

Corpus of American Civil War Letters
OH3-01, William Culbertson

Source: (#1328) William Culbertson Papers
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William Culbertson (b. ca. 1829) was a farmer from Bridgewater, Williams County, Ohio. He was 35 years old when he was mustered in as a corporal in Company H, 38th Ohio Infantry on August 30, 1862. He also served for a short time in the 1st Battalion, Pioneer Brigade, Army of the Cumberland. He was discharged for disability on October 15, 1863 and died sometime before the census of 1870. The letters are written to his wife, Julina Culbertson.

Transcribed by M. Ellis, December 2009
Proofed and corrected, January 2010

Camp Toledo Sep Friday
25th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrihting you a <few?>
<l?>ines to inform you
that I am well and
I hope these few lines
will find you injoy
ing the same
We arrived in camp
yesterday Evening about
half an our before Sun
down the camp is 3
miles from the station
we got our supper as
soon as we arived
this is rather a sing
uler looking plase
there is about 200
[page 2]
Shantyes all bilt out
of pine lumber and
about of a Size there
is all kinds of Chaps
here it was a perfect
<howl?> here all night
this morning me and
<??>ers was Detailed

to do the Coocking to
Day and we have just
got through with Diner
we have got plenty to
eat Bakers Bread fresh
Beef Potatoes Coffy
and Shooger we expect
to leave here tomorrow
for Columbus Enoch
frisby is going home
to morrow and i send
this with him right
Soon and let me
know whether you get
[page]

this or not I will
right to you as soon
as we get to Columbus
I want you to be Chearful
and keep up good hart
for I will Shurly com
Back I want you to
right all of the particu
lers and let me know
what is going on right
what you thought of them
Pictuers and what the
girls thought of there
little Boocks tell them
to keep them nise til
i come home I will send
Wm Walles a present when I send
the Satchel home that is if
I dont dome with it my
self Julina i cant tell
you yet where to Direct

[page 4]
a letter and you had
better wait til you hear
from me again i will
right soon

give my resp
ects to all
I cant think
of any thing more at
present

So Good By
for this time
Wm Culbertson
to wife

Bart has just come in and he
says we will be in columbus before
letters will get there So you can
Direct to me at Columbus Ohio in care of
J B Hanna

Camp Delaware Wednesday Oct 1st /61

Dear wife

I take the opportunity
of writing you a few lines
to inform you that I am
yet well and hearty and
I hope these few lines will
find you the Same It seems
as though it was all most
impossible for me to get to
hear from you we are in our
Second Camp now we got
here yesterday at noon and
we leave to morrow morning
for camp chase Bart has just
returned from Columbus and
he shoed me his Commision
as Second Lieutenant
he said that we would

[page 2]

leave Camp Chase day after
to morrow for the regiment
that is at louisvilleCantucky
the are going to husel us
right through we will receive
our clothing and advance pay
at Camp Chase I rote to you
last friday and likewise last
tuesday and i sent them both
up by Enoch Frisby if you
dont get them before you get
this you had better send william
walles over to Frisbys and get
them I rote to you in the
last one to right to me and
direct to Dellaware but if
you hant sent any there
I am glad for i wont get
it I am verry ancious to
hear from you but i suppose
I cant til i get to the

[page 3]

regiment so you may as
soon as you get this right
to me and Direct to me

in this way William Culbertson
38th Regiment O V u S A
in care of Captin Newman
I want you to right me
a great big letter and right
all the paticulers if i find
out that we will be detained
Sevrel days at camp chase i
will let you know i will right
to you so that you will git
a letter from me evry week and
i want to hear from you evry
week you hardly know how
much good it would do me to
hear from you i want you to
right evry thing you can think
of and when you cant think
of any thing more let some of
the rest right i want you to
[page 4]
right and let me know
how many was drafted to day
in bridgewater township and
who the ware there was 44 Drafted
in this County Delaware to day
I thought we had got in a
hard camp when we got to
toledo but that was nothing to
this camp but still i dont
complain I expected to see hard
times but as long as i keep my
health and have enough to eat
as i have so far i will get along
I will right to you just before
we leave camp chase I will have
to bring my letter to a close for
i have rote the sheet most over
Kiss the Children for me and tell
them to be good children So
good by for this time yours truly
from william Culbertson to Julina Culbertson

Camp Toledo Sunday Evening,
Sep the 28th / 62

Dear wife

I Set Down once
more to inform you that I
am well and i hope these
few lines will find you the
Same I rote to you last
friday but you will
get both of the letters
at the Same time I
Expected Frisby to leave
here the next day after
I rote to you but he has
not com yet but he told
me this Eavening that he was
going to Start back tomor
row morning and i thought
you would like hear from me
Sooner than to Send it
[page 2]

by mail This has ben
a busy day although there
has ben lots going on there
is a noisy Set here
there was a lot of boys
Just Come in here to
have a dance but i Trowe
them out there has nothing
Serious hapend here Since
we came here ther is
a few of the boys Sick
but not Serious i was to
town yesterday the only time
i have ben there Since we
came here we have just
got the word that the 38
Ohio regiment is in luis
vile Cantucky and the 38
here gave three harty Cheers
with the hops to Soon
meat them I will right
to you soon again perhaps
[page 3]

you will get a letter
from me nex Satterday by

in this way William Culbertson
38th Regiment O V u S A
in care of Captin Newman
I want you to right me
a great big letter and right
all the paticulers if i find
out that we will be detained
Sevrel days at camp chase i
will let you know i will right
to you so that you will git
a letter from me evry week and
i want to hear from you evry
week you hardly know how
much good it would do me to
hear from you i want you to
right evry thing you can think
of and when you cant think
of any thing more let some of
the rest right i want you to
[page 4]
right and let me know
how many was drafted to day
in bridgewater township and
who the ware there was 44 Drafted
in this County Delaware to day
I thought we had got in a
hard camp when we got to
toledo but that was nothing to
this camp but still i dont
complain I expected to see hard
times but as long as i keep my
health and have enough to eat
as i have so far i will get along
I will right to you just before
we leave camp chase I will have
to bring my letter to a close for
i have rote the sheet most over
Kiss the Children for me and tell
them to be good children So
good by for this time yours truly
from william Culbertson to Julina Culbertson

Camp Columbus Sunday afternoon
Oct the 5th 1862

Dear Wife

I take my pen in
hand this afternoon to inform
you that I am well and
harty and I hope these few
lines will find you the
Same we drew our clothing
and money yester day and
I Expressed (30) thirty Dollars
to you in care of George
L Starr you had better to
to Bryan as soon as you
get this letter and get the
money it is all in united
States Bills the Boyes could
not agree to send there money
all to one place some sent
to one and some to another

[page 2]

I thought I would send
mine and Delbert in
Care of George L Starr
and the close are all in
two boxes and sent to
Burk the tavern keeper there
where you Stoped when you
got of ov the Cares my [cares = railroad cars]
Satchel has got a card
with my name on it
you will to pay the Charg
es when you get the
Satchel send word if you
can ~~that~~ to Mr geratage
to Mr heratage that
Delberts Satchel is there
right as soon as you
get this and let me
know whether you got the
money and Satchel
we will leave here tomorr
ow morning for Camp Denison
[page 3]
but it hant likely that

we will stay there long
I hant recived a letter
from you yet nor i dont
expect one til i get to
the regiment but i want
one when i get there with
out fail as soon as i get
there I told you in my
last letter to Direct to me
at the regiment so i will
give you the Direction again
Direct to William Culbertson
38 regiment O V u s A
give my respects to all
and tell them to right to
me I will quit righting
for i have not got a good
plase to right So Good by for
this time yours truly
from

William to Julina

[page 4]

in this letter i enclose
the receipt for the money
that i Expressed to you
take it to Bryan with
you when you go after
the money

Good by

Camp Near Lebinon Ky
Oct the 23d /62

Dear wife

I take the oportunity of
wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am
well at present with the exceptions
of a cold and I hope these
few lines will find you well
and the Children and the rest
of the friends we have had a
hard time of it for the last
three days we have marched from
morning til night and last night
we marched til ten oclock you
had better beleave I was tired
last night we are in camp
now but we may not be here
one hour it has ben very plesant
here ever Since we have been here
[page 2]

with the exception of nights
the have ben cold and frosty
for a few nights I received your
letter as we were marching through
Danville I rote you a letter
a week or ten days ago but I
hant had a chance to male it
til now all mail communication
has ben cut of between here and
louisville till this week the hant
had any male at Danville til
this week for Sevin weeks but the
way is clear now I was glad
to hear from you I want you
to right evrry week for you
dont know how much pleasure
it gives me to hear from you
I supposed Cyrous would have that
house fixed before this time I want
you to right to me and let me
know what the reason is that
he dont fix the house and
[page 3]

let me know whether the
Corn is husked and the potatoes

dug and about the buck wheat
and how much wheat you got
I want to know it all I
got a letter from Rachel when
I got yours the were all well
the most that we suffer for here
is watter we have the miserablest
water here that i ever drank
I want you to take that money
and lay it out for clothing
and the next that i send to you
if you dont Stand in nead
of it i want you to pay my
little dets with you Stated in
your letter that you would
send me your likenes it would
be a great pleasure to me to
have it but you had better
not Send it I am so lodid
down now that it seems as though
[page 4]

I would have to through
part of my stuf away now
there is some of the boys here now
and the dont know hardly what
to do with them you had better
get yours and the childdrens taken
and keep them til i come home
tell Sarah Elon and lidda
that I was verry glad to hear
from them and i want to hear
from them often but the will
have to excuse me for not
wrighting to them this time
for i dont know what minet
I will have to start give my
respects to all and tell the
Children i would like to see
them no more for this time
you Directed your letter right
only you must direct to
william Culbertson Sen there is
two of us by the same name
in the same company he will
have his to william Culbertson Jr
[in right margin]

good by for this time wm to Julina

Page 1

Camp Near Lebinon Ky

Oct the 28th /62

Dear Wife

I take this oportunity
of wrihting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well
at present and I hope these
few lines will find you injoy
ing the same I received you
your letter last night that
you and henry rote I was
glad to hear from you I Cant
have the privlage of Seeing you
but it is a great privlage
to heare from you i want to
heare from you evry week if
possible my health is good now
last Saturday we had the first
Storm of any kind we have had
since we came here it rained
[page 2]

2

all the after noon and just
at night it commenced Snowing
and snowed all night well we
had a hard night of it with
out any Shelter i[t] cleared of Sun
dy after noon and it has ben
plesent ever since <over?> head it
rather Cool nights though we
are looking for our tents
evry day i will have to stop
righting for a little while we are
orderd out for inspection
well now I will finish my letter
we did not get in from our drill
<??> til <??> noon and since dinner
I have ben takeing Care of Delbert
he is sick to day I am glad
to heare that mother is coming out
there to live with you I hope the
boys will bild a good warm house
for you to live in you must have
it fixed up good before you moove

[page 3]

3

in to it I cant tell you
any thing about when we will
leave here we got orders yesterday
morning to marct at nine o clock
and he hant herd any thing of
it Since you wanted me to right
about the plase we are in I cant
tell you much about the plase we
came here in the night and i hant
run around any we are here among
the hills and mountains on what
is called the rolingfork a Stroom
of water about as large as the
H. <?> the only runing Stroom that
I have seen since I came to this
state my cloths are clean and hole
and i have plenty of them for the
present I will send you my
picture again as soon as i get an
oportunity to have it taken
I guess you neadent worry about
my being in battel verry Soon
[page 4]

4

the rebles are agraid of us the
greatest truble will be to catch
them you know catching comes before
hanging tell the girls to keep there
Books clean and nise til I come home
I will put a pare of Eare rings in
this letter that Jerry give me and
give them to Adalaid and i will
Send Della Some thing els some time
you neadent be any alarmed about
letters getting here now there hant
any rebles to stop the male between
here and Louisville I expect Hiram
Nobles was in louisville when i was
there but i didnt know it then
and if i had I might as well
look for a needle in a hay Stack
as to look for any boddy there I Saw
one man there from Newlondon he knew
Charles i have gorgoten his name he

married one of James R A Disbrows
girl's I wrote to you in my other
letter how to Direct to me and for fear
that you don't get the letter I will send
it to you again there is two of us by
same name in the same company and i
will have mine in Culbertson Sen and his
will be Wm Culbertson Jr by that mean we
[continued in right margin]
won't read each others letters

Sunday Afternoon

Galiton Tennise Nov the 9th 1862

Dear Wife

I take my pensil in
hand to inform you that I am
well at present and I hope these
few lines will find you the
Same This makes the third letter
that I have riten to you Since
I have got any from you I
dont know what is the reason
that I dont get any letters
any more but I dont get
discouraged yet I am in hopes
evry day to get one we are
thrity miles East of Nashville
garding railroad at present
the rebles has burnt all the
Bridges between here and Nashville
and bloed the tunel ful of
rocks it was all dun this

[page 2]

week by the rebel Jeneral
Morgan General Morgan is caled
the most dangeros man there is in
the suthern Confederacy he knows
evry aker of this hole country
and he is doging around among
the hills and mountains and
when he can catch a Small
forse of men he will pitch on
to them and kill all he
can and take the rest prisnors
and then doge of some wher
Els it hant ben but a short
while Since he was in our
Camp in disguise and nobody
knew it til he was gon he
tried to take Nashville last wedne
sday but they was to much
for him he lost two hundred of
his men yesterday our cavelry
took twenty of his men about
three miles from here I dont
[page 3]

think we will have a
batel with him our forses
are to strong for him and
he wont try us and i dont
think we can catch him for
he knows the country better than
we do I have no more kews
of any importance to right
this time So i cant right
much more if I had just
received a letter from you
maby i would have some thing
to right about Some times
I think you are Sick or
you would right but you
are well our regiment is
all well at present as far
as i know give my respects
to all inquiring friends and
right soon give me all the
poticulers when you right
right about the Children

[page 4]

we have verry Singular wether
here it is dry and plesent
last friday it was rather Cool
& Spit Snow all day but
yesterday and to day it warm
and plesent it is cold
nights no more at present
Good by for this time
yours truly

william Culbertson Sen

to Julina Culbertson

Galiton Tennasee Nov the 24th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well and
I hope these feu lines will find
you the Same I have riten to
you once before since i received
a letter from you I Should have
riten to you sooner but I wated
a few days to See if i would
ent get a letter from you
But I want to right so that
you will get a letter from me
evry week So I will right to day
I will have to stop righting now
i am Detailed I dont know
when I will get a chance to finish
tuesday morning Nov 25th I will try
and finish my letter this morning
I am at the city of Galiton

[page 2]

I am Detatch from the regiment
I belong to a core of Engineers
and Mechanicks the probibility is
I will Stay in the core as long
as I stay in the Service I dont
know but I think I have made
a good Exchange If I pas as a
Mechanick I will get forty cents
a day Extry from my monthly
wages the think the will put me
to huing timber mostly we dont
have gard dooty to do nor not
so much marching nor we dont
have to work Sunday we are
going to work now on a fort
at this plase I dont know how
long we will stay here we may
stay 2 or 3 months but if there
is a rail road bridge burnt
to night any where we will have
to go to it tomorrow John Allman
is with me you must Direct your
letters Just as you have dun til
I give you further orders

[page 3]

I Shant right much this time
I will have to go to work at
ten oclock and it is about nine
now I had the best nights rest
last night that I have had for
Some time we are quarterd in
a large brick bilding with plenty
of Straw to lay on Lieutenant
Gleeson our bos says he will
get ticks for us to lay on if he
can I have looked for a letter
from you for a week we dont
get our mail reguler yet the
cars cant run through yet to
us from the East so we dont
get our mail reguler but the will
have the tunel fixed in a few days
and then we wil get reguler
mail if old morgan dont raise
the old harry again you must
righ often for the time Sems long
to get a letter I feel first rait
this morning give my respects

[page 4]

to all inquiring friends
and kiss the Children for me
right all the poticulers when
you right I wil right next
Sunday again if I am well
and oportunity will permit I
Cant think of any thing more
to right this time So good
by for this time

yours truly
Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson

Nahsville Tennisee Nov 30th /62

Dear wife

I take this oportunity
of wrighting you a few lines to
inform you that I am well at
present and I hope these few lines
will find you the same I received
your and henrys letter of the 16th
of Nov and was glad to hear from
you we are in the Citty of Nashville
at present we are stopping in the
Parler of a rich Jentleman we are
on the second flore the family
living in the house it is a large
Brick bilding the rooms that we
ocupy is carpeted and as well finished
as any room that I ever saw we
came here from Galiton last night
on the cars it is raining a little
to day it looks lonesome and
Dismal to day it makes me a little

[page 2]

home Sick with the rest I am
with the Engineers and mechanicks yet
I rote to you about Joyning them
last week so if you get my other
letter you will understand all about
it you stated in your letter that
you was almost discouraged trying to
right ot me you said you had riten
five letters to me I guess i have got
that many from you since i left
you nedent be dis couraged as long as
you get letters from me it seems long
for me between times to get letters from
you but I know how it is the mail
communication has ben cut of
between here and Louisville ever since
we have ben this side of louisville
and mail couldent go regular but
the railroad is opend through now
from louisville to Nashville and we
will get regular mail each way as
long as i stay here there is no
knwoing how long that will be

[page 3]

you wanted me to right about my
Socks the are good yet my other
cloths are good the only truble is
to keep the lisce out of them although
I have not had many of them yet
I have kept my self Clean this far
but the nisest people in the world
cant all ways keep red of them I have
Catched 5 or six in my cloths since
i have ben in the army well that
is enough about lice you said you
thought if we ever got to gether again
we would know how to appreciate
Each others Company well i think so
to I would give evry thing that
I have got in the world if I could
be with my family to night but
that is all the good it does to think
about home there is a great many
Soldiers dies with nothing but home
Sickness right soon so no more for this
time good by Wm to Julian Culbertson
Direct your letters as you have done
[page 4]

Dear Brother and Sister

I hope these few
lines will find you well and injoying
the blessings that are handed down
to us from on high I am well
at present and i hope these few
line will find you the same
I have got pretty well down
in dixy and there is know
knowing how much further
i will have to go I hope not
much further I am in hopes to
get home this spring but I dont
know how it will be yet If you
have got plenty of potatoes yet
eat a few evry day for me I want
you all to do the best that you
can and I will do the same it is
getting dark and i will have to
Stop righting for this time So good
by for this time Wm Culbertson
to Henry and Betsy

Nashville Tenn Dec the 7th /62

Dear Wife

I take this oportunity of
wrighting you a few lines this morning
to inform you that I am well
and harty and I hope these few
lines will find you injoyng the
Same Blessing I ansuerd the last
letter I received from you the four
part of last week I expect there
is a letter for me at the regiment
I would like to be reading a
letter this morning from you we
are Still here at Nashville we hant
done but one days work Since we
have ben here the is a great
deal of excitement here at present
about peace the majority of the
people here thinks that peace will
be proclaimed with a month
it is hopeful that it will

[page 2]

we have verry plesent winter wether
here it Snowed here day before yester
day yesterday and to day the Sun
Shines and looks verry plesent
it is verry lonesome to day for me
I wish i could be at home to day
with you but I hope it will
not be long til i will be at
home I expect you are keeping
house by this time and injoying
your self as well as you can
if mother is with you give her
my respects and tell her that I
would like to see her I expect
you have got the cold winter wether
there by this time we are Stil
in that big Bric house that i
rote to you about the people
are Strong Sesessionest but the
dasent Say much It has ben
two weeks since we left the
regiment we have had Easy times
of it Since we left I dont

[page 3]

know how long it will last
though I received a letter from
Elias Culbertson when I got your
last one the were all well
tell the Children to al be good
Children when i get home I dont
ant to hear of them being bad
children I would like to see
them verry much it would do
me a great deal of good I think
of you all a great deal that
is about all that i have to
think of now days when you
right again right where charles
is and what he is a doing also
where Sammy is I expect the
young folks are all fixing for
Christmas and newyers back there
Give my respects to all I will have
to stop righting for this time
So Good by for this time

yours truly

Wm Culbertson
to Julina Culbertson