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Remarks:

April 14, 1992

Stones River National Battlefield
3501 Old Nashville, Highway
Murfreesboro, Tennessee 37129

Dear Madam or Sir,

During a recent visit to Murfreesboro I visited the Stone's River Battlefield. During discussions with the staff I was asked if I had copies of my ancestors letters from his days in the service of the Federals in the War of the Rebellion. In these envelopes are copies of the actual letters written by him to his wife. There are others that were written either by surgeons or were directed to someone other than her, by my great grandfather, Hiram Russell. An index of the letters is enclosed for your convenience.

I have gained a great deal of enjoyment in deciphering his hand over the last two years. In order to assure that this information was passed on to others, I documented each letter and the typed interpretation directly follows each of them. I have attempted to punctuate where practical to ease the reading and understanding of his letter contents. You may or may not be interested in the other periods written of besides the Stones River/Fortress Rosecrans time frame, but I have enclosed all of the letter copies in my possession. I have all of the original letters and envelopes along the peach bud sent to my great grandmother that he refers to in one of his letters.

Some details about my great grandfather, Hiram Russell.....

He was born in Wetang, Connecticut December 4, 1828. Grew to a large man, 6'2", blue eyes and fair complexion. A pleasant cheerful man who had a most generous disposition and as you will read, a strong dislike for Abraham Lincoln and the "cause".

He settled in the Fremont Wisconsin area in 1849, married Maria in 1854. They had five children, George, Ina, John, Clara and Webb who was my grandfather. He served from September of 1862 through July of 1864. He participated at Stones River under the Brigade command of Colonel Starkweather in Rousseau's Division. Subsequent to that battle he spent from January 1863 through June 1863 at, what is now referred to as, Fortress Rosecrans in Murfreesboro. As you will see by his writings he spent the vast majority of his time in the Tennessee area in the Army of The Cumberland. He was wounded by a mini-ball at the battle of Chickamauga, was captured for a short period and recovered from his wound at home in Wisconsin until May of 1864. You will note that his unit corresponds with him in a fashion that leads me to believe the extended leave was disputed by his superiors. He concludes his military service after the battle of Atlanta in July of 1864 and returns to Wisconsin to the logging industry. He died in November of 1879 and is interred in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

My interest in his participation is our countries Civil War is evidenced by the efforts to clarify his writings and my visits to both Stones River and Chickamauga. I sincerely appreciate being able to share this information with you and would be happy to clarify or expand on any of this information. I realize that some of the letter copies are quite difficult to read but not all of the originals were written on quality

stationary, although most were.

Your staff was most helpful during my visit in providing me with detailed information concerning Fortress Rosecrans and the efforts to restore and maintain the remnants. I visited the area prior to leaving Murfreesboro and while disappointed that such a small portion remains, I am pleased that the Department of the Interior is taking over control of the fortress. It's condition and intruding proximity of golf courses, tennis courts, refuse dumps, etc. most surely should be addressed.

Please feel free to contact me for any assistance and I would appreciate any information regarding estimated completion of the fortress restoration.

Very Best Regards,

Thomas J. Russell

Thomas J. Russell
1760 Garden Lane
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

LETTER INDEX

Letters to Maria:

1.	September 12, 1862	Camp on the Ohio River at Louisville, Kentucky.
2.	September 23, 1862	Same location.
3.	September 29, 1862	Same location.
4.	October 5, 1862	12 miles from Bardstown, Kentucky.
5.	October 10, 1862	Perryville, Kentucky.
6.	October 17, 1862	Crab Orchard, Kentucky, 100 miles east of Louisville, Kentucky.
7.	October 24, 1862	Near New Market, Kentucky, on the Rolling Fork River.
8.	October 26, 1862	Near New Market, Kentucky, 6 miles from Lebanon.
9.	November 9, 1862	4 miles south of Bowling Green, Kentucky.
10.	November 12, 1862	Near Mitchelleville, Tennessee, at a Nashville & Louisville railroad depot.
11.	November 20, 1862	Same location.
12.	November 22, 1862	Same location.
13.	November 25, 1862	Same location.
14.	November ?, 1862	Same location.
15.	December 4, 1862	Same location.
16.	December 17, 1862	Camp Andy Johnson, 4 miles south of Nashville, Tennessee.
17.	January 10, 1863	Stones River, near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

18.	January 14, 1863	Camp hospital on the Murfreesboro Turnpike.
19.	February 20, 1863	4 miles south of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
20.	February 22, 1863	Camped at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
21.	February 25, 1863	Same location.
22.	March 3, 1863	Same location.
23.	March 13, 1863	Same location.
24.	March 20, 1863	Same location.
25.	March 20, 21, 1863	Same location.
26.	March 31, 1863	Same location.
27.	April 1, 1863	On picket post, 2 miles from Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
28.	April 5, 1863	Camped at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
29.	April 12, 1863	Same location.
30.	April 19, 1863	Same location.
31.	May 5, 1863	Same location.
32.	May 18, 1863	Same location.
33.	May 29, 1863	Same location.
34.	June 3, 1863	Same location.
35.	June 12, 1863	Same location.
36.	June 15, 1863	Same location.
37.	June 21, 1863	Same location.
38.	June 23, 1863	Same location.
39.	June 30, 1863	Between Manchester and Tullahoma, Tennessee, on the way to Hoovers Gap in the Cumberland Mountains.
40.	July 5, 1863	13 miles east of Tullahoma, Tennessee, at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains.
41.	July 10, 1863	Near Dechard Station, Tennessee, same

		general location.
42.	July 13, 1863	25 miles from Chattanooga, Tennessee, near Dechard Station, Tennessee.
43.	July 20, 1863	1 mile east of Cowan Station at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains.
44.	July 26, 1863	Camp Scribner, near Cowan Station, Tennessee.
45.	August 11, 1863	Same location.
46.	August 30, 1863	Camp Dawson, near Stevenson, Alabama.
47.	September 1, 1863	Same location.
48.	September 5, 1863	3 miles from Bridgeport, Alabama, at the foot of the Raccoon Mountains.
49.	September 12, 1863	In the Chattanooga Valley, at the foot of Lookout Mountain in Georgia.
50.	October 5, 1863	Officers hospital in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
51.	May ?, 1864	Merchants Hotel in Cincinnati, Ohio.
52.	June 11, 1864	Main Street Hospital in Covington, Kentucky.
53.	June 16, 1864	Same location.
54.	June 21, 1864	Same location.
55.	June 23, 1864	Same location.
56.	July 3, 1864	Same location.
57.	July 9, 1864	Same location.
58.	July 13, 1864	St. Cloud Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee.
59.	July 24, 1864	Battlefield, 2 miles from Atlanta, Georgia.
60.	July 25, 1864	Same location.

Miscellaneous:

1. February 28, 1863	Letter to Maria from her cousin Mary Ann Jewell.
2. July 21, 1863	Hiram's request for 20 days leave.
3. July 31, 1863	Departmental approvals of Hiram's leave request.
4. October 1863	Letter listing the officers remaining in command of the 21st Wisconsin Regiment units after the Battle of Chicamauga.
5. October 2, 1863	Brigade Surgeon's Medical Certificate regarding Hiram's wound.
6. October 8, 1863	Hiram's request for leave due to wounds.
7. October 31, 1863	Waupaca County Surgeons medical status report on Hiram's wound.
8. November 20, 1863	Waupaca County Surgeon status report.
9. January 19, 1864	Waupaca County Surgeon update.
10. February 8, 1864	Waupaca County Surgeon update.
11. February 13, 1864	Waupaca County Surgeon detailed report regarding Hiram's wound.
12. February 24, 1864	Official regimental letter to Hiram stating that he is absent without leave.

Hospital No. 1, Rousseau's Division
January 10th/63
8 Miles From Camp, 4 Miles From
Battlefield

To my dear wife & children,
I thought I would drop you a few lines and let you know how I am getting along. I came here from the battlefield Sunday evening as I was not very well owing to the exposure we had for a few days previous to the battle and during the battle. We were kept on the move night and day for about 10 days and it rained most of the time. I have not been anytime so that I have been up around. There are two other lieutenants here from our regiment, Wall & Ewen. We have a tent with our two head surgeons, are very comfortably situated. How long I shall remain here can't say as I am gaining fast. The battle commenced Wednesday morning 31st December, lasted until Sunday night between 8 & 9 o'clock p.m. It is said to be one of the hardest fought battles on record. We were in front, that is our brigade, on the left center. We lay in the mud & water for three days & nights. Most of the time the mud was from 3 to 6 inches deep. A hard looking set we was on Sunday morning. Our brigade lost but few men. We were held as a reserve which saved us as the battle turned. But still might have been worse for us, for had we been ordered in it would of been to have checked the enemy when they were driving back our troops. And if such had been the case, must have suffered a heavy loss. We were under the fire of the enemy for 3 days but most of their shots passed over us. I escaped unharmed, so with most of the 21st. The 1st Wisconsin, 79th Pennsylvania and 24th Illinois, lost a few killed & wounded. I do not know exactly how many we had wounded in our regiment nor killed. We had a fight on the 29th December a few miles from here. Lost a few men killed & wounded.

The 21st done most of the fighting. The Rebel cavalry under Colonel Wheeler about 2000 strong, attacked our train, burnt a good many of our wagons & took something like 100 prisoners. Sherburne is a paroled prisoner. Thompson is with the regiment. I saw John Pickle December 31st, he was well and alright. Had been in the day before, their battery had cost our gun. I think our loss in this battle killed & wounded is something between 5 & 6 thousand. The Rebels acknowledge a loss of 7000. I think it must be more, but can't judge only from what they admit themselves. But we have cleaned them out pretty successfully this time. What is to follow can't say. Our regiment is encamped about 1/2 mile into Murfreesboro. Are very comfortably situated. Lost everything except what I had on my back when our wagon was burnt. The want of the things is more than the value. We get no news here outside of our own observation. We have received no pay yet, how soon we shall, can't say, probably not as long as there is any show for a fight. You must try and get along the best you can. It will come some time. Did you ever send anything to me? If not, do not, for the chances are that I should never get it. It has been a long time since we have received a mail but are in hopes to soon. My respects to all inquiring friends and much love to self & children.

Hiram

Hospital, Rousseau's Division
January 14th 1863

To my dear wife & babies,

I just received two letters from you dated December 21st and 25th and was glad to hear that you were well and getting along so nicely. I am stopping about 8 miles this side of the regiment on the Murfreesboro Pike. I am staying in a tent with major Reave our head surgeon and his assistant. I am not what you call sick, but Sunday night after the excitement of the battle was over I did not feel very well and Major Reave said I had better go up and stay with him as I would have better accommodations then with the regiment, so I accepted his proposition. It is raining very hard this afternoon. I will give you a description of our tent, it is 12 foot square. In one corner is a stove, behind the stove is some wood, some bottles of quinine and on the same side of the tent there is piled lint bandages, medical books, a case of instruments, lots of brandy, et al. On one side are our beds, that is blankets spread on some straw on the ground. On the other side is two saddles, equipment for the same, the other side the door. On a line running through the center are hanging various articles of clothing. I was up to the regiment on Monday last, did not see anyone except Thompson from that vicinity. Oh yes Spindler. They were well and feeling well. I stay here for various reasons, we live better and I have nothing to do and a chance to see a great many things which I should not were I at the regiment. But I think I will join it in a few days. There is some talk of consolidating the 1st & 21st Wisconsin Regiments, I am in hopes they will. I think your investment in trees a good one glad to hear you have done so. The Hinds matter is all right. I have not received the box you sent yet, may not get it at all. I wrote you a few days since, I think I stated our loss in that letter from 5 to 7000 but it will far exceed it. They think it will be

from 10 to 13 thousand cannot tell positively. Yet our loss is very heavy, our brigade but few men, our division lost about eleven hundred. Tell the babies that papa will, or rather is in hopes to be with them before many months. Kiss them for me. I should like so much to see you all once more. It is getting some dark and I shall have to close. Kindest regards to all friends. Much love to yourself & babies.

I remain yours

Hiram

Direct Lieutenant Hiram Russell
Company B, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers
3rd Brigade, Rousseau's Division
Army Of The Cumberland

Our Brigade and division have changed.

Camp, 21st Regiment,
Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry,
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
June 21st, 1863

To my dear wife & babies,

I received yours of June 14th today and as it is Sunday, thought I could not improve the time better than in answering the same. Am very glad to hear that you are all well and have got everything so nice and comfortable. Would like to be there to enjoy the same with you and the children. But when that time will come can't say, as General Rosecrans has just issued an order that no more leaves of absence will be granted. Think I will try him on a string or two one of these days after Lieutenant Stuart gets back. I suppose by this you have seen Stuart as he promised to call on you. There is no particular news, without you call hanging and shootin news. Which, by the way, is nothing new here. On Thursday last, there were two men hung on the same gallows as the one I sent you the piece of rope he was hung with. They were convicted for the same murder, both citizens. Yesterday, the 20th, there was a deserter shot from our brigade. Belonged in the 4th Indiana Battery. Our whole division was marched out and formed in three sides of a square, everyones battalion facing each other in a line on three sides and then the prisoner was marched around. First the Provost Marshall, then a brass band, then guards, after which followed the prisoner and minister. Then six men carrying his coffin, then guards, then two citizens, his friends. Then he sat down on his coffin and they tied a handkerchief over his eyes and twelve men fired at him, six of whose guns were loaded. Four balls entered his body, was killed instantly. It was a solemn sight I assure you, especially to those who are not accustomed to seeing such things, as you say. One gets so accustomed to seeing all such things in the army that they pass such

things over very lightly. Yours of June 11th was received and you say Mollie was down to see you and that she said I owed her on the old score. Can't see the point. But I were with her for a short time think I could make here see or feel the point and would willingly furnish here with what I think she needs more than money you bet. Give my love to her and tell her when you see her that I am sorry I can't give something better. God knows I would like to be with you and the children once more. Kiss them for me and trust I shall, if this cussed nigger war ever ends. The constitution and the union compared with a few niggers. Save the nigger and let the constitution and the union slide as the damn cowardly abolition and traitors would say. I haven't half as much respect for them as I have for a decent dog. I am in for sustaining the union and the constitution as it was as long as there is a man left. Which is what we were all fighting for as we supposed when this rebellion broke out. But things have changed. I suppose it will have to continue on in the same manner until there is a change of administration. Which, thank God, will be before many years have passed. They have a great deal to say in the papers about the opinion of the soldiers in their abolition papers. But what I have written is the opinion of most of the soldiers, all in fact that are sound sensible men which thank God they are. I received a letter from Alva two or three days ago, he was well. Shall probably write him today. You can say to Mrs. Edwards if you see her, that Edwards is with his company and I shall write to Hastings today so that she can draw her state money in a short time. Kindest regards to all friends, with much love to yourself & babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Mitchellville Station, Tennessee

I have written you several letters of late, have received none, but I expect it is owing to the mail. We expect a mail this morning, am in hopes to get one by this mail. I wrote you several days ago that I would like to have you send me $10 providing you had received the allotment. We heard that you all had received the allotments, but since heard that it is not so and if such is the case, you will probably not receive it until the first of January, which on the 5th will be 4 months from the time we was mustered in. But we are in hopes you will get yours sooner. There is nothing particularly new with us at present. The weather is very fine, just cool enough to be pleasant, but not cold enough to freeze. I never was healthier in my life then at the present time. Have gained considerable in girth since I left Wisconsin. Have not weighed so much in several years as at the present time. The general health of the men in camp is improving. William is better so that he is doing duty, Thompson is alright, Edwards is still at Perryville. L. Pickle is at Lebanon, has been quite sick but is getting better fast, will probably be with us soon. Below I give you a list of the killed and those that have died and those that were wounded: Elijah B. Showers, Private, killed October 8th Battle Perryville; Loren Dudley, killed October 8th Battle Perryville; Alvin Dunn, Private, died October 29th Louisville, enysphilus; Reuben M. Knofsker, Private, died November 16th Louisville, cause unknown; Nelson Miller, Private, died at Mitchellville November 24th, camp fever; Sidney Raymond, Private, died November 18th Perryville, 2nd amputation of the arm, wounded Battle Perryville October 8th, 1862; Noble A. Blim, Corporal, died at Bowling Green November 12th, inflammation of lungs. List of discharged: Michael Ferrill at Louisville, October, 1862 from Park Barracks: Wounded Battle Perryville; Henry Hoffman, Francis H. Moon, Nelson Rice. (David Van Buren was taken

prisoner and paroled at Battle Perryville October 8th, 1862). Wounded; Jerrill H. Welch, I believe that is all. How are you getting along? I should like very much to drop in and see you and the children, but when that time will come, can't say. How does your father, mother & Whitney & wife get along? Give my respects to them. Tell Whitney I have not received his letter yet. Do you hear anything more from Alvah? Give me post address when you write again and when you write let me know all the particulars, for I assure you, things are interesting to me. My kindest regards to all Fremont friends. Be sure and let me know what Baker, Conant, Brister and in fact all the Fremonters are doing. With much love to yourself and babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Camp Near Mitchellsville, TN
November 12th, 1862

I have just received your letter dated November 5th and am glad to hear that you & the children are well and getting along so well. We are now just in the edge of Tennessee at a depot on the Nashville & Louisville Railroad some eighty miles south of Lebanon guarding military stores. Our brigade arrived here this morning, we are in hopes to remain here some time. It is a very pleasant country but the place don't amount to much, but any place to let the men rest a few days. We left Louisville the first of October 1000 men strong, today, we cannot muster 500 effective men. We lost a few out of the 500 in killed & wounded. The balance have been marched to death with the exposure they have had and are scattered from Louisville to this place. We have marched since the 1st of October up to the present time, somewhere between 300 & 400 miles, but we are looking for better times. As far as I am myself concerned, I am all right but it has been rough on the men. You asked me a great many questions in your last letter, but one in regard to the fight. You ask if we were drawn up in single lines. We were drawn up in the ranks the same as you saw us on dress parade in Oshkosh. That is called a line of battle. My place is on the left of the company two paces behind the men. The captains and second lieutenants on the right of company, sergeants the same in rear. A battlefield is a hard thing to describe. In the first place as I said before, we, that is our Company & Company C were not with the Regiment. When they went into the battlefield the Regiment went in under a heavy fire and formed in line of battle, the same as we form for dress parade, dressing on the center from right to left. There were several fell while forming the line, some killed some wounded but they closed up as though nothing happened. We, Company B & C, came in a few minutes after and expected to join our regiment. But as we had no

colors, we did not know where they were. We knew they were on the left but it being the time when the battle was raging the hardest, General Rousseau rode up to us and told us to form on the left of the flank, that is in four ranks and then were ordered on the right by file into line, which was well executed. I cannot explain that move to you, but it is to come into two ranks in line as our company comes around. The 1st Ohio came down on our left on their retreat. I was afraid they would break us and ordered them to halt. They were very much excited, but our boys were very cool and paid no attention to them but advanced and formed a good line, although they were being killed and wounded. I turned to a dozen of Ohio troops, most halted when I told them where, they did just behind us on the left. Asked them what they were running for, they said it was so hot they could not stand it. They were under Jackson or Terrell, I forget which, but they only halted for 2 or 3 minutes and then skedaddled. We then received orders to advance which was made in good line, and then ordered to lay down, which was done. Men were laying all around us dead & dying and others were being carried off. The men, as far as I saw, were perfectly cool. I know I was just as cool as I am at this moment. The shell and cannon ball & musketry were flying thick just over our heads as we lay on the ground. Our regiment , which was on our left and were laying in a corn field in the worst position on the battlefield. At this time, the rebels had advanced on them to within 3 or 4 rods. They were ordered to raise and fire. I could see them plain from where we were, that is as plain as could be expected, taking the smoke and everything into consideration. They rose and fired and killed more men probably then any one volley that day, They, the Rebels, lay dead in heaps after the battle at that spot. We could not see at the time what execution they had done the smoke being so thick. The order to fire is all the orders they received so the officers and men all say, and I have no doubt that it was so. Some claim, that it is Fitch, that he gave the order to charge but I do

not believe it and being forced by a whole brigade might do something and fell back. They rallied in part a short distance from the first line. But having no field officers, the Major being killed & Colonel wounded and no colors to rally on and the men excited at this time, they got scattered. At any rate, it was the last I saw of them except a part of the regiment came up over and to the left of us. Captain Sessions I think was as brave and cool as anyone I saw that day. He was one that came up onto the hill where we were. I talked with him and asked him how things were going. He said that they had broken. He stopped and talked a few moments and passed on. I expected to see him fall every moment as they was more dangerous two or three rods in the rear of us then where we were, as they were shooting the heft of our shots over our heads as we were laying or sitting on the ground. The enemy at this time were within a few rods of us. They were advancing in column, that is several regiments were behind the other. We were ordered to fire as I understood it. Some say we were not. There was a great deal of noise. I had just told the men on the left to fire as Captain Sessions & men came up. But they saw our men and did not fire. If they had they would have killed a great many of our men and made the remark to Captain Sessions that he had come within one of being killed by our own men. We then got orders to fall back and I do not think but that every man hated to move as there was more danger in falling back then to remain where we were, that is just on the brink of a hill. That is just so we could look over and most of the shots struck a few rods behind us in the holler but the men fired and then fell back. But as for their running, they might some run, but it was but very few. I did not see anyone run. There were several fell back and kept with me. We did not hurry in the least although for the first 30 rods there was much more danger then to have remained then in our last place on the hill in line. There were some killed within a few feet of me and several wounded. Three of our boys fell wounded by my side. I told others to

help them back and assisted Nelson Rice along myself, who was shot through the leg just above the knee, to a stack of hay which was in the holler. Alas by then I tried to rally what men of the regiment I could. Succeeded in getting together a few and started to join the regiment. Heard that they were over a hill not far from us. Went over there but could not find them. You may think it strange that we could not find a regiment of men, but you must recollect that a battlefield is several miles long. The battlefield at Chaplin Hills was probably 3 or 4 miles long. So we came back up to the hollow and went up it until we saw a regiment of men laying in a field behind a fence. I asked them what they were doing, they said they were ordered there in reserve. I told what men there was with me that we would join them for the present, done so. After we had been there a short time I saw Captain Sessions above us on our right. I went up to see him. He had a few men with him and one or two lieutenants. I then went back and got all of our men and joined him. We could see the Rebel cavalry working round to our left. We formed in line of battle as soon as we could. We had some 50 to 60 men at this time, but our batteries commenced shelling. The cavalry then fell back. We then got orders to join our regiment from a lieutenant who had been sent to us. We started but failed in finding it, but then were ordered to support a battery which was on a rise of ground behind us. But instead of placing us as they should, on a line with the battery, they placed us several rods in front in a hollow which was a very dangerous place. We had no right to move I suppose, but I told Sessions we had better advance to a fence there was in front of us and done so. Remained there a few moments and then were ordered back to the left of the battery into some woods, remained there until night. But previous to this time had sent men to find our regiment. Just after dark, firing having ceased, we got word where our regiment was and proceeded to join them. We were formed into a hollow square to resist an attack should they make one during the night

and posted sentries and went to bed. In a short time we were ordered to change our position which was done at once and about 3 o'clock we were ordered up to support some batteries as they expected an attack at every moment and remained in this position a short time when we were ordered to move the cannon by hand and fall back. The reason of maneuvering them by hand was to do it with less noise and confusion. We fell back perhaps one mile, that is our brigade, consisting of the 21st Wisconsin, 1st Wisconsin, 24th Illinois & 79th Pennsylvania & 17th Kentucky under Starkweather in Rousseau's division. You spoke of what the Cincinnati papers said of us, we don't care. Only we do not want them to couple, or claim us to be in their brigade or divisions under Jackson's or Terrell or any the rest of their generals. General Rosecrans had taken Buell's place, we like the change very much here. Give my respects to Whitney & wife & family and to Mrs. Conant and in fact all of my friends in and about Fremont. I have given you a pretty good history of the battle. Those photographs we will have taken and sent as soon as convenient. You say to Whiting that I shall be very happy to receive a letter from him and will answer on receipt of the same. You are sending me paper to write on, I would say that I have plenty of paper. It is only when we are on the march that we get short of such things. Stamps I have plenty of at present. Those, when I need more, I shall have to send for. Do not forget to mention the date of my commission when you answer this. As regards Edwards, I know but very little about. I understand that he is nurse in a hospital. We shall get these men together as soon as we get to winter quarters. Crittenden we left sick at Lebanon on our way here. I do not think him dangerous. Thompson is with us, also Sherburne and Peaslee & Comley, who are not fit for duty but so as to be around camp. H. Thompson was left back sick. I will ascertain all the particulars about them and write next time. L. Pickle was left at Lebanon sick. H. Spindler is with us, but is not of much account.

You can say to the folks that their friends are as comfortable as can be expected. There is none of them in a dangerous situation. But if ever there was such a place as hell, it is some of our hospitals. The battlefield is nothing compared to them. I could pass over the battlefield and see men laying in heaps dead, but to go into some of our hospitals and see the suffering, it is awful. Some dead, some dying, some pleading for help. You need not say anything to them of this. If I was sick I should never go to a hospital, although there are exceptions. Nothing more at present.

Yours,

Hiram

One thing more, our niggers have just brought in 7 chickens so we shall live while they last. We keep two niggers & our white servant. i commenced writing this letter about 8 o'clock this morning, it is now between 10 & 11 P.M. I have been detailed since I commenced, to take charge of 50 men at the depot and have just come off duty. The Captain is reading, no one else in the tent except the chickens.

Good night.

Hiram

Camp Near Mitchelleville, Tennessee
November 20th, 1862

My dear wife & children,

I am alone this evening, Captain Paine being on picket duty, so I thought I would improve the time in writing to you. I received two letters from you today, one dated the 22nd October containing your pictures and one dated November 12th. I was very much pleased when I received the one with the likeness in it. Seemed as though I had seen you all once more after looking at them. I think they are very good. We still remain at the railroad station where we have been for some time. Our duties are rather hard as we have but few men fit for duty. We have to send out sixty men every day for brigade pickets, 18 men for Provost guard and our company for Regimental guard and other small details. They all have to be relieved every 24 hours and as we have only 335 men who have not been excused from duty by the surgeon, it comes pretty hard on the boys. I get along first rate, never was healthier in my life. I was out as officer of the brigade picket on the 18th and it rained constantly. It is very dirty when it rains. I have oil cloth suit & rubber blankets so I manage to keep myself dry & comfortable. We have pretty good times as a general thing, when on picket duty. If there is anything on we generally get the benefit of it. We have had, as a general thing, splendid weather until last week which time it has rained most of the time. William is still complaining with the rheumatics, is not fit for duty. Crittenden I have not heard from for some time. The same in regards to L. Pickle. H. Spindler is with us, does not amount to much anyhow. R. Otto is in Louisville acting as orderly at some of the convalesant barracks. There is nothing new to write about, our work & duties are nearly the same thing over & over every day. Will give you a slight sketch of the manner I have spent this day. This morning I got up about

1/2 past 7 o'clock. Eat my breakfast, after which I went and called on some of the officers. Came back to my tent and spent the balance of forenoon in reading & talking with different ones that dropped in. Eat my dinner, smoked, lay down and commenced reading, fell asleep, slept until 3 o'clock. Spent balance of day in reading and talking. Have had several calls this evening. It is 1/2 past nine, taps just sounded which means lights out in the men's tents and all quiet. Nothing more, write often, my best respects to all friends. I have just been presented with a novel which I must read tonight by candle. While I should like to see you all once more, I think this war will be settled this winter, if so, we shall soon be with you again. I do not think we shall have any more fighting to do of any account in this vicinity. I will bid you good night, kiss the babies for me.

Yours,

Hiram

October 24th/1862
Camp Near New Market, Kentucky

To my dear wife and children,
A week nearly has passed since I have written or heard anything from you. We are now encamped some six miles on a river called the Rolling Fork, at a small village near New Market. We left camp near Crab Apple last Monday morning, arrived here on the 23rd about 11 o'clock. It was after a march of 60 miles and a tireder set of fellows you never saw than us. The last day they marched us some 30 miles, but such marches I hope will be few and scattering. A person can walk 50 miles a day easier than a regiment can march 25. Or rather a man can march 25 in a regiment. I expect we shall remain where we are until Monday morning when I expect we shall get orders to go to Nashville, Tennessee. They say we have go to march some hundred & 30 miles to get there from this place. We have marched now nearly all over Kentucky and we, as well as other soldiers, are getting tired of marching and not accomplishing anything and we don't expect to do anything until Buell is removed from command. I have been in command of the company for the last few days and am of course very busy. Our captain is sick, we left him at Lebanon some six miles from here. Our Lieutenant Jenkins is Acting Adjutant. So you can see, it leaves me alone with the company. J. L. Goodnick is Acting Colonel of the 21st. I believe you used to know he as captain of Company D, 1st Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers. There is not much news here, not seen a newspaper for a month. If you can get the Sentinel for the 14th and so on up to the 30th, you will see our general's account of his brigade on the battlefield at Perryville on the 8th. The boys all feel well. Edwards is waiter in a hospital, where I do not know, but somewhere near Perryville. William is with us, is well except the rheumatics. But a

sicker man of soldiering you never saw. The rest of the Fremonters are alright. Love to all,

Yours in haste,

Hiram

Headquarters, 3rd Division
Camp near Louisville, Kentucky
September 23, 1862

My dear wife & babies,

I set myself to write you a few lines. I wrote you from Covington, Kentucky, but have received no answer. We have had great times since we left Covington. We have been very busy since we left Oshkosh. Have been on the move almost night & day. Times are very exciting here, the city is under Marshall law. Last Monday all the women and children were ordered to leave the city. We expected an attack every hour. Our company has been on picket duty from last Monday morning until last evening. Myself and Lieutenant Jenkins have slept but 6 hours since last Sunday night, we being officers of picket guard. Our captain has been sick since last Saturday, but is getting better, but is not yet able to do duty. so we have some more to do than we should have were he alright. I have been very healthy since I left Oshkosh. The army is a pretty good place to live when everything is alright. But we, that is the regiment, just have been ordered to move about twice day since we left Covington. When we first came to this city were encamped about 2 miles from the city, but are now right in the heart of the city and the square. Whatever a pair of soldiers in about this place have noticed how many men were out. Went entrenchments last evening about 6 o'clock, stayed about 3 hours and returned, a scare. But we received orders this morning to fall in about 3 o'clock. I had been to hear two hours to prepare to march in light marching orders, that is with nothing but guns and blankets. We started, now are near where expecting our field officers, but we soon found. But we were ordered into entrenchments. Lay there until morning expecting an attack every hour but did not receive any. General Buell came into town

last night and assumed command. The men are now falling in for battalion drill and I shall have to close. Give my love to all enquiring friends, & accept much for yourself and babies. I will write you again in a few days as soon as I can get time and give you a history of our proceedings since I left you. Kiss the babies for me. Your husband,

H. Russell

I have not read this over, will do better than usual.

Crab Orchard, October 17, 1862

My dear wife & children,

It is but a few days since I wrote you and gave you a slight sketch of what was going on in the Army of the Ohio. Everything has passed very smoothly since the battle of Chaplin Hills near Perryville. The advance of our army has had one or two skirmishes with Bragg, but have driven him both times. Report says that Bragg is skedaddlin and we are chasing him up. We are under orders with 5 days rations bound for Cumberland Gap. We are now about one hundred miles from Louisville and 30 miles from the mountains. Whether we shall get a show at Bragg again or not, at present can't say. I thought, as a good many others, that I had seen enough of the battlefield after the fight, but myself as well as the boys would not mind having another brush with them. They give the 1st & 21st great praise here, that is the generals. Starkweather's Brigade stands first on the list in the line of praise & Rousseau's Division. We had the hottest part of the field, our loss in killed, wounded & missing, is about two thousand. What the Rebels loss is, I am not able to state, but they must have lost 3 to our one. It is an awful sight to go over the battlefield after a battle. One can pass over dead bodies and see men fall in action, but when the excitement is all over, come to go over the battlefield and see the dead and wounded. If there is anything that will try a mans nerves is the sight you will behold on that field. I believe I mentioned in my last that our Colonel was wounded, Major was killed. Captain Bentley of the Northwestern RR Fifes was killed. 2nd Lieutenant in Company A was killed, Captain Tibs mortally wounded and one or two other officers severely wounded. If you get a copy of the Northwestern of Oshkosh, or the Courier, of what date I can't say, but a list has been sent there of the full particulars. M. C. Thompson has joined the regiment again, his wound was slight. H. Spindler, C. Edwards, R. Otto, L. Pickle were not in the fight but left back a little unwell. Have not heard from them since we left them. I had

our company clerk write to Mrs. Showers & Loren Dudley's wife and sign the Captains name. I am sitting flat on the ground writing on my knee which is the only table we have. I will give you bill of fare of our breakfast this morning. First, commencing back a little farther, my nigger, which by the way we have each of us one, came up to me this morning before I was up and says, "Master, breakfast is ready". I say to him, "Sam, what you got for breakfast, hard bread & coffee"? "No, we have got fresh pork & goose & company to help eat it". So I got up and we had company sure enough, Captain Walker, Quartermaster Hamilton and Captain Sessions. We had crackers, cheese, coffee, hard bread, goose & pig. I asked the niggers where they got them. Said they bought them last night about dark and had them charged to master. So you see, our credit is pretty good among the planters in this section. I saw John Peaslee this day. You can tell his wife that he is well and seems to like soldiering very much. If you see T. J. Strong's folks, give my respects to them and tell George I will write him as soon as I get a letter. Give my kindest regards to all friends in Fremont. As soon as we go into winter quarters, I will give you a history of all the country we have passed through. With much love to all, I remain yours,

Hiram

Direct to:

H.Russell, 1st Lieutenant
Company B, 21st Regiment
Wisconsin Volunteers
Army Of The Ohio
Rousseau's Division, 28th Brigade

Army of Kentucky, September 12

My dear wife and children,

I received your letter yesterday and am glad to hear that you were all well or rather all but Clara and hers not anything serious. We are now encamped on the south side of the Ohio River, a few rods from city of Louisville. You stated that you had not received any letters from me. I have written two from Covington and one from Louisville, the first directed to Oshkosh the next to Fremont. I wish you would enclose Lyman's letter to me, I shall write him as soon as I get time. I have been very busy since we left Oshkosh. I think we shall be ordered south soon, can't tell. I find a man don't know nothing, when an order comes we execute it and wait for further orders. We have been called up several times in the night and thrown into entrenchments expecting a fight but we have not seen anything of the enemy. We have just been assigned to a new brigade, General Rousseau's 8th Brigade, Three Division. I have not seen him but they say he is a tough customer so I expect he will put us through. I want you to send me one of my photographs and yours and the babies. Would like very much to have Georges and Inas, but as you have not got the time, will let them go for the present but would like to have you send one of mine & yours & babies. Send Lyman one and one to Connecticut. You spoke of the oxen, you can do as you think best. You can sell them for low figures for money, or at a higher figures and on time with good security. In fact, you can do as you choose. I think in the course of a month or so you will receive $80 from the state. You can do as you think best in all these matters. I must close, as we received orders to go out on picket duty. Write often, do not mail for now. Give my best respects to all friends, with much love to yourself & babies, I remain yours,

Husband

Hiram

Monday 29th, 1862 September

My dear wife,

I had just finished a letter to you as I received yours of the 24th. I had about given up receiving any letters from home. You say something about sending babies likeness. I received yours today, and was highly pleased to get it. But I do not think it is a good one. There is a twist to the mouth that spoils the likeness. I would like one of mine as I wrote in the first letter. But if you have not got but two left, I was going to say perhaps you had better send me one of them and I will have more taken the first chance I get and send you some of them. I think $83.00 for the oxen and sleds is pretty low to sell on time. I think I should rather take a little less and get cash down. If you sell to Hines I would make the writings pretty skinny. I do not think much of a mortgage on his place. Say take a (illegible) on the cattle, or perhaps you could get him to get J. Benderof & Company to sign a note with him and let them have the mortgage, or you can do as you think best, I have nothing to say. If it comes convenient for you to, get your likeness taken again. This is very good, except this mouth. But I am a thousand times obliged for this, but would like one as good as the original. I would write more if I had time.

Yours in haste,

Hiram

Friday, October 10, 1862

My dear wife & children,
I thought I would drop you a line and let you know how I am getting on. We have had a big battle, it was on the 8th. Our regiment did nobly. I was not with the regiment. Our company & Company C were sent out a skirmishing. When we got within about 3 miles of the battle field, the battle commenced. In the morning we, that is Godfrey's company and ours, got to the field about one o'clock. They sent couriers out for us and went in on double quick. Marched into the field under a heavy fire. Was not able to join our regiment, but formed onto the left of 1st Wisconsin. There were a good many of our boys killed and wounded. There was only two of our company killed, that we know that were positively killed, they were Elija B. Showers & Loren Dudley. They may be more killed, there were a good many wounded. M.C. Thompson was wounded but not dangerous. Spindler & Edwards & Otto were left back sick. Our regiment went into the field 900 upwards strong, we count next morning 396 men, but I think there are a good many straggly & prisoners. Lieutenant Crawford is a prisoner, was taken after the battle. They say he was a little scarry, but I do not know much about it as I was not with him. But here is one thing certain, I have seen enough of war. One can form no idea. We went in under heavy fire and the boys done nobly & stood up to the rock. We were ordered to fall back on the left wing which we, or rather our company & Godfrey's did very well. We were in the hottest of the battle. I escaped without a scratch. Also Captain Paine & Jenkins, Captain Godfrey & Wall are alright. Godfrey's lieutenant was killed. The rebels admit that they had about 3 times as many men as we had. They held the battle field that night, but when our batteries opened on them the next morning, they did not return the fire but fell back during the night to Harrodsburg about 10

miles. Report says that one of our divisions fought them yesterday. How we came out don't know, but report says heavy loss on both sides. They admit to have lost in killed in the fight with our division on the 8th, 2500 men, their wounded was large. I have not been able to ascertain what our loss is, but it must be heavy. The only thing I can compare a battle, that is the flying of bullets to, is a good stiff hail storm. It was a perfect hum of a shell, canon ball & grape & canister & musketry. I never expected to come off the field without either being killed or wounded. Shells burst and balls passing & striking all around me. There were several fell by my side, but I escaped without a scratch. But the hardest sight of all was to see the dead & wounded. Bill Sherburne was in the fight, he was not hurt. The Rebs were commanded by Bragg, Breckenridge, Hardee & others. Our forces were commanded by McCook, Rousseau, Starkweather and others. I haven't time to write anymore, so goodbye.

Yours,

Hiram

Send me some papers in regards to, that is papers containing account of this & other battles. The battle on the 8th which we were engaged in is called Chaplin Heights. [1]

[1] Notation at top of letter: Bragg, Breaching, Cheatam & Hardee & Buckner, 80 Indiana

Camp Near New Market
October 26th, 1862

I wrote you on the 24th but having plenty of spare time this afternoon thought I would drop you a line. We are, as I stated before, some 6 miles from Lebanon. I went up yesterday to Lebanon to see Captain Paine, found him rather unwell but nothing dangerous. We had a very severe storm here yesterday and last night it snowed & rained. This morning the ground was white. Old soldiers say it was a sever a storm as they had in Kentucky last winter. It looks very gloomy in and about camp today. We have no tents yet, have to sleep in the open air on the ground. It comes pretty tough on the boys. I went to a house and slept last night, paid 4 pennies for sleeping on the floor. We are getting along as well as can be expected, are in hopes to have our tents soon. There is one thing I would like to have taken place, that is to have the army vote on the nigger question. I don't think there is a man in our regiment if he had the power to free every slave south to north, so that would do it. But would vote to have them remain as they are. The nigger question has played out in the army. William is with us and is as well as usual. Charles Edwards is well and they all get their letters regularly as can be expected. How do you get along? Do you have money sufficient to make you comfortable? You need not get any pictures or anything else to send me, although I would like very much to have them. You must, before long, get the $80 allotted to you. I don't expect we shall get our pay under 3 or 4 months, may soon. I shall write to Emma in a few days. I received your letter with her's yesterday. Give my respects to Whitney & wife. Tell Whitney to write me.

Yours in haste,

Hiram

Camp, 4 Miles South
Of Bowling Green
November 9th, 1862

My dear wife & children,
It is nearly two weeks since I have written owing to the want of time. The captain & myself have had a good deal to do of late in the way of marching and drilling and making out papers, as we have moved some 8 miles today, Sunday. We are on our way to Nashville, Tennessee. We march at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning. I received your letters regularly I think, except one, that is the one with the photographs in. We have just sent in our muster roles for pay. How soon we shall get it can't say, but hope to soon. I am in hope you will get your money before long. You spoke of those I owe in Fremont. I do not know that I owe anyone but J. Benderof. They have my note for some $14 & odd cents. Perhaps owe them more or a little can't say. But do not let those things bother you, I will settle this when convenient as soon as I get time. I will write you a letter with all particulars and answer all questions. Have no more time to write this time. A. S. Crittenden we leave sick at hospital Bowling Green, nothing dangerous. I think we shall leave William, he is not sick, but lame with rheumatics. C. Edwards is detailed at Perryville as nurse. M. C. Thompson is with us, Lancelette Pickle we left at Lebanon sick with a cold, nothing dangerous. Nothing more at present.

Yours in haste,

Hiram

Mitchellville, Tennessee
November 25, 1862

My dear wife Maria & children,

Thought I would drop you a few lines and let you know I was prospering. We still remain at our camp where we have been for some time and having a very pleasant time of it. My health is unusually good, am growing fat every day. Soldiering agrees with me well. Yours of the 18th was duly received and glad were I to hear from you once more, but were very sorry to hear that the children were so unwell, but hope to hear that they are better in your next. I understand that some of the allotments have been received in Oshkosh. Have you received your's yet? If so, please inform me and would like to have you send me $10 and some stamps. We shall probably not get any pay until January, if you send, send a greenback. They are going to fill a box for Company B in Oshkosh to be sent on about Christmas. I have written Cylum Lane to get me a few things and send me if he is at home and gets this letter. I think he will do it. I sent to him to have him get me a tin can that would hold 6 lb of butter and send also some canned preserves, a couple of boxes, a little cream tarter. And I told him to buy me a leather valise if he would pack it full and send. And if you have any little things to send and know that he is in Oshkosh, I think if you sent the same by stage to him he would see that it came. The box will be filled at Captain Jenkins. And if you should wish to send anything, or Mrs. Thompson or Spindlers, or any of the boys friends in that vicinity, they can do so by sending the same to Captain Jenkins at Oshkosh by mail, as you have no other way at present. Boats must have stopped running by this. William is ailing yet, I don't know hardly what is the matter with him, nothing dangerous I think. Thompson & Spindler are with us alright. Harvey Thompson I think you enquired about in one of your letters. He

was left on the road sick but is about well again, Think he will join us soon. Perhaps you had better send to Captain Jenkins anything you have to send, unless you know for certain that Cylum is in Oshkosh. My best respects to all friends, much love to yourself and children.

Yours,

Hiram

I received your likenesses alright.

Taylorsville. 4th, cloudy, rainy, marched 6 miles, camp near Bloomfield. 5; pleasant, in camp all day. 6th; warm, marched to Chalain Creek. 7; marched to Maxville. 8th, hot, marched 12 miles into Battle of Perryville. Company B & C thrown out as skirmishers on the road. 9th; rest after battle. 10th; marched to vicinity of Harrodsburg, 8 miles. 13; cloudy, marched to vicinity of Danville. 15; started at 3 a.m. marched to Crab Orchard. 16; hot, moved camp one mile. 17; rested. 18; remained in camp, drank whiskey & quinine. 20th; started for Lebanon, marched 18 miles camped 3 p.m.. 21st; marched to Rolling Fork 16 miles. 22nd; marched 7 miles past Lebanon, camped at 10 o'clock p.m. 26 miles. 23; rested. 24; snow storm, no tents. 28th; received tents, knapsacks. Brigade witnessed flag presentation to 24th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, by General Rousseau. 29th; marched at 6 a.m. 21 miles with knapsacks, almost killed the men, 30; pleasant, marched 3 miles as wagon guard. 31st; marched 30 miles, camped at Beaver Creek. November 1st; pleasant, marched 5 miles past Glasgow. 2nd; marched 20 miles to the Barren River, 6 miles from Bowling Green. 3rd; rested nearly all day, forded the river at night, marched 1 1/2 miles. 5th; were reviewed by General Rosecrans & Rousseau. 7th; cloudy, snowed a little, general review near Bowling Green by General Rosecrans. 9th; marched 8 miles towards Nashville. Sunday 10th; marched 21 miles, camped on creek 2 miles east of Franklin. 11th; marched 5 miles, crossed 1 1/2 miles into Tennessee. 12; to Mitchellville Station, 1 1/2 miles. Have been at this point doing guard duty et cetera, until present time. Picketing has been most of our business. Write often and all the particulars no matter how small. My kindest regards to all friends, I remain yours and kiss the babies for me.

Hiram

P. S. Direct your letters as follows:

Lieutenant Hiram Russell
Company B, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers
3rd Division, 28th Brigade
Army Of The Cumberland
Via Louisville, Kentucky

Thompson, Sherburne, Spindler are with us and well.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
February 20th, 1863

Yours of February 8th, I received yesterday and was very much pleased to hear that you were all getting along so well. Our paymasters are here, have paid the men but not the officers yet. Expect to be paid today for four months which will leave an allotment of $160. But it will probably be some month or six weeks before you, or anyone who has an allotment to draw, will be able to get the same. As it will be some time before the paymaster will get back to Louisville to make up new accounts, so as to send amounts to the treasurer at Hastings of Wisconsin. I received a letter, or rather one came for William from his folks and I opened it. I see by that, you have not yet heard of his death. I wrote you this particularly in my last. But once he died in Hospital No. 14, Nashville, Tennessee, of pneumonia, was buried in the city cemetery. His things were all burnt at the burning of our wagons, so he only had left what he had on his back. He died February 2nd. He was well as usual the last time I saw him which was I think December 29th. Had been for some time complaining of the rheumatics, but was looking and said he felt well as ever aside from his lameness. His effects I can have sent home if so desired. He had a pair of pants, blouse, pair drawers. I do not think they were worth anything having been worn for a long time. You ask me what prospects I have of coming home, I have this; I have tendered my resignation and if I can get the same accepted, I shall come home. How long it will be, can't say, as it takes some time to get such things through. Perhaps it will not be accepted, but think it will as I have the surgeons certificate. It is now over three weeks since I sent it in, have not heard from it yet. First time I have done any duty to speak of since the battle. Although able to be around since that amount of time. You asked me if I received the papers you send, would say that

I have never received any. What the reason is can't say, as others receive papers, although not regularly. But occasionally we can get daily papers now, Louisville and Nashville. You can say to Mrs. Pickle that Lancellette is with the regiment again and looks as well as I ever saw him. Has been to see his father today. You say that Thompson writes that I am homesick. That is out of my life, although I would like to be home. The army is a poor place for anyone to get homesick if there is any life in them, as there is always something going on which is more or less exciting. Those photographs you speak of we cannot get here I don't think, will see and if I can get them will do so. My best respects to all friends. Love to yourself and babies,

Hiram

P.S. Georgey and Ina, Pa is very much obliged to them for their letters and wants them to write every time.

A kiss to all,

H.

February 22nd
Camp, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin
Volunteers, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

To my dear wife & babies,

I wrote you a letter and mailed today, stating regard to the allotment that it would be some time before you would receive it. But we have today made arrangements with the paymaster to have it sent immediately to the treasurer where it will soon be distributed. They pay only 3 months allotment instead of four months which makes it one hundred and twenty that you will receive in place of one hundred sixty. You undoubtedly understand the mode you have to take and adopt to get the money so I will not say anything about it. We were paid for 4 1/2 months this morning. I would also state that the regiment has sent in their monthly reports and the families will be able to draw the five dollars from the state soon. Whitney I would not go a cent on him or he would have written me. My best regards to all friends, much love to yourself and babies.

Hiram

Camp, 21st Regiment
Wisconsin Volunteers
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

To my dear wife and babies,

Yours of February 14th was duly received and in answer to your questions would say first, in regard to William, as to whether he left any word or message for Mary or anyone else, I can't say and do not think it could be ascertained. As there are so many dying all the time that unless there is a William Mckay left, would not receive it. Then it would be a mere chance when a member of our company dies at hospital we receive official notice of it. And that is about all we can learn in regard to the matter. In regard to A. S. Crittenden, as I have several times written, we left him at Bowling Green, Kentucky and have not heard anything from him since that time. Then a man came up from there and reported him better. I think if his friends will write him at Bowling Green and direct to Aretus S. Crittenden, Bowling Green Hospital and not put anything else on the letter, he will get it. He can't be dead or we should have received official notice of it. Merrill C, Thompson is quite unwell at present but nothing very serious. H. Spindler is well and hearty and appears to like soldiering much better than he did at first. L. Pickle is with us again and is looking well. We hear that Harvey Thompson is dead by way of letters from his. But have had no official notice of his death. Otto is alright. Edward is still at Perryville. A letter came to the regiment for him today. If his friends want him to get their letters they must not put on; Company B, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, nor in care of Captain Paine, but direct as follows; Charles S. Edwards, Hospital Perryville, Royal County, Kentucky, care Doctor Peck. Anything that has 21st Regiment on is sure to come direct to the regiment. I have devoted this sheet principally to answering questions. You spoke of William's pay, I do not know how they do proceed to get

pay in such cases. She will have to get counsel from someone who makes it their business to collect soldiers pay that have been killed or died. There will be pay due him from the 14th of September to February 2nd. We will send a certificate to G. C. Harrison stating that he was a member of Captain Paine's company when enlisted, et cetera. There must be some gross blunder at Madison or his name would appear on the roll. Tell Mary to have someone write to Madison making the necessary inquiries. We shall send the certificate however. As regards myself, I am coming home if I can get out of this institution. Whether I can get my papers though or not, can't say, shall probably know in a few days. I hope they will pass, but if they do not, I shall submit very quietly and wait for further events to turn up. Captains Paine, Godfrey, Sessions, Malkes and White, sent in their resignations but were returned not accepted. Mine may be the same. Captain Godfrey sent in his the same time, was accepted and has gone home. I wrote you in my last letter that there was 3 months allotment sent, or rather would be sent to the treasurer. Was subject to your order. How long it will be before you can draw it, can't say, but think not long. There is no news in camp, only it is raining about as hard as it can pour down. Give my regards to your father and mother, also to Whitney and wife. Tell Mrs. M. that I want her to have her supper all cooked ready to eat when I get there. Tell Whitney to write me also. When you write give me all the news. Tell Georgey and Ina am much obliged for their letters and to write Pa every time that you write. You say you send the papers, I do not receive them, therefore think you had not best send anymore. In regards to the pictures, I think you had better not send them just yet. But should I not succeed in coming home, would like very much to have you send them. I do not think we shall leave here for a month yet.

A kiss to all.

Oshkosh, 28 February, 1863

Dear cousin Maria,

Your letter was received directly after Mr. Hay had left for Murfreesboro and therefore, I decided to defer writing to you until after his return. He was absent much longer then we anticipated owing to the delays incident to traveling in an enemy country. Besides, the boys pressed him to remain longer and he stayed with nearly a week. I should judge from all reports as well as his own, that they were pleased or rather overjoyed, to see him and the boxes. I was a little disappointed that Hiram did not write a word by him, as I wrote him a long letter. Mr. Hay, I believe, delivered our bundles to him. We sent him two pairs socks, two pair grey knit woolen drawers and two fine flannel shirts, which we made ourselves. That was our special and private donation to Hiram and we gave and aided in every possible way, in getting up the general supplies. The ladies made for general distribution between 70 & 80 shirts of grey flannel all of nice material and well made. The boys thought they had a home look. May God bless them and keep near them in the in the day of battle and all our armies, until the last traitor is doomed. I was pained to learn, by Mr. Hay, that your brother William had fallen victim to the wickedness of the Rebels, as much as if he had died on the field of battle. Extend my sympathies to your parents, also to his wife, who though a stranger to me, has become a widow in the cause of our common country. May the everlasting arms of our savior be round about her and support her to the end. I know the desolateness of her heart can only be felt or experienced. We can not realize it who have not passed through a similar affliction. Did he leave children? I think so. Mr. Sawyer received a line from Hiram yesterday. Well he. Paymaster with them and expecting the 21st Regiment would be paid for four months in a day or two. Mr. Hay understood "H" to say that he had tendered his resignation on account of being unfit to endure the long and forced marches, but said nothing of it in his letter to Mr.

Sawyer. Perhaps it was not accepted or that he has withdrawn his resignation. You probably are better posted than I am. The captains of the regiment I believe all tendered their resignations, but only one was accepted and his, because he had been of no use to the army. Hence his right date from the day he was sworn into service. A good joke I think upon an inefficient officer. Were this established as a general rule, I think our army would be improved. We received a very friendly letter from our former pastor Reverend Mr. Marble, Chaplain, 20th Regiment, dated Fayetteville, Arkansas. They have suffered from sickness, battles and unprinciples of officers. How do you and your little ones get along without "father"? If they are a great care, recollect they are also a great comfort. Does Georgie attend school? I hope they may keep well as there is and has been, much sickness in the vicinity among children. Diphtheria, scarlet fever and similar diseases. The first symptom of diphtheria a sore throat. You should not fail to apply salt pork or spirits turpentine outwardly and warm salt and water as a gargle. You are so remote I suppose from a doctor that it is well to be able to treat the first symptoms of those sudden and fatal diseases so common to children. Please accept this advice gratis. I was thinking of the children and nearly forgot grandmama. Whole families have been swept away in Markesan and vicinity. James Mitland lost both of their children recently. I have not heard directly in some time from our common friends. Still if there was anything special I should be likely to hear it as we have a cousin of Mrs. Jewells here spending the winter with Mary and she received letters every week from home which is in Salisbury. I wish I had some good news to write you but there is none that I know of. We are all well and all yours in love to you & children.

Your affectionate cousin,

M. A. Jewell

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
March 13, 1863

Yours of March 1st came to hand yesterday and was very glad to hear from you all once more and hear that you were getting along so well. I am sitting in my tent this morning and am very comfortable, am feeling first rate. Our regiment was out on a reconnoitering expedition, have been out some 4 days, will probably remain 4 days longer. May have a fight before they get back. The captain is with me in camp and some 20 men of our company who were not able to stand the march. I wrote you a few days since and enclosed $10.00 which you will probably receive in a day or two. If you have not err this, I sent Sawyer $150.00 yesterday which will pay my debts in Oshkosh. I have not received my papers yet but think I shall get them soon, but can't tell, this military is a big thing. I shall start new ones tomorrow if I don't hear from them today. I think they have been lost. I enjoy myself very well, we have some good times which is the most we are looking for in the army. A good time is the main thing here. I shall try and get home some time this month if it is a possible thing to do so. But there is nothing certain, you must not look for or expect me until I write I am coming or come. How does the Conscript Act take up in Wisconsin? You don't say anything about it in your last letter. Write often, I began to think you had stopped writing thinking I was coming home. Write often, give my kindest regards to all friends, to Delia in particular and tell her that I want her to get well and all right by the the time I get to Wisconsin. With a kiss for the and babies and much love to yourself, I remain yours,

Hiram

P. S. I enclose Secesh postage stamps.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, March 20th/63
Camp, 21st regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer
Infantry

To my dear wife & babies,

I have written one letter today consequently haven't much to write. But as I am alone in my tent and it being about 9 o'clock and not feeling sleepy, thought I would write a few lines more. I have just had a call from Captain Walker and he was showing me some flowers he had gathered this afternoon. Among the rest are some peach buds and blossoms. I will send them to you in this letter. We have quite a talk tonight as to what we would do if such a thing should happen as this regiment going back to Wisconsin. Came to the conclusion that we would go in for a good time generally. Don't look for any such good luck. But there is one thing I am going to try for if I do not get my papers, that is to get a captains commission in the drafted regiments and if I fail in that, I am going to stay here. Don't you think that is a very good conclusion to come to? News came to camp about two hours ago that the Rebs had got one of our brigades surrounded and that was the reason of our division being ordered out. Rumor says they are out some 14 miles. It may be only a rumor, but if such is the case our troops must of got to them by this time and they will probably skeddadle. We are some expecting the Rebs will attack us here. Are in hopes if we have got to fight them again that they will, as this is well fortified and there is a heap of difference between fighting in fortifications and on our own ground than in attacking them on ground of their own choosing, which has always been the case. Report says that the enemy have attacked the railroad or rather the train between Nashville and Louisville, captured it and taken the passengers prisoners and tore up the track for several miles. Our troops are falling back on to this place

from the front which looks as though we might have a fight but I don't hardly think they dare do it as they must know they would stand a poor show. I have nothing more to say in regard to war, I like it, still I don't like it. I don't want anything said in regard to my trying to get a position in a drafted regiment. If I do not succeed in my plans, I shall want you to send me your's and the children's pictures. I would like to have Al's address and I will write him. If you see George, give my respects to him and tell him to write me. Also Whitney, tell him I would like to have him answer my letter. I think that George, if you want him to, will collect what Benjamin Brickley owes for you if you ask him to do so some time this spring. You will of course do as you like if you rather not say anything to him about it let it go. It does not amount to much perhaps you had better let it stand until I get home. It is getting late and I will close. Love to all.

Yours,
Hiram

Nine o'clock A. M.

Saturday morning, March 21st. The enemy drove in our pickets and cannonading has been going on in front of us since daylight but has ceased. What it will amount to can't say, but think nothing serious. We also heard firing in direction of our brigade early this morning. Everything in camp is quiet.

Hiram

Picket Post, Two Miles From
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 1st, 1863

I just received a letter from you dated March 13. My servant just brought and delivered the same to me and I was very much pleased to get it. This morning I was detailed with 4 other officers from our regiment to go on ground guard. I am on the extreme left of our division. There are fifty men on the post with me, 3 outposts about 50 yards in front, 2 men on a post. I am sitting on my blankets writing on my haversack. By the way, not a very nice thing to write as I have nearly 24 hours rations in it. I will tell you what is in. First, 2 slices of cooked ham, 4 biscuits, 2 pieces of cake, peaches, some sugar and tea and a bottle of (mountain dew) which is a very good thing to have. The men are laying around me in all directions, some reading, some writing and fixing shelters to break off the wind tonight. All busy doing something. Captain Turner, of Appleton, who is stationed on my right about 200 yards, I see is coming to see me. You don't know him, but by way of introduction, he is a correspondent of Kit White and a tip top fellow. The captain has just left for his post and I will finish my letter. He stayed about 1/2 hour. We are in a small grove of peach & apple trees, both are in bloom, will put in a bud of each kind. You write me that Mary has smote on me, as well as yourself, for getting William off to war. Am very sorry she is so foolish, but will have to let her slide. Tell Mrs. Whiting for me that I will help eat her sugar next spring. I like such soldiering as we are doing at the present, feel well and have lots of fun. I must tell you of a little joke. Our quartermaster came on me this morning, it being the first day of April. I was passing his tent, saw one other officer in the tent with him which he had just fooled as he did me. He beckoned me to come in, which I did and he very politely handed

me a bottle of planter's bitters stating at the same time wished he had something better. It not occurring to me just then, that it was the 1st day of April and not having been at breakfast, very cordially received the bottle, stating that I thought bitters very good thing to take before breakfast in morning, placed it to my lips and took a swallow. Handed it back pronouncing it very good and they as a matter of course shouted and laughed. The contents was water colored with red ink. I said, all right, sat down to see the next victim of which there were quite a good many. The weather is beautiful, warm and pleasant. I wrote you yesterday and sent by Fulton so have not much news. Captain Sessions started for home yesterday having resigned, said he would call and see you. Tell Delia that I would much prefer to have her write than to wait to have her tell me the news. I have said in this that I would send some peach buds and apple and also had some cotton buds which I picked the same day. But shall not send any as I will make the letter too bulky.

Murfreesboro, April 5th

To my dear wife & babies,

I received a letter from you on the 1st, was on picket at the time and commenced to answer the same. Wrote one sheet with lead pencil with the intention of finishing the same the next day after I got back to camp. But have been very busy since and have not had much time for writing letters. They are putting us through on drill just now and we do not get much time as we are making out our returns and payrolls. We expect the paymaster this week and we shall be about as glad to see him as we was before, as we are nearly strapped again. It is Sunday evening, a beautiful evening and has been a glorious day. The captain is writing at the same table. Today we have had inspection as is usual every Sunday morning and in addition a sermon at two o'clock by our Chaplin, which is something unusual. After which we had dress parade, five o'clock, which was the days program. Yesterday, I visited the greater part of this army especially the fortifications. They are a big thing. I never saw anything like them before. They are said to be the strongest in the world except at one place in Russia. Myself, in company with several officers, started at 8 o'clock in the morning and rode till five in the afternoon. Never got off our horses except to get our dinner which was in the First Battalion with a friend of ours, Doctor Fuller of Appleton. Delia knows him I presume. He was detailed from our regiment. We did not visit near all the brigades and rode hard all day so you can judge we have a few troops in this vicinity. But today I am very lame and sore, hardly able to get around from the effects of hard riding. Do not know what I should do if we should be called on to make march, to make recon noise, but guess such will not be the case. Although there is some rumors that this division is to be sent out. I sent to Duncan & Levy by Fulton for a suit of clothes and also wrote to F. J. George to have him pay him the balance of what I owe them and to have, or rather that you would pay him the same when you got your allotment money. It is a trifle over $10.00. You should of received the same by this letter but still you may not of done so, but you must soon.

Everything is quiet at present here. Some think we are going to have a fight here but I don't think they dare to attack us at this place. I should like very much to drop in and spend a few days with you, but am afraid this war will have to dry up first. Would try to get a leave of absence for 15 days after payday if I thought there was any show. But there are so many trying and failing every day, that it would be of no use to try. Will see what the sight is after payday. I have finished one sheet and haven't said all I want to yet. You say you expect to draw a carriage in your lottery speculation. A very nice thing to have, but the query is with me, what you will hitch to it when you want to take a ride. Your father's old oxen I expect, ha ha! I would like to be there to enjoy the first ride with you. Oxen or horses, should not be very particular, so I was with you. Thompson is very poorly at present, think he will get his discharge before long if he does not get better. Henry Spindler is with us and well but a little homesick. Rudolph is alright. Crittenden we do not know anything about, but suppose he was taken when on his way to join his regiment. Our regiment is very small. You wish me to send you a list of our company what have died and been discharged. Will do so the next time I write. We have in all some 66 men left out of 98 present & absent, about 24 for duty, balance sick, prisoners, et cetera. Give my best respects to your father & mother, also Delia and all the rest of my friends, especially Mrs. Whiting & Mrs. Conant & Molly. I would like to have you send me your pictures and the children's. Kiss them all for me and tell them Pa thinks of them every day. Send me H. C.'s address, as I should like to write him. With much love to my dear wife and babies, I remain,

Yours truly,

Hiram

I wrote to have you send me some stamps which you need not do as I can get plenty here.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
April 12th/63
Camp, 21st Regiment
Wisconsin Volunteers

To my dear wife and babies,
It is Sunday afternoon and the call has just sounded for regimental services. But instead of attending myself, thought I could pass the time more pleasantly in answering your letter dated March 4th, which I received about an hour since. Should of been dated April 4th I presume, as I see it was mailed April 5th. It was just as welcome as though the date was right. Enclosed was one from Emma and Alvah and was very glad to hear from them. I am somewhat surprised to hear that you do not get your allotment, think you must soon. You say you would prefer to have me draw it and send the same to you. I can't do it. No one can change, or has the power to change it but yourself. I think it will be alright and you will get it soon without failure. It is not very safe to send money from here at present on account of the Rebs who are attacking our trains most every day somewhere on the road from this place to Louisville. I will try and send you some when we get paid again, which will be soon I hope. We have been expecting it for some days, I think we shall get it this week without doubt. You say Mary is taking on dreadfully about my persuading William to enlist. I swayed him as a matter of course, but still I told him to do as he thought best. We are all very sorry that she has had the misfortune to lose him and regret his death very much, but I don't consider anyone is to blame for his volunteering. It is undoubtedly a very hard blow for her to bear, but we all had, or have to, take our chances. When I volunteered I took all these things into consideration, that is the chances of being killed in battle and sickness. I have been very sick since I came into this

service, say from the 4th of December to the 24th and for a week or two after the Battle of Stone River, but am alright now. Never enjoyed better health than at the present time. As far as I am myself concerned, I have a clear conscience on the subject and if I were placed in this same situation again, presume I should do the same again. We are having beautiful weather here at present and everything is very quiet except a once and a while a little clash. Last night about 9 or 10 o'clock we heard firing from the pickets but haven't heard the particulars, nothing serious I guess. You say you are anxious to get to living by yourself. Should think that Mrs. Thompson might get a house to live in or rather move into and would do so if you requested her to. We could pack up our house, traps and all and move in fifteen minutes. Do not expect you are quite as "smart", or rather haven't had the experience. I think were I in your situation I should insist in having the house immediately and if you get your money in time, would have it fixed up so that it would be comfortable. I do not expect to get home right off. Are having a pretty good time just now as we have fixed up our camp in very fine order and decorated it with small cedar trees and it looks very gay and festive. Tell Whitney I won't give a cent on him if he does not write me. My respects to him and wife. The prospect is that we shall remain here the greater part of the summer. Our camp is about half mile east of the city, which was a very nice place once, but looks rather hard just now. There are no fences left in this vicinity, having all been burnt for wood for miles each way. You say you have been without butter for some time because you could not get it for love nor money. I think if you would offer the price we have to pay you could get it. I bought some the other day, paid $.75 per pound. Should think some of your German friends could supply you , say Hann & Forch & Rifeling at a fair rate. Thompson is gotten poorly, I do not know what to think of him. The doctors say there is nothing particularly the matter of him. He is looking

badly. Lancelette is well and in fine spirits and also similar, John Pickle. You can say to Mrs. P. if you choose. Otto is alright, so is Spindler. My kindest regards to your father & mother & Delise. With much love to yourself and babies. Tell Georgy & Ina that Pa wants them to send for him, pictures. Kiss them all for me and write often.

Yours,

Hiram

P.S. Love to Mollie et al.

Captain C. N. Paine		Now Acting Lieutenant Colonel, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers.
1st Lieutenant Hiram Russell		
2nd Lieutenant J. H. Jenkins		Promoted to Adjutant February 4th, 1863.
Orderly Sergeant James E. Stuart		Promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in Company B, February 4th, 1863.
Sergeant	Franklin Bourne	Discharged March 13th, 1863.
"	William H. Jordan	Discharged February 13th, 1863.
"	Thomas E. Hayter	Promoted to Orderly Sergeant vice, Stuart promoted.
"	Edgar Vredenburg	Now with the company.
Corporal	Amos Avery	Now with the company.
"	William G. Sherburne	Died at Nashville, Tennessee, February 2nd/63.
"	Noble A. Blinn	Died at Bowling Green, Kentucky, November 12th/62.
"	Theodore L. Barnes	Discharged December 20th, 1862.
"	Merrill C. Thompson	Discharged May 15th, 1863.
"	George S. Bourne	Reduced to the ranks at his own request. Accepted a clerk-ship at brigade headquarters January 18th, 1863.
"	Frank E. Wickwire	Taken prisoner, now at Camp Chase.
"	Alexander Peterson	Sent to convalescence barracks sick, May/63.

Musician	Rufus Benedict	Now with the company.
"	Manford Benedict	Now with the company.
Teamster	Robert Kellett	Discharged January 10th, 1863.
Private	Avery Benjamin G.	Now on detached service at brigade headquarters.
"	Angel Melville	On detached service at division headquarters.
Private	Alden Charles F. O.	Died at Louisville, Kentucky, November 10th, 1862.
"	Brockway John C.	Taken prisoner December 30th/63, now at base camp.
"	Barrett John W.	Died at Nashville, Tennessee, February 12th, 1863.
"	Baker Jay	Absent without leave.
"	Brown Oscar A.	Now with company.
"	Brown Edgar	Absent, sick since October 28th/62, at Louisville.
"	Clark James	Sent to convalescence barracks sick, May, 1863.
"	Champion Samual	With company.
"	Crittenden Aretas S.	Left at Bowling Green sick, November 1st/62. Supposed to be dead.
"	Cain Edmund	Transferred to marine service.
"	Carpenter Joseph D.	Sent to convalescence barracks, May, 1863.
"	Comley John	Died at Murfreesboro, March 23rd, 1863.
"	Clausen Andrew	Sent to Louisville sick, October 28th, 1862.

Private	Dudley Loren	Killed at Battle Of Perryville, October 8th/62.
"	Dorian Edward	With Company, promoted to corporal.
"	Dunn Alvin	Died at Louisville, Kentucky, October 29th, 1862.
"	Edwards Charles S.	Absent without leave.
"	Estey Amos E.	With company.
"	Ferrell Michael	Discharged at Louisville, October 21st/62.
"	Grignon Andrew	Taken prisoner December 30th/62, now at base camp.
"	Genard John H.	With company.
"	Hain Edward	Died at Bowling Green, Kentucky, November 22nd, 1862.
"	Hoffman Henry	Wounded at Perryville & discharged January 30th/63.
"	Hill Christopher	With company.
"	Heuston Jackson	Discharged April 11th, 1863.
"	Higgins Samual	With company.
"	Hyatt Oliver C.	Discharged January 15th, 1863.
"	Jordan John A.	With company. Promoted to corporal for volunteering to carry the stars & stripes at the battle on Jefferson Pike, fought December 30th, 1862. Promoted to sergeant, January 1863.
"	Jackman Munroe W.	With company.
"	Jones Hiram	Discharged November 24th, 1862.

Private	Jones Francis	With company. Promoted to corporal January/63.
"	Jones Washington	Discharged November 24th, 1862.
"	Jones Augustus	Discharged March, 1863.
"	Kellett John B.	With company. Promoted to corporal January/63.
"	Knofsker Reuben M.	Died at Louisville, November 11th, 1862.
"	Litner Leopold	Sent to Nashville Hospital sick, May, 1863.
"	Lowe William	Discharged December 12th, 1862.
"	Moon Francis	Wounded at Perryville, October 8th/62, now at Louisville.
"	Morton George O.	Discharged December 12th, 1862.
"	Moscrip Daniel H.	With company. Promoted to corporal February/63.
"	Mulaskey Charles	With company.
"	Maxson Daniel	Sent to Nashville Hospital sick, February 1863.
"	Miller Leonard J.	With company. Promoted to corporal February 1863.
"	Miller Charles H.	Sent to Murfreesboro Hospital sick, May/63.
"	Otto Rudolph	With company.
"	Onsen Samual C.	Taken prisoner at Murfreesboro, January 1st, 1863. Now at camp Chase.

Private	Peaslee B. Johnathan	Sent to convalescence barracks at Murfreesboro sick, May, 1863.
"	Porlier Charles L.	On detached service with Pioneer Brigade.
"	Pickle Lancelette	With company.
"	Peterson Charles A.	With company.
"	Packard Allen	Discharged, March 10th, 1863.
"	Pillar James	With company.
"	Rice Nelson	Wounded at Battle Perryville, October 8th/63, now at Madison, Wisconsin.
"	Roach Daniel	On detached service with Pioneer Brigade.
"	Rogers Chester T.	Discharged January 5th/63.
"	Reed Henry W.	Taken prisoner December 30th, 1862.
"	Russell Willard A.	Died at Murfreesboro, February 17th, 1863.
"	Rohan Thomas	With company.
"	Ryan Patrick	Sent to Nashville sick, January 10th, 1863.
"	Ripley Smith	Died at Nashville, Tennessee, March 5th, 1863.
"	Service David A.	With company.
"	Sharpe Walter	With company.
"	Showers Elijah B.	Killed at Perryville, October 8th/62.
"	Seymour David	Sent to Convalescence barracks, May/63.
"	Scott Henry C.	With company.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, May 5th/63

To my dear wife & babies,

It is but a day or two since I wrote you a long letter and therefore have but little that is new to write. Yesterday, May 4th, I sent you a dress pattern. I found the same hidden in a cave in Tennessee near Liberty. Our regiment was on picket at the time. I was stationed on a post on a very high ledge on the bank of a river called Smith's Forks and while there, one of the men as he was going down to the river for water, discovered this cave and he at once notified me of it and I proceeded to examine it. Made some torches of hickory bark and cedar and entered the same. We went in about one hundred feet. After the first ten feet, which we had to go on our hands and knees, after which it was large and roomy. We found, concealed in one corner, some clothing and various articles of household furniture. And among the rest was the calico dress pattern I sent you yesterday by express to Oshkosh in care of F. J. George Esq., it being the only thing I thought worth saving. We have been looking daily for Fulton for the past 3 or four days, but he does not make his appearance for some reason. The photograph of yourself which you sent me in your letter next to the last, I received while on our scout and had no place to carry the same except in my pocket-book and consequently nearly spoiled it. Would like to have you send me another. Also, have the children's taken and send them at the earliest convenience. You mention in your letter of April 26th that you will pay Sawyer what I owe him. I do not think I owe him anything and I also paid him the express charges on the box you sent. What was in that box would like to know merely out of curiosity. You state that you have paid all of the Fremonters. Very good, except Sumner and I think, were I you, would pay him and would have your word recorded as soon as convenient. I am glad to hear that you are fixing up the house and

et cetera. I think it would be a good idea to paint the house if you can do so without discommoding yourself. I think if you hire Hutchinson & Montgomery & Hall by the day, you have got some hard customers. In regards to the coat, I don't think I would sell it. Do Edward's folks hear from him? If so, would like to have you send me word as I wish to write him. My kindest regards to all friends and much love to yourself and babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Tell F. J. George to write me. Would like to have you send me some one cent postage stamps.

Camp, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers
May 18th/63
Station Murfreesboro, Tennessee

To my dear wife & babies,
Yours of May 3 and 10th came to hand yesterday and was very glad to hear that you were all well. It is Sunday afternoon and a beautiful day and the Chaplin is just holding forth. I can see him very plain from where I am sitting. Aside from this, the day has passed very quiet. there is no news of any account. I saw Charles Whitaker, he called on me last Monday. He is in the Eleventh Regulars, holds a second lieutenant commission. You will recollect he used to be with Brishine, in in the same division with us. Fulton has returned, brought me my clothes and some things from you. That is the maple sugar and a letter containing children's likenesses. The sugar is very nice and am very much obliged. Ask Mrs. Whiting if she has any more tarts to spare. The one she sent was very sweet one and would like a few more as sweet, but would prefer to have them, or at least one of a little different material, but perhaps Whitney claims all the tarts she has. If so, don't want to make any disturbance in the family. You mention in your letter of paying Levy and Duncan. If I understand the matter, $10 & cents which George paid them, squared up everything until this last bill. I do not know the amount I had of them. Coat, vest and pants and a blouse coat, some collars, 2 pair white gloves, neck & pocket handkerchiefs. I don't think of anything more, still there may be a little something. The whole will probably amount to some fifty dollars. You spoke of paying them, I don't want to have you pay them, if it is going to make you short of money, until you get another allotment. Have you ever received your last allotment of eighty dollars? I believe they are the only ones I owe in Oshkosh or elsewhere. I will answer your questions. First, Fulton did not bring me a tin of horseradish, said he did not have room to get it in. As regards the coat, I had just as soon Whitney would have it as not. Boots fit alright. The $17 you speak of, Sawyer paid as I understand, to

Headquarters of 21st Regiment
Wisconsin Volunteers,
Station Murfreesboro, Tennessee
May 29/63

To my dear wife & babies,

Received yours of May 24th about one 1/2 hour ago and hasten to answer the same. I am very sorry to hear that you are feeling so badly and also that you do not receive my letters. I always aim to write at least once a week, sometimes twice, but for the last week or two I do not think I have written but one. I am going to number them commencing with the one before this. I number it on the envelope no. 1 and shall continue to do so as follows; 1-2-3-4, et cetera. You speak of getting poor and all. You should not let anything worry you but take everything coolly and I think it is very foolish for you to work so hard. As regards my health, I never was better in my life. Am fleshy for me, though not as much so as I was. As the weather gets warm it wears off. As regards my being wounded, have not felt any serious effects from any I have received as yet. I sometimes think I would like to receive a slight wound for then I think I could come home and see you and the dear children and remain till I recover. I spoke of trying to get a furlough in my last, but don't think it will be of much use to try as there were 4 officers whose papers were returned that put in for 15 days leave of absence, not granted, last night, two from our regiment and two from the 79 Pennsylvania. We are now under marching orders received on the 27th, whether we shall march or not, can't say, a big scare I think. I haven't but very little choice, as regards myself, would about as soon move as to stay where we are. You speak of Edwards sending home a box of things. He has no right to do so, but still it is done more or less. I am afraid he will get himself into a scrap if he does not report to his regiment before long. I have written to him by order of the Colonel, that he will be placed on the roles as a deserter. We have carried him along

with others on our roles for nearly nine months. He left us before that Battle of Perryville and I have not seen him since and would have been reported as a deserter long ago had it not been for me, but I shall let him slide. Thompson has his discharge, Lancelette & Spindler & Otto are with us and well. I sent by express to Oshkosh with Captain Paine, to his father, my old coat, pants and vest in a knapsack. You can have someone call at Paines and get them. The orders were that they should open the knapsack and take out the Captains clothes and send mine in the knapsack to George at his room, who will deliver the same to you. There is a man, a deserter, to be shot today in Vancleve's division which lays east to ours. They are shooting a good many now days for the same thing. I wrote you in my last that I had sent you my picture, it is not very well taken. Am glad to hear that you are getting along so nicely with the house, should like so much to be there to enjoy the comforts, think you hope this time is not far distant when I shall. I don't think this war can last much longer. Still can't see anything to confirm that belief, but to be in hopes. I will close, much love to yourself and babies, a kiss to all,

Yours of,

Hiram

P. S. I will endeavor to write twice a week after this and want you to write oftener if you can. give me all the news, no matter how trifling it will be interesting to me, anything that comes from the dear ones at home.

How do I spell?

I wish you would send me some stamps in your next. I send a Nashville paper everyday now.

Headquarters of 21st Regiment,
Wisconsin Infantry
Camp Near Murfreesboro, Tennessee
June 3rd, 1863

To my dear wife and babies,
Yours of May 28th was received today, am glad to hear that you are feeling so much better than usual. You spoke of five cent pieces being above par in the army, especially those with Mrs. Lincoln's private mark on. Those are very good here as far as they go. But I assure you, we can show you a more perfect mark on the piece I sent you and a little more secret in the army than Mrs. "L". As regards Lincoln's private mark, I don't think he has any. You might make some enquiries in regards to the matter and see what you could learn and if you find such a thing in existence would like to have you let me know, it not being the kind I am looking for. You say that you were badly sold, that is very good. Tell Molly that I can't send her a dress just now, but when I come home will bring something that will please the ladies much better than a calico dress. Will send her a dress however, if I can get one from the enemy and will of course, do anything to please her as that is my religion to always please the ladies when I can. J. E. Stuart, our Second Lieutenant, is writing at the same table with me and wished me to tell Nett that he is alright and sends his kindest regards to her and hopes the time is not far distant when he will have the pleasure of meeting his friends in Wisconsin once more. Our division was reviewed yesterday by Old Rosecrans, a grand sight I assure you and Rousseau, our Division Commander, was so well pleased that he gave a champagne supper and invited all the officers of his command and we had a good time. Today, Negley's Division was reviewed, which is a larger division than ours and there was about three hundred officers

mounted and acted as aides on different general's staffs. Myself and Captain Paine with six officers went from our regiment. I made the remark to Lieutenant Vredenburg that I would give fifty dollars if my wife could see it, said he would do the same. It was a grand sight I assure you. There was a good many ladies present, some on horseback and others in carriage. I should not be surprised if we should move from here at any moment, we have been ready to move for several days. The enemy are skirmishing within our pickets constantly, should not be surprised if we had a fight within a few days. I am still acting as Regimental Quarter Master, but expect to be relieved in a few days when I shall return to my company. There is no more news that I can think of that would be interesting to you. My kindest regards to all friends. With love to yourself and babies,

Yours,

Hiram

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers,
Station Murfreesboro, Tennessee,
June 12, 1863

To my dear wife and babies,
Yours of June 4 I received on the 10th, enclosed is some photographs and a letter from Sid. Am much obliged for the picture. Think you must have been pleased with something at the time by the looks of the contentance. There is nothing new, "everything is quiet," as the boys say, "on the Potomac." We are still under marching orders but can't see it. Another says we are going back into Kentucky which may prove truer, as Rousseau is a Kentucky man. As far as I am concerned, am not particular, would as soon go to Vicksburg as any place. Am still in the Quartermaster Department, but will be relieved today to the command of Company "B". The best company in the regiment, tops in drill and looks. Captain Paine is detailed to act as lieutenant colonel, probably a permanent thing. Yesterday, Jenkins and other officers took a ride into the country, called on some young ladies, Secesh of course, but had a very pleasant time, as everything our hearts could wish for except one thing, which by the way is a very scarce article in the army. I won't say what that is, only it is something that is in great demand in the army. Perhaps you can guess what it is. The man you speak of as seeing on the boat by the name of Vantasses, is a poor miserable (Devil) and his wife a (whore). He was not in the Battle of Champion Hills, nor any other battle, so their officers say and is put down as a deserter on the roles. My kindest regards to all friends, with much love to yourself and babies,

I remain yours,

Hiram

You will excuse short letters and bad writing, as I am in a great hurry this morning as the mail is nearly ready to leave camp.

Camp, 21st Regiment,
Wisconsin Volunteers
June 15th, 1863

To my dear wife and babies,

J. E. Stuart, our 2nd lieutenant, leaves for Oshkosh today and he has agreed to go and see you. I want you to get the cloth and have me two or three woolen shirts made. Fancy ones, with pockets in and small buttons on the binding. I shall come home after he gets back. I intended to have applied today, but as his has come back approved and will let it rest until he gets back. I send by him a lithographic of the Battle of Chaplin Hills. Anything you have to send, he will bring. Don't think of anything I want in particular, except shirts. I sent a coat-vest and pair pants home some time ago. Have you ever received the same? We received our pay a few days ago and you will probably get your money in a few days. Nothing more at present. Love to yourself & babies,

I remain yours,

Hiram

P. S. Send me, with the bearer, my commission.

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry,
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, June 23rd

To my dear wife & babies,

I thought I would drop you a few lines as we move from this place tomorrow morning at seven o'clock. Which way we go or where, can't say, but we move somewhere. Are packing up everything and thought I might not get a chance to write you for some days again. But will be able to get yours as the mail always follows us up. Will write the first chance I get and as often as I can. Enclosed I send you two photographs of General Rosecrans. I have been very busy all day getting ready. It is quite a job after laying still so long. Edwards wished me to say to you that he would like to have you send word to his wife not to send the things he sent for. I expect we shall fare pretty rough for a few days compared with what we have been having. We have been living on the top shelf. Plenty of green peas and all kinds of vegetables, black berries, any amount of them & et. cetera. Have had green apple pies for some time. I never felt better in my life, I am alright. Must close as I have a good deal to do to get ready. With love to yourself & babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Camp, 1st Division,
14th Army Corps
June 30th

My dear wife & babies,

Thought I would drop you a line and let you know that I am alright. We are now about halfway between Manchester and Tullahoma. Came in here night before last and are driving them as we advance. Tullahoma will probably be ours in a day or two. May have a big fight, but the general opinion is they will fight for a short time and when pressed hard will run. It has rained every day since we left Murfreesboro. They have kept me and my company out as skirmishers and flankers most of the time since we got to their lines and haven't lost a man yet. How long such luck will attend us, can't say. I received a letter from you yesterday enclosing a piece of shirt, like it very much. I expect we are bound for Chattanooga and when this campaign is over you may expect me home. That is if I come out alright. Have had some pretty close calls within the last few days. But they say a miss is as good as a mile.

Yours in haste,

Hiram

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Infantry,
About 13 Miles East of Tullahoma
July 5th, 1863

To my dear wife and babies,
Having stopped for a few hours thought I would drop you a line. Everything and everybody is alright. Are driving the Rebs whenever we come in contact with them. Are now just at the foot of the Cumberland Mountains. Expect we shall commence to move up them tomorrow on our way to Chattanooga. We should of been there by this, but can't advance any faster than our train can follow us. We are now on half rations for the first time since we came out. The roads are awful having rained every day for 10 days, pretty rough. I am alone, Captain Paine was left sick at Murfreesboro, Stuart do no know where his is. We got the news yesterday that Lee's army had been thoroughly whipped. On reaction of the news, all the divisions formed 34 lines making some 700 lines in this department, fired. I spent the month in marching through the mud and rain. As regards a list of the casualties of Company B, Stuart agrees to have it published in the Courier and send you a copy of the paper. I have one all ready to send but it is not with me. This has been a pretty rough campaign so far, I shall not regret it if I come out alright. I thought of you yesterday, hope you enjoyed yourself. I must close as they are calling for the letters to send off. With love to you and babies,

Forever yours,

Hiram

P. S. Give my love to Mollie.

Camp of 21st Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers,
Cowan, July 21st, 1863

R-220-D.C. 1863
Russell, Hiram
1st Lieutenant, Company B, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers

Applies for leave of absence for twenty days. Reason - mortgage filing due on his homestead about the 1st of August. By making new papers he can get the money to save his home. His presence at home is necessary for that purpose. There is but one absent from the regiment at present.

Approved & respectfully forwarded.

The lieutenant has not been home since his enlistment.

H. C. Hobart
Lieutenant Colonel Commanding,
21st Wisconsin Volunteers

Headquarters 2nd Brigade, 1st Division 14th Army Corp, July 21, 1863

Approved & Respectfully forwarded

J. C. Starkweather
Colonel Commanding 2nd Brigade

Headquarters, 1st Division 14th Army Corp, Camp Scribner, July 22nd/63

Respectfully forwarded

Lovell H. Rousseau
Major General Commanding

R-286

Headquarters 14th Army Corps
Department Of The Cumberland,
Dechard, July 23rd, 1863

Respectfully forwarded & recommended for 20 days.

George H. Thomas
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

R-220

Approved

20 days

By Command
A. McCook

July 31st/63

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers
July 10th, 1863
13 Miles from Tullahoma and about 50 Miles from Chattanooga. Another Railroad near Dechard Station, about 3 miles from Foot of the Mountains. Mud and Water Bound.

To my dear wife & babies,
Today is the 18th day since we left Murfreesboro and has rained constantly until yesterday, everyday, muddy is no name for it. On the 3rd of July we forded Elk River, it was up to the men's necks. Stringing ropes across for them to hang on to. There were some drowned of the Regulars. Had quite a little fight on this side of the river, took a few prisoners. Have been camped at our present camping ground for 3 days waiting for our trains, which are to bring us rations, hard tack is scarce. You wished me to give you our days program, will give yesterdays; First, I was sleeping very nicely about 5 o'clock and Rudolph Otto, who does my cooking and waits on me now, called me and said breakfast was ready. I got up and eat my breakfast, had some hard tack and coffee. Soon after, a detail came for me to take charge of, a forage train. I went out some 12 miles into the country, picked up all the corn I could find, then went to killing cattle, sheep, hogs, chickens, wherever I could find them. Had lots of fun, went to every house I saw and they would all plead strong, but I told the men to load the wagons. I would ride ahead with a few cavalry and when I saw a pretty girl, would make love to her until the train came up, leaving the cavalry outside as a guard. They are all Secesh but still most of them are very sociable when they meet a good looking Yankee, as they call them especially,

an being pretty good looking myself, got along very well. Do not wish to be understood that I done anything improper. Got back to camp about sundown, found a quarter of roasted lamb, some new potatoes & coffee ready for my supper. Have plenty one day to eat, perhaps the next go hungry. About 9 o'clock went to bed pretty tired but found myself alright this morning. We expect our train today, some fifteen hundred wagons and if they come, expect we shall move on over the mountains to Chattanooga where we shall have a big fight I expect. I look for Stuart with this train, think some that he will be here today. It has been some days since I have received a letter from you, had two more letters, but no letters from you. Write often, with love to all,

Your Hiram

Camp, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin
Volunteers, 25 Miles from
Chattanooga, Near Dechard
July 13th, 1863

To my dear wife & babies,

Yours by James E. Stuart came to hand on the 10th enclosing commission. I thought I needed the same at the time I sent for it, but find I do not need it and will send it back in my next letter. I received the shirts alright, they are very nice and just suit me. You say you are very curious to know why I was so particular to have brown silk buttons on the collar. You know you have a brown silk dress, well, I thought I would like to have something like it, as I like very much to have everything done up brown. And another reason is, I met a very pretty girl and her favorite color was brown and of course I made it mine. We are all the same as usual in camp, when we shall move forward can't say, I hope soon. We are living pretty hard just now, pork, crackers and coffee. Are glad to hear that Patch & Ike are married, would like to be myself for a short time. That photograph I sent you, James E. Stuart left with Mr. George and he left a list of casualties of Company B to be printed in the Courier. If it does not come out alright, will send one as soon as I can get time to make it out. I have just come off picket and do not feel much like writing. We are in a fine country, but our folks have skinned it of everything. There are a great many families that are in a starving condition. We have very few abolitionists in the army and they, with a few of the black republicans, think it is alright to steal anything they can get their hands on. I was at a house yesterday where there were five or six children and they were crying for bread. As I said, Those G_d D__m abolitionists had stolen every mouthful they had to eat. We gave them half the rations we had with us and there are hundreds

of families in the same fix and I am getting sick of this damn abolitioning war. If they were fighting for the Union or Constitution, I should like no better business for some cause. I do not get any letters of late, what the reason is can't say, shall look for some today. My kindest regards to all friends. With much love to yourself and babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers
July 20th/63
One Mile East of Cowan Station

To my dear wife & babies,
Yours of July 9th, 1863 was received last night and was very glad to hear from you and hear that you were well. Our camp is just at the foot of the mountains, have one of the nicest camps we ever were in. Are having a very pleasant time but are living pretty hard just now, as we can't get anything but hard tack and berries. Am in hopes to do better soon. The cars came through yesterday for the first time. You say in your letter that you saw A. Stroud and that he was looking for a letter from me. I haven't written him yet but think of doing so today if I get time. He expresses some sentiments I do not like. But on a good many things I think him sound, especially on the abolition doctrine. Did you read Ryan speak of Milwaukee? It was printed in the Oshkosh Courier. I think it one of the best and ablest speeches I have read for a long time. But of course he is a Copper-head. He is true to his country. Why? Because he does not believe in letting everything go to hell for the sake of saving a few niggers. I presume I like a nigger better and would do more for one today than any of your abolition preachers today and I would shoot one as quick as I would a dog if he did not keep his place. But enough of this, the more I think of the matter, the madder I get. I would not go a cent on any of those northern ducks. You say you are not an Abolitionist. God knows I hope not. The draft must soon commence with you. I am glad of it for I would like to see a good many of those (I don't know what to call them) brought to the scratch. Not that we want them to help us, for the boys will hate them and I pity them if they are put into old regiments which I understand they are to be. It must be a pretty hard blow on Mr. George the losing Judson. Am glad

that you have got everything so comfortable. Would like to drop in and see you and the babies. It would be the happiest hour of my life. Hope the time is not far distant. Everything looks encouraging at present. Give my best respects to Mrs. George and family, Mr. & Mrs. Whiting and (love to Mollie). With much love to yourself & babies and a kiss.

I remain yours,

Hiram

Camp Scribner, August 11th, 1863
Near Cowan Station
Foot of Mountains

To my dear wife & babies,

I received two letters from you this week and were glad to hear that you are getting along so nicely. I have just come in from walking. Had a very pleasant walk and a nice wash in the river with Lieutenant Jackson. Perhaps you would like to know what I thought of when I got washed and dressed. I will tell you. I thought how nice it would be if I could only be at home and go to bed with you. I felt so good and cool and nice. We are having some pretty hot weather of late, but I doubt that we feel it any more than you of the north. There has not been a night this summer but that I have slept under two woolen blankets when I could get them. The nights are very cool and pleasant. Tennessee is a beautiful country and a splendid climate. There are parts the same as in other states where the country is poor. There are some splendid plantations but most of the owners have left them and the poorer class are living on them. Their fences and et cetera are all destroyed. Rails are the only wood we use when we can get them. In fact, where an army comes or passes through a country, it annihilates everything except the ground itself. But enough of this. You say when I come home you want me to bring some of those fancy articles. When I come home I will try and do so. I think you are looking a good ways ahead, but hope your wishes will all be granted. I am there, I would do so. But as the boys sing, "when this cruel war is ended I hope we shall meet again and enjoy the comforts of a home to gather with those dear little ones". My kindest regards to all friends and much love to yourself and the babies. A kiss to you all and hope the time is not far distant when we shall meet again.

Yours,

Hiram

Don't know as you can read this it is written so fine. Will try and get it a little plain next time. My ink is very pale and I am very nervous. I know wants. Eight minutes to ten o'clock, so will retire to my virtuous sheets and couch. Much obliged for the rose bud.

Camp Dawson, August 30th/63
Near Stevenson, Alabama

To my dear wife & children,
Arrived here on the evening of the 27th. Had a very pleasant trip, found everything alright. Yesterday I, with a few friends, went to the front. We went to Stevenson and then we went over the Tennessee River, which by the way is one of the nicest rivers I ever saw. We crossed on the pontoon bridge which is a very nice affair. Hayes' Brigade and a part of another had crossed, which are the first troops and the only ones that have crossed. I cross with General Beatty and Colonel Hobart. They captured a few of the enemy's pickets but had no resistance. Reports says Bragg has fallen back to Atlanta. How true can't say, but think it must be true. Report says our division is to be mounted, hope it will be so. The boys from Fremont and vicinity I found well and in good spirits. You can tell their friends if you see them. We are encamped on a small creek in the mountains and the country is very wrought and broken. Weather is very fine excepting we have very cold nights. I slept cold last night with two woolen blankets over me. Am a little lame today, effects of my ride yesterday. We rode some 30 odd miles on horseback. How long we shall remain here can't say, from appearances not a great while. Tell George that I could not get any drum for him but will send him $5 to buy one with when we get paid. Report is here that we are not to be paid only every 4 months. If such should be the case, you will have to borrow some money to make you comfortable. My kindest regards to Whitings, Bristines and Conants and your father & mother, George & et cetera. With much love to yourself and babies, a kiss to you all.

Yours,

Hiram

P. S. I shall look for a letter from you tomorrow.

Camp Dawson, September 1st/63
Ten Miles From Stevenson, Alabama

My dear wife & children,
I received a letter today from you, the first since I left and it was welcome I assure you. Was glad to hear that you were all well. You can't imagine how much I should like to see you all tonight, although it is only a week since I left. It is now a few minutes past 10 o'clock, I am sitting alone in my tent. Have been pretty busy since dark, as we have orders to move at 5 o'clock in the morning. There has been some fighting in front today, how serious can't say. We move forward, to what point, don't know, but will keep you posted as to our whereabouts. Haven't time to write more, so good night. A kiss to all.

Your Hiram

September 3, Camp at Bridgeport on the Tennessee, waiting for a chance to crap. Nothing new.

Camp, 21st Wisconsin
September 5th/63
3 Miles From Bridgeport,
Across the Tennessee River

My dear wife & babies,

Yours of August 30th I received about 5 minutes ago and it was welcomed I assure. We crossed the Tennessee River yesterday and are on our way to Chattanooga. We have a very high mountain to cross just in our front. We are waiting for some trains to cross, will probably cross ourselves tomorrow, which will fetch us into Georgia. Some think we are to have a fight at Chattanooga, but I can't see it. Rosecrans was on the bridge when we crossed and he told the boys everything was alright. We are making a flank movement on Chattanooga and I think they will fall back to Atlanta. God it is awful hot, dry and dusty. Think we shall lose a good many men in this march, it being so hot and they have to carry their knapsack. Am glad to hear that you are alright. As regards Lucy, in the first place I don't know what right the citizens of Fremont have in speculating on our actions, except you own dear self and Mollie, who are the only two I care anything particular about. I guess you are right, so is Mollie, in regards to Lucy. As regards brandy and peaches, they were scarce, but colonel's and major's wives & bourbon whiskey were alright. As we, Captain Fox of the First Michigan Engineers and myself, traveled with them from Chicago to Murfreesboro. Made a special bargain as they thanked us that we should obey orders, which of course we done to the letter. They insisted on our taking a little bourbon occasionally. We of course had to obey orders and felt pretty well most of the time & had a good time of course. Fremont boys are alright, my love to Mollie, kindest regards to all friends. With much love to yourself and babies and a kiss, I bid you goodbye.

Hiram

Chattanooga Valley, Foot of
Lookout Mountain, 20 Miles Directly
South of Chattanooga in Georgia
September 12th/1863

To my dear wife & babies,

As we have an opportunity of sending a mail in the morning, thought I would drop you a line and let you know that I was alright. We had a fight yesterday. Fought from 12 A.M. till dark, mostly skirmishing. We fought them 5 miles retreating. Expected they would attack today but they did not for some reason. It would of gone tough with us if they had. Our loss was about 50 yesterday killed & wounded, but we are alright now having been reinforced by about 12 thousand this afternoon. You may see an account of B & C being gobbled up. They all thought we were, but we escaped all right. Will write particulars when I get time. You can say to the Spindlers that Henry was wounded on the 9th by an accidental shot. I think not dangerous. I have not seen him since the 10th as he was left with others of his comrades behind at a house where he will receive proper care and attention. The ball entered on the left of his testicles and passed through into his right buttock. Will write full particulars as soon as I can see or hear from him. The rest of the boys from Fremont are alright. Shouldn't wonder if we have a brush tomorrow. Tell Rob Jackson's folks if you should see them, he is alright. Will write full particulars as soon as this is over. Have had two letters from you since I left home. Yours in haste, with much love and a kiss to yourself and babies.

Hiram

Our regiment did not lose a man, nor in fact our brigade, except Lieutenant Nichols and one man out of the Battery, a few wounded.

Officers Left In 21st Wisconsin

A & B & C

Company	B	J. E. Stuart
"	A	No officers, Lieutenant Harding assigned
"	C	Lieutenant Bissell
"	D	Lieutenant Otto & Captain Turner & Fred Borcherdt
"	E	No officers, Lieutenant Otto assigned
"	F	Lieutenant Clark
"	G	Captain Randall
"	H	Lieutenant Fargo
"	I	Captain Smith
"	K	Joe LaCount & Captain Walker

Lieutenant J. E. Stuart commands Companies A, B & C
Captain Randall commands Companies G & F
Lieutenant LaCount commands Companies E & K
Captain Smith commands Companies H, D & I

Russell Wounded
Jackson Missing
Wiesbrod Wounded
Weston Missing
2nd Lieutenant C. E. Missing
Ewen Missing
Morgan Missing
Watson Missing
Jaeger Wounded
Hobart Missing
Jenkins Missing
[1]

[1] Undated letter that appears drafted after the Battle Of Chicamauga as all names mentioned are listed in official records and those noted as wounded or missing are officially recorded as having been wounded and/or taken prisoner on September 20, 1863.

Officers Hospital
Chattanooga, Tennessee
October 5th, 1863

To my dear wife & babies, you will see by the date of this that I am once more inside of our lines. You see I write as though you had heard that I was wounded and a prisoner. I was 12 days in Dixie a prisoner. My wound is in the right thigh. It is doing as well as I could expect. I shall, or am in hopes to start for home in a few days. I am not able to use my leg much, but shall leave here the first train of ambulances and expect soon to be with you. I trust not to return again as it will be several months the doctors say, before I am able to walk without crutches. My greatest desire and wish is to get home at present. The Rebs are shelling the lines today. No damage done as yet. Our guns only reply occasionally. I am a paroled prisoner. Our regiment suffered very much in the fight. As regards Spindler, I haven't heard from him lately. Was doing first rate the last I heard. Edwards & Pickle & Otto are alright. Hoping to be with you soon. I bid you goodbye, with love and a kiss to all. The surgeon has just dressed my wound and it feels better.

Yours,

Hiram

P. S. I received a letter from you today. You had better not write anymore until you hear from me again.

H

Chattanooga, Tennessee, October 8, 1863

Lieutenant Colonel Goddard
A. A. G.

Sir -

I have the honor to apply for leave of absence for twenty days on account of wound received on the 19th. Enclosing Surgeons Certificate.

My P. O. address will be, Fremont, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

I am Colonel,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant

Hiram Russell
1st Lieutenant, Company B,
21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

I, James Birdsall, do hereby certify that I have carefully examined lst Lieutenant Hiram Russell, Company B, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry and find his disability to consist in a gun shot wound in right thigh, that he is entirely unable to use the right leg. Discharge from wound copious. System generally very much debilitated. Profuse night sweats and that it is my opinion that he will not be able to resume duty at an earlier period than twenty days from the 31st day of October, A.D. 1863. Given under my hand at Weyauwega this 31st day of October, A.D. 1863.

James Birdsall M.D.

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

As I, John Foley, a Notary Public in and for Waupaca County, state of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with James Birdsall the person who signed the above certificate, that he is a respectable physician practicing physic and surgery in the town of Weyauwega, Waupaca County, Wisconsin.

John Foley, a Notary Public
Waupaca County, Wisconsin

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

I, James Birdsall, do hereby certify that I am the physician attending 1st Lieutenant Hiram Russell, Company B, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers, that the said disability of Lieutenant Hiram Russell still continues and that he will not be able to resume his duties in the service in a less period than twenty days from the 20th day of November, A.D. 1863.

In witness whereof I have herewith set my hand this 20th day of November, A.D. 1863.

J. W. Birdsall M.D.

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

Is I, James Birdsall, attending physician of Lieutenant Hiram Russell, Company B, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers, do hereby certify that the disability of Lieutenant Russell still continues, that his health and wound are improving, that he will not be able to rejoin his regiment in less than twenty days from this date.

Dated, January 19th, 1864

James Birdsall

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

I, James Birdsall, a physician and surgeon residing in Weyauwega, Waupacca County and State of Wisconsin, hereby certify that 1st Lieutenant Hiram Russell of Company B, 21st Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, has since recovered from his wound, the same being healed up. His health is improving, is yet troubled with pain, the right leg is contracted from the effects of the wound, that he will not be able to resume duty in a less period than twenty days from the date hereof.

Dated this 8th February, 1864.

J. Birdsall

State Of Wisconsin
Waupaca County

Sirs,

I, James Birdsall, a physician and surgeon residing and practicing in the town of Weyauwega in Waupaca County and State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that I have attended 1st Lieutenant Hiram Russell of Company B of the 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, from about the 31st day of October, 1863 until he became sufficiently recovered to be discharged from medical treatment. Upon my first visit, October 31st 1863, the symptoms of Lieutenant Russell's case were profuse discharge from a gun shot wound in the right thigh. Heavy night sweats and his system generally very much wrought and debilitated. By the 10th of December the night sweats had subsided but the patient was still confined to his bed. By the 30th, he had so far improved as to be able to sit up and to leave his bed for a short time. The 19th of January and for a few days after, Lieutenant Russell was suffering from extreme pain near the hip joint and it appeared then that suppuration would take place there and by the 8th of February all indications of suppuration had disappeared. The discharge from the wound had ceased. The health and strength of the patient were very much improved. Further attendance upon him was considered by me unnecessary. His right leg is contracted and lieutenant Russell will be permanently lame.

Dated this 13th February, A.D. 1864.

James Birdsall

I hereby certify that the within named James Birdsall whose genuine

signature is attached to the written certificate, is personally known to me. That he appeared before me on the 5th day of March, 1864 and made forth that the written certificate subscribed by him is just and true and I do further certify that he is a reputable practitioner of medicine and surgery residing in Weyauwega, Waupaca County and as such his statements are entitled to full credit.

John Foley, a Notary Public
Waupaca County, Wisconsin

Headquarters
21st Wisconsin Volunteers
Camp On Lookout Mountain,
Tennessee, February 24th, 1864

Lieutenant,

The major commanding the regiment directs me to ask you whether you intend to return to the regiment or whether you desire to get out of the service and if you do, to inform him at once.

Also whether you have sent your proper surgeons certificate to the Adjutant General of the Army as required by General Orders No. 100, War Department Lines of 1862 and kept a copy of each one for your records. No such papers have been received at this office for some time past and you are reported "absent without leave" and are yet.

I wrote to you some two months ago, but never received any answer. Please let us hear from you at once.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

T. W. Borcherdt
Lieutenant and Acting Adjutant

To:

Lieutenant Hiram Russell
Company B, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers
Fremont, Wisconsin

Camp, 21st Wisconsin Volunteers
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, March 3

Yours of February 22nd was received last night and in answer would say although short and sweet was very welcome. You say that you hear that I was home but had not seen me. Think you must be right in regards to the latter, as I have no distinct recollection of being there of late and am still in doubt how long it will be before I get there as my papers have never been returned to me either approved or disapproved. If I do not hear from them this week shall start them new again. I have no doubt but that I will be with you some time this month. Colonel B. J. Sweet returned to the regiment yesterday, does not receive a very warm welcome. Things are not as they use to was, the men won't go a cent on him, but Lieutenant Colonel Hobart will bet the last dollar. There will be several that will send in their resignations forth with since he, Colonel Sweet, has returned. Everything is quiet in camp as usual. I had a letter from Sidney a few days since, was well, no news in particular in it. He writes that brother Lyman is in town of Merimack, Sank County, Wisconsin. shall write him in a day or two. We have had a day or two of very fine weather, but it is growing cooler and beginning to snow, will probably end in rain. I think I wrote you in my last that Thompson was a little unwell but is better now. Love to all.

Yours,

Hiram

Please say to Mary that I have sent a certificate certifying that William was a member of our company to C. C. Kinsman this day so that she can get her allotment and what is due from the state. Enclosed I send you ten dollars bill greenback to last till you get the allotment.

H.

Camp, 21st Regiment
Wisconsin Volunteers
March 20th/63
Near Murfreesboro, Tennessee

To my dear wife & children,

Yours of March 8th I received on the 18th and was very glad to hear that you were as well as usual. You ask me several questions, first, why they did not pay the allotment up to the time I received my pay. In answer would say they did, but paid it to me. And in regards to the money, Sawyer sent me $25, it was received all right and I wrote him to that effect and have sent him money to pay him all that I owe him. You say you think of plastering the house which is very good. Think you had better have a chimney built at the same time. I am very sorry to hear that Delise is so unwell. I think myself that it would be much pleasanter to live by yourself even if you had to hire a girl or boy to do the chores, which I think would make it much pleasanter for you. We are having beautiful weather, warm and pleasant. Everything where there is a chance for it to grow, looks very fine. The army destroys most everything. Peach trees have been in blossom for nearly two weeks and occasionally you will see some flowers in full blossom in a place where the army has not trod everything to death. Would send you some but there is none just about here. We went out yesterday about 3 miles from camp on general review. The fields looked very fine, were reviewed by Rosecrans. He complimented our regiment very highly on their marching and general appearance, and spoke particularly of our brigade as he called it (The Old Iron Brigade). Colonel J. C. Starkweather commanding. The above title is the name our brigade has in the army and we are pretty proud of the name, and are ready to go our last dollars on Old Starkey. He is not with us now, but he and

Colonel Hobart are in Wisconsin. The talk here is that they are trying to get the 1st and 21st back to Wisconsin and we all hope they may succeed, but have not much faith in the result. Our regiment has just gone out on a reconnaissance with the division with two days rations. I was detailed to command camp or should have gone with them. Would preferred doing so as they will have a good time and may have a fight. But we have to take our chances on such things. We changed our camp last Monday, moved about one and 1/2 miles back and east of town. Before we were about four miles south of the city. Have a much pleasanter camp than before, we have all grounds nearly cleaned up. You have not much idea about looks. First we clean it, then clear off the ground and then it has to be policed every morning. Not a stick, chip, or anything is left inside of camp except at the cook houses and those have to be inspected every day by Company Commander and Officer of the Day to see that they are in proper order. Rudolph Otto is cook for our camp, does very well. We, that is Captain, Lieutenant Stuart and Adjutant, myself and Fulton, have a mess servant and are living very fine. It costs us a pile to live as everything is very high. But we all go on the principles that we have only one life to live and that we don't value much in the army or at least we talk so. We have a very good cook, one of the boys out of the company. (niggers) have stayed out in our regiment. There is only two in it left and they have to keep in their place or that never will. (Pound their skins), the only place where they have any brains. If there is anything I hate on God's earth it is a free nigger. I am very glad to hear that Whitney is feeling so well, my respects to him, give wife also. To all the Fremonters, especially the ladies, Mollie, Mrs. C., et al. I have not heard anything from my papers yet, but sent a letter of inquiry. Think that papers cleared this morning and in hopes they will yet come out alright. If not, I am afraid I shant be able to get home very soon, for I was never healthier in my life than at the present time, never

was so much in my life. Am getting to be as messy as Sawyer, I don't know as you can read this.

Tell George that his letter was a very nice one and Papa would love very much to see him and Ina and Clara. Tell him to kiss the babies for Pa and to be a good boy and Pa will soon be home. One thing is certain, I care much. Love to all, yourself in particular.

P. S. Thompson is not very well, able to do light duty is all. H. Spindler is well, but a little home sick. Edwards I don't hear from, nor Crittenden, Lancelette is well.

Camp, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin
Volunteers, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

To my dear wife and children,

I have been watching the mails for several days for a letter from you, but none comes so thought I would write myself. We are still in camp on our old ground but are making an effort to get removed to Gallatin, Tennessee, a place on the railroad some 10 miles from Nashville, to guard a tunnel on the Louisville and Nashville road. We think by going we can, in a measure, recruit up our regiment, but may fail in the arrangement. I think it would be a very nice thing. I wrote you in my last that our brigade had gone out on a reconnoitering expedition, they have returned. They went out about 14 miles, came very near having a fight with Morgan's cavalry. When they got there they had one of our brigades surrounded which had been fighting for some time. They killed and wounded some 300 Rebs, our loss was 50 killed and wounded, but on the arrival of our brigade they left. The same day they attacked us in front about 4 miles and drove in our pickets. We thought we were going to have a fight sure, but proved to be only a dash at our pickets. I think from appearance, that we shall have a big fight at this place Friday morning, March 27th. I commenced this letter on the 25th and have just made up my mind to finish it on the 26th. I received your letter dated March 10th and was very glad to hear from you and hear that you were well. You speak of my coming home soon. I have made up my mind not to come home at present. Will stay it 3 or 4 months longer. March 31st. Mr. Fulton leaves here today for Oshkosh and I shall send this by him and he will mail at Oshkosh. I am well and are sending today to Oskhosh, Wisconsin, to Levy and Duncan for a suit of clothes. If it is convenient and you have your pictures, or any little thing you wish to send, you could send by him. He will probably remain in

Oshkosh some two weeks. Will write again soon, write often, much love to all.

Yours in haste

Hiram

Wish you would send me some stamps. Wish you would pay F. J. George $10.35 when you get your allotment. I wrote to him to pay Duncan that amount for me today. I think we shall be paid again in a few days. Will write again in a few days, perhaps tonight. Would like to have you send me some stamps and your pictures.

Camp, 21st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers
Murfreesboro, Tennessee, April 19th/63

To my dear wife and babies,
It is Sunday afternoon and thought I would write you a few lines. Everything is very quiet and a rainy day at that. No excitement except occasionally a little skirmishing on picket. Our paymaster is here. Our regiment was paid yesterday except the officers. We received ours today, two months pay. I got one hundred & 32/100 dollars after taken out tax and allotment. I hope you have received your first allotment by this time. If not, you had better write on to Madison or get someone to do so for you, making enquiries in regard to it at once. I should like very much to visit you and spend a few days but have no grounds on which I could have a leave of absence. There are several officers of our regiment that have tried it within a short time and only one was granted. That to Captain Bill Wall of Company "C" who is probably at Oshkosh. It has got to be a case of life and death, that is a big excuse founded on facts. So I shall have to be contented for a while at least. We are having a very nice time soldiering at present. Have got a splendid camp, have got it all set out with cedars and fixed up in gay style. Are putting us through on drill, pretty steep. Generally battalion drill in the forenoon, brigade drill in the afternoon. Old Starkweather is with us again and all are glad of it. I tell you there was some tall cheering through the brigade when he came out to view them after his return. He is the heaviest man in the army. Every man in the brigade swears by him. He is the best commander I have seen in the department and if it were not for some of those Goddamn stinking abolition republicans, he would of been general instead of colonel long before this. I long for the time to come when there will be a chance to sour on some of them. Enough of this, the more I write the madder I get so will change the subject. Have not written to Al yet but shall today. In a few days we will have those pictures taken for those frames. I have lost the size pattern.

Think I can guess near enough or perhaps I will wait until you get this and send me the exact size you want. Shall have mine taken as soon as Fulton comes, so that I have some clothes to wear for those that I am wearing now are pretty shoddy. I will send you a statement of our company as it stands at the present time, giving a list of all present and absent and promotions, et cetera. There is no news here, the army is like work round a house, the same thing over and over every day. You wrote me in you last that Mrs. Thompson had received a receipt to sign for her allotment money. So I conclude, you must have your house by this time, hope so on your account. Tell Delia that everything is lovely when the goose hangs high. Give my love to her and that I hope she will soon recover her health and be more careful in future. My best respects to George. Young ladies are very scarce in this vicinity except colored ones which are very plenty. You say war widows are very plenty with you at present. One reason why I would like to be there, think could comfort and console one. At least, for I think I could be just in the humor for something of that kind. I must close for a few moments, as we have just received orders for our brigade to go out on a reconnaissance expedition of six days and I have a little business to attend to. Will finish this letter this evening. I shall go with the regiment. We start tomorrow morning at eight o'clock A. M., which way we go don't know. Probably to the front and east of us. Something a little wrong somewhere, a few Rebs trying to cut some corner or something of the kind. Do you hear anything from Mrs. Jewell? I wrote here a letter a few days since. Shall expect to hear from you as often as twice a week now the boats have commenced running. Goodbye to all, five o'clock P. M., are ordered into line, must close.

Yours

Hiram

Merchants Hotel
Cincinnati, Ohio

To my dear wife Maria,

I thought I would drop you a few lines and let you know where I am and what I am doing. Well, I am boarding at this hotel. Have been assigned to Main St., U.S.A. General Hospital, Lexington, Kentucky. I report every third or fourth day. How long I shall remain here can't say. Have made application for my discharge, whether they will give it to me or not can't say, but am in hopes they will. If I get it on this application it will come inside of ten days. God knows I hope it will come, for I am sick and tired of this kind of a life and anxious to get home to quiet life with my dear wife & babies once more. I drew some of my pay today, a little over $800. If I do not get my discharge I shall send to S. M. Hay, a draft of $700 in New York, so that you can get all you want by applying to him. Will write and let you know when I send. Am in hopes to come myself. Enclosed I send you a bill of fare so you can see how I am living. Will mark what I ordered for dinner yesterday, a pretty fare dinner. My kindest regards to all,

Yours,

Hiram

Write and direct to:

Captain H. Russell
Merchants Hotel
Fifth Street, Near Main
Cincinnati, Ohio

Main Street Hospital
June 11th, 1864
Covington, Kentucky

Dear Maria,

Having a few leisure moments, I thought I would spend them in writing you a few lines. I expected to have had the ball taken from my leg today, but the surgeon has not come around yet. It is now about one o'clock P.M. I decided yesterday to let them take it out. We have a very nice place here, it was formally a hotel. There are at present six officers besides myself, two in the room with me. We have what was the ladies parlor fronting onto Covington & Cincinnati. Have a splendid view of the river. I have been to the theater several times since I came here, generally to Pikes Opera, one of the most magnificent buildings I have ever seen and they have some very good actors. Am looking every mail for a letter from you. You don't know how anxious I am to hear from you and to hear how you are getting along. I wrote you while at the Merchants Hotel Cincinnati and once before this since I have been here. I don't know what my fate is yet, I sometimes think they will give me my discharge, than again I think they will not. I hope they will, for as I said in my last, I am anxious to get out of the service and be a free man and be with my dear wife and babies once more. With much love to all, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

P. S. Direct to:

Captain H. Russell
Main Street Hospital
Covington, Kentucky

Main Street Hospital
Covington, Kentucky
June 16

Dear wife,

Yours of June 9th came duly to hand and I am very glad to hear that you are well and alright once more, for I felt very uneasy about you. I am gaining very fast, I don't think they will give me my discharge at this place. Whether I will be able to get a leave of absence or not, can't say. If not, as soon as I am able to travel, shall make application to be sent to my regiment and when I get there will be sure enough to get my resignation accepted. I shall try and come home first if it is possible. There is nothing new here, I shall look for another letter from you today. Kiss the babies for me and I assure you there is not an hour but I think of you all. I will have some photographs taken and send you. I would like yours and the children, but think you had better not send them just yet.

Yours,

Hiram

Direct to:

Main Street Hospital
Covington, Kentucky

Main Street General Hospital
Covington, Kentucky
June 21st/64

Dear wife,

I received your letter of June 16th this morning, was glad to hear that you were getting along so nicely, but can't see the point where the calf comes in. I shall probably remain where I am for some time yet. I will give you a little idea of how I spend my time. We have breakfast between 6 & 7 A.M. Surgeons call at 8 o'clock, after which some of us go to Cincinnati and see the elephant. Sometimes come home to dinner and then go again after tea. Sometimes to the opera or a concert, after which we come home and retire to our respective couches and dream of our friends and loved ones at home. As regards the photographs, will have some taken and will send them delivered if I can do so without too much inconvenience and it would be very likely to get spoiled sending by mail. I would like very much to have your photograph before I go to the front. My wound is not healed up yet, but is doing very well. It has got so near the end of the month now, that I shall not leave here if I can help it till July when I shall make application to be sent to the front or to my regiment. As I said before, if I do not come home by the first of July on a furlough, as discharge is out of the question here, I shall send home $800.00 less three hundred to go to Sawyer and a few other small debts the balance for you. My general health is pretty good. I shall write to Lyman in a day or two. Everything is pretty quite and nice. Goose hangs high, with much love to you, I remain yours,

Hiram

Main Street General Hospital
Covington, Kentucky, June 23rd

My dear wife,

I received a letter from you yesterday, also one this morning and they were welcome I assure you. Was glad to hear that you were getting on so nicely. The weather is awful hot, not withstanding we have had plenty of rain of late. The city is rather dull at present. The most excitement is the reception of old troops whose time are out. The 5th Division came in today. It is so hot I shall not go over to the reception. I generally go over to the city of Cincinnati every evening and spend three or four hours looking at the sights generally. Sometime to the opera. I spoke to my surgeon in charge on the 20th about going home. He asked me where it was, I told him, he gave me a long whistle and said he could not see the point, but if I wanted to go away for 4 or 5 days he would wink at it. And I think some of going to Louisville the first of the week to be gone two or 3 days for a change. How long I shall remain here can't tell anything about it. I may be here a month yet by what the contract doctor told me this morning. It is a nice place to stop and good board and plenty of ale to drink which is ordered in place of water in this hot weather and I think it agrees with me full as well. We have a call from the ladies occasionally and sometimes we make believe we are in a great deal of pain so as to have their sympathy. The first few days after I had my ball extracted, they used to come and see me every day and I think one of them came very near falling in love with me, at least I thought so from her activity. But, when she looks at my card, which we all have at the head of our beds and saw that I was married man, I don't think she loved me as well, or rather she was not quite as affectionate. Still she calls occasionally, a Sister of Charity. Write often, with much love to yourself & babies, I remain,

Yours,

Hiram

Main Street General Hospital
Covington, Kentucky, July 3rd

My dear wife,

I received your letter of June 26th this morning. It is Sunday and everything is very quiet. There are about eight or ten officers in the room as I sit writing, talking politics and having a general good time. You speak of my coming home, it is out of the question. I shall soon leave for the regiment, but how soon I can't say, but will probably be in the course of two weeks. I shall send some money home the last of this week, $700.00 and perhaps more, can't tell yet. I am very sorry to hear you are having such hot and dry weather. Your grass must be very light and I think you had better buy some hay off Spindler and pay him a part on it so as to have plenty next winter time hay. What I shall do when I get to the regiment can't say, may resign and may not, will depend on circumstances. I would like very much to come home but that is out of the question at present. Kiss the children for me and tell them Pa will come soon. How do those apple trees get along that I set out this spring? And write me all about your garden. Give Mr. & Mrs. Whiting my best respects and tell him to take care of all widows & orphans. My kindest regards to your folks and with much love to yourself & babies.

I am yours,

Hiram

Will send photographs this week.

Main Street General Hospital
Covington, Kentucky, July 9th/64

Dear Maria,

I wrote you this morning to let you know that I am about leaving this place. I start on Monday for my regiment. Shall leave here on the noon boat for Louisville, thence by rail to Nashville and so on to Chattanooga. I am not able yet for duty, but want to get away from here as I can not get a discharge or leave and by joining my regiment can get the former. Have enjoyed myself very well since I have been here. There are quite a good many officers here and we go in for a good time generally. I ordered some photographs but did not like them, so would not have them and consequently I shall not have time to get any. I sent Sawyer $700.00, was sent by express on the 6th of July. so you can send to him for what money you want. You had better pay out what we owe in Fremont as soon as convenient. I wish I was coming home for I am very anxious to see you all once more. Shall be glad when I am a free man once more. Write me and direct to the regiment. My kindest regards to all friends and love to your own dear self and babies. I remain yours,

Hiram

St. Cloud Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee
July 13th, 1864

My dear wife & babies,
Left Cincinnati last Monday noon, came by boat to Louisville, thence by rail to this place. Shall leave here for the front at 12 1/2 o'clock today. I shall not be gone a great while if I can help it. I have not got time to write more this morning but will let you hear from me the first opportunity. Love to all,

Hiram

Battlefield, Two Miles From Atlanta
July 24th, 1864

To my dear wife,
I received yours of the 16th yesterday evening and was glad to hear that you were well & the children. I arrived at the regiment on the 21st, instantly found them in line of battle and had been fighting very hard all day. It seemed rather tough to get under fire again, but I am getting used to it again. We have been under fire constantly since I came here. There are cannon shelling the city stationed only a few rods from me as I sit writing, twenty & twenty-four pounders. They reply by throwing occasionally a solid shot, two struck in our camp this morning, most of them pass over us. They throw a shell every ten minutes into the city all night from our guns. Picket firing is constant. General McPherson, who commanded 3 Corps on our left, was killed on the 22nd. They drove our forces from Decatur and captured 10 pieces of artillery. We then drove them out again and took back 4 pieces of the same. McPherson was killed while leading the charge. The loss in our regiment since we left Chattanooga up to this date, is 100 killed & wounded. I find everything alright so far. As soon as I get to Atlanta, shall tender my resignation if I should have the good luck to get there alright. Tell Mrs. C. that I am very glad that she remembers the poor soldier and that I appreciate the little token she sent me and will preserve the same. But dear, would preferred to of received the same from your own dear self. Tell Conant that I am glad to hear that he is reforming and I think there will be quite a change in the state of things. My kindest regards to all friends and if I get through this campaign alright, shall come home to my dear wife & babies to <u>stay</u>. My kindest regards to your father & mother, also Mrs. Whiting & Mr. Whiting & Mrs. Laro & family. With much love to your dear self & babies, I remain,

Battlefield, Two Miles
From Atlanta, Georgia
July 25th, 1864

To my dear wife & babies,

Your kind & welcome letter of July 18th came to hand about an hour since and I assure you, nothing could of given me more pleasure. I shall remain with the regiment for the present. I have tendered my resignation on Surgeons Certificate. How long it will be going through, if it goes at all, can't say, which I think is a sure thing. (God knows I hope so). I thought I would let the conductorship go and get out of the army while there was a show for so doing. We commenced shelling the city of Atlanta day before yesterday. As I write, the shells are busting all around us as the Rebs throw them over. We are laying behind a hill which covers us. You speak of my becoming acquainted with numberless ladies. You should know by this time that I am proof against all charms coming from any but my own dear wife. However much I fool and talk with others, which is my nature, I love none but you my own dear Maria. You say you think you can recognize the lady from which I sent the photographs. I think you never saw her. She belongs to the (*illegible*) and is not very handsome, but awful good and very affectionate girl. She used to bring me a great many nice things when I was laid up in hospital. You speak of Whitings getting over his part because you did go home with him on the 4th. Don't know what you mean. I am laying flat on my face while writing, which is not a very comfortable position and will have to close. My kindest regards to Molly when you see her, also to all the schoolmarms, Mrs. C., Jacoby Whiting & wife, et cetera. With much love to your dear self & babies, kiss them for Pa.

Your

Hiram

Yours,

Hiram

I just directed a letter for Rudolph to to Mrs. Conant, so you must not think I am corresponding with her. Tell Mrs. Pickle that I found the boys alright and in fine spirits.