

Camp Buckingham

Co. E . 65<sup>th</sup> Rg Mansfield

Dear Parents & Relatives

I arrived at home, that is to camp at noon.

All right I got a chance to send my things to Wellington to day Nov 27<sup>th</sup> I sent them to you & Orlo Smith. You can go there & get them. I wrote him a letter to get them from the depot.

I dont know when we shall go from here. I think within 4 days

of the seashell tied on with a string. It is directed to you EB In care of Orlo Smith. I sent my pants fine shirt 2 collars Regiment Strap & sayer Striped Shirt – Cap Coat – 2 dark ties. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving We do not have to drill.

I intend to go to Uncle Williams. They are going to have a turkey. There is about a dozen boys here in the tent talking & laughing at a rapid rate. I cant half write I cut a piece of this paper

That turkey & cake went first rate + apples. One of our boys got put in the guard house last night for not going to his tent in the night between the hours he was to be on guard he laid down & went to sleep & did not get back until after the time to post the guards. He was told not to go to sleep but go to the guards tent & stay there. But would not. We dont pitty him.

I dont think of any more at present write soon. My love to all no more at present

From your son & brother

C. H. Nickerson

C. H. Nickerson

Camp Buckingham

Co E 65<sup>th</sup> Reg Mansfield

Lebanon Sunday Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Parents & Brothers Sisters & Relatives

I thought I would write to you to day because I will not get a chance to write for 6 or 7 days if I don't.

I wrote to you while in Bards Town Monday Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. We started from B Town Thursday morning, got here the same night after a ride of 62 miles on the cars. I have got able for duty again. I have a hard cold, accompanied with a cough. I took a lot of cayenne pepper butter & vinegar. It helps

it some. We start tomorrow morning for Danville K.Y. about 60 miles 6 days march It has rained for a day or two. I am on picket duty to day. There is nothing to do only to be in reclines for an emergency. We stay in the tent most of the day. I have been exposed to Measels several times but do not catch them yet.

Some of our men have got to stay behind on account of sickness I don't know but I will stay & take care of them. I will if I can. one of the Assistants doctors is sick. & he wants me to stay with him. his name is Stanley Pope. E. L. Cumming knows him. You can see by the map where we are & where we have been I like this moving around first rate. it gives us a chance to see things.

I am not troubled to get enough to eat. I have had enough for two some of the time. The towns of K.Y. are the least things for towns I ever saw. There is one school here in Lebanon & one in St. Marys. I want you to send me some postage stamps. We can't get them here. I shall have to frank this letter.

Direct your letters to

Co. E. 63 Reg. O.V.M.

Lebanon K.Y.

Via Louisville

I don't know whether I

will stay or not. it is only 28 miles instead of 60 to Danville. But we will not stop there long. We are bound for Cumberland gap I guess. To stop \_\_\_\_ I hope you will write often I am still striving to be a more humble christian than ever. I beg an interest in your prayers. In trying to \_\_\_ a soldier for Christ. as well as my country. We have praymeets in this Co. when it is convenient The tent is always crowded

I helped take a Baptist Minister out of one of the wards in the hospital when at B.Y. He died of the lung never.

He was a private in the ranks.

No More, from your Son & Brother

C.H. Nickerson

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1862 Lebanon Court House

Dear Parents Brothers & Sisters

You are anxious probably to hear from me, & how I am getting along I am getting better quite fast Yesterday, (Sunday) I went & stayed with Dr. Carver at a private house it seemed like home. Dr. Carver has had the measles. He got a place to stay at a private house. He is a mason. It rained all night last night I shall not go out much to day. I understand there is a Negro Boy to be sold here to day court commences to day. I have got acquainted with the Deputy Clerk of the town he seems to be a fine man & a union man to. The clerk of the town is secesh. There is some families here that some of the sons have enlisted in the union & some in the rebel army. It is almost certain we are going to Tennessee. It will take the Reg. about 30 days to finish the

road. it is 12 miles long. I shall not go to the Reg for 2 weeks yet I guess. I want to get strong first. The measles affect my eyes. They are weak. We live better in the hospital than in the camp. Dr Carver wished me to come and stay with him in the day time. I think when it is fair weather I shall improve the chance. A soldier don't generally refuse a good offer. I don't think we will get any pay for 2 months yet. The Brigadier General of the Brigade was turned out of his place. He was Colonel of the 64<sup>th</sup> Ohio Reg. His name was Forcyth & a mean fellow to. I tell you we are glad. But we are sorry for one thing our Colonel resigned & went to his post in the regular army. Colonel Harker. He was one of the best of men. We have a good Colonel though in his place His name is French a good man. Our Brigadier General is General Wood I guess a smart man

I hope we will go to Tennessee & keep traveling. I have seen a good bit of Kentucky. They got about 4 miles of the road made & had to make it all over again. It was not wide enough. Kentucky is much different from Ohio I tell you. Tell Hat & Mary if they want to make money they must learn to play on the pianno & melodeon. A good teacher can get \$150 dollars per month here. The clerk told me that every one that could get money enough now was buying a pianno. A teacher that can teach a school in the higher branches can \$150 per month. They do not pay very big for common or public schools that is the state provides 3 months schooling for all free white children from the age of 6 to 12 & 14 a lady gets \$10 & \$12 per month but she has no large schollars. It would look degrading enough to see a young man in Ohio carrying a loaded revolver all the time. Almost all of them do it here.

The deputy clerk told me that he was shot through the coat twice once while in a fuss at school. I guess I'll get be a Kentucky marksman with a revolver if I practice. I have been so I could hit a saucer 20 yards 3 times out of 5. I don't shoot much I whip the rest of the boys every time on a shot. Well here is enough bragadocio, but it is so if I do tell it.

You will direct your letters to

Co. E. 65 Reg. O.V.M. Lebanon K.Y. via Louisville.

Dear Parents and Relatives I am still trying to live a Christian and prayerful life. You may think this is a hard place to be a Christian. There is many trials to overcome but I find them easy to bear when I put my whole trust in God. How thankful we should be to him for the many blessings he bestows on us. Remember me in your prayers for my safe return again to relatives & home again. I am well enough to be up most of the time now. I will put a letter in here for EL. Cunny (?) which you will hand to him. Write soon, & often it is nearly 4 weeks since I heard from home. Send me postage when you can. Give my love to all your Son Charles H Nickerson

The opinion is with us that the Union is a goner unless there is another line of troops. Our drafht men & those that have enlisted lately have all played out early. We had 10 in our Co. & there is only 8 of them good for anything. Our hospitals are crowded with those (as one of our boys says, poor (Devils) Well they are an aggravation to see a man play off He don't get along well here. I did not intend to write only one sheet full. But I've commenced the other so I will try & fill it now.

The Lieutenant is waiting for my pens now. Our pay rolls are made out & are ready for pay, but don't know when

we will get it, probably soon.

Those gloves you sent go very well indeed I've got them collared if you doubt it I'll like to have you see them, rather a dirty collar though.

I will give you a detail of our reconnoitering expedition commencing on Tuesday Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1 o'clock A.M.

We were ordered to have two days rations in our haversacks & take one blanket.

There were two brigades, the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. We heard that some R. cavalry was out between here & Nashville (via Franklin) about 25 miles from here. We got to F about dark that day & we went over the roughest road I ever saw. (But as Artimus Ward Jr says) Nary Rebel

did we get, nor see. We stayed here all night & in the morning Jan 14<sup>th</sup> we started back. It commenced to rain about sunrise our Reg. & the 73<sup>rd</sup> Ind. had to go back in a different direction through the woods & crosslots, & by roads. It was the nearest route home though, But our orders were to go as far as the Noalensville Pike & wait for further orders We got to the pike about 2 P.M. It rained as hard as I ever saw it for two hours, & I was wet completely through. Just at dark we were ordered back about 2 miles & camp (still raining) & the water was shoe deep any place almost We had no tents & many of the boys no blankets We built large fires & set up all night I tell you I don't believe the old revolutionary men ever passed a worse night. But in the morning it commenced to freeze & the rain turned into snow. & we were wet as you please

& I was unfortunate enough to fall down just as we started in a pond of water all over. I went about 2 miles & then fell out of the ranks & stoped to a house & warmed & then followed on

When I got to the river the bridge was gone & the Reg. had gone upstream to cross I went down & crossed on the Rail Road bridge, but when I got over here I was fast for all the bridges over Stones River was gone. So I stoped here. As the field hospitals where the wounded were kept lay here in camp, about 2 hours after I got here the Reg. came back & crossed on the bridge I did. We stayed here all night & then went up Stones River 8 miles & crossed & went to camp. We were out 4 days & a hard trip it was. My blanket was very wet & I put it in a waggon belonging to another Reg. & have not seen it since I have that checkered blanket yet, they never steal it, but sometimes I only have that one left & then again I'll have two or three.

No more. My love to all write every week & send me a comb

June 15<sup>th</sup> 1862

Corinth, Miss.

Dear Relatives

Father Mother Sisters Brothers Grand Parents, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins,

I write you a general letter this time. Because I do not know when I will get a chance to write again. I had a safe journey down the river. Arrived at Shiloh on Thursday morning.

Next day I tried to make myself generally useful by helping the teamsters brake the mules. I bought some lemons and made lemonade to sell I got 10 cents a cup full. I made two or three dollars in the business, for two days. Look on page 3

2<sup>nd</sup> page

I saw where some were buried There is any quantity of dead horses & mules on the road. The secesh cut the trees down in front of their works so we could not get to them. General Pope is coming back I don't know where to. I may not go from here for two or three days. I wish Father was here with about \$200 worth of things, such as Hats fur & straw lemons & oranges sugar, tobacco, pipes, cakes, Ginger bread. Bread & such things, bread sells for 15 cts a loaf, tobacco 25 cts a plug, \_\_\_\_\_ 25 cents a piece, & every thing averages about the same. I lost my haversack cup plate knife fork &c.

June 15 P.M. 2 o'clock

The train is hear. No more. C.H.N.

3<sup>rd</sup> page

On Friday the train started that I went with for Bolivar. It went within 4 miles of Corinth. On the boat I formed the acquaintances of some boys from the 38 Reg. When we left the train of teams I went with them to their Reg. & stayed all night last night. I came across Capt. Greenwood, now promoted to Major of the 38<sup>th</sup> Reg. I eat an oyster supper with him at Lebanon, Ken So you see I fared well.

In our train there was about 2000 teams the train was about 8 miles long. I saw some corn about 4 ½ feet high. I went to the sutler of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Artillery a(nd) heard that Chap H. Randall had gone home sick. I went from the 38 Reg. to Corinth this morning Went to the Provost Marshall & got a pass to go about where I

wished. Then went to General Thomas & found out where my Rg. is It is 52 miles from here, at Tuscumbia. I have got a pass on the Rail Road about 30 miles & have to walk the rest of the way.

There is any quantity of freshowl Soldiers here to go to their different Reg. I have not seen one from my Reg. We are in the 20 Brigade Brigadier General Wood, 6 division I am at the depot waiting for the cars. Which will be here this afternoon some time I expect.

It is quite a sight to see the breastworks. They extend for several miles. The secession works are better than ours & and it seems to me if they had given us a fight, we could not have got them very easy. They burned all their principal buildings in town. Corinth is about like Clarksfield Hollow. The secesh are coming in and giving themselves up, & contrabands by the quantity.

It look bad to see how they destroyed things here. I passed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Cavalry & did not know it, until afterwards. I came through Shilo Battle field& the way the trees were barked by balls & shells did not look as if it was done for nothing.

Look on page 2<sup>nd</sup>

(Note: some pages out of order.)

August the 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Camp near Bridgeport

Company E. 65<sup>th</sup> Regiment

Ohio Volunteers

State of Alabama.

Dear Brother

I believe I have not answered your letter that you wrote to me telling about Fathers trading off Jack.

I suppose you have forgotten him though. Well how does Kate Nell & Fan look. I want you to write to me & tell me the condition our farms is & all about the horses hogs & Sheep & cattle. How much wool we had & how much a lb. you got for it. Tell me if the horses are fat, & how far you have got in your studies.

{*Crosshatch in the margin:* Well girls I haven't got your flowers I left them in my porch. So you will have to wait till next time. I have got them to. C.H.N.}

Well Willie I suppose you think it is warm there but while I am writing this in my tent the sweat is dropping off from me in goo[d] earnest. I am sweating as hard as I ever did in the hay field. I don't believe you can out run me now Willie. I reckon I don't look much as I did when at home. I wish I could get some of our old files out of the shop & a rat tale file I would make rings by the doz's We make them out of wood bone and clam shells. Willie tell me how Mr. Foxes folks are getting along. Mr Randalls folks Dick Courtney & Clarence . Henry Fish, Samy Scott, Wm Sharp. Wm Converse Charly Green. Lorenzo & Elmore. Cort Barnes. Mr. Carpenters folks. How the P.M. gets long. No More

From your affectionate brother

C.H. Nickerson

To Wm Z. Nickerson

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 62 Tenn

In the valley of the Cumberland Mts.

Dear Mother, I have a short time to write a few lines only. We have been out on a foraging expedition to day. We make the secesh crawl now, confiscate every thing we can get. I cant tell you how things are on this paper.

We left Bridgeport on the 22<sup>nd</sup> marched 8 miles the 2d day we joined McCook & ~~crossed the~~ west to the mountains. When Floyd retreated from Ft Donaldson We had to help the waggons up the mountains We the 3<sup>rd</sup> day crossed the mountains.

Marched until 11 P.M. in the mud I stand it well. The mountain is 15 miles across Genl McCook, Crittenden, Thomas, &

some others. About 20000 men. We are in a tight place I guess we can get out though. We'll show them some fight before we leave. I got lots of sweet potatoes to day & other things I cant write much it is so late I want to let you know where I am. I did not send that book. I don't know how long we will stay here, not long though, we have to subsist on the country. My health is good. Sacks of peaches, mellons &c. My love to all,

From your loving son C.H. Nickerson

Direct as before via Nashville. To mother M.H. Nickerson

Mrs. Mary Nickerson

East Clarksville

Huron Co

Ohio

Camp on Cumberland River four miles south of Gallatin Tenn.

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear Parents &c.

I have a chance to send you a letter to night as the mail leaves at 9 P.M. & it is now 7 P.M. so I will be short. I have been unwell several days, but feel nearly right to night Yesterday we marched 18 miles to camp about 5 P.M. Were called out at midnight & be ready to march at 1 ½ A.M. We went 14 miles before sunrise. What started us was the Rebel Morgan. He had been in Gallatin & our Brigade was sent ahead to encounter the Noted Rober. As before we didn't catch him. He left two days ago. I must go to roll call. It rained & snowed all day yesterday. But is very pleasant to day. We don't know when we will leave this place the talk is that we will stay here 3 or 4 days. We don't know when we will get another chance to send mail again. I wrote to you while in Glasgow only a few days ago.

We do not know our destination but think it is Lebanon, Tenn. We did think that we were bound for Nashville but guess not. We have tents now two for the Co. Our new recruits have not got along yet. We have one new Reg. in our Brigade. The poor fellows are falling off fast. They have been in the service about three months & nearly 400 of their men are gone. Our Reg. is quite healthy. We number about 400 now. I am writing this letter by the light of a campfire. The country has been very rough for several days past on the journey Yesterday Nov 7<sup>th</sup> we passed over the ridge between the Barren & Cumberland Rivers. It is up hill about 7 miles a gradual descent Oh the chickens & beehives suffer Here one of our boys has some chickens. We had the honey last night. I have lost my large book & my old knapsack. I guess we will not handle the southerners quite so carefully after this.

Oh. Hatt. here is something. You know it would be quite natural for you (if an army was going by) to go out & see them & have something to hand to them. Ill bet you would be apt to give what I saw a young lady give the other day

What do you think it was. Guess. Guess. . . . . 6 times Well don't laugh. It was a roll of tobacco. Whisky & tobacco are the principle articles of luxury through here.

I had the luck to find an army blanket to night so I & my bunk mate have 6 blankets. We can sell our coffee to the citizens for 30 cts a lb. & sugar 25 cts We deal with both kinds of money southern scrip & northern scrip I have not heard of the 101<sup>st</sup> Reg for several days.

You may guess that we went to go to sleep to night not sleeping over 3 hours last night & traveling all day. I did intend to write my next letter to Alri if we stay here a few days I will with a general letter.

Give my love to all the relatives. Write soon, & direct via Louisville. Dear Mother I am still trying to live an humble soldier to my Maker. May the Lord be with you all Mother is my prayer. From your loving son To Mother & Father C.H. Nickerson

I'm very sorry my diary did not go safe. I was afraid of it.

I commenced it the 1<sup>st</sup> of June .62 & ended 30<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 62. Write me next letter whether it has come. If not I can get some of the travels

(written upside down on paper)

1818

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& events out of one of the boys diary as they coppied from mine a good deal.

So I wont loose its entirely.

C. H. N.

Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 1863.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Dear Parents

I again will try & write you a few lines. The mail leaves at noon. It is now about 9 o'clock & there does not seem to be anything on hand to do in the military line of business until 2 o'clock. P. M. when we have inspection. I am well as usual with the exception of a cold. which I caught day before yesterday. We were ordered out in quick time to rescue some waggons which the R's took from us. The waggons were sent for forage, & some R. cavalry (about 350 of them) cut the train off taking 35 waggons & the guard that were with them didn't do anything, did not even fire a gun, They were from the 26<sup>th</sup> Ohio Reg. 120 of them were taken prisoners by

the R's. & they did it within 4 miles of camp. There was not a gun fire on either side.

Our Brigade had to go to the rescue as we are the only (good cavalry we have, as the boys say.)

When anything is to be done in a hurry the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade has to do it. We went out 7 miles & back & we did it quicker than the 4<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry we were ordered to get ready at the same time & we went to the spot where the fuss was first. It is certain that Infantry can make a march of 12 or 14 miles sooner than cavalry can.

We did not rescue any waggons they hustled them off in a hurry. The Rebels said they would capture the first forage train that went across the river, but they didn't for the 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade was sent to

guard the first train & we foraged off from a farm belonging to an officer in the secesh cavalry. more generally known as Wheeler's Cavalry. We had about 400 waggons. Our field officers are all gone now that is the Col. Maj. & Adj. they have gone to Ohio & are trying to get our Reg. home a while to recruit. We have only one Capt in the Reg. & he is commanding it now & only 4 commissioned officers to ten Companies. It is very wet here now not very cold, & is muddy.

Carly told me yesterday that he was now sure of a position now without doubt for me. If I get the place I shall be agreeably disappointed, because I have not expected any such good luck for me.

On Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>/63 I received a letter from Uncle Cyrus They were well

It is quite a pleasant day to day. Willie there are plenty of hickory nuts here. We have all we wish to eat. We caught a boy about your age the other day. He was a sharp fellow to. He was a spy for General Morgan

He got by one of our pickets & another one let him go. The little fellow was so honest & he nearly succeeded in passing all of them But he finally got trapped he told two stories & finally crossed himself & he owned that he came for Morgan.

There is some of the worst looking country about 4 miles from here I ever saw you can walk on rocks for a mile I believe & nothing grows on the ground but cedars.

Genl Rosecrans has gone to Washington, & Genl Thomas has command. There is no prospect of our leaving here very soon I want you to send me the paper that has the full statement of the loss of the 65<sup>th</sup> Reg. I believe it is sent to the Herald or Leader & the piece will be signed S.B.E.

Write soon & all put in a few words if you can more. I guess I'll loose all my teeth if they keep on decaying as fast as they have for 6 months past it wont take long. What is the general opinion in the north how this war will terminate +

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1863.

In camp. & a pleasant day.

Having received your letter (written Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>) a few days ago (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) I now will try & inform you of my welfare.

For to day I am not feeling entirely free from all complaints on account of a hard cold exposure & marching.

My side is quite sore to day. I put some croton oil on my side to day I cough some, but will get over it in a few days I guess. We went after forage yesterday & have been building breast works some & busy nearly all the time. We are fortifying this place all around with very strong works. The ditch is 14 feet wide & 6 feet deep & the embankment is 9 feet high 18 feet across the bottom & 9 feet on the top. There is some expectation of the rebels coming back. We captured 1400 of them Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> The report is that they moved

this way 12 miles from [Tullahoma?]. It is quite cold here nights & we have had some cold days & a little snow.

Lieut. Powell (now Captain) is here now. His recruiting did not amount to much, I tell you. The Soldiers are getting somewhat vexed at the way the north is doing & if we confounded all democrats & cowards of the north were shot. It would be doing the country a favor. If we were there you may bet some men would get a new coat and some feathers. 5/7 of this whole army are for freeing the negroes now. Now if we cant have any more help from the north. We might just as well consider the Union as bursted up.

But there is not one soldier out of 500 here that has runn the risk of his life but what would stay here 5 years rather than let the south gain their independence

We bring them to terms pretty fast wherever we go & if we keep going on the south will have to do something to support their families in less than 2 months here. They are coming in & giving

themselves up every day & if all the Generals will do as well as Rosey I'll warrant we can whip them alone. They know better than to meddle with him much. & within 2 weeks time we will be intrenched so they cant get us out & they know better than to get between here and Nashville. Because they cant spare enough of their force to go to that business. We are having a skirmish with them some place this morning. I can hear some cannonading. Col. Hawthorne of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Ind. Reg. will be back to day. I expect & probably next week will let me know how my concerns will go.

Father how would you like to have the secesh army come through Clarksfield & serve you as They serve the Union people in Tenn. & Ky. cases I have seen. they burn their buildings their fences their grain & take all their eatables & leave them entirely destitute & I say we ought to do the same with them.

(No doubt you would go to bushwhacking.)

I have not heard from the 101<sup>st</sup> O.V. since the battle only once & then I did not hear from Sammy Fish or Charles Green.

I have not heard from any of the boys from Clarksfield. I cannot think of any more news to day. I must write to Uncle Henry to day. My love to all write soon I must get some dinner.

No more. From C.H. Nickerson

To Mother and Father & All.

P.S. S.W. Dorsey has got his dues. He deserted his men when they was in confusion on the field of Battle & went directly to Nashville. He has been dismissed from the service with disgrace (or a dishonorable discharge) It is just right. The old General gives cowards their right places. Many officers are being dismissed for incapability to command. The account of the battle in the Tribune is very correct, but it is so scattered that unless you was where you could witness the different scenes you cant see it so plain & the reporter was not with Wood's Division much. I saw Genl. Gereshe when he was shot. He was within 20 rods of us.

I wish you would send me some letter paper, roll it up in a News paper form. No more. C.H.N.

Our Captain is unwell & Our Lieutenant Colonel has gone home. & Burns our old Chaplain was good for nothing & was no example for soldiers to follow after. You did not mention Mary Morriss's name in your last epistles. I don't know whether you will be home before this gets there or not. I shall send it to Clarksfield. I judge by your writing that your boarding place is not very pleasant. I must tell you how the 65<sup>th</sup> Reg. spent last sabbath. We went out on the battle fields & fixed the graves of our comrades who fell in the battle of Stones River. & after that was fixed we had a short discourse from Capt \_\_\_\_\_

Sixty-Five Reg. O.V. Co. E. & the boys of Co. E. sang three appropriate hymns for the occasion considering all the time passed away very pleasantly.

I can't think of any more to write. Write soon.

My love to all from your Brother. C.H. Nickerson

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Huron Co Ohio

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

March 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

Co. E. 65 Reg. \_\_\_\_

3 Brigade \_\_\_\_\_

Division Army Corps

Army of the Cumberland

Well Father I think if you would see the soldiers here now you would think a little different of us then you did of what you saw at Lebanon KY. We all feel well generally.

My old friend G.I. Pope has got to be Sergt. Major of our Reg. I have to wait until the Col. of Carleys Reg. gets back before my hopes will take effect. We have looked for him every day for some time.

You wished me to tell you what such a pair of boots costs here. They are hard to be got at \$8. I told you in my last letter I would send you \$5: in this letter But I will have to defer it. It will strap me to close. & I guess we will be

paid off soon again.

We have some of our siege guns planted & nearly ready to plant about ~ 100 more. Do not feel in the least alarmed about Murfreesboro being taken three to one cant take it.

I was to town last Sunday & saw Charly Randall. He is in charge of the Ordnance department Here I believe. He was well & sends his compli-ments to you all.

I can see the building he stays in from our camp. I guess there is some expectations of the rebels giving us a try. Our old Captain H.N. Whitbuck has got to be Let. Colonel I believe of this Reg. I don't think of any more. My love to all. From your Son & Brother

Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863 C.H. Nickerson

Well Father I think if you would see the soldiers here now you would think a little different of us then you did of what you saw at Lebanon KY. We all feel well generally.

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Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863 C.H. Nickerson

Murfreesboro Time

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1863

Dear Family & Relations

To day is sunday & Clark Barber has just been here & I thought I would write a few lines home & if my thinking cap was good enough I would try & fill this sheet. I recieved your letter \_\_\_ Apr 21<sup>st</sup> & was glad to hear from you. I think I will get one from you to day or tomorrow. It is quite warm to day Yesterday I was Sargt. of the guard over to the s\_\_b\_ly depot. Our tents have been taken from us & we have the shelter tents. Corpl H\_\_\_\_tt and I have a nice place \_\_\_\_ to day \_\_ & very well suited with the change. I received a letter from Samuel W. Rowland last week he is at Camp Denison in Hospital there yet but not able to walk without a crutch. C. Barber is getting better quite fast. I asked him what I should write to his folks for him in this letter & "he said I don't care whether you say anything to them or not. They don't write to me & I don't care whether they hear from me." I told Him I should write what he said & that would give them a strong hint. The relatives of all soldiers should write & should write to us as often as they can. We are always glad to get letters from all the friends & I have never received a letter yet but what I have answered it.

to I will endeavor to be so which I am a soldier. Our Co is very healthy & the boys feel well. The Capt. Rather Surprised me when I came back from the convalescent camp last Sabbeth by telling me he had promoted me to Sargeant. This is better than I had expected. But the Capt. Is getting to be very friendly to me for what I reason I know not. He promoted me over three Corpl one of them has been Corpl for 10 months the others for several months before I was. This is no plot of mine so I don't think I will book. I will get \$17 dollars per month now from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1868. I am 4<sup>th</sup> Sgt. I have not found out where Henry Fish was buried L. Green knows & I want to go to town & see some day.

There is some fighting & skirmishing going on in the front every day. The Rebs are coming in & giving themselves up every day sometimes by hundreds & even over a thousand one day last week. They are starving to death they say We ( our forces in front ) took a host of prisoners & destroyed a large camp for the rebels last week beyond Franklin. I tell you the Rebs are getting in a tight place & I do believe we will make them wish the Yankees were in some hotter place than Alabama is at noon day in August.

Politics.

Politics is raging in the north. The copperheads may lay down their fiddle & be contented for they never can get a democrat or copperhead into office of any consequence in ohio if they will give us soldiers the chance of voting The copperheads are utterly despised by the soldiers

and they sow vengance on the heads of all copper heads every Democrat is called a Copperhead here A man may be honest in Democratic principles But we judge all men by their balers . Why I hear more oaths sowed on the copperheads than anything else. The officers say if they could only just have fifty of them in each of their Co's & the men they have now they would volunteer to go to the front every day &

have a brush every day & they would put the copperheads in front & the old soldiers in the rear & make them fight or die & they didn't care a D A M N if they were all shot. Good news to day from the east if it is only time or fair prospects of something being done in the east. When they commence we will give them to Rebs fits in this department. We are still at work on the fortifications. I guess we will stay here for some time Capt. Bradley (rather Major now) of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery who has always been with us (this Brigade is to have command of this side of the river so I have heard. They wanted to get him away from the 65 & 64 Ohio Regt. but He told them He would not leave the old 64 & 65 & So they have given Him the chance of manning the guns on these fortifications with the men from our Regiments. The guns are not planted yet. I hope this is true. I guess we will move forward (that is the army. ) (The mail has come & I got a letter from cousin Emma Barm \_\_\_\_\_.) soon. Every preparation is being made for it. There is but little sickness now to what their was last year.

We have had no trains of cars taken lately. They have a small Howitzer cannon fixed on the top of the cars & it looks dangerous to come very near. We have two sawmills in operations here now & are buiding two very large supply buildings. Every one is glad that there is to be a draft. Our Regiments need to be filled up. I have just eat my dinner which consisted of smoked shoulder crackers coffee and cold water. I must write a fine line to Grand Ma and Grand Pa on this sheet.

Dear Grand Parents

I have not written to you directly for some time but when I write home my letters are as much yours as any ones and when I write I always think of you. It is quite warm to day I am sweating like a good fellow now. I wouldn't mind being in the old battery Grand Ma a fine moments just now if it is just after dinner. I was Sergeant of the guard the other night & two fellows got to sleep & I took both of their guns away from them. I then went around again & got to one of these fellows just as he wakened. Well said I you have been to sleep havent. No sir I no havent been to sleep. Where is your gun said I. He jumped up & looked around but found no gun. He didn't know what to say & I left him. The Luitenant has just been here to see about it he prefered charges against the fellow in his Rgiment 10<sup>th</sup> Mich. Volunteers. I guess the men in our regiment will get off by doing a little extra today. There is strict orders against going to sleep on duty. The penalty is death but they do not carry it out. Dear Grand Parents your Grand Son C. H. Nickerson is still as determined to try & make heaven his everlasting home as he was one year ago & I feel more that I should be more determined. Remember me in your prayers. C. H. Nickerson Co E.

P. S. Didn't you never receive that \$ 15 dollars I sent to you in this letter, you never have told me whether you have or not. C.H.N.

Camp Sixty Fifth Reg O.V.

Murfreesboro, Tenn May 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Parents I wrote a letter to you last night. But Clark Barker & I have got our box ready to send which we will express tomorrow I guess. My things are on the top. One army blanket, one blue shirt, one white shirt, one Overcoat, one pair of drawers, one blouse, one six lb solid shot or ball & one shell I picked up on the battle field of Stones River. I want them kept as relics for myself. One cup & saucer taken from a Rebels house near here & my old blanket & Mother I guess you had better boil all the clothes in salt & water. I will not be responsible for their cleanliness. Clark has some things in the box which will be taken out if the box is searched by the authorities at Louisville if what I hear is true. They are one revolver & one gun barrel. If I can get any kind of yard flowers with the roots before I send it I will put them in If it was not so late in the season I would get a couple of green cedars & such.

You need not look for anything at the express office for I will send the letters in the box in my blouse pocket. I may get some little article & put in the box all the things on the upper side of the paper are mine. I wouldn't wonder if we moved soon either to the front or else go to Nashville as Provost Guards. Hope we will go to Nashville. My love to all.

Sergeant C. H. Nickerson Co. E. 65<sup>th</sup> O.V.

P.S. I may send for some of the clothing such as the overcoat. C.N.

Date	No.	Name of Article	Dollr	Cts
1863 May 26 <sup>th</sup>	1	Army blanket	\$3	50
"	1	Woolen blanket "checkered"	3	00
"	1	Blue woolen Overcoat	7	50
"	1	Blue blouse	2	60
"	1	Blue Woolen Shirt	1	45
"	1	White " "	1	45
"	1	" pair cotton drawers		95
"	2	Package of letters		
"	1	Cannon ball 6 lb		
"	1	Shell 10 lb		
"	1	Teacup & saucer, white		
"	1	Needle Cushion, Made by Miss Carrie Barkdell Berea O.		
Total	13		\$20	45

1863

May 26th

Continued

I will write a long letter this time if I don't guard soon. We will move in the morning I guess most likely we will go from here to Glasscow & then to Bowling Green & then to Nashville again.

Mother when I get so I can't stand it I think it will be without a great injury to me to stay any longer then I will try & get discharged. Douglas (?) Anderson is just as good a friend as ever. When I wish to go he says he will help me. We have got two new Surgeons one come last night the other has been with us a month. He ain't worth a straw. We have a new Colonel I don't know but I have wrote to you of it. His name is Young. I saw Henry Kress yesterday he looks very tough & hearty. The new recruits that Mr. Tyler sent on (three of them) are all sick. Our Co do about 24 here. We have some recruits cowering & effect

Oh! yes. send me two quires of the largest foolscap paper you can find & large envelopes (colored envelopes) & I will write to you as often as the mail goes. Paper has been very scarce & I have not been or had any knapsack I could carry paper in without spoiling it until now I have a new one. I must fill this page up with something & devote the rest of my time & paper, which is the other half sheet of this which you will let her (Mother) read first. I have seen some very large chestnut trees on this last march one I noticed that was cut down it was 4 feet through it there is a gravel-bed of slate stone in this part of the country. Well I'll write again.

One of the boys has just been shaving me Our Lieut. went home to recruit & got married while there. They have not got here yet. Has Carl Barns enlisted yet. where is Sily. how is Olde Johnny & his Spouse Hat. They think to cheat (?) Aunt Emiline out of all & turn her in the road. I hope Uncle Wm will give him fits & skin him clean out as the Kymons (?) say. Give my love to all & write soon. C.H. Nickerson

In the army is a very hard place to live religion, but I always feel better when I do my best to do right. Wickedness reigns supreme in the Army nothing good comes from it as I can see. I have seen many boys that would not have their mother hear them utter an oath for nothing while here they swear & curse to bad.

letters were taken by the Rebel Morgan I expect. Well George Med (?) ought to be tared & feathered & rode on a rail if he has not got more of a mind than that. I dont want to own him as my relative. It is nearly sundown. I don't know when I can send this. The 101<sup>st</sup> Reg. is in Lebanon. Give my love to all the Uncles & Aunts, Grand Pa & Grand Ma. No More.  
From your loving son C.H. Nickerson

I will send you \$5 Dollars in the next letter. I do not like to send it all at once for fear it will get lost. Willie I will put an Epic in this letter & send it to Grand Pa. you may give it to him for me. & Mary & Hat I will send you a Ballad. Willie your little knife is as good as I could wish for. I think you can or did judge of the kind of things I wanted better than I could. If I knew we were to stay here I would send you money enough to buy things enough for another box about three times as big. I could double on every thing. An Officers blouse that would cost about \$5 dollars in O. costs here \$14 dollars. a cap costs \$3 dollars, vests \$6 Dollars, & paper collars that cost at home \$  $\frac{.02}{100}$  cts a piece costs him \$  $\frac{.10}{100}$  cts. & neckties like the one you sent cost him \$  $1\frac{.50}{100}$ . Suspenders \$  $1\frac{.00}{100}$ . Envelopes \$  $\frac{.25}{100}$  cts a pack. Paper three sheets

for one dime. Thread .25 cts a skein. You see by this that we had better go without than to pay such enormous prices. (I would rather) Willie & Mary those sugar cakes just suit our taste & are very nice. Wish we had some more. Mother your can of peaches did not last long if you want it to last long you must not make the so awful good. When any of us boys in the mess get anything all have a share in it. & there is 9 of us in this mess besides the Lieutenant & Capt. Our Capt. is sick I don't believe he will stay in the service long. Col Cassell has got his resignation receipt. Now our old Capt Whitbuck (now Maj.) has command of the Reg. Write soon & \_\_\_\_\_ as before My love to all. From your son C.H.Nickerson. To Mrs. Mary & Mr. E.B.Nickerson Clarksfield Huron Co Ohio

Conclude that they are a little that way. While sitting here to think what to write I observe by the feeling that it is hot, or a little hotter. I think if I was at home I could stand your northern hot weather without sweating. Even in the hay now. I would like to be at home to help Father through haying & harvesting. But hot weather agrees with me. tip, top. If the war closes within 4 or 6 months I'll warrant you will see more lazy men or boys in Clarksfield than you ever saw before. This soldiers life is degrading to to any man. If they don't pay us for a couple of months. I think we will be nearer home than we are now. Two of our boys got 4 negroes off the other day one of them is cooking for the Captain now. The others are left in a Battery. Charley Randell must be with Col. Barnett by this time.

(top of the page – upside down)

I don't think of any more write often & direct camp at Bridgeport Ala. via Nashville. Genl Woods Division. From your affectionate Brother & Son. Chl.H. Nickerson To Miss H.P. & Mr. E. H. Willis & Pa & Ma Nickerson.

(left side of the page)

T.D. I just heard that Nashville was in great danger would probably be burned or taken before tomorrow. Good Good Better Best. We want the people to get worked up. I hope they will burn Cin. & Louisville It will do our side more good than on theirs.

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He, Col. Barnett is in Athens now. I believe. So I will not get a chance to see him. I believe I got the letter you sent to Pitsburg Landing. I intend to write a good long letter when I do write & not write quite so often. I am glad you got that money. I wish I had some to send you now. I have a mind to send you \$5 dollars I can get it & pay it when I get my pay & not cost me any interest. I am a little afraid it wont go home safe. I guess it wont pay as our mails are intercepted every little while by the Guillerys. I wrote to Augusta Morriss about Augustuses death. It does not seem as if it was so but it is. I heard that Dr. Anderson had gone home. I had not got my pay so I could not send it. Tobacco sells here for 90 cts a plug, or 3.50 per pound. If I had my pay & was discharged from the service I would go into a speculation. I guess George Thompson will find

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his Reg. at Nashville Tenn. When you send letters after this put three or 4 postage stamps in each letter I want you to write just as often as you can. I have a good many to write to. If I answer all my letters.

Our Captain is field officer of the day to day. Us boys are not up to any tricks you need'nt think. because we steal a chicken when we get a chance or hawk eggs. may be kill a pig or get a goose or steal a few hams out of some secesh smoke house. or do the darkies a favor by milking the cows. or weed the onion bed by pulling up the onions. or help draw potatoes.

Now & then we get a few bushells of apples. Buy our dinners 4 or 5 of us & then offer them a \$20 dollar bill of our green backs. which is not good in this country & tell them it is all we have. & they give us our dinners you see.

I can hear the bucks squell. I know whats up the confiscation bill has passed.

But there is objections to it (by the Generals)

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& they veto it, but there is contentions in the senate We go for an ammendment. at least we do amend it. The Generals order the guards not to let any pork pass the lines. Generals need not think privates dont know any thing. We dont see the pork until it is cooked. The first chance I get I shall express my book home & I wish I was in a place where you could express me a reem of good writing letter paper. the best kind & envelopes. I heard to day that it was thought we would go to Louisville. It's only a rumor. There is a blacksmith shop close by the camp which makes it sound little natural; I can hear the anvil ring.

We are going to move our camp across the Rail Road track about 20 rods from here.

Father will remember John Mansell, the one that you read about in Leader. He was that mans son that was looking after his boy that we saw at Lebanon Junction when I was going home from Lebanon & I tell him he would find him in Munfordville He found him there & took him home.

When I saw John C Mansell last he was well & I could not hardly walk. Dear Parents how thankfull we should be to our Heavenly Father, for sparing my life When I think of this It seems as if every thing I do is wicked in the sight of the Lord.

It is my prayer at all times that he will teach me to know what is right.

The mail has arrived but no letters for me to day. There is no time when there is as much excitement in camp as there is when the mail comes in.

Mary give my best respects to Miss Santbys. Harriet to all the young folks at the Hollow & those that enquire about me. My love to Grand Pa & Grand Ma, Aunt Emiline, Alice (& have her write to me. & send it in your letter.) cousins & Elmer & all the Relatives.

The opinion is with us that the Union is a goner unless there is another line of troops. Our drafht men & those that have enlisted lately have all played out early. We had 10 in our Co. & there is only 8 of them good for anything. Our hospitals are crowded with those (as one of our boys says, poor (Devils) Well they are an aggrevation to see a man play off He don't get along well here. I did not intend to write only one sheet full. But I've commenced the other so I will try & fill it now.

The Lieutenant is waiting for my pens now. Our pay rolls are made out & are ready for pay, but don't know when

we will get it, probably soon.

Those gloves you sent go very well indeed I've got them collored if you doubt it I'll like to have you see them, rather a dirty collar though.

I will give you a detail of our reconnoitering expedition commencing on Tuesday Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 1 o'clock A.M.

We were ordered to have two days rations in our haversacks & take one blanket.

There were two brigades, the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. We heard that some R. cavalry was out between here & Nashville (via Franklin) about 25 miles from here. We got to F about dark that day & we went over the roughest road I ever saw. (But as Artimus Ward Jr says) Nary Rebel

did we get, nor see. We stayed here all night & in the morning Jan 14<sup>th</sup> we started back. It commenced to rain about sunrise our Reg. & the 73<sup>rd</sup> Ind. had to go back in a different direction through the woods & crosslots, & by roads. It was the nearest route home though, But our orders were to go as far as the Noalensville Pike & wait for further orders We got to the pike about 2 P.M. It rained as hard as I ever saw it for two hours, & I was wet completely through. Just at dark we were ordered back about 2 miles & camp (still raining) & the water was shoe deep any place almost We had no tents & many of the boys no blankets We built large fires & set up all night I tell you I don't believe the old revolutionary men ever passed a worse night. But in the morning it commenced to freeze & the rain turned into snow. & we were wet as you please

& I was unfortunate enough to fall down just as we started in a pond of water all over. I went about 2 miles & then fell out of the ranks & stoped to a house & warmed & then followed on

When I got to the river the bridge was gone & the Reg. had gone upstream to cross I went down & crossed on the Rail Road bridge, but when I got over here I was fast for all the bridges over Stones River was gone. So I stoped here. As the field hospitals where the wounded were kept lay here in camp, about 2 hours after I got here the Reg. came back & crossed on the bridge I did. We stayed here all night & then went up Stones River 8 miles & crossed & went to camp. We were out 4 days & a hard trip it was. My blanket was very wet & I put it in a waggon belonging to another Reg. & have not seen it since I have that checkered blanket yet, they never steal it, but sometimes I only have that one left & then again I'll have two or three.

No more. My love to all write every week & send me a comb

From your son C.H. Nickerson

Co. E 65<sup>th</sup> Reg. O.V.