

## Jacob Ebersol Collection

Guide to the Jacob Ebersol Archival Collection, Surgeon, 19th Indiana Regiment of Volunteers.

### DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

#### Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center Kenosha, Wisconsin

#### Language of Material

Material in English

#### Abstract

Please note that unlike other collections, this collection is in two parts or categories. The reason for this is that Dr. Ebersol made field diary entries noting medical conditions or infirmities and the outcomes of surgical procedures for his own records and other medical staff. That is the first part of his collection. In this section his entries are very short, concise, and without much description other than the fact that he was an eyewitness to the event. This collection begins on January 1, 1862, and ends on December 17, 1862. There are approximately 193 entries. From mid April, 1862 we begin to get a clearer picture of his definitive “marching orders” and from that point his eyewitness testimonies are reflections of what he encounters on the battlefields. I am listing in this collection only what I feel will benefit the interested public and those doing research.

The 2nd part of Dr. Ebersol's Collection involves a much more personal account of what kind of man he was, what he experienced and his feelings, beliefs, attitudes and values as expressed mostly in letters to his wife Fanny and his two sons James and William. This second collection contains 80 correspondences in all. Among his writings is a letter to General Thomas and copy of a lecture he was invited to give entitled, “Incidents of Field Hospital Life with the Army of the Potomac”.

This is an extremely valuable collection because Dr. Ebersol's eyewitness descriptions give us a clearer picture of the horrors soldiers, commanders, and the medical staff experienced at the Battles of Antietam in September, 1862 and at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in early July, 1863.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

#### Preferred Citation

(Identification of item), The Dr. Jacob Ebersol Document Collection, The Civil War Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

#### Processing Information

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, 2013

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

COLLECTION LIST: Part 1, Kindly note that I will transcribe what I value as the most important of Dr. Ebersol's professional pocket entries.\* Many of the dates do not coincide with the actual dates of battles fought, but entries include medical information concerning the battles of South Mountain, and Antietam. These entries and reflections were obviously recorded way after the battles were fought as Dr. Ebersol probably had some open time to recall his earlier eyewitness accounts and write them. (This back dating of military events is not intended to confuse the reader).

Part 1: Dr. Jacob Ebersol's Field "Pocket Diary" Entries

Doc. #1 of 193: Wednesday, January 1, 1862

		Sal=Horse—Bot-sabre				
5 years	80	3	4	2	159	
April 5	70	1	4	1	188	

Doc. #2 of 193: Thursday, January 2, 1862

Thomas Daugherty, Co. H., Amputation of the thigh in the middle third, Saturday, September 20, 1862.

Joshua Jones, Co. E., Amputate leg below the knee-September 20th.

Doc. #3 of 193: Friday, January 3, 1862

318 killed and wounded at Gibbon Brigade  
107 19th Indiana, David B. Dunlap, Co. H.

Doc. #5 of 193: Sunday, January 5th

Hackley (name crossed out)  
Kendell Surfee  
Pennsylvania  
Sir M.J.H. White USA  
Killed M.D. Franklin Corpse

Doc.#8 of 193: Friday, January 10th

Port wine and white of egg and white sugar for Summer complaint for children

34 of the 6th Wis.  
46 of the 19th Ind.

Doc.#9 of 193: Sunday, January 12th

Surgical operations consisting of skin or legumentary flaps performed by the French man.

Doc. # 10 of 193: Monday, January, 13th

At South Mountain our loss was 443 killed, 1806 wounded  
Miss., 76

At Antietam, Maryland

Our loss was 2010 killed, 9,914 wounded, Miss. 1043  
Total in two, 14, 794 of the rebels at South Mountain.

Doc. #11 of 193: Tuesday, January 14th

500 killed at Antietam

4500 total killed, 5000 wounded and killed, 23, 742 (total casualties).

We captured in all 13 guns, 7 carisons, 9 limbers 2 field (?),  
39 colors (flags) and 1 signal flag.

Doc. #12 of 193: Sunday, August 26, 1862

It is now 1 o'clock. I have just eaten a good dinner of the following  
dishes, cold boiled mutton, boiled corn, stewed tomatoes, and stewed  
plums with black tea. We are located in the house and finely shaded  
yard of one of the first families of the Old Dominion. Here we have  
located\_\_\_\_\_.

Doc. #13 of 193: Wednesday, January 22, 1862

At the field hospital, the rebels are in front of us. Our batteries,  
3 in number supported by infantry, the 19th Indiana, and the  
2nd, and 7th Regiments with me. Our batteries have been playing  
during an hour\_\_\_\_\_.

Doc. #14 of 193: Thursday, January 23rd

And a half upon the foe, answered and occasionally by them.  
We have skirmishers out also and one of them of the second  
was wounded in the seat (?), a flesh wound. The house was  
deserted when we came in and all valuables were taken away.

Doc. #15 of 193: Friday, January 24, 1862

We found corn and hay and an ice barrel of cornmeal.  
The chaplain is seated in a chair leaning back against a tree  
writing a letter ourselves (?), bringing up his diary. The other  
doctors are lounging around the ground. The battle is an  
artillery fight with no important results yet.

Doc. #16 of 193: Saturday, January 25, 1862

So far as I know we are near the White Sulpher Springs.

The battle will be called the Battle of White Sulpher Springs. At 4 o'clock the enemy sent a flag of truce and the firing is suspended at present. They are carrying in their sick, dead, and wounded.

- Doc. #17 of 193: Sunday, January 26, 1862  
Our men have taken nearly everything this man has. Here I procured one large plate, one saucer, and an old broken looking glass for which I paid one dollar.
- Doc. #18 of 193: Friday, January 31st  
Today received \$644.80 from Paymaster  
\$6.00 Iron Pots  
\$5.00 Dr. Hames
- Doc. #19 of 193: Sunday, February 9, 1862  
I saw a telegram addressed to General McClellan to send home encased with the body of Lieutenant J. H. Morrison of the 6th Wisconsin.
- Doc. # 23 of 193: Saturday, March 29, 1862  
One coffin for Bright (Co. K) and one for Daugherty (Co. H), eight dollars each.
- Doc. #24 of 193: Tuesday, April 1, 1862  
In the 19th in 4 battles, 302 were killed and wounded.  
Wounded, 249  
Killed, 53
- Doc. #27 of 193: Tuesday, April 15, 1862  
Today I received my Commission as Surgeon of the 19th Indiana Volunteers. I arrived at home in the evening and ordered my clothes.
- Doc. #28 of 193: Thursday, April 17th  
Made preparation to join my regiment
- Doc. #30 of 193: Saturday, April 19th  
Started for Cincinnati. Spent the day in getting ready to leave for Virginia. No train out for Washington today as I will have to wait until Sabbath evening.

Doc. #32 of 193: Wednesday, April 23, 1862

Arrived in Washington yesterday and today was introduced to Senator Wright, Senator Lane, Mr. Holloway and Mr. Merrell. We were mustered into the service of the United States as Surgeons of the Regiment and were consigned to the 19th Indiana Infantry of Volunteers.

Doc. #33 of 193: Thursday, April 24th

Started for Aqua Creek by way of Alexandria arriving there at 12 noon. There was no escort going to Fredericksburg as today it was too dangerous to go alone. We remained here accepting the hospitalities of Colonel Bidle of the \_\_\_\_\_ New York.

Doc. #34 of 193: Friday, April 25, 1862

Started today in company with about 20 towards Frederick. Our escort was on foot and I soon out moved them and learned that Potomac Creek was swollen and unfordable. I returned that night lodging at Brooks Station.

Doc. #35 of 193: Saturday, April 26th

Today I reached my regiment in camp above the Falmouth River near Fredericksburg.

Doc. #36 of 193: Sunday, April 26th

Broke camp today and marched to Potomac Creek, a total of 7 miles.

Doc. #52 of 193: Monday, June 16, 1862

Today sent 3 patients to the General Hospital in Fredericksburg. Was introduced to Chaplain Merrill of the 35th New York at 9 o'clock. It is very cool as I had to put on two coats to keep warm. I feel lonely. I think of God, heaven, and the home of my blest dear family and my lonely wife and children, William, James, Joseph, Mary and Frank

Doc. #53 of 193: Tuesday, June 17th

Cool and clear today. I put on my flannel shirt and drawers. Received a letter from Father Glenn, dated, May, 21-27 days on its way here. All things remain in status quo, no news today. I have thought of God and the Blessed Savior and I commit all to His Keeping. Amen.

Doc. #56 of 193: Friday, June 20. 1862

It has been a clear and pleasant day. Today I visited the General Hospital and went to the surgeon in charge to see a large woolen factory. I found it well suited for a hospital and we recommended it for that use. One of our men in a drunken spree (Thomas Gilbet) attempted to cut his throat, the cut the skin over the left side of his neck 3 inches in length.

Doc. #57 of 193: Saturday, June 21st

Was sick with diarrhea this morning and unwell all day. Dr. Stephenson kindly assisted me in prescribing for the sick.

Doc. #60 of 193: Tuesday, June 24th

We had a hard rain last night. The Rappahannic is overflowing its banks and the pontoon bridge is washed away. At this hour of 7 o'clock one span of the railroad bridge has fallen. It swept down to the bridge of boats (?). They were drown (?).\_\_\_\_\_.

Doc. #61 of 193: Wednesday, June 25, 1863

Today my hand pains me much as I have an inflamed pustule on the third phalanx (?) of my middle finger. Colonel Meredith returned from the city today. I rode with the chaplain to see the chaplain of the 14th Brooklyn as he had some time on furlow.

Doc. #62 of 193: Thursday, June 26th

My finger is still very sore and it will soon be ready to open. Had a dangerously sick man today. I had diarrhea men taken with cramps in legs. It collapses, becomes pulse less, cold and blue all over. Suffered all day with pain in my chest in the area of my heart. Suffered (?) five head pains (?) hair head ache.

Doc. #63 of 193: Friday, June 27th

Today I sent 3 patients to General Hospital. The private secretary of Governor Morton is here on a visit to the 19th Indiana. It is clear and warm today. I have felt very badly today and took Quinine and soon felt better.

- Doc. #66 of 193: Monday, June 30, 1862  
Mustered for pay today as there was an inspection of men and quarters. Our camp was found somewhat deficient in sanitary condition. The chaplain is sick today with pain in his stomach and is vomiting. The Lord has been my help in him.
- Doc. #67 of 193: Tuesday, July 1, 1862  
General King returned today to resume command of his division. Some of us think we should soon start to Richmond.
- Doc. #68 of 193: Wednesday, July 2nd  
Rain and wind continued today from northeast, being cool and disagreeable. It is hard on the soldier. One of our men (Wilman) died and was buried today. I slept under 4 blankets last night, none too warm. I must look to God for His Mercy and commit to may all to His earth. Amen.
- Doc. #74 of 193: Tuesday, July 8, 1862  
The 3rd Indiana Cavalry came in today and I saw Lieutenant H. Wright of my town. They have 6 companies of which 4 of them are in Tennessee.
- Doc. #75 of 193: Wednesday, July 9th  
Visited the camp today of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry. Saw all the boys and was introduced to their Sargent, Dr. Beck. Stayed some time in camp as I was glad to see the boys as they were to see me.
- Doc. #76 of 193: Thursday, July 10th  
Cloudy and cooler today looking much like rain. Indications are that we will stay here some time. The soldier has to conquer his prejudices and learn to do as he is ordered and not as he wishes.
- Doc. # 80 of 193: Monday, July 14, 1862  
Warm today as I visited the Indiana Cavalry. I saw my friends and afterwards dined with Mr. Brigands, the chaplain and our band leader. After dinner Mr. Brigands and I visited an old forge that was built by George Washington where shot was made.

Doc. #81 of 193: Tuesday, July 15th

Warm today, very warm. Rumors today of moving. The health of this camp is medium with 30 average on the sick list.

Doc. #82 of 193: Wednesday, July 16, 1862

Warm again today as I went to Fredericksburg. Visited the hospital and the monument of Mrs. Washington. A light shower has fallen cooling the atmosphere. Bless God for His Goodness!

Doc. #84 of 193: Sunday, July 20th

Today has been a good day. At 10 o'clock a few from each regiment of the brigade met in an arbor and constructed out of forks, poles and boughs\_\_\_for Bible class. We had a precious hour of studying the first eight verses in Mathew:4 of the Gospels. And in the evening we had a prayer and exhortation by our chaplain.

Doc. #87 of 193: Wednesday, July 23rd

Consulted with Dr. Beck of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry. in the case of Erin Huffman who is quite ill with Typhoid Fever. I was called to see William Cooper, clerk of Captain Cooper of the Quarter Master's Division. We had an inspection of ambulances and the hospital corps.

Doc. #98 of 193: Tuesday, August 5, 1862

We started at 2 o'clock in the morning marching until 11 A.M. It was excessively warm and many fell by the way. While 2 miles in the rear we heard cannonading in the advance around 10 o'clock. Hurrying forward we found that our cavalry had come on the enemy on the heights up top the river.

Doc. #99 of 193: Wednesday, August 6th

Forming lines at 5 o'clock we marched in the pursuit of the enemy continuing our advance and reaching Dr. Lippos residence. We then marched back to

to our previous residence back to within 4 miles of our previous night's camp. We heard cannonading. Thursday night we stayed at the mill on our return reaching the farm we started out the first night. Here the rebels had attacked our trains but were repulsed. They had previously taken some six or ten wagons with 60 of our extended men. We marched to Spotsylvania.

Doc. #100 of 193: Friday, August 8, 1862

We camped all night near a river's branch. This morning at 4 o'clock we started forward reaching camp at 2 P.M., all covered with dust and very tired. Many men strayed into camp alone.

Doc. #101 of 193: Sunday, August 10th

At three o'clock this morning our line took up the march, the whole of King's Division for Culpepper. There our forces engaged the rebels on Friday and Saturday. There was to be an expected great battle at Telegraph so we hurried on marching 17 miles until we reached camp at Sider Mountain.

Doc. #102 of 193: Monday, August 11th ( 9 o'clock P.M.)

Here we are 5 miles south of Culpepper near Sider Mountain, the scene of the recent battle in which our side lost 1500 in killed and wounded. The rebels lost the same or more. We made forced marches to reach this scene of conflict but came to late to take part.

Doc. #103 of 193: Tuesday, August 12, 1862

Today the rebels retreated passing over the Rapadan River. Dr. Green and I visited the battlefield seeing some of the carnage. One man was left unburied and many horses lay dead. We noted that cartridge boxes and clothes were scattered all about the field.

- Doc. #104 of 193: Wednesday, August 13th  
We are still here in camp. Today I made another visit to the battlefield noting the rebels had buried their dead imperfectly with body parts protruding from the earth. The trees in some places where the battle raged hottest are \_\_\_\_\_(?)
- Doc. #107 of 193: Saturday, August 16, 1862  
At 9 o'clock this morning our regiment formed in line of march and filed into the rear waiting for the final marching order. We marched about 3 miles encamping on the recent battle ground. The marks of carnage are all around us, dead horses and exploded shells.
- Doc. #108 of 193: Sunday, August 17th  
At 10 o'clock today I attended Bible class and preaching at the barn. We had preaching in our regiment in the evening. It was cool and pleasant and I thought much of home today, of my family and the Commandments of Sacred Life. This is hard on Soul and body.  
J.E.
- Doc. #109 of 193: Monday, the August 18th  
Today in compliance with the President's order we were mustered to see how many are missing or absent without proper leave. At 4 o'clock we were ordered to prepare to march. At 7 o'clock we were directed to strike tents in haste and load the teams and send them in advance. We lay on the field all night under orders to march at 1 o'clock.
- Doc. #110 of 193: Wednesday, August 20th  
Today we lay encamped on the north side of the river until 4 o'clock when we were ordered to pack up and send everything away. We sent the sick to the railroad station. The enemy followed us close skirmishing with our cavalry. They killed some of our horses and took prisoners.

- Doc. #111 of 193: Thursday, August 21st  
We are sitting in camp waiting for coffee and orders.  
At 12 o'clock cannonading is going on. Captain  
Crowse of the First New York Battery is wounded  
in the thigh becoming my first wound to dress.  
But I was not present and Dr. Myers (?) was called.
- Doc. #113 of 193: Saturday, August 23, 1862  
At morning daylight there was terrific firing that  
commenced on our side continuing for 3 or 4 hours.  
Our \_\_\_\_ (?) was disturbed by a shot passing over  
our heads and cutting the limbs of the trees. We  
skedaddled in hot haste to a more safe distant.
- Doc. #119 of 193: Friday, August 29, 1862  
Thrown by the enemy we captured 2 of their guns.  
Today we marched all day with frequent stops.  
At night our brigade was engaged in a terrible  
battle. The 19th lost 205 and General King was  
killed. I attended to the wounded until 2 A.M.
- Doc. #124 of 193: Wednesday, September 3, 1862  
Here we lay all day resting and reflecting upon  
the occurrences of the past fortnight. I wrote a  
letter to my wife to let her know that I am well  
and safe from \_\_\_\_\_ (?). Today 24 of  
the regiment came in paroled, as prisoners  
many of them were taken while carrying off the  
dead from the Fields
- Doc. #126 of 193: Friday, September 5th  
A large number of sick with Diarrhea prevailing  
the result of eating improper food.
- Doc. # 132 of 193: Tuesday, September 9th  
Today moved 6 miles to camp at McCanicksville  
and stayed the night at fine farm house. Procured  
potatoes, tomatoes, and peaches.
- Doc. #135 of 193: Friday, September 12, 1862  
At 12 o'clock P.M. passed through Ridge ville on  
the Frederick and Baltimore road and moved on

with frequent halts. There are many union families in this region. Ladies frequently cheered us on our way with their \_\_\_\_\_present and waving Union flags and handkerchiefs. We encamped at New Market.

Doc. #136 of 193: Saturday, September 13, 1862

At 11 o'clock we started onward to Frederick, about 8 miles of marching. At three o'clock we reached the hills overlooking the small city. A splendid view meets the vision of the man, whose soul is moved by a grand landscape. Here is a picture of unsurpassed beauty in any country.

Doc.#138 of 193: Sunday, September 14th

Here we are encamped upon the banks of the beautiful Monocacy. We were called at 4 o'clock to be ready to move at 6 o'clock. We leave with regret this beautiful place passing through Frederick and on the way through Middletown and our encampment. The cannonading continues as we crossed through the ridge seeing the smoke of the battle in the distance.

Doc.#139 of 193: Monday, September 15, 1862

At 4 or 5 o'clock we commenced skirmishing. At 6 o'clock the battle raged continuing until darkness put a stop to the contest. We lost over 200 men, killed, wounded, or missing in action and we labored to treat the men.

Doc.# 140 of 193: Tuesday, September 16th

The enemy left in hot haste around 10 o'clock last night pursued by our men and took many prisoners. The loss of of the foe was large in killed and wounded. We started in hot pursuit and they reported a loss of 7000 (1000?-hard to read). The enemy passes off in cannonading our forces coming up. I and the Chaplain find good quarters in a large barn in straw bed. Our transport did not come up due to a heavy fog this morning.

- Doc. #141 of 193: Wednesday, September 17, 1862  
The morning finds us in the fog. Today a great battle has been fought and our Brigade and Regiment was decimated.
- Doc.# 142 of 193: Thursday, September 18th  
Today we lay still all day taking care of our wounded. Today I operated upon the upper third of the thigh of a man who was shot 3 times in his right leg.
- Doc. #144 of 193: Saturday, September 20th  
Today I amputated one femur in the upper third flap operation and preserved the specimen. I then amputated one leg in the Middle third and preserved the bones, 40 in number.
- Doc.#145 of 193: Sunday, September 21, 1862  
Cloudy and foggy, I feel somewhat rested this morning. Thank God my life has been preserved and I am able to do some good.
- Doc. #147of 193: Tuesday, September 23rd.  
Still at my post and nothing of interest has transpired. I amputated Andrews thigh in Middletown today, and he will die. Dr. Green amputated the leg of Mr. Dunlap in the upper middle third.
- Doc. #148 of 193: Wednesday, September 24th  
Today one of our wounded had a fractured thigh and bad elbow wound. I preserved the thy bone specimen.
- Doc. #149 of 193: Thursday, September 25, 1862  
Today I went to Sharpsburg, Maryland with the Regiment to General McClellan's Headquarters. Dr. Cobs of Massachusetts spoke to our wounded about the subject of the souls good. He was listened to with interest.

- Doc. #151 of 193: Saturday, September 27th  
Today I visited the battlefield and visited Sedgewick and Frenches Hospitals seeing many wounded of Union and Secesh. Our Hospital was today visited by 2 Ladies from the Baltimore Ladies Relief Society who gave us 20 blankets, and some shirts and drawers.
- Doc. #155 of 193: Thursday, October 2, 1862  
All quiet today on the Potomac. I got a pass and went to Seminary Hospital at Keedysville to see the wounded. Allyn Co. H. of the 2nd Wisconsin had died the evening before I took out fractured ends of femur of middle and middle third. Nearly transverse, he died of this wound.
- Doc. #159 of 193: Monday, October 6th  
Today I went to the Smoketown Hospital to see the wounded, and I saw 3 or 4 capital operations. One was of the arm, one near the hip, and one on the thigh.
- Doc. #161 of 193: Saturday, October 11, 1862  
This morning was cloudy with rain and cool. I heard the rebels with 4000 cavalry and some artillery had crossed the river above. I sent by the sutler my sword, gun, and a box of specimens to Washington. On Sunday morning at 3 o'clock the rebel cavalry came through New Market and repelled the wagon, taking my sword and gun.
- Doc. #165 of 193: Saturday, October 25th  
Today we had an inspection and review. Our medical department was inspected by Captain McClellan, a brother of the General's. This evening this enemy Sutler sold liquor to our men and they had a great drunk..
- Doc. # 167 of 193: Tuesday, October 28th  
Today we broke camp crossing South Mountain at Crampton's Gap and into a most magnificent valley where we passed through Burkitsville.

- Doc. # 168 of 193: Wednesday, October 29, 1862  
In camp of rolling hills today only 5 miles from Harper's Ferry. While South some 2 and one half miles from the Potomac, I received a letter that my baby boy Frank is sick. I am uneasy for him.
- Doc. #169 of 193: Thursday, October 30th  
Today I crossed over the Potomac and again on the "sacred soil". We crossed at 4 o'clock marching out 5 miles on the pike. At 8 o'clock we encamped in the edge of a wood for the night. It was clear and pleasant.
- Doc. #172 of 193: Sunday, November 2nd  
I laid in camp all day. There was some cannonading in the direction of Snickers (?). Generals McClellan and Burnside went to the front today.
- Doc.#181 of 193: Friday, November 14, 1862  
Today I was seized with neuralgia (?) of the back and hips which quite disabled me. It made me quite lame.
- Doc. #182 of 193: Saturday, November 15th  
This evening ordered to report at Brigade Headquarters for duty as Chief Surgeon of Brigade and was released the same day.
- Doc. #183 of 193: Sunday, November 16th  
I attended mass today with Dr. Green.  
I had 15 dried apples, 8 sugar, 10 crackers  
17 coffee and  $\frac{3}{4}$  candles.
- Doc. #186 of 193: Wednesday, December 3, 1862  
Today I am quite lame in my back and hips. I exercised to much yesterday. The wind is from the South, stiff and cool. Our tent stove smokes tremendously. My appetite is remarkably poor. There is no paymaster yet.  
J.E.

Doc. #187 of 193: Thursday, December 4th  
Today I weighed 155 lbs. We are yet in camp and expect to move this morning at daylight.

Doc. #191 of 193: Wednesday, December 10th  
Today we moved to camp 3 miles nearer the river. Our Brigade is encamped at the edge of a wood fronted by a low soft and marshy piece of ground. We are under orders to move at 2 o'clock in the morning. At 4 o'clock heavy firing commenced continuing all day until 2 o'clock in the afternoon when it slackened away. I am now the acting Chief Medical Officer in the absence of Dr. Ward. It is warm and pleasant today and the ground is frozen hard. At 3 o'clock the roads are good as I now write. There is occasional shots from our guns. I went to witness the bombardment of the Regiment.

Doc. #192 of 193: Friday, December 12, 1862  
We moved at daylight laying on the bank of the river until evening. Then we crossed over and took our position in the line of battle. We slept in the mansion of Mr. Birnard.

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Part 2: Noteworthy Highlights of Dr. Jacob Ebersol's 80 Personal Correspondences to his wife Fanny and 2 sons, James and William

Doc. # 1 of 70: A letter to his dear wife, dated April 20, 1862, Cincinnati, Ohio

Noteworthy:

- Dr. Ebersol talks about his train trip to Baltimore and purchase of a sword, belt, sash, cap, and gloves for \$34.70. Also makes a purchase of a saddle, bridle, 2 pairs of woolen drawers, etc.
- Mentions that he has had 11 photographs taken, their cost and who he will give them to in his family.
- Also purchased "his outfit" with Father's \$50.
- Speaks of a debt with "Chambers" and invites his family to help him pay on that if they want to.
- Requests that his family not grieve that he is gone, but "goes with a good heart and high spirits".
- Entreats his family to be happy and enjoy themselves during his absence, thinking of him always being in the same condition.
- Signs off with his love and a thousand kisses to you all.
- Reminds them that he might not send money home.

Doc. #2 of 80: A letter to his dear wife, dated Sunday, October 5, 1862, Sharpsburg, Maryland

Noteworthy:

- Remarks about his joy in receiving a good letter from son William and could tell his son has improved in his "chirography and style".
- Feels his son should return to school if his wife "can spare him to go" but leaves the ultimate decision to Fanny.
- Discusses camp life as "monotonous"
- Wishes Fanny could come and visit.
- Expresses his fears that the next campaign after the Antietam Battle will be "protracted" and too long for him and it will be winter before he can return home.
- Discusses the temptation of "leaving without leave" to see his wife but fears it would bring dishonor to the family being published in the state.
- Relates his first duties as a military surgeon and talks about the epidemics of the regiment and treatments methods he is using. He is tallying up the diseases noting that he is experiencing including new ones and is passing on this information.
- Wrote Joseph Glenn of a "laudatory letter" of praise received from General McClellan.

Doc. #3 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, Thursday, October 9, 1862, in camp at Sharpsburg, Maryland

Noteworthy:

- Expresses his gratitude and joy in receiving her letter of October 1st.
- Gives his approval to sell his horse for \$75 or keep him through the winter
- Talks about 2 black boys in camp who shine the soldiers boots.
- Glad to hear his children, Mary, Johnny and Joseph are doing well.
- Talks about the difficulty of getting good food when farther out of Washington, D.C. and longs for his "warm bread".
- Gives a tally of his personal supplies and talks about laying blankets around the campfire with the boys to keep warm at night.
- Doesn't feel fear but is confident and bold but still has difficulty sleeping many nights due to the interrupted sleep, inclement weather, etc.
- Extolls his feelings that "war is demoralizing making life savage"
- Tries to answer his wife's question, "I wonder why you like the service?" replying, that "he hardly knows" but it is "something to excite and expect" and he finds himself "attached to a regiment of soldiers that that are the worst specimens of humanity."
- He addresses her written topic of "widowhood" answering "when I see fit to come home as soon as I can" and states "He cannot resign whenever he wishes."
- Hopes that he can come home at Christmas but cannot tell.
- Mentions his receiving the "Gazetteer" for 5 or 6 days but not reading much news, and he tells her not to forward newspapers unless they have "special interest" for him as by the time they arrive, the news is old.
- Reminds his wife to buy hay for fodder.
- Part of our army corps are now moving toward Fredericksburg and should reach there in two or three days and should join up with the 7th and 14th Indiana Regiments.
- He thinks of her often as she is never far from his thoughts stating, "I live for you and the children doing this for all your sakes"

Doc. #4 of 80: A letter to Lieutenant Colonel S. J. Williams, Commander, 19th Indiana Volunteers, dated, December 24, 1862, near Belle Plain, Virginia, from 19th Indiana Volunteer Headquarters.

Noteworthy:

- He is requesting a leave of absence be granted him for twenty days to visit his family in Indiana due to the fact that his wife "has become an invalid and is recovering slowly and imperfectly from a severe attack of disease"

-He also states that his own person "has suffered from unremitting application due to the duties of my position, not having had one days respite since entering the service."

- "I have suffered of neuralgia of the spine during the past 6 weeks"

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant

J. Ebersol, Surgeon, 19th Indiana Volunteers

-There being to assistant surgeons to the 19th Indiana Volunteers, Dr. Ebersol can be spared for the time asked for, without detriment to his regiment.

Edward Shippen

Surgeon-Chief 1st Division 1st Corps

-Approved and respectfully forwarded

S.J. Williams

Lt. Colonel Commanding

-Approved and forwarded, signed by S. Meredith, Brigidere General, 4th Brigade, forwarded and signed, A. Doubleday, Brigidere General, Command Division, December 25, 1862, forwarded/signed, January 3, 1863 by J.S. Wadsworth, Brigidere General Command Corps, forward/signed, January 5, 1863 by Wm. F. Smith, Major General, Headquarters Grand Division, forwarded and signed and RETURNED DISAPPROVED, by Order of the Secretary of War and signed by Thomas M. Vincent, Assistant Adjutant General on January 17, 1863, forwarded/signed and respectfully returned on January 22, 1863 by Command of Major General Franklin, and M. M. Mahon, Lie tenant Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General.

Doc. #5 of 80:

A letter to his son Joseph, dated, December 26, 1862, in camp near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

-Mentions to his son of finding a letter he sent to a Mr. Dymond found in some socks at the Division Hospital, and that the letter had been previously opened by another surgeon who was taking charge of the goods. He took the letter to a tent of amputees and read it to all in the tent.

-He picked two soldiers in this tent to especially receive copies of this letter, got their names and desired to publish the letter written by

an Ellen M. Sprague including the names of the men who had received the socks, so that she would come “to know that her offering of love” in writing the letter “would not miss being applied” and may the soldier thanks for hearing the letter and their blessings “follow her.”

-Dr. Ebersol asks his son Joseph to “preserve the letter” giving it to your mother Fanny.

Doc. #6 of 80: A letter to his dear wife Fanny, dated, February 27, 1863, in camp near Bell Plain, Virginia.

Noteworthy:

- Talks of recently receiving a letter from you and Dymon recently.
- Mentions that he last reported being in the Division Hospital and that the wounded in his charge were sent back to Washington.
- He mentions the beauty of the Potomac River and asks about the rent of their house.
- He complements her on doing business so well.
- He is uncertain if and when his leave will come but thinks he will eventually get one.
- He answers her question as to the position of our brigade and who is the current commander.
- His Christmas was uneventful and “without much stir” and the weather now is fine.
- Reports that he received the mittens and upon a very “solemn and oppressive scene” and which a soldier sicken with typhoid was not put in any doctor's care when the division hospital was broken up. He goes onto to say that Dr. Shippen “requested him to take him in and care for him” which he did. Nurses sat by him during the long nights but he died this morning. Eight soldiers and a corporal served as the honor guard and we buried him “with the honors of war”. He said “ a few words” at the grave site.
- He requested no more clothes or socks but has all he needs but “some butter would be good.”
- Has no knowledge of how long he will stay here and if it is proper to send any-.

Doc. #7 of 80: A letter to his wife Fanny, dated, January 4, 1863, Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Reports to have just received two letters yesterday, one from her and one from son William.
- He reminds her of his happiness in hearing from her and that he and his never ending love for his children.
- He has mixed emotions of adventure, excitement, patriotism and love of country in the 9 months he has been here.

- He continues his efforts in applying for a 20 day leave of absence but as heard nothing and feels desolate that a close supporter, Dr. Green has resigned and gone home.
- He has plenty of clothes now and is warm and comfortable but wishes that photos of his children would be sent him.
- He is doing his best to stay focused on God and “keep it holy”  
(no signature).

Doc. #8 of 80: A letter to his son William, dated, January 4, 1863, from Headquarters of 19th Indiana Volunteers, near Bell Plain, Virginia

- Noteworthy:
- Received his son's Christmas letter and happy to hear of his enjoying the holiday with “presents and everything to make you happy.”
  - Emphasizes that happiness is not based on what we have materially but what is found in our hearts endeavoring to be moral and have good Christian character.
  - He relates that “the Army is a wicked place with men acting without restraint indulging in the most loathsome vices-drinking, gambling, vulgarity”, etc.
  - He mentions that his Chaplain's son (14) is here and that this experience “will spill him”.
  - His mom reports that he works during leisure hours and “that is all right as it will keep you out of mischief”.
  - ”Write often to your mother and encourage Jimmy to be a good boy.”
  - ”Have been in camp since December 23rd and the soldiers have built small log huts covered in cotton blankets for themselves and each builds a fireplace.
- Your Father  
J. Ebersole
- send this letter to your Ma when convenient and let Grandma read it. J.E.

Doc. #9 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, January 13, 1863, from Headquarters, Dept. 19th Indiana Volunteers, in camp near Bell Plain, Virginia

- Noteworthy:
- Reminds her that he has not had a letter from her since December 29, 1862, from Cincinnati.
  - Complains that “the mails have been quite lean and irregular for some days and he's read only 2-3 papers in the last ten days.

- He answered her and William's letter, there is little to do and many are enjoying good health.
  - He explains of "getting high hopes for a leave of absence" but his leave application was refused in Washington "on the ground that it was irregular, as none were granted."
  - Tells his wife that if he doesn't get a leave of absence this winter, it is his intent to resign in the Spring.
  - Is concerned that his horse is not getting fed enough at home.
  - He asks for some butter, fruit, sardines, jellies.
  - He also needs some boots and will write to father for this and some cheese, concentrated milk, a shaving brush.
  - Gets impatient whenever they lay in camp and would like to see the contest ended.
  - He speaks of the appointments of new commanding officers.
  - Gives a list of what food items cost, butter is at 60- 75 cents a pound and cheese at 40-50 cents while men are paying 25 cents each for "pig's feet". Apples sell for 5 and 6 cents a piece.
- (no signature)

Doc. # 10 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, January 15, 1863.

Noteworthy:

- Explains to his wife that he was ordered to report quickly to the Division Hospital and head for Acquia Creek from Bell Plain to examine and treat incoming wounded from a recent battle.
- He tells his wife, "You may hear of another battle before you get this."
- He thinks they maybe going back to meet the enemy at Fredericksburg.
- He signs off with.."I pray that the God of David may be with us and help us if we are in the right as I do believe we are."

Your husband affectionately,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #11 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, Saturday, January 17, 1863, from Headquarters, 19th Indiana, near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- He mailed one and received two letters from his wife recently.
- Is sorry to hear of his wife's bad health encouraging her to take her "huffland bitters, quinine or Citrate of Iron"
- He gives her the exact dosage of medicine to take and how many times a day to take it.

- He apologizes to his wife for not misleading her into thinking he will be coming home soon and reminds her to “do the things that are most pleasant to you.”
- He explains that he “does not wish to go home if we are about to have a battle, as he is for active movements and crushing blows”.
- He is “still hopeful” and “will never despair of my country.”
- “Many in the army are talking in a way to dishearten”
- “I am for war, terrible war until every traitor is crushed and silenced”.
- He encloses a list of things he needs from her father and explains what they have plenty of, butter, dried apples and peaches.”

(no signature)

Doc. #12 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated January 25, 1863, from Camp, 19th Indiana Volunteers, near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- He talks about “the eve of the winter campaign” and the difficulties of marching in winter, foraging, and finding no ideal places to make camp life comfortable, and even returning to an old camp.
- He finds out today that his leave of absence was officially disapproved “on the 17th” and that he was likely to remain at winter quarters until spring.
- He closes with a wish that his wife were here, his receiving those items he wrote about and the improvement of now warm and pleasant weather.

Yours affectionately,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #13 of 80:

A letter address to Brigidere General L. Thomas, Adjutant General, U.S.A., dated, January 28, 1863, Camp 19th Indiana Volunteers, near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- He respectfully and honorably asks for a leave of absence for twenty days so he can visit his family in Indiana.
- He reinforces his plea by stating that “the regiment is small and in good health” and that he leaves in charge a good surgeon and the Governor has ordered another surgeon to report to the regiment.”
- He is confident that the service “will in no way suffer from my absence”

Respectfully  
Your obedient servant,  
J. Ebersol, Surgeon, 19th Indiana Volunteers

- Approved and respectfully forwarded to A. Preston, Surgeon in Chief, 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 1st A.C.
- Approved by Edward Shippen, Surgeon-in-Chief 1st Division, 1st A.C.
- Approved and respectfully forwarded to S. J. Williams, Lt. Colonel, Commanding, 19th Indiana
- Approved from Hd. Qs. 4th Brigade, dated, January 28, 1863, by S. Meredith, Brigidere General
- To Hd. Qts. 1st Division 1st A.C., dated, January 30, 1863, Respectfully retd. see General Order No. 3 Hd. Qtrs A of P by Cmdr Of Brigidere General Wadsworth T.E. Ellsworth, Captain and AAAG.
- To Hd. Qtrs. 4th Brigade, dated, February 2, 1863, Reply returned-see endorsement  
By order of Brigidere General Meredith  
J.D. Wood  
Captain & A.A.A.G.
- To Hd. Qr. 19th Indiana, February 3, 1863  
Respectfully Returned see end  
S. J. Williams  
Geo E. Finney, Adjutant

Doc. #14 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated, February 19, 1863, Indianapolis, Indianapolis

Noteworthy:

- He mentions leaving Lawrence burg and arriving in Indianapolis to find that Commanding General Meredith “is also here”.
- ”We are to leave for our old place in the Army of the Potomac.
- He asks his wife “to guess whee he is writing this letter from” responding that he is in “Brother Miller's House” in a “spare room” as the hotels are over crowded.
- ”I want to see you very much” “It went pretty hard for me to leave you and the children”
- ”I think I have the best, and most estimable and lovely family in the whole country.”
- ”I hope and pray that the Great and Good Father may keep you and the children from all harm and sustain you through all your trials and loneliness I will not suffer or want and I'll take care of myself.”

- "I send my love to you and hope you will not grieve my absence."
- "I will close by Sending a thousand loves to you and the children."

J. Ebersole

Doc. #15 of 80:

A letter to his dearest wife, dated, February 26, 1863, from 19th Indiana Headquarters, in camp near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Writes that he reached his regiment safely.
- While he was away 7 in the brigade were "drummed out of camp and out of the service. Five of them had their heads shaved for desertion and cowardice.
- Reports that he had not been well "but found my large box here", "a can of peaches broken," and "the boots fit well"
- He states he does not know "how the box got here" or "who paid the charges".
- States that he had a nice visit with Joseph finding him well.
- He reports that "the new surgeon is getting on very well" but that "he has not heard from his family since he left home 5 weeks ago."
- "The mails are somewhat irregular" and we have good bakers that make great pies and breads now.
- "There is no talk of the move of the army" and "there is good indication that we will remain here until the roads dry up."
- "My love to you and a thousand kisses to the little ones too. Do not grieve for me."
- Yours affectionately,

J.

Ebersol

Doc. #16 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated, March 12, 1863, in camp near Bellplain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- He reports that soldier morale is high in fight under General Hooker
- Requests that his wife send him a picture of her, William and Franks.
- Discusses the topic of selling the farm and trying to get \$4500 for it and "urging the tinner to fix the roof."
- Explains his 2 day delay in getting to Washington, being charged and then acquitted for it.

- Mentions the muddiness of the roads and that Dr. Haines wants to be promoted to Regimental Head Surgeon.
- Ends by talking about possible new orders to move and what food supplies he has left on hand for himself.

J. Ebersol, Surgeon, 19th Indiana

Doc. #17 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated, March 19, 1863, in camp near Belle Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Waiting patiently for her letters and cannot do without least one weekly.
- Dr. Haines who left on leave for 15 days said he would call and see you if you went to Aurora
- Gives his wife financial advise on the sale of the house and paying what is owed creditors.
- He reminds her to “sell the farm if you can get \$4500 for it.”
- Admits “it is hard to always know what to tell you to do.”
- Talks about the stormy weather and his disappointment in not getting her picture.
- Hopes that she did not leave the city without getting her picture and the boys taken.
- Have plenty to eat, good fresh beef, good soft bread, fruit, dried apples, potatoes.
- ”Did Dr. Haines get the mortgage when he got the notes from you?”

Affectionately, I remain your husband,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #18 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated, April 3, 1863, from Medical Headquarters near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Writes that he is pleased with her good spirits and admires her self improvement plans like continuing her reading.
- Reminds her to “carry all her burdens to God” and “ be Joyful” to God for all of our Blessings.
- He reports that he has “read as far as Second Corinthians” and states, “there is more wisdom in this Book than all others and “lays out the rules of conduct for all our lives”.
- ”Let the children read it” (not as a task) and reports that

“We now have prayer twice a day in our tent.”  
-Gives her direction in allowing a man to have a garden plot on their farm and gives directions on how to care for black berries and white currents by cutting them back”.  
Your husband affectionately, J. Ebersole

Doc. #19 of 80: A letter to his son James, dated, April 3, 1863 from camp near Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- He opens praising his son how pleased he is that James is being a good boy and that his effort pleases both God and his parents.
- He advises his son to get a small bridle that will guide and hold the horse much better.
- He continues by telling James to feed his horse well and curry him and work on making his summer garden good.
- He urges him to strive to be a good scholar and reminds James that he loves all his children equally.
- His final request is to get his son to write him often and make the headings to his letters “formal”.

Your father,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #20 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, Sunday, April 12, 1863, from camp near Belle Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Received a small letter 3 days before telling him of Aunt Lizzie’s and William Dymoos visit and talk of “selling the pony”
- He urges his wife to not sell the pony unless “the children do not want him” but prefers the family should keep the pony or get at least \$40 for him without the saddle.
- He gives a list of foods he has had in abundance, carrots, beets, butter, maple, molasses, dried and canned peaches and mentions he is “heavier than when at home.”
- He talks about this being a “high week” with visits from the President and Mrs. Lincoln. The President reviewed the cavalry and one or more corp of infantry with artillery.
- He is encamped on high ground overlooking the Potomac at Belle Plain landing
- Along with the President many commanding generals have paid us visits with reviews. This meant that many troops had to be well prepared with shiny uniforms, etc.

- He mentions that after 2 days of storms the weather is now clear and warm and peach trees are beginning to bloom
- There have been several good church meetings and there is some “spiritual awakening” going on in the regiment.
- He wishes that when son William returns home that he be induced to lead in family prayer and encourages his wife to “let him lead at night and you in the morning”.
- He also wishes his little boys Jimmy and Joseph would also “be religious and pray to God.”
- He advises his wife on how to check the pears in their orchard and how to properly trim back the branches.

I remain your affectionate husband,  
J. Ebersole

Doc.#21 of 80:

A letter to his wife, dated, April 26, 1863, from Hdqtrs. Medical Department, 19th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, Bell Plain, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Mentions receiving her latest letter that included a bill from John Shattock that she must pay “as soon as convenient.”
- Imagines her yard and garden back home to be “very nice” and that she should have a nice pair of gardening gloves and a new bridle to better manage the pony.
- In addition to getting a new Chaplain, the regiment “has been paid off”.
- He reports that he will send the city \$270.
- He notes the “glowing amounts of Union meetings” and “patriotic sentiment” in the papers
- Shows confidence in his wife's ability to manage the farm.
- He encloses copies of the “Grand Review of our Army” and other notes of officer promotions.
- He closes with his orders “to perform amputations and other capital operations” and that he “will remain with the wounded of our division in case of a defeat and retreat of our troops.”

(no signature)

Doc. #22 of 80: A letter to his wife, dated, May 1, 1863, from 1st Division A.C. Hospital, 3 miles below Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the north side.

Noteworthy:

- Lets her know that he is well and reports that “a portion of the division crossed over the river” 3 or 4 miles below Fredericksburg.
- They are waiting for the Army up the river to come down “on the flank and rear of the Rebel’s works” and “are currently entrenched looking the enemy in the face”.
- Orders are to remain in the rear with the Division Hospital.
- ”If we are whipped or driven back and must remain with the wounded,” but exclaims “there is no danger in that.”
- Reports that “it is now clear and warm and the ground is getting quite dry.”
- Has heard “that all letters are stopped in Washington for the present” but reminds her he continues to do well.
- We have 11 amputations and I have preformed 3 of them.
- There has been firing from the rifle pits but it is quiet here on Monday. We still hear distant firing up the river.

Doc. #23 of 80: To his wife, dated, Sunday, May 10, 1863, at Banks Ford on the bank of the Rappohannock River.

Noteworthy:

- He is writing to her after receiving one on Friday the 8th having just received orders to prepare horse and instruments immediately to Banks Ford.
- After having crossed the Rappohannock yesterday we found 70 or more wounded in a barn near the river.
- He mentions finding “the confederate neighbors very clever” and their officers “courteous and gentlem anly”.
- He has come down with others to get bread and other supplies “from our side of the river”.
- Was glad to hear that her finger is doing better.”

Entry on Wednesday, May 13, 1863

- Reports his making acquaintance with Brigidere General Wilcox and Captain Millage.

-Experienced going to a Confederate "prayer meeting" the other night and reported singing and praying nearly every evening.

-He reports that the Rebels are "warmly clad but have little to eat except flour, one fourth pound of meat per day.

-Just finished reading her letter of the 7th warning her not to pay Mr. Henry who he thinks has been fully paid.

-He announces that "I suppose you will be much disappointed by our being repulsed and our apparent defeat at Fredericksburg."

-He continues to be optimistic and tells her not to be discouraged but "have faith in God and the right".

-He finishes this thought saying, "I have been with the rebs a week and am satisfied that they believe we can conquer them if we use all our power."

"We are just as good soldiers as they" as "they fight with desperation while all we want is perseverance"

J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

(new sheet) Wednesday.

I wish you to use all the money. Get everything for

- yourself, William, and the children that you may see
- "In short the reason of our want of entire success in
- this effort was the breaking and running of the 11th
- Corps and the want of support to the 6th Corps under
- Sedgwick. General Jackson is dead and the Rebs
- say their own men killed him through mistake. Two
- of their brigades were firing into each other when he
- went he went between them with his staff and was hit
- in both arms.
- -I will now close. Give my love to all and prayers for
- your well being. Ever kiss Frank and Mary.
- J.Ebersole

Surgeon

In Camp near White Oaks Church, 3 or 4 miles below Fredericksburg, Virginia

-Since my last writing you we had a very rapid and disagreeable march moving up to the side of the river 6 or 9 miles above Fredericksburg where a large

- portion of our army had crossed over.
- “A hard battle was fought Saturday and Sunday and
- on Monday we recrossed in the night”
- -A portion of our army had crossed at Fredericksburg
- and had taken the heights but were driven back, so we
- had to recross. Events became so rapid and inexplicable,
- that I cannot tell you what is going on.
- -”I have seen very rough camp life in the past 2 weeks
- and feel somewhat discouraged that we did not succeed
- better.”
- -”The battle above Fredericksburg was the most terrible  
I ever heard but
- the troops on both sides
- were so posted that the casualties were not so great as
- in other battles.”
- -”I do not know what to write that would interest you
- seeing little and knowing less of what is going on.”
- -” I received an order last Friday on the 15th to report
- to division headquarters as we just got back all of our
- wounded over the river.”
- -”When I went over the river I had to leave my horse and  
return in
- ambulance and a pony, and my horse is 10-
- 13 miles from here. I presume I will get him back”

Doc. #24 of 80:

To his wife, dated, May 20, 1863, in camp on  
the Rappahannock, 3 miles below Fredericksburg,  
Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Received a recent letter from her expressing his  
gratitude for both the joy of his family and  
“Glory to the Great Father of us all and our  
Blessed Savior”.
- Many reported newspaper accounts of recent  
events but expects he “will not soon move again  
as about 60 Regiments of 9 months and 2 years  
men have gone out of this army by the end of June.”
- ”No account was made in general talk of the move  
of this army unless we are reinforced by some old  
troops.”
- ”The new chaplain is with us” and mentions

the help of qualified surgeons, nurses, and other pleasant hospital staff.

- "We have one of the best hospital cooks".

- "A number of our men are sick with diarrhea but not bad".

- "Spirits were brought into camp and a number of officers and men of the Brigade were intoxicated to their shame and detriment of the service."

- "All are in good spirits and there is no demoralization in our Corps".

- "I expect to come home in the fall or winter again and wish you could be here for two or three weeks to see how we do in camp."

- (No signature)

Doc. #24 of 80:

To his wife, dated, May 25, 1863, in camp near Fredericksburg, Virginia

Noteworthy:

-Reports that the Corps Medical Inspector just left his quarters as part of his inspecting Regimental Hospitals and the quarters of the men.

-He is flattered that the inspector found the Regiment in good condition.

-Notes receiving a letter from son William today.

Yours affectionately,  
J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #25 of 80:

To his wife, dated, May 25, 1863, in camp near Fredericksburg, Virginia

Noteworthy:

-Writes her that he received her letter of the 16th with nothing worthy to report though "The Brigade sent out 4 regiments down the peninsula between the Potomac and Rappahannic to help some of our cavalry out of a tight place."

- "I remain behind with the sick in camp".

- "Has been very warm here for some days and rained little"

-He notes seeing some of the 7th Indiana boys daily and reports they are doing well.

-Reports that the cavalry just collected 700 contraband "of all ages", and a great many horses, mules, wagons, and bacon (all coming in safe).

- "These people are tired, marching 32 miles and

all rebels...”.

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-”We hear with great joy the good news from Vicksburg” and “I have great confidence in genius and ability of General Hooker. and am willing to give him one more chance.”  
“I think the next effort we will succeed”.  
-”I think much of you and pray you may be happy and trust in God our Savior always”.  
“ My love to you as ever and Kiss f & m for me. J. Ebersole

Doc. #26 of 80:

To his wife, dated, May 31, 1863, in camp near Falmoth, Virginia.

Noteworthy:

-Received her letter of the 21st and is pleased she so pleasant at home.  
-Is writing on the Sabbath and “The Chaplain has gone to take the boys money as we were paid last Thursday.”  
-Told her to expect “\$300” and “expect to be paid regularly”.  
-”Had my dinner of soft bread, ham, dried beef, coffee, potatoes, etc.”  
-He reports in riding by a “large country seat of an ancient family named Greys.” He noted “the large brick mansion covered with tin and numerous houses for servants, etc.” He describes the house as “having 2 fronts”, one sloping down the Rappahannic River filled with flowers and covered with large peach trees”, “and the other looking towards the farmlands.  
-I talked with Mrs. Grey the widow of the owner and her niece was also there. She spoke of her travels all over Europe and the States. “She spoke of hummingbirds but not a word of the rebellion. A guard is stationed here to prevent destruction to the property.”  
-”Our picket guards are all along the river.”  
-He hopes “the children will be good and improve in all of their ways and lessons.”  
-”My life is bound up with yours and the childrens.” “My heart is with you to live and die with you.” “My life is bound up with yours and the childrens and nothing is so afflicting as the thought that may one of my children should be bad and a disgrace to society.”  
“Yours with Love, “

J. Ebersole

Doc. #27 of 80:

To his wife, dated, June 3, 1863, in camp near Falmoth, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Received her letter of the 30th yesterday and happy to know of her improving health.
- Glad to of the vegetables doing well in their garden (beets, corn, beans, potatoes, goose-berrys) and of the pony and new saddle working out too.
- ”Am always fond of these outdoor recreations” (the flowers, smelling buds, natures handy and beautiful work and “colors and perfumes of the floral kingdom).
- ”There is something lovely in a flower, some element of purity”.
- ”I fear I will loose these taste for things by the time I return to civil life, at least for labor of taking care of them.”
- ”You must make an effort to get some wood cut for next winter”.
- Mentions the pleasantness of the weather and how it reminds him of Indianapolis.
- He talks of making his camp rounds and the inspection of conditions, mentioning much filthiness and the daily efforts to make conditions more sanitary.
- He is trying his best to spot what is wrong and improve the conditions of the men and “lay aside everything that is unlawful and do everything that is right.”
- He adds, “Without the trial of our faith, we will not make advancement in moral improvement.”

Yours with much love-  
J. Ebersole

An additional entry on Friday, June 5, 1863, noon.

Noteworthy:

- Mentions an order to “have 3 days rations cooked and be ready to move anytime, saying “the pontoons are moving.”
- ”It is reported that the rebs are leaving their works over the river.”

J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc.#28 of 80:

To his wife, dated, June 11, 1863, from Medical Headquarters, 19th Indiana Infantry,

Falmoth, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Mentions with fellow officers Chaplain Barnett and Lieutenant Richardson of Company F visiting with condemned prisoner John F. Wood who will be executed by muskets on Friday, June 12, between 12 and 4 PM for desertion and changing his clothes to look like the enemies.
- He reports on John Wood's activities that got him condemned to death.
- He gives a history of John's life being 19 and losing his mother at age 7, etc.
- He states that "John was calm and humble and thought he could stand it if God would forgive him."
- After his breakfast came, his irons were taken off so he could eat. "He spread an oil cloth for us to sit on" and "we prayed for the doomed man".
- The chaplain said he would return and "the application made to his extend his time had not been granted".
- "It is now 12 o'clock Thursday night and I visited John Wood again holding a prayer meeting in his tent with 3 Chaplain's and 5 or 6 others present."
- "The guards with polished guns and gleaming swords surrounded the tent and filled the door. "The condemned man is to be carried along and his hour comes". "He is to be shot and buried by the way".
- "At 3 o'clock Friday morning we left camp and carried the condemned man with us."
- "Sitting on his box coffin, his breast bare, he faced the guard, a handkerchief was tied over his eyes."
- "It was as much as I could bare to see."
- "The execution was ordered to be in the presence of the division."
- "I write now encamped just as the sun is setting." The day's march has been dusty and I feel comfortable now in after having a good wash with soap all over. I will sleep tonight with blankets but having no tent.

Affectionately,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #28 of 80 (Second Entry):

To his wife, dated, June 19, 1863, from Camp Hernden on the Alexandria and Leesburg Railroad, Loudon County, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Discusses the variety of weather from extremely warm and dry to “intensely disagreeable”.
- He conjectures that the entire Union army is spread up and down the Potomac “from Washington to Harpers Ferry.”
- Can hear the firing of General Lee's cannons nearly 10 miles distant.
- Complains of having no mail in over a week
- Speaks of “The Campaign in the summer being harder on the soldier than in winter. I dread the heat and dust more than the cold”.
- ”The first year of soldiering has taken all the romance out of the matter for me.”
- Mentions their relocation to a camp at “Gilford Station” and “the romance and charm of camp life has disappeared.”
- ”We are now in a better part of Virginia” six to 8 miles from the Potomac and 22-24 miles above Washington (some 12 miles from Leesburg).
- He notes, “There are some Union men in this county.”
- He signs off saying that “General Meredith has returned to his command after having 2 or 3 attacks of a slight hemorrhage of the lungs.”
- ”My love to you, my heart is with you and the dear children as ever”.

J. Ebersole

Doc.#29 of 80:

To his wife, dated, Sunday, June 21, 1863 (no location given).

Noteworthy:

- States he finally got mail, it came last evening including 9 papers, “one Aurora commercial”, and one letter from Brother Randall with “none from you.”
- Mentions that he “took some oil” last evening and feels better and can hear cannonading some 5-8 miles up the river.”
- He “bought another horse for a pack horse” for \$10 naming him

“bones”. He mentions the horse is “government issue” and “worn out”.

-He reveals that “he is allowed feed for up to 2 horses” and doesn't expect he will return home with “bones”.

-He mentions there are a few sick men in the Regiment and he has got “McLeod's Report on “the Military Surgery of the Crimean War”, finding it interesting.

-All is going well with orders to be marching soon.

Yours affectionately,  
J. Ebersole

Doc.#30 of 80:

Noteworthy:

To his wife, dated, Monday, June 22, 1863 (still in camp at the same place).

-Still in the same place and still hearing the firing between Generals Pleasanton and Stewart's Cavalries with a small force of infantry and artillery. In the afternoon we drove them 4 miles and through the gap.

-Finally over my cold and may have difficulty getting our mail during the summer campaign.

J. Ebersole

Doc.#31 of 80:

Noteworthy:

To his wife, dated, Saturday, June 27, 1863, from camp near Middletown, Maryland

-He is writing her “ a few lines” in time for the Chaplain to take his mail

-Mentions just crossed the Potomac at “Edward's Ferry”, camping at Barnsville and then at Jefferson near the beautiful Monocacy River

-He reports hearing the Rebs are 10 miles away on the Antietam Battlefield near South Mountain.

-Expects another great battle soon as General Meredith just made a speech to his brigade today.

-Yours in love and haste, I will write as often as I am able.

J. Ebersole

Doc.#32 of 80:

Noteworthy:

To his wife, dated, June 30, 1863, in camp near Emetsburg, Maryland. (2 miles from the Pennsylvania state line).

- Remarks on receiving her most recent letters of the 22nd and 28th.
- Mentions recrossing a range of mountains and setting camp at Frederick City. Comments on "the lovely valleys in the best state of cultivation."
- Reports on the natural beauty of "Mt. St. Maries College for Men" nestled in the mountains.
- Noted also his mention of St. Joseph Female College and the nuns ("Sisters of Mercy") "who took care of our wounded."
- Mentions the citizenry heavily favor the command of General

George B. McClellan.

- He notes "the soldiers hand their letters to the citizens as they pass."
  - He closes with "I am well, in good spirits, and rejoice in your happiness."
- Now A due  
J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #33 of 80:

Noteworthy:

To his wife, dated, July 12, 1863, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

- Have been quite unwell of recent, and "had to quit work and lay up."
- The Regiment is near the old Antietam Battlefield and am now mostly recovered having milk and buttermilk
- "Many of the wounded have been sent to Baltimore".
- "This whole country around the town is one great cemetery, the air being heavy with effluvia of the dead."
- I have had no letters from you in a long time.
- "Governor Curtin was here

yesterday” and “Gettysburg is a pretty place.” “It boasts a Theological Seminary, a college, and a beautiful cemetery”

Your husband,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #34 of 80:

To his family, dated, July 16, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-”I am writing with the Baby pulling at me.”

-Sorry to hear of Willie's leaving, and have not had one letter from Lizzie.”

-”There is a great deal of excitement in the city as Morgan is now at Camp Dennison.”

-”Ma, thought of going out there for safety.” “Am thinking of down for a visit for a few days after harvest is over.”

-”Love to all.” The baby keeps pulling the pencil out of my hand.”

In haste, Love-  
(no signature)

Doc. # 35 of 80:

To his wife, dated, July 19, 1863, in camp near Burlin on the Potomac ( 8 miles below Harper's Ferry, Maryland)

Noteworthy:

-He reports leaving Gettysburg hastening to join his Regiment on the battlefield near Williamsport.

-The 19th Regiment “suffered terribly in the late battle” reporting that 300 went into battle with only 84 muskets and many a good man fell “having given their lives to their country and mankind.”

-”I presume we will remain here some days to reorganize the shattered pieces and prepare the army for future work.

-”God dwelt kindly with me and restored me again.” On the first day of the battle I worked at the hospital at

edge of town.

-”The Rebs drove our men in and sent them flying through town.”

-Lost my horse when one of our men in retreat jumped on it dashing away in full retreat. I was sorry to loose the pony. Going to the Regiment I had found out my pony had been recognized and recovered by one in the Regiment and was safe and in good order “with all the trappings.”

“God has helped me even in these little matters. “ A thousand Blessings crowd my pathway,”...”with continued good health”

-I found 2 letters from you when I came to the Regiment.

-The last was the most terrible battle the Army of the Potomac had engaged. “The newspapers do not exaggerate.” The Rebs were slain by the thousands. I was in all 3 days of the battle and “I did more in the late battle than in any of the former.”

-I will rejoice and be glad when this great war is over and I hear of Charleston's downfall.

-”I think you had better sell the cow, tis to long to keep her.”

-”I close..sending my love to you all.”

J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #36 of 80:

To his wife, dated, July 23rd,  
1863,  
in camp near Middleburg,  
Virginia

Noteworthy:

-Your letter informed me of our son William leaving in pursuit of Morgan's army.  
-”It must have been a trial for you to see him leave and enter upon the uncertainties of the campaign.” “I felt uneasiness except for his moral

condition, that some accident of exposure might befall him.”

-By the tone of his writings, he would have been bagged before 20 miles.

-We arrived at this camp on the 20th, the weather is fine and the roads are good.

Middleburg village is strongly secesh though Loudon County “is quite union in feeling.”

-We wait upon the fall of Charleston and bagging of Morgan.

-Not sure where we are headed but think it maybe near Washington, possibly Fredericksburg in which the army will reorganize, “waiting for new conscripts”.

-When men get sick in army on the eve of an engagement, we call it “playing off”.

-”When this letter reaches you I presume you are much disappointed that our Army have not bagged Lee's forces.”

“If you believe all what the reporters have said, you'd think it a small matter to surround and capture 50 or 60 thousand men.” “Lee had one of the best armies in Pennsylvania that was ever raised of the same number in the world.” “They

boasted they could go where they pleased.”

-”I presume I will not see you until the fall campaign is over.”

-”Remember me to all the friends as I send my love to you and all the children

-Dr. Haines remains at Gettysburg with the wounded.

Affectionately,  
J. Ebersole

Noteworthy:

-Have written 2 letters and received 2 of yours.

-Recently arrived here at Warrenton, but haven't heard any news or read a paper in at least a week.

Surprised to learn that General Morgan has been burning depots and tearing up railroads, and he has not been bagged yet.

-Its been raining hard and I have no tent. My hospital wagon remains at Gettysburg.

-There's been little for us to eat these past 2 weeks, often nothing but hard bread, coffee, and sugar.

"We break the crackers putting them into long thin handled iron skilletts, pouring some water on them. Then we stew or steam them until they're nearly soft. Then we make molasses of sugar to grace them with."

- "Sometimes w'ere getting fresh beef, other times salt pork and we have dried peaches."

- "I think I was never more hungry than on the first day evening in the "Battle of Gettysburg."

- "I begged something of a drunk Irish Louisiana Tiger who gave me some hard bread he had evidently taken from our dead, some slices of partly spoiled bologna sausage of which part I ate."

- "There was nothing to be bought and we went into private homes asking for something to eat, ...not knowing where our next meal was to come

from.”

-”Thus half starved we could but half work. After the Rebs were driven out, we done better

-”I think we will not do much until the new army's recruited and filled with new troops.”

-”I've been busy all morning sending 13 very sick men to a Washington hospital.

-Expect a letter from you soon and hope William has returned home by that time.

-Sending my love to you and all the children.

always affectionately,  
J. Ebersole  
Surg.

Doc. #38 of 80:

To his wife, dated, July 31st, 1863, from Warrenton Junction

Noteworthy:

-Tells his wife that he received hers and Williams letter, and advises her to have the house roof repaired before he gets home.

-He warns her to have the roof “raised and slanted” or “it will soon wear out again.”

-He's received a number of letters from relatives among which he states “Melinda is a Knightstow now” as she recently married.

-He hears and is glad that Morgan has finally been captured.

-He had been sick but is better now and happy that William's back home again.

-Nothing of interest to report low on clothing, “So men are on their third pair

of shoes since last June and  
Gettysburg.

-General Meredith  
returned home on  
a 60 day furlough and  
may run for Congress.

Affectionately,  
J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #39 of 80:

To his son William,  
dated, July 31, 1863, from  
19th Regimental Headquarters,  
Indiana Volunteers, Camp  
Warrenton Junction

Noteworthy:

Dear Son,

-Jacob mentions his interest  
in reading his son's  
description in the chase to  
capture General Morgan.

-Is pleased to hear his son  
has "behaved well" and that  
while serving at Gettysburg,  
he "saw a great many dead".

-He proudly admits that "if  
he had a score of sons, he  
would not object to their  
going to serve."

-In the same breath he states,  
"I don't see how your mother  
can do without the both of  
you gone" at the same time.

-He warns his son about  
"going to Preble County"  
and that he must be careful  
about how he gets onto  
the cars."

-He reports that Mosby, "The  
Grey Ghost", a guerrilla, "has  
taken 40 sutlers wagons near  
the Fairfax Courthouse."

-He has been acting "Chief  
Surgeon of the Brigade" in  
addition to attending his own  
Regiment."

-He lists his current living  
conditions as "living in an  
open field with no tent" ..

while making his saddle  
“a pillow”. He is without a  
chair or stool, sitting always  
on the ground or a medicine  
knapsack, putting his ink on  
the ground where he makes  
his reports or writes letters.  
-He finishes complementing  
William on his much  
improved letter writing.  
-Remains always interested  
in whatever his son is doing.  
-Closes by sending his love  
to William, William's brothers  
and “your dear little sister.”

J. Ebersole

Doc. #40 of 80:

To his wife, dated, August 9,  
1863, from the Medical  
Department, 1st Brigade, 1st  
Division A. C., Rappahannock,  
Virginia.

Noteworthy:

- Senses his wife from her last  
letter of August 4th, seems  
“unwell.”
- Reports Washington's fall season  
has allowed him to enjoy soft  
bread, ham, dried apples, fox  
grapes, elderberries, and beans,  
etc.
- Still in charge of the Brigade  
“since last month” and “Dr.  
Haines is well”.
- Advises his wife to cut “10 or  
12” cord of wood for the year,  
and “have some of the old  
and worthless apple trees cut  
for winter fireplace wood.”
- “Would prefer to be at home  
to attend to these matters”  
myself.
- Things that need repair (the  
house and lot in town) “we  
must wait and endure.”
- He comments that he feels  
like returning to “private  
practice again.”
- Reports that the paymaster's  
presence will mean being paid  
soon for May and June but “3

weeks more” and then “4 months will be due.”

-Confesses that “I have always loved my home better than any place in the world”, expecting to be home again soon, and this time never ever leaving it again.

-Just received this morning on August 10th, his money of \$320.95, and of it will send home to her \$280, reminding her that he sent home \$300. the last time.

-For the first time in a long time is enjoying “ice water”, as ice was recently found at a large farm house near here.

-”Most of the plantations are so deserted” and “the ice houses empty.”

-”I remain with much love for you and the children.”

Your husband,  
J. Ebersole

Doc.#41 of 80

To his wife, dated, August 13.  
1863, Rappahannock Station

Noteworthy:

-Notes receiving her letter of August 8th.

-Expresses his thanks for for her continual singular effort in writing him and that the children are well.

-Like her is pleased for recent military successes but senses “the rebellion will die hard”.

-He entreats his wife to find and learn a piece of music called “The Iron Brigade” (as it “has the pictures of General Meredith and Colonel Williams and 3 other Colonels of the Brigade on it”). He “wishes to hear it played”.

-Reports that “the Chaplain has gone to Washington to express soldier's money” and that he will send home 2 more months of pay in September.

-He “meditates on the past, present, and future”, remembering all the good people at home, and thinking about all he will do when he gets home.”

Yours truly in love,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #42 of 80:

To his wife, dated, August 28, 1863, Rappahannock Station

Noteworthy:

-Memorializes the anniversary of the terrible Battle of Gainesville, and how the past year “has tolled with the wounds and deaths” of many in the 19th Indiana.

-Romanticizes what he would do only if he could be with her. He mentions he “would run the blockade with you.”

-Mentions that his “warm blood gives him some trouble.”

-Time drags on in camp with no hint or direction of when they will move.

-”Reports all is well with much time for reading and reflection” in comfortable quarters.”

-Mentions his writing twice “Father Glenn but have not received an answer”, and “has also sent money but have not heard from William Glenn and sons.”

-Witnessed the execution of 5 being shot by musket for their desertion. It was witnessed by the whole Corps. “And no doubt will serve to deter others from committing a like offense.”

“A white bandage was placed over their eyes, the priests and officials retired, the command given”, and 5 souls were sent to the Spirit land.”

“Two fell over and lay dead upon their coffins.”

Much love to all my pets,  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #43 of 80:

To his wife, dated, September 6, 1863, Camp of the 19th Indiana Volunteers, Rappahannock, Virginia

Noteworthy:

- Your letter of last week said “Benny is sick but getting better.”
- All's “dull and slow here as we are digging rifle pits”.
- Weather is fine and we've dug a three foot well, the waterfront it is clear and cool”
- Am getting over a “slight bowel derangement”
- ”The Regiment has less than a year to remain in the service now” and “we are beginning to count the months and days until the time of discharge.”
- He expects to visit home after the fall campaign” and “expect the paymaster here in a day or two.”
- Has not heard from anyone about his pay that he last sent home, and wishes his wife “to inquire about it.”
- Disappointed that his trunk from Washington has not yet arrived.
- Has not yet seen Williams and Franks photographs and supposes she has forgotten them.

Much love to you all,  
remaining as ever, your  
husband.

J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #44 of 80:

To his wife “in charge of of the family and children at home” dated September 7, 1863, in Camp of the 19th Indiana Volunteers, Rappahannock, Virginia

Noteworthy:

-This will be a short letter as  
“I have an opportunity to send  
it by Asy Hubbert who has  
been discharged from the  
service due to “Epilepsy”  
(his having 3 spasms before  
entering the army).”  
-” All's quiet and monotonous”  
and “we expect to have a great  
time here in presentation of  
a splendid flag to the “Iron  
Brigade”.  
-”The flag was gotten up at  
Washington, made at New York  
and is said to be the most grand  
affair”.  
-”We expect to have a large  
number of guests from  
Washington, perhaps the  
President may be here, General  
Meade, etc.”  
-”Bring the baby Franky with  
you, and let Mary come too.”  
-”As for the next I will tell you  
all when we meet again.”  
I remain as ever your Husband,  
J. Ebersole  
Surgeon

Doc. #45 of 80:

To his wife, dated, September  
13, 1863, in Camp, 19th  
Indiana Volunteers

Noteworthy:

-Reports that his  
correspondence has been  
slowed due to our “heavy  
force crossing the river to  
try the position of the enemy.”  
“It's presumed he is falling  
back to Richmond.” We  
“have orders to move on a  
moments notice.”  
-Mentions “seeing Charley  
Allen last night” who said,  
“the boys from Aurora were  
well.”  
-”The seventh Indiana are  
with us or near us ...and they  
are all well”.  
-Reports, “we have everything  
comfortable” but “I dread

the great and bloody battles.”

-States that, “I am will for anything that will bring this “Cruel war to an end.”

-”We expect to to the Rappidan if the Rebs do not prevent us we will go to Richmond.”

-”I hope to come home to good boys.” “Good children do not loose their reward, not in this world nor in the world to come.”

Affectionately  
J. Ebersole

Doc. #46 of 80:

To his wife, September 20.  
1863, in camp 3 miles south  
of Culpepper in the field.

Noteworthy:

-Informs her that since his last letter has moved to his new camp and “the boys had made great preparation for the flag presentation festival.” The floral hall is well decorated for a” grand time” and “meats and drinks” have been procured from New York for the occasional  
-”On the afternoon of the 17th, the anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, the presentation took place.”  
“The flag is the most beautiful piece of art I have ever seen.”  
“There is an eagle with the names of all the Regiments of the Brigade, the names of all the principal battles they have engaged in...”Iron Brigade”, and “Epluribus Unum” all worked with floss silk”. “Not a mark of paint about the flag.”  
“The staff is of Rosewood.”  
“It is said to have cost \$500.”  
-”I do not think we will move upon Lee unless he is much weakened by the transfer of his troops to some other quarter.”  
-”It is five o'clock and we have

had preaching in the open air to about 15 or 20, a band playing near us at the same time.” “It is a hard place for a chaplain to do any good preaching.”

-Send much love to you all, trusting the time is shortening that separates us.”

Give my love to all

J Ebersole

Doc# 47 of 80:

To his wife, in Camp, 19th Indiana Volunteers near Pony Mountain, Virginia, dated, September 30, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Reports receiving her letter of the 24th and that the roof has been repaired

-Advises her to “put the cow in the orchard” as “the trees will not be hurt by her.”

-”Was said here as soon as we heard Rosecrans was repulsed that the Army of the Potomac would be blamed.”

-Comments that “Lee's Rebel army is the best Rebel army in the South,” and where ever it goes, there will be the hardest fighting.

-He is marking the time passing as the months pass and hoping her and the children's health will “be preserved.”

-Reports on the beauty of his new camp, the fine weather, good drinking water and.. “soft bread, beets, onions, potatoes, fresh beef, dried apples, beans, sugar, coffee, and canned milk.

-He mentions receiving from the government “a new work on hygiene by Surgeon Hammond” ..which is reading now in his leisure.

-States that early October there has brought temperate days and beautiful nights.

-Sees by the papers “that we are pressing upon the Rebs.”  
“All is dull and monotonous here.”

-Advises her, “sell only half the corn” and “keep the pig until late in the winter when you kill it if you wish.”

-Assures her that he has “clothes sufficient until the beginning of the new year.”

-In closing tells her of receiving “one leave of absence this winter.”

“Am happy in your love, and long for the time when we can meet again.”

“I remain as ever your  
your husband,

J. Ebersole  
Surgeon-Chief

Doc.#48 of 80:

To his wife, dated, October 23, 1863. from Camp on Biscuit Mountain

Noteworthy

-Received her letter of October 14th when they were in Centerville.

-Describes the beauty of Bull Run Range, the “grey and white rocks” and his hike with 2 chaplains to “the top of the rocks” where they could see magnificent diversified landscape in every direction “consisting of open farms, clumps of woodlands, mountain ranges, and beautiful valleys, etc.”.

-The water is good and he reports eating apples and talking of the Iron Brigade going home.

-Will endeavor to get a leave of absence this winter, advising her to sell the corn if she can get a good price

for it.  
-Also advises her to get  
“some wood cut as coal  
will be very scarce.”  
-He received a letter from  
her father reporting that  
“William is the best boy he  
ever saw.”  
-He reports that he is in good  
spirits and excellent health and  
the whole army has high  
morale.  
-”The home election has given  
new energy to the army and  
suggests that she should “not  
depend to much on what you  
see in the papers.”  
-He fears that she has “to  
much to care for” that if  
he can get a position in  
Indiana, he” would be home  
more oftener”.  
Sending his love he asks her  
“to kiss little Frank and Mary  
for me and wait and I will  
if God permits see you soon.”  
J Ebersole

Doc. #49 of 80:

To his wife, dated, October 27,  
1863, in Camp near Bristoe  
Station, on the Orange and  
Alexandria Railroad.

Noteworthy:

-Just received her long letter  
and noting the improvement of  
her health “ and the children  
are well.”  
-He would like to have some  
some of her cider, apples, and  
apple butter.  
-The month has been full of  
“hard marches”, recalling an  
18 mile march in continuous  
rain the previous Saturday  
and sleeping on wet ground.  
-Hears “occasional rumors”  
that the veterans are going  
home” but the news and  
“nothing is certain”.  
-Wants his Aunt Lizzie  
Dymond to know “it will  
be no fault” of his if he

cannot attend her party for the old folks".  
-Though he "has not suffered much" and the blankets keep him warm, "the men have a hard time."  
-Reports the army is "stretched out some 6 or 8 or 10 miles" and "are never all together."  
-States if he can he "will try to see William".  
-Requests that she send family photos "one at a time" "as they might get lost."  
-Recommends she "not boil the cider" and cut back on selling any more corn.  
-Concludes by telling her how to store the cider for winter in gallon jugs and using "hot corks" to cap the gallons.  
Repeats his love for her.  
J Ebersole  
Surg.

Doc.# 50 of 80:

To his wife, dated, October 30, 1863, in Camp near Bristow Station

Noteworthy:

-Recalls since he last wrote her, "the Regiment received an order to send one man from each Company home to recruit for the regiment."  
-States that she not expect him "until sometime during the winter"  
-Tells her he's buying huge apples (5 or 6 for a quarter) and settlers "have brought us butter and canned milk again."  
-He has it in his mind when he gets home "to visit Europe for 5 or 6 months", going through their hospitals  
-The times are easy now, "not one sick man in the regiment."  
-Thinks of his family with

“much love and happiness”  
remarking, “I have one of  
the most interesting families  
in the world.”

-Requests her “To tell  
Jimmy and Joseph that  
I am well pleased to hear of  
their good conduct.”

-He is enclosing a photo  
of Major General John  
Reynolds who fell at  
Gettysburg leading the First  
Corps “on the first day  
when our Brigade and  
Regiment suffered so  
much.”

-”I will soon get a map of  
the plan of The Battle of  
Gettysburg and send it to  
you.”

-He asks her to use all  
the money she wishes and  
“spend the winter at the  
city” if she desires. He  
asks, “Could the children  
not go to school in the city  
if you were there?” “ You  
could dispose of the pig  
and find a place for the cow  
and the pony.”

-He tells her” that he now  
has a small picture with  
Josey when he was a little  
boy”.. and when I get  
Williams and Franks I  
will have all.”

“Kiss the children for me  
and give my love to all.”

Affectionately,

J Ebersole

Surg.

Doc. # 51 of 80:

To his wife, dated,  
November 9, 1863, in  
Camp near Brandy Station  
on the Railroad to Culpeper  
west of the Rapprochement,  
Virginia

Noteworthy:

-Now writing every moment  
expecting the call to”pack

up and fall in".  
-Mentions having guarded the wagons as they moved out of Bristoe Station  
-While at "Kelley's Ford" we drove the Rebs from the Rapprochement taking 12 to 1500 prisoners and "now have 5 Corps here."  
-While visiting the 14th Regiment have learned that "William Taylor has gone home to recruit the Regiment."  
He closes with "I love you very much" and "It makes my heart glad to hear such a good report from William."

Additional entry, same letter and date

Noteworthy:

-Weather is beautiful with no snow but hard frosts  
-All have "high hopes the war will be closed at least by next July."  
-"For the first time this fall I am sitting by a stick fire.. our cook is getting fresh beef to fry. He has got the coffee put on and soon we'll have dinner." Billie May has returned foraging with 21 ears of corn.  
-I hear cannonading in the direction of Culpepper and wish I had some of your apples and cider here.  
-Please enclose some postage stamp in your letters as they are hard to get here.  
Yours affectionately,  
J Ebersole

Doc.#52 of 80:

To his wife, from Camp near Rapprochement Station, Virginia, dated, November 16, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Received her letter with

William's photo which is good and happy to hear William's penmanship is improving.

-Mentions her father states her intention of spending "the winter or part of it in the city."

-He's mailed her "a small book, an account of the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg." "You will see I have made pencil marks....showing the situation of the hospital I had in charge during and after the battle."

-Remarks of having much rain but the weather is still warm. "Rather expect soon the road will be finished up the river."

-Recently got some butter, cheese, and milk from the "Division Purveyor", and "apples, 4 for 25 cents."

-Enclosing a photo of Chaplain William Way of the 24th Michigan of our Brigade.

-Got a new pair of pants today, heavy and warm costing \$4.60.

- "Am looking for a letter from you with my baby's picture in it."

- "Am thinking you would do well to leave James at Uncle James to go to school if you go to the city."

"Sending much love and many kisses, and "the promise of more when we meet again."

Affectionately  
J Ebersole

To his wife, from Camp.  
19th Indiana Volunteers,  
near Rappahannoc Station,  
Virginia, dated, November  
19, 1863

Noteworthy: -Received her mail of the  
12th and responds telling  
her that he is pleased that  
Mr. Freeman is in charge  
of the school and that  
“James and Joseph should  
have the opportunity to be  
at school all of the time.”  
-Reminds her that “the  
boys could stay at Aunt  
Liza’s” and that “you  
should get them every-  
thing they need to make  
them comfortable.”  
-Reports “the railroad is  
in running order.”

-”Indications we may be moving soon.” “I think we will move upon the Rebs on the line of the Rapidann and give them a battle.”  
-Requests his wife to send him a pair of woolen socks and thinks the weather maybe so so bad they won't be able to move.  
-Give instructions on how the cow should be cared for in the coming winter.  
-”Tell Mary and Frank I got their paper kisses, but I want some kisses from their cheeks.”  
-’Dr. Haines has not been with us since the Battle of Gettysburg”, and “is with the Division Hospital.” “The sick of our Division are all together under the care of one surgeon and 2 assistant surgeons.” “They have 20 large hospital tents and sometimes have a hundred and fifty sick on hands.” The severely sick are sent to Washington.  
-”Many of the conscripts and soldiers from New York and some other Regiments in our Division are sick and dying” while our old troops are very healthy.  
-”I sent by express today to William Glenn and sons \$300 in 5-20 treasury notes baring percent interest, payable in gold every (sic) months.” But I cannot send so much next time.  
-He is sitting by a large log fire writing this and reports the Chaplain has gone to Warrenton Junction “to express the money that the boys wish to send home.”  
-He mentions “the express office doesn't seem to come up any closer” and assures her he is in no danger, but in any case has no desire to be taken prisoner.  
-”We expect to whip the Rebs when we meet them again.” “Everything is plentiful now.”  
-We have “soft bread, potatoes, rice, ham, fresh beef, butter”, and “I am in my highest condition of health.”  
-He has “no doubt that I will get a number of kisses” when he gets home.  
-He wishes her and the family “to have every thing and be as happy as you can” giving his complements to “Mr. Freeman and lady.”  
-He closes with being happy to have his children under His Accomplished and Christian Care as a teacher.”

J Ebersole

(“Send no more stamps as I have got a supply).



This is a copy of the organization of the Field Division Hospital for the coming campaign. In case we have a battle, you will see I am at the head of one of the three operating tables of the Division, one of the places of greatest honor in the Division, the very place I desire above all others.

“Will you preserve this?”

J Ebersole

(no first page but is dated, April 26, 1864

“Enclosed I send you a copy of the order from Corps headquarters. I wish you to preserve it. I hope there will be no occasion for service of that kind, but I will cheerfully comply if there is occasion for my services. There is but little to excite or interest in camp. We have been here since the 20th of December, 1862, more than four months. Have to keep 10 days rations on hand and ready to march at an hours notice. The cooks went to work boiling meat and cooking to be ready. That was the last we heard of the matter. We have to make ready to march a half dozen times and have eaten up our ration. I want to see you very much and I send you my love. Kiss the children especially little Frank for me. Give my compliments and Christian Love and greeting to the Chamberses and all the friends. Remember me to Brother and Sister \_\_\_\_\_. Today we are to have preaching in our Hospital tent by our own chaplain. His name is Thomas Barnett and he is a Methodist from Delaware. I have just had my dinner including soft bread( the last we will have for many days I presume) as our ovens have been taken down and sent off. We have feasted off of boiled ham, butter, stewed dried peaches, coffee, mustard with vinegar and we have had potatoes in plenty. All of our sick have been sent off so we have oversight of the Medical Department. I send home \$270 out of my dollars per year. That is more than I could make if I were at home, I got for the two months \$317.50 I got payed by the day, so there will be 2 months due again the first of May. I presume we will not be paid again until July. You must put a good saddle (an old blanket coupled 3 or 4 times) as side saddles are apt to rub the backs of horses. Today, the 26th of April, is the anniversary of my joining the Regiment near this camp. My commission dates from the 15th of this month so I am 11 days in the second year. So time moves on rapidly and the Regiment has but 15 months to remain in the service. My time will expire with the Regiment. So after July I will have but one year and soon but 9 months and so on. It will be a great time when the war ends or our time expires. If I should stay til our time expires, I will come home once before the end.”

Your Husband

J Ebersole

Doc.#56 of 80: To his mother, dated, May 2, 1864, Cincinnati, Ohio

Noteworthy: -Tells his mother of his arrival at 1 A.M. “with Peter, the train being 2 or 3 hours behind him, and his spending Sunday listening to an evening sermon whose focus was for young men who were going away.  
-He indicates his “being sworn in” and “buying a good thick pair of heavy army boots for \$13., a knife for .70 cents, a shirt for \$2, and a handkerchief for \$1.20.” He expects to purchase a haversack for \$1.50 and will order an overcoat and knapsack, a good pair of pants, a shirt, a cap, and a blanket.  
-The day was spent “marching around” and preparing for the move to Camp Dennison in the morrow evening.

- He mentions those he knows like Peter, James, and Dave Frazer who came up on the train with him. He states that he did not influence those men to enlist or re-enlist yet the offer to enlist was \$200.
- He passes on the hearsay that many think the “Winfield Rifles” is the most moral company in the Regiment.”
- He feels “in good spirits” and hopes his mother “will not be lonesome” or “feel bad at least now as we may not go into any danger.”
- He reports that “the draft commences Thursday” his “oil cloth kept him dry”, and that “Mr. Dymond had a chill Friday and Saturday” and that “he and Lizzie are both sick.”
- He finishes stating “there are 700 in the regiment today” and that “our company as 72 men.”
- He lists personal items that he does have like “paper and envelopes, buttons, needles, thread yarn, and a flannel comb toothbrush, etc.”
- Finally instructs her to “send your letters here” and sends “much love to all and will try and take care of myself and remember the good advice I have received.

Yours Truly  
W. V. Ebersole

Doc.#57 of 80: To his mother, dated, May 8, 1864, from Camp Dennison

Noteworthy:

- Just received her letter and feels badly about his going. Apologizes that he “substitutes could not get substitutes” and “there is very little marching”.
- Explains his location in “the vast camp” “on a plain to the south of Camp Dennison” and near the Miami River.
- He tells her “the tents are good” as are the supplies with plenty of water and good food to eat. “We have had fresh beef today for dinner and breakfast bean soup, hominy, coffee, bread, and plenty of potatoes.”
- ”The officers are kind” and “the boys are in fine spirits.”
- Thinks “we will probably go East somewhere.”
- Not much to do “except inspection of arms at 9 o'clock.”
- He tells her, “I will try to keep aloof from the evils of camp life” as there are “ a good many ladies and gentlemen out from the city today.”
- Reports “those boots from Uncle Will” have rotten leather according to the shoemaker.
- He closes stating that he “will write from time to time” and sends his love requesting her not to fear for him but pray for him.

Your affectionate son  
Wm. V. Ebersole  
Co. B, 7th Regiment O.N.G.  
Care Capt. Booth  
Camp Dennison O.

Doc. #58 of 80: To his wife, dated, June 8, 1864, from Division Hospital, 4th Division, 5th A.C.

Noteworthy:

- He reports his camp position “on the northside of the Chickahomony and 5 miles from bottom bridge” and that his division has seen in the last 2 or 3 weeks “pretty severe partial engagements.”
- He mentions that he has had little to do other than “lay about our tents”

though there has been mention of moving toward Richmond to attack.  
 -"We have a good many sick in our Hospital" with the "wounded and bad sick have all been sent off."  
 -Reports recently receiving a letter that "Dr. New of the 7th has been wounded in the face and has gone to Washington."  
 -Also relates that he is now getting "few papers and letters" from her and that "the boys from Aurora are well" but "much fatigued and worn out and that dirty clothes and shoes were issued yesterday to their great comfort."  
 -He encloses to her "a few roots of Moss ivy with the flowers, white and delicate" instructing her to "plant these roots in a pot of sandy soil ..and shady place".  
 "They grow in abundance here." and their looks and fragrance "will be a remembrance of my stay in Chicahomany.  
 -From reading a local Gazette he reports that "Four months pay will be due the first of July."  
 -He sends her his love and longing to see all.

J.Ebersole

Doc. #59 of 80: To: Army of the Potomac, dated, October, 1864.  
 A letter of Promotion in gratitude for his services and loyalty

"The undersigned having been the several capacities pertaining to our rank and service associated with Surgeon Jacob Ebersole (19th Indiana Volunteers) take great pleasure in expressing our high regard for his skill and ability as an operator, his wisdom as a conservative advisor combined with the genial affability of a true Medical Gentleman.  
 Surgeon Ebersole's experience is some of the first and many of hardest fought battles of the present war, early led to his appointment "chief of one" of the "Operating Boards" in our Decision in which position and that of Surgeon in Charge of the Hospital of the 4th and 5th A.C. He has won the highest confidence and esteem of all interested."

J.H. Beech, Surgeon	-24th Michigan Volunteers in charge of 1st Battalion, 3rd Division, 5th A.C.
William T. Humphrey	Surgeon, 149th P.V.
Allen Ramsay	Surgeon, 121st P.V.
G.W. Metcalf	76th N.Y. Volunteers Surgeon in Chief 3rd Brigidere, 3rd Division, 5 <sup>th</sup> Army Corps
A.S. Coe	Surgeon, 146th New York Volunteers

Doc.#60 of 80: Given in lecture form or to the reader, Dr. Ebersole's ancestral history

My ancestors-according to family tradition were of Holland and German origin-paternal from Germany and maternal from Holland.  
 They came to this country in the 17th Century and were of the mechanical and merchant class, with an education suitable to their class or place in life.  
 My grandfather on my mother's side came to Cincinnati in 1807 from Maryland. My mother was born in Hagerstown Maryland. My mother's father was an ingenious and learned mechanic, making clocks and so forth.  
 My mother would tell us of the visit of a company of Indians to my grand-

father's house and shop which was in the same building to see and hear a musical clock. It was a great wonder to all of the village folks. The Indians would look on and hear the wonderful musical clock without exhibiting a sigh of wonder or emotion.

Written by Dr. Jacob Ebersole

Doc. #61 of 80: Given in lecture form to a live audience or the reader  
“Incidents of Field Hospital Life with the Army of the Potomac”

It is with hesitation that I arise in response to the call of our honored Commander, to speak to you on the topic named this evening. When I recall the eloquent and moving addresses that have been given us from time to time here by the various distinguished members of this order, I realize that my pen and my subject must fall far short of your expectations. The military surgeons place and his work are of necessity removed as far as possible from the immediate place of danger and the actual scene of conflict. Tis not his to plan the campaign or to lead the charge or inspire fainting hearts by deeds of personal valor, but faithfully, skillfully, and untiringly to minister to the sick and wounded, and comfort the dying. He understands what the soldier's life finally brings to many, the death wound, the burning fever, the wasted body, and the broken constitution. He knows what the battle means, the shattered limbs, the moan of pain, the life long personal danger to privation, to protracted and exhaustive labors while he is brought in almost daily contact with scenes and incidents of the most pathetic and touching character. I can only attempt to recall tonight in a familiar way of a few of these incidents with the hope that they may not be without interest to you.

I was connected during the Civil War with the Iron Brigade, so called for its meritorious actions in various battlefields. It was composed of the 24th Michigan, 2nd and 7th Wisconsin, and the 19th Indiana Regiments, of which the latter regiment I was Surgeon in Chief. It was in the First Army Corps, commanded by the lamented General John Reynolds, who fell early in the first day at Gettysburg. Our corps was moving in the advance, passed Gettysburg to the left, and engaged the enemy to the northeast, 2 or 3 miles from the town. About 4 o'clock I was ordered to go into Gettysburg to take possession of the railroad depot there, and establish our hospital therein. This depot was at the north edge of the town. In the afternoon the 11th Army Corps under Howard, met the rebels to the north and were fiercely driven back through the city past my hospital. Here my hospital steward, a worthy and faithful man, came hastily to me in great alarm and perturbation, and said, “Shall I go to the front or stay with you”? He being an enlisted man greatly feared being taken prisoner and landing in Libby or Anderson ville I replied to him, “Do as you think best, but whatever you do act quickly!” He snatched up his hat and coat and hastened below to the street. We were on the second floor. I called to him as he went to “Take my horse” as the only way to make his escape. Going to the street window to see what would happen, as my eyes took in the scene, I saw my horse fastened to the fence across the street with great saddlebags and blankets and all my treasures strapped upon him.

At that moment, just before my steward could reach him, there leaped into the saddle one of our own boys in blue in full retreat. Both the rider and horse disappeared in an instant and this was just before sunset. Looking from the upper windows of the hospital, I could see our lines being repulsed and falling back in utter confusion. Our front was entirely broken with the colors trailing in the dust and our men falling on every side. The enemy was enveloping the town from that side, sweeping past the hospital and completely filling the streets. To finish the horse escapade, on the following 5th day of July when I heard from our lines, I found to my surprise, my horse with all my trappings on his back safely housed with those of our brigade and awaiting my coming. He had been recognized by one of the boys of my regiment who knew him well exclaiming, "Why there is our doctor's horse!" This soldier pulled the rider off of him and put the horse in safe keeping for my return.

I remained here a fortnight working day and night til again I was ordered to join our army which was in pursuit of Lee. I was again within the Rebel lines after the Battle of Chancellorsville when Hooker was so badly repulsed. About 10 days after the battle, I was detailed with a body of nurses to go over the Rapidan to attend our wounded lying in the various Rebel field hospitals. At the ford of the Rapidan I was received by the guard and escorted to the barns and farmhouses where our wounded men had been gathered together. Here I found all our men who could not be sent to the rebel prison pens on account of their terrible condition. The scene here presented was one of pity and pathos which no tongue could express. But where death, suffering, and despair were dominant, there were however beautiful touches of friendship and sympathy extended by our foes without dissimulation or hypocrisy. The boys in gray would come to the door of our tent and viewing the pitiful scene, would say in the touching vernacular, "We 'uns pity you 'uns in your defeat and suffering." "We hope to meet you in better times someday." One of my own nurses, a pleasant and kindly youth, met another boy of a rebel battery situated some 2 or 3 miles away on the first day of our arrival. It was a case of friendship at first sight between the 2 lads. He would go with his southern friend when his work was done to spend part of the night at his battery. This was repeated several times. At the time of his last visit, the rebel battery being ordered to the front, he was kindly escorted back to his tent in the middle of the night by his rebel companion. When our work here was finished, we were again escorted back to the ford. The only incivility offered to us during our stay, was from a rude private who was sternly reproved by the rebel officer in charge of the guard.

In December, 1864, our brigade was in camp and winter quarters near Belle Plaine. A fine lot of supplies were sent us for use by the Sanitary Commission. In sorting these goods there appeared a nice pair of homemade woolen socks. In the toe of which was a letter folded up. I took the letter and socks into our adjoining tent where there lay 27 of our boys in blue. They had suffered amputation either in legs or arms. I selected two men, each of whom had lost a leg below the knee and I gave to each a sock to comfort their remaining feet. They each took a copy of the letter in pencil as they lay upon their beds of straw and then I read this letter to all in the tent.

Doc.#61 of 80: A letter to "a dear Friend and Brother in our Country's Cause", written from Andover, Connecticut, dated, November 29, 1864.  
Written by a Ms. Ellen M. Sprague, Andover, Connecticut

My dear Friend and Brother in our Country's cause.

To your care and keeping I commit these socks, and trust they may never be disgraced by any conduct of their wearer. Loyal fingers fashioned them, and many a patriot trod, whose every step shall tell against our rebel foes, wear them threadbare (if need be) in crushing this wicked rebellion. In every stitch is knit a prayer for our nation's weal, and the hope that peace may smile upon our land, long ere these be unfit for use. You have gone forth nobly, and placed your life an offering at the feet of our beloved country, and may the God of battles be your trust, may his protecting arm shield you from every danger and bring you back to home and friends, there to a good old age to enjoy the fruits of your labors. But if it must be that you perish in the strife, may you be transferred from this earthly army to the glorified army of heaven, your victory won, never more to be disturbed by the rattle of musketry or the boom of cannon.

Perhaps these socks may find their way to some hospital, to some weary, weak and home longing one. If so, know my dear friend, that thousands of hearts are suffering with you, and would gladly come to your relief. Take courage and you shall yet be able to go out and help us gain the victory that must be ours.

There are many here who say that our gifts never reach our soldiers. For that reason it would be very gratifying to me to know who may receive these socks, and will it be asking too much that you let me know. Hoping that your heart may be brave and true, and your arm firm and strong, I am most truly your friend.

Ellen M. Sprague  
Andover, Connecticut

Doc. #62 of 80: A Response to Ms. Sprague's letter of November 29, 1864 by Dr. Ebersol (No response date given to this communication).

Could the good lady in her Connecticut home have only seen the glow of happiness and joy that spread over the worn and pallid faces of those men, she would have felt that her prayers were in part answered. They said it was a good letter and they felt they were not entirely forgotten.

Our companions who have on various occasions spoken to us about this Festival Board have perhaps deemed it their privilege to bring to our attention some relic, some trophy, by which to more vividly put before us, the scenes in which they personally took part. I cannot present to your view tonight any such relic, as say an old sword bearing the marks of many a hard fought field, nor unfurl in your presence the historic battle flag tattered and torn, and pierced by a hundred rebel bullets. But you will not deem it out of place or egotistical on my part, if I do present as Surgeon's trophy, as represented in this picture or tintype which I hold in my hand, and read to you the accompanying letter, showing how even in the field hospital, and in the camp, professional skill, and a high degree of proficiency in the Surgeon's art were not unknown or unappreciated. In Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, there was brought to my hospital care Sargent Alex Ivey of the 7th Wisconsin volunteers, terribly wounded in the left leg just below the knee. I took his leg off at the knee joint, ( a difficult operation requiring much care and much more

rare than it has since become with the great advance in the Surgical art during the past 30 years. Sargent Ivey was removed with other wounded after ten days to the Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia for final treatment. I received from him afterward the following letter.

Doc.#63 of 80: From Chestnut Hill Hospital, Philadelphia, dated, September 20, 1863.

Surgeon Ebersole:

As your amputation of my limb at the knee joint causes much curiosity among the Surgeons here, I thought I would let you know about it. They say it is one of the best amputations that they ever saw. And they wonder how it was ever done, and the inspector who was around this morning said he was going to write you to know how you did the work. He said it was the prettiest stump that he ever saw. You do not know how I was annoyed the first 5 days by the Surgeons here coming to see my stump. They kept me busy showing it, besides asking all sorts of questions. Everyone had a different opinion as to how you did it. The Surgeon in charge told the doctor, I will have one sent you if you wish for it. I do not want these Surgeons here in the rear that think they know everything to gain anything in that way. I was at Palmer's office yesterday and measured for a new leg. So I will close with thanks to you for your skill in taking off my limb.

From your humble servant,  
Sargent Alexander Ivey  
Co. D-7th Wisconsin Volunteers

Doc. #64 of 80: Final thoughts on this amputation procedure by Dr. Ebersole (no date given)

An operation not well known or described 30 years ago as now, though it was known and imperfectly described in the 16th Century. It is also mentioned by Hippocrates, "the Greek Father of Medicine." The first example of this operation in military surgery is one mentioned by Michailis who visited the wounded French in Charleston left there by Count D'Estaing after his unsuccessful expedition to Savannah in September, 1779. The perfection and beauty of the this stump I attribute to two or three points in the operation. I will not say that they were original with myself. These are that I make by lateral flaps synovial surfaces of the condyles of the femur. This wound healed by the first intention, and made on the most perfect, useful and pretty stumps imaginable. A record of this and four other operations at the knee joint may be found in part at the 3rd Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, page 401, number 20, etc. There he will also find 5 operations at the knee joint accredited to me, 4 primary recovered, one secondary fatal.

Doc. #65 of 80: Sketches of War History 1861-1865: Papers Read Before the Ohio Commandant of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Volume 2, 1890-1896. Cincinnati: Robert Clark and Company, Publishers, Copyright 1896., pages 327-333.

The Chapter is entitled, "Incidents of Field Hospital Life With The Army of the Potomac", by Jacob Ebersole, M.D., late Major Surgeon, Nineteenth Indiana Volunteers Infantry

- Noteworthy:
- Dr. Ebersole describes the doctors/surgeon's position, functions, boundaries (what he can and cannot do while in the army), but also becomes quickly aware of the meaning of battle, the moaning of pain, grisly sights and pathetic tragic and common place scenes of any battle.
  - He explains his affiliation with the Iron Brigade and describes its composition and a wealth of his experiences as any eyewitness to the three days Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-3, 1863.
  - He describes loosing his valuable horse packed with supplies, the confusion and panic of Union troops as they retreat through the town of Gettysburg on day one of the battle.
  - He mentions the defeat of General Hooker at Chancellorsville and "found many of our wounded men who could not be sent to rebel prison pens on account of their terrible condition".
  - Dr. Ebersole recalls amongst the suffering, death and despair, "the beautiful touches of friendship made and even the sympathy extended by our foes", etc.
  - He describes meeting rebels in an act of friendship and discovers their loyalty and touching sensitivity even to the foe while in a convalescing state.
  - Mentions his experience at Belleplaine upon receiving much needed medical supplies in December, 1864
  - Includes the correspondences of Ellen M. Sprague, the appreciation letter of of a soldier whose leg he amputated, a brief description of that procedure and earlier historical and medical references to his operation that went back centuries into history.

Doc. #66 of 80: Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Commandery of the State of Ohio, Circular No. 28, Series of 1905, Whole Number 659. "IN MEMORIAM" (Celebrating the Life of Companion Jacob Ebersole, Surgeon, 19th Indiana Volunteers Infantry)

- Noteworthy:
- Dr. Eborsole was a distinguished citizen in many regards with high ideals of patriotism, fervent, devout, intelligent and a physician with a remarkable record as a surgeon in the Union armies as well as a Christian of the Faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church where he was a steward and trustee for more than 60 years.
  - He was a graduate of the University of the City of New York practicing medicine in Aurora, Indiana for twenty years. Entering the service of the Union as a Regimental Surgeon of the Nineteenth Indiana Infantry in Bragg's famous "Iron Brigade".
  - He had personal charm, and a delightful manner, cherishing his religious fellowship, nothing more highly than his relationship with the Loyal Legion.
  - On October 19, 1864, his regiment was consolidated with the Twentieth Indiana Infantry. After two and one half years he was mustered out. His duties included being in charge of brigade and division hospitals. The battles he served in included Gainsville, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg. He witnessed skirmishes and minor battles, and after Chancellorsville,

and Fredericksburg, Dr. Ebersole was detailed with nurses to enter Confederate lines taking charge of the Union wounded.

-On September 4, 1845 he married Frances Glenn (who on the eve of their sixtieth wedding anniversary, was permitted to minister to him at the last, together with his five children.

-The Rev. Dr. A. J. Nast officiated at the funeral services on July 29, 1905.

Jesse Bowman Young  
H. P. Cooke  
W. H. Chamberline  
Committee

Doc. #68 of 71: Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,  
Commandery of the State of Ohio, Cincinnati, October 18, 1905

Noteworthy: -Our late Companion, Jacob Ebersole, Surgeon 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was elected member of the First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, through the Commandery of Ohio, February 1, 1893. Insignia 10026.  
-The accompanying report of the committee appointed to prepare a tribute to his memory is printed in accordance with the Regulations of the Commandery.

By command of

Brevet Major General Willard Warner, U.S.V.  
Commander.

W. R. Thrall,  
Major U.S.V.  
Recorder

Doc.#69 of 71: Photo of Major Jacob Ebersole, Surgeon, 19th Indiana Volunteers.

Doc. #70 of 71: A Listing of "Injuries of Injuries of the Pelvis" (Chapter VII) and "Injuries of of the Upper Extremities" (Chapter IX), case surgical notes written by Jacob Ebersole who performed these surgeries.

Noteworthy: The following were listed in Chapter IX on page 410  
-Case No. 1134, Sargent L.J. Co. I., 134th aged 18 years, wounded at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863.  
-Case No. 1135, Private James E. L. Co. C., 105th Pennsylvania, aged 21 years, wounded at the Wilderness, May 6, 1864.  
-Case No. 1136, Sargent Oscar T., Co. I., 77th New York  
-Case No. 1137, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin G.B., 2nd Pennsylvania Artillery, aged 38 years, wounded at Petersburg, June 30, 1864.  
-Case No. 1138, Private L. B., Co. C, 2nd Wisconsin, aged 23 years, was wounded at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, and taken prisoner.

-Case No. 1139, Corporal A.C., Co. E, 61st New York, aged 21 years, was wounded at Hatcher's Run, May 31, 1865 and sent to City Point.

The following case surgeries were listed in Chapter IX on page 566.

-Case No. 1543, Corporal G. Martin, Co. I, 5th Connecticut, aged 35 years, received at Marietta, June 22, 1864, a gunshot fracture of the left humerus.

-Case No. 1544, Private J. Trombly, Co. H, 1st Michigan, aged 23 years, was wounded at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, by a minnie ball, and taken to a Fifth Corps hospital, where excision of the upper extremity of the left humerus was performed by Surgeon J. Ebersole, 19th Indiana.

Doc. #71 of 71: A copy of a speech presented to a Veteran's gathering given by Retired Major Jacob Ebersole of the Iron Brigade of Indiana. (The exact date and location of the speech given is unknown). Introductory remarks given of Dr. Ebersole included his 2 recent home addresses, his marriage to Francis Glenn, and the father of 8 children. It is probable that this speech may have been given sometime in the 1920s or 1930s because his great-grand daughter, Ms. Clarissa Crawford Meeker Burgevin's name is mentioned. She was born on October 4, 1918.

Noteworthy: -Paragraph 1 Dr. Ebersole begins by defining his role in the Civil War, "ministering to the sick, attending the wounded, and comforting the dying", all the while understanding "the soldier's life finally brings to many, the death wound, burning fever, wasted body, and broken constitution."  
- Paragraph 2: He mentions his war connection through the Iron Brigade explaining its composition, including his eyewitness account of the Battle of Gettysburg and the death on the first day of General John Reynolds. He describes his fears of being taken prisoner at the notorious Libby or Andersonville Prisons, the stealing of his trusted horse and then its miraculous discovery and recovery from the midst of a battle, and his lengthy assignment to oversee a military hospital.  
-Paragraph 3: Talks about rejoining his company "in pursuit of General Lee", the repulse of Union General Joe Hooker, and his reassignment at Rapidan "to attend the wounded lying in various rebel field hospitals". He chronicles his reunification with wounded men he personally knew "that could not be sent to the rebel prison pens on account of their terrible conditions." Finally recounts the meeting of wounded rebels and the development of close friendships and empathy for their physical and emotional conditions, noting as each continuing day went by, the friendlier and warmer their personalities became toward him and his staff.  
-Paragraph 4: Dr. Ebersole describes his brigade's winter quarters at Belleplaine, especially mentioning the great number of comforting winter supplies received (including badly needed woolen socks). He describes his selection of 2 men from the 27 convalescing who had suffered multiple amputations, giving each a sock to comfort his remaining foot, and the reading of a letter from Andover Comm., dated, November 29, 1864, and addressed, "My dear Friend and Brother in our Country's Cause". He reads the letter to these men describing "how loyal fingers fashioned them, etc.", and how the men "have gone forth nobly" placing their lives at the "feet of our beloved Country, and how, if they perish in battle, their

reward for their sacrifice will be celebrating Glory in Heaven.” This letter of tremendous appreciation is beautifully written and exemplifies both the regional, nationalistic, and 19th century romantic views held

by so many Americans on both sides of the war

-Paragraph 5: Dr. Ebersole concluded reading Ms. Ellen Sprague's letter in this paragraph in which he concludes, “It would be gratifying for me to know who may receive these socks, and will it be too much that you let me know.”

-Paragraph 6: Major Ebersole answers the question by stating, “If only she “could have seen the glow of happiness and joy of those worn and pallid faces”....”she would have felt her prayers were in part answered.”

-Paragraph 7: The doctor brings up the theme of paying “attention to some relics” of this great war. But Dr. Ebersole points out that he cannot successfully present “such a relic, say an old sword bearing the marks of many a hand fought field, etc. or unfurl some historic battle flag tattered and torn, etc.”. He instead directs his audience's attention to a letter of appreciation by a Sargeant Ivey (whose leg at the knee he amputated

-Paragraph 8: Major Ebersole reads from Sargeant Ivey's letter dated, September 20, 1863, and sent from Philadelphia.

The soldier writes that his leg amputation has raised “much curiosity with the surgeons here”, and they remark “that it is one of the best amputations they ever saw.” The soldier goes on to say of his particular “annoyance” of their curiosities especially during the first 5 days of convalescing. As time passed Sargeant Ivey relates that he became more comfortable with the medical visitors and all the publicity including even having a “picture taken of my stump.” The soldier in closing offers Dr. Ebersole “a picture of it” as he happily reports that he will soon be measured for a new leg. Sargeant Ivey expresses his thanks for the doctor's “skill in taking off my limb.”

Signed, Sargeant Alexander Ivey, Co. D., 7th  
Wisconsin Volunteers

-Paragraph 9: In the last 2 paragraphs of his speech Dr. Ebersole explains with deep humility that such a procedure done “30 years ago as now” was mentioned as far back as Hippocrates” and later by Michaelis “who visited the wounded French in Charleston in September, 1779.” He discusses the “beauty and perfection of the stump” can be attributed to three points”, and does not claim to be the pioneer in the successful procedure.

-Paragraph 10: In this final paragraph of his speech Dr. Ebersole gives record beyond Ivey's surgery to 4 others, and a record of them may be found in “Part 3 Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, page 401, No. 20

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