answerd [sic] it the same day and I think you must have got it before this time and she wanted me to send her a lock of my hair and I done so but I could not get get [sic] much but I guess there will be enough but if not she must say so in the next letter and I will send some more but it is so short that and thin but if there is not eanough [sic] I will send some more it suprised [sic] me to get a letter from her as she never wrote to me before but I hope she will write to me as often as she can and I will answer them all that she will write and I will be very glad to hear from her as often as she can get the time to write I received a letter from Louisa a few days ago and they was all quite well and in good spirits and they say that if I live and be well they think that I shall be home before a year that the war will be over but I am afaraid [sic] they are mistaken but I hope not but I think my self that the war is very near over there is all seigns [sic] of it but till I am afaraid [sic] there is know [sic] such good luck but I hope and trust that I have seen my last fighting and I think that I have but I have thought so so [sic] many times that I am afaraid [sic] it will not be so but I can ashure [sic] you that nothing would please me more than to hear of peace and me to be a free man once more but if I have to stay my time out it will be along [sic] time very near 2 years but that time will soon pass away I hope you said that you had been to Elizabuths [sic] you and Mary Ann and that you had to walk that is to [sic] much for you and you ought not to do so for it will make you sick for that is to [sic] much for you now for you are a geting [sic] to [sic] old for such now Louisa said that you had been talking of comeing [sic] to see her but you could not get any money but as soon as I get paid I will send you some and Mary Ann the same so that if you want to go you can and Louisa said that she would come to see you in the spring and that she thought that you was not very comfetabal [sic] with the Old Man and that if you was not he would not let you stay with him but I hope you are quite comfetabal [sic] let me know if you please and if are not I will do all I can for you and [illegible] me up who his [sic] a liveing [sic] in my house and what rent you get and make use of it when you get it I have not heard from George for some but he was quite well then I must bring this to a close with my best wishes to you and Mary Ann and Elizebuth [sic] and John and George and Louisa and the rest of them when you write to them my best respects to the Old man and all other inquireing [sic] friends from your true son

Wm Hart

Direct Huntsville Ala

Headquartes [sic] 1st Brig, 2 Div A.C.

[written on the top margin of the middle pages: when you direct dont [sic] put on the Regt but direct as Huntsville Ala1st Brig Headquarters 2 Div 4 A.C.]

February 16 Letter to his Mother

Feb 16

Dear mother I have taken the pen in in [sic] my hand once more to write you a few lines once more and I hope they will find you quite well and in good spirit I cant [sic] say that I ham [sic] well for wen [sic] we marched from Roaly I had bad cold and it snowed all the first day and we had to slep [sic] on brush that we ust [sic] to cut as soon as we would get into camp and we was 6 days marching from Roaly to Lebanon and three ridgement [sic] stayed here 8 days and then started for springfield [sic] I was taken sick the first night we got in to lebanon [sic] and wen [sic] the ridgement [sic] left I went in to the ospital [sic] and I ham [sic] here yet and I think that I that I shal [sic] stay till the ridgement [sic] gets back I think that they will have a fight before they get back with price [sic] and I hope they will and I wish that i [sic] was able to be with them and help them fight it out but I ham [sic] gitting [sic] better sloly [sic] the cold seteld [sic] on my longs [sic] the doctor says that I have got influmation [sic] on the longues [sic] and I think that wen [sic] the ridgement [sic] gets back I shal [sic] try to get my discharge and come home I carnt [sic] think of much more to say maw but I hope these few lines will find you all well and in good spirit write as quick as you can

I remain your afecnate [sic] Son William Hart

Mrs Thomas Hart Direct Lebanon Mo

March 2 Letter to his Mother

Head Quarters 1st Brig  
Huntsville, Ala  
March 2nd

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you once more and hopeing [sic] they will find you and Mary Ann both quite well and the Old man for that is the way it leaves me it is so long since I have heard from you that I thought that I must write to you once more I have been awateing [sic] for some time especting [sic] to get a letter from you or Mary Ann but as I get known [sic] I thought that I would scratch off a few lines to you to see if

there was any thing wrong but I hope not for you will soon be very busey [sic] now it is very near spring now it is very near one year since I was there and it does not seem that long to me but it is one year ago I was in Chickago [sic] and I would like to be there again but I dont [sic] think that I shall see it again till I am free from this army and that is 22 months but that is not long I look back and I guess that I shall not inlist [sic] again I think that when I serve this term out it will be enough for me I think it ought to be dont [sic] you but I dont [sic] think that we will have peace before that time and if peace is not made fit before my time is out I dont [sic] care how long it keeps up after I am out of the army and that time will soon slip over I think and I think that the most of our fighting is over in this department and as long as I am there I know that my fighting is over and I am not worry of that wether you may be and I know that you are not sorry for I know that you are in dread to hear of a battle when you know that we have been in it but I have had estray [sic] luck as many battles that I have been through and not to get a mark from any of them I think that I shall get out of this army all right and safe quite safe and sound and get home all right and I hope that I shall see you all well as you was when I was there one year ago it is some time since I have heard from Louisa but I hope they are all well and it is a long time since I have heard from Elizebuth [sic] but I hope they are all well and I must bring this to a close give my respects to the Old Gentleman and all other inquiring friends and you and Mary Ann must write as often as you can if you please to and I still remain your loveing [sic] son

Wm Hart,

Direct, Head, Qut [sic] 1st Brig

2nd Div [sic]

4th A.C.

[illegible] Huntsville, Ala

April 12, 1863 Letter to his Mother

Murfreesboro Apr 12 1863

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to rite [sic] to you once moor [sic] to try and see if you can get one letter from me for you say that you dont [sic] get any from me and I cannot tell the reason why you do not get my letters from me for I have rote [sic] six and you have not got and I have directed them just the same way that I allways [sic] did and I cannot see what his [sic] the reason you dont [sic] get them I received a letter from you on the 9th and I answerd [sic] it the same day and I was very sorry to hear that George his [sic] so sick it troubled me so much that it made me shed tears when I read it for I am so much afaraid [sic] that he whillnot [sic] get over it for I know what that his [sic] and his being

wheek [sic] from the other sicknes [sic] that he had before whill [sic] make him so wheek [sic] for this that I am afaraid [sic] that he cannot get through it but I hope that he whill [sic] be spard [sic] if it whill [sic] please god [sic] there his moor [sic] solders [sic] die with that complaint than any other way but it my [sic] make a great deal of diferance [sic] with the good care that he whill [sic] get and he may get over it and I hope and trust that he may I was so pleast [sic] when I got the letter from him stateing [sic] that he had got the money and then when I got the next letter from you stating that he was so sick it made me feel so bad but I dont [sic] know what you would have done if it hadnot [sic] have been that you got it I have been paid 2 months again and I whill [sic] send you 10 dols moor [sic] in a letter if you whill [sic] send me the name of someone that I can send it in care of that has a box in the postoffice [sic] I have allways [sic] sent them in care of Mr [sic] Thomas Smith but they dont [sic] seem to go right whatever his [sic] the reason I cannot tell and so I think that it would be better if there his [sic] any one that I can send them to when I answerd [sic] your last letter I did not send it in care of any one to see if you would get it I feel in [illegible] to see the next letter but I hope that it whill [sic] be diferent [sic] from what I expect [sic] it to be I would give the wourld [sic] if I could be there but there his [sic] know [sic] chance and so I must stay let it be what way it may right [crossed out] good or bad I cannot be there but pray mother dont [sic] trouble your self know [sic] moor [sic] than you can posebele [sic] not help for if you do you whill [sic] be sick to [sic] and so pray dont [sic] Dear mother and pasify [sic] George [illegible] you can when he gets to fretting about me for I am afaraid [sic] that he frets a great deal about me and it might be the means of saveing [sic] his life if I could be there you said that you had sent for Leizzy [sic] and Louisa and so they whill [sic] be a great help to you whell [sic] I whill [sic] have to bring my letter to a close and I hope that these few lines whill [sic] bring [crossed out] find George on the change for the better and here his [sic] my love to you and George and Louisa and Leizzy [sic] and Mary Ann and all the inquiring friends please rite [sic] has [sic] often has [sic] you can and I whill [sic] do the same and I still remain your loving Son

William Hart

Direct Murfreesboro Tenne 44 Ill Rig Vou Co. G.

Gen Sheridans [sic] devision [sic] Camp Shafer

Care Capt [sic] L M Sabin

In line of battle Ga

June 29

Dear Mother



I take my pen in hand to write to you once moor [sic] hopeing [sic] they will find you quite whell [sic] and in good spirits and the Old Gentleman the same for it leaves me quite whell [sic] but we have a very hard time a fighting we are a fighting every day moor [sic] or less a few days ago we made a charge on there [sic] works and was repulsed with a very heavy loss we lost 40 men out of our rigt [sic] and 3 out of our company and George Knip was killed he was a son of Elder Knip he was [illegible] shot just above the heart but he lived about 3 hours the 14 lost is out of his regt [sic] but there was a number of taken prisoners [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was taken prisenor [sic] with them and there was other rigts [sic] lost a great many to [sic] the charge was awful the way the [illegible] and canister flew amongst us was not slow for we had to charge front of 2 pieces of artillery but I think that they will soon have to get out of here for we are a geting [sic] reinforced every day and so they will be flanked out but they have got a very strong posion [sic] and a very large army but we are bound to clean them out in course of time this is the longest campaign that we was ever on before but there is one good thing we get full rations of hard bread and pork and beef and coffee since we started on this campaign we have lost about 150 men out of our rigt [sic] and 12 out of our company but I am very happy to inform you that I have not got a mark yet it is several days since I heard from John and Louisa and I have not heard from George since I left Nashville and I do not know the reason why he does not write to me and I do not know the direction to here or I would write but a few ago I thought that I would trry and see if the [illegible] directions uste [sic] be there when I worked there could be right and so I wrote to but wether [sic] he will get the letter or not I do not know but is nothing lost I wrote to young woman that lives near you a few days ago Miss Sarah Harghton when one of the boys gave me address and so it is the way with solgiers [sic] to write to young women and I thought that I would like to correspond with some young lady in that [illegible] but weather [sic] she knows you or not I do not know but I thought that she would know you and Mary Ann but wether [sic] she will want to correspond with me I do not know but by what I hear she is a very nice girl but you must be acquainted with her well I will have to bring this to a close and I hope and trust that these few lines will find you and the Old Gentleman quite whell [sic] and every thing you have around you a flourishing and give my best love to Elizebuth [sic] and John Mary Ann when you are there and George and all inquiring friends and I still remain your loveing [sic] son

William Hart

Direct Dalton [ilelgible]

44 Rigt [sic] Ills

4 ac

August 11 Letter to his Brother and Mother

Camp Stevenson Station August 22nd

Dear Brother and Mother

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I have received your kind letter this morning dated Aug 17th and I was very glad to hear that you have got that money that I sent for I know that it will do you good I wanted to send moore [sic] but I could not and I was very glad to receive your picture I was suprise [sic] when I see it for I did not expect [sic] it looks very natueral [sic] I would know it were every I should see it and I hope that Mary Ann will send hers to [sic] for I would be very happy to see her in a picture I have waited a long time to [sic] to git [sic] your pictures and I have sent several times to Louisa for her to send me her picture and Charlie and Loulybut they dont [sic] send them and I think that the reason why they dont [sic] send them his [sic] that they are afaraid [sic] that they willnot [sic] come safe and I have sent to Elizebuth [sic] and John for them to send me thers [sic] but they dont [sic] come the young man that you see in Rockford from our company got back lastnight [sic] and he said that he had see you and Mother and he said that they [crossed out] you was quite well and in good spirits and I was very glad to hear from you so straight and I suppose that you was the same I did not think that he would see you I was suprised [sic] when he said that he had seen you and I was very pleased for I know that it did you moor [sic] good than a letter from me for that would sem [sic] to come to you straighter I have not got much news to tell you the army [sic] his [sic] on the moove [sic] slowly but we have not mooved [sic] our camp we have got a splended [sic] camp the ordes [sic] to moove [sic] every day there his [sic] some talk of our division agoing to Hansevilla [sic] Ala to take comand [sic] of the fort that his [sic] about 60 miles from here I would like to go there for it his [sic] called the prettyese [sic] town in the southern state and of about 100000 inhabatance [sic] I will have to bring my letter to a close and I hope that these few lines will find you has [sic] it leaves me quite well and in good spirits and my love to Mother and Mary Ann and Elizebuth [sic] and Louisa and John and Charles and Lauley [sic] and give my respects to all other inquiring friends and I still remain your Loveing [sic] Brother

William Hart

Direct Stevenson Station, Ala 44 Rig. [sic] Ills. Co. G

Gen. Sheridan division Brig.

[written on left margin: write has [sic] often has [sic] you can]

October 31 Letter to Brother and Mother

Chattanooga Oct 31st

Dear Brother and Sister

I take my pen in hand to write to you once more I write a few lines to you hoping [sic] they will find you all quite well and in good spirits for that is the way it leaves me you may think it strange that you have not heard from me for so long but I wrot [sic] a letter to you the 22nd of this month from Atlanta and I started it the 22nd of last month but I have got to Chattanooga and the Rigt [sic] is here but they expect [sic] to go toward Hunnsville, Ala but I will have to stay here till our mules comes before I can leave but I dont [sic] care only they expect [sic] to be paid 8 months pay and I would like to get it but if they dont [sic] leave before they get paid I shall get my money they are a haveing [sic] a great time a chaiseing [sic] [illegible], he his [sic] a makeing [sic] for Hunnsville Ala and they are after him heavy and I guess they will use him up if he dont [sic] look out and I guess they will and he may look in or out just as he pleases they say he has crossed the Tenn [sic] River and if he has he will never get back with many of his men I dont [sic] think I hope not any way but it is hard telling but he tore a good deal of the railroad betwixt [sic] here and Atlanta but it is all fixed again all right but there is goriles [sic] along the road all the time when we was a comeing [sic] to Chattanooga they tore up the road and run us off and smashed us all to peaces [sic] all most and killed some and they was some of them wounded with shot the rebels took about 20 priseners [sic] and after they run us off they run along shooting in to the cars and ordering us to serunder [sic] but we dont [sic] do that so easy and when we got straightened around and opened on them they cleared out without burning the train but done a great deal of damage the ingine [sic] was broke all to pieces but it is nothing to see cars and ingeins [sic] broke to pieces and burnd [sic] up along the road betwixt Chattanooga and Atlanta I hope these few lines will find you quite well and Louisa and Luley and your Fat Boy and love know [sic] send to Matilda and tell her that she may spect [sic] a letter from me soon and give my best respects to all inquiring friends and to the young female [illegible] this is the last from me this time Louisa

From your loveing [sic] Brother

William Hart

Direct to Atlanta Still