

* EDWARD HAMPTON ROSS

BORN 1825 in Kentucky

DIED 1862 in battle of
Murphesbourg, Tenn.

MARRIED Mary Ann Elam in 1850 or '51 in Miss.

Sarah Jane Ross their first child was born there.

CAME TO TEXAS in 1852 with his mother and fathers family.

SETTLED on 300 acres of land on the South bank of Little River, just North of the present Friendship school house.

Here he became a farmer, cattleman and family man. He kept books on his farm operations and included in his book of records was a complete math course that he had written out by hand. He kept close record of each little item that was purchased, from a button to chewing tobacco.

Three more children were born while there.

David Alan ..1853 ---Died 186 (thrown from a horse)
Buried there on the property in
a small grave yard.

William Carrol..1855

Margaret Minerva ..1857

Edward Hampton Jr...1861 Born after his father went
to the Civil War.

E. H. Ross spent ten years in Texas before the glorious call came to go to the aid of the Southern states. He made many friends and was a prominent man in the community. His short life is best expressed in the letters that he wrote to his wife, Mary Ann, and to his friends after he went off to the Civil War. Mary Ann the faithful and dilligent wife kept every scrap of paper and letter that had his name on it as her reminder of the husband that she had for only 12 short years. Because of this, we their descendants, can read of their love for each other and of their special devotion to their God and their family. We owe much to Little Grand Maw, as she endured alone for the rest of her life.

(Confederate.)

R 8 Cav. Texas.

Edward H. Ross

Co. A, 8 Reg't Texas Cavalry.

Appears on B Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for July-Aug 1862
date Nov 6 1862

Enlisted:
When Sept 25 1862

Where Houston

By whom J. W. Sparks

Period

Last paid:
By whom H. Clailon

To what time 186

Present or absent

Remarks: Killed in battle of
Manfred's bridge July 13
1862

^ or on roll.

The 8th Regiment Texas Cavalry (also known as Terry's, the 1st, and the 8th Regiment Texas Rangers) was organized in October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. Company L was enlisted April 1, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., for ninety days.

Book mark:

Rex Fish

(Mistake)
1861

(Confederate.)

R | 8 Cav. | Texas.

E. H. Ross

Capt., Co. A, 1 Regiment Texas Rangers.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Sept. 26. to Oct. 31, 1861.

Enlisted:

When Sept. 23, 1861

Where Milan Co

By whom Capt. J. Harrison

Period The war

Last paid:

By whom

To what time, 1861

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 8th Regiment Texas Cavalry (also known as Terry's, the 1st, and the 8th Regiment Texas Rangers) was organized in October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. Company L was enlisted April 1, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., for ninety days.

Book mark:

R. H. Fish

(Confederate.)

R | 8 Cav. | Texas.

E. H. Ross

L. Capt., Co. A, 8 Reg't Texas Rangers.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for Nov. & Dec., 1861.

Enlisted:

When Sept. 25, 1861

Where Houston

By whom Thos. Harrison

Period The war

Last paid:

By whom

To what time, 1861

Present or absent Present

Remarks:

The 8th Regiment Texas Cavalry (also known as Terry's, the 1st, and the 8th Regiment Texas Rangers) was organized in October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. Company L was enlisted April 1, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., for ninety days.

Book mark:

R. H. Fish

(Confederate.)

R | 8 Cav. | Texas

Edward H. Ross

Co. A, 8 Reg't Texas Cavalry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for July & Aug. 1861

Enlisted:

When Sept. 25, 1861

Where Houston

By whom J. W. Sparks

Period

Last paid:

By whom J. Blanton

To what time, 1861

Present or absent

Remarks: Killed in battle at Merfurstrough July 13, 1862.

As usual.

The 8th Regiment Texas Cavalry (also known as Terry's, the 1st, and the 8th Regiment Texas Rangers) was organized in October, 1861, with ten companies, A to K. Company L was enlisted April 1, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., for ninety days.

Book mark:

R. H. Fish



The originals of these letters were put in my possession in 1984 by Martha Shrock, Bartlett, Tx. They were given to her by Amanda Powell, a cousin, to keep until she called. Amanda Powell had kept them from the time of her Mother's death in 1937. Her mother, Sarah Jane Ross Server, had kept them from the time of her Mother's death in 1906. Her Mother: Mary Ann Elam Ross was the recipient and keeper of all the letters from the time they arrived until her death in 1906. Her lifes correspondence was contained in the small packet of less than 30 personal letters from her father, A. Elam, Desoto Cty., Mississippi. 1854 was the first dated letter, from a few friends, and 13 letters received from her husband E.H. Ross, from the time he enlisted in the Confederate Army on September 23, 1861, until his death on July 13, 1862.

Mary Ann Elam Ross and Edward Hampton Ross were my Great Grandparents. Their daughter, Margaret Minerva, was my Grandmother. Her son, David Ross Mcquary, is my Father. I am Lucille Mcquary Hilliard, and I have the letters. Most of the original copies, and all of the first hand written copies, are in my possession at this writing, September, 1984.

Lucille Hilliard

Houston Sept 29 1861
Friend Ned

I am well at this time and in good spearets

I have had a bad thumb

This is the first writing that I have been able to do

We take up the line of march in the morning

we have 95 men in our compety

all with a fiew exceptions jentlem

there is great excitement in galveston

some of our boyes went down day before yesterday and
returned yesterday

they say that there is expectee tite times in that place

2 volontears of that place deserted yesterday and started

out to the blockade in a little sailboat and were soon

over taken and brought back and I recond are houg by this
time

there is now other vessal at galveston but the one that

has been there all the while but they are expecting

linkonits to por in by thousands every hour

I didnt think that I would write to you till I got to

Neworleans but I thought I woul drop you these fiew lines

to let you know that I had not forgot you

when I got to string parare Capt King had 40 men on the

acont of Colo Carters redgement being broke up

Concequencely we joined Capt Harriss compeny of Waco

We got first lentuunant 1 orderly and first corple in the

compeny King is lieu Freeman ordly + myself corple

Ned excuse my writing and spelling

my thumb is so that I hardly can write

N B we belong to Colonel Lubbu + Teres regement Texas

rangers

Ned I have nothing more of importance to write you

I am shaim of what I have writen

I will write to you agane at Newore if I have time

All the boyes that you knqw are all well and in fine
spirets

In the morning we bid fare well to Texas

Ned remember me if I never see you a gane

I shall all ways thank that you were my friend

give my Dear Ann all the consolation you can and keep
her from geting down spireted

yours untill death

tell Houston Harrson Jack and all of my friends that

I am right on the goos

E H Ross

Lake Charles Lousana Oc 6 1861
Dear Wife

I am 6 dayes travel from houston

I traveled 85 miles by railrode to Burmont

there we took water on a boat

we traveled 85 miles to Niblens bluf and there we took
foot pashedg

we have travled 4 dayes and have travled 50 miles
today is sonday

last night we had a hevey rain

today the teams are boging every 50 yds

the teams are getting very mutch weaired

the oficer of the compenyes talk if he cant do now better
that he will leave the wagon and pack the mules threw

there is a great deal of sicness in our compeneys

some little complaint among some of the boyes that left
with us but nothing serious

I am hartly and well and has been all the while fore which
I am humuly thankful to god

there are 285 men in our compeneys

the last devision of the Lubbock + Teares redgement

we have 100 miles to go a foot and then we are don walken

I will write to you in Neworleans if not sooner

I will write to you every chance

I am in good spirets and am getting a long in the compeney
fine

I have as many friends as any body

there is but one thing that trulbles me and that is leaveing
you and the children

if I could see you and the children this morning how
happy I would be
well I must bring my letter to a close
my company is leaving me
be of good cheer and pray for me
I shall never forget you and the children
when I write again I will give all the particulars
of my travels
give my respects to all my friends
yours until death

E H Ross

Neworleans Oct 13 1861

Friend Ned Dear Sir

I seat my self down to drop you a fiew lins to let you know how I am something of my travels

we landed her from houston in 15 dayes

from houston we landed at Nibblen bluff in 2 dayes there we twok it a foot 125 miles

the 8 day at night I was taken ver sick vomiting and ruing of of th bowles

the next day they wanted me to ride in the sick wagon but I sesested and walked on 2 dayes jorney and thought I was getting well

the second day in the eaveing I taken a very hard chill and high fevor

it is useless for me to try to tell you how mutch I have suffered for 3 dayes

I had what the doctor called the pluriser but to day thank god I am able to get a bout and am clear of all deseas but I have the sworest mouth and nowes of any pore felow you ever say

our route that we traveled a foot was just as bad as you can amagein

it was a low flat marshey conterye

it raned 4 or 5 dayes on us while in there

we had 8 wagons fore 3 compeney

6 wagons to hall the bagedg

2 to hall the sick

the boyes that left our neighborhood are all well except

Bob McCann

the wagon caught his leg between the wheel and body and
broused it very bad but not serious
I hope we expect to leave Neworleans this eaving
our destination Lousivill Kanetucky
all the eyes of excitement is turned there
some or some of th boyes are glad some are not pleased
but it all amounts to the same we belong to the southern
confedracy now
there was a little fight tuck place on the 12 inst between
the great boat that you have heard so mutch a bout that
was bilt hearin Neworleans
it is known hear as the turtle
she run afowl of the blockadeing squadiron last saturday
for hear first attempted
the first pass she made was to run right strate in to one
of the vessals about 20 feet and sank hear and all abored
except those that ware accidently picked up
she then tuck a small prise and some thing got the matter
with hear runing gears and had to return to Neworln
I recon she is th master vesel in th world
I saw hear myself at a distant and all the descriphat I
can give you of hear is that she is just in the shape of
a tirtle back
I could sea some bruises that they made on hear in the
fight
she was tryed with with the best guns that old lincon had
Well Ned I have given you all th news that I have
I would be glad to see you and Miss Graham and all the

children

I want you to show this letter to Houston and tell him
that I will write to him the first opportunity
give him my love and respects

Ned remember the promise that you made me
the next letter that I write to you I will be able to let
you know where to write to me
give my love to all inquiring friends and receive a
double portion to your self
yours until death

E H Ross

Enclosed in letter Oct 13 1861
to friend Ned

Dear Ann

I am well this morning all but a sore mouth and nose
I have written to you this is the 3 time since I left
the first in closed my likeness which doubt you have got
before this time

I am in as good spirets as could bee expected haveing
been sick and am sofering som with my mouth yet I hope
when you get these lines that they may find you and the
children all well and in fine spirets

Ann how glad I wou bee to see you and the children

I have plenty of aples oranges and every els that a man
can find the money to pay fore

I never eat anything of this knid but what I think of
you an the children

tell Father and Mother that I have not forgot them yet
but the reson that I have not written to them was that
you are so close that I thought one would surfise all
tell all my friends that I have as yet had but little
chance of writing yet

we have since we left Houston have been nearly all the
time on a forse march

we will only stay in Houston one day and 2 nights

my dearests Ann remember me at a throen of Brace

I sees not to pray for you

Sarah Jane bee a good girl mind what your maw tell you
David Allen bee a good little boy tell no stories mind
you maw

William Carell bee a good little boy untill paw comes
mind your maw my son

I will write to you a gane soon

I can let you know then where I will be station an wil
rendevous at Nashvill Tennysee

so I will bring my letter to a close so fair you well
fore a while

I remain your husban and undying friend untill death
shall seperate us

E H Ross

N B you can write to me anytime by sending your letters thus
Houston Texas Harrison Company Terry regiment in care of
E H Cushon (I have just learned this)

Dear time I am well this morning all but
last month and now I have written to you
this is the first time since I left the first
in close my business which doubt you
have got before this time I am in a good
spirits as ~~the~~ could be expected having
been and am looking some with my snow
yet I hope when you get these lines
they may find you and the children all
and in fine spirits I am how glad I
like to see you and the children I have
ty of a plus oranges and they say that a man can
find the money to pay for I make out a
thing of the kind but what I think
was all the children tell that we are not
that I have not yet got them yet but
the reason that I have not written to
was that you are so close that I thought
would write all; tell all my friends that
I have as yet had but little chance of writing

Sent with letter to:

New Orleans

Friend Ned Dear Sir

Oct 13 1861

yet we have since we left Houston have
been nearly all the time on a port-march
we will only stay in Houston one day and
nights My dearests & in remembrance
of a vision of grace I beseech to pray
for you Sarah Jane be a good girl mind
what your mother told you David Allen be a good
little boy tell no thens mind your mother
William be a good little boy mind
you ~~and~~ come mind your mother I will
write to you a game soon I can let you
know when it is I will be Stationer
will send you at Mrs. Hill Tommy
I will bring my letter to a close so
I will see a while I remain
your and undying friend until death
separate us
A. B. you can write to me anytime by sending
your letters there

E. H. Pugh

Houston Texas - Harrison Company 25th Regiment
in case of C. H. Cushman I have just learnt this

Boldongreen Kentuck Oct 22 1861
Dear Ann

I am only in tolerable health
I have not got intirely over the spel that I had before
I got to Neworleans
I have a ketch in my side that troubles me very mutch tho
I am able to do duty thoe I have reson to thank god that
it is as well with me as it is
I have had a long and tiresom trip from Neworleans to
this place
we traveled 5 dayes and nights on the cares and the only
means that we had of sleeping was on our seets
the boyes complain mitely of the hard times but I have
seen a great deal harder times than I have seen yet
we are now at the seet of war
we are in 50 or 60 miles of the enemy which is cead to
be advancin on us in 3 directions
that it is only conjectur
there is nowbody that knows but the spyes and our head
officers
there is said to bee 50 or 60 thoughtsand troops hear
revdovosed hear now and new recruits comeing in everyday
the enemy is said to bee at least 80 thoughtsand
now one can tell anything about the numbers
the hole woods are covered in troops and from all parts
of the contery
I have not seen any body yet that I new before only those
that came from Texas
there is a compiny hear from Miss DeSoto Cty but I have
not seen any of them yet

we have to have a pas to go any where in the camps
we in campet hear late yesterday evening and I have not
been about mutch yet

there is now telling when we will leave hear
hear is the battlegrond that is in view by boath parties
if so we will leave what is left of us after the battle
if there is not a battle fought hear we will leave in
the corse of 2 weeks

I gues there is a nother great battle going on in Virginey
they have been fighting some 4 dayes

it is said that the southern people had killed som 25
thousand and our loss is not known but it is uncertan
about the news hear as well as in Texa(s)

thoe it is certan that there is a battle going on there
if I had of had the money I could have went by your Paws
I com threw holly springs

I wrote him a letter from grand junction tenysee and wrote
to him to write to me at this place

Dear Ann I have given you all the news that I have got
we have thousand of the finest aples

we by them at 5 cents a dosan

they are all ate up that is close abot the mane arma
they are haled to us by the nigers

I have the pown cake that you gave me when I started yet
I am going to eat it in the morning

Dear wife you and the children are on my mind in all of
my wakefull hours thoe we are a meny a mild a part
our seperation is all that keeps me from being a happy

man

I dont think from presant circumstances that I will come home before next spring

do the best you can and manage your buznes just like you had no husband atal

October 23

I did not finish my letter last night during the night I suffered with my side

it was somthing that I have had before

I am not sick with it but it is a ketch in my side that stops my breath and causes ver much phone

that I am able yet to go about this morning

we have a norther up in Kentucky which makes it worse on me here

when you get this letter call the children all together and hug and kiss them for me and give them all the good advise you can

I am going to write to friend ned Houston and Laughlin and father so if any of them donot a letter they may know that it has been misplaced

I want them all to write to me

I want you to write me a letter with your own hand if it takes you a week and I will know with your hand write all are getting along and how you have got along up to this time and how the stock is doing and how you have enjoyed yourself since I left

write to me about all the little things that has taken place among the children

Dear Ann pray for me that I may do my camps duty as a shoulder of Christ

I am trying to live the life of a christian tho I have
not seen any reljours exercise in line yet
it apears that all the wicked of the land are here
to all humon apearence the troops are all in fine spirits
and are all keen for a fight and all as a jeneral thing
healthy

young Freeman that stayed all night with us a few nights
before I left is my mess mate

we sleep together these nights and he is a cleane nice
young man and a good and particular friend of mine

I have plenty of good and kind friends in my mess

the boys that left with me are all well but Bob McCann

he got his leg hurt by the wagon between Niblens Bluff

and New Ibery and he has not been able to walk on it

since tho I think he will be up in a few days

I will write to Ned tomorrow

I may be able to give him something new

one day may bring about a many a new thing

we have not recieve any thing from the govement yet but

we will be able to get any thing we need

may the lord bless you and preserve you from all danger

and harm that may chance to assail you and if we never

meet on this earth a gane that we may meet in heaven there

to compose a family whose seperations sorrow and troubles

shall forever have an end is my prey

yours until death

E H Ross

NB back your letters I change it

Bowling Green Kentuck Capt Harises Company Terry regiment

Texas rangers

Bowling Green Kentucky Oct 23 1861
Friend E W Graham

Dear Friend

I can sa to you that I am well one time more for which I
am bery thankfull to the great giver of all good and the
presearver of all lives

I hope when you get these lines that they may find you
and family in the like enjoyment

I have writen a letter to Ann that you will see giving all
the niews if it be niews at all

but it is Sondag and a leasure time with me and I thought
to give you a fiew yourns

we havent had no fight yet

the excitement is dieng away and I think if we get a
fight we will have to attact ourselves

our arma is mostly hear at Bowling Green yet

it seems that the Baren river is the line between the 2
armayes

our (s)couts goes to the river and therescouts comes to
the river on the other side

I guess 2 weeks ago we thought that they would be on us
every day but I have given them out coming at all but
still I cant tell the intention of the movement of our arma
I cant tell anything about

I think that they arat least that has been the talk that
they aimes to winter in Lousville the place that Harrison
has now in persesion

there is hear in camp about 75 men 350 men gon out on a
scout and the balance of a thousand are in the hospital
in diferent places some in Nasvill some here and some at

privit places

Cap King is still unable to attend to his comping

I have not got to go out on a scout yet

noe man of our comping and now I cant tell when when we will go being nearly all sick

out of 90 men there is only 30 in camp officers and all there desese is meseasle and flux

I am speaking of our own comping and regement

unkle jef has give me a very good horse one closebodice coat one over shirt one pear of pants one pear of boots one pear of socks and one blankeet and now orms yet

I lafe and tell the boyes that have nun that they intend to make cooks of us boyes that have now arms

Ned I have got to bee the best cook that you ever saw to my practice

I have washed one time and I made my shirte so white that the boys all laught at me and said that it would not do for a soulder to wear as white shirte as that so you may guess that I made a good job of it

I have gon threw many visisitudes of life since I saw you Ned and I long to see the time that I will get back to to Tex

I would give any thing now that I have to just bee one time more placed back on my own soil in my belved coutery and a mong my friends

I do not want you to understand me to say that I am or that I have been deceved or that I have lost any of my patritism

we have plenty to eate and fine tents and are all well

cared for but it is leaving my wife and children but I
recon that I stand it as well as any that you ever saw
I believe that I have had the blues the least of any of
my compiny

it has been snowing today

we have but little settled wether in this contry abomus
of rane

if you see Momphard tell him that Dick is in Nashvill at
the hospital sick with the measles but doing very well
the last accont McCan Benn Johnson Sawls is also there
Sawls went to wait on the balance

Benn Johnson is very bad

Ned I want you to write to me all the rest of the boys
are getting letters from home and I have not got a word
from home yet nor from any of my friends

I want you and Ann to cend me at least 2 letters a month
it would afound me the most consolation in the world to
hear from home or from any of my friends
you may have writen and the letters may have been miss
placed

I will write to you and Ann every 2 weeks

You will direct your letters thus when you write to me
E H Ross Capt Kings Compt Terrys regement Texas Rangers
and its place of destination for instant Bowling Green
Kentucky

borhaps when you get this letter Ann may bee at Fathers
I want you to see

I have letter to inclose boath in the same envelope to
save expence and maby between the 2 letters you may find

something that will interest you
give my love to Mrs. Graham and all the children and to
all who may inquire after me
keep a double portion to your self and excuse my hand
writing and spelling
your sincere friend untill death shall separate

E H Ross

Bowling Green Kentucky
October 27

Dear Father and Mother

it is with pleasure that I am able to drop you a lines
this Sabboth morning to let you know wear I am and how I
am geting a long

I am at Bowling green Kentucky at the seat of war in this
state

there is from the best information that I can get there
is som 50 or 60 thousand troops on boath sids

times is very exciting and we hear a great ma(n)y things
hear in camps

there has been but one little skirmish fight and that tuck
place yesterday

killed and tuck 16 prisons

there was a fight tuck place at lees birg in Virginia
our loss 200 there loss 1600

Kentucky is mosly devided north and south thoe right
round Bowling gree(n) there is but fiew union men

the first regement that got hear shot a union flag off of
the top of the ingion hous so you may see that there has
been a chang hear

our rules are very strict

we are not aloud to go out of camp with out a lawful excuse
we thought when we were coming hear that we would have been
in a battle before this time

we were transfered hear in a hurey but I cant tell aney
thing about it know

everything is kept dark from the soulder

the last devision of our regement has not recieved there

arms yet so I guess we will not go in to battle till we get them at least

I understand from the Colonel this morning that we would leave at least in 2 weeks

we landed here 8 days ago after a fatiguing travel of 5 days and nights from new orleans

there was such a rush of troops to this place that it was a difficult matter to get cars for transportation except open cars

3 nights we rode on cars that were open and very cold and drizzling of rane

we all caught bad colds and all not over it yet

since (I) comenced writing it was announced that there was preeching in camps

I left off writing and went to preeching and heard a good old fashion sermant after returning I go to writing we are fairing well as yet in Kentuck

the goverment furnishes us with meat and bred shougher and coffee rice some molasses ginerally pikle pork and bacon pickle beef and some fresh beef and then they hall in every day all kinds of vegitables that we can by at the lowest price to wit

aples 50 cts per bushel turnups 25 per bush cabag at 2 1/2 to 5 cents per head beets and every thing els that a man would want or could wish

I will now give you a sketch of my travels from home to New Orleans

I went from hom strait to houston

there we stayed a week

on Monday week after I left home we started for Virginey
traveled 1 day on cares all day traveling 85 miles
night found us at Boumont a little town on the Naches in
which we stayed all night

Nest morning we set sale for Newibery in Louisiana which
place we reched late in the eveng a distance of 90 or 100
miles

in this dayes travel we passed threw the sabeen lake which
was a butiful lake

one side I could not see land on the other side we run
close to land

we stayed at Newibery all night and next day till late in
the evening

we got all of our wagons gured up and loded
we started nor Newibery

N B it was Niblins bluf that we landed at and know we
started for the town above menchend

on this route we traveled 12 dayes afoot
there was 3 compenys

we had 8 wagons 2 wagons to the compeny and 2 to hall the
sick

8 days I got sick and I had to be hawled the balance of
the way threw and I have not been entirely well since
thou I feel more like getting well to day than I have felt
in som time thoe I have been able to go about all the
while but to the rout that we had to travel over it was
low flat marshey contrey at least half under water
wagons would bog somtimes every 100 yds

we traveled 3 days and let the mexicans work there one way

sometimes they would have 50 miles to one wagon
the 4 day each capt tuck his men and fowlored his wagon
and it would mire down
they would push it out and so they manage and threw boots
and shoes away skared but milling when there feet would
get sore
they would cut there feet going barefooted and a great
many wore out there boots and then wore out there feet
the water was from half leg to half thigh dep and we
wasant dry from morning till night
those are some of the particulars in getting to Newibery
there we tuck water on aplenty but our capt got the capin
for his compony and a buck for all his sick men and I was
one of that number

I dont think I slept 2 hours the hale
my not being accustom to sleeping where there was any
racket

in fact I dont think for the first three weeks that I
average 3 hours a night from the rattle and bustle of
things that was a rouse me

the next morning found us at Beashearcity 84 miles from
New orleans

there we got aboard on the cares and started for that
great place Neworleans
and night found us there and here we stayed 2 days and
nights

I never was so mistaken in a place in my life

I can go to Comeron and by things cheper than I can in
Neworleans

thoe I recon that things is quite different now to what
it was a few years a go

I guess you will yet see hard times more than you have
ever been for this reason

everywhere I have been dry goods is scarce and very high
much more so than in Texas and I guess that they will be
higher there than they ever now

the weather is tolerable cold here now we have had frost
doubtless you have heard what compty I went in however I
will tell you when I got to Kings his comptny had break
up partly owing Colonel Carters regiment being full
therin so King had made arangement as Texas rangers so
that is where I am and the regiment that we belong to and
we will to go to bregina and when we got to Neworlean the
orders was conter manded and we were cent Kentuck
it is thought that the great battle will be fought hear
in this contrey

we can get the news hear from richmond in about half the
time as you can get it in any other state

I want you to write to me just as soon as you get these
lines

direct your letter to Bowling green Kentucky Capt King
Comp Terrys regiment Texas rangers and it will be certain
to go right

the boat masters will bee instructed fordethem to us
where ever we may bee

I want you to write to me and let me know whether I have
any connections in Kentucky or not and if so where they
are and who they are

I want you to remember Ann and the children
I want you to cend this to Laughlin and James Surver and
tell them that I will cend them a letter soon
pleas lok over my orcured and ramblen seate in blotched
and scrabled up letter for I have a bad peen bad paper
and have to write on my knee and 12 men in my mess and
they all round me talking and laughin
I must bring my letter to a close
I want you and mother to remember me when it goes
well I wish to be remembered by all my friend
give my love and respects to all who may inquire after me
take care of Ann and the children
your afectionat son untill death

E H Ross

NB bee careful about directing your letters
E H Ross Bowlinggreen Kentuck Capt King Comptny
Terreys regement Texas rangers

Bottley Bowling Green Kent

Dear Father and Mother

It is with pleasure that I am able to ~~reassure~~
tell you this morn'g to let you know we are
well and how I am getting along I am at Bowling
Green Kentucky at the seat of war in this State. There
is from the best information that I can get there
some 20 or 30 thousand troops on both sides times
meeting and we have a great many things here
camps there has been but one little skirmish
here and that took place yesterday. There were
prisoners taken there was a fight at ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{place} ~~the~~
in Virginia our loss was three thousand
wounded and more and we have eight thousand
in there is but few to union men the first sign
that got here that a union flag out of the top
of Virginia says so you may see that there has been
a change here our rules are very strict we are not
allowed to go out of camp with out a pass unless
a thought where we were coming here that we are
have been in a battle before this time we will have
here in a hurry but I can't tell any thing about
it know every thing is kept back from the public
the last bit more of our experiment was not success
ful as yet so I guess we will not go in to battle
till we get them at least I understand from the
this morning that we would have at least in 2 or
we could have a day or 2 after a fighting there or
we might have some more there was such a rush
of troops to this place that it was a difficult matter
to get any for transportation except of an early
ride on cars that was open and they are all
very badly broken of now we all caught cold and
we not one of us it yet have commenced writing if
we had that there was speaking in camp I left off writing
went to preaching and had a good old fashioned sermon of

Kentucky the government furnishes us with the meat and
bacon and coffee, rice some molasses, generally, pickles
and some fresh beef and the
they shall in every day all kinds of vegetables
at the lowest price so with apples 50
bushel turneps 25 per bush cabbage at 25 to 50
head peaches and many things less that a man would ^{want} or care
I will now give you a sketch of my travels, some
New Orleans, I went to ^{from} New Orleans to Houston there
stayed a week one month ^{with} after I left some we started for
ignoring travel 1 day on each all day traveling 80 miles every
and up at Beaumont a little town on the marshes in
stayed all night next morning we got pale for ^{the} ^{first} time
Louisiana which place we reached late in the evening
distance of 40 or 100 miles in this days travel we passed
the Sabine lake which was a beautiful lake one side
could not see land on the other side we have close to
we stayed at New Iberia all night and next day
the late in the evening we got all of ^{our} wagons
I gave up and today we started for New Iberia N B
of Sabine lake that we landed at and know we started
the town above mentioned on this route we traveled
day apart there was 3 companies we had 8 wagons 2 wagons
for company and 2 to haul the sick 8 day I got sick
I had to be hauled the balance of the way there
I have not been entirely well since then I feel now
for getting well to day then I have felt in some
in that I have been able to go about all the while
it to the route that we had to travel over it was
in flat marshy country at least half an inch water
you would bog sometimes every 100 yds we started 3 days on
the Mexicans work their one way some times they would
250 mules to one wagon the 4 day each capt took his
and powder his wagon and it would run down they
to push it out and so they manage on these boats and prove
but nothing when their feet would get sore then would not be

going barefooted and a great many wore out their
boots and then wore out their feet the water was
half leg to half thigh deep and we wasnt dry for
nearly till night these are some of the difficulties
had in getting to New Orleans there we took water on a sp
out our capt got the Capin for his company and
luck for all of his sick men and I was one of that
number and I dont think I slept 2 hours the whole
not being accustomed to sleeping where there was any
repet in fact I dont think for the first 3 weeks
of I average 2 hours a night from the rattle and
things that was a sound me the next morning for
at Brashear city 84 miles from New Orleans there we
got aboard of the cars and started for that great place
New Orleans and night found us there and here we stay
days and nights I was so mistaken in a place
my life I can go to be a man and by things cheap
can in New Orleans that I know that things is
point now to what it was a few years ago I guess you
it is a harder time in Texas than you remember
in for this reason why when I have been dry good
5 hours and very high much more than in Tex
and I guess that they will be higher than they
now the water is terrible cold here now we have
had ~~the~~ post doubtless you have had what com
ment in downer tell you when I got to Kings
uptown had break up partly owing Colonel Castles
government being full that to King had mad and
went to go in Capt Harris camp from what was
was already at Houston who was going in Colonel Terry
regiment of Texas rangers to that is where I am and
the regiment that we belong to and we were to
to be sent and when we got to New Orleans
the order was countermanded and we were sent to the
west it is thought that the great battle will
be fought here in this country we can get the
news from Richmond in a hour or so.

as you can get it any other way. I want
you to write to me just as soon as you get
these lines direct your letter to Bowling Green
Kentucky Capt King Compt Terry's Regiment
Texas Rangers and it will be certain to go right
The Postmaster will be in Newell's office
then if you were ever in my way here I want you to
write to me and let me know whether I can come
in Kentucky or not and if you see them and who
are I want you to remember Ann and the children
I want you to send this to Laughlin and James Surber
tell them that I will send them a letter soon please
excuse my excuse and rambling scattered blotched and scrawled
up letter for I have a bad pen bad paper and have
write on my neck and 12 men in my mess and they
round me talking and laughing I must bring my set
to a close I want you and mother to remember me
if it goes well I wish to be remembered by all my friends
give my love and respects to all who may inquire after
me take care of Ann and the children your affection
son untill death

E. H. Prof

W B be careful about directing your letters

E. H. Prof
Bowling Green
Kentucky
Capt King Compt
Terry's Regiment
Texas Rangers

Bowling green Kentucky
October 30 1861

Friend Arch Houston

Dear Sir

I take this opportunity of dropping you a few lines to let you know that I had not forgot you and to redeem my promas

I am in tolerable health this morning

I have been very unwell for som time but am improving very fast

all the boyes that left with me are all well but Bob McCan he got his leg hurt by a wagon in Lousana

he can hop about on it and that is all he can do yet as to his health it is good

we have all had bad colds from out expsure in Lousana

we had to march 150 miles a foot threw mud and water and rane

I would give you a complete history of our travles but I say to you never come hear to do your fighting

resons for this I will give hear after the fatigue and exposur was bad a nuff our orders to go to Virginia was

conter manded at Neworleans and we were cent to Bowling green Kentucky at which place I now am

we were cent hear in a hurry for the purpose and expectation of getting in to a fight richt off

the wiman men nigers children and all cheered us with there presance and with books case apples and every thing that they could give us

when we would stop and when travling they would throw them in to the cars

they would evan get to gether in large crowds on the side of the rode to see Texasans and to cheer them on there way

they would even wave their handkerchiefs so far off at us
that we could hardly see them but when we saw them we let
them know who we were by our yells so we have been heard 10
days

there is a great excitement here
times is tight here

our pickets were attacked last night 4 killed 8 wounded
great excitement this morning a fight is expected soon
it is said that our pickets were fired upon by 800 Likonits
in 8 miles of our camp

2 regiments has marched by our (camp) this morning that
was camped close to us the object which I know not
everything is kept dark from the private

it is said that the enemy is close by and that a fight is
inevitable

they that left this morning left without their baggage
knapsack on their back with a full band of music

Arch I haven't been able hardly to lift a pot of over the
fire for some time and I thought I could hardly stand the
thought of a battle but when I saw them 2 thousand thousand
men march out with their glittering muskets and band music
I felt like I could toat a cotton bale

my heart within throbbed within with emotion and I felt
that I was almost a Samson

there is some 60 thousand southern troops here and at least
that many on the other side

we are in an enemy country

we are in camp 1 mile from town

if we have particular business we can go to town if not

we cant

the the town is garded all the rods is garded and every place so that it is imposable almost for a Linkonit to get in or out

Kentuckians are doing but little in this affair

they all seem to be standing still as if to see which way the scale will turn

it is true there is several Kentucky regiments in the field but as a state she is doing nothing

in fact I think that the most of them are Linkon men but

I guess the matter will soon speak for its self

from the best information that I can get the big fight will soon come off hear

that will tell the tail either focaiual or we get the news hear in one day for bergina and missura

they are skirmish fighting every where they have had a considerable in bergina at lees ferry

our loss did not exceed 200 and there loss was 1600

I have forgot there was a little fight tuck place hear

last week in which 4 linkonits was killed and 16 taken prissoner now loss on our part

they are constantly bringing prssoners in to our camps sitisons recruiting officers and scouting parties that they ketch

since I comence writing this letter I have to stop to drill to I put off writing tell night so to night our scouts come in with 40 prisoners

subbose that it was some that was in the fight last night I have given you to account of

I hear now more news that I can recollect
We are fairing like pet pigs
we have plenty to eat and good water to drink
we have suggurs and coffes pickle pork fresh beef pickle
beef molass candles
we have not received our horses nor gunns
we expect to recive our from day after tumore
i speak of my own compeny
the men of the regiment has already recived there horses
there is some news in our regiment one pore fellow close
to my tent of another compeny that was dieng this evening
wont you to write to me as soon as you get these lines
give me all the news that you have back you letter
Bowling green Kentucky Capt Kins Comptany Terrys Regiment
Texas Rangers
give my love and respects to all who inquire affter me
and if convenient send this letter to my wife
I will write to you all a long when I can
I will not write more till I hear from you
I remain you friend until death shall separate us

E H Ross

Bowling green Kentucky
November 10 1861
Dear wife

It is sonday eveing
after riding out to a ginerall review of the troops hear and
setting down to a fin dish of fresh beef and irash potatoes
which you know is a favorit dish with me I desire to drop
you a fiew lins to let you know how I am and what I am
doing

I am hartly and fatting like a pig
I have some cough yet but nothing to complain of
hoping when these lines com to hand that they may find you
and the children in the same like blessing
there is a great deal of sickness in our compeny
nun of it yet has proved fatal
we have the mesels a mong us
there is 10 in my mess and 5 sick and complaining
bob McCan has the mesels
Ben Jonson has them but broak out
bob is just taken them
they have went all threw the southern arma and they have
in a great many regmts hear been very fatal owing to
there expsure
one Arcansis regemtnt who had been transfered hear after
the mesels had got among them that they was bering one
a day but the worst that is the matter with our regement
the cold that we caught in lousina
I think as soon as we get over that we will be healthey
we have good tents and plenty of straw to sleep on
I am as yet well pleased with our fair

we have plenty to eat and to sleep on
we have not received our arms yet and nun of our compeny
has been out on a scout yet
the balance of the regement or at least a greate many of
them has
we was the last that got hear and a mong the last that got
horses

I drew a horse

I got a bout the fifthy chois and I did not like him and
I swaped with Hogue Person for one that he has got that
was cripled by a kick

he is a splendid horse and is improving very fast
when I get upon him I think that I am a hoss back
we all have very good horses

we have not had now fight yet thoe times has been very
exciting except one little brush that some of our boyes
had who went out on a scout the other day

there number was 40 commanded by major Harrison our formore
Capt

they discovered a number of infintery about 400 and about
40 caveraly and Major Harrison and 20 of his men made a
run at them killed 2 that they new of and tuck 2 prisons
and made there excape

our boyes had taken 3 prisoners that I have seen and they
all was native borned Kentuckyions

I went up in town yesterday and went in to the prison
where they had about 20 linkonits one of which was a Capt
in the linkon arma and they look just like anybody else
I talked with the Capt

he said his name was D Penn and that he had a brother in the sothern arma

he stated in referance to his case that there was only one step between right and rong and he had fell on the rong side

it seems strange to me to see men taken prisoners who are flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone

I expected to see somthing great when I saw a linkonite I ran to see the first one that was brought in to our regement as thoe that was a monkey to be exsebited and when I got to the gard hous I had to ask which he was and they pointed him out to me and to my astonishment he looked like anybody else

Capt King has been very punily for several days unable to attend to his buziness

he porticularly requested me to cend his respects to you and all of the neighborhood that he wished to be remembered by all

Dear Ann I have given you all the news that I think will interest you

in referance to matters here I hear a nugh hear in one day to fill up a quaire of paper and maby all turnout to bee fowls we have been more than ansee we been ordered to stay in side of our lines for a hole day not knowing what hour we would have marching orders

3 days ago Capt King cent me word being the head of our mess that he wanted me to tell all the boyes that he wanted them to put there things all where they could put there hands on them and for all to be at there post that

he expected to receive marching orders at 4 o'clock
that evening and that arma was in 12 miles of our
camps and it has all turned out to be false
this picket goes out and comes back and reports what he
has discovered and another goes out and he reports and
that is why so many false reports get out
but it is a stubborn fact that we are in an enemy land and
that a fight is inevitable and I think that we will be
ready when it may suit them to rouse the general in command
of this division of Lincoln's army
it is said said General Johnson word who is at the
head of our command that this day was a week ago
that he went to eat dinner in Bowling Green
Johnson sent him word that if he did he would take supper
in hell

I think if we are not attacked in a short time and we
get every thing ready that we will attack them
Ann I can only say to you to take the best care of you
self that you can
don't despair of never seeing me again
I feel just like I will see you and the children again
I can't imagine while I am writing this lovely Sabbath
evening that I see you and Sarah Jane Davey Wiley
Margaret all down at Friend Ned's and that you are about
now calling them up to start home and perhaps trying to get
John Peter or William to go with you
all such thoughts are passing through my mind
tell Ned and Miss Graham that I have not forgotten the many
pleasureful hours that we have spent together nor never
will and that I hope to spend some more if it is 20 years

hence

I have not received a wor from home since I left

I am exceding ankous to hear from home

I want you to write to me onst a month and I will write
to you every 2 weeks or oftoner

I have writon to you 4 times since I left hom 2 to Ned

I have go now ancer from ether of you

direct your letters to Bowling Green Kentucky

if we leave hear this winter they will beforided to us

Dear Ann I must bring my letter to a close for the
want of room and it is nearly dark

when I commenced I thought I would only drop you a fiew
lines and I have kept writing untill I have filled all
the space I have

My pray is and shall bee to god that he may spair us to
meet and see each other a gane

it seems to to me that if I could see you and the children
that I would be willing to die

your affectionate husban untill death

E H Ross