

Charles Perry Goodrich Collection Letters

Guide to the Sergeant Major Charles Perry Goodrich Collection Letters who served in The First Wisconsin Cavalry from 1862-1865.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository

Civil War Museum, Resource Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Language of Material:

Material in English

Abstract:

This collection consists of letters consists of letters written home to Sergeant Perry's wife, Francis Bowen Goodrich in Cambridge, Wisconsin

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Use Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation:

(Identification of Item) The Sergeant Major Charles Perry Goodrich Collection was edited by Richard N. Larsen, 220 State Street, Oregon, Wisconsin 53575, and was donated to the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

“This work is dedicated to the unknown persons, likely a Goodrich relative, who, with great care, transcribed the original letters, and deposited that transcription with a Minneapolis book dealer for evaluation. I, (Richard N. Larsen) am the evaluator who lost the “post-it” containing the transcriber's name.

Processing Information”

Processed by Frederick J. (Rick) Holtz, February, 2015.

Biographical note:

Charles Perry Goodrich was born in the Town of Stockbridge, Madison County, New York on February 8, 1831. Being the oldest child of Charles and Clarrisa Goodrich, his family moved to Wisconsin Territory in 1846 when Charles was 15. The family purchased land and farmed near the Town of Oakland in Jefferson County and young Charles enjoyed the farming life with all its chores.

Perry received a “good common school education” and became “well informed on all matters of general interest.”

His interest and love of learning motivated him to become a teacher at 18 in 1849 in a school near Oakland while he attended night school taking classes in mathematics

and surveying. Though his life was changing rapidly as he forged a career for himself, he never forgot his parents and would frequently return to the family farm to help out. In 1854 a young Mr. Perry “tried his hand at merchandizing” and “ran a store in Oakland Center” but always continued to help out on the family farm.

On November 30, 1855 Charles Perry married Frances (“Frankie”) Del Garcia Bowen of Cambridge, Wisconsin. Their union would last until Frankie's death of a stroke at age 67 in 1900 while visiting their son Charles at the Oakland, Wisconsin farm. Mr. Perry never remarried.

In the spring of 1856 the Perry's bought 80 acres of land in the town of Oakland and later on added another 130 acres. Over the years Charles developed a fine dairy herd while Frankie perfected her butter making and became well known as one of the finest butter makers in the Midwest region winning many blue ribbons at Wisconsin State Fairs.

Three sons were born to the Goodrich's, William P. (“Willie” in 1859), Charles (1868), and DeWitt (1869).

In 1860 Charles Perry was elected Justice of the Peace, and that same year also elected for a two year term as the County Surveyor. He was highly regarded as the best surveyor in the county.

In October, 1861 Perry joined the First Wisconsin Cavalry and “served well and faithfully for three years and six months.” He was “mustered out in March, 1865 and returned home.” Charles' brother David who also joined the First Wisconsin Cavalry had the distinction of being with the expedition that captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Surviving the Civil War and returning home Charles Perry was not about to allow “any grass to grow under his feet.” He remained active for the remainder of his life up until his death. While Perry continued to remain active in farming, in 1866 he served as County Surveyor for one term. In 1868 he represented the second district for one term in the Wisconsin assembly as a Republican. He was a lifelong member of the G.A. R. at Fort Atkinson (Post 159). He also served as Clerk of the Town Board and as Chairman of the same Oakland Town Board, apparently for many terms. In 1893 Perry joined the Hoard Company and moved to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Their farm in Oakland, Wisconsin was left to their son Charles and his new wife Ada. For the Hoard Company, Mr. Perry lectured and traveled to promote the dairy farming industry.

In 1902, Perry, now 71, became President of the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association and became highly involved in keeping dairy prices stabilized and the oleo product out

of Wisconsin, of which he was very successful.

In that same year Perry helped to co found the Kent Manufacturing Company with co-founder Harry Curtis in an attempt to find ideas that would help produce needed dairy products that included “an adjustable cow stall with a stanchion that would allow the cow to turn her head while being milked, giving the cow greater comfort.”

The inventor of the stall William James and his implement partner were invited to join the Kent firm to start production. In 1912 the Kent Manufacturing Company name was changed to The James Manufacturing Company.

Seventeen days before his 90th birthday and more than 56 years from his service in the Civil War, Charles Perry Goodrich passed away on January 21, 1921, Inauguration Day for President Warren G. Harding.

Sargent Goodrich is buried in the Fort Atkinson Cemetery on North Main Street with his wife Frankie, and his parents.

(Reader's Note:) “The text in the above biography is from Fort Atkinson newspapers, The Jefferson County History of 1878, and Loren Osman's fine biography of W.D. Hoard.”

It should be noted that the First Wisconsin Cavalry was both “Wisconsin's largest regiment in numbers of men”, and ..”was involved in more battles than any other of Wisconsin's regiment.

Cavalry units seldom served as a regiment. Instead they were attached to brigades with other companies and served 10 men from one company, ten from another, etc.

Recorded documents of each company's service were seldom kept current. With units raiding in all directions, patterns, and times, it was next to impossible to keep up with recording actions taken.

“The Western units tended to fight more” and keep less substantial records of their actions. They also didn't receive the media attention that other units/brigades/regiments get in the Civil War. One Wisconsin cavalry unit, the 4th, had the honor and distinction of serving beyond another national volunteer group, from June 21, 1861 to May 26, 1866, “ James Keefe, a painter from Stillwater, Minnesota, enlisted as a private in 1861”, became the last Regimental Commander in 1866.

COLLECTION LIST:

The Charles Perry Goodrich Collection consists of a total of 118 documents of which one hundred seventeen of them are letter documents and the 118th is a photo document. A majority of the letters of correspondence are to his wife "Frankie" while 4 letters are written by her to her husband. There are also two letters from Charles to his brother, a letter to a friend named "Bowers" and a final document to Charles from Lieutenant J. Madurner. It should be noted that Sergeant Perry's letters are quite lengthy especially in the beginning of his military service. By 1864 and on they become less lengthy and there may be a number of obvious reasons for that. Charles gets few letters from his wife and other family members on any regular basis. It may reflect his personal frustration in feeling somewhat abandoned or forgotten by loved ones.

Nevertheless Perry's narratives reflect his tremendous enthusiasm, loyalty, and patriotism for the Union to win as well as his love for his family. .
love he has for his family. .

- Doc. #1 of 118: Military Photo of Pvt. Charles Perry Goodrich taken shortly after his enlistment in full dress uniform. (Location of where the photo was taken and date is unknown).
- Doc. #2 of 118: A page from "The Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, The First Regimental Wisconsin Cavalry, Company I, noting his original enlistment date of October 19, 1861 through his promotion to Sergeant Major on April 18, 1864.
- Doc. #3 of 118: A "Roster Page" from First Wisconsin Cavalry (page 3) showing that Charles P. Goodrich currently resides in Oakland, Wisconsin, and from Company I, his promotion to Adjutant on January 25, 1865, and his mustering out date of March 8, 1865.
- Doc. #4 of 118: A group photo of a young Charles Goodrich taken in civilian clothes possibly in Wisconsin before his enlistment (date, location, and event are unknown)

Doc. #5 of 118: A letter from Frankie to Charles from Oakland, Wisconsin, dated Sunday, January 5th, 1862

Noteworthy:

- Frankie is surprised to find another letter from Charles.
- Reports that his father is “quite low” in being confined to his bed.
- Expresses her high emotion, “Oh Perry! How it does make me feel to have you away from home”. “I suppose its because I want every other man and woman to feel as miserable as you and I.”
- “How disgusting the company of such men must be to you yet be obliged to be in, you in no danger of being misled.” “I know so well what your principles are that I feel there is no danger.” “How disgusting the company of such men must be to you yet be obliged to be with them day and night, to hear their vulgar talk and songs.” “I cannot bear the thought.”
- “It is so much worse for you than a great many others.”
- “If there is anything which will tend to humanize or refine, anything near you such as religious meetings or lectures on any good subject, I shall be very glad..”
- “When I show Willie your picture, he wants to know if “Papa will talk to me”. “When I tell him no, he wants to know, “Where is long, big Papa?”
- “Come home as soon as possible”.

From
Frankie

Doc. 6 of #118: A letter to his wife Frankie from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, January 11 and 12, 1862 (two entries).

Noteworthy:
Sunday the 11th

- Her letter of the 5th was recently received and he requests that she please write once a week.
- They are kept very busy with constant drilling four hours a day.
- Many have brought horses and practice their drill riding skills and care for the animals.
- Charles mentions that his horse “Zach” is getting very familiar with the place and his daily routines and the horses are well fed and getting fat.
- Have yet to receive their uniforms and have been given dates when they would arrive only to be disappointed. Many of the soldiers who have been here two or three months need clothing so badly they cannot even go out and drill.
- Charles details, “In one tent there are those boys who have but one pair of pants among them so that when necessary for one to go out, he takes the pants while the other two sit in their shirts, or wrap some rags or blanket around them.”

Monday, the 12th

- Trying to finish the letter started yesterday and still waiting for the uniforms, though they have “got our sabers and pistols”
- Still not enough horses except for those that own and brought them.
- Rumors persist (without validation) that they may be heading to

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

-Very difficult to get furloughs and “expecting their first pay that was due the first of January”.

-If he (Charles) can get pay/uniform and a furlough he will certainly make every effort to come home and see her, son Willie and father too.

“The idea haunts me that I will never see him(father) again.”

-He reminds Frankie that he has “written before about the demoralization of the camp”... while “others have refrained from writing of the evils of camp life and put their best side out, but I am disposed to..Nothing extenuates or puts down ought in malice.”

-Stealing in camp, he continues, is always in the forefront.

“One man who lives about two miles from here and has paid a great deal of money to get up this regiment, has had \$200.00 worth of bees and honey stolen by the soldiers..yet the thieves are rarely detected.”

Just one has been charged with stealing cigars and if found guilty, he will receive a harsh consequence.

-Charles reminds Frankie not to categorize all soldiers in camp “as thieves and rowdies”. But the actions of a few leave all citizens who live in the area to be “despised” and “mistrusted” in any action.

-Charles concludes by stating that his health remains good and the regiment (nearly 1000 men now) is filling up quickly.

-He's not has his turn at cooking yet but when called will cook for his tent for an entire day. Also he has not been able to wash his dirty laundry since arriving and hopes a given furlough will allow him to get his washing done when he is back home.

-He entreats Frankie to “please continue to write often.”

“Hoping the war will end soon and I can be again with you and Willie”

“I remain your affectionate husband.”

C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #7 of 118: To his wife Frankie, (Company I, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry), from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, January 19th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-He received her letter of Friday, the 15th and complains to Frankie, “It is very irregular that you do not get my letters.” “I have written one every week since I got here.”

-Charles reminds her, “You worry to much about my health.” They are “getting the best of care here.”

-”Though its cold here” they are living comfortably in their tents as “it is as warm as any house”, and “complete with a good stove.”

-”There is a good deal of contention and strife with the election of officers”, and also much discussion of “our being disbanded” and rumors of “being sent to Leavenworth, Kansas.” Much is conjecture and opinion and no one has no way of knowing what will happen.

-”Mr. (Ed) Kearn started for home Friday”. “I made him promise to stop and see you.”

-”Tell David (Goodrich) and John (Goodrich) to write to me.”

-”..You must write me often”, and “Keep Willie for me, and do not worry about me”. “I am among friends.”

Your Husband,

C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #8 of 118: To his wife from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, January 26th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles remarks that it was "two weeks ago" that she had last written and he cannot remember if she had received his last three or four letters.

-He tells her it is difficult to know what to write and there have been mail delivery problems. He tells her that her worry about him is needless, and that he heard "by way of Alex McGowan".."that you were well and Father was getting better."

-Charles reports that his health "is first rate now" and had he have been paid on time, he might have been home with family now. He complains of his continual failure to procure a furlough "until the Colonel comes."

-He thinks "the destination of the regiment" should soon be decided, and the Colonel "is doing his utmost to have us taken into General (James M.) Lane's Division."

-He brings up the topic of a possible court-martial, "in which an anonymous letter appeared in the Milwaukee News which told a great deal of truth about the doings of the regiment and bore down pretty hard on the Colonel."

- "Today six or seven soldiers were tried by court martial for disorderly conduct, "stealing, etc." "Some were fined a month's pay", and "some were made to march before the whole regiment on dress parade, with playing cards fastened to their backs stating in large letters their offenses, such as "chicken thief". "One was made to stand on a barrel head in the middle of the camp on this very cold day for an hour with the card on him where all could see." "A guard was placed around him, with sabers in their hands to enforce obedience." "The boy took it hard, I tell you." "He was not the worst one in the regiment but enticed by bad companions." "He was detected, while the others, older in crime, were not. Surely the story of "Poor Troy" has its moral.

- "Tattoo is sounded by the band." "The lights must be put out" and "We must go to bed."

- "Write often". "...Please overlook the blunders" and misspelled words of this letter." "Good bye dear wife."

Monday morning
January 27th.

From your husband, C. P. Goodrich

-”Kevin came last night” and “said he saw you.” “All well.” I went to Congregational church yesterday and heard a splendid sermon preached to a large audience.” “Another meeting was held last night exclusively for soldiers.”

Doc. #9 of 118: To his wife Frankie from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, February 2nd, 1862

Noteworthy:

- Opens by mentioning he received two letters from her.
- Doing well, “no particular news to write about.
- He and all the soldiers have now received their uniforms.
- Continuing rumors keep the filled camp “excited.” Most of the rumors either talk of going to Ft. Leavenworth soon or the regiment disbanding.
- The latest rumor centers around getting our pay “soon” and that “horses will be furnished.” (He has learned by now not to believe every bit of new information he hears).
- He’s still attempting to get a furlough like others.
- ”The weather is cold now and very unpleasant” especially after “coming in from dress parade.”
- Charles closes by mentioning that he is now hear the bugler's call to go immediately to the stables.
- ”Good by, dear wife and in hopes that you will see your husband.”

C.P. Goodrich

Doc. #10 of 118: to Frankie his wife from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, February 16th, 1862 (Reader's Note: This letter was written after Charles arrived back to camp after his furlough home).

Noteworthy:

- Still “in the dark” about their future. “The Colonel has not yet returned.”
- Charles horse,”Zach” “looks pretty gaunt”..”and has grown poor” though“he eats good now” but still coughs.
- Charles mentions the food of “cakes and apples” he shared made “the boys” with him shout and cheer.
- He mentions a few men he met on the train describing their professions and connections to Janesville, Wisconsin history.
- Getting back to camp was difficult due to the heavy snow and “the Kenosha line was blocked up”. The night before returning to camp was extremely difficult and uncomfortable.

C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #11 of 118: To his wife from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, March 9th, 1862

Noteworthy:

- Charles mentions receiving her “letter of the 28th” and that he is well “as usual”.
- He is happy she is “having luck at selling corn” but reminds her about the hazards of “selling on credit”, and to “use the advice of “Father and David” when needed about her business concerns.
- Charles reminds Frankie to “save money for your own use” ..”and pay John Johnson” what he owes him.
- His regiment has received their marching orders and he states, “In all probability, we shall not see each other in less than three years”.
- They have been ordered to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, and “would like to see you and Willie once more”, though getting another furlough would be next to impossible.
- ”Some who enlisted thinking the regiment would be disbanded are sorely disappointed and would like to desert.” “We are strictly guarded here in camp.” “Guards are stationed at the railroad depot to see that no one gets away.” “The Major says that all deserters must be brought in.”
- ”There is a good deal of complaining at being obliged to go without first having pay.” “Last night a protest was drawn up against going without pay, but the one who was circulating the protest was arrested.”
- He is on “guard duty today” and with much he has to do, he does not have time to write more.
- Charles closes, “Dear Frankie, we may never meet again.” “There is no telling what is in store for us.” “If I fall by disease or the sword it will be with consciousness of having done my duty to my country and I shall never cease to think of and love you and Willie.”

C. P. Goodrich

Doc.#12 of 118: To his wife Frankie, from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, March 13th, 1862

Noteworthy:

- Finally received a letter from her and was “getting pretty uneasy” about it.
- Her idea that they may be disbanded will not come to fruition and the camp is always full of rumors that he doesn't pay attention to.
- He describes their preparations for the march to St. Louis “in mud three inches deep.” And then the delay and unpacking the horses with many soldiers angry, cursing and swearing.
- Word came that the regiment was to meet Governor Harvey, and

when he did, he was escorted to their camp for a parade review. A thousand of them with uniforms etc. polished "made a fine show" The Governor "praised us saying..we were the finest body of men in the United States."

-After all the speech making, two day passes were granted, but Charles writes, "I should barely have time to get home and turn around back again."

-The men have still been waiting for their pay and have given up "prophesying" when it will come.

-He concludes, "I should very much like to come home before we go and see you and Willie..." "Tell Father, John, and David to write me." "If we go south, the letters will follow the regiment." "Be of good cheer." "I shall come out all right and be home after the war is over and we shall love each other all the more, to pay attention to the long separation." "Write often".. "Do not worry about my health." "It was never better in my life."

Your husband. C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #13 of 118: A letter to Frankie from Camp Harvey, Kenosha, Wisconsin, dated, March 16th, 1862

Noteworthy: -Sunday evening, "have been busy all day" and "we should not be here much longer." "Things are being hauled to the depot" and loaded on cars. "The Colonel predicts..we should start by 9 o'clock." "In the morning we will strike our tents" and "our horses to put aboard the cars."
-For supper they had "meat and bread" and "will have to live on dried meat and hard bread" on the way to St. Louis.
-"The Captain wants us this evening to go help capture a deserter."
-The snow is nearly all gone now but the roads are very muddy.
-"Mr Masters wants I write you a few words for him." "He says you must never fear for me, for He will watch over me and see that no harm befall me." "He says he will do this our of respect He has for you."

Your husband C. P. Goodrich

Doc#14 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri, dated,
March 20th, 1862.

Noteworthy:

-Arrived 10 o'clock yesterday to Benton Barracks. It would normally be comfortable but for all the mud and rain. The ground is clay and when wet, it is so easy to get stuck in it.

-These barracks were built last summer on the orders of John Charles Fremont. "The city (St. Louis) is four miles from The steamship landing. Both infantry and cavalry are in camp now.

-Charles reports, "St. Louis is a great city and very compact." "Near the river streets are narrow and the buildings high, generally six stories, so it looks like one great mass of brick, through which deep narrow alleys have been cut out yesterday, were so filled with smoke and mist that they seemed like subterranean passages to which the light of day could scarcely penetrate." "As we recede from the river the streets grow wider and the buildings lower so that the aspect is not quite so gloomy." "Through all principal streets are railroads which run cars drawn by horses."

-Charles continues on tell Frankie of his travel events that have led up to his coming to St. Louis and the barracks including the train trip from Chicago to Alton and then taking "The City of Alton" Steamboat to St. Louis. He mentions the crowdedness of the steamboat (1200 soldiers and 180 horses). That first night they stayed and slept (with every deck overloaded). The hurricane deck gave him "a very uncomfortable time" and then "about midnight", the rain started in.

-They left the boat at daylight, "those who had horses, rode, and "those that did not walked four miles through the streets to the barracks."

- "Along the roads in Wisconsin and Illinois, we were cheered." "Old gray headed men hurrahed and swung their hats." "Old women with their night caps on, waved their handkerchiefs." "Beautiful young ladies waved the Stars and Stripes and smiled on us." "Children clapped their hands and shouted for joy." "Everyone seemed to be trying to encourage us and cheer us on."

- "When we came to St. Louis, the feelings of the people seemed to be changed." "No one but children noticed us." "There was no one in the streets as in Chicago, and many who were passing did not even turn their heads to look at us." "In only two instances did I see the Union flag." "In this great city, I only saw two persons who cheered us."

Write soon and direct to Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri.
Good bye. Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #15 of 118: To Frankie from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri, dated, Sunday, March 23, 1862

Noteworthy:

- He praises receiving her letter “of the 16th” and “how good” it makes him feel to have a long letter from her.
- He expresses feelings of sadness for leaving Wisconsin without being able to see her one last time.
- Charles reports that “One regiment a day” from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri are coming in and “being armed and equipped as fast as possible.” “Troops here number 16,000, including infantry, cavalry, and artillery.”
- ”Out of the last there are nine batteries of about 150 men with some four to six guns apiece.”
- ”The most we are waiting for are horses.”
- Breaking in “the mules” is dangerous and “many a boy gets laid low in the mud.” “Where all the mules come from is a mystery to me.”
- Charles answers Frankie's question on how he purchased the farm and Zach from father, going into the interest charged and the process of paying the loan back. He reiterates, “Father and all the family have been very kind to us and have helped us a great deal..”. “I shall never, with the best of fortune, be able to over pay the debt.”
- Charles concludes in this letter his guess as to when pay will come from the paymaster, describes also how food is prepared in a small room, and what the soldiers do in camp to pass the time, including, “boxing, scuffling, quarreling, wrestling, and even describes how the “run and squeal over us, knock over our boots and knock over our sabers or any other loose article they can move.”
- ”The weather is quite cold...and it freezes at night.”
- ”Dear Frankie, keep up a brave heart.” “Keep Willie for me and write often to your husband.”

C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #16 of 118: To his wife from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri, dated, March 29th, 1862

Noteworthy:

- Writes of his sadness in not receiving a letter from her this week.
- The weather is warming but cannot leave camp and see the climate changes occurring in “the surrounding countryside”.
- All regiments finally got paid “three days ago except Company I”. “We have marched to headquarters three times to get our

pay but have come back each time without it.” “I surmise that it is because our company officers are such blockheads that they cannot make out the payroll properly.”

-”Troops continue to pour in here and yet these barracks are not yet filled.”

-Charles mentions a train accident “four miles from Chicago” that killed eleven “instantly” with about 150 injured.

-Rumors continue to abound as to when they will leave camp “that keeps the boys in continual excitement.”

-Charles describes the entire regiment marching to the fair-grounds and entering “an immense building capable of holding 10,000 persons. “Our regiment of 1,000 looked like a mere handful was inside of it.” “It is circular in form with seats like stairs descending inward, enclosing an open space or amphi-theater, in which the soldiers are represented as marching.”

-Water supplied from the Mississippi River “ for thousands of men, horses, and mules, .. is piped underground and forced up by some hydraulic machinery.” “All we have to do when we want water., is go to the nearest hundreds of fountains, turn on the faucet, and three fourths of an inch of a stream pours out forcibly.” “The water is cold now and does not taste very bad, for no liquor is allowed within the lines and the soldiers cannot go out and get it.” “Drunkness is pretty much done away with here.”

-Charles closes with, “Frankie, write often.” “Tell Father, David, and John to write also.” “You cannot imagine how much a soldier, imprisoned within a camp, does sigh for letters from home friends.”

Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #17 of 118: To Frankie from Camp Benton, Missouri, dated, April 4th, 1862

Noteworthy: -”Received her letter of the 27th day before yesterday.”
-Charles describes being entertained by a man and a monkey dressed up in a soldier's uniform that can “churn butter, play the fiddle, and exercise with the saber”, etc. As a crowd gathers the monkey momentarily stops to pass the hat.
-He is glad that Frankie has “sold the corn”, advising her “to keep some of it” unless she is “getting the five dollars per month from the state.”
-Charles requests that she send him “a dollar's worth of stamps” as “they are as good as cash for any purpose.”
-He reports the weather being “warm and pleasant” and was able to see the trees and countryside greening up and the farmers already into the spring plowing of their fields.
-He is enclosing for her and the family “ a likeness” of him in uniform, and though he has been careful to preserve it for

mailing, it already contains scratches across his face.

-Charles describes a man “peddling cases for ambrotype pictures” “for a dollar apiece”. “Next comes a man selling Bowie knives, suspenders, and lockets.” “These sell rapidly, and at least for double their value.” “Now comes a man with a rickety one horse wagon in which there are three or four barrels of apples, and drawn by a miserable looking mule.” “Apples are quite cheap, good nice ones sell for a cent apiece.” “I invest the full sum of a half a dime, toss an apple apiece to three of the boys near me..” He tells her the orderly is telling them, “Fall into supper.” “The men fall in and are marched to the table.” “Some were growling about the hard bread, the very salted bacon or the muddy coffee.”

-”Just as we got seated, in come two young women, each with a half bushel basket full of boiled eggs.” “The boys all full of fun, begin talking all sorts of stuff to the girls, which, though it may be fun for the boys, I should think be death to the girls.” “I now hear much vulgar talk that would make any decent man blush with shame, but the girls stand it all.” “They are selling eggs rapidly, and that is all they care for.” “They have passed the whole length of the tables and about one third of the boys paid their half dime.”

-As Charles concludes he pauses, “stopping to take a bite from my apple, while the rest are at the table.”

“Frankie, I do not always feel in as good a mood as I do tonight.”

“Sometimes I am homesick, but I try to make the best of it.”

“See if Willie knows his Papa without being told that it is me.”

“Write often.” “Good bye”

Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #18 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri, dated, Tuesday, April 8th, 1862 (Reader's Note: In the following letter, we get the opportunity of looking into the mind of Charles Goodrich, noting that he is a deep and reflective thinker about life and what brings him happiness. One can certainly conclude that he has discovered the ordinary, daily, mundane activities of life with loved ones have brought forth to him the true meaning of his personal treasures in that he needs to pay more attention to “smell the roses” and not take things so much for granted.).

Noteworthy:

-Charles begins his letter in a melancholy mood saying, “My thoughts are continually turning towards home and I feel such an influence urging me to write and say something to you.” “I love home.” “I always did.” “..I was never brought to feel this love so sensibly as since I left home.” “The longer I am absent, the stronger, the more acute, this feeling grows.”

“After all it gives me great enjoyment to think of home and sometimes think that if I could be by myself and think these thoughts undisturbed and uninterrupted, I should be very happy.” “Every day I long, oh how I long for solitude!” I was painfully reminded that, instead of being at home, where I had in mind, for a short time, been in the the companionship of those who are dearer to me than life itself and living over again the Providence, or whatever the agency may be called, had placed me in a strange land, surrounded by new and strange scenes, among men who are trained to perfection in the horrid art of destroying other fellows, and in the close proximity to the most terrible instruments of death which the genius of a modern time could invent.”

-Charles continues, “Man has a destiny!” “Reason as we may, there is no getting around this fact.” “He has a track laid out before him to travel from which he can no more deviate from that if he could create himself.” “While he seems to act on his own free will, there is certainly, I believe, a higher power that controls that will.”

-Charles comes back to present day camp events mentioning the arrival of new Wisconsin regiments and those that have not as yet been ordered to leave.

-He has been most recently on guard duty, “and obliged to be mounted and riding around in certain places” on his horse, Zach. “Last night, about ten o'clock, one of the guards was shot and wounded by a secesh enemy.” Though the guards were dispatched no one was found. “So you see, there is a little danger, even here.” “Every day or two there are rumors of guards and pickets being shot.” “The guard was walking his beat, on foot, which was beside a road.” “A man comes along, going in the same direction as the guard, when about two feet from him, the man fired and ran off.” “The guard had his hand against his side, with the saber at 'a carry'.” “The ball passed close to his side, passing through his hand.”

-“The 17th Wisconsin left yesterday..” while “The 15th Michigan regiment has also gone and all the others except three Wisconsin cavalry's and a few sick soldiers.” “So now we have a great deal more of guard duty” then when we first came.

-He received her letter of the 3rd last evening and was sorry to hear “that father is worse.”

-He prefers the new colonel thinking that..”He seems to care more for the comfort of his men and all the officers, but that does not make him an honest man.”

-“None of the deserters have been taken.” “Two deserted from this company while on the way here.”

-His horse Zach has withstood the journey here “well” with no scratches. Yet some of the other horses “were all bruised up and spoiled entirely.” Many horses on the boat coming down caught colds from the river winds and “have since died.”

-“We yesterday got the news of a great battle in Tennessee”.

“If the accounts are all true, it looks like the war is drawing to a close.”

C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #19 of 118:

To Frankie, his wife, from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri, dated, April 19th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles “received her letter of the 14th” last evening.

“I will tell you now..” “that for some time I have had a bad cough” but “I am better.”

-”Three men of this regiment died yesterday.” The chief bugler (Chester H. Smith of Midland), “died of inflammation of the lungs.” “One was taken suddenly with inflammation of the bowels and died within a few hours.” “The other was thrown from a horse two days ago and was injured as to cause his death.”

-”We are getting our horses now, at the rate of 100 to 150 per day.” “Eight companies are already supplied.” “I with 11 others have been bringing them from the government stables in the city about one and a half miles from here.” “It is pretty hard work to be mounted on Zach, and lead four or five other horses tied together with ropes around their necks, but I have a chance to get outside this prison of a camp and breathe the free air and inhale the fragrance from the sweet blossoms of apple and other fruit trees.” “The weather is quite warm and about every other day it rains.” When it pours, “I have an India rubber blanket to put over me and did not get wet and not take a cold.”

-Charles thinks they will not remain there much beyond two or three weeks, and the thought is they will be going to Tennessee or the plains in western Kansas. All is guesswork, rumor, or conjecture.

-Charles mentions, “Wounded soldiers from Pittsburgh’s Landing or Shiloh” are being brought every day to the city’s nearby hospital.

-Charles continues on stating that from the battle of Pittsburgh their troops suffered greatly and believed that many of the soldiers were unprepared and without battle experience that caused such great suffering.

-Charles concludes this letter stating that a 1st Lieutenant Morrison resigned and was replaced,

“by a man hated so much the Colonel

exchanged him for a lieutenant from another company.”

He is grateful for his continued good health and tells Frankie to “kiss Willie for me.” “Goodbye”.

“Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #20 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Camp Benton, St. Louis, Missouri,
dated, Saturday, April 26th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles received her "long letter of the 20th last night", and it gave him "great pleasure to read it and know that" she was well and Father was improving. Charles adds, "My health is pretty good now" and he continues taking "cherry pectoral" that has diminished his cough greatly.
-They have just received their "marching orders" His Company I is now apart of the 2nd battalion. Their destination assignment is Lawrence, Kansas (some 180 to 200 miles south).

Sunday, the 27th:

-Weather has been very rainy and very warm now. The entire regiment has gone through a thorough supply/uniform inspection. There is continuous drilling.
-Charles reports that "under an order from the War Department', all who have horses must sell them to the government for \$105.00 apiece or "send them home or otherwise dispose of them." "The government will no longer employ them at .40 cents a day." "I have concluded to sell Zach."
-Charles mentions a soldier, "Louis James" who is "full of bad capers" and has always gotten into trouble even as far back as leaving Kenosha. "He pretends that he does not know he is doing wrong." His latest thing was gambling every night "until he lost all he had borrowed."
-Charles reports on a variety of soldiers' conditions. "Alex McGowen is well now." "Henry Hart has been in the hospital" and is as thin as a skeleton now being out. "Kearn is obliged to keep sober most of the time."
-"You may tell father that I have today just seen Charles Freeman, Henry Johnson's son-in-law." "He belongs to a regiment of infantry from Minnesota" and just got here. "He has lived in Minnesota for two years and has not seen or heard from his wife and family for five or six years." "He acts as strange as he always did."
-Charles reports that many in the cavalry regiment complain of riding on "hard wooden saddles" while "a good many boys get thrown from their horses and some get seriously hurt." "My sheet is full and I must close" "Direct letters the same as usual until you know we have moved."
Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #21 of 118: To Frankie on board the steamer "Northwestern" at the levee from St. Louis, dated, Thursday, May 1st, 1862

Noteworthy: -Orders to start moving have been delayed as usual.
-"We have been riding through the dust, sitting still hours at a time and getting our horses to and on the boat. "We have a fine view of the river, boats and city." "The weather is fine and pleasant." "The boys are beginning to think we are going to Pittsburgh instead of Cape Girardeau because much of the freight is marked 'Pittsburgh'.

Friday, May 2nd entry: -Charles remained aboard the steamer the last evening as he watched it being loaded. His sleep occurred on the "Hurricane Deck" complete with his saddle as his pillow, his blanket, saber, revolver and cartridge box kept handy by him. He thought all was ready for departure when he heard that a driver from one of the soldier baggage wagons yet to be loaded had been run over. This news had awakened him and didn't get back to sleep until after two in the morning. The next day he and the other soldiers "were lounging around the levee all day in the warm sun" while "the incessant clatter of drays and other vehicles" interrupted his writing.
-Charles mentions he yearns to "go to the city" but it is difficult to get pass this late before departure, and there are many guards stationed everywhere.
Goodbye for now. Your loving husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #22 of 118: To his wife Frankie from "On the Mississippi River (100 miles below St. Louis), dated, May 4th, 1862, 8 A.M.

Noteworthy: -Charles reports that progress is slow down the Mississippi because stops are made along the way south to drop off freight, bundles of letters, and "even let a passenger go ashore at almost every house on each side of the river." He notes that "the Missouri side is moderately bold, covered with a small growth of timber" and on the highest bluffs are "evergreen pines I think."
-The Illinois shore is low" with a much lower land surface level, laden with heavy timber. There are "small clearings here and there, "bearing the appearance of having been made within the past three or four years." "On this side we see occasionally winter wheat among stumps."
-"There are a dozen of us soldiers on board." "I believe the whole boat's crew secesh, but they treat us very respectfully and seem to look with awe on our own sabers

and revolvers.” “We just now stopped in the woods on the Illinois side, at the mouth of a creek, to take on a quantity of corn from a flat boat.” “Our boys went ashore and scampered through the woods like children just freed from school, firing their revolvers at marks, or any living thing they could see and had fun.

-He had heard that two “of our boys” had drowned Thursday evening, one “while getting an ambulance wagon” that had gone in the river with him on it and “fears one of them may be one of our Oakland boys.”

May 5th, 1862 entry
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

-Charles arrived “there yesterday and joined the regiment.”
-Reported that Henry LeFever (Co. K) “of our town ..fell overboard and was drowned” and that “the stories' of an ambulance driver drowning “were greatly exaggerated.”

-He compares a town 150 miles from St. Louis similar to Ft. Atkinson and finds it so strange that so much uninhabitable land should lie so far between major cities and towns.

-Charles describes the land as level and “with good soil” and “covered with timber, brush, and grubs” with “now and then, a house or shanty”..appearing to “have been lately put up.”

-His regimental camp is on high ground with plenty of timber and “good spring water” with many tents. At night especially it is very overcrowded. Currently there “are about 200 troops beside the regiment.”

-He feels safe for the present and is tenting with a soldier named, “Masters” whose health “is not very good.”

-Charles concludes by reporting that “William Henry Hart of Company A died of disease on July 13th, 1862 and hailed from Ft. Atkinson.

“I shall be as tough as I ever was.” “I must go now.”
“Goodbye from your husband.” C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #23 of 118:

To his wife from Dunklin County, Missouri, dated, May 22nd, 1862.

Noteworthy:

-Charles is happy to report that he received her last 3 letters including “one from Lucinda”. He supposes Frankie to “be uneasy” for not hearing from him for sometime but comments, “Not a scrap of paper is to be bought in this region.”

-”This country is desolated with war.” “Not a store is in operation” and “No one dares to go to town on the river.”

- Since leaving Cape Girardeau the Ninth's assignment has been “scouring southeastern Missouri, hunting down rebels who were plundering and stealing and laying waste to the country.” “Sometimes 400 or 500 of us are together, at other times 30 to 40.” “We rarely get a sight of the enemy, for they generally run before we get to them.” “We have killed some, captured some and others have voluntarily given up.”

-”Some of our men had a fight with the enemy on the 15th”. “It was a desperate conflict although but few were engaged in it.”

-”I am ordered on an expedition immediately and cannot write more.”

-Lieutenant Fernando C. Merrill of Company D, Jefferson was wounded” being struck by four balls.” “I am well though.” “I passed through hardships such as I never dreamed that I could endure.” “Many strong men have given out, and I stand it, riding sometimes 36 miles without rest or sleep.”

“Write often.”

Doc. #24 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, June 4th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens noting her “letter of the 18th, I did not get til yesterday.” He also mentions his former tent mate, “Mr. Masters” who was sent home for health reasons, and that Charles had received a letter from him acknowledge alleging Frankie's visit to his home recently.”

-Upon leaving Hornersville Sunday, June 1st, Charles quickly discovered that the land soil had become more sandy. Missourians refer to this land as “prairie” while Wisconsinites would tag the land “open” Some of it is very good farm land with wonderful farmhouses and as plentiful in timber as his home in Oakland.

-Though they are on the move all the time and meeting up with different regiments, he doesn't believe that there are large numbers of secesh in Missouri, yet “there are desperate characters lurking around in the swamps and bushes, playing the part of cowardly ruffians and murderer”, and always shooting “our men and Union Missourians, whenever they think they can do it without being caught.”

-Charles relates the dangers of being shot near the river

from heavily wooded areas and always the woundings and deaths of our boys from such fateful encounters. In particular he describes the wounding of Dr. Gregory, including “ a ball that struck the Doctor's left arm, above the elbow, shattering the bone badly, then entered his left side and out his back.” “The ball passed through the back part of his lung, and then entered his horse” that died the next morning.

-Charles continues describing an incident “two weeks ago” in which they were on a mission to seize arms and ammunition from a local farmhouse. A “Corporal Farnsworth” was assigned and accompanied by an unarmed citizen. Upon entering the house “he found some women, searched for, and found the gun.” Looking around he saw “three men, two mounted, and one on foot, with guns aimed at him.” Farnsworth drew his revolver and they returned fire and fled. He returned fire but did not catch them. Farnsworth's horse though shot was able to get his master back to camp but later died.

-”Two of these “would-be murderers were taken a few days later, but after taking the the oath of allegiance, they were released by the colonel” which made many in the regiment “indignant.”

“The Unionists around here say that we northerners are altogether too tender of our enemies.” “They are perfect savages”, as they have “hung and butchered in cold blood many loyal citizens.” “The only way to overcome them is to serve them the same way.” “It is awful to think of the of the savage hatred which exists between former neighbors, and not infrequently relations.”

-”Last Sunday morning, Major Pomeroy...determined to make an example of three of the worst murderers”. “They were brought to the very tree on which the Union men were hung.” “They were placed upon their coffins, caps drawn over their heads and men ready to draw the ropes.” “Suddenly the Major said they were reprieved.” “Two of the men...fell on their knees and blessed the Major.” “The other one..showed not the least sign of feeling.” “I was glad I was not there, for you know that it is not like me to delight in such scenes.” “And now I wish to tell you that all the wickedness of our enemies or the horrid stories that are told of them has ever made me to feel for an instant the desire to take the life of a human being.

-”One boy in our company, when he saw the newly made grave of Colonel Lewis, who was killed at the taking of the steamboat at Hornersville, jumped upon it and danced and shouted with all his might.” “He seemed frantic with delight.” “It made me shudder to see it.” “I cannot look

down upon the grave of an enemy and not feel a compunctions throb that I should have every warred with a handful of dirt before me.” “But if I ever have a chance to fight our enemies, I believe that I shall not flinch or falter, but will take good aim, strike hard, and do my

best. “I will do this from a sense of duty, not from a a feeling of vengeance.”

-”What I have written on this page in regard to myself is meant for you alone to read.” “Others may not appreciate it.” “But you, the only person in the world who perfectly understands my nature will know that I have written the truth.”

-Charles concludes the letter reporting on heavy rain lasting “two or three days”, and noting that “further south “the wheat looked poorly” while “corn is the only grain raised”. “Since we got back here, we have had light wheat bread, the first since we left the Cape.” “I mistake.” “”I did two or three weeks ago have a regular meal...”. “I sat in a chair to a table with a crockery ware and table cloth on it.” “I had biscuits, butter, peach sauce, pie, etc.” “If I have time and opportunity before I send this letter, I may inflict on you the whole story.” “I have a chance to send it now.” Goodbye.

C. P. Goodrich

Doc.# 25 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, June 15th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles begins wishing Frankie would get one more letter to him so he could know her health and if she has received his correspondences.

-He mentions the kind of food “we are living on”, including dried peaches and dried butternuts that “have to be stewed up in an iron kettle”.

-They are “quartered in the upper part of a store” and room for them has become “more plentiful” now.

-Among the furniture they use is a “strange article, a costly coffin, covered with black velvet and trimmed with silver.” “It contained a white image, made to represent a corpse.” “I suppose these were used in some ceremonies to make them more solemn and awful/” “Once in a while the boys get full of fun...they get out this coffin and perform around it and try to put some one who has fallen asleep into it.” “In general it is allowed to stay up by the writing desk for a seat.”

-Charles speaks of June 18ths weather as “hot and sultry”

and that he was “prison guard” the previous day. “There are eleven prisoners confined in the jail, all secesh but one, an Illinois soldier, charged with threatening the life of his Captain.”

-He speaks more about the prisoners and what they are allowed to do including “to go out of doors and walk around.” “If there is any work to do, such as cleaning up rubbish about town, they are made to do it.”

-”Twenty-eight men from Company B went to Hornersville...with the intention of taking the captured steamer 'Daniel B. Miller' down the St. Francis to the Mississippi and then up to Cape Girardeau.” “They took a twelve pound cannon along to put on the boat.” “A gun is fired each day at sunrise and sundown.” “It is loaded so as to make all the the noise possible, and at nearly every discharge, the windows of nearest buildings break. “ “Now most of the large lights in the store windows are broken.”

-Charles closes with, “Dear Frankie, I do hope I shall hear from you soon, but whether I do or not, I shall continue to write often when I have the opportunity..”
Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. # 26 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, June 25th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with having “no news to write” and continues to worry that she is not getting his letters.

-He tells her of the long march “last Thursday” “to where the 3rd battalion” is encamped, a total of 30 miles each way, reminding him of “The King of France” who with 20,000 men marched up the hill and then marched down again.”

-Last Monday he was “sent out in command of five men and a Negro, with a team to capture some cotton from a secesh who lives nine miles from here.” “We were successful and brought the cotton back safe.”

-”Today I have charge of all the horses of our battalion, between 300 and 400.” “It comes my turn to do this about twice a week.” “At night they are taken up and tied to a picket rope and fed corn.” “My time today is divided between seeing the guards, watching the horses, and sitting on the ground..”

-”The weather here is warm” and they have had some cool and comfortable evenings.

-Charles reports that “We have just had as much turmoil and strife in regard to officers in this company as we ever have had.” Charles mentions specific soldiers who

have resigned and what officers have replaced them while some have gotten into trouble and been “thrown out.” “For my part, I take no share in the quarrel.” “I keep aloof from the strife and always have been without any trouble with any officer.”

-He ends the letter with, “Dear Frankie, if you do get a letter from me, do write immediately and acknowledge the receipt of it so as to relieve my mind.”

“Once more, kiss Willie for me.”

Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #27 of 118:

To his wife from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated,
Thursday, June 26th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles acknowledges receiving” her letter of the the seventh and opens by describing that his regiment is “scattered around considerably”

-He reports on the state of his health which is “good” as well as “McGowan and Bowers.”

-Believes that southeastern Missouri will remain a “comparative wilderness” recalling its history of 1811 earthquakes experienced by the town of Madrid, and the richness of the soil. The desolation of few towns and fewer inhabitants is rampant though the laying of the railroads makes few changes.

-Still the “savage civil strife of war”, “a scourge worse than shakes or pestilence is again spreading desolation over this devoted land.”

-Charles concludes by describing the stark changes of the town of Bloomfield, once “ a smart business place.” Buildings including the courthouse are now being “headquartered” by “our battalion and the soldiers occupy the stores.”

-He requests Frankie send her more postage stamps and to write often.

Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #28 of 118:

To his wife from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, July 4th, 1862.

Noteworthy:

-Charles begins by stating that he is back on guard duty and "the Whiskey is circulating quite freely."

-He must give instructions to the new guards every few minutes and describes the morning ritual of raising "The Stars and Stripes", the 24 cannon salute, and the loyal and curious citizens who come to see the event.

-Charles relates an incident of some young boys plowing a field and were mistaken by the regiment as rebels. The boys ran off but were overtaken and "half dead with fear."

-They've "just received intelligence of the taking of Richmond" and notes that "the rebels were soundly defeated."

-They should get their pay soon and he is confused as to who owns his horse Zach, him or the federal government. His efforts of protesting the sale of Zach has not been popular "with many of the officers" and he has "been rebuked" for his stubbornness. He is still waiting on what the government's decision will be as to ownership.

-Charles also discusses the mistakes that are being made in the administration of a soldier's pay, and that at one point he was overpaid by \$20.40 of which he must pay back. Getting to the truth of the matter of overpayment and the proof that he did the right thing by paying back the requested amount is very troubling to him. Charles ends this discussion with, "If I get no pay for the use of my horse and have to lose the \$20.40, then after paying Alex McGowan what I owe him, and keeping a little for my own use, I shall have little if any to send home to you."

-Charles reports seeing the once "ailing boys"(Hoosier, Williams, and Frank Hart) and "they are all well."

He believes "this regiment will not stay in this part of the country much longer", and thinks they may be heading for Arkansas or Texas because of noting of large quantity of ammunition that recently arrived.

-Charles states his thankfulness for the slowness of the orders coming for his cavalry

regiment as the news he hears of other battles, is tragic for so many northern families.

-While the gnats there were a chief source of annoyance, and “the mosquitoes have gone”, they are now troubled by wood ticks, fleas and lice which harbor the grounds of their sleeping.

-”It is sundown.” “BANG! Goes the cannon and the anniversary of American independence is nearly over.” “A great many have been drunk, but all is passing off quietly now.” “No serious trouble has occurred.”

-”It has been said tonight that there would be a ball in the upper part of the courthouse.” “There is now music and dancing.” “I can hear the squeaking of the fiddle, the clatter of military boots with the rattling of spurs and shouting and stamping such as usually accompanies a dance where there are no females.” “The Missouri ladies refused to attend the ball.”

-”Dear Frankie, I hope you spent the Fourth of July happily but I don't suppose you have because I was not there to enjoy it with you.” “Do write often.” “Write long letters.” “Write about everything, about yourself, Willie, Father and Mother, Lucinda, and all the rest of the folks who have been to our house, where you have been, about the crops, yes, our crops. “ Goodbye from your husband,

C. P. Goodrich

-P.S. “I thought I had finished my letter, but I shall be up some hours yet tonight.” “Frankie, do you recollect how we were employed one year ago today?” “We did not enjoy ourselves the best.” “We had anticipated a day of pleasure over on the shores of Ripley Lake.” “But Death, the great destroyer of human happiness entered the house of our nearest neighbors and cast a deep gloom over our spirits. “You stayed with the bereaved family, rendering such comfort and assistance as was in your power to give.”

-”Ah, has not this Fourth been a sad one to thousands of families whose relatives and friends perished on the battlefield at Richmond.”

-”Our prison has gradually been filling with secesh prisoners til this morning they numbered 30.” “It had taken but four men at a time to guard them, and it seems to me they cannot have much courage or they would...have escaped, especially as the guards are very careless and sometimes go to sleep.”

“Twelve of our prisoners were released today on

taking the oath.” “Twelve more are to be sent to the Cape tomorrow.” “A rebel spy is among the prisoners.” “He was caught here in Bloomfield.. and our man (John B.) Clifton saw him and knew him.” “He had acted as a rebel spy when Clifton was in the rebel army.”

-”There is so much going on tonight that I will have to close.” “We guards have got to go and stay by the building where the paymaster sleeps so he will not be robbed by soldiers made reckless by bad whiskey.” C.P.G.

Doc.# 29 of 118:

To Frankie, his wife, from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, July 5th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles begins his letter, “We were paid today”, “and I received \$105.00 which is all that was due me.” “My word passes as good in relation to the \$20.40 about which I wrote you yesterday.”

-They are encamped near the river now. Their boat is small and “can only hold eight or ten horses and men at a time.” “The rebels destroyed the old boat two weeks ago.”

-”We had a train of some twenty heavily loaded mules and six mule wagons, which took some time in ferrying.”

-Charles mentions finding a company of “40 of our men” who “had a fight with rebels under Captain Miller with 80 men.” “We completely routed and scattered them.”

-He writes of being given “command of the advance guard” and orders to capture pickets “around “Halton”, but found no pickets. They sent a main body around the town to capture the rebels, but the rebels ran. In some instances as on July 12th his men came upon a rebel force that out maned them six to one and felt it better and more prudent to withdraw rather than engage the enemy.

-Charles ends the letter with, “I have just been informed that we are to march soon tonight, two

thirds of the regiment..” “This is a dirty looking letter.” “It has been wet and mussed in my pocket, but never mind. “I guess you can read it for it is from your husband.”

Doc. #30 of 118:

To Frankie from Madison, St. Francis County, Arkansas, dated, Wednesday, July 30th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens in speculation that his wife “is getting uneasy at not hearing” from him. He entreats her, “In the future you must not worry if many weeks elapse without hearing from me.”

-He discusses their latest march of over “200 miles from Bloomfield, through the heart of the enemy's country” with constant riding and scouting all the way, a very slow process. Their orders and destination is “south on the west side of the St. Francis River, through the counties and their seated towns.

-Charles describes this country as “thinly populated” and compares the county seats as they remind him of more familiar localities like Clinton, Wisconsin.

-His report includes seeing his first railroad “in either Missouri or Arkansas”, one “the rebels have torn up and injured so it is useless.” The cost to repair the completely destroyed bridge was \$80,000, a huge sum. Also destroyed by the rebels were huge stores and fields of cotton totally burned. What Charles can see now grow in very small locations is some corn.

-They encamped “in the most beautiful grove I ever saw, at Sugar Creek” on the 17th.

-Charles ends the letter mentioning the rain falling and the truth to Frankie that in fact he is not well, stating, “I am poor, weak, and feel worn out..”

Doc. #31 of 118:

To his wife from Helena, Arkansas, dated, August 15, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens announcing that "Lieutenant (Newton) Jones (Company F, Fort Atkinson) is going home to recruit more men for the regiment and will take letters home with him.

-He reminds Frankie that he has written her two letters since arriving, and mentioned in those letters "of the disasters we have suffered." He reminds her that he lost his horse Zach and all his equipment, clothing, and possessions except what he was carrying. "We were of course, dismounted at the time of the fight and there was no time to get a horse to get away with." "One of our company tried and as he was untying him, a bullet struck the horse's head and the horse fell dead."

-Other than receiving her letter of the 29th, the letters she did write him (3 or 4) must still be at Bloomfield, Missouri. He is disappointed that he has not seen Lieutenant Merrill (Company D of Jefferson) and was hoping "to get the pictures and other things she had sent. He complains that he would have preferred her tea that he had yet to receive vs. the disagreeable camp coffee he cannot stomach to drink!

-His health is getting better. Bowers went to Memphis to care for the wounded, and McGowan is well.

- "I can see the prospect of the war ending very soon". "The South seems determined to fight till the last." "They have everything at stake." "There is no one more tenacious or dangerous as someone that does not care." "There is nothing a man will fight for more desperately than his property."

- "We have no one to give us information but Negroes and they were kept as ignorant as possible, while the guerillas had friends to inform them of our movements."

- "When our regiment got stretched over a space of 300 miles, they suddenly rose up all along our track as if by some preconcerted signal and wiped out all the small detachments." "When our regiment left Kenosha we numbered 1,140 men." "Now we muster 440."

- "The guerrilla system must have some head for they rose up simultaneously all over the country." "Our troops six weeks ago occupied Little Rock." "Now it is in the hands of the rebels." "In view of all the facts that I can learn, I see no possibility

of the war ending soon.” “I calculate that if I live so long, I shall serve out my three years..”
-”It may be possible that with the help of 600,000 new troops...the war may be ended sooner but I greatly fear the South will be able to to meet them with a like number.” “They have shown a determination and a fertility of resource truly surprising.” “All the secesh with whom I have talked seem perfectly confident of success in the end and are willing to put up with every privation to obtain it.”
-”It seems to me that I write miserable letters lately.” “I can't think of what I want to write.”
“Well, Frankie and Willie and all the rest, once more good bye and if I escape death in the thousand forms a soldier has to meet it, you may expect in about two years to see your Husband and Father.” C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #32 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Camp of 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, Helena, Arkansas, dated, Saturday, August 23rd, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles admits “small encouragement” as he begins this letter, in large part of his fear that Frankie has not received any of his letters. He reminds her to “direct” all of her letters to Helena now, and apologizes if he failed to inform her of that fact.
-He reports that a few of the regiment “are at Cape Girardeau, a few are at Bloomfield, while a few are in Memphis.” Tragedy struck the mail boat, “Keokuk” a few days ago as it sank with “some 70 lives lost.” “Of course the mail was lost and perhaps some of mine was on board.”
-He tells Frankie that his conscientious efforts to procure a furlough to be home for six to eight eight weeks, “was suddenly blasted, and he is learning to be a good soldier by stoically accepting ever present and constant disappointment.
-He recalls to Frankie “the fight at L' Anquille Ferry” where “bullets were flying in a perfect shower” as they lay “hidden in the weeds.”
-Charles then changes the subject to, “How did you know that I would want tea? (stating that he “never cared for it at home” but loves it now.

It is hard to get now but sometimes he can find it paying "\$20/pound".

-Charles points out in specific examples that the war will not end any time soon as "The "South" remains "determined to fight."

He cites that the bloody conflict at Richmond, their retaking at Baton Rouge and their stand at Vicksburg. One of their advantages has been the widespread use of "Guerrilla bands, well organized" that have "risen up in "Missouri and Arkansas." Charles adds, "We have scouted and hunted and chased them all over but to little purpose." The rebs hide in the swamps and quickly are able to slip away once detected.

"When our regiment got stretched over a space of about 300 miles, they suddenly rose up all along our track as if by some preconceived signal and wiped out all the small detachments."

"When our regiment left Kenosha we numbered 1, 140 men." "Now we muster 440."

"This guerrilla system must some head for they rose simultaneously all over the country." "Our troops six weeks ago occupied Little Rock.

"Now it is in the hands of the rebels." "I calculate that if I live so long, I shall serve out my three years."

-Charles concludes this letter with his belief that the South can and will be able to match any numerical military force pitted against them.

- "It seems to me that I am writing rambling miserable letters lately." "Well, Frankie and Willie and all the rest, once more good bye and if I escape death in the thousand forms a soldier has to meet it, you may expect in about two years to see your Husband and Father." C. P. Goodrich.

Doc. # 33 of 118:

To Frankie from Helena, Arkansas, dated, Saturday, August 23, 1862, Camp of 1st Wisconsin Cavalry.

Noteworthy:

-Another letter from "Dixie Land" and Charles immediate "encouragement is very small. He opens the "loneliness theme" complaining of an absence of family letters. Some of his regiment are now scattered to Cape Girardeau, Bloomfield, and Memphis.

-Charles unhappily reports that the Keokuk mail boat "sunk at Council Bend" some three or four days ago" and "70 are reported lost" as was all the mail including his letters.

-Charles talks of "a duty to perform" "to take good aim and bring down a rebel" and noting that "our orderly sergeant was shot through the thigh" and "he fell quickly as if the ball had pierced his heart." "He quickly rose up and Bill Bowers, who was standing close by his side, asked him if he was shot, to which he replied with a genuine laugh to his face, "Yes I've got it there" putting his hand on the spot". "After the fight, when Kern was lying wounded on the ground and unable to stir, the rebel commander Parsons, coming near him said, "You men did well. You fought desperately."

- "We have gotten word of Lieutenant (Charles L) Porter." "He is in St. Louis now" and "was taken prisoner at Jonesboro with seven of his men and released on parole." "He says he knows of six of our company who were killed at Jonesboro".."while several more are missing." "Porter says they killed seventeen of the rebels before they surrendered, which they would not have done, but they were in the courthouse, had used up all their ammunition and were surrounded by 280 rebels."

- "The health of our regiment is very bad" as we have "endured many hardships and exposures". "We have had no tents since we left Cape Girardeau, have waded and lain in swamps, slept many a night on wet ground with rain pouring down in torrents and lastly, traversed the whole length of St. Francis valley, which had been a few weeks before overflowed with water...20 to 30 feet deep."

- "Of the 440 in our regiment here, 120 reported fit for duty and even those looked poor, pale, and sickly." "They would not be able to endure much hardship." The disease is almost always ague and fever." "There are not a great many deaths." "Jasper McCune of Fort Atkinson died a few days

ago of dysentery.”

-”I call myself well now.” Many of the men, Kearns, Curtis, and Hart “call themselves well, but they are by no means the strong robust men they once were.”

-”As for news” of troop movements, “you know more than I do.” “My sheet is full so good bye for now.”

Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #34 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Camp, Helena, Arkansas, dated, September 15, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles begins letting her know, “I am well.”

He reports that he has received no letters from her of late “as the mail comes here very irregularly.”

-”The four regiments..have returned after three days” not finding the enemy's presence in the White River region.

-”Yesterday 25 more recruits came in.” His assignment is to drill them but he has other work that is piling up now.

-Charles describes, “Our recruits look and act very differently” from our veteran old soldiers. The new ones are “robust, healthy men full of life and animation, moving about with laughter, jokes and songs, in a sprightly, active manner as if they wanted to do something” (make a difference.” Charles in kind describes the troops he has known and fought with having “long sallow faces, hollow cheeks, and sunken eyes, moving about in a solemn manner, uttering scarcely a word except to growl, grumble, snarl, or to swear and heap vile curses on the heads of officers.

-”The talk is here now, that this regiment will be all together soon.” Charles continues expounding on the usual prolific variety of rumors as to where the regiment will go to next, “Bloomfield”, “Cape”, etc. “I hope we shall yet get together somewhere.” “I do not much care, where, soon.”

-In closing Charles exhorts Frankie to “Be of good courage, never mind if the crops have failed, for I do not care.” “Do not mourn the loss of Zach” (his horse). “He was a faithful, affectionate and noble animal.” “I have been

more fortunate than many thousands here, for Willie and Frankie still have their Perry.”

Doc. #35 of 118:

To Frankie his wife, dated, Friday, September 19th, 1862, from Helena, Arkansas

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens mentioning his receipt of family letters from “David and one from Lucinda, and three of you.” “I had a delightful feast in reading these letters.” ..”But the pictures were did me the most good.” “I looked and looked and gazed at them.” “Frankie, I do not like to flatter you, but I must say that I believe you look better than ever before.” “At any rate there is no such woman down here.”

-In paragraph two Charles states, “And Willie.. there he stands the perfect picture of health and beauty.” “Oh, how I wish I could get hold of that little rascal..” “Wouldn't I shake him though, for putting on such a look at his dad.” “He must know I am way off down here and cannot get at him to make him mind.” “I reckon I could give him a right smart wallop as you ever seen or heard tell of.”

-”Frank, how did you ever get that smile on your face transferred to that picture?” “I think you're going to speak or say something funny, or else break out laughing.” “It is the best picture ever seen of you and when looking at it I want to get a hold of the original just as much as I want to shake Willie for his important looks.”

-”The war is not yet ended and no prospect of its coming to an end very soon.” “My place is not at home taking comfort until the secesh are all whipped out and the authority of our government firmly established once again.”

-Charles mentions that they have had quite a lot of rain during the past week. “One of our regiment died last night.” “That makes twelve deaths since we came to Helena.” “Many of the sick are getting better slowly, but some of have been the worst off, seem to be past recovery and are getting worse and dying.” “My health is good.” “I am thin as is almost everybody who lives in this climate.” I feel well and in good spirits.”

-”The rumor is again that Bloomfield is taken.”

“I left my overcoat, one pair of drawers, shirts, satchel socks and small trinkets, among which Mother Bowen gave me there.” “Some of goods and clothing were taken to Cape Girardeau. “Perhaps mine are there.”
“Well Frankie, this is a large sheet and I have it nearly full.” “I am getting tired of writing.”
Your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. # 36 of 118:

To Frankie from Cape Girardeau, dated Saturday, September 27th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens telling his wife the details of finally leaving Helena and getting back to Cape. The boat ride was uneventful and “pleasant”. He mentions that he is “very busy now, drilling troops, fixing up a new and pleasant camp”, and has little opportunity to get a letter off.
-He reports to Frankie that “two of the recruits of our company and a sergeant from C. A were shot by some sneaking rebels while on picket”, and that “one of the recruits died soon after.”
-“Bloomfield is now in the hands of the rebels.”
“All of our clothing, arms, etc., have fallen into their hands.”
-Charles complains, “I wish our regiment were well organized again and we all had our arms and horses.” He mentions getting a pass to get him away from camp duty and went to town and visited with Lieutenant Merrill who was suffering from poor health and in a boarding house, “unfit for duty.”
-Charles closes reporting that the strawberries Frankie sent to Lieutenant Merrill had spoiled, and Charles would have liked to have enjoyed them “because they came from home.” “The currants and tea came all right.” “They will make an otherwise dry meal, relish well.”
“When I have time and feel so that I can keep still long enough to write you longer and better letters, but for the present, goodbye, Perry.”

Doc. # 37 of 118:

To his wife from Greenville, Missouri, dated, October 8th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles explains that he has had no time to write Frankie and reports "the rest of our regiment arrived at the Cape" receiving their "horses, arms equipment and clothing", as most of the recruits and regiment "had lost those things."

-Once orders from General Curtis were received from St. Louis, the "entire regiment had to move immediately to this place." What followed from the hasty packing and scurrying of horses and equipment, was much swearing and cursing of the regiment. Starting off "the new horses were mostly barefoot, some having never before been ridden and now had to have saddles with heavy packs of clothing, etc., strapped on their backs." "We started at midnight on the first and although the distance is but 70 miles and we marched a great share of the time, both night and day, we did not arrive here til the afternoon of the 4th." "We had a train of 20 six mule wagons which had never been harnessed." "They caused our slow progress."

-Charles mentions that this march was much different than previous ones as "we were kept closed up". "If a mule team flared up, kicked over the traces or got balked, the whole column was halted till the difficulty was overcome and we all went on together." "At night if we camped a little while, the utmost caution against surprise was taken." "The wagons were placed around in a circle and men and horses were inside the ring thus formed." "But half of the horses were allowed to be unsaddled at a time, and every fourth man kept up." "He held the horses for an hour or so, then relieved by another and so on." "A strong picket force was placed on every road or path by which the enemy could get into our camp."

-Charles concludes the letter by stating, "The road over which we passed is gravelly and stony and our barefoot horses were in a terrible footsore condition when we arrived here." "Twelve companies of cavalry and some infantry are here besides us."

"I have received no letters from you since we left Helena, but for the past week I have not looked for any." "I think you had better

direct your letters now to Greenville...”
“All I can do is hope that the federals are
'cleaning out' the rebels so that the war will
end soon and Frankie and Willie will again
have with them at home their...”
Perry, the redhead.

Doc. #38 of 118:

A letter from wife “Frankie” to her husband
Charles from Oakland, Wisconsin, dated,
October 21st, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Frankie begins, “My Dear Husband”
and in her opening lines mentions receiving
his October 8th letter reviewing the fact
of his noting “that all the men who were able
had left the Cape and gone to Greenville.”
Frankie had felt certain that he was among
the number who had gone, and was also
“sorry to hear the news..that very few if any
in the regiment were fit for duty.”
-She adds that in hearing from someone who
received a letter from Governor Harvey's wife
that the present condition of the 1st Wisconsin
Cavalry “was deplorable.” Mrs. Harvey's
letter also illuminated the overcrowding and
poor ventilation of hospitals, and “the
indifference of the surgeons”, etc.
-In her next paragraph Frankie relates that
Mrs. Cordelia Harvey is in Washington and
has taken up the cause of having the Colonel
Daniels responsible for the conditions, be
removed from office. This was her report
on the hospital conditions and her purpose
in meeting with President Lincoln.
-Then Charles’s wife brings up the matter of
his current physical condition stating, “I have
heard several different times that you are so
poor, so emaciated that your friends could
never know you.” “I do not worry about
such stories as long as you write me that you
are well.”
-Frankie concludes her letter, “My love
for you is unbounded.” “For thousands of
years, from the time of the Greeks up to now,
the essence of human pursuit is the reflection
of the love that two people have toward each
other.” “Take heart, my dear husband that
your loving wife awaits your safe return.”

Frankie

Doc. #39 of 118:

To his wife from Patterson, Missouri, dated, Tuesday, November 4th, 1862

Noteworthy;

-Charles opens his letter with the report, "Our regiment moved, with the exception of Companies A and K, to this place about ten miles northwest of Greenville." "The next day we were ordered out on a scout which we did not return till yesterday, having been gone 14 days."

-Upon his return Charles had found her correspondences of October 2nd and 21st, and praised her with, "these are the kinds of letters that do me good."

-Charles reports on the current health conditions with both Alex McGowan and Bill Bowers, "both at the Cape" and neither doing well. He finishes this paragraph mentioning that "Uncle Sam keeps us well supplied with clothing, drawers and socks", and he is not in want or need for clothing.

-As to his current diet and the condition, Charles relates, ".."We have some sugar and coffee"..... but "only 4 days rations of bread." "When that was gone, we had to get a meal off the poor, miserable scattering of inhabitants, and make corn cake." "Now the corn cake was not much like the johnny cake you make." "The meal was unsifted." "We had no butter, of course." "The beef and mutton, which we killed, we roasted on sticks over the fire or cooked any other way convenient." "We lived well."

November 7th entry:

Noteworthy:

- "This being election day, I was called to help make arrangements for our company to vote in accordance with an act of the Wisconsin legislature." "But after all our company did not vote for it." "It was all a one- sided operation." .."They

had an agent here early in the morning with plenty of printed democratic tickets for every county in the state.” “You must not be surprised if the majority of votes cast in this regiment are democratic, although I know there are a large majority of republicans.” “With Company I, who are here, every one is entitled to vote republican.”

“That night, about 8 o'clock, a messenger came in saying that the 12th Missouri Cavalry which had left the day before from Cape Girardeau, had upon the enemy of Colonel Jeffries, 1500 strong.”

“When the 12th Missouri asked for reinforcements, we saddled up and were on our way, 300 cavalry, 2 pieces of artillery, and some infantry, riding in some wagons. We marched to Dallas, some forty miles, came up with the 12th Missouri, but found no enemy.” “We returned, and got back at nine last night.”

-”I would like to write a long account of our 14 day scout, but I am interrupted and broken off so often I cannot make much headway.” “Also it has been so long since I have written to you...” “Besides this is very inconvenient, writing here, as the weather is cold and raw.” “It compels us to have a fire in the center of our tent, on the ground, making it smoke horribly.”

-”The most compelling reason is I have been in the saddle every day the past 18 days and doing a great deal of night marching, so that I feel very much like lying down to sleep and rest every minute I can.” “That is why I am not writing a long account of our scout.”

-Charles continues his letter giving Frankie an account of an near engagement near the Current River when his commander felt the rebel forces were too many for his men to overcome. Charles mentions the account given by the “Sentinel” newspaper stating there were some “70,000 rebels that had left 48 hours before.”

-He continues providing great detail of activity on the 21st highlighting the 1 P.M. battle under Captain Seaton. The

regiment started fires at Barnesville after 3 P.M. to attract rebel scouts who went back to their camps to report Union cavalry activity. "We sent a picket out five miles on the road to watch our coming."

-Charles praises the command leadership of Colonel LaZur's leadership, stating that "we will not be in much danger of getting hurt."

-Troops have been collecting at Patterson lately very fast." Charles continues, "There are about 12,000 infantry" except ours "and one battalion of the 13th Illinois Cavalry." "What they are here for, ..I do not know,..but rather expect an expedition into Arkansas is contemplated."

- "I am afraid I shall never see the things which you, Mother and Lucinda sent me".

- "Dear Frankie, I hope you have not worried because it has been so long since I have written." "I have done as well as I could...and...if weeks or months pass without you hearing from me do not be alarmed, but calculate that I am on some expedition or in some part of the country from which letters cannot be sent." CP Goodrich

PS "About the plow: I have a faint recollection of having some talk about selling it to Curtis for \$5.00". "I have no doubt he is right ab out it." "Direct now to Patterson." CPG

Doc.#40 of 118:

To Frankie, his wife, from Patterson, Missouri, dated, Sunday, November 23rd, 1862.

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens complaining of receiving no letters from her "lately".
-He reports that "the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Illinois Cavalry" just arrived from Pilot Knob. He was surprised to see Ned Church "at our tent."
-His recent activities have included

writing “A Ode”, “catching bullheads”, and having “political discussions”, when these were suddenly interrupted with orders to take 12 men and “saddle up immediately.” The continuing rain made the night and way the darkest he had ever seen with a narrow difficult road to negotiate before him.

-They arrived at Greenville without incident or accident in spite of their poor vision. No “enemy campfires” were seen and the “took possession of courthouse. With heavy rain continuing and the danger of the St. Francis River overflowing, they headed back returning at daylight. Though the weather finely cleared, everything remained muddy.

-Charles continues, that yesterday “we received orders to march at 11 o'clock” without anyone knowing how far the distance would be. The march ended up being only less than two miles where camp was made and they awaited further marching orders.

-Charles expresses his gratitude for “the very nice socks sent” that are “worth four times as much as the government furnishes.” He includes also “the dried fruit, butter, and tea” sent “go first rate.” His group including Alex McGowen and Bill Bowers were invited to partake in the meal and made every effort to consume it all!

-Charles closes in telling Frankie the hard learned rules. “Private property is not allowed to be carried on the wagons unless smuggled on”, and “clothing and hard bread are all that is considered necessary.”

-His praise of what she sent continues. “How thoughtful you were to send me so many useful articles.” “The laudanum and ginger I was particularly glad to get.. ...” “My health is and has been for some time, past first rate.”

“Dear Frankie, I feel like exclaiming with you , “When will this wicked war end?” “and we be united and a happy family once more?” “The prospect looks gloomy and I cannot bear to look at it.” “Time will at least wear away the term of my enlistment if it does end the war.” “Once more, good bye, from your Perry.”

Doc.#41 of 118:

To Frankie from Patterson, Missouri, dated, December 19th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles recollects that two weeks have nearly passed since he wrote last. The 1st Wisconsin and 4th/5th Missouri have been on a long march consisting of a 1000 cavalry men with Colonel Wade and General Davidson in command. They marched }”closed up” and “extending one and a half miles.” “Persons who are not used to seeing cavalry and are not very(____) sent out a picket five miles ...to watch our coming.”

-Charles finishes the remainder of this letter on December 23rd discussing the second day of the march crossing the Black River at Camp Benton, the continuing torrents of rain that drenched the thick woolen clothing. He states, “I really believe my overcoat ...contained more than four gallons of water.” “So, in these cold wet clothes, and blankets as bad, we had to lie for several nights.”

“A great many of the men had to help get the wagons and teams out of mud like quicksand”, working day and night.

“Twenty-five men...myself among them, we detailed to return to Patterson and move the remainder of the camp there to Lesterville.”

-”I found Leander (K.) ailing at Patterson.” “He gave me the gloves which you sent.” “They were just

the things I wanted Frankie..and a thousand thanks for your thoughtfulness and kindness.” “The boys are generally well..though they've been much exposed to the storm.” “I was wet through for three or four days..” “I forgot to say I have no rubber blanket to protect me from the wet. .. as I lost mine at Langville and have not been able to get another.” “Not more than half the regiment have them now.” -Charles closes, “Since the heavy rain, the weather has been warm and pleasant with very little frost.”

Doc.#42 of 118:

To Frankie from Barnsville, Missouri dated, December 30th, 1862

Noteworthy:

-Charles is overjoyed with 2 recent letters from home and the nice pair of gloves sent by David.
-The holiday season has his thoughts leaning in a homeward direction to family and friends.
-Eleven of them have been saddled with holiday picket duty near camp at Lesterville with four men doing guard duty at a time but relieved every two hours. He with the 4 “Oakland Boys” did manage to have their Christmas dinner of sorts including oysters, potatoes (a rarity), home made biscuits that helped to make a “Glorious Christmas” despite being in enemy country.
-He mentions the redeeming perk of the warmth of the day and rare the need to wear coat. Nights are often frequented with lightning and thunder and “torrential down-pours.” Sometimes these storms turn violent into gales and many trees go down.
-Charles closes with the mention of the enemy's activities (The 4th Missouri) patrolling and the

spotting of an enemy escort and “a train of ten wagons”. Two of his companies a day earlier had engaged this force in battle but had to retreat due to the enemies overwhelming numbers and strength. He is awakened frequently by strong storms and confesses to Frankie that once or twice he has slept in a house. His health remains good but accidents are commonplace including a soldier “who a few minutes ago was shot through the head by another one.. while cleaning a revolver.” “The man is dying”...”four or five rods from my tent.”

-”Bill Bowers says he anticipates great pleasure after the war is over in coming with his wife, to my house visiting”. “He sends his complements to you...”...”Bill is full of music, feels first rate, makes lots of fun and is the nosiest fellow I ever saw.”

-”Frank, you must write as often as possible.” “I hope David will write again soon.” “Goodbye from your husband.” C. P. Goodrich

1863

Doc#. 43 of 118:

To his wife from Barnesville, Missouri, dated, January 7th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-He informs her that his troops from General Davidson's division are now encamped on the Current River near Van Buren, Missouri.
-They have received reports that the CSA partisan fighter Jeff Thompson is with a force of 12,000 at Pocahontas, Arkansas, and some of those troops on reconnaissance skirmished with “our boys near Van Buren.”
-The man he told her who was

accidentally shot while cleaning his gun is “strangely alive” and will likely now survive.

-Lately he's been engaged in “riding alone” with the mission of looking like a civilian and being unarmed so as to gain intelligence “concerning secession, roads, inhabitants, etc.” The “Missouri-style” way he's dressed would have her laugh.”

-He tells her, “I have twice been taken prisoner by some of our own boys” but was eventually released “by making myself known to the officer in command.”

-Charles closes by telling Frankie, “Recently while on business, I slept in a house with a good feather bed.”

“Goodbye.” C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #44 of 118:

To her husband Charles from his wife Frankie, dated, January 11th, 1863, from Oakland, Wisconsin.

Noteworthy:

-She opens explaining her Sunday being “all alone” as “David has taken Willie .. to father's.”

-Mother's condition of health is “miserable.” Frankie admits “it is hard to work alone” and find time to write him. She states, “I feel that I am neglecting my Poor, Dear Soldier Husband who has left everything which he loved the best, and has gone far, far away to help put down treason and make our country once more a free and happy one.” “I think of all the hardships you have, and are still enduring, and then Perry, I find myself saying, How in this world has he lived through so much?” “Oh how thankful I am every hour of the day that your health is good.”

-She reports receiving two or three letters, and explains her guilt feeling that her letters to him cannot possibly

be of any interest.

-Frankie closes with..”I wish you would try to get rid of some of the hard and dangerous work you are always called upon to perform.”

“I 'm afraid you will not own me for your wife when you come home, if I continue to grow fleshy and homely this fast.” “Perry..to tell you the truth, I am actually growing large.. 150!” “Willie is also very fleshy this winter and quite well.”

-”Did you get any butter to go with your oysters and biscuits and were they quite good?” “Are you out of money by this time?” “If you are tell me and I will send you some.”

-”Dear Husband, you must take good care of yourself.” “I will get you an Indian rubber blanket..and will send it express.”

“Dear Perry, good bye.” “I will write you any way in a week.”

Frances D. Goodrich

Doc.#45 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp Waring (10 miles Southeast of Van Buren, Missouri, dated, January 17th, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with his complaint ..”I have no letter from you lately, but I must continue to write to you often...as he knows “the rest of the folks are anxious to know that I am alive and well.”

-”On the eighth we left “Barnesville.”

-Charles continues with his details of nightly “scouting parties” consisting of between 50-100 men.

-The once heavy rain has turn to heavy snow up to 5 inches deep. The weather difficulties make it increasingly difficult to find the enemy.

-Charles confesses to Frankie, "I wish I could talk and tell you some strange stories I cannot write.

-Charles finishes by mentioning the strange tale of a "notorious guerrilla chief known as Captain Crow", and reminds her to "write often."

Doc.# 46 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from
Thomasville, Missouri, dated,
January 23rd, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Charles writes, "not much to do today" as his thoughts are of family. He is terribly homesick and tired with all the soldiers of dealing with the constant "hardships and privations" and would gladly spend his remaining days at home in peace and quiet in gratitude that he faithfully served his country in great time of need.

-Charles exhibits great discouragement in the hardness of fighting, watching once strong and positive men wither and die on the battlefield leaving so many loved ones behind. Charles admits, he is in one of his "blues fits" and mounts his complaint of not receiving a letter from her since December 22nd.

-He reports that "300 supply wagons and 200 baggage wagons" remain permanently stalled in the muddy roads.

-Charles concludes, "What will we do when the war is over?" And "how will we visit each other?"

-Optimistically Charles responds the weather is finally improving and his friends Bill and Alex remain "firm, faithful, and

noble.”

“Write often to your husband”.

Doc. #47 of 118:

Noteworthy:

To his wife from West Plains, Missouri, dated, February 3rd, 1863.

-Charles opens with their leaving Alton on January 27th with 149 men scouting (“without tents”) into Arkansas with purpose of foraging (“collecting horses, cattle, sheep, etc.”) for the Army.

-He describes the extreme poverty of the local people they are taking from expressing his guilt for his actions of stealing, while stating, “leaving a woman with tears and entreaties without provisions or the means of raising anything for next summer.”

-No sooner had they returned to camp with these forgings when they found the rest of the regiment moved to Thomasville. (They had collected 200 head of cattle, 100 head of sheep and every man had a horse to lead .”

-Charles describes the new location as a “level country”.. “covered with oaks and grubs” and some timber with rich soil. The West Plain Village has but few houses.

-The next Sunday was devoted to regimental parading while they were put on “half rations” as food supplies were growing short.

-Charles concludes by answering Frankie's questions as to what or whether he had a Christmas dinner and butter at the table. The biscuits were palatable and not up to her standards.

-Charles had to leave his horse “Jerry” behind with Company

H due to a bleeding foot infection.

-Besides constant drilling, Charles admits, "Everything in this part of the country is in the old and primitive style." "I have not seen a cooking stove since I left Cape Girardeau." "... "And we are kept very busy all the time" with one has a half a day to one's self." Good bye.
From your husband, C. P. Goodrich

Doc.#48 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp near Eminence, Missouri, dated, February 15, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-Charles describes the upper area of the Current River as "mountainous..and barren" as their encampment is in a narrow valley surrounded by high hills. Their supplies are getting very scarce and there are few local natives.
-His afternoon agenda includes "going after corn" and he recognizes the area is too barren to support horses and men.
-Leander Alling is better after getting Typhoid Fever.
-As soon as soldiers get their pay at West Plains, they are deserting and "stop payment" of checks has been ordered.
-The army now is scattering in all directions and unsure of where their next encampments will be.
-Ordered to scout in Batesville (Arkansas) where a large rebel force under Marmaduke has been located across the White

River. (We've taken some prisoners and horses).
-We proceeded on the 7th to scout by Salem, Arkansas.

Doc.#49 of 118:

To Frankie, dated, March 12th, 1863, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Noteworthy:

- Charles acknowledges her letter of February 1st noting her recent illness with a bad cough
- With the entire regiment there, they continue to find Marmaduke's location and forces.
- The Fourth Missouri Brigade are a majority of Germans who are constantly jealous of "our boys" who "hate them so."
- Charles relates his having to have been taken prisoner and "received only threats and abusive language" and was finally released by Colonel Warring.
- His unit has been joined to "The Third Iowa Cavalry Brigade." who seem to be "fine fellows".

Doc.#50 of 118:

To Frankie from Bloomfield, Missouri, dated, March 19th, 1863

Noteworthy:

-He has finished letters to Father and David as they were heading for Cape Girardeau, and he is happy to hear that David will be staying with her for the summer. "David is beginning in the world for himself and deserves to be well paid."

-Charles discusses Lie tenant Merrill's "flattery", Captain Porter's being taken prisoner and August parole and others.
-He tells her "I am not the least ambitious for promotion" and reassures Frankie his belief that the coming summer's campaign will not be dreaded as the officers have better learned how to manage their men and preserve their health."

March 20th entry:

-Charles reports on an illness, Alonso Francisco, Ft. Atkinson and hearing the Union success of General Grant at Vicksburg, Mississippi.
-P.S. Bill Bowers has not heard from his wife for a month and is worried. "Tell it when you write." CPG

Doc. #51 of 118:

Dear Frank, dated, Friday, March, 27th, 1863, from Bloomfield, Missouri

Noteworthy:

-Writes of his extreme fatigue for pulling picket duty last evening and was given the day to rest.
-He reports that Major Torrey and 340 of his men met a strong rebel force across the St. Francis River in a skirmish and retreated thinking it may have been Marmaduke with superior rebel numbers.
-He's glad to see the Fourth Missouri go being ordered down the Tennessee River.
- "I wish we could have early springs in Wisconsin as we do here."

March 28th entry:

- "Morning, night, dark and rainy", and.. "with nothing to

be seen of the enemy.” “We will pick up their stragglers”.. they have left behind..”

-Bowers on picket and no letter from her either.

-Charles describes the few currently intoxicated men in camp along with Lieutenant La Grange as he comically rides off with “ a new coat and shoulder straps on.”

From Red headed Perry,

28th Evening entry:

-“We went out for fun and had lots of it.” “I tell you, when a man dos not have liberty to do as he pleases in a long time, he enjoys it amazingly.” “We had a meal of victuals, stopped at more than twenty houses , talked and joked with the women and girls.....”

-The mail came. Bill has a letter and I have none. CPG

Doc.#52 of 118:

To Frankie, dated, May 15th, 1863, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens. “ We are still here with little to do except scout or do picket.”

-Many troops have left except a few companies from the 1st and 2nd Wisconsin Cavalries.

-With Lieutenant Little's resignation and lying drunk about town, he Charles is now second in command”. He complains that \$17 wages is not worth the extra amount of responsibility.

-Is currently hearing “all kinds of stories” about the war while many are disputed as to the accuracy of the reports received”.

-Has "heard nothing from home since his last visit." Charles reports what he has heard about Bill Bower, Leander Alling and Nelson Church and is anxious to hear if Father's health has improved.

-The paymaster is currently in camp and they are getting "two months pay." He heard that Bill Bower has yet to get a school and teaching assignment.

-Charles signs off with, "I am well" and little news to write. "Write as soon as you can."

Your Perry

Doc.#53 of 118:

-To Frankie from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, dated, May 30th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-Changes are coming fast, "New orders to move to Tennessee..to join Rosecrans" near Nashville. It's been easy here lately.

-News of the war he gets to read " has not been encouraging noting the "hard fighting" and heavy losses on both sides.

He speculates on the outcome of Vicksburg.

-Tomorrow they're" bound for Clarksville on the Cumberland River.."

Your Perry

Doc. #54 of 118:

To his wife, dated, July 16, 1863, from Huntsville, Alabama

Noteworthy:

-He wrote her then days ago from Deckard, Tennessee, when" they left

there on the sixth.”

-Charles describes the city of Huntsville as a most “beautiful town with nearly 6000 citizens.” “Streets are broad with large wide-spreading shade trees.”

“The surrounding country is delightful and rich” and having the appearance of been settled a long time.

-He mentions passing through Kentucky as being good but the northern part of Tennessee as “rocky and barren.”

-The current discipline measures Charles rates as “severe” without any freedom to quench thirst without first getting the “General's permission” for anything and everything!

-Soldiers are not allowed “to enter any house”, and when encamped, “a chain guard is thrown around the camp to prevent soldiers from going out.”

-Charles expresses his view “that all this is right and necessary” to prevent our troops from becoming a “marauding rabble”.

-We must be up by 3 A.M. each morning, saddle up, “form a line”, and “stand until broad daylight.”

-That morning he was resolved to “have some blackberries” “that cover and face every roadside and field.

-All varieties of illicit can be found by hungry soldiers to get their fill of these blackberries!

-Charles found a way while getting water

to stuff himself with the delicious berries.

-”As I mused, I thought of this fine country, made in measure desolate and wretched by this horrible war.” “I almost dare to hope that the end is not far in the future.”

-Believing that victory will come at Vicksburg soon, with Bragg retreating from Tennessee, and the taking of many prisoners, Charles adds., “My heart in spite of myself, beats quicker at the thought which would crown itself into mind, that I might after all see Frankie and Willie and the rest of those I love before the snows of another winter..”

-Charles closes by reminding her of seeing no letters since “the one dated May 31st, nearly seven weeks ago” asking...”What does it mean?” (“I have a letter from David..and one from Lucinda”).

Perhaps she has mailed to the wrong address. You might direct letters to Huntsville, Alabama.

-”Confederate money is getting nearly worthless”, “taking \$50-\$75 to buy a pair of boots.” “Down here they do not consider our money much better.” “I am well.” Your Perry

P. S. July 18th (Noteworthy)

-Charles reports on fighting the previous two days down the Tennessee River with “four regiments of rebels” while capturing some pieces of artillery and “foraging for corn, cattle, sheep, etc.”

“The corn fields are vast
...extending as far as the eye
can reach” and the crop
“looks well.”

-”One would think in
passing..the country was
inhabited entirely by slaves.
The white women and few
white men “will not deign
to show themselves, to
look at us as we pass” for
their hatred of us Yankees.
“At every plantation slaves
swarm of both sexes, of
every shade and color,
collected in groups or
perched on fences.” “They
show their ivory and give
other unmistakable signs of
delight.” “Not infrequently
we see a sable old wench,
who has raised a large
family of children who've
been sold away from her,
with tears streaming down
her face, shouting “Bress
de Lawd!.....” “De Lawd
Be Praised!”

-”Many of the planters
around here have grown
immensely rich from the
unpaid labor of these poor
people.” “It costs them
but little more to keep them
so many pigs”

-”Where we were foraging
yesterday the owner is said
to have been worth..
a million dollars.” “Most of
the planters have moved
their valuables, gold silver,
etc.,...beyond the Tennessee
River.” “They've also taken
thousands of their best
horses, mules, and cattle
with them.”

-”A negro brigade began
organizing here.” “Darkies
are flocking in by the

dozens every day eager to fight for their own liberties and the liberties of their race.”

-”Prices of goods here have fallen wonderfully, 450% in the last three days.” “The merchants all hate the Yankees supremely, and hate to acknowledge our money for anything, by taking it.

-”The news today that Pemberton has surrendered at Vicksburg with 14,000 prisoners and that Lee has been badly whipped again.”

-”I am in first rate health... but I feel uneasy in mind in not hearing from my home.” CPG

Doc.# 55 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, dated, July 25th, 1863, from Camp near Fayetteville, Tennessee

Noteworthy:

-Received her letter of June 26th “on the 20th of this month.”

-Concerned that his last letter received was dated in May.

-His last letter to her went through Huntsville and hoped she received it.

-Their forces “fell back in Huntsville” and they arrived in Fayetteville on the 21st.

-Time is going “easy now” as they “are on a railroad” with not much to do but have plenty of food.

-With no camp guards to be watchful of, discipline has been relaxed giving them opportunities to “kill hogs, get potatoes, roast ears of corn, and pick apples, etc.” “We are living as good as anyone could wish to.”

-Blackberries continue to be an abundant food, and though picking them is easy and gives them freedom, they cannot let their guard down for lurking rebels in the area.

Three days earlier “two men of Company D” were caught (but released/paroled) by these rebels. They were then punished by the General for their “neglect of duty.” These men were sentenced “to cook and do drudgery for their company for their term of service.”

-Charles closes this letter reporting that “one of the 4th Indiana Cavalry was found dead, hung to the limb of a tree a short

distance from camp.” “I suppose he had been pillaging and plundering from the citizens and passing counterfeit....”
(typescript ends)

Doc. #56 of 118:

To his wife from Fayetteville, Tennessee, dated, August 3rd, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Her letter of July 22nd was finally received and reached him in Winchester on the 30th. Wishes he could get all her letters from the previous two months.

July 26th entry (Noteworthy):

-The entire 1st Wisconsin Cavalry left Fayetteville and proceeded to Salem and then proceeded to Winchester.
-Charles notes, “It seems very singular that from 8,000 to 10,000 cavalry should move 35 miles with bags and baggage and take everything with them and then come back to Fayetteville to get their pay.”
-His pay for 2 months was \$64.40 including “orderly's pay”.
-His orderly appointment came in May and the opportunity provides Charles of sending money home “in a fashion of safety.”
-“Bill Bowers has not gotten here yet”.. Lieutenant Grange “has bilious fever (typhoid)”, and “the weather is intolerably hot”, and “Eugene Alling is ..threatened with fever.”
-He has “much to do now”, and he cannot grasp an understanding of all the troop movements, commenting, “Why we do not push on to Chattanooga and Atlanta..I cannot see.” “...Bragg is now in Kentucky with an army of 70,000.”
-Charles remembers the “bloody and disastrous anniversary” of L'Anquille”.
-”It seems after all, the whole Southern army is not quite all whipped out.” ..”Lee occupies his old position beyond the Rappahonnock and is able to hold it as ever..” while “Charleston is not yet ours.” “Our troops have made their desperate and bloody assault on Fort Wagner (South Carolina) and each time they have been repulsed with serious loss.”
..”Our government makes some great blunders but the end is not yet but a long way.”
-”Dear Frankie, do not think that because I have written you less frequently of late that I think of you and Willie or home less frequently.” “You cannot tell how I long to be at home at work on my farm as I used to be.” “Were I there, I should probably now be harvesting, at work very hard, doing ten times the physical labor..I should have the comforts, regular meals and regular sleep which I do not now have.” “This is not what I think of.” “I should be in the society of those I love, be more contented, get rid of this almost constant heartache or longing or what ever it is called.” Perry

Doc. #57 of 118: To Frankie, dated, August 10th, 1863, from Fayetteville, Tennessee

Noteworthy:

- Have orders to march tomorrow and “are getting things fixed up, horses shot, etc.”
- Lieutenant William La Grange is very ill, starving, and is going home on a furlough today. (He's so sick, “I fear he'll not make it home alive.”).
- Both Bill Bowers and Kearns made it into camp yesterday with good health.
- Some men from our regiment are going back to Wisconsin to bring down new conscripts (draftees).
- No letters recently received from her, his health is good and Eugene Alling is on the mend.
- At present “we are pretty much at a standstill.” Am not in the mood for long letter writing, you must be content with it.

PS. “The news is Hurrah for the Union!” “Up with the stars!” “The First Wisconsin Cavalry!” “Down with the traitors!” “Three cheers for Old Abe!”, etc., etc. etc.”

Doc.#58 of 118: To Frankie from Larkinsville, Alabama, dated, August 15th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

- Charles reports his position, “We marched from Fayetteville on the tenth, and reached Huntsville” moving eastward and staying near the Chattanooga railroad..and are some 45 miles now from Huntsville. They are now “recruiting horses” and enjoying “green corn”.
- Charles expresses..”Huntsville and vicinity is some of the best fertile land” he has ever seen, complete with “beautiful rows of timber..innumerable sparkling springs” and a “well laid out city.”
- The numerous icy cool springs “supply the town” and 'at every corner is a pennstock”, allowing one to turn an iron handle that sends a “gushing stream of water two inches thick.”
- Charles takes a few moments to describe the history of the area and why the Creek Indians chose to settle it
- He signs off that things are well being that he is in “agreeable company”, mentioning that “Bill Bowers, Alex, Ed Town, and I occupy the Lieutenant's (who

left) tent. Perry

Doc.#59 of 118: To Frankie from Larkinsville, Alabama, dated, August 26th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

- Charles reports, "Yours of the fourth received about a week ago." In the same light he is discouraged to write this note for fear of great disappointment that he will not receive a timely reply from her.
- He has scouted only once since being there noting a force of 1500 rebels on the other side of the Tennessee River. When the two sides talked across the river, the rebels replied that they were "tired of war" and were tempted "to come over and give themselves up."
- The "cars run daily here from Nashville" and there is "plenty of green corn" to feed the horses.
- He now has a good horse (6 years old).
- His time now is short to write her as there is constant noise with many interruptions.
- "This country abounds with peaches" now ripe, and they can eat their fill of them.
- Has not as yet had the opportunity to send her money being concerned that letters coming and going are slow and may not make their intended destination.
- "Bill is hurrying me to get some water for supper so goodbye once more from.." Perry

Doc. #60 of 118: To his wife while on picket duty six miles west of Chattanooga, dated, September 24th, 1863

Noteworthy:

- "Been a long time since I have been able to send a letter, ... and also a long time since I have heard from you." "I scribbled a few lines that you might know my life and health were yet spared while thousands have been hurled into eternity or maimed or crippled for life."
- Charles sums up the latest reports, "Rosecrans outflanked Bragg crossed the river..and Bragg was compelled to evacuate Chattanooga."
- The wounded and sick of the First Wisconsin have been brought in safety to the river while those who can fight "will be placed up and down the river to prevent the enemy from crossing."
- Has been dry for a very long period and there is so much dust.
- Left "the land of peaches" (Larkinsville) on August 31st.
- September 2nd, three cavalry divisions, an infantry division,

and 30 pieces of artillery crossed the Tennessee River on a pontoon bridge”, and they scouted the valleys and mountains for a week.

-”On the 9th the head column descended into a Georgia valley at the little village of Alpine (40 miles south of Chattanooga). Their advance brigade fought and lost four killed and fourteen wounded.”

-”On the 13th”, their division went to Summerville and beyond (14 miles east of Alpine to the Little Black Warrior River) where they engaged the enemy and “marched back rapidly.”

-”On the 18th and 19th we heard the roar of a fierce battle at a creek 14 miles south of Chattanooga when a body of rebels attacked from the rear.”

-”As we got near the scene of the main battle, we met a continual stream of ambulances, loaded with wounded besides scores of less wounded hobbling along on foot..” “The fight continued that day til dark..when both armies rested on nearly the same ground they had occupied in the morning.” “ That days loss was estimated at 2,000 killed and wounded.”

-”On the 20th...the fight resumed about ten o'clock ..and raged with great fury.” ..”Our men were being driven back”...”as they had defeated Sheridan's division on our left, broken through our lines and cut us off from the main army.” ..”We marched that night til 2 o'clock.. “the rebels followed us sometimes.” “They took our hospital with the wounded that we left behind.” “Some say they burned the hospital, wounded and all but I do not believe it.”

-”The 21st.. we got up and marched toward the enemy ..and after going 3 miles, we discovered enemy skirmishers, engaging them.”

-On the 22nd “we got to Chattanooga after being cut off once in a mountain pass”, and finding the trains and cavalry were crossing the river as fast as possible.” “For the first time I realized we had been badly whipped.” “The rebs crowded close around the town and then shelled us where we were crossing.” “You cannot imagine my feelings when I fully comprehended our disasters.”

-”I think now they will not take Chattanooga.”

-The 25th: “The enemy is fortifying in front of the town” while “making a furious assault last night on our works”. “Our horses are getting poorer”...”as they have had almost nothing to eat for a week and have been saddled all the time.”

Perry

Doc. #61 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, dated, September 30th, 1863, from Bridgeport, Tennessee (Alabama).

Noteworthy:

-Charles reports that he has gotten two welcoming letters from

her and how good this makes him feel. "You cannot imagine how good your letters do me." "I was really getting homesick and disheartened." "Our troops are being defeated and driven back with no prospect of war ending soon."

-They have lost large numbers of men and just as many important artillery pieces. "The division of Cavalry left Chattanooga on the 26th and arrived here on the 28th" and they may soon be going to Huntsville to guard the river. "We must have new horses" soon or we can hardly be called a cavalry. The horses often go days without eating and watering with regularity, and even getting food and water where they are is dangerous. "My horse stands it very well." "I have taken all the care I could of him." "He almost drew tears from my eyes to see him when he was nearly starved." "I am getting to think a great deal of him and have named him Charlie."

-Charles discusses the temporary appointment of Captain LaGrange and his efforts to find out the whereabouts of Joseph Henry Saunders, an orderly sergeant of Company H. His personal effects and a letter of condolence was sent to his widow.

-Charles closes in mentioning an "explosion that killed 5 or 6." "Tell Hannah and Mary that I am very thankful for their love and say that it is truly returned." "Tell them to love all the soldiers they can, for it is the love of such as theirs that cheers many a soldier during his watch on guard or on dark and dreary nights, or in his bivouac, in storms or open fields with little to eat."

- "We are to have an inspection in a few minutes...so goodbye for the present from your Perry.

P.S. "The accident today was caused by loading a box of shells into a wagon. The box was very heavy and was dropped, causing the shells to burst." "Sixteen were killed, wounded, or missing." "I thought this place was in Tennessee but they tell me it is in Alabama." CPG

Doc.#62 of 118:

To Frankie from Zollikoffer House, Nashville, Tennessee, dated, October 28th, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Charles reminds her that soldiers are continuously "wandering" as proof of the differing locations of where their letters are written. His present camp is "immense" and "six stories high" and centered in the city. Originally it was intended to be a hotel and never completed. One hundred seventy of us arrived yesterday and have been "shut up in this prison." "We're treated like prisoners", they have passes to explore the city.
-He writes of their leaving "Decherd" on the 23rd and being uncomfortably jammed into freight cars. Each company was responsible for the care of their own horses.
-Eating arrangements for 300-400 are always crowded at all

times of the day and “two days one poor fellow was actually pressed to death in this rush for something to eat.”
After an hour of waiting in line for one meal ..”with a cup and a half of cold coffee, and a piece of light bread, on which lay a glob of fat boiled pork.” The morning meal “was the same” with the exception of “tea instead of coffee.” To avoid the constant crowding, Charles got up extra early around 5 AM.
-His tour of Nashville included seeing the statehouse and “the grandest work of art I ever saw...and built entirely of marble.”
-He was pleased to get her letter of the 18th as he “mailed on hers on the 19th”.
-Charles' letter concludes with health reports on soldiers Alling, McGowan, Bill Bowers, Lieutenant Smith, and Schuyler. Many are suffering here from fever and diarrhea. He believes “a great crisis to be rapidly approaching...with something very decisive” about to happen. “We have got an immense army in enemy country”...and only “a single railroad line of 300 to 400 miles in length on which to transport supplies.”
“This railroad has to be crowded to its utmost and still our army is short on rations.” “Our regiment got well supplied with good clothing before we left Decherd.”
Your soldier, C. P. Goodrich

Doc. #63 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Winchester, Tennessee, dated, November 9th, 1863

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with his complaint of his writing two letters “while at Nashville 10 days ago” but not hearing from her.
-On October 31st they “received 235 horses and started their march back to the regiment.” Their march took 5 days and was 85 miles long and a “pleasant” experience.
-He caught his first cold “in nearly a year” while sleeping “in the Zollikofer House”.
-This camp is being built in a more permanent manner with “with brick chimneys and fireplaces” indicating that they may be encamped here at great length.
-He is unhappy at present for the fact that his company “still has no commissioned officer” and he “went to the Colonel and asked for the privilege of serving the rest of the war as a private.” (Reader's Comment: This is an indication that many of enlisted rank like Charles probably thought they had been given additional command responsibilities with more stress and not much more pay for their efforts. It is obvious that his stellar military record has somehow been overlooked for a promotion.) He writes, “Peculiar circumstances had been such, hard pressure from another quarter that as yet he was sorry to say, been unable to have me promoted.”
-”I am now acting as a clerk and adjutant.” “The Colonel says, “If you don't like this business, we will find something

else for you to do.” “I want you to understand, your services in this regiment has been appreciated and I will not permit you to be reduced in rank.”

-”We have been signing payrolls this afternoon.” “The paymaster is here and we shall get four months pay within a day or two.” “I hope to send you about \$175.00 by some one of the boys who goes home recruiting.”

-”The situation I am in now keeps me busy writing nearly all the time, but I like it better than ordering men around.”

Yours as ever, C. P. Goodrich

Doc.#64 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Headquarters, First Wisconsin Cavalry, dated, November 14th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens in reflection of her “last letter” of October 23rd .nearly three weeks ago”, commenting, “Surely it must be that you write more often than that.” Pay is slow in coming and his division has been ordered to Sparta, Tennessee.

-”Yesterday and the day before, General William T. Sherman with about 25,000 men passed through here towards Chattanooga”, along with the 18th Wisconsin. “Sherman's men think they are invincible, saying they have never been whipped and never will be.” “It must be we are getting an immense army together at the front.” “Something decisive must certainly be done soon.”

-New equipment and new horses have now arrived and he rides a four year old...”so wild and vicious that several different ones who had tried him were unable to do anything with him endangering their lives.” “He's getting quite tame and gentle now that he finds I will not hurt him.” He is the smartest and finest horse I have ever rode.”

-”I like the business I am in now rather than commanding a company.” “I don't like to order others and I never did.”

-”They said that Wisconsin has elected the Republican ticket by a large majority.” “I believe but four copperhead votes were cast in this regiment.” “We who went to Nashville for horses were marching election day and did not vote.”

-”I wish you could write a little oftener so I know how you and Willie are.” Perry

Doc.#65 of 118:

To Frankie from Alexandria, Tennessee, dated, November 23rd, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-Charles continues his ongoing opening complaint, “In just

one month .I received a letter from you.” “Others ge letters often and I get none.” “What does it mean?” Are you sick?” “If so have someone else write and tell me.”
-They marched on the 16th from Winchester reaching Murfreesboro on the night of the 18th and got their pay on the 19th. They arrived in Alexandria on the 21st and talk persists they will be in this country for some time. “There's scarcity of forage”. Their cavalry horses are highly overworked having poor physical conditions. Charles offers his opinion, “I can see no reason we should not stay here or in some other locality that has not been completely overrun and desolated by the army..”.

-He reports sending her \$140.00 by way of Captain Pettibone but had to hold some back to pay for his new horse. He hopes “that some future payday, I will get pay for the use of my horse.”

-That day has brought him a fine meal ..”as good a dinner as you have had.” The menu consisted of “fine turkey stuffed and nicely baked, biscuit, butter and applesauce.” In attendance at this meal were Bowers, Farnsworth, Stone, McGowan, and himself.

-”Bill Bowers is a good cook” while the rest “of the mess furnish materials, what women call “good providers.” Charles expresses his happiness that he currently does not have to do foraging and scouting assignments, and gets a frequent good nights sleep and a tent of his own.

-Charles concludes this letter with a result of the Wisconsin draft and those eleven who have recently deserted.

-”Frank, I wish you could write a little more often and tell David and Lucinda to write.” “I believe I wrote them last.” “You don't know how much good it does to get a letter from home.” “I think of you and Willie every day and nearly every hour, and a week without hearing from you seems like a long time.”

-”Time moves slowly with me, but it wears away at last.” “I have but eleven months more to stay.” “It seems like a long time, but we must be patient.” “At last it will end if my life be spared, I will then be with loved ones at home.” “I hope never again to leave there for any length of time in this world.” “I hope the war will be over by that time, so that our country will not call away....” Perry

Doc.#66 of 118:

To Charles from his wife Frankie from Oakland, Wisconsin dated, Sunday, December 6th, 1863.

(Reader's Note: Charles constant complaining in his letters to Frankie that he gets very few letters from her has finally opened up a raw nerve to her embarrassed humiliated feelings. This goes part and parcel with the fact that many soldier's letters were constantly negative in many forms and family members who wrote replies to these letters tried to understand the conditions of war they were in, and in so doing knowing their sacrifices, seldom brought up the hardships and sacrifices those loved ones left behind at home to carry on.).

Noteworthy:

-She finally received his letter of November 23rd in which he described his "fine meal". His letter gave her "little pleasure" other than his having more comfortable conditions.

-His letter to her believed was a "scolding letter" Her reply-

- "I suppose you felt" that I had been "a very naughty, wicked wife for not writing more often, and so did not deserve to be called "Dear"? "Yes, I thought that I had done wrong, but it was unintentional." "I never meant to let a week go by without writing to you, but sometimes it seems most impossible to write."

- "Now Dear Perry, whenever you write me again and wish to give me a scolding, for anything, no matter what, or write anything which you or I would rather no one else see, you certainly would not want a third party a reproach from you to me, I make the request and consider it my right that it shall be in a private letter for no one else to see but myself."

- "I have stood for two long years without complaining, the aggravation of having my letters from you opened, read, and commented on." "If anyone happens to be there, you know where I mean, before I see them at all." "If you would enclose anything of that kind in another envelope and write; Francis Goodrich-PRIVATE, there certainly ought to be no chance of its being opened except by me."

-Frankie reports they are all healthy and robust both physically and mentally.

-She tells him of Willie's deficiencies in his learning and wishes they lived nearer to a school house. "I will give you one specimen of the many strange questions..Willie asks me..". "He has got it into his head from what he hears that Republicans are all very good men and Democrats vice versa." "He also thinks God is very good, of course." One day he said, "Is God a Republican?"

- "Willie says, "Tell father I want him to come home."

“I want Pa to love me.” “Tell father I have been a good boy and helped Uncle David and Johnny clean up the wheat.”

-”Anything which he sees anyone do or hears of it being done, he will surely try his hand at.”

Monday, December 7th entry:

-Frankie explains her not finishing the letter in hopes of first seeing Bill Bowers back home. She writes, “Bill and his wife Libbie ..came here this forenoon and stayed til after dark”..Upon our meeting..”he gave me a pretty tight grip and somewhere on my face bestowed a decided smack..”

-Before leaving Bill exclaimed, “..I came darned near forgetting a part of my errand here! Perry had told him, “Now Bill, you must surely go and give Frank a good jawing for me not writing more often.”

“What a message for a husband to send home to his wife when they seldom have an opportunity to hear from each other in this manner!”

“Dear Perry, I feel very proud of my brave husband!”

“I will write again within a week and in that time I shall go to Fort Atkinson and get the money.

Good bye, Frankie

Doc.#67 of 118:

To Frankie from camp near Kingston, Tennessee, dated, December 12th, 1863.

Noteworthy:

-The same day they they received the supply train (the 7th) they began their march over the mountains and arrived at Kingston. Foraging here is scarce and will influence their not staying there long.

-Various rumors abound including one “that Burnside has had a fight with Longstreet and captured all of his artillery and one third of his men.” } Another involves the defeat of rebel General Wheeler's cavalry by General Brooks. Yet another persisting rumor reports that “Longstreet is in Knoxville and moving in this direction..and we maybe getting in a tight spot.”

-Can only write a short response with so much to do now. Office paperwork remains heavy with two thirds of our time spent in either marching or remaining in camp. Any down time is done doing office paper work.

-Charles concludes, “I am well and so are the boys”.

Perry

1864

Doc.#68 of 118:

Dear Wife from camp of the First Wisconsin Cavalry at Mossy Creek, Tennessee, dated, January 9th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with, "It has been a long time since I have written you" and "little or no communication" has arrived to us since we have been at the front.

-The 14th: Left camp at Kingston and marched through Knoxville arriving at Strawberry Plains on the 17th where they will face Longstreet. (They were beaten at Knoxville).

-The 23rd: Our cavalry followed some skirmishing and his horse became very sick and was unable to go so he stayed behind with 28 of the regiment and could soon hear "the heavy roar of artillery". Depressed that he had to be left behind his comrades who engaged in fighting.

-The 31st: Previous two days there had been heavy fighting for the cavalry with "some killed and wounded but had not driven the enemy." His horse is doing better. Took an 18 mile ride through "the most tenacious mud I've ever seen. Eventually found the enemy pickets while foraging, but no extensive fighting.

-The 3rd: Moved back to their original camp and continue to see frequent pickets while foraging with sometimes "a brush:..."but no extensive fighting"

-Few supplies reach us now "and we have to live almost entirely on the country." "The rebels destroyed the bridges across the Wolf River but the federals are rebuilding them." Soon we will again have communication with the railroad.

-Winter weather has been mild until January 1st. Now seems as cold as any northern winter. "The ground is white with a slight covering of snow, the sun shines clear and bright, but the wind blows sharp and cold from the northwest." "We have no tents except shelters made with our rubber ponchos laid on slanting poles as rafters." "I am sitting on the ground in front of a fire built of green logs with my face begrimed and blackened by smoke and ashes." "My eyes are bleary, red and watery from some cause." "I am trying to write with fingers so cold and numb that I can scarcely make legible quail tracks.

- "I will send this to Knoxville at the first opportunity.. in time that it may get to you." "I have never learned yet whether you received the \$140.00 I sent you on the 20th of November."

- "East Tennessee though tough and mountainous, is a rich fertile, and healthy country and much more thickly populated that I thought it would be...."

-This state "abounds in evergreens of every description.. pine, cedar, hemlock, etc. mixed with a thick growth of rich, dark green shrubbery of laurel and holly bush". Not all trees are evergreen as ash and hickory also abound.
-Because of where we are now, we get no news of what is happening in the world.
-"Tell Willie he must be a good boy and mind his mother and help her all he can." "Tell him Papa will be home sometime and will get him a horse and saddle, so he can learn to ride like a soldier." "But my constant prayer is he may never have to go to war." "This is also the prayer of his father and your husband."

Perry

P.S. January 10th- Lots of mail coming in this morning but nothing from you! "It makes me feel downhearted and homesick."

"What are we staying for, doing nothing, with the men living on short rations and have of them with bare toes sticking out of their boots and other clothing sadly dissipated, is more than I can tell." "They say..Longstreet is surrounded..and Hooker is to the south of him."

"Sherman is in Bull's Gap..."

.."They say as soon as Longstreet is used up, this army will push on the proximity of Richmond." "Lee will soon have to come, then Bragg and the war will suddenly be ended." "We have heard just such kind of talk for the past two years and still the war rages with unmatched fury." "The armies are still fighting on the same ground they were two years ago." "God only knows when it will end." "I have got the blues today and I am looking on the dark side so I will stop." CPG

Doc. #69 of 118:

Dear Frank from Camp six miles south of Dandridge, Tennessee, dated, January 24th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-It is long before daylight and he has learned to send a "hastily penned few lines"

-Was happy to get five letters (two from her)," one from Father and one from David and one from Bill Bowers" all dated, December.

-The 14th: Left Mossy Creek camp and marched to Dandridge. Our forces were massed the next 2 days at this point.

-The 16th: Colonel Wolford was driven back by a strong enemy force.

-The 17th: Along with the 7th Kentucky, the 2nd and 4th Indiana and the 1st Wisconsin, we met the enemy and skirmished under heavy musket fire. Here is where my horse was shot. We were met by a heavy contingent of rebel cavalry and thought we were surrounded. With the dismounting of the 4th Indiana we rallied and but the rebs "chased us and yelled like demons." Colonel LaGrange and Major Torrey rallied our men and prevented a rout.

While the rebs built fires we laid behind a low breastwork of rails ("Jackson style") but the rebs never came. Thirty two were lost in our regiment "with three killed, 15 wounded, and 14 missing." We took prisoners. The brigade fighting to our right probably fell back.

-"I supposed on the next day we should have a terrible battle." "We had doubtless twenty thousand troops"... "while little infantry was used."

-Three hours behind our breastworks left us freezing as "we marched away to our last camp." Fortunately my overcoat was with me. I took a horse that belonged to a missing soldier and we began our way back to New Market. Soon I knew our entire army was falling back.

-Then the rain came. We made it back to New Market by daylight as our troops poured in from Mossy Creek. The drenching rain and our failure to win the day led to great confusion and misdirection. Great hunger overtook as we cooked what little we had. "We had eaten nothing since the morning of the day before" ...while "fighting in the saddle all the time."

-The 19th: We moved on to Knoxville passing through Sevierville on the 21st ending up on the French Broad River. Since being here we've "captured 27 wagons and mule teams" and many prisoners.

-Now is the "second time since I have been in the service that I have been completely cleaned out of all that I possessed this side of Wisconsin except the clothes on my back."

-"Frankie, you must not be worried if you do not get letters more often for circumstances sometimes render it impossible." "Papers that I made out at Sparta and Kingston did not have the opportunity to send are lost.."

Good bye CPG

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens informing her that he has caught her up to the “morning of January 28th”. They left camp near Savierville and met the rebs near Dandridge where they attacked forcing their retreated to some “already selected breastworks.” That is where they laid a trap so that we could not flank them. -”A brigade of our cavalry dismounted and attacked their works but we could not dislodge them” after 2 hours of fighting. “Our loss must have been considerable”..”as The 112th Illinois was missing.” This is some of the highest mountain terrain I have ever seen.

-Moral and confidence is at a low point as rumors consistently abound because the belief is that we are being cut off and are finding it difficult to get through the mountains. Other such rumors make us think “the federals have evacuated Strawberry Plains” and “have closed in around Knoxville again.”

-Charles received a letter from Nelson Church dated, September 6th, and reported from Brownsville that the “siege of Little Rock (Arkansas).

-Mild pleasant weather now, no frost on the ground, soldiers mixing maple sugar.”

-Charles relates the balance of his letter with a story “during the fight on the 27th that involved a “Colonel James P. Brownlow” of the 1st East Tennessee Cavalry, who chased furiously in a charge too far ahead of his men perusing the rebels. This colonel left many dead rebs from his pistol. Stopping to rest his horse he came upon a surrendering Texas rebel all the while being surrounded by a huge force of enemy soldiers. “After talking awhile, they agreed on a compromise.” The colonel agreed to give the Texan his arms and protect him against the Union troops while the Texan “promised to help the Colonel in rebels camps.” “When they parted, the colonel gave the Texan his gold watch and chain.” If the rebels ever catch Colonel Brownlow he will never get away alive.” Goodrich writes, “I have told you the story as it goes.” And Colonel Brownlow did not get back until the next day.”

-He concludes, “You and Father wrote that Bill Bowers praised me for bravery.” “Father seems to be afraid I am too reckless and he cautions me against exposing myself to danger for the sake of being called brave.” “The caution is needless for I am not daring, impetuous nor bloodthirsty and have not the least desire for glory or military fame.” “ I ALWAYS FEEL THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE BULLETS WILL MISS ME AND I WILL COME OFF SAFE.” “I hope my friends at home will not be worried about that which does not trouble me in the least.”

“They are getting the mail ready to send away and I must close. Kiss Willie for me and tell him papa thinks of him every day, and hopes to find him a good boy when he gets home.” From your husband, Perry

Doc.# 71 of 118:

To his friend Bill Bowers near Maryville, Tennessee, dated, February 2, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Recently received letters of January 1st, 6th, and December 7th respectively. Acknowledges, “you had not heard from the regiment for a long time.” He wrote last about their location at Mossy Creek.

-Skirmished on the 16th with the enemy in which one of Company L was killed (Ike Brail). Their forces were being amassed then and expectations were for a heavy battle soon.

-The 17th the enemy moved to within 3/4ths of a mile from encampment. Engaged heavily with the enemy up a hill and their 7th Kentucky “on our right broke and ran. “We were surrounded by four times our regiment” and the “4th Indiana Regiment had not yet got up”.

“At a critical moment, the 2nd Indiana came up mounted and charged the rebel cavalry which fell back as rapidly as they came up.” “The 4th Indiana came up and charged the rebel cavalry, which fell back as rapidly as they came up.”

-”The 4th Indiana now came up and dismounted.” “The 1st Wisconsin reformed and both pitched in but the number of rebs greatly increased. “ “The 1st Wisconsin suffered more than other regiments in this engagement”...with losses of 32 killed, wounded and missing.”

-”My horse was shot from under me when we first came up.” “I then went in on foot” and “lost everything.”

“The next day our brigade and regiment of infantry had been engaged while 20,000 men were close at hand.”

“That night the whole army commenced falling back towards Strawberry Plains” ..and “our cavalry fell back clear to Knoxville, across the river..” “For several days we maneuvered around the vicinity.”

-”On the 26th, 27th and 28th of January there was considerable fighting.” “On the 27th we drove the enemy some ten miles” ..”with the 1st Wisconsin taking an active part, charged in furiously and scattered them in a perfect route.” “That day Colonel LaGrange led the 4th Indiana in a charge on a battery with two guns and took them”....”while Lieutenant Colonel Leslie” of that same company “was killed in that charge.”

-”The next day we rather got the worst of it.” “The rebs

laid a trap for us.” “..They fell back..to where they'd thrown up a breastworks”...”and the position was such that could not use our artillery.” “Here I saw as many as 30 of one regiment, the 113th Illinois, who were wounded.”
-”While in the midst of the fight, General Sturgis, Surgery Chief of Cavalry was ordered back.” Through the marching orders..”among the highest, roughest, wildest mountains I had ever seen.”
-”The rumor is that Knoxville is in danger, and the rebels are within 4 miles of it.”
-”I have been able to give but a meager sketch of our doings for the lack of paper.” “I am well and so are the boys.” Yours truly, C. P. Goodrich

Doc.# 72 of 118:

To his wife from Headquarters, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, Maryville, Tennessee, dated, February 7th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Not sure she “has received his previous letters.”, “the latest I have received is dated December 13th.
-He reminds her, “I have written quite often...and endeavored to give a connected record of the stirring events in which we've participated in.” “I dislike to write the same thing twice over and therefore assume you have read all my previous letters..”
-Not much to tell, in camp now 3 days. Spending time catching up on his rest and with ink and paper, writing.
-”Foraging is getting very scarce here”, rumor we may march tomorrow.
-Received word we have 400 recruits waiting to join our regiment in Nashville. Sergeant Town maybe rejoining them with a new Lieutenant's promotion.
Some will be leaving for Nashville tomorrow to help supply up the new recruits assigned us. “They will bring back that trunk of things that you and others took the trouble to send to us.” “I do not think we will ever see it.”
-Received Bill Bowers letter of January 6th mentioning that Oakland, Wisconsin had filled their draft quota, and he's glad of the possibility that David may not have to enlist. He “feels his place is at home”. If David doesn't deem fit to enlist than he, Charles shall move to reenlist. “I still try to hope the war will be over by the time I am out of the service.”
-He (Charles) “is pleased” that she took a stand on “Zeek” “for talking disrespectfully of soldiers in general and me in particular.” “There would be no better fun than to blow

out his brains, ..that cowardly copperhead.”

-”I have written enough tonight..and must go to bed, on the ground, and be ready to march in the morning.”

“Good bye from Perry

Doc.#73 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, from Motley’s Ford, Tennessee, dated, February 12,1864

Noteworthy:

-He received her good dear letter of January 31st yesterday.

-Feels “somewhat downhearted that you were feeling bad about not hearing from me.” “It seems strange that letters cannot be carried through.” “The last of yours was December 13th.” “It is very discouraging to write letters and never know whether they have reached their destination.”

-”Endeavored to give you a slight sketch of our doings, our march over the Cumberland Mountains and our battles in East Tennessee, how our regiment lost 32 in one engagement, and how I had my horse shot out from under me.”

-”I wish you would tell me again...if you got the five dollars from the state now.” “I wish we could get out of this forsaken country, and go some place where there would be some certainty of mail communication, although this is the healthiest country in America.” “I do not know a sick soldier.” “My health is first rate.”

-”I wish you would have David or someone else inquire of some lawyer who is posted on the war claim matters.” “It is necessary I get paid for all the horses I have lost or if I can get paid for them at all?”

-”On the 9th we marched some 20 miles to Motley’s Ford, 30 miles south of Knoxville on the Little Tennessee River.” “We’re drawing few government rations now” “and have lived almost entirely on the country, getting flour and meal and have to cook it.” “I have not seen any hard bread for months, have almost forgotten what it looks.”

-Had some pleasant winter nights but January was very cold with some freezing at nights. To keep warm..”We build up large fires of logs and make a shelter of rubber blankets laid on slanting poles, with one end on the ground which serves to break off the wind in some degree.”

-Hardly any fighting for two weeks and “the inhabitants of East Tennessee are nearly all for the Union and have been from the first.” “When the rebel army comes, the men flee into the mountains.” “They cannot take their families or property with them and they are left as prey to the ruthless

soldiers.” “When our army goes the men can go home.”
“We burn up their fences, take their horses, cattle, and grain.” “To be sure, the government pays them, but a small price.” “What good dos a bushel of corn do when we take all there is in the country and they cannot get it for any price.” “In consequence, they are starving.”
-”When we left Seiversville, hundreds of citizens came with us.” “They said the rebs would follow right up and and either press them into their service or hang them.”
..”A short time before we were there, they hung 15 union men on one limb.” “Many of us have been presented the opportunity for the cleaning up of old scores.” “After the war is over, it will be a long time before the people here will have peace.” “Almost every man has someone marked for killing.”
-”I believe I will scribble no more seeing that it is so uncertain that this ever gets to you.” From Perry

Doc.#74 of 118:

To Frankie his wife from Motley's Ford, Tennessee, dated, February 20th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Just received one of her “long delayed letters, dated, January 4th, 1864.” “The one of January 31st came about a week ago.” Also received Bill Bowers letter of February 2nd, who is anticipating orders to return to his regiment soon.
-So “glad you went to Mr. Horton's and had such a good visit with Bill (Bowers).”
-”Frankie, you almost envy Bill's happiness at being at home and the thought that I might have come in his place if I had tried. “The Colonel..knows Bill is worth twice as much as me for recruiting purposes.”
-”You need not give yourself any uneasiness about m re-enlisting at present.” ..”I am in no hurry to pledge myself for another three years”.., “and there will be plenty of chances to re-enlist after my present term has expired and I have been home.” “If the country does not need my services, I could not be hired for \$500.00 per month.”
-Weather here of late has been cold. “Its tough to live outdoors in a tent, but we are all fat, well and hardy.” “There is not a tent in the regiment...and all the officers have to take the cold weather the same as the privates.” The HQ is “under a shed of canvass, laid out on poles, supported by four crutches”...”and is all open on one side.”
-There's been “no fighting in East Tennessee since last month” he's heard of...and our cavalry has all gone from here.” Reports of cavalry near Maryville as “our scouts see them nearly every day but no collisions take place.”
“Forage is getting scarce and we shall have to move from

here soon.”

-”Four days ago, 450 men of our brigade..under Major Nathan Paine” scouted over the North Carolina mountains looking for a rebel regiment that was “conscripting citizenry into the southern army.” “Our men have gone there to break them up”...and “we've heard nothing from them since they left.”

-”The wind blows up the smoke into my face and flares my candle badly, making my eyes ache trying to see...”

“After sending a kiss to Willie, bid you night”

From your husband, Charles Perry Goodrich

PS To Miss Francis Del Garcia Bowen Goodrich

Doc.#75 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Motley's Ford, Tennessee, dated, February 21st, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Wrote a letter to her last night but is fit to write again this morning.

-Difficult to predict how the Union army will come out as they plan to drive General Longstreet from East Tennessee.

-Is hoping pay will come soon “for the use of my horse up to the time he was shot.”

-Yesterday he commanded a foraging part of 150 men and “found it about 11 miles up the Tilicoe River.”

Being allowed to go on his own he came upon a house “occupied by two women and a dozen children from the ages of 12 downward.” They were without provisions and very hungry. One woman inquired as to how the war was proceeding. “I could not tell her but encouraged her to hope for the best.” Tears filled her eyes.

-He soon came upon a barn filled with fodder and he “went into the house and found a man and a woman, quite intelligent looking folks.” The man was armed with a Colt revolver and “I said to him he would fare hard if the rebels got to him.” “He said, “I know it, but they would have killed me anyway for the part I took for the Union first, so I would do them all the hurt I could.”

-”He is in danger of being waylaid and shot by some of his rebel neighbors at any time.” “He is a very intelligent and brave man and I hope he will come out of this all right, though I fear he will not. Of course, I stayed and had a good dinner and a good visit and went away without taking any of his forage.”

(The letter ends at this point).

Doc.#76 of 118:

To Frankie from Motley's Ford, Tennessee, dated,
February 21st, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”The mail went out this morning and I broke off suddenly my letter to you in the midst of a story.”
-”I stopped at one more house.” “There as usual was a woman and children.” “I wanted to buy some potatoes, molasses and butter but she had “Nary a bit to spare”. “I saw some chickens running about the house and asked her if she couldn't sell me two or three”.
-”She couldn't spare any”...as “the rebs drove off my husband to war and the yanks have taken all my cattle and hogs.” “All the stock I have left on the farm are three miserable sheep.”
-”She had some corn and a little fodder left.” “I reasoned to myself that if her stock is all gone, she would not need the forage.” “I packed on a load and came into camp.”
-Charles observes, “The people here are the same race as those in southeast Missouri, and they talk very much the same.” “The climate is so much healthier and they look much better.” “Instead of being lean, lank and sallow, they look strong and robust.” “The people are not as ignorant as some of the examples I have given as some are intelligent and educated.”
-Charles describes his current encampment as “being owned by a rebel colonel named Parker.” Charles describes the land “had a great deal of stock and corn” while the plantation house is luxurious, complete with 2 pianos but”the property is fast melting away, the stock is gone, the fences burned up and corn fed to our horses.” “Soldiers are camped close around the house.
-Charles reports...”Many of the ladies are refined.” “Some dip snuff” and “chew tobacco.”
-(Reader's Note here: It is difficult to understand why Charles would write some details that would cause her deliberate anger and jealousy and make even make her want to stray from a faithful marriage!) Charles writes, “A few days ago I saw two young ladies who were pretty good looking and one of them really handsome.” “I was almost in love with her at first sight and determined to get into a conversation with her if possible and see if she was as intelligent as she was beautiful.” “As I was fixing something in my mind to say, she began puckering up her rosy lips in a manner that seemed to me to invite a kiss, and to tell the truth for an instant, had a most uncontrollable desire to give her one.” “But alas, I mistook

the meaning of the mysterious working of those pretty figures.” “She turned her face to one side, and what do you think? “ “She squirted out from that pretty little mouth a stream of tobacco juice six feet from her, very much after the bar room loafer.” “The charm and admiration was suddenly turned to disgust and I walked away thinking, suppose I had kissed her?”

-22nd..Major Nathan Paine came back from his six day North Carolina scouting reporting, “all the boys are safe and they completely surprised the inhabitants and brought back thirty eight prisoners.”

-23rd.. Warm and pleasant weather, we will march tomorrow with hopes that foraging will be successful. Had nearly a skirmish with about 40 rebels yesterday while most of us were out foraging. The few of us left in camp saddled up and prepared to meet them, but they did not choose to fight.

Seventeen of our men had gone out to Maryville with Lieutenant Williams and all returned except for 3 which came in today.

-25th.. Marched yesterday from Motley's Ford to this place (Madisonville) about 12 miles and are now about 20 miles south of Loudon. Mail came in today but none from you. Beautiful weather but the “roads are getting hard and dry”. “As we came along yesterday, men were plowing in the fields, generally with one horse or a mule and a shovel plow such as we use in corn.” Many are beginning their gardens now.

(Letter ends with a personal closing.)

Doc.#77 of 118:

To Frankie his wife, dated, March 13th-14th, 1864,
from Cleveland, Tennessee

Noteworthy:

-”Yesterday our division marched from Calhoun to this place” nearly 12 miles. He continues on the same horse he's had “since Dandridge. “He was pretty poor when I got him and hard service has not improved him.” “I left one of the boys to lead him” and still he made ten miles an hour.”

-He describes Cleveland as “quite a town...old, dilapidated, forsaken look appearance”. They need fresh horses and may have to remain there for sometime while still waiting for new supplies, horses, and recruits. Their camp is ideally located along the railroad for the convenience of getting supplies quickly when they come in.

-Again the mail arrives but without any letter from you.

-Between 20-30 miles below Dalton “two great hostile

armies stand opposed to each other.” “Before long.. a great battle will take place “on nearly the same ground that has drunk the blood of thousands of great men.” Where they are now are so many soldiers, the new ones, “officers with gay and dashing uniforms” with many others “in active service look rusty and weather-beaten beside them”.

March 14th:
Noteworthy:

-Wants to check out the town to escape from “my share of office work.” So many soldiers here now ..”all the way down to Dalton and Chattanooga” Stores and public buildings are used for army quarters and the commissary, while a few are utilized for hospitals, thanks to the agreeable climate.

-In the town are a few 'picture galleries” and the general stores generally supply the “wants of soldiers, not citizens”. Uniform accessories are for sale in abundance yet the local poor population are hard pressed to have their basic needs and wants fulfilled.

-”How the people manage to live, I cannot tell.” The government must help them out or many will starve.

“Hundreds are ..fleeing daily from Georgia and North Carolina..leaving all they possess behind.”

“The government give the poor...wretched forlorn creatures and old men with gray heads and tottering steps and women with infant children free transportation to Illinois or somewhere they can live.”

-Tired of wandering the town and seeing the same situations Low on money and beginning to get hungry and yet must continue to earn their pay.

“I got six months pay for the use of the horse, receiving \$113.60 in full”. Will try to send her money using express. “I sold my little pistol for \$17.00.”

-The mail came in today and still no letter from you.

-Weather is cooler now “but peach and plum trees are

Doc.# 78 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, from Cleveland, Tennessee, dated, March 19th, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-He opens with telling Frankie, “I sent \$130.00 with Sergeant Mason” who started for home today and he also enclosed a “finger ring made from a mussel shell made by Corporal Nicholson (Menominee of Company I)

-Charles gives a description of Corporal John B. Nelson. Who hails from Weseca, Wisconsin and is somewhat of an over-confident boastful romantic, stating, “He imagines himself in looks, charming in manners, and graceful on horseback.”

In fact,..”he is quite ordinary in looks”..” a great lover of females”, ..prides himself on having a “smooth tongue” and “thinks every one believes his flattery.” “He is very selfish ..and always figuring to make something of others.”

-”Well 'Nick' has been in the habit of making rings which he disposes of in our quarters and from which he expects to receive the most benefit.” “One day I saw him making a ring, and asked him to make me one that I might send my wife.” “After a day or two, he handed me a ring, and soon after requested me to write an application for him for a furlough, putting in all the good strong reasons that I should get up, in short, fix it so that it would go through and be approved at department headquarters at Chattanooga.” “Of course, I would not refuse such a request to anyone, so I wrote the application and had it sent on.”

“Now Frankie, if you should think fit on reception of the ring, to write something complementary and flattering to 'Nick' that I could read or show to him, he would almost go crazy with delight, for he should think your opinion of no ordinary value.”

-Have not much more to write, “the cold winter is over”...and “so is our winter's campaign.”

“We are out of the Department of the Ohio and into the Department of the Cumberland again, where we get full government rations and have little to do.”

-”Frankie..I sometimes suffered with hunger, saying nothing of living out of doors with the thermometer at zero.” “I have been up to three days without tasting anything of bread, except parched corn.” “I had all of the tough sinewy beef I wanted, therefore there was no danger of starving.” “This was December.” “A majority of the men had more to eat than I as they rob women and children of the last before they had before they go hungry.”

“The infantry fared worse than the cavalry, for they could not get out so far in the country for forage.” “When I was at Strawberry Plains I was offered by infantry men twenty-five cents per ear for corn to parch they were so hungry.” “I was obliged to refuse them for my horse needed corn.” “It wrung my heart to take it from those poor people.” “Besides, if I had given one man an ear or two of corn, I should have had, in a short time a regiment of infantry after me, wanting corn to parch.” “The inhabitants will starve, if the government does not help.” “They have already begun issuing provisions to citizens at this place.”

-20th: With good horses now all the men of the regiment went out to scout, and I didn't have to go. Have a pretty fair horse now. The regiment is “all very well”..”but the weather has been pretty cold for several days.” “The first of the month was warm and vegetation started and peach trees started to blossom..

..”Wish I could get a letter from you.” Perry

27th, 1864

Noteworthy:

- "At last I have received a dear good long letter from you" from March 6th. "I felt in good spirits and really happy since I got your letter." "I am very glad you took to the trouble to be particular to mention the dates of all the letters you have received from me." "They are a great consolation to me.."

You have also in your time and distance away from me ..
"have experienced the same vexation in perhaps a greater degree than I have."

- "Was much pleased to read those few words written by dear Willie's little hand."

- "You asked me if I knew why the returns were not made from our regiment so that families of soldiers could get their money from the state."

"I know they were made, for it is my business to make those returns." "For about three months we were marching, scouting, skirmishing and fighting." "I had no desk, no records no papers, no wagon to carry them in in.." "We had no time to do anything." "They have all been made now, for about a month."

- "You wonder why we could not have tents through the winter." "We were moving about so much and so rapidly and so close to the enemy that we were not allowed to be encumbered with army baggage." "We had not a wagon or pack mule or even a pack horse..". "Cavalry, to be effective, must not be encumbered with heavy baggage trains." "These heavy rains, though the transport things that add greatly to a soldiers comfort while in camp, have been the cause of some of the worst defeats our great armies sustained."

- "The recruits were assigned to companies today and have all camped together." "...Nearly 800 are present and many are old officers...looking as natural as ever, riding around, putting on style or drinking whiskey and running horses."

- "Colonel Torrey brought us a good tent for the adjutant's office." "Am glad you can go to the lodge occasionally, so as to be out among folks and enjoy yourself some." "I wish you could go out every time when the family is well, and David could go up (to Fort Atkinson." ("I do not believe it is right for you to be shut up at home if you can help it."

- "I am afraid your cough will not leave you rapidly after having such a hard cold." "Do not let it run without doing something about it." ..."Dr. Caroon's medicine is almost a sure cure for you every time."

- "A crowd of boys have been in the tent singing most of the ti I have been writing." "Tis said, "Music hath charms for the savage beast." "The singing was splendid". "Some of the singers were recruits."

- "I wish I could send something to you which you would like, but I do not see how I can."

“The boys are all well.” “I would like to write each one of my friends, but cannot very well so you must tell them what they want to know.” C. P. Goodrich

Doc.#80 of 118: To Frankie from Cleveland, Tennessee, dated, April 10th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Charles sends his regrets for his delays in writing with the reason that “ We have been lying around quietly here in camp with nothing exciting going on and no news to write.”
-Received her letter of March 6th and sent her “money by Elias Mason some days ago.” “Alex (McGowen) got a letter stating that Mason was home.”
-The regiment now numbers some 780 men and they drill daily. He is lucky that he doesn't have to drill Company as his work hours have now doubled. At this point he is not responsible for “commanding others” but is accountable only unto himself.
-Charles relates that ..”About a week ago a regiment of rebel cavalry made a dash up into the country about six miles east of us.” “A party of 15 from our regiment on patrol were surrounded by rebs and that eleven of the fifteen were either killed or taken prisoner.” “The missing are all recruits of Company H.”
-”Adjutant Town is now our acting brigade general.”
(Reader's Note: Here Charles begins complaining about his pay vs. the amount of responsibility he is given). “The adjutant gets \$122.00 a month, while I do the same work...more than the adjutant in this regiment ever did, for only \$17.00 a month.” “But never mind, it is here just as every place else, the ones who do the most work usually gets the least pay.”
-”The mail has come again and no letter for me.” “We have received notice today that the recruiting detail in Wisconsin have been relieved and ordered to the regiment.” “So I supposed Bill Bowers must be on his way down here.” “He has had a good long time at home and I am glad of it.” “My health is good and when we have some fighting to do...you may expect a long letter from me.”

Doc.#81of 118: To his wife Frankie from Cleveland, Tennessee, dated, April 14. 1864

Noteworthy:

-”Once more I write without having any letter of yours to reply to.” “I wish I could get one from you.” “I suppose I must not complain.”
-”At last! At last! The box of that was sent last fall is here.””They came last Tuesday, all safe.” The box was wet. “The gloves are nice but I do not need them now.” “The tea and sugar, had they come last winter when we could get none would have been of great value.” “Now we get plenty from the government.” “The tea I can keep.” “It may come in good sometime.” “The butter

is first rate.” “We can use it any time.” “The government does not furnish it.” “We get it here by paying 75 cents per pound.” “The pail which would cost 75 cents here is just the thing I want to carry on a horse to make coffee when on the march.” “The dried fruit comes in all right too.” “By being damp for a long time, the labels were entirely gone from some of the things, but I had no difficulty distinguishing what belonged to me.” “The socks came in just right for I had none but a rugged pair.” “Government socks are poor things.” “A pair will last but a few weeks at best.”

-Night before last another set of pickets was surprised and captured by the rebels near the place where the others had been taken.” “There were about 30 on that post and the rebels came up with a large force of between 1,000 and 2,000.” “They charged in upon the pickets from all sides at once about daylight yesterday morning.” “The pickets were all of our regiment, some recruits and some old men.”

-”The recruits are faring pretty hard to start with.” “It is hard to capture old hands.”

-”Yesterday our brigade went out after the rebels but we got there two hours to late.” “The rebels go safely off with the prisoners and we had a hard ride of some 35 miles all for nothing.” “I do not know if we should put up pickets in a place where they can be so easily cut off and captured by the enemy.” “This gobbling up of pickets is something we used to play on the rebs but never had the complement returned until recently.”

-”The boys are all well and so am I but I cannot write worth a cent tonight.” Currently there are four regiments of cavalry that have just arrived here. “If our army does move forward, depend upon it, we shall have some terrible fighting.” “The rebels have got an immense army between here and Atlanta.”

Perry

Doc. #82 of 118:

To Frankie from 1st Wisconsin Cavalry Headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee, dated, April 20th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Received her letters “ of the 3rd and the 8th some four days ago.”

-”Nearly all the orderly sergeants in the regiment received commissions as lieutenants.”

-”Had some disagreement with Colonel La Grange” over how O’Conner “was greatly injuring his prospect” of being promoted while “the Governor will promote any one to the command of a company except the orderly sergeant, unless some good proof is given that the orderly sergeant is unfit for promotion.”

-”I think Bill Bowers should come in for a promotion in Company I,” but not this time.

-I would want a promotion but only for the pay, that is all. “Seeing seven or eight new pairs of shoulder straps moving about put thoughts into my head”. “I threw away my chance to be a

lieutenant last fall"...when I bolted from commanding the company..".

- "I learned that Elizabeth Potter has married her cousin, Gehial Robinson."

- "You may tell the girls for me (you know I am bashful and do not write to them), if they can possible stand it, they had better suffer on in a single misery a little while longer until some of the soldiers get back." "To be sure the soldiers will be somewhat demoralized." "Most have learned to get drunk, swear, lie, steal or worse things." "Some will return maimed and ripped for life, but almost any of them would be preferable to the sneaks who have stayed home when they could go as well as not."

- "Perhaps the girls will feel somewhat comforted when they are told they are better off than the girls in the South, for none of the young men who live here are at home." "When we are camped in one place for a short time, some girls take up with a Yankee soldier for a husband." "When we march, she is left broken hearted and worse than a widow." "The war is a great calamity." "It gives girls trouble as well as married women."

- "The health of the regiment is excellent." "The boys from our part of the country are all well." "I am well too, period."

- "Frankie, do write often"..and "send me a dollar's worth of stamps..."

- "It is getting late..." and "hoping that before many months the happy time will come that you will not be obliged to or send to Clinton, Wisconsin..."

your Perry

Doc.#83 of 118:

To Frankie from Cleveland, Tennessee, dated, April 25th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Received her "excellent letters" of the 10th and 17 with both arriving at noon.

- "I cannot write news all the time for I have a limited means of knowing what is going on".. and "the regulations here are so very strict about allowing men to go out of camp." "I do not go 80 rods from my tent once a week, except when I go out with the whole regiment to graze horses for two or three hours a day." "Albert (Moorehead) and I take turns doing this." "Albert belongs to Captain Newton Jones' Company M and is a pretty smart boy, eighteen years old." "He was raised in Pennsylvania and enlisted in Lake City, Minnesota before he was 16." "He has a very good, steady business head and is an excellent person." "When we wish anything done up with extra style, Albert is the one to do it."

- "You speak of sending Willie to school." "If I recollect rightly, he is past 5 years of age." "He is old enough to go to school but I dread of the evil he will learn there." "One might reasonably suppose that if a child was kept as much as possible

away from evil association until his habits become somewhat fixed and he had arrived to years of partial maturity and judgment, that it would have a good effect on his after life.”
-”The weather at last is getting comfortably warm”...”It has not rained in several days.” “The woods are beginning to look green and everything is looking pleasant and full of life.” “The cannons have been booming in the direction of Dalton all day.” They must be target shooting.

-”A few feet in front of our tent stands a soldier with his arms tied behind him.” “He is fastened to a tree.” “The cord is very tight around his arms and he is groaning with pain.” He is being punished by Colonel Torrey “because the man deserted his post while on picket last night.” “He is one of the newcomers, a conscript, and a Dutchman.” “He answers only in a vivid foreign tongue when told to do anything.” “He is able to understand little or no English.” “He was one of the pickets yesterday, about 5 miles from camp.” “He had to take his regular turn at standing videt, out alone, some 40 to 50 rods from the rest.”

-”When it becomes dark, he became frightened and came galloping in to where the main body of pickets were.” “After being taken to his post again, the poor, timid simpleton deserted a second time.” “Colonel Torrey means to make an example of him.” “I pity the man.” “He takes on so much.” “The circulation in his arms must be almost stopped, the cord so tight.” “I would gladly release him if I could and send the poor cowardly fool home for he will never be good as a soldier.”

-”You seem to be puzzling your head about send me something.” “There is nothing I want except yours and Willie's picture.” “As for things to eat and wear, we are just as well off as anyone needs to be.” “We are in more comfortable circumstances than many people at home.” We’ve had ample opportunities to read the newspapers from Louisville, Nashville, and Chattanooga “and a spicy sheet printed by soldiers in Cleveland (Tennessee) called “the Battle flag.” “We always have in camp books of almost all kinds that the boys picked up in the country, generally from houses which occupants have fled from the approach of our army.”

-”We have good singing in camp nearly every evening.” “In our regiment there is a club of 4 or 5 of the best singers I ever heard.” “One of our best singers died the day before yesterday”. “He was badly hurt ..when his horse reared up with him and fell on him.”

-Near us “the 2nd Indiana Cavalry whose camp joins ours has an amphitheater made of pine boughs and in it, every night, they have regular theatrical performances before a crowd audience”.. “though I have never attended any of those shows.”

“My sheet is now filled and I must close.” Perry

Doc.#84 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from In the field near Varnell's Station,
Georgia, dated, May 11th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”The campaign has begun in earnest.” “We left Cleveland the third of May and moved to the immediate front”. The next day “General (John McAllister) Schofield arrived from Knoxville with 30,000 men.”.....”while General John Birdseye McPherson came from Huntsville with 20,000 men.” “Our army is now estimated at over 100,000 fighting men”...”and is better organized and in better fighting trim than I ever saw it before.”

-The rebels came from Varnell's Station across to Tunnel Hill. “On the 7th our forces were nearly all up.” “I expected to witness and participate in a terrible battle that day.” “We were all near the center”. “It was a grand sight to see that mighty army move up.” “When we reached the enemy's outposts, we halted.” “Our advance drove in their pickets and we had some skirmishing and that was all.”

-”The next day our division moved over to the left, where we had been ever since.” “Some fighting has been going on every day since the 8th, but no general engagement.” “It does not seem to be the policy of our generals to push the enemy back at this point, but to engage them just enough to hold them here.” “We hear rumors that our forces have driven them back on the right, taken Tunnel Hill and even Dalton.” “The last however I do not credit.”

-Every day we hear cannonading while our frequent skirmishing “turns out to be quite a serious affair.” “Sometimes we draw the rebels into a trap, sometimes we know to our sorrow that they trap us.” Colonel LaGrange commonly orders us when we’re sent out “to go as far as you can and find out what is there.” “The enemy threw out a light line of skirmishers whom we drove back, and thus we were drawn on.”

-”Those around the Colonel (tried to slow him but) in vain.” “Naturally impetuous and daring, this time he was too heedless and headstrong.” “The enemy formed as if to oppose us, showing about a brigade of cavalry.” “We charged them, the Colonel at the head.” “They resisted, then broke and we chased until we had rushed ourselves against a force of about 10,000 infantry, artillery, and cavalry.” “They also had fortifications.”

-”It is now our turn to get out of the way.” “The Colonel endeavored to have his men fall back in order, fighting as they went.” “But his horse was killed under him and he was taken prisoner.” We lost 130 in our brigade and the regiment lost in killed, wounded, and missing some 48. “Seventeen wounded were brought off the field.” “Five or six are known to have been killed.” “Some we left in a hurry and we have not been back there since.” “Captain (George O.) Clinton (Co. B of Brodhead) is missing.” “Lieutenant (William) Sandon (Co. G. of Windsor) was killed.” “The loss of Colonel LaGrange we feel very much.” “The brigade is commanded by Colonel Stewart of the 2nd

Indiana." "He is a drunken sot." "There is consolation." "We shall never get into a very tight place if he has to go ahead.?"

- "Once more, dear Frank, I am spared." "Though I chanced to be in the thickest of the fight when the most were killed, not a bullet touched me." "No one was killed or wounded that you know." "Elihu Benton of Lake Mills was killed."

- "Bill Bowers arrived here on the 6th in time to participate in the campaign." "His health is not first rate yet."

- All is quiet today with no cannon being heard. News has reached us that Lee was defeated by Grant in Virginia. Weather is warm here but a late night shower cooled us off some.

12th- We were ordered to march yesterday afternoon after I wrote you. We skirmished just a short while. The enemy had advanced some 30,000 infantry forming strong lines "in our rear" while all the while "building a formidable breastwork of logs and stone."

- During this time General George Stoneman "was coming with two divisions of cavalry from the Department of the Ohio." "They were sent around by way of Tunnel Hill to the west side of Dalton, where (General Joseph) Hooker's corps is positioned." We arrived there sometime after dusk and that is where we are now."

- "The rebels occupy a high range of hills". "It is a strong position" ...and "the rebels have a great many strongholds in the mountains here.

- Commissions came yesterday for John Baker (Co. I, Stevens Point) and Ed Town as second Lieutenant." "This looks to me like an injustice to Bill Bowers." "It seems he should have been commissioned before Ed. Town." "I shall enter on my duties as Sergeant-Major."

- "It is strange I do not get a letter from you." "The mail comes in nearly every day."

- 15th. "On the night of the 12th the rebels commenced on the evacuation of Dalton." "On the 13th we crossed over the mountains in the valley below Dalton and followed after them."

"There was some fighting at the rear of the enemy that day but we did not fight until about dark when we ran on to them." It was quite dark and though firing was steady, only a few were hurt.

- "Yesterday we had a very heavy battle." "The rebels made a stand near Resaca and fought desperately." Our cavalry on the left of the line helped in driving the rebels back on the right. There" was tremendous firing from that direction for six or eight hours."

- "Our regiment was not engaged except when the battle first began." "We had the advance and drove in the enemy's pickets and skirmishers." "When we reached the heavy line of battle, we drove them back a short distance and let the infantry and

Doc.#85 of 118:

T Frankie from Kingston, Georgia, dated, May 21st,
1864

Noteworthy:

-Mentions of writing her only once since the campaign's beginning.

-The army has been in a fight every day for the past two weeks but today there seems to be a lull.

-The morning of the 16th "after the battle of Resaca, the enemy had fallen back and several of our boys went over the battlefield. "It presented a horrible sight." "The ground was thickly strewn with dead rebels, mangled, and distorted in every shape." He might have joined the group too but "had no desire to see such sights."

- "They say the dead lay thickest in front of the 3rd Wisconsin." "They were on the left of Hooker's line and next to us." The infantry did most of the work in engaging the enemy.

-While marching the other day near the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry, "I was surprised by being met by Frank (Francis C.) Johnson (Sgt., Co. K.) who lived near (Nelson) Church and your cousin Lewis (W.p) James (Pvt. Co. B)." "Lewis was taken prisoner on account of being sick". "He looks well and has grown considerably since I last saw him."

- "I have had no letter from you in a long time." "Some mail gets here but none for me." Though the railroad is in working good order, .."it seems strange the rebels do not injure the railroad more."

-We are getting only "meager war news" now. "We are told that Grant is having great success in Virginia." "I also hear there has been a terrible loss of life on both sides with no decided advantage gained either way." "In Louisiana I believe our army has been defeated badly, but it is rarely spoken of here." "All the talk is of our successes." This "keeps up the spirit of the men ." "We are steadily driving the enemy back because we greatly outnumber them." This campaign began with a "splendidly equipped army of 140,000 men while the rebels have not over 80,000." "Our losses thus far fully equal theirs as far as wounded and killed are concerned." "We have taken the most prisoners and they have lost many Tennessee and Georgia troops by desertion." "Still they have a formidable army left."

-Our orders now are to prepare for "a long and tedious march." My guess is that we will make a raid "somewhere in the rear of the enemy's line." "It is a splendid time for such an operation as their forces are drawn all from the interior to the front." "We are ordered to go without wagons." "Not even an ambulance is to be taken." "If a man is wounded or taken sick so that he cannot ride, he must be left where he happens to be."

- "The weather is warm and the soldiers are already getting sick." All the boys "from our parts" seem to be doing well "except Bill Bowers." "He keeps along with us but is pretty feeble." "He has

diarrhea as bad as ever.” “My health is first rate.”

-”I wish I could get a letter from you before we start.” “I fear I shall go where no mail can reach me for a long time.” “Do not be worried if a month passes before you hear from me again.”

Perry

Doc. #86 of 118:

To Frankie his wife from Six miles east of Dallas, Georgia, dated, June 2nd, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”Yesterday I received two good long letters from you, ..dated March 23rd and the 29th on three sheets of paper, and one dated April 27th.” “They are both old but interesting to me”.. I wrote you last from our camp near Kingston on the 22nd.”

-”One the 23rd we were again in motion.” “I was wrong in conjecturing that a part of the cavalry would separate from the rest of the army for the purpose of making a raid or anything of that kind.” “Instead we were kept with the army on a general forward movement.” “We moved steadily, skirmishing every day until we arrived here on the 26th. “Here the rebels seemed to have made their last desperate stand.”

-”Fighting has been going on every day and night since the 26th.” “At this moment my ears are greeted with murderous sounds.” “The line of battle extends six or seven miles north and south.” “We are at the extreme left.” “There has been some terrible fighting about three miles to our right.” “General Stanley has, by strategy, on two different nights under cover of darkness, tempted the rebs to charge his works.” “The bait took each time and the rebs were mowed down by the thousands.” “It is said in front of Stanley's division alone there lie 3,000 unburied rebels.” “The enemy will not bury them and our men, when we venture outside the breastworks to bury their dead, are shot down by sharpshooters.”

-June 3rd. “The weather is getting warm”..”and the stench is getting so bad that our men will have to fall back or fight their way ahead soon or any wounded left in the fields will die.”

-”Yesterday cannons were booming and the enemy shells were being thrown into our camp near where I was riding.” “As we moved out..the roar of battle steadily increased, while at the same time it began to storm.” “Heaven's great artillery constantly thundered forth its' loudest peals, while through the sulfa's smoke the streaks of livid lightening incessantly flashed.” “The scene was becoming almost terrific, when the rain began pouring down in such torrents and put an end to man's attempt to vie with nature.”

-”It rained a good part of the afternoon and little fighting was done.” “The skirmishers even now, are keeping up a constant firing and occasionally a bullet comes in among us.” “None of

the regiment was hurt yesterday but a ten pound shell went through a horse a few feet from me.” “It tore the pants from the leg of the rider but did not hurt him.”

-(Sergeant Goodrich briefly relates the charge their 5 companies made on the 26th). “We dashed upon a whole division of rebel cavalry” ..and learned afterwards we took 44 prisoners and killed several.” “We had but 6 wounded and 2 missing.” We later found out the 2 missing were killed. “They were two of the bravest boys who ever lived” ..and “I was well acquainted with them.”

-”I took two prisoners that day who I encountered singly.”

“Eli Horton, Company I, Fort Atkinson, was badly wounded in the left arm.” “I helped him off the field and saved him from falling into enemy hands.” “He nearly bled to death.” “The surgeon that at first he could not live but I have heard he is doing well and likely to recover.” (“Horton was wounded at Burnt Church, Ga.)” “Bill Bowers is taking care of Eli a few miles from here at the hospital.”

-”I wrote a short account of our doings for the Madison Journal” ...”and got the adjutant to put his name to it to make it somewhat of an official statement.”

-”My health is first rate”...and “the boys are all well.” “Alex McGowen has been promoted sergeant and makes a good one.”

-”On the 26th, our drunken brigade commander was taken prisoner.” “After the charge was made we found the enemy had great numbers, had rallied and we had fallen back.” “Then he, fool that he is, rode up furiously, and not knowing the position of affairs, rushed the enemy lines.”

Goodbye,

Perry

Doc.#87of 118:

To Frankie from 10 miles west of Marietta, Georgia, dated,
June 10th, 1864

Noteworthy:

- Notes that a week has passed since writing her and “is in the midst of a great army engaged in an active campaign with the eyes of the nation and the whole world upon us.” “The fate of millions of the human race may hinge on the outcome of this campaign!” Yet strange as it may seem to you, I can tell you very little about the war.”

-In the past week “the enemy has fallen back some” with little fighting for our cavalry. Reported meeting and greeting a variety of acquaintances of the 3rd Wisconsin Regiment.

-”All of the boys from our part of the country are well” and “I have received no letter from you since the one dated April 27th.”

-Perry tells Frankie, “For some time it was commonly believed the War Department has set the muster-out date for this regiment in July (1864).” “This I never believed.” “I knew the

government would legally hold the men for three years from the date of muster-in, but perhaps we might be discharged from the date of enlistment.”

-”Four companies of the regiment were mustered in September, 1861, and the rest, one company at a time until March 8, 1862 when Company I was mustered, being the last organized company in the regiment.” “That would mean I would be free on October 19th, 1864.” “But the War Department has decided to hold the men the full time...”. “You are no doubt sadly disappointed in this but it is of no use to keep up false hopes.” “Better to look at things as they are.” “I have no doubt the war will last the whole time but my constitution is pretty good yet.” “I feel perfect confidence I shall be spared to serve out my whole term and then return to the ones I love.” “During the rest of my life I will enjoy the comforts of home which will be more highly prized than ever before by your...” Perry

-June 12th Morning. Perry complains that no letter has arrived for him with the last evenings latest mail delivery. He writes, “Are all my folks sick so they cannot write?” “Are my letters delayed or miscarried while others are brought through safely?” “I shall try to think the latter is the case, yet I cannot help feel but a great deal of anxiety about it.”

-The last few days “the army has been moving to the left and the enemy is making corresponding movements.” They switch directions frequently with the rebels, and Perry reports, “Yesterday there was some fighting near the railroad seven miles below Acworth”...where “the rebels are strongly fortified there.” “Bands of rebel cavalry are continually hovering around our rear, picking up stragglers and often capturing a wagon or two that happens to be poorly guarded.” “Our cavalry also scouts to the rear, coming into contact with the rebs.” “Yesterday a company from our regiment brought in nine prisoners, one captain, one lieutenant, and seven privates.”

-Raining all the time now and the roads remain “horrible.” As the rebs fall back they do destruction to the roads but we quickly repair them.

“Tell the rest, David, Father, and Lucinda to write me.”

Perry

Doc. #88 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Acworth, Georgia, dated, June 19th, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-Opens with hesitation to write her today due to his “unhappy state of mind”....”caused by not hearing from you in a long time”. They are located on a railroad where the mail comes almost daily. “Sometimes it comes from Wisconsin in five or six days.” “I try to think nothing bad has happened at home and that all are well.” “It has been eight weeks since the date

on my last letter from you.”

-“The rebel army is being pushed back slowly, step by step.”
Every inch of ground is closely contested.” “When they are driven from one line of fortification, it is only to retire to another line but a short distance further back.”

-For the last three days the fighting has been very heavy.”
“We have pushed the enemy back on our right side some 3 miles.” “On the left the rebels have nearly held their ground.”
“We...are about four miles distant from Marietta and finally to Atlanta.” “But it is a great deal easier to stay in the rear of the army and write...”

-“Our loss in killed during this campaign has been very great, probably much greater than the enemy's losses.” “We have usually been the attacking party which causes greater losses, while the rebels have generally fought behind the breastworks, on the defensive.”

-“Our brigade is here, at the rear of the army to protect the railroad, wagon trains, etc.” from roving bands of rebel cavalry that are hovering in our rear.”

-“On the 14th, our division marched from the camp from where I last wrote (Marietta) to this place (Acworth).” “On the 16th we went to Lost Mountain which the rebels then held and had strongly fortified.” “On the 16th we were under rebel artillery fire, their shells falling and bursting in our midst.” “.Fortunate with only one man wounded, though there were dozens of hair breadth escapes.”

-“On the night of the 17th...there was “heavy cannonading is now going east of here.”

-“Cavalry horses have fared very hard in the campaign, sometimes going two or three days without eating.” ..”Nearly half of them are played out .” Dismounted cavalymen are “sent back to guard trains on the railroad or nurses in the hospitals.” At present “our division does not number 2, 000 mounted men and the horses we have are poor and weak.”

-Charles mentions recently seeing “several acquaintance of in the 3rd Wisconsin” including John and Steven Plum, the latter, dying of his wounds. “I presume you recollect that when I urged him to enlist, his great and only objection was the danger of being shot.” “His worst fears have been realized.”

-“I have been writing letters to you for two months and do not know if you have gotten any of them.” “But do not mind.” “Everything will come around right up.” “I think we shall go today and join the rest of the division.” “Hoping that you and Willie and all the rest are well.”

“I remain as ever your Perry

June 23rd, 1864

Noteworthy:

- "At last!" "Oh, joy for me!" "I received a letter from you." "It came but a few minutes ago." "You ought to have seen me when I got it." "I am in the habit of appearing perfectly cool at all times, showing no excitement..". "I went off quickly by myself." "Nobody saw the tears of joy run down my face as I read." "Three trains of cars have lately been burned by rebel cavalry at our rear." Some of the mail has been probably been lost from it. "I have written when I have had the opportunity in this campaign."

- "Your latest letter made me feel so good I must talk more about it." "Frank, you do write the best and most loving letters of any woman in the world." "You love me better than I deserve." "I am not half as good a man as you think I am." "I wish I was better for your sake if for nothing else." "I am sorry Willie dislikes going to school." "I should think he would love it." "He likes other children so well."

- "I am glad Father and Mother have gone to Michigan."

- "I am in as hard a fight as I have ever been in, the one at Dandridge, when my horse barely escaped being taken prisoner." "I was asleep on the frozen ground without a blanket over me twenty minutes after the bullets ceased to whistle about my ears."

- "Instead of being worn out, I am in excellent health, eating my rations every day besides a lot of bush blackberries which are now getting ripe."

- "I wish you could have had some of the rain we have had. It has rained nearly every day for the past four weeks..."

- "On the 19th we marched from Acworth to this place sending out scouting parties." "The rebels now hold Kenasaw Mountain six miles northeast from here." "A constant roaring of artillery has been going around the mountain for the last week until today when little firing is heard." "The mountain is in plain sight of our camp and we could see the belching smoke and bursting of shells whenever we had a mind to look." "The lines of our enemy are in semi-circular shape around the mountain, both right and left wings being further down the railroad from Marietta." "The rebs still hold that place and they say it is strongly fortified."

- "No telling how or when this campaign will end, though we have a great army here I think we have reason to hope for the best."

- "This is a splendid country, though now horribly desecrated. "It is very level from here to Atlanta." "It is 20 miles distant but can be plainly seen from here on a clear day."

"I must close, hoping that my mind may be turned away very often from the coarse and rough scenes that surround me, to think happier thoughts of love and home and of your

good, dear, loving letters, one of which I just read.”

Doc.#90of 118:

To Frankie from camp near Lost Mountain, Georgia, dated, June 29th, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-Still camped here from my last letter to you six days past. Scouting parties are being continuously sent out daily as well as pickets too. “I have been out twice” ...”since our whole regiment arrived and went out.” We are now situated “about one half mile south of Lost Mountain.” “Lost Mountain does not deserve to be called anything more than a hill.” “A man could easily ride a horse to the top of it.” With our signal station up top can be seen “a vast extent of beautiful country ...” . “To the south and east, some say you can see 50 miles.” “Atlanta is visible 20 miles distant.” “Kenesaw Mountain” is a similar hill, though some higher and more rugged about six miles east of Lost Mountain.” The rebels still hold the mountain. -”Our lines..form an isosceles triangle with Kenesaw”.. “as the sides of the triangle run down seven or eight miles.” “Within the past few days the extremities of our line near the base of the triangle have pressed toward each other.” “The rebels are nearly surrounded.” “It seems they will have to do some terrible fighting if any of them are to get away.” Unless they get some help from some unknown source or even great blunder is committed on our part, it is hardly possible the rebs should escape this time...” -”The day before yesterday a general assault was made at different points all around the line.” “The object was to crowd our lines closed together.” “The assault on the other parts of the line was just to get their attention.” “The battle continued all day until after dark.” “They say the rebs fought desperately and we lost a great many men, but our flanks were pushed some two miles closer together, thus tightening the 'anaconda coils' around our doomed (I hope) enemy.” “I am unable to learn anything of our losses in this battle.” From this battle “Brigadier General (Charles Garrison) Harker was killed and that General (Daniel) McCook (Jr.) was mortally wounded.” -Our new camp is located now “about 3 miles from the main lines but the noise of battle was very loud..”. -Lately the weather here has been very hot “with some of the men getting sick.” “My health is still good”...”Bill Bowers is still in Chattanooga taking care of the sick.” -”You frequently ask if I need money.” I have a little but “really have no use for it.” “Even if I had much it would not go for buying anything.” “Never mind, I guess I will

not starve.”

Perry

Doc.#91 of 118:

To Frankie, from camp some 8 miles east of Marietta,
Georgia, dated, July 7th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”I have guessed at the location of our camp as well as I can. We are scouting now in all directions “through the country after leaving Marietta.” Are now located “on the left of the army, about four miles from the Chattahoochee River.”

-”On the 1st, our division marched from Lost Mountain and were joined by General Stone man’s cavalry.” We came upon the enemy on the 3rd “about three miles from the river.” “We maneuvered around a great deal and skirmished very little.” “They had artillery and so did we.”

-”We left our horses back a short distance and crept carefully through the thick brush until but a narrow little field intervened between us and the rebels.” “We lay flat on our bellies and opened fire.” “They seemed to be in a pretty strong force and in a good position and they returned fire.”

-”We soon fell back, having discovered the position of the enemy.” “That was what was required of us.”

-”On the 4th we marched back to near Lost Mountain and learned that the rebels had Kenesaw Mountain on the night of the second and that our army had gotten some distance below Marietta.”

-”On the 5th our division came through Marietta.”

“Yesterday...they shelled us a little from the other side but no damage.” “The rebels are now all across the river.” “It is strange they could get our of the fix they were in if the position of the two armies were correctly represented, with such a very slight loss.” ..”I believe we have taken more than 2,000 prisoners in the operation.” “The next line of defense is the river.”

-The last letter received from you was June 12th. “They are like angel's visits in more ways than one.”

-Pleasant weather now but very hot, yet my health is good. The boys you know are also doing well. “A great many.. are dismounted and left behind in different places.” “The horses have become worn out or are killed and it is impossible to get us supplied.” “There are no horses left in the country by the time we get to it.”

-”I find myself wondering how you passed the Fourth”... “and hope you had a pleasant time.” On the Fourth..”I had the misfortune that morning of having a dry twig of a tree switched into my left eye while it was open.” “.The surgeon after examining me, took his knife and dug into

the eyeball to get out the a sliver.” “It bled considerable.”
“I was nearly blind and crazy with pain all day but the next day it was better and soon well.”
-”We have one source of amusement here....”. It’s “reading letters found on rebels from friends at home.” “I never find these letters for I never rifle the pockets of a dead man for any plunder.” Among the personal things we’ve found and read were a marriage proposal letter, and an attached Daguerreotype “showing that she was pretty young and good looking. Also found was a soldier’s diary for the month of June, “probably written for some newspaper publication.” “I would have given considerable for those letters to send home as curiosities but they could not be bought.” “Letters from women to their husbands are usually full with begging for their husbands to come home and wishes for the war to end in some way and telling of their sacrifices at home, their suffering for food.”
-”Kiss Willie for me and if possible imagine yourself being kissed by your..” Perry

Doc.#92of 118:

To Frankie from 7 miles from Atlanta, Georgia,
dated, July 19th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-The letter you received on the 16th expressed my “down-hardheartedness at the time”...”and was not calculated to cheer you or give you much comfort.”
Today my spirits have been lifted for the better and “you need have no fears of my dying of grief or (incomplete sentence here).”
...”homesickness, going crazy or anything of the kind”.
-”You had a rather lonely Fourth.” “I would think you could afford to go out from home once in a while and have some pleasure.” “Do not be the 'lonely war widow' all the time.” This day “we were on the march”...going through Marietta” and five miles so away from there experiencing “some hard fighting.”
-”Yesterday for the enemy we encountered a heavy artillery fire on the fort which contained our battery.” The rebs “crossed several miles above here and have wound around to the left” and are thought to be “but three miles from Atlanta.”
-”Last night our men drove the rebels from their positions where they did much damage to our battery.” Never have I seen anything before like this as “the rebels surrounded themselves, all all the way from Kenesaw Mountain to the river with works that few men could penetrate.”
“They constructed with great labor”...and “must have had Negroes working on them a long time.”
-Now I can begin to understand why our assault failed

on June 27th “with the loss of 2,000 men.” I observed where the assault took place. “Trees were torn and splintered and some were marked with bullets.” “The rebels stayed...” secure behind their works, but a small crack to shoot through.” “I can hardly see how any of our men got back alive.”

-I don't doubt that “between here and Atlanta..any amount of fortifications and that it will cost thousands of lives....”. “But it will be taken in the end” „as “our army outnumbers theirs and we can flank them as we have done before.”

-Bill Bowers recent letters mentions his sickness but he reports the doing well of Eli Horton. “I cannot help but think it was a mistake about his arm being amputated.”

-Just received the news of Captain (William W.) La Grange in Ripon, who had suffered long.

-All the boys are doing well now. Received your stamps. The warm weather today makes me feel “languid”

-July 20th. Morning. The mail goes out early today. There was heavy fighting along the river last night and I could even hear the bullets whizzing by.

-We are receiving newspapers “quite regularly” now. “The great rebel raid into Maryland” has monopolized all the newspaper space but has not strained our anxieties here. There is common belief to think that “Grant would be fooled into withdrawing any of his army near Richmond.”

Doc.#93of 118:

To Frankie from camp headquarters near Vinnings, Georgia, dated, August 8th, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-The last letter of August 1st I wrote you came just after my return from a raid. While writing ..”a rumor came that the whole command had been cut up and scattered...”

-4th Indiana Major Purdy's report included his supposition that “all the rest were lost, but they have been coming in ever since.”

-”On the 3rd,. General (Edward Stanton) McCook came in with 1,000 men, stragglers and dismounted who had been wandering through the woods for a week, and are still coming in, ragged, half starved, with their bare feet blistered, scratched and torn by briars and thorns.” “They dared not show themselves on any road or near any houses for fear of being picked up by scouting parties of rebels..” “These men became dismounted at the river..pressed by the rebels, they could not get their

horses across.” “About 60 of our regiment were” on this expedition.” All but 20 have returned and with the recent loss of 11 more, that makes a total loss of 31. We have now lost from the entire expedition around 1,000 men.

-In addition our losses include some valuable officers including Colonel (William H.) Torrey (a prisoner July 30th, 1864 at Newmann's Station, Georgia, died August 2nd, 1864). Also included Dr. (Horace T.) Persons (Albany, Wisconsin), our surgeon, and Major (Nathan) Paine (Oshkosh, Wis.) KIA, July 28th, 1864 at Campbell town, Georgia).

-At this time I will talk no more war news. “ You must think I am a strange person being so fortunate or else you might think my stories are all exaggerations.” “I have not written anything of myself which is not strictly true.” “There is certainly an overriding power that directs missiles of death as well as everything else.” “Of this fact I have the most trying times I do not become excited or confused and I have possession of my faculties.” “I am able to turn all to my advantage that circumstances permit.” “I flatter myself that I have never been mean or cowardly by sneaking to the rear when it was my duty to be at the front.” “One thing you can be sure of, I shall never heedlessly throw myself away.” “I have too much to live for and the glory would not pay.”

-”No Frankie, you can safely calculate on seeing me at home in a few months, the same old 'Josie' that I used to be only looking somewhat older, a little more bent over, a little more clumsy in movement and a great deal lazier.” “I hope I will be no more fretful or fault-finding or cross than when I left home .” If you hear of my being killed, do not for an instant believe it.” “It will certainly be a mistake.” “I know of a great many of such mistakes myself.” “If you hear that I am missing you can calculate I will show up somewhere.” “Allow me to make a prediction.” “We will live together for many years to come and enjoy a moderate amount of happiness and a full share of the poverty.” “I shall be a great story-teller to the Goodrich race.” “The older I grow the more wonderful will become the achievements of my youth.” “I see us, both old, sitting in a humble dwelling with our grandchildren around us, you a

kind, fat, be speckled, good -natured lady, knitting for the boys.” “I shall tell them the most miraculous stories about the war ever imagined, until they think there never was such a man as Grand-pa and they will wonder why he has not made a rank of general.”

-”I am well and so are all the boys with whom you are acquainted.” “The mail is expected soon.”

“Yours as ever.” Perry

Doc. #94 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated, August 15th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Another mail delivery but no letter from her and he recollects the last reading of her letter was dated the tenth of July while she should have by this time read his letter of August 8th.

-Describes to her the small town of Carterville, its proximity to Atlanta, and the now silence of cannon he had been so accustomed to hearing.

-The First and Second Brigades are picketing and scouting but the horses are so” worn down.”

“The country is invested with bands of rebels and bushwhackers that use every opportunity to come down on the railroad.” “Joseph Wheeler's cavalry is threatening Dalton.” “One rumor” includes that “12 miles of track” in that area are torn up.

-”Both the Second Indiana and a part of his regiment is yet to return”,.. and “I have no news of the front since we left.”

-”One year ago we were feasting on apples, peaches, sweet potatoes, and other goods at Larkinsville.” But now all fruits are scarce “having been destroyed by a late frost.”

-”The weather is very hot and sultry, with showers of rain nearly every day.” “The soldiers are generally healthy” ..and “My health is good.” “Bill Bowers is still in Chattanooga and is not very well.”

-”The term of service of about 150 of our boys expires on September 1st.” “That is all that is left of the first four companies, originally about 400.” “They will probably soon start for home” ..and “I wish I could go with them.” “How I dread another winter in the field.” “At times I feel I can never endure it.”

-”Once I had to make an arrest, bring to headquarters and tie a tree in a very uncomfortable

position, a soldier who had mysteriously gotten whiskey enough down his neck to cause his conduct to become very unbecoming.” “This man I have tied a few feet in front of the adjutant's tent, in which I am writing.” “He casts a savage and vengeful look at me.” “He dares not say a word for he knows I would gag him with a stick of wood in a minute.” “This is not a bad man naturally.” “When he is sober he will cherish no enmity toward me for what I have done.” “Dealing with such men is an unpleasant part of my duty.” “I rarely resort to such severe measures unless specially ordered to by the commanding officer of this regiment.”

-”I wonder if you have sent yours and Willie's pictures and they have become lost.” “Perhaps they have been captured and some rebel is carrying them around.” “Willie must be getting to be a great boy, though I can hardly think of him as other than the baby he was nearly three years ago.” “Let me see.” “He is in his 6th year, I believe, although it does not seem possible.” “I wonder if he would know me if I should come home.”

-”Did you get your \$5.00 from the state now, ..I would like to know.” ...“I am hoping I shall not have to write more than 40 or 50 such letters before you will see your.....” Perry

Doc.#95 of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated, August 30th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-He just received her two letters of July 31st and August 18th today! Reading them gives him such great pleasure. “...I have suffered from not reading them before.” “Few soldiers are as happy as I am in getting such good, long, loving letters from a wife.” “I am sorry you had so much to do and so much on your mind, together with your sore eyes prevented you from writing sooner.” “I do hope your eyes are well.”

-”Colonel La Grange has been exchanged.” “He arrived on the 20th and now commands the brigade.” “He is surely a strange man.” “He was married a day before he left the state for the war, was home a few days two years ago when he was very sick and he has not been home since.” “The Colonel is now working hard to get his brigade remounted and fit for service at the front where he

is always desirous of being.”

-We have to be very active night and day here to protect the railroad and government property from being destroyed”

-Charles spends writes a paragraph mentioning disgraceful conduct by the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry on July 28th.

-”Frankie, it is of no use to worry.” “I must stay on until the 8th of March.” ..”Those officers who have been promoted ought not to be.” “Am very disappointed that they have to stay three years from their last muster period.”

-”You say David (Goodrich) is determined to enlist this time.” “I wish he could stay home until I come.” “In fact I do not like to have him go at all.” “If he must..he should join the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry.”...”I would not willingly want to be guilty of anything that would discourage enlistment in the regiment.” “I have written if for David to help him choose his regiment.”

-...”Am enclosing a photograph of Lieutenant Colonel Torrey”...”one of the bravest men who ever lived.

-Sergeant Goodrich ends this letter with, “I came near forgetting the stamps you were so thoughtful to send me.” “My sheet is full.”

Your Perry

Doc.#96 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, dated, August 31st, 1864,
from Cartersville, Georgia

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens this letter with divulging his feelings about another incident of disgraceful conduct. What he writes her, she must keep confidential as Charles fears if the information gets back to regimental headquarters he could lose his good standing and be punished.

-He closes choosing not get specific about any of the specific details other than to mention Some of the boys have been caught and the possibility “of not all mischief being done.” ...”Some of the boys start home tomorrow” as.. “their term of service expired today.”

-”Remember this in a private letter” ..(sentence fragment). Perry

Doc.#97of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated,

September 6th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”I wrote you on August 28th and 31st..with little news to write.” “We hear about Atlanta being taken”..and “Sherman has obtained a great victory over the rebels some 30 miles below Atlanta.” Also...”Wheeler has destroyed considerable railroad between Chattanooga and Nashville.” But you probably know more about this than I in the field.

-It's been a month since he has heard cannons sounding, and believe it or not ..”I have longed to hear them once more.” “I certainly dislike being at the rear of the army where so many cowards and shirks find their way..”.

-Here and now no excitement to speak of, just. “roving bands of rebel soldiers prowling about firing at our forage trains”..and “picking up lawless soldiers who stray far from camp, etc.”.

-He writes now “being lawless and reckless” himself, and desiring to “go into the country to get some peaches and apples, of which there are very few.” Always much trouble passing by picket lines.”

-On his way in the woods to forage, he happens upon “One of the few plantations not deserted by its wealthy and aristocratic owner.” This man stated,..”He would willingly give up his stock of fine Negroes”...”if it would only bring peace.” a Going into his orchard, “He had a few peaches and plenty of apples which he politely and freely offered.”

-”On the First”..”many men from Ripon ...started for Chattanooga to be mustered out.” “It was evident in many a silent tear and shockingly uttered goodbye.” “Three years ago were 400 men”...”now scarcely 50 are present.” “Where are the rest?”

-”Colonel La Grange started for home on the 1st with the boys.”

-”I have been looking over this letter and am ashamed of it.” “The style is so egotistical, so much like Zeek or some other blowhard that I have a mind to burn it up.”

Charles closes with, “I received a letter from Bill Bowers today, dated, August 31st..”and “His health is pretty good.”

Your husband

C. P. Goodrich

Doc.# 98 of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated,
September 14th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”Again I find myself seated to write you.” I last wrote to Sarah on the 11th in answer to her.”
-”Since I wrote Sarah, I have done some pretty hard riding.” “About 200 men from our brigade, more than half from our regiment started out on a scout on the evening of the 11th”...marching “all night up the north side of the Etovah River for some 35 miles hoping to surprise and break up a force Georgia State Militia.” “We found no force having dispersed to their homes in the mountains.”
-”We frequently see small squads of two or three rebels galloping through the woods and fields.” “There are about a half dozen of them following close behind our rear guard for several miles, perhaps to pick up stragglers.”
-Expecting some relief and rest upon returning to our camp, we were quickly sent out again upon hearing that “our forage train was attacked some three miles down the river while going out after corn.”
-”We soon came to where the train had been attacked by about 100 rebels.” “They left after driving off the train guard.” “They wounded some of our boys and took some others prisoner”...and “They also took away some 400 mules”, leaving “most of the wagons scattered on the road.”
-Within another hour.”we ran out of horses about 15 miles without halting them.”
-”Captain (Henry) Harnden (of Rome, WI.) came back home yesterday with a Major’s commission.” “His wound is not yet well, having but little use of his right arm.”
-”You see by what I have related, some of the nature of duty here.” “While a large force can go anywhere it pleases without molestation, single individuals or small bands are in constant danger if outside the camp.” “Orders are very strict against men leaving camp without permission, yet heedless and lawless fellows are commonly going out and frequently getting grabbed.”
-Charles closes with ..”My health is first rate” ..and “I can stand riding night and day without much fatigue.” “I am not required to out on these scouts unless the whole regiment goes.” Perry

Doc.# 99 of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated,
September 20th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with..”While the rest of the boys who have leisure time enjoying themselves after having an exciting game of ball in front of headquarters, the dream of home, which is uppermost in my mind, impels me to withdraw quietly from the laughing, shouting throng and permit some of my thoughts be taken on paper.”

-”It has been impossible for me not to have a feeling of sadness and deep discouragement when I first became aware that I was to spend the next winter, all the time from October 19th to March 8th in the army, with the comforting prospect of the usual snow and mud of winter and out-of-doors bivouac, instead of being at the dearest of all of affairs, for I deem it selfish, unpatriotic, and dishonorable to complain at having to serve the government that has for so long protected in our rights and under which we have been prosperous and happy.” “I must regard it as my misfortune simply which must be made the best of, that I have to serve out four winters to make a three year term.” “While thinking of a home and the future, I voluntarily ask, “What is the prospect when I do get home?”. “Is it toil, unceasing toil and poverty as it has been?” “Perhaps so.” “But then I shall have you to share and lighten my toil with your love and sympathy.” “We shall have out dear Willie to toil for.” “It shall be a pleasure to be able to furnish the means of getting him an education and giving him a change of being somebody in the world.”

-”Another idea strikes me.” “Ever since I came to Wisconsin 18 years ago, I have by unceasing labor, endeavored to lay up something so that in the decline of life we might live comfortably.” “How have I succeeded?” “By the practice of the most rigid economy and self-denial, I am at least the owner of a small piece of ground.” “Can a man, by honest industry gain a competence during his natural lifetime?” “I doubt it.” “Others who started out with me have become rich, but have they done it honestly?” “If they have not then I do not envy their riches.” “The old maxim is “Treasure must by toil be brought!” “Now the question is, after I get home, will I have bought any leisure?” “I know I

owe no man a dollar.””I am free from all the slavery of debt.”

-”I have received no letter from you since that long nice one finished August 18th.” “I read it every 3 or 4 days and still find pleasure therein.” “I am getting somewhat impatient to get another one of those pictures for which I have been anxiously waiting since last winter when I lost the other ones.” Charles comments, all news continues to be always “the same old thing”...full of “bushwhackers and guerillas lurking around and occasionally picking up some of our boys who heedlessly...ramble off into the country.”

-Charles reports that the regimental health is good, though “a few are sick with fever and diarrhea. “Henry Griebner..the regimental postmaster is very sick.” “We keep him here choosing to take care of him ourselves rather than sending him to the hospital among strangers.” “But I fear with all our care he will never recover.”

-”Last night while the angels had full possession of my facilities, I transported in my imagination far beyond the scenes of suffering, misery and desolation which the horrible war has filled this fair land, to my peaceful and quiet home.” “I dreamed that I clasped both you and Willie in my arms at once.” “Oh what a happy moment was that!” “The happiness was too great for a man to enjoy in a long dream, and I awoke, alas, to cruel reality.” “This dream will be realized.” “I feel it.” “I know it!”

Perry

Doc.#100 of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated, September 27th, 1864

Noteworthy:

- Charles opens with her goes a “customary letter” with the reminder that he has not seen a letter from her “in some time.”

-He reports hearing from Sergeant William Rees of Oakland that “David Goodrich enlisted about the first of the month and asks her, “Why don't some of you write and tell me about it?” “Now that he has enlisted I have a feeling that seems to forebode coming evil every time I think of him.”

-He reminds her, “Sarah wrote a long time ago and mentioned you had some pictures to send me.”

“Why don't they come?”

-”Our postmaster of whom I wrote you last week died on the 22nd.”

-”Four officers of the 1st Battalion of our regiment have been mustered out.” “Lieutenant Williams (Ft. Atkinson) was one of them .” “A late order of the War Department has modified all previous orders. “Officers who have served three years from their first muster into the service, can be mustered out with their companies provided there are not enough men in company who have joined as recruits, to constitute a minimum company...”

-”We have been having quite times lately and have not chased bushwhackers for several days.” “Night before last some guerillas tore up rails between Acworth and Marietta and burned a train of cars.”

-Been in this camp “7 weeks”, “the longest time we have stayed in one place. “ “The boys are getting pretty good quarters built.” “They strip off the coverings and tear up the floor of deserted dwellings, some of them fine two story homes to build their shelters.”

-I'd love to come home unannounced today and find out what you and Willie are doing. “I wonder if Willie is playing soldier and what he is talking about now?” “Does he go to school and does he learn fast?” “Is he a good boy to his Ma?” “Does he do his chores for her when he can and help her when she has work to do?” “Does he grow fast and is he healthy?” “Frankie, is he almost six years old?” “Do you suppose he would know me if I came home?”

-”We get the news here pretty regularly.” “We have newspapers from all parts of the northern states. “Sheridan had a glorious victory in Virginia.” “If Richmond could be taken before election time then “Old Abe” would surely be elected.” “The the disheartened rebels would throw down their arms and the southern confederacy would crumble to pieces.”

your Perry

Doc.#101 of 118:

To Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated, October 8th, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-Charles opens with, “I have not written since the 27th because our communications are cut off and no mail passes.” “Haven't heard from you lately.” The rebels “are making desperate attempts to compel

Sherman to fall back to Atlanta.”

-”While the rebel cavalry under Forrest and Wheeler were threatening our communications between the Chattanooga and Nashville, their main army crossed the Chattahoochee River and took up positions near Dallas threatening this part of the line.” “On the 4th and 5th of October, a division numbering between five to six thousand took possession of the road below Allatoona, destroying about ten miles of track.”

“They attacked Allatoona five miles from here.” “On the 5th we had one of the most desperate and bloody battles fought in the war.”

-”Our forces numbered 1,500 fighting men and they successfully brought the rebels down in three different and determined charges.” We lost around 625 while estimates of rebel losses number around 1,500. “The fighting was in great part, hand-to-hand, the rebels charging right over our works.” “A great many were killed with the bayonet and were horribly mangled.” “Some of our boys were there the next day and said they could not ride through the town without treading on the dead and wounded.”

-”Allatoona contained a large commissary, enough to feed Sherman's whole army for ten days.” “The rebels nearly starved. “The rations they were given did not digest good when they found Sherman was sending a force to their rear.” “The rebels withdrew about 2 o'clock.”

-”Among the severely wounded left on the field, was found a woman dressed in a rebel uniform.” “She was in the thickest of the fight, where the contest had been hand-to-hand and the dead lay in heaps.” “She was wounded in the thigh.” “In another place was found one rebel and one federal dead who had bayoneted each other at the same instant.” “They still grasped their muskets.”

-”Brigadier General (John Murry) Corse commanded our troops in this gallant defense.” “A musket ball grazed his head and carried away his ear.” “Everyone of his staff was wounded except his orderly.”

-”The rebel army, under (John Bell) Hood himself, is now near Dallas.” “Sherman is after him with an army big enough to whip him.” “His headquarters is at Kenesaw Mountain.” “Hood will have to retreat into Alabama....”

-”Recent rains have raised the Chattahoochee.” “It is said we have captured the rebel's pontoons.” “The last bold move of the rebels has proven a great failure.”

-”On the 28th: Alex McGowen and five others of the

regiment got furloughs to go home.” “The last I heard they were in Chattanooga>”

-October 9th: We're informed “that our mail will be ready” and “would go north on cars at daylight.” mail from the north yet.”

-Weather has cleared and its cool. “Hard frost last night. “Been busy getting boards and brick to build me a cabin.” Hoping to have a fireplace in it. “Six of us are building a shanty together.”

-Am well and hoping “for a letter from you soon”.

Your Perry

Doc#102 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Cartersville, Georgia, dated, October 15th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Received her letter of September 18th. Know you had much on your mind with Willie being so sick. Please get someone to help you with all the chores.

-We've been very fortunate lately as the fighting seems surrounding us and missing Cartersville.

-Charles discusses the activities of Sherman and that he is always available to counter attack General John Bell Hood.

-This place is “swarming with guerrillas”, a constant annoyance. We're always getting ambushed when we go foraging. Stragglers who forage are often captured.

-Charles describes one such “forager” named “Billy” and his escape attempt.

-”Lieutenant Colonel Torrey was mortally wounded” in the July 30th raid, being “shot through the lungs.”

-He “received and answered Sara's letter more than a month ago.”

-Concerned about not getting “those pictures David has for me.” Most of the new recruits “sent out” have been “killed or wounded.” Charles reports on the condition of Corporal John B. Nicholson (Co. I, Menominee, Wis.).

-Unsure of “any prospects of our being paid soon.” Ongoing heavy rebel activity has prevented the paymaster from making it into camp.”

-Only 5 months left and “I'll shall be at home.” “Then I shall see all my folks.” “God only knows” on the conditions of my loved ones. “I hope little Willie is well and strong again.” Let him know “that Pa thinks of him every hour of every day.” Perry

Doc.#103 of 118:

To Frankie from Calhoun, Georgia, dated, October 29th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Am writing this evening "with a heavy heart" as there has been no word "from home of David or anyone else." Charles explains the history of getting his most recent mail and continues his queries, "Where in the world David is" and "I don't see why you folks can't write more often."

-It may be that David went out from Nashville the forepart of this month and was in a fight with Forrest (Nathan Bedford) at Pulaski." "A Captain (James M.) Comstock of our regiment came through Nashville..."and believes a man named Goodrich may be among them."

-While the rebels made their raid on a railroad, they tore up thirty miles of track between here and Dalton."

-The original members of Companies E, F, G and K are to be mustered out on the 31st. The Paymaster came today and our division will be paid as soon as payroll are ready, maybe in two or three days. "We are getting paid up to the last of August." That is a total of 8 months back pay.

-Been very quiet and comfortable here and "generally having a good time." Perry

Doc.#104 of 118:

"To my dear little wife" from camp near Louisville, Kentucky, dated, November 22nd, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Here comes another letter from me but wish it was "something new, entertaining, instructing, or amusing."

-Tis "a cold and wintry evening after taps." Us boys are playing the game, 'seven-up'. A heavy wind blowing at our tent tonight. A fire in our tent made a four foot square hole.

-Charles identifies the "boys" with him "are from our headquarters' squad."

-They're still "without horses" and "see no signs of getting any". "We have nearly 800 men here now."

-They also have a chaplain now. "His name is (George H.) Fox (from Whitewater)."

-Still no "letters from you lately." "You said..you had not heard from me since September 27th."

-David is pretty well as are all the boys"... "We have quite a number of sick."

-Now Frankie, I am going to crawl into bed." "Moore-head, the clerk is my bed-fellow." "I hope the time will

come when I have a better one.” Perry

Doc.#105 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp near Louisville, Kentucky, dated,
November 29th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-There is much leisure time here now enabling me to write.” Still unsure if you have received “mine since the one written September 27th. Wanted to know “if you received the \$150.00 I sent by Orlando Francisco (CO F from Fond du Lac). “Our payrolls are made out for another two months pay which you will probably get in two or three days.”

-Expect 'to get horses and equipment today.” With 140 new recruits just received our strength is now at 900 men. “The rumor is that Hood is marching on Nashville and we will start in that direction as soon as we are mounted...” “They are hurrying their best to get us ready.”

-A Thanksgiving dinner was given on the 24th especially for the enlisted men of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, and hosted by a Mrs. Gordon from New Berlin, Wisconsin. Her total cost for it was around \$200. and it included “turkeys, chickens, pies, cakes, apples, etc.” It was a wonderful dinner and graciously appreciated by some 800 men.

-The weather is very warm now and the boys are doing well. “David is nearly as well as I am.” “It will take but a very short time for letters to come now.” Please write.

Perry

Doc.# 106 of 118:

To Frankie from camp near Louisville, Kentucky, dated,
December 2nd, 1864

Noteworthy:

- “At last, we are nearly ready to move.” Will probably march around 8 AM tomorrow.

-Been reported of “the heavy fighting going on in Nashville.” “They say Nathan Bedford) Forrest is making for the railroad this side of Nashville.” “I am glad we are going.” “I dislike staying in camp near a town where the men get whiskey.” “It does such terrible work on the men.” “I would rather be in battle every day than in this place.”

-Got paid yesterday. Today “I expressed \$50 to you to Fort Atkinson.” “(Ed) Kearn is here and was paid \$170.” “Knowing he would spend his money for whiskey,..I coaxed him this morning to let me have \$100. which I expressed to George Dow.” “Kearn is rather poor and feeble.” “I suppose he will be drunk as long as his \$70.

dollars lasts.”

-”Warm and rainy” weather here. Probably “disagreeable weather for marching.”

-”David and I are well as are the rest of the boys.” “Kiss Willie for the little letter he wrote me and good night..”

Perry

Doc.# 107 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Camp near Mumfordsville, Kentucky, dated, December 9th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-”We left Louisville on the 4th and arrived here last night, having been for five days on the road.” “We have come 70 miles and are still about 110 miles from Nashville.”

“We’re here “to shoe some of the horses.”

-Weather now “is cold and disagreeable”..with “snow just begun.” We only have our tents now for shelter and “the cold and piercing winds chills the blood in one’s veins.” “Our headquarters has a wall tent with a stove so we are comfortable.”

-At present, “hostile armies confront each other at Nashville”, and “we are to resume our march tomorrow.” This kind of winter marching will mean “wading deep in rapid streams and splashing through mud holes, trailing through snow, horses slipping and sprawling over nobby and frozen ground.” “Men are half the time walking and whipping their hands through the day to keep warm.” “At night, some are standing picket while the rest are in camp either freezing, or in their blankets in the vain endeavor to sleep.” “This says nothing for fighting in such weather”.

-”But I will look no more on the dark side”. “We are sure to be healthy this winter.” “David is well”..”His eyes looking somewhat red around a smoky fire.”

-”Have received no letters since we left Louisville.”

“Three months more, Frankie, till the 8th of March and then you will be done looking for letters from your..”

Perry

P.S. “I enclose a ring made of laurel root which I have worn for sometime past.” “Last night while chopping wood, I broke it.” “It was given to me by a friend named Howland (Icahbod Howland, CO C and Pleasant Prairie) killed in action May 9th, 1864 in Georgia.) and I wish to preserve it.”

Doc.#108 of 118:

To his wife Frankie, from Mumfordsville, Kentucky,dated, December 27th, 1864

Noteworthy:

-I last wrote you "from this very place 18 days ago."
Our supposed destination of Nashville did not happen.
"A brigade of rebel raiders was at Hopkinsville under
General (Harlan Benton) Lyon."
-"We met our 3rd Brigade at Franklin, by way of
Russelville." On the 16th we met up with them at Hopkins-
ville and "had a little fight." "The rebs ran."
-"The rebs burned all the court houses, and robbed and
plundered the stores." "We had four wounded and they
had three or four killed and some wounded." "They lost
some 40 prisoners taken and some two pieces of artillery."
"We had a hard time and wore out a good many horses."
"Many of the men are tired out." "Some have frozen hands
and feet."
-"I am well and hearty." "David stood it well." Father's
letter recently arrived. Our 3rd Brigade and battery has now
left near Princeton and marched to Bowling Green.
Expect to follow there soon.
-In the process now of ferrying over the Green River. We
have had so much rain. Near Ashleyville "we pressed
a steamboat into Union service." Your Perry

Doc.#108 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp near Bowling Green, Kentucky,
dated, December 31st, 1864.

Noteworthy:

-"Your letter of the 23rd was received last night on my
arrival at this place."
-Our short mission here "for a day only..to shoe some
horses."
-"If our division instead of (Hugh Judson) Kilpatrick's
had gone with Sherman, we should have had a more
pleasant time."
-"We abandoned the pursuit of rebel raiders at Elizabeth-
town." "I do not care how much the rebels rob and
plunder public property in Kentucky, for the loyalty of
the citizens is questionable."
-While following General Lyon, 'we passed enough able-
bodied men who stood by the roadside with their hands in
their pockets, to have annihilated the whole crew of rebel
plunderers." "If Kentuckians will not defend themselves
then why should we fight for them?"
-"It must certainly be hard times in Wisconsin, everything
so high and such high taxes." Of one thing I am certain, "I
shall be home for a long time after my term expires."
-"David and I are well and so are the other boys." "David
has written to Father so you will be pretty sure to hear
from us." Perry

Doc.#110 of 118:

To wife Frankie from Camp near Nashville, Tennessee,
dated, January 7th, 1865

Noteworthy:

-”Nashville has changed since I was here last.” But then you know of “the hard fought battle here of December 5th.”

-Many fences are down and windows are broken. “The owners of houses must have thought their walls of wood and brick were rather frail and insignificant protection at the time the rebel army was living in front of them.” All around are the “shapes of shot and shell.”

-”The rebels did not reach the inner line of their works” and “were driven back with great slaughter” while “Hood” and what remained of his army, “crossed the Tennessee River in retreat.”

-Intentions are “for us to stay here two or three days” more. Our next march will be toward Florence, Alabama to track the rebel army. The country here is “laid waste and desolate in the extreme.”

-Charles spends the next paragraph telling Frankie how he nearly was mustered out of the army by a Lieutenant Dick, who in a “fit of insanity caused by hard drinking, committed suicide by blowing out his brains with a pistol in his hotel room.”

-Charles tried the day before to see the “chief mustering officer” over the case, but this man took a different view of what transpired.

-”No doubt you are greatly provoked at Lieutenant Dick for shooting himself.” “The war may appear to be so near to an end that I shall have no wish to reenlist.”

-Charles speaks of receiving her letter while at Bowling Green and mentions a number of men including Louis James (CO I 1st Wis. Cav.) that was killed at Atlanta, and Irwin Briggs (CO L, 1st Wis Cav) who was captured at Cleveland, Tennessee and died at Andersonville Prison in Georgia of disease, a (Bailey) Hutchins (CO E, 1st Wis Cav. And Hebron captured at Varnell's Station, GA.” Both were enlisted by Bill Bowers at Ft. Atkinson last winter. “It is awful to think of the suffering of our brave soldiers who have become prisoners.” “At the same time were are feeding and taking good care of thousands of rebel prisoners who will be strong and hearty men, rad and able to take up arms against us when they are exchanged.”

-”Frank, do you get from the state the \$5.00 now?” “Many are complaining that their families do not get it.” “We are all well.” Perry

Doc.#111 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp near Gravel Springs, Alabama,
dated, January 23rd, 1865

Noteworthy:

-”I wrote you last from Columbia, Tennessee on the 12th.”
No mail has been received by anyone here since then.

-January 16: Made and crossed a pontoon bridge on the Duck River and left Columbia the next day. “Before the war it must have been one of the most beautiful cities of the south.” “It is surrounded by pleasant country/” “Here was the home of James K. Polk.” We also passed General (Gideon Johnson) Pillow's plantation. Despite war's great destruction, many of these plantations seem remarkably well preserved. “They've been furnished with a guard by the government while many a good union family has been robbed of everything they possessed.”

-After a muddy march the past seven days, “we arrived at camp today.” “Tomorrow we go to Waterloo”, located “seven miles northwest of here on the Tennessee River.” We think we will there for quite a long time.

-”General (James Harrison) Wilson, chief of Cavalry is here.” “The union cavalry is concentrating here from all fronts.” “Forrest with a large force of cavalry is reported to be at Corinth, about 25 miles from here.” “It's reported that Rosecrans has had a battle with the rest of Hood's army and captured everything that ran on wheels, while Hood lost all of this men but 6,000.”

-”David and I are both well and so are the rest of the boys.” Hope we get some mail soon!

-Camp near Waterloo, January 25th: After marching here yesterday, we're encamped in a narrow valley and brook running through it, giving us complete shelter from cold winds and making it “the best of winter camps.” Have been notified “we'll probably remain here in winter quarters from two to three months.”

-The men have been working very hard to create “comfortable habitations” but they're without the proper tools and materials. “A soldier will cut quite large trees and split them into halves with nothing but a small hatchet such as carried in his saddlebags.” “He slides the logs from the top of the hill down into the valley.” “It is amusing to see him with a few old straps and surcingle or two, attach a horse to them and drag the logs to the place they are needed.”

-”The weather has been pretty cold here.”

-”Quite a large force of our infantry is on the other side of the river at Eastport, about one mile down river.” “We hear nothing of the rebels.”

-Our regiment has yet to receive any mail here. “I am getting anxious to read one of your dear good letters and hear from my dear little Willie boy and the rest of the folks.” “It is 43 days to March 8th!” “Just think of that!”

your Perry

Doc.#112 of 118:

To Frankie from Camp near Waterloo, Alabama, dated, January 31st, 1865

Noteworthy:

-We’re getting the mail now daily but “I wish I could induce you to write more often.” David got to letters, one from Father and one from Aunt Lucy “written at Fall River.

-The next 2 paragraphs Charles discusses the arrival of recently promoted adjutant (Ed) Harndon from Wisconsin, and the mustering out of Albert (J) Moorehead.

-Since the regiment's arrival here “no provisions could be found for the men as they have had to eat the feed corn (horse feed). The little amount of fresh beef is also of poor quality. Finally, a fleet of boats of fresh provisions has just arrived.

-Charles remarks on the big changes of the valley's appearance, ..”thick brush and timber have replaced little snug cabins.” “We are now hauling lumber about twelve miles and building stables for our horses.”

-Charles' Father in a recent letter discusses “the greatest exertion to fill” troop quotas. With the war winding down and so many lives already lost, it has become increasingly difficult to find volunteer replacements. “Those who manage to keep out of the army have their own way about it.” “Those who have given up the comforts of home to share the dangers and hardships of a soldier's life for their country's good must submit to the gross insult of having their property taxed to pay bounties or hire substitutes for the cowards.” “I will stop before I start calling hard names!”
Perry

Doc.#113 of 118:

To Frankie from Near Waterloo, Alabama, dated, February 6th, 1865.

Noteworthy:

-Just received “her good long letter..dated the 17th but not mailed til the 25th.” “It takes nearly two weeks to get here.” “I was sent to Nashville, then down to Cumberland, then up

the Tennessee River.” “We are well” and everything is the same.

-Charles writes of his confusion on advising Frankie of her “farm management” this particular time of year, and he remains still “uncertain” as to when he will ever get home. There are at present “a fleet of boats” ordered to take men to New Orleans and he may be among those ordered. At the end of the paragraph Charles vows..”The business of a soldier I utterly detest”, and “I do not believe soldiering to be my sacred duty.”

-He feels it is in her best interest to “engage Gunther” to do the needed farm laboring.

-”Dear Frankie, I have written you honestly and without reserve..”. “You feel unhappy and disappointed when you read this but I believe it is right and it is my duty to talk to you without reserve.” “I hope you will never condemn me or blame me for doing what I believe is my duty..” “I do hope this war will be over before Willie is old enough to be a soldier.” “I would rather be in the army six years than to have Willie a soldier for one year, for it is a dreadful place for young boys.”

-”I have a good mind to destroy this letter now that I have written it, for you will feel very badly to read it.” “You will think me cruel and think I do not love you and Willie as I ought.” “But I think you should know my mind so I will send it.”

-”I hope something in the course of human events will transpire to clear away the dark clouds that now hang over our country, so I can with satisfaction, go home to those I love.” “To stay!” “I am as every your-

Perry

Doc.#114 of 118:

To his wife Frankie from Near Waterloo, Alabama, dated, February 14, 1864

Noteworthy:

-Though camp life is monotonous, “there is a great dearth of interesting news.”

-Charles begins describing David's current location. (“David is some six to eight miles from camp down the river” and headed out yesterday “with a party of 100 of our regiment to load lumber on a boat to bring here to build stables.”). Many troops that were here are now gone.

-”I have had no letters from you since I last wrote on the 6th”.

-”The old men of Company’s H and M started for Nashville yesterday to be mustered out of the service.” “There were 46 of them.” They should all be mustered out by March 8th.

“They will take a steamboat and go down the Tennessee and up the Cumberland Rivers..” “I shall not go but stay here and get mustered out and go directly home.”
-”Albert Moorehead is gone” from Company M and ..”We will miss him very much.” “He has been offered a commission as commissary of the regiment.”
-”I am in hopes that my time will not be out before we leave here.” “..I shall probably be home by the middle of March.” “No Idaho gold mines could tempt me in the least to leave you and Willie again.” “My opinions are now the same as when the war broke out.” “I believe this country will be saved”...
-..”Hoping that we may soon be able to talk these matters over face to face, I am as ever your
Perry

Doc.#115 of 118:

To Frankie from Nashville, Tennessee, dated, February 23rd, 1865.

Noteworthy:

-”Contrary to my expectations, I found it necessary to come to this place to be mustered out of the service.” “..I came with Company I”..starting from Eastport on the 17th and arrived here on the 22nd.” “We came by steamboat down the Tennessee River and up the Cumberland River.”
-..”Obliged to stay here until March 8th, which will be tiresome...as we will have nothing to do except make out the muster rolls which will take two days at the most.”
-”I do not expect to hear from home until I get there.”
(If any letters from you come after I leave they will be directed to Eastport). “I am very impatient to go home and it almost seems impossible to wait until my time comes.”
“I do not feel like writing anything, for I keep thinking how much better it will be in a short time when I get home to talk and tell you....”
-If Bill Bowers comes in total 24 of us will muster out. Bill still remains in Chattanooga.
-We and the boys are all well and very impatient to go north. Only 90 remain in the service of Company I. Of those “64 have died, deserted, or have been discharged.”
“The fact that you may expect soon to see me must be my excuse for a short letter.” Your Perry

Doc.#116 of 118:

From David A. Goodrich to his brother Charles Perry Goodrich from Chickasaw, Alabama, dated, March 19th, 1865

Noteworthy:

-(David indicates his desire to write his brother Charles) “ a few lines to let you know where I was.”
“I have not heard anything from you since I left the regiment.”
“I do not know whether you got home or not.”
“I have not heard from home since February 12th”.
“I do not know where we are going.”
“Very likely we will go after Forrest (Nathan Bedford).”
“He is within 60 miles from here.” “Deserters are coming every day from Forrest's army.” “They report him to have only 4,000 strong and that he is about ready to leave.”
-”There was a letter here some time ago from Frank and I took the liberty to open it and read it.” “The weather is quite warm.....”. “I saw a peach tree at full bloom yesterday, also some plum trees.” “I suppose it is pretty cold up in Wisconsin yet.”
-”Winslow Barger (Cpl., CO. L from Oakland) and (George W.) Crosby (CO. F from Avon) got back to the regiment..”.
“They've seen pretty hard times since they were taken prisoner.”
-”I can think of no new to write so..”....”Give my love to Frank, Willie and the rest of the folks.” “Please write to me and tell Frank to write.”
From your affectionate Brother David A Goodrich
PS “ I am well and getting fatter every day.” “I weighed yesterday 150 pounds.”

(What follows is the last letter entry of the Sgt. Charles Perry Goodrich Collection written by Lieutenant J. M. Madurner to his dear friend).

Doc.#117of 118:

To “Friend Perry” from Headquarters, 1st Wisconsin Cavalry New Macon, Georgia, dated, May 28th, 1865.

Noteworthy:

“Friend Perry”,
-”Received your letter”....”so glad to hear from you.”
-”How I wish you could have been with us on the campaign which has been so long and eventful.” “Millions of dollars of property we destroyed all along the south.” “Our path could be traced by the light and smoke of the burning foundries, furnaces, machine shops and factories.”
-”We met with very little opposition until April 1st when our regiment had a little skirmish with a party of rebel scouts.”
“From that time until April 21st we were fighting more or less, all the time, besides doing heavy marching every day from 25 to 40 miles.”

-”Our brigade entered Montgomery, Alabama which surrendered to us just as the clock on the state house was striking 9 o'clock upon the morning of April 12th.”

-Within the next 2 days we met up with the rebels “about daylight on the Columbus Road.” “We fought them all day in a terrible fight.” “We killed several and captured over 100.”

-Our next regimental fight came at West Point, Georgia on the 18th of April. It resulted in our capturing of Fort Tyler. During the assault “about 150 of our regiment and as many more of the 2nd Indiana and 7th Kentucky were dismounted to storm the fort that was strongly garrisoned and had plenty of heavy guns.

-”Our boys walked up ...steadily ...under a perfect hail of grape canister and Enfield balls.” “The enemy dared not raise up and shoot any of our boys.” “If they did, ' Mr. Spencer' (rifle) said, “Lay down Johnny!” “Finally the other regiments got a footing”..”And then our boys rushed in.”

-”Steve Nichols (CO D and Chilton) and (Sergeant Joseph Langdon (CO B Waupun) cut down the rebs flag staff”. “The flag fell outside the Fort and was captured by one of the other regiments.”. “Shells fell into the ditch and six brave boys paid their debt to nature.”

-”We left Chickasaw, Alabama on March 22nd and reached Macon, Georgia early in the morning of April 2nd, having marched 753 miles.” “We then laid in camp for two weeks.”

-We shall probably start for Chattanooga tomorrow on the next day.” “I have tried to fill your place ever since you left.”

-”Give my respects to your wife and family and believe me, your sincere friend.”

Lieutenant J. M. Madurner

Doc.#1118 of 118:

Photo portrait of Sergeant Charles Perry Goodrich in old age. (Exact date of his age is unknown but could have been taken for a CW reunion gathering).
