

not Reg. 'imaginable' the  
men and officers all seem  
to be kind and respectful  
to the sickly. Col. Dyer the  
is one of the finest and  
ablest men I ever met  
with. This all will  
be very pleasant to me.

Tell Gen. Taylor; then  
our great respect for a  
Belknap Co. Reg. I and his  
friends think he can get the  
Chaplaincy - if he wants it, our  
hands to it in time.

An Brother-in-law just came  
from the Regt. She is  
very kindly - is short and  
but Emma is not yet able  
to walk, He is going  
out to see your father.

When next I see you

Yours most affectionately

Wm. M. W.

Wm. M. W. 23  
I have sent as though I  
would get home  
some time to night but I expect not being

(August)  
Hinton, 28/62 - 9. P.M.

Dearest Mike & Children -

Again, I  
must write a letter, in  
stead of going myself.  
Got out, I have got the  
Chaplaincy. This after-  
noon at 8 o'clock I was  
pharrited, almost man-  
nously, and began to  
make arrangements to  
go home, and so, a  
big party came, that the  
United States Officers, to  
March in the Reg.  
I want to see you tomorrow



So I have to stay. We on Monday. I'm  
am trying to charter an open will begin to  
extra train to take us get things ready for  
up on Saturday night. I'll see as fast as you  
to Sunday morning, if I can but a few days to  
I will come, but that we'll see, as I will  
be too late about it. If we at home. I  
I don't come at that time has asked to go to  
I will without fail be Brenton Barnicks, as far  
from on Monday. - do as possible.  
from the ferry at the New Deas wife & children  
Next, we will go I want to drink Nestlé's  
to Boston on Sunday or by in to this arrangement,  
Wednesday. I will as soon as possible. I know con-  
send a letter out to the sicked the matter well.  
to morning with Rev. will have thought much  
Robert Beethoven, who since I left home, about  
is going out. I will since I left home, about  
till I am, either to visit it, and now it is to  
to visit me come for to me will stay out to  
to come to his house as best, and see what

(page 1, right column)

Clinton, [August] 22/62 - 9 P.M.

Dearest Wife & Children,

Again, I  
must write a letter, in  
stead of going myself.  
At last, I have got the  
Chaplaincy. This after  
noon at 2 o'clock I was  
appointed, almost unan-  
imously, and began to  
make arrangements to  
go home, and lo! a  
dispatch came, that the  
United States Officer to  
Muster in the Reg.  
would be here tomorrow

(page 2, left column)

So I have to stay. We are trying to charter an extra train to take us up on Saturday night or Sunday morning, if so I will come. But don't be too sure about it. If I don't come at this time I will without fail be home on Monday. So have the buggy at the depot. We will go to Benton on Tuesday or Wednesday. I will send a letter out to them tomorrow, with Rev. Robert Brotherton, who is going out. I will tell John, either to wait until we come, or to come to our place

(page 2, right column)

on Monday.

You will begin to get things ready for me as fast as you well can, as I will have but a few days to be at home. The Reg. has orders to go to Benton Barracks, as soon as possible.

Now Dear wife & children I want you to sink resignedly into this arrangement, and bear it as well as possible. I have considered the matter well, and have prayed much since I left home, about it, and now it is so so we will try and do our best, and see what [---]



(page 1, left column)

[--]

out Reg. imaginable! The  
men and officers all seem  
to be kind and respectful  
Especially Col. Dye – he  
is one of the finest and  
noblest men I ever met  
with. This all will  
be very pleasant to me.  
Tell Bro. Laglas there  
are good prospects for a  
Clinton co., Reg., and his  
friends think he can get the  
Chaplaincy – if he wants it, and  
tend to it in time.

Rev. Brotherton just came  
from Rev Wileys, He is  
doing finely – is about well.  
But Emma is not yet able  
to teach, He is going  
out to see your folks.

Your most affectionate  
Husband

Sat. Morning 23

Things look as though  
wold get home  
some time tonight, but you need not bring  
the buggy down. U.



Had a nice western bonnet  
made at our own quarters & we  
a Regulator's house - plastered &  
painted - with rooms; kitchen, &  
Cooking-stove. A kitchen at the  
door, some "Pantry" - sitting &  
all in tile - of great weight  
The sides have their stoves  
The roof is not like at home. It is  
thought we would stay only a length  
of time, I would hope beyond  
home. For all the Regiments.  
The sides - we have 4 good stoves  
Rooms & kettles - rooms & Dr. J. J. J.  
One a clothes - press & a  
& intend to study in my  
one commence on my way back  
to-day, I saw a number of the  
the 14th & 15th have been sent to the  
place on "Parade". I saw Palmer  
and Coles and others that I know  
are here. They look rather bad.  
Bouquet is still a prisoner, but  
they are to be exchanged soon.  
There are about 3000 British here  
My health is fair now. I just  
"Reposed" in bed for 4 days & he  
I stay now in bed. I can do  
nothing, and every thing you  
might say might be the great thing  
to do. I find I have a good  
is more. I have a good  
Cotton when I am at the  
but I cannot talk, I see you  
my dinner & I must stop  
had to do it. I must stop  
and so do it. I must stop  
Be of good cheer - I will soon  
I will again. I must stop

In the Boat Northern  
60 miles from St. Louis  
Sept 1st 1862. H. P. P.

Dear Miss & Children:-

I have just  
washed my first German on  
board a Steam-Boat, and we  
leave a few moments to go  
Aunt I could be with you, but  
as it is so, am already far away  
and still going. I am however  
in good health, and feel like  
going on. Yesterday, we pro-  
ceed Burlington and Dr. J. J. J.  
sites. At Charms, we  
had to get into Barks, to  
go over the Rapids, 12 miles.  
I saw the remains of the  
Smith's Gemble. A beautiful  
Abraham, Lt. Stearns was  
with the Catholics. Last night  
the most of the were pretty  
house on the night



I had a. Stale beam. Some  
to pay 50 cents a meal for  
my living on the boat. My  
compensation is free, but from  
I board myself — see all the  
rest of the officers board on the  
boat, so I am going it with  
them. I was to reach this  
morning at 10:1, but just as we  
were ready to commence, the  
boat stopped to board so we  
went it off until 2:1. I started  
in the rear of the boat, and then  
was a little way back, and then  
the deck-cabin; and took of  
the boat, were all as full as  
they could hold. — There are  
11,00 on the boat. I started on  
a box, and did the best I could  
from my old tent for 3.16. Got  
along fine; also a number of  
shelling hens. — Like  
April — the most splendid  
singing — —

Some time to night we expect  
to get to St. Louis. I will this  
night show more, and send it.  
It is very hard resting on the boat  
so it troubles us.  
Got to St. Louis  
at night at 9 o'clock. Staid on the  
boat all night. The nearly eaten up  
by the mosquitoes. St. Louis is  
a large place — 140 thousand inhab-  
ants. It is 5 miles long. It built on  
the old French style — narrow, & irregu-  
lar streets. They have street cars. I am  
now going to ride in them out to the  
Barracks — 3 miles.  
Got to Ben-  
ton Barracks at 10 yesterday. It is a  
splendid place. It fine country. Every  
order & table. Park beautiful  
and fine barracks, and buildings  
"quarters" last night  
at a boarding house, at  
25 cents a meal. For the first time  
my bed was so good.

(page 1, right column)

On the boat Northerner  
60 miles from St. Louis  
Sabbath Sept. 7 – 62 – 4 pm.

Dear Wife & children –

I have just preached my first sermon on board a Steam=Boat, wo I will devote a few moments to you. Wish I could be with you; but so it is – I am already far away and still going. I am however in good health; and feel like going on. Yesterday we passed Burlington and Keokuk cities. At Nauvoo we had to get into Barges, to go over the Rapids, 12 miles. I saw the remains of “Joe Smiths Temple! A beautiful situation. At Keokuk we took the Northerner. Last night the musketoes were pretty bad on the boat.

(page 2, left column)

I had a State room. Have to pay 50 cents a meal for my living on the Boat. My transportation is free, but have to board myself – and all the rest of the officers board on the boat, so I am going it with them. I was to preach this morning at 10-, but just as we were ready to commence, the boat stopped to wood, so we put it off until 2. I stood in the bow of the boat, and there were 2 side boats full, and the deck – cabin, and top of the boat, were as full as they could hold – there are about 1100 on the boat. I stood on a box and did the best I could from my old text John 3,16. Got along finely. Saw a number shedding tears. Hope good was



done – We had most splendid  
singing -- --

(page 2, right column)

Some time tonight we expect  
to get to St. Louis. I will then  
write some more, and send it.  
It is very hard writing on the boat  
as it trembles so.

Sat. AM 8<sup>th</sup> – Got to St. Louis  
last night at 9 oclock staid on the  
boat all night. Was nearly eaten up  
my the Musquetoos. St. Louis is  
a large place – 140 thousand inhab-  
itants. Is 5 miles long. Is built on  
the old French stile – narrow, & irregu-  
lar streets. They have street cars. I am  
now agoing to ride in them out to the  
Barracks – 3 miles.

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM – Got to Ben-  
ton Barracks at 10 yesterday. It is a  
splendid place. A fine country. Every  
thing in order & stile. Looks healthy.  
Have fine Barracks, and buildings  
I slept in my “quarters” last night  
but ate in a boarding House, at  
25 cent a meal. For the first time  
took out my bedding – slept fine.

(page 1, left column)

Had a nice wooden lounge to  
make it on. Our quarters are  
a regular house – plastered, &  
painted – with rooms, kitchen, &  
cooking-stove. A Hydron at the  
door, have “Privey” - [--] &c -  
all in stile – A great many  
officers have their women here  
living just like at home. If I  
thought we wood stay any length  
of time, I would have you come  
down. For all the Regimental  
Officers – we have 4 good sized  
rooms & dining room & Kitchen.  
And 2 clothes presses. Today  
I intend to draw my “rations”  
and commence on my own [hook]  
yesterday, I saw a number of  
the 14<sup>th</sup> who have been sent to this

place on "Parole." I saw Palmer  
and Scoles, and others that i know  
are here. They look rather bad.  
Bonstell is still a prisner, but  
they are to be exchanged soon.  
There are about 8000 soldiers here  
My health is first rate. I just  
"revel" in peaches & Pears &c.  
They have peaches that would not go  
into a tin-cup. We can buy  
anything and everything you could  
imagine right here in the Bar-  
racks. I find the great thing  
is money – I have borrowed 20  
dollars from one of the soldiers.  
But I must stop, will see about get-  
ting dinner. I wish you were  
here to do it for me. Write soon  
send me the N.W.C. Advocate.  
Be of good cheer. I will soon  
write again. Yours

U. Eberhart



St Louis Sept 13<sup>th</sup>  
1841

41

Miss

Mr. W. D. Johnson

Chapman  
Linn Co  
Iowa



St. Louis Mo. 10 6 62  
Rolla Mo. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - 62.

Dearest Wife, + Children - Yesterday morning  
at 4 - got up - packed my affairs - got a bite of breakfast -  
and at five - was on my "Pet" ready to march on  
Sunday as it was - It is rather strange that we have  
to march on Sundays every time. Our officers are  
not to blame, but some body is. At 11 A.M. we  
took the cars at St. Louis. There were 1000 on the train.  
We had rather an unpleasant ride - no good water - and  
nothing to eat but a few cakes, and peaches which  
we bought along the road - we got to Rolla at 8 o'clock  
of night, and had no place to go to, and no tents, or Barracks,  
- Our tents were mis-sent to Sedalia - so I <sup>and the best</sup> laid  
down on the platform, and the "soft side of a plank"  
I had my carpet-sack for a pillow, and my quilt and  
faithful cloak for a covering. It was a beautiful  
clear night - just cool enough - and I slept grand,  
and feel first-rate this morning. Though we have  
nothing but the blue-vault of heaven, for any covering,  
and this is a warm day - Plenty of shade <sup>but they are not</sup> trees <sup>here</sup>.  
This is the most miserable - God-forsaken - of no  
use - kind of a country I have ever been in.  
Nothing but barren hills, and rocks - to the east.  
9 o'clock at night. This evening at 7 we got marching  
orders, to go to Springville, as we got news that  
the Rebel Gen. Heintzelman is coming with 30,000  
men. So all is bustle and confusion tonight.



I suppose there will be very little sleeping here this night - as we are to start at 5 in the A.M., and all the notions for 4 days to make out, and cook and all the supplies, and rations to hitch up for the first time. To-morrow we are to try marching for the first time. It is about 140 miles to Springfield - it will take us about 5 days if we have good luck. There are about 10,000 men here, and 4,000 are starting to-morrow - about 15,000 have already gone ahead - I think we will be able to raise an army of 30-40,000 - in 10 or 12 days - and easy with the rebels. We captured 2 rebels to-day - & a few days ago they caught a Rebel Major. They have him here. I saw the Secret Flag he had, to-day. They have a fort here, with several "40 pounders". To-night I am in a tent for the first time - and that is not our own. Our tents are to follow us to-morrow. They say we have a very good road from here to Springfield. I am glad that we are to go into a large army. Gen. Herren is here, and takes charge of our Brig-ade. I have not very much faith in him. But we have a good lead, that I think will help us out. Our officers generally, are a fine set of men. But we are hurried too much. - but think we can fight as well as the rebels can. -



My dear wife - I would have many things to say to you, if I could see with you, but feel almost too tired and sleepy to-night to write much. I hope you will all be comfortable, and as happy as possible in our present circumstances. Do, about that Scholarship for Warren, just as you can, and think best. And about moving up to Dexter, do just as you wish & like. And get just such books as you like - i.e. if you have the money for I have only 6 dollars to my name - and from this one must pay for my station - all but postage, all the Day Officers must. I wrote to John for some more money, but it will be hard to get it - after we get down south so far. But I will not suffer so long as the rest have any.

To-day I made the acquaintance of several Chaplains. I find them generally, very fine men - nearly all Methodists, - & of our men had to go to the hospital - to-day - that went off with us. The disease principally Malaria, some Ague. Oats & corn, are a very poor crop - and sell for 50 per bushels. Peaches & Apples are still plenty. But I have not found anything but to eat since I have been here. The people are awfully behind the times. And the one half are slaves. But I think there will be a change soon. And I hope for the better -



Write to me often, as I may not get all  
the letters. I will also write my 2 or 3  
days. Direct your letter to the Co. in  
via St. Louis + Rolla MO, and they will follow  
you. I must close - Good night - God  
bless you all. Kiss Flattie.

As ever, your affectionate Husband,  
Ch. Eberhart,

P.S. You might let the Editor see this  
- especially the first part - and let him  
make extracts for publication.

Enclosed, you will find a picture, which I  
sent to Flattie. Tell her to kiss it for  
me. You see I had it taken with my  
blouse on — only the upper button, buttoned.  
The hat, had to be too much on the back  
of my head, to keep the face from being shadowed.  
Still you can see a part of the wreath. You  
perceive that I have showed my lips. I let them  
(the beard) grow until a few days ago. I could  
not endure the hair on my lips, when eating  
and reaching. I had to pay 50 cents for this  
picture. They are high. If I had the money, I  
would send you some photographs, but I have  
only 6 dollars left, so I must put it off for the  
present. I have written to John for more money.  
Let Naomi see this picture as soon as you  
can — she wrote me to send her one. I am  
glad you went to Anamosa. They are enjoying your-  
selves as well as you can — all of you. I find  
my lot, thus far, much more pleasant than I ex-  
pected. Tell Flattie I am going to fetch that little  
"niggie". There were 12 contrabands came in this  
morning. I had quite a talk with them. They  
seem pretty intelligent. I could have one of the  
free grants, but don't as yet feel like taking one.  
But may afterwards — They have taken work in the  
Bay. I wrote to Rebecca to-day. Write as soon as  
you get this. Your most faithful, true, and  
loving husband M. E. Edwards



Pentagon Barracks - Sept. 13/64  
Dearest Little Treasure:-

This morning I sent you a full letter, addressed to Alvin; but this P. m. I got yours, Alvin's, and Mother's, so I will write again this evening before starting. Your letter was the first from you our hand since I left home. I began to think long to hear from the woman of the house. I had just been feeling a little despondent, but your letters roused me up and caused me to shed a few tears, for the first since I bid you adieu. You must not infer from this that I think but little of, and about you. I think of you almost every hour - and pray for all of you often. Since here at this place I read my chapters, morning and evening and have my devotions just as though I were in a family. And I enjoy myself well in Religion. I have spent this day pretty much with the sick, we have some 15 sick - a few have bilious fever.

(Envelope)

Rev. Mrs. U. Eberhart

Marion

Linn Co.

Iowa

(along left edge)

St. Louis Sept 13<sup>th</sup>

(postmark)

ST LOUIS

SEP

14

MO.



Monday AM 10 oclock  
Rolla MO. Sept. 15' - 62

Dearest Wife & children Yesterday morning  
at 4 - got up - packed my affairs - got a bite of breakfast -  
and at five was on my "Pet" ready to march  
Sunday as it was. It is rather strange that we have  
to march on Sundays every time. Our officers are  
not to blame, but some body is. At 11 AM we  
took the cars at St. Louis. There were 1000 on the train.  
We had rather an unpleasant ride - no good water - and  
nothing to eat but a few cakes, and peaches which  
we bought along the road. We got to Rolla at 8 at  
night, and have no place to go to, and no tents, or Barracks.  
Our tents were mis-sent to Sedalia - si I and the rest laid  
down on the platform, and the "soft side of a plank"  
I had my carpet=sack for a pillow, and my good old  
faithful cloak for a covering. It was a beautiful  
clear night - just cool enough - and I slept grand  
and feel first rate this morning. Though we have  
nothing but the blue vault of heaven for any covering,  
and this is a warm day - Plenty of shade trees but they are not here.  
This is the most miserable - God-forsaken - of no  
use - kind of country I have ever been in.  
Nothing but barren hills, and rocks [--]  
9 oclock at night. This evening at 7 we got marching  
orders, to go to Shingville, so we got news that  
the rebel Gen. Heintzeman is coming with 30,000  
men. So all is bristle and confusion tonight.

I suppose there will be very little sleeping done this night – as we are to start at 5 in the AM, and wall the rations for 4 days to make out, and cook. And all the mules, and waggons to hitch up for the first time. Tomorrow we are to try marching for the first time. It is about 140 miles to Shingville – it will take us about 8 days if we have good luck. There are about 10,000 men here, and 4000 are starting tomorrow – about 15,000 have already gone ahead. I think we will be able to raise an army of 30=40,000 in 10 or 12 days. And easy with the rebels. We captured 8 rebels to-day & a few days ago they caught a Rebel Major They have him here. I saw the Secesh Flag he had today. They have a fort here, with several “40 pounders”, Tonight I am in a tent for the first time – and that is not our own. Our tents are to follow us tomorrow. They say we have a very good road from here to Springfield. I am glad that we are to go into a large army. Gen. Herren is here, and takes charge of our Brigade. I have not very much faith in him But we have a good Col. that I think will help us out. Our officers generally are a fine set of men. But we are hurried too much, but think we can fight as well as the rebels can.



My dear wife – I would have many things to say to you, if I could be with you, but feel almost too tired and sleepy tonight to write much. I hope you will all be comfortable, and as happy as possible in our present circumstances. So, about that scholarship for Naomi, just as you can and think best. And about moving up to [--], do just as you wish & like. And get just such papers as you like. If you have the money for I have only 6 dollars to my name, - and from this on must pay for my rations – all but forage all the Reg. Officers must. I wrote to John for some more money, but it will be hard to get it after we get down south so far. But I will not suffer so long as the rest have any. Today I made the acquaintance of several Chaplains. I find them generally, very fine men – nearly all Methodists. 8 of our men had to go to the hospital today that cant go with us. The disease principally measles, some ague. Oats & corn, are a very poor crop – and sell for 80 per bushels. Peaches & apples are still [plenty] But I have not found anything fit to eat since down here. The people are awfully behind the times. And the one half are Secesh. But I think there will be a change soon And I hope for the better.

Write to me often, as I may not get all  
the letters. I will also write every 2 or 3  
days. Direct your letters to the 20<sup>th</sup> [Reg. Ia.]  
Via St. Louis & Rolla, MO, and they will follow  
us. I must close – good night God  
bless you all. Kiss Florrie.

As every your affectionate Husband,

U. Eberhart

P.S. You might let the Editor see this  
especially the first part and let him  
make extracts for publication.



Enclosed you will find a picture, which I send to Florrie. Tell her to kiss it for me. you see I had it taken with my blouse on – only the upper button buttoned. The hat, had to be too much on the back of my head to keep the face from being shaded. Still you can see a part of the wreath. You perceive that I have shaved by lips. I let them (the beard) grow until a few days ago. I could not endure the hair on my lips, when eating and preaching. I had to pay 50 cents for this picture. They are high. If I have the money, I would send you some photographs, but I have only 6 dollars left. So I must put it off for the present. I have written to John for more money. Let Naomi see this picture as soon as you can – she wrote me to send her one. I am glad you rent to Anamosa. They will enjoy yourselves as well as you can – all of you. I find my lot, thus far, much more pleasant than I expected. Tell Florrie I am going to fetch that little “niggie.” There were in contrabands came in this morning. I had quite a talk with them. They seem pretty intelligent. I could have one of them free gratis, but don't as yet feel like taking one. But may after while – they have taken 2 or 4 in the Reg. I wrote to Rebecca today – Write as soon as you get this. Your most faithful, true, and loving husband U. Eberhart.

Benton Barracks Sept 15/62

Dearest Little Treasure -

This morning

I sent you a full letter, addressed to Alvin; but his P.M. I got yours, Alvin's, and Mother's, so I will write again this evening before starting. Your letter was the first from your own hand since I left home. I began to think long to hear from the woman of the house. I had just been feeling a little despondent, but your letter roused me up. And caused me to shed a few tears, for the first since I bid you adieu. You must not infer from this that I think but little of, and about you. I think of you almost every hour and pray for all of you often. Since here at his place I read my chapter morning and evening and have my devotions just as though I were in a family. And I enjoy myself well in religion. I have spent this day pretty much with the sick, we have some 15 sick a few have bilious fever.



Benton Barracks Sept 15/62

Dearest Little Treasure -

This morning

I sent you a full letter, addressed to Alvin; but his P.M. I got yours, Alvins, and Mothers, so I will write again this evening before starting. Your letter was the first from your own hand since I left home. I began to think long to hear from the woman of the house. I had just been feeling a little despondent, but your letter roused me up. And caused me to shed a few tears, for the first since I bid you adieu. You must not infer from this that I think but little of, and about you. I think of you almost every hour and pray for all of you often. Since here at his place I read my chapter morning and evening and have my devotions just as though I were in a family. And I enjoy myself well in religion. I have spent this day pretty much with the sick, we have some 15 sick a few have bilious fever.

Camp - near Lebanon Mo. Sept 20<sup>th</sup> / 62

My Dear Wife & Children:-

It is 4 P.M. We have just arrived in camp, after traveling 15 miles. The weather is very hot, and the roads dusty, so that the men get very tired. The country is getting a little better. They have corn and apples - The peaches are nearly all over. There is plenty of Paw-Paws - Buck-eye - Grobes - &c. There is also plenty of Sassafras - I make tea of it. Made some for Mr. Col. the other day - he liked it first rate. I still like Mr. Col. - though he is not very social - but fully as much so to me as any of the rest. But we have a pretty hard go - master - Don't say much about it.

We thought this morning we would have a fight in a day or two - but to night we hear the enemies is gone - Some 5 or 6000 had gathered together near Springfield - but last Sunday they were whopped out by our troops that are there. This is Saturday evening, and I can't write much - my health is still first rate - never felt better - Others have colds, Chills - Diarrhea - but I have nothing of the kind. I walk a good deal, and let the sick ride. My Poney does well. The only thing I have to regret is the great amount of sickbeds; and we travel all the <sup>then</sup> Sundays not excepted, so that I have a poor chance to do anything for them, and it is distressing how fast some learn to "do evil" with so much good example. Wm. B. Fife.



I have just now learned that I can send this  
letter tomorrow, so I will finish it. I know  
I wish I could spend the coming Sabbath  
at home with you, in quietness - instead of  
travelling - There are several reasons why they say  
we must travel - one is - to get us to Springfield  
as soon as possible - to reinvigorate the place -  
The other is - we have rations only for 3 days  
more. Last night I dreamed, for the first  
time that I was at home with you. When I  
awoke this morning and found that it was a dream  
I felt badly. But soon the sound of the drum  
called me to duty, and I forgot it all. I  
make myself happy and contented. Have  
many expensive friends. Got a letter  
from Bro. D. R. Some of them are sick.  
Their child is not expected to live.  
Got a letter from Mother May - and one from  
John with 10 \$\$. I have only got one  
letter from you near hand since I left.  
Don't think you write often enough. Some  
may come yet - Accept a kiss from me  
to night - and 1 for Florrie - and if I live  
visit me - give him one. Goodness  
& mercy be continually with you  
is the prayer of your affectionate  
W. E. Chubb



Camp near Lebanon MO Sept 20th/62

My Dear Wife & Children,

It is 4 P.M. We have just arrived in camp, after traveling 15 miles. The weather is very hot, and the roads dusty, so that the men get very tired. The country is getting a little better. They have corn and apples. The peaches and nearly all over. They have plenty of Pon-Pons – Buck-eye – grapes &c. There is also plenty of sassafras – I make tea of it. Made some for the Col. the other day – he liked it first rate. I still like the Col. – though he is not very social – but fully as much so to me as any of the rest. But we have a pretty hard qr-master – Don't say much about it. We thought this morning we would have a fight in a day or two – but to night we hear the enemies is gone. Some 5 or 6,000 had gathered together near Springfield – but last Sunday they were whipped out by our troops that are there. This is Saturday evening, and I can't write much – my health is still first rate – never felt better – others have colds, chills, diarrhea &c – but I have nothing of the kind. I walk a good deal, and let the sick ride. My Pony does well. The only thing I have to regret is the great amount of wickedness; and we travel all the time Sundays not excepted, so that I have a poor chance to do anything for them, and it is astonishing how fast some learn to “do evil” with so much bad example. Good Bye.

I have just now learned that I can send this letter tomorrow, so I will finish it. O how I wish I could spend the coming Sabbath at home with you, in quietness – instead of traveling. There are several reasons why they say we must travel – one is to get up to Springfield as soon as possible – to reinforce that place – the other is we have rations only for 3 days more. Last night I dreamed for the first time that I was at home with you. When I awoke this morning and found that it was a dream I felt badly. But soon the sound of the Army called me to duty, and I forgot it all. I make myself happy and contented. Have many congenial friends. Got a letter from Bro. D. P. Some of them are sick. Their child is not expected to live. Got a letter from [--] May and one from John with 10 \$. I have only got one letter from your own dear hand since I left. Don't think you write often enough. Some may come yet. Accept a kiss from me tonight – And 1 for Florrie - and if Alvin wants one – give him one. Goodness & mercy be continually with you is the prayer of your affectionate

U. Eberhart



Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1860

Camp - one mile from Springfield Mo

My Dear Family: We arrived at this place yesterday, at 2 o'clock, and on my arrival, I got letters from my wife & daughter, written from M. Verneer and from my home - and from Bro. Isbell. I tell you it was refreshing news from a far country - after a 9 days march. I also got one from Mrs. Chubbart, on last Sabbath. The one you wrote on Sunday evening when it rained - it was just one week from the time you wrote it, until I read it. We had marched 12 miles through the dust, and I had announced preaching for the evening, and felt somewhat discouraged, when lo! the P.M. handed me your letter. It greatly encouraged me, and I went to work in good earnest and got up a little & and we had the best meeting we have had since I am in the army. I also got 2 nos of the C.W.A. Because we send the best. But have not received any of the Morian papers. Why don't they send them? Did they publish my pieces? I sent an article to the "Davenport Gazette", and he sent me the paper. But we must go and get supper - 5 o'clock at night. I have had my supper, and been to prayer meeting, and now will write a few more lines to you. First I will tell you what I had for supper. Good bread - a fine young chicken, and sage tea. At noon I had fresh beef & potatoes. I have made arrangements with a good German Cook to assist me a little. But am rather tired



of the cooking business. We, officers, can't draw  
our rations - We must buy them where we can  
and in this country it is hard to get much.  
It is a new arrangement they have made, that  
Officers can't draw rations. I think some of  
them are hiring very hard. Think Bro. Lucare will  
take me in at 2 dollars per week. This will  
save me all trouble. I must tend to my  
Pony myself. I can't trust these negroes. I  
must have a boy, unless I can have a trusty one.  
They steal like 50 - and the most of the officers  
are getting tired of them. To-day, I was in  
Springfield and made arrangements with the  
Agents of the Ct. Bible Society to have our Regt.  
supplied with Testaments, and tracts - ~~gratuitously~~  
I am a little more encouraged about doing good  
but, as a whole, there is a great amount of vice  
in camp - My men seem to respect me  
but it is hard to get them to refrain from evil.  
Springfield, is rather a nice place - or has been.  
It is almost ruined by the war. All busi-  
ness is stopped, but the war business - some of the  
stores & shops are open from 12-2 - all the  
men, of every rank must work on the fortifi-  
cations around the city - All the churches, but  
one are used for military <sup>purposes</sup> - a Presbyterian  
and I am to preach in it next sabbath - all the  
rest of the ministers have left. The city <sup>members</sup>  
about 3000



Oh! you folks in Iowa, have not the least idea  
of the horrors of this war. Nearly everything living  
both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, are  
destroyed. About the one half the houses are de-  
stroyed, and the farms thrown open and lying  
waste. In some places beautiful orchards all  
ruined. Both armies have repeatedly passed  
through - and it is hard to tell which is the worst.  
And those few that still live, are mostly women &  
negroes - and as poor as poverty can be. I saw  
but one church from Pella to Springfield and  
that was not finished - and heard of but one school  
and that was an Eastern lady with half dozen  
children that taught her own, and some of the  
neighbor's children. I know not how long  
we will stay in this place, but think we  
may stay a week or two in this vicinity.  
There are about 10- or 12,000 here. I suppose  
when we go we will go to Arkansas - to  
Little Rock. To-day I have been in the  
service 1 month - so I suppose there is due  
me at least \$125 - This will pay all I borrowed  
for my outfit. The next will be clear gain.  
But my candle is out and I must stop - goodnight.  
Friday Nov 26<sup>th</sup> - Will finish my letter - have just  
been to town with my dirty clothes - to get them  
washed - must pay 10 cents per shirt & collar - still have a  
clean shirt you did up for me. My socks & under clothes  
I wash myself.



My health is first rate - never better - we have good  
water here - a great many are sick. We left about  
80 in the different hospitals along the road - there are  
some 20 in the hospital here - The principal disease is  
measles - some diarrhoea - and some ague. They have their  
nearly easy - thus far only 3 have died in our Regiment.  
and they died at St. Louis. We have not had rain  
enough to lay the dust, since we left St. Louis.  
The weather is warm, and everything is withering.  
It is true the nights are quite cool - with heavy dews,  
we have plenty of peaches here, at 20 for 5 cents - but not  
near so good & perfect as those at St. Louis. I was glad  
to hear that Alvin has got a place - if I had been here, I  
would be glad - but it would never do for him to start  
after me - it would not be safe. If you can't get 15¢  
for the corn, I think I would rather buy. Do wish the rest of  
the things as you think best. Let me know in your next when  
you move. I am sorry for Bro. Woodward, I will write  
to her to send those papers to you. I will write to Bro.  
Taylor soon. Want him to write to me - I think he had better  
take the Chophlaincy - get the problems in this country - but  
I am Methuist. Some fine men - We often meet together  
the 18<sup>th</sup> Corps is here. I meet a great many acquaintances  
here. May from Pa. I wish you would subscribe for  
the Chicago Evening Journal for 3 months - and as soon as  
you read them re-mail them to me. I may not get news  
all of them, but would get some of them, and you would get them  
I would subscribe for it - but would not get the money - You  
must direct to Springfield, Mo. - to follow the Regt.  
We hear but little from the East - and not much from  
the West. We are shut out from all the world.  
Enclosed you will find the piece published in the Gazette  
we left out a part of it - because it may others that  
within the same. I will try and write again  
for you soon - we love here - Tell Elsie  
Pa. sees lots of Secesth - and plenty of niggers. You  
must be a good girl till I come home, and  
I will bring you something. Adieu to all  
May heavens blessings richly rest upon you.  
is the sincere prayer of M. Christman



Sept 25, 1862

Camp one mile from Springfield MO.

My Dear Family

We arrived at this place yesterday at 2 o'clock, and on my arrival I got letters from my wife & daughter, written from Mt. Vernon and from my Son – and from Bro. Isbell. I tell you it was refreshing news from a far country after a 9 days march. I also got one from Mrs. Eberhart, on last Sabbath. The one you wrote on Sunday evening when it stormed it was just one week from the time you wrote it, until I read it. We had marched 12 miles through the dust, and I had announced preaching for the evening, and felt somewhat discouraged, when lo! the P.M. Handed me your letters. It greatly encouraged me, and I went to work in good earnest and got up a little [-] and we had the best meeting we have had since I am in the army. I also got 2 no. of the NWA. Be sure and send the rest. But have not received any of the Marion papers. Why don't they send them? Did they publish my pieces? I sent an article to the "Davenport Gazette," and he sent me the paper. But I must go and get supper – 8 o'clock at night. I have had my supper, and been to prayer meeting, and now will write a few more lines to you. First I will tell you what I had for supper. Good bread – a fine young chicken and sage tea. At noon I had fresh beef & potatoes. I have made arrangements with a good German Cook to assist me a little. But am rather tired

of the cooking business. We, officers, can't draw our rations – we must buy them where we can and in this country it is hard to get much. It is a new arrangement they have made, that Officers can't draw rations. I think some of hiring my [bard]. Think Bro. Lucase will take me in at 2 dollars per week. This will save me all trouble. I must tend to my Pony myself. I can't trust these negroes. I won't have any unless I can have a trusty one The steal like 50 – and the most of the officers are getting tired of them. Today, I was in Springfield and made arrangements with the agent at the A. Bible Society to have our Reg. Supplied with Testaments and tracts – gratuaisly I am a little more encouraged about doing good but, as a whole, there is a great amount of vice in camp. My men seem to respect me but it is hard to get them to refrain from evil Springfield is rather a nice place – or has been. It is almost ruined by the war. All business is stopt, but the war business save that the stores & shops are open from 12-2 – all the men, of any rank must work on the fortifications around the city. All the churches, but one are used for military purposes save a Presbyterian and I am to preach in it next sabbath – all the rest of the ministers have left. The city number  
about 3000



Oh! You folks in Iowa have not the least idea of the horrors of this war. Nearly everything living both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms are destroyed. About the one half the houses are destroyed, and the farms thrown open and lying waste. In some places beautiful orchards all ruined. Both armies have reportedly passed through – and it is hard to tell which is the worst. And those few that still live, are mostly women & negroes – and as poor as poverty can be. I saw but our church from Rolla to Springfield, and that was not finished – and heard of but one school and that was an Eastern lady with half dozen children that taught her own, and some of the neighbors children. I know not how long we will stay in this place, but think we may stay a week or two in this vicinity. There are about 10- or 12,000 here. I suppose when we go we will go to Arkansas – to Little Rock. Today I have been in the service 1 month – so I suppose then is due me at least \$125 – this will pay all I borrowed for my outfit &c. The next will be clear gain. But my candle is out and I must stop – goodnight. Friday Sep 26 – Will finish my letter – have just been to town with my dirty clothes to get them washed – *must pay 10 cents per shirt & collar. Still have a clean that you did up for me.* My socks & underclothes  
I wash myself.

My health is first rate never better. We have good water here. A great many are sick. We left about 80 in the different hospitals along the road and there are some 20 in the hospital here – The principal disease is measles – some diarrhea and some ague. They have them pretty easy thus far only 3 have died in our Regiment and they died at St. Louis. We have not had rain enough to lay the dust, since we left St. Louis. The weather is warm and everything is withering. It is true the nights are quit cool – with heavy dews. We have plenty of peaches here, at 20 for 5 cents but not near so good & perfect as those at St. Louis. I was glad to learn that Alvin has got a place – if I had him here I would be glad but it would never do for him to start after me – it would not be safe. If you can't get 15\$ for the cow, I think I would keep her. Do with the rest of the things as you think best. Let me know in your next when you move. I am sorry for for Bro. Woodward, I will write to her to send those papers to you. I will write to Bro. Taylor soon. Want him to write to me – think he had better take the Chaplaincy – all the Chaplains in this country but 1 are Methodists. Some fine men – we often meet together. The 18<sup>th</sup> Iowa is here. I meet a great many acquaintances here – many from Pa. I wish you would subscribe for the Chicago Evening Journal for 3 months – and as soon as you read them re-mail them to me. I may not get news all of them, but would get some of them, and you would get them. I would subscribe for it but have not got the money – you must direct to Springfield Mo. “to follow the Reg.” We hear but little from the East – and not much from the West. We are shut out from all the world. Enclosed you will find the piece published in the Gazette he left out tha part of it because so many others had written the same. I will try and write again for you paper before we leave here. Tell Florrie Pa sees lots of Secesh and plenty of niggers. You must be a good girl till I come home, and I will bring you something. Adieu to all May heavens blessings richly rest upon you is the sincere prayer of

U. Eberhart



(9 at night)

Camp - 14 miles south of Springfield Sept 30/62

My Dear Wife: I have already written one letter to Bro Bond and one to Bro Shell, but before returning I will pen a few lines to you. I have spent the day in fixing up my things, and getting ready to march. To-night we received orders to be ready with 8 day rations by to-morrow. A battle is expected in a day or two. Gen Hindman is only 30 or 40 miles off with some 20,000 men. To-day we heard firing in that direction. We cannot yet raise their numbers, but think we can easily whip them as we are much better armed. We have 7 cannons in our Brigade - and a good many men in the army. Nearly all our men have Springfield Rifles, with 40 rounds of ammunition. To-night, from my snug little tent home, I can see the watch fires of some 20,000 men. Oh! what a sight. I suppose there are not less than 500 mappers, and 3000 horses & mules. All the corn in the country is taken to feed them. Oh! the desolation and destruction through this country. And here the country is pretty good - looks like Iowa. I still get plenty of preachers - all the army cannot destroy them. But I must say good night. Wish I could see you, and give you a good night kiss. - But must be satisfied with your picture - and that looks rather dispiriting - but is a great satisfaction to me - especially Flories. It looks so cute -



Oct 1, Am of Oct 1

We have just now received intelligence  
orders. The probability is that we  
shall come in contact with the ene-  
my in a day or two. Our men  
left on their arms last night, and  
put out their camp-fires. A good  
deal of excitement. I think it  
will have a good effect on the  
morals of the men.

I have not time to write any more  
but let this news alarm you!  
You know I always write the  
certain stances just as they are  
God will protect me

Pray for me

As ever your

Affectionate

Husband

(9 at night)

Camp 14 miles south of Springfield Sept 30/62

My Dear Wife, I have already written one letter to Bro. David, and one to Bro. [--], but before retiring I will pen a few lines to you. I have went the day in fixing up my things, and getting ready to march. Tonight we received orders to be ready with 8 day rations by tomorrow. A battle is expected in a day or two Gen. Hindman is only 30 or 40 miles of with some 20,000 men. Today we heard firing in that direction. We cannot yet raise this number, but think we can easy whip them as we are much better armed. We have 7 cannon in our Brigade and a good many men in the army. Nearly all our men have Enfield rifles, with 40 rounds of ammunition. Tonight, from my snug little tent home, I can see the watch fires of some good men. Oh! What a sight. I suppose there are not less than 900 waggons and 3000 horses & mules. All the corn in the county is taken to feed them. Oh! The desolation and distruction through this country. And here the country is pretty good. Looks like Iowa – I still get plenty of peaches – all the army cannot destroy them. But I must say good night. Wish I could see you, and give you a good night kiss. But must be satisfied with your picture, and that looks rather disponding – but is a great satisfaction to me – especially Florries It looks so cute.

Oct 1, AM 8 o'clock

We have just now received marching orders. The probability is that we shall come in contact with the enemy in a day or two. Our men slept on their arms last night, and put out their camp fires. A good deal of excitement. I think it will have a good effect on the morals of the men.

I have not time to write any more  
don't let this news alarm you!

You know I always write the  
circumstances just as they are

God will protect me

Pray for me

As ever your

Affectionate

Husband



Sunday

Camp near Newton, Newton co. MO. Oct 5/62 - p.m. 10

My Dear wife:- This beautiful sabbath day finds me 400 miles from home, out under the open heavens, without any tents, or anything to eat at present - but in good health, and in as good spirits as the nature of the case will admit of. I have nothing to complain of, but the wickedness that prevails all around. The hardships I do not mind. This kind of life I think agrees with me. I saw the Col. about preaching this A.M. and he said there was other business to attend to, so I will write you the history of the few days past. On last Friday evening at 7 we got orders to march to this place. We took no tents or wagons - only a few notions. It was a forced march, as we got news that the enemy was 12, and strong, and well entrenched, and our force that had attacked <sup>them</sup> were repulsed. So off we went in a hurry - marched all night. It rained part of the time. I did not get wet, as I got me an oil cloth cape, at Springfield that comes down below my knees - it cost 2.50. We brought up the rear. When about 2 miles from the place at 8 in the A.M. we got the news to go up on the Double quick. So our boys got wild with enthusiasm - and cast away their blankets, haversacks and rushed forward with a fixed determination to fight. The enemy, were entrenched on a large prairie, a flat, in a large stone barn - with 40 acres



enclosed around the barn, with a high Stone wall. From the Barn, when they had a very large canon the prairie gradually ascended for miles, so I could see all round for 6-7 miles. They "set the battle in array", and came up on two sides. We had about 10,000-22,000 pieces of artillery, about one half Cavalry and the other half Infantry - and 1200 Indians, with rifles on horseback - ~~It started~~ and my Pony, 2 miles off with the Dris & It was a terrific sight. The Kansas Regs made the attack, but after a few days - the enemies commenced to ~~skedaddle~~ in earnest. The Indians & Kansas troops followed them killing a great many - I know not yet how many nor how far they will follow - Our men were too much exhausted to follow. We are now awaiting our trains, and tents and then will follow on. The next place we expect to find them is about 30 miles from here, at Cross Hollows where they are well fortified. It is near the Arkansas line. I had strange feelings, when I saw them marching up to the deadly conflict, but could scarcely refrain <sup>from</sup> rushing right in among them. The Indians were faint, and looked awfully savage! Our Reg. took 2 prisoners. so much for us. The desolations of war. Think of 20,000 men, and half that many horses. only thought a neighborhood - grabbing up everything they can get. We had no provisions - and so our men killed all the cattle, sheep - hogs - geese - turkeys chickens & they could get. and took all the corn, wheat, hay &c. in the country - but I must close for this time. I have much to do.



Sunday

Camp near Newtonty, Newton Co., MO. Oct 5/62 – AM 10

My Dear Wife - This beautiful sabbath day - finds me 800 miles from home, out under the open heavens, without any tents, or anything to eat at present – but in good health, and in as good spirits as the nature of the case will admit of.

I have nothing to complain of but the wickedness that prevails all around. The hardships I don not mind. This kind of life I think agrees with me.

I saw the Col. about preaching this A.M. and he said there was other business to attend to, so I will write you the history of the few days past. On last Friday evening at 7 we got orders to march to this place.

We took no tents or waggons only a few rations. It was a forced march, as we got news that the enemy was 12,000 strong, and well entrenched, and our force that had attacked them were repulsed. So off we went in a hurry, marched al night. It rained part of the time. I did not get wet as I got me an oil cloth cape, at Springfield that comes down below my knees – it cost 2.50. We brought up the rear. When about 2 miles from the place at 8 in the A.M. we got the news to go up on the double quick. So our boys got wild with enthusiasm – and cast away their blankets, haversacks &c and rushed forward with a fixed determination to fight.

The enemy were entrenched on a large prairie, a a flat, in a large Stone Barn – with 40 acres

enclosed around the barn, with a high stone wall. From the Barn, where they had a very large canon the prairie gradually ascended for miles, so I could see all round for 6-7 miles. They "set the battle in array," and came up on two sides. We had about 10,000-22 pieces of artillery, about one half cavalry and the other half Infantry and 1200 Indians, with rifles on horseback. I started on my Pony, 2 miles off with the Drs &c. It was a terrific sight. The Kansas Regs made the attack, but after a few volleys the enemies commenced to Skedaddle in earnest. The Indians & Kansas troops followed the killing a great many – I know not yet how many nor how far they will follow, Our men were too much exhausted to follow. We are now awaiting our trains, and tents &c and then will follow on. The next place we expect to find them is about 30 miles from here, at Cross Hallows where they are well fortified. It is near the Arkansas line. O I have strange feelings! When I saw them marching up to the deadly conflict, but could scarcely refrain from rushing right in among them. The Indians were painted, and looked awfully savage! Our reg. took 2 prisoners, so much for us O the desolation of war. Think of 20,000 men, and half that many horses going through a neighborhood – grabbing up everything they can get. We had no provisions and so our men killed all the cattle , sheep, hogs, geese, turkeys, chickens & they could get and took all the corn, oats, hay &c in the country but I must close for this time. I have much to do.



Cassville, Barry Co. Mo. Oct. 14 1862

My Dear Wife:

Last Sabbath evening, after marching 12 miles, I got your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. and your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> with the little Box of Sage, time &c, and the littleness of your Dear Self. You may well suppose that "tongue cannot express" the pleasure and joy it afforded me - and in addition to this to see Mr. Elliott. I read letters until nearly midnight. The tea is in season - though I don't use so much since I mess with Capt. Barry, as they have store tea nearly every meal. But it may run out. So I put it all into the little sock. That candy peach is sweeter than our peaches in this county. I have not eaten that much Candy since I am in the service. There is none in this County, and I have no money to spend in that way. I am now leading a life of "self-denial", so I must deny myself of Candy. But above all other things, I prized the littleness. I think it the best I have ever seen of you. The one I had did not bring you fully to my mind, but this one hits the spot. I showed it to a great many that saw you at Doverport, and they all know you. I see you are getting better, I think Widener-hood agrees with you. My health is still very good. I still believe it will build up my general system, and make me a stouter man.



We have only marched 12 miles, since I wrote  
you last <sup>Sat.</sup> Wednesday, and that was on Saturday. We  
are now at this place, waiting for reinforcements  
May lie here some time; as report says, the  
rebels are 40,000 strong at Cross Hallows, and  
further down in Arkansas. so we will not go  
until we are strong enough to meet them.  
This has been a fine town: The co. seat with  
a fine court-house, hotel, and other buildings,  
but now there are only the women, children, and  
groves of 7 poor families left. A fine steam  
mill, and other buildings have been burned.  
The hotels, and some very fine buildings are empty.  
The men are either killed, or in one of the armies.  
The lower part of the court house is occupied  
by Gen. Jettan's horses; and the upper part is  
a jail for our prisoners. The law books  
are scattered all over - but the horses would  
rather have oats, than books. - far here we  
have nothing but green corn. This country is  
one mass of ruins. It will take 50 years  
to bring it out again. This morning I visited  
the graves of the dead of "Pea Ridge". We are  
only 20 miles from the battle field; and they brought  
the wounded men. I saw the names of many Iowa  
soldiers. I see many things, that I cannot  
write to you, but I write the most. And that  
I do pretty well for writing.



I think I have now received all your back letters. We have established a daily mail from Springfield to the army, so I think we will get all our letters now. But you would be astonished to see all the letters that come to the army. I am very well satisfied with the disposition of the cars &c. So just as you can, and you know I am satisfied. I sent a letter to Naomi yesterday, informing her that she could take music lessons next term if the teacher proved to be the right stripe. I also cautioned her against extravagance. I think I will draw 236\$ in a few weeks. Payday comes in 10 days, and then there will be due me 236 dollars. I get just 100 dollars per month - a ration, and my horsefeed. The horsefeed can not be commuted. The rations will be 60 cents per day - or 18 dollars per month. Of this I have not drawn any yet. If I get it, I will pay my pony - and borrowed money, and send you some to pay off all little debts. It is making money quite fast - if it does go through wet & dry. I wrote John to send you some money. I am pleased to know if I "really liked it" and was contented. I like it fully as well as I expected. There are some unpleasant things, and some pretty hard things to endure. But I am certainly as much contented as I could be without you & my family.



The officers, and soldiers all treat me with respect. I have not had a single unpleasant word with any one, but with the Q Master and that was nothing, only telling him positively that I must have my share of feed for my horse, he is a poor, do-less fellow. Last week all the Captains met and resolved he must go better or be dismissed. I think he will resign. Teal. Oye is still the same gentlemanly man that he was at first. I have to see a great deal of wickedness - especially swearing. During the marches, and rains, our meetings have stopped out considerable. So many are sick - over 100 in this Reg. - are in the Drs hands. They are not best - have diarrhoea. Don't take care of themselves. I visit the Hospital - at least once a day - pray and talk with the sick. I still attend to my horse myself - can't get a trusty negro - wish Allen was with me. I think I must bring him out over here next Spring when I come home. We have 6 women in the Reg. but they have had times. They wash & sew for their supports. I have my shirts with one of them now, in Capt. Cooks Co. I still have one shirt clean that you did up for me. I keep it for some special occasion. I have quite near my callus - we all have. I have just commenced wearing wadded stockings & drawers. I have again commenced letting all my beard grow but my upper lip. It is growing all over my cheeks how much he astonished at my beard - I will let it grow as long as Bob Dyes. My hair are shingled close. I wash my blouse every day, & my other coat Sundays. I have a canteen in which I keep my shates to drink, & to wash in the morning. I use all my bedding, but the sheets, one of them I have not yet unfolded - they are too easy suited. My bed is still soiled & clean. I can scarcely ever get strong to pipe my bed so I just spread it on the ground. I just put down my oil cloth cover to prevent the damp from striking through. The nights are pretty cold. I wear my over coat every morning, and go to bed at 10. I march just when I please - generally with the Reg. behind the Army. I balance my valley along behind the Reg. My tent is in the front of the field - just in front of the center of the Reg. If you return I have answered all your questions - all more I will answer.



(No 2)

I cannot always think of, or know, what would most interest you, so you had better ask the questions, I got the letter from Bro. Davis & Martin. I should a little rather had the Post-claim check, and made the thing for you sure. But if the money is sent I will leave it for the Agent, and you take the money. but not as you please I have not received the cash appointment. They may come yet, but you know them - or I tell you what to do - I saw me the Minute from some of the papers, and send them to me - never see to that will you my Dear & know you will. I sent a long letter to Ellen with Mr. Elliott. He is well & says Reg. is on the way here. Jane Weaver is in at I will see him. I heard to-day he was not far off. Give my best wishes to all my friends - and so many of my letters was you please - I may write to some of them by & by.







Cassville, Barry Co., Mo Oct. 14, 1862

My Dear Wife,

Last Sabbath evening, after marching 12 miles, I got your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> and your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> with the little Box of Sage, [--], and the likeness of your Dear Self. You may well suppose that tongue cannot express the pleasure and joy it afforded me – and in addition to this to see Mr. Elliott. I read letters until nearly midnight. The tea is in season though I don't use so much since I mess with Capt. Barney, as they have store tea nearly every meal. But it may run out,. So I put it all into the little sack. That candy peach is sweeter than our peaches in this country. I have not eaten that much candy since I am in the service. There is none in this country, and I have no money to spend in that way. I am now leading a life of "self-denial", so I must deny myself of candy. But above all other things, I prized the likeness. I think it the best I have ever seen of you. The one I had did not bring you fully to my mind, but this one hits the shot. I showed it to a great many that saw you at Davenport, and they all knew you. I see you are getting healthier, I think [--] agrees with you. My health is still very good. I still believe it will build up my general system, and make me a stouter man.

We have only marched 12 miles since I wrote you last Saturday, and that was on Sunday. We are now at this place, waiting for reinforcements. May lie here some time, as report says, the rebels are 40,000 strong at Cross Hallows, and further down in Arkansas, so we will not go until we are strong enough to meet them. This has been a fine town. The co. seat with a fine court-House, Hotels, and other buildings, but now there are only the women, children, and slaves of 7 poor families left. A fine stream mill, and other buildings have been burned. The Hotels and some very fine buildings are empty. The men are either killed, or in one of the armies. The lower part of the Court House is occupied by Gen. Totten's horses and the upper part is a jail for our prisoners. The law books are scattered all over – but the horses would rather have oats, than books – for here we have nothing but green corn. This county is one mass of ruins. It will take 50 years to bring it out again. This morning I visited the graves of the dead of “Pea Ridge.” We are only 20 miles from the battlefield; and they brought the wounded here. I saw the names of many Iowa soldiers. I see many things, that I cannot write to you, but I write the most. And think I do pretty well for writing.



I think I have now received all your back letters. We have established a daily mail from Springfield to the army, so I think we will get all our letters now. But you would be astonished to see all the letters that come to the army. I am very well satisfied with the disposition of the [--] Do just as you can, and you know I am satisfied I sent a letter to Naomi yesterday, informing her that she could take music lessons next term if the teacher proved to be the right stripe. I also cautioned her against extravagance. I think I will draw 236\$ in a few weeks. Pay day comes in 10 days, and then there will be due me 236 dollars. I get just 100 dollars per month – a rating and my horse feed – The horse feed can not be commuted. The rations will be It is 60 cents per day – or 18 dollars per month. Of this I have not drawn any yet. If I get it, I will pay my pony and borrowed money, and send you some to pay off all little [--] [It is making many quite fast – if it does go through wet & dry.?] I wrote John to send you some money. You wished to know if I “really liked it and was contented.” I like it fully as well as I expected. There are some unpleasant things, and some pretty hard things to endure. But I am certainly as much contented as I could be without you & my family.

The officers and soldiers all treat me with respect. I have not had a single unpleasant word with any one, but with the Qr Master. And that was nothing, only telling him positively that I must have my share of feed for my horse. He is a poor, [--]-less fellow. Last week all the Captains met and resolved he must do better or be dismissed. I think he will resign.

Col. Dye is still the same gentlemanly man that he was at first. I have to see a great deal of wickedness – especially swearing – during the marches, and rains, our [--] considerable. So many are sick – over 100 in this Reg. are in the Dr's. Hands. They are not [--], have diarrhea, Don't take care of themselves. I visit the Hospital at least once a day, Pray and talk with the sick. I still attend to my horse myself can't get a trusty negro – wish [Allen] was with me. Think I must bring him and you down next Spring when I come home We have 6 women in the Reg. but they have hard times. They wash & sew for their support. I have my shirts with one of them now, in Capt. Cooks co. I still have one shirt clean that you did up for me. I keep it for some special occasion. I have quit wearing collars – we all have. I have just commenced wearing wollen stockings & drawers. I have again commenced letting all my beard grow but my upper lip. It is growing all over my cheeks you will be astonished at my beard - I will let it grow as long as Col. Dyes. My [hair are shingled] close. I wear my blouse every day & my other coat Sundays. I have a canteen in which I keep my water to drink, & to wash in the morning. I use all my bedding, but the sheets. One of them I have [-] nice & clean, I can scarcely ever get straw to fill my bed so I just spread it on the ground. I first put down my oil cloth [-] to prevent the damp from striking through. The nights are pretty cold I wear my over coat evenings & mornings. We generally get up at 4 or 5 in the morning and go to bed at 9. I march just when I please – generally with the Dr. behind the army balances they follow close behind the Reg. My tent is [-] from the cold - just in front of the center of the Reg. Now I believe I have answered all your questions – ask more I will answer.



I cannot always think of, or know, what would most interest you, so you had better ask the questions. I got the letter from Bro. David Martin. I should a little rather had the quit-claim deed, and made the thing from [--] but if the money is sent I will leave it for the present, and you take the money and use it as you please. I have not yet received the camp-appointments, they may come yet but you preserve them – or I tell you what to do – procure me the minutes from some of the preachers, and send them to me now see to that will you my Dove. I know you will. I sent a long letter to Alvin with Mr. Elliott. The 22 Iowa Reg. Is on the way here. Levi Weaver is in it. I will see him. I heard today he was not far off. Give my best wishes to all my friends – and as many of my letters as you please – I may write to some of them by & by.

Now I must soon close. O how I wish I could  
take a peek into your "quarters" and take a look at you to  
night in your quiet prairie Home. And then  
would be that little bird of a Florrie – o how I would  
kiss her & make her [fat round.] Only take care of her.  
I wrote her a letter in my last. Will send her a little  
book this time – and Sister Eberhart, you may take  
and read it. It is one of my soldiers tracts.  
In your next tell me how you are fixed, when our  
things are, and how you got moved out. Now in  
[--] has begotten a similar feeling in me.  
Tell me about all the folks out there, and in  
Marion – Anamosa – &c – Where are Wiley's  
this year? Who is on Hanover? &c. I pity poor  
Carrie. Are they on the old farm? Now I will  
say good-night. Write at least once a week &  
as often between times as you please, [--] can – Your  
letters [--] more interesting to me.  
Your most affectionate and devoted Husband



(Sat. P.m. 4)

Big Spring Arkansas Oct 18. 1862

My Dear Wife-

I hasten to drop you  
a line - Since I wrote at Cassville  
we marched, in 2 days about 30 miles.  
We now at the head of "Cross Hollow."  
Pitched our tents, at 2 P.m., and  
just now received orders to march.  
A good <sup>part</sup> of our troops have gone down  
and are fighting now. The rest are  
starting as fast as possible. We are to  
go to night, and leave our waggons.  
It will be another Sunday fight - it is the  
Rebels dont Skedaddle - I think they  
will - We have about 25,000 men.  
We are all ready - and they boys seem anxious  
to get at them. We did not get in  
camp last night 10 - and it was 12 before  
I got to bed - and this morning not again  
at 4 - got no supper last night - so it  
was - The weather is pleasant, and roads  
good. My health is good - I  
must close - we are just starting -  
So fare well - Your affectionate  
Husband  
H. E. Clark

(Sat. p.m. 4)  
Big Spring Arkansas Oct 18, 1862

My Dear Wife

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a line. Since I wrote at Cassville  
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Are now at the head of "Cross Hollows"  
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I got to bed and this morning up again  
at 4 – got no supper last night – so it  
goes – The Weather is pleasant, and roads  
good. My health is good. I  
must close – we are just starting -  
so fare-well.

Your affectionate  
Husband  
U. Eberhart



Camp near "Pea Ridge" Nov 2/62 (Sunday night)

My Dearly Beloved Wife:-

After marching all day, on this beautiful Sabbath, I will talk awhile with you. My last, I believe, was written last Tuesday at Fayetteville. I would have written sooner, but had expected to start soon to warren. Last Friday the Pay Master was to have been with us, and they had made arrangements to send me home with the money. I had already made arrangements to have my Poney taken care of &c. But lo! instead of the Pay Master - it was a Quarter Master with money for an General to buy bread & forage with. So all my bright visions of seeing my family, & friends disappeared. And now I can not tell anything about it - He may come in a week, and may not come for a month or two. But when he does come, they intend to see me home with the money. The next day after my last to you at Fayetteville, we were ordered to march - and march we did - but instead of going Southward, as we all expected we came north - to Osage Springs - and from there to this place today. What is we know not - but it is generally believed that we are going back to Springfield MO - to go into winter quarters -

Mon. 30 - 41 m. 8. - and the same night -



Some think we are only going back - to get a new  
out-fit, and then will go through the Indian  
Territory, to Texas. But this is not very likely  
I think it is about like this. We have driven out  
all the armies of the rebels from this part of the  
country, and the very things are in the East, it is  
not deemed advisable to go farther south with  
our army - and in this part of the State there is not  
subsistence enough for it, so we are going back  
to some place where the Government can sup-  
ply us - I think to Springfield - I should  
think so - I will either come home, or  
will send for you to spend the winter  
with me. How would you like that? How  
would you like to come down alone? I could  
meet you at Rolla - In that place you  
could come per cars the whole way. You  
might think of this a little. I know not yet  
what is best to do - or what I will do - A few  
days may develop things that will altogether  
change the program. I got a letter from John  
this morning - stating he had sent you 10 \$ and would  
send you 10 \$ more. If you have the means, you  
might get, and prepare your clothing a little in  
view of this matter - I will write again just as  
soon as I know more about this matter. If  
I can be permitted to go home a month or two  
this winter, it would perhaps be best for you to stay, until  
next Spring.



My health is still fair. Nearly every body else is failing - even Leal. I've had the diarrhoea for a month past and looks bad, but I escape - I try to be thankful. This morning we did not have quite so good men fit for duty - We hauled some on the Ambulances, that we looked to see die by the way. Yesterday I said the funeral service of one, that on the day previous fell dead in a moment, without speaking a word - it was perhaps apoplexy. Our funerals are so solemn & nice, all come out in their Uniform with solemn music - march round the grave - fire 3 times 16 guns over the grave - after I have said my part. Your letter written at home, and the one written at W. Vernon, both came at the same time - with your Photograph, and that "Book Musk". I was indeed much gratified to receive so much of you. I scarcely know which of the pictures I like the best. They are both very good & natural to me. I rather think the last one gives you - countenance, & expression the best - but the other is the most finished and smooth picture. I posted the last below the other, so that I can see both at the same time. I generally look at them, & the children, every evening, - then read my chapter - & say my prayer, and go to bed - at 9 - unless we march - I was lucky enough to find another wollen blanket the other day - so I now sleep quite warm. Still sleeping alone don't go right. This morning I got awake



at 4 - when they sounded the Reveille - then fell asleep  
again - & dreamed that you lay snugly in my arms,  
and felt so sure that it was so, that after I awoke,  
I thought I could feel the pressure in my arms yet.  
But lo! it was a dream - and I was alone - and soon  
called to breakfast. I wrote you about a negro  
in my last - Will I have not got him yet. He was  
to visit us at an appointed place - but could not get off  
at the time, and when he did get off he could not  
find our Regt - had forgotten the name - so he went to  
the artillery, and sided with them. But I think  
he will come to us after a little - he is in the same  
Brigade - He is said to be a splendid fellow -  
I have just now taken a bit of candy - which is the first I  
bought since I am in the army - Oh! that strange! I had  
a little hoarseness in my throat yesterday - so I bought a  
cut-waist. Yesterday I "darned" my socks for  
the first time. It goes rather awkward - This morning  
I put on an undershirt you did not pass me, also  
a firm shirt - I have another one that you ironed for  
me - did not know it - thought I had only 5 shirts along  
I wear a cotton flannel shirt next to the skin - then a  
woollen one, and then my white one on top - so you see  
I am warm enough. John writes, that Old Cook  
only made a quiet claim - I need to go - This is not  
right - I certainly think the article calls for a Warning  
Decd - This he is bound to make - unless John &  
Margot are satisfied with the other - I will write  
to John - My also might write him what they want,  
I truly sympathize with you, and all the rest  
in the troubles that have come upon you in account  
of John. But hope he will recover - You can do  
as you think best about going to Peckville to see him -  
but may the matter well. I wrote to Emma - Rev  
I shall cut Miss Eliza - yesterday - she had written  
me a very nice letter indeed - My Porey's color  
is a very dark bay - with black mane & tail. She has  
got no supper tonight - and I tell you she is cutting it  
some high tarstems - prumping & squealing - She is  
very wise - is getting quite sick & hot - I tend to be  
fretful - need no white or blue - This morning  
I could scarcely hold her - Gen. Dye said, I fed her  
too much - I said that is the result of tending to you and  
mother - But against my sheet is full - so must  
close & return you right the Husband



Camp near "Pea Ridge" Nov 2/62 (Sunday night)

My Dearly Beloved Wife:

After marching all day, on this beautiful Sabbath, I will talk awhile with you. My last, I believe, was written last Tuesday at Fayetteville. I would have written sooner but had expected to start home tomorrow. Last Friday the Pay Master was to have been with us, and they had made arrangements to send me home with the money. I had already made arrangements to have my Pony taken care of – But lo! instead of the Pay Master – it was the Quarter Master with money for our General to buy bread & forage with. So all my bright visions of seeing my family & friends disappeared. And now I can not tell anything about it. He may come in a week, and may not come for a month or two. But when he does come, they intend to send me home with the money. The next day after my last to you at Fayetteville, we got orders to march – and march we did – but instead of going Southward, as we all expected we came north to Osage Springs and from there to this place today. What is up we know not – but it is generally believed that we are going back to Springfield Mo. to go into winter quarters.

Some think we are only going back to get a new out-fit, and then will go through the Indian Territory to Texas, But this is not very likely I think it is about like this. W have driven out all the armies of the rebels from this part of the country, and the very things are in the East, it is not deemed advisable to go farther south with our army – and in this part of the State there is not subsistence enough for it, so we are going back to some place where the government can supply us – I think to Springfield – should this be so I will either come home, or will send for you to spend the winter with me. How would you like that? How would you like to come down alone? I could meet you at Rolla Is that place you could come by cars the whole way. You might think of this a little. I know not yet what is best to do – or what I will do – A few days may develop things that will altogether change the program. I got a letter from John *this morning stating he had sent you 10 \$ and would send you 10 \$ more.* If you have the means, you might get and prepare your clothing a little in view of this matter. I will write again just as soon as I know more about his matter. If I can be permitted to go home a month or two this winter, it would perhaps be best for you to stay until  
next spring.



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at 4 – when they sounded the reveille – then fell asleep again & dreamed that you lay snugly in my arms, and felt so sure that it was so, that after I awoke, I thought I could feel the pressure in my arms yet. But lo! it was a dream and I was alone – and soon called to breakfast. I wrote you about a negro in my last – Well I have not got him yet. He was to meet us at the appointed place but could not get off at the train, and when he did get off he could not find our Reg. Had forgotten the name so e went to the artillery and hired with them. But I think he will come to us after a little – he is in the same Brigade – He is said to be a splendid fellow I have just now taken a bit of candy which is the first I bought since I am in the army – Ain't that strange! I had a little hourseness in my throat yesterday so I bought 5 cents worth. Yesterday I “darned” my socks for the first time. It goes rather awkward this morning I put on an undershirt you did up for me, also a fine shirt – I have another one that you ironed for me – did not know it – thought I had only 5 shirts along I wear a cotton flannel shirt next to the skin then a woollen one, and then my white one on top – so you see I am warm enough. John writes that Mr. Cook only made a Quit-Claim deed to John – this is not right – I certainly think the article calls for a Warranty deed. This he is bound to make unless Fulton & Manook are satisfied with the other I will write to John they also might write him what they want. I truly sympathise with you, and all the rest in the troubles that have come upon you on account of John. But hope he will recover. You can do as you think best about going to Keokuk to see him but way the matter well. I wrote to Emma Rev Ishell – and Miss Eliza – yesterday – she had written me a very nice letter indeed – My Pony's color is a very dark bay – with black mane & tail. She has got no supper tonight – and I tell you she is cutting up some high tantrums – jumping & squealing – she is very wise – is getting quite stick & fat. I tend to her first rate. I need no whip or spur – this morning I could scarcely hold her – Gen. Dye said, I fed her too much. I said that is the result of tending to your own horse. But again my sheet is full – so must close & return. God night your Husband.

(edge of page 1)

Mon. 3'o a.m. Another man died last night – will be buried now.  
some more will die soon.



Sabbath, 3.0. clock P.M. Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 1862  
Camp, on the Hindley River - 20 m north-east  
of Meringfield M.D.

My Own Dearest Wife:-

I have just returned from Capt. Dye's Tent - where I have been since dinner, discussing Theological topics. It rained all last night and today, so we could have no more. It has now stopped a little. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that it rained since I am in this country; but it generally rains about 3 days - & in good earnest, at that. So I spent the day principally in hunting passages of Scripture, to settle Theological questions referred to me. For some time past I have got our officers to reading the Bible and discussing Bible subjects. So as soon as they can't agree, they send for me to decide for them. Yesterday Majr Thompson & Wm Lake differed about the cause of Moses not being permitted to enter the land of Canaan - To day I decided it - To-day the Col and the Major differed about who was Moses' father. And now the Col - Dye - gave me - to reconcile two passages in Chron. and Kings, relative to the age of King Asa. It looks nice to see Gen Dye with his Bible in hand, hunting hard questions for his officers - thus slyly leading them from vice - to the ways of virtue & Christianity. And I tell you he is able in the Scriptures -



I am glad to know, that I have brought an influence to bear upon them - the officers - that I hope will result in much good - And it makes it very pleasant for me. It is very encouraging to know that my public efforts to do good are more or less blessed even amidst the general wickedness. Whilst some are growing worse, others are seeking the Lord, for the other day a man the name of Hess-pim Bedas Rapist came to me, and said the Lord had pardoned his sins, and accepted him. He had never belonged to Church - but on hearing my sermons, he was induced to join an church as a seeker - now he is happy - other cases I could give you. I still feel that I am doing a good work, and am at my place. My health is still fragile. Can eat with great satisfaction. Had a chicken-soup for dinner. We get along very pleasantly in our mess. It costs me about 2 dollars per week, as we live pretty high - since we have come into a country where we can buy what we want. On last Thursday, after writing to you at Springfield, we went home. On the way got plenty of cider & apples - and bought 3 chickens. On Friday we commenced making preparations to hold the Sacrament on today - when very unexpectedly the order came to march. We all ready at 10 - but did not get off until 3 P.M. - Then instead of going southward as we expected - we went north east - after traveling 8 m. - we camped -



Yes today, after traveling 5, we camped here - have  
a nice camp - everything plenty. Where we are going  
or what it means we know not. But think  
we are to go to near Ralla, and then be  
payed off - and supplied with clothing, and then  
Jee - round to Kansas. Some think we  
may go to Ralla, or St. Louis into winter  
quarters. But from what I have been writing  
you, for several weeks past, you see, how very  
uncertain, war-matters are. I asked Capt. The  
last night if he knew whether we would stay  
here tomorrow, so as to have meetings, he said "no.  
No one knows that, but God alone." - 20 reports  
may come in by that time to change the program.  
Before leaving Clark, we sent our sick - 80 in num-  
ber to the hospital in Springfield - Dr. Pistorin  
himself had to stay behind. He has the fever -  
how thankful I am that my health is so good -  
for it is a hard place to be sick. If I should get  
sick, I would go to some private house, in the  
city. I got your letter, written when you wrote  
for your Bro. John's things, several days ago - I also  
got a paper from Elton, stating that you & some had been  
to Mt. Vernon. Now my dear, I hope you will  
not suffer your present troubles about your bro. - over-  
come you - The easier we take such things, the better  
it is for us - for we can't change them. And  
especially, don't trouble yourself about my future



Testing. The Good Lord will take care of  
me - I feel that I am in his hands - and am re-  
signed to his will. I also have an assurance  
that he will spare my life to get back home  
again - and for years to come. I don't believe  
my work is yet done - & "my course finished!" I  
see more than ever the awful, depravity of man,  
and feel more than ever the necessity of doing all I  
can to save some. I still believe - this wicked  
religion - must be put down - and will be put down  
though it may last for years yet - and cost many  
precious lives - many dear brothers, and husbands, and  
sons - yet it must be put down - Truth &  
Right - must prevail - and there is no just  
and merciful God. I may <sup>yet</sup> ~~come~~ get home.  
They are still urging me to go - and if the army  
should stay in this vicinity - or go to St. Louis -  
into winter quarters - I think I'll come. But I don't  
want to go - if they go down to Arkansas - It would not  
be safe - I think we will surely stay in this vicinity  
a few weeks - until felled out, and knocked off - If I that  
come home - I intend sending about 150 dollars to Bro  
John by express, and will either send you some few  
letters, or authorize him to send you what you need.  
I am afraid I will not get back to Springfield, to  
you that I've true tokens - for this I am sorry - It is  
hard to get away from the army. I may wanted to  
go the day I did, but the Col. would not let them.  
Some sent on their own authority, and were put under  
arrest. I am rather a favored character, but don't  
like to ask too much - I had intended to buy thread  
and other little matters when I returned. I wish you  
would send me a skein of good strong silk in a  
box in that way - I will draw a pair of pants - a  
wollen shirt, and a pair of drawers, and that is all I  
need - I drew a parse blanket - and found a good  
heavy wollen blanket - so I sleep warm -  
But I must stop - I will show my letter  
to the rest and it will give me writing. They must not  
allowance for my little love affairs - I wish your most  
affectionate Husband - M. C. Barrett



Sabbath, 3 o'clock P.M. Nov 16, 1862  
Camp on the Findley River, 20 m. north-east  
of Springfield, Mo.

My Own Dearest Wife-

I have just returned from Capt. Dyes Tent where I have been since Dinner, discussing Theological topics. It rained all last night and today, so we could have no [--] It has now slaked a little. This is the 3rd time that it rained since I am in this country; but it generally rains about 3 days - & in good earnest at that. So I spent the day principally in hunting passages of Scripture, to settle Theological questions referred to me. For some time past I have got our Officers to reading the Bible and discussing Bible subjects. So as soon as they can't agree, they send for me to decide for them. Yesterday, Maj. Thompson & Aide Lake differed about the cause of Moses not being permitted to enter the land of Canaan. Today I decided it - to-day the Col. and the Major differed about who was Moses' father. And now the Col. Dye gave me to reconcile two passages in Chron. And Kings; relative to the age of King Amaziah. It looks nice to see Gen. Dye with his Bible in hand, hunting hard questions for his officers - thus slyly leading them from vice - to the ways of virtue & Christianity. And I tell you he is able in the Scriptures -

I am glad to know that I have brought an influence to bear upon them – the officers – that I hope will result in much grain – And it makes it very pleasant for me. It is very encouraging to know that my feeble efforts to do good are more or less blessed even amidst the General wickedness. Whilst some are growing worse others are seeking the Lord. Only the other day a man the name of Kerr – from Cedar Rapids came to me, and said the Lord had pardoned his sins, and accepted him. He had never belonged to church – but on hearing my sermons, he was induced to join our church as a seeker – now he is happy – other cases I could give you. I still find that I am doing a good work and am at My place. My health is still first rate. Can eat with great satisfaction. Had a chicken soup for dinner. We get along very pleasantly in our mess. It costs me about 2 dollars per week as we live pretty high since we have come into a country where we can buy what we want. On last Thursday after writing to you at Springfield, we went home. On the way got plenty of cider & apples and bought 3 chickens. On Friday we commenced making preparations to hold the Sacrament on today – when very unexpectedly the order came to march. Were ready at 10 – but did not get off until 3 pm – Then instead of going southward as we expected – we went northeast – after traveling 8 mi. we camped



Yesterday after traveling 5 we camped here – have a nice camp everything plenty. Where we are going or what it means we know not. But think we are to go to near Rolla, and then be payed off and supplied with clothing, and then get round to Arkansas. Some think we may go to Rolla, or St. Louis into winter quarters. But from what I have been writing you for several weeks past you see how very uncertain war matters are. I asked Col. Dye last night if he knew whether we would stay here tomorrow, so as to have meeting he said no. No one knows that, but God alone – 20 reports may come in by that time to change the “programm.” Before leaving Ozark, we sent our sick – 80 in number to the Hospital in Springfield – Dr. Ristine himself had to stay behind. He has the fever – O how thankful I am that my health is so good for it is a poor place to be sick. If I should get sick, I would go to some private house immediately. I got your letter written when you wrote for your bro John's things, several days ago – I also got a paper from Alton stating that you & Sadie had been to Mt. Vernon. Now my dear, I hope you will not suffer your present troubles about your bro. overcome you. The easier we take such things the better it is for us – for we can't change them. And especially don't trouble yourself about my future

testing. The Good Lord will take care of me. I feel that I am in his hands – and am resigned to his will. I also have an assurance that he will spare my life to get back home again and for years to come. I don't believe my work is yet done & my cause finished! I see more than ever the awful, depravity of man and feel more than ever the necessity of doing all I can to save some. I still believe this wicked rebellion must be put down and will be put down though it may last for years yet – and cost many precious lives – many dear brothers and husbands, and sons – yet it must be put down – Truth & right must prevail – or there is no just and merciful God. I may yet come home. They are still urging me to go – and if the army should stay in this vicinity or go to St. Louis into winter quarters I think I'll come. But I don't want to go if they go down to Arkansas It would not be safe – I think we will surely stay in this vicinity a few weeks until fitted out, or payed off – If I cant come home I intend sending about 150 dollars to bro John by express and will either send you some his letter, or authorize him to send you what you need I am afraid I will not get back to Springfield to have that picture taken for this I am sorry It is hard to get away from the army. [Many] wanted to go the day I did but the Col. would not let them. Some went on their own authority, and were put under arrest. I am rather a favored character, but don't like to ask too much – I had intended to buy thread and other little matters when I returned. Wish you would find me a skein of good strong silk in a letter – I can't get it here – much is [--] to the soldier in that way – I will draw a pair of pants – a wollen shirt, and a pair of drawers, and that is all I need – I drew a horse blanket and found a good heavy wollen blanket – so I sleep warm - But I must stop – Love to all – Show my letters to the resto and it will save in writing. They must make allowance for our little love affairs From your most affectionate Husband U. Eberhart.



Sunday evening. I found a bit of paper  
with one white side, so I will put something on it, the  
may interest you. It is still raining, but I am com-  
fortable. Our tents don't leak a bit. no difference here here  
it rains. I have a good fire in front of my tent, and  
have a place inside, where I put some of the cables  
which keep my tent as warm as I wish it. It  
not very cold - not cold enough to freeze ice - though  
we have had some pretty cold nights. There are still  
plenty of grapes - black-hang - *Pisces mans* &c.  
I am glad that Glacie is so much comfort to you -  
but am sorry that I cannot enjoy her. Smart & cute little  
Cora afraid she won't know me when I come home.  
I am not "growing old" & ugly as you seem to  
fear. I look as fresh & blooming as a rose - and  
am getting plumper in place. Nearly all the old pimples  
are filled up. And there "is no place left to kiss." I have  
not kissed my body since I kissed you. So I need no place  
of the hair of my head grows close to my snout. So I  
guess you must calculate on doing without kissing. You  
dream about Cal. Dyer's beard did not come there - it is  
as long as ever - his health is better. Every body likes him  
but nobody likes Gen. Dutton. He is very hard on the boys.  
Sweats at them, and kicks & cuffs them, if they don't obey.  
He is drunk the half of the time. They swear they  
will kill him the first bottle we get in. Ware I must  
close up my letter, and get ready to retire. As "Dattoe"  
has just sounded. So good night my Dear  
You must make yourself happy & cheerful - something  
must trouble you, or you would wish more than that  
I supposed you were getting very healthy &  
robust. While you - if I don't write all you wish to know -  
just ask the questions, and I will answer them.  
Given you constantly loving Husband Wish

Sunday evening – I found a bit of paper  
with one white side, so I will put something on it, that  
may interest you. It is still raining, but I am com-  
fortable. Our tents don't leak a bit, no different from  
it rains. I have a good fire in front of my tent; and  
have a place inside, where I put some of the coals  
which keeps my tent as warm as I wish it. It's  
not very cold – not cold enough to freeze ice – Though  
we have had some pretty cold nights. There are still  
plenty of grapes – black [--] Persimmons.  
I am glad that Florrie is so much comfort to you  
but am sorry that I cannot enjoy her smart & cute prattle.  
Am afraid she won't know me when I come home.  
I am not “growing old” & ugly as you seem to  
fear I look, as fresh & blooming as a rose and  
am getting fleshy in face. Nearly all the old wrinkles  
are filled up and there “is no place left to kiss” - I have  
not kissed any body since I kissed you. So I need no place  
the hair of my beard grows close to my mouth. So I  
guess you must calculate on doing without kissing. Your  
dream about Col. Dye's beard did not come true – it is  
as long as ever – His health is better. Every body likes him  
But nobody likes Gen. Totten. He is very hard on the boys.  
Swears at them, and kicks & Cuffs them if they don't obey.  
He is drunk the half of the time. They swear they  
will kill him the first battle we get in. Now I must  
close up my letter, and get ready to retire, as “tattoo”  
has just sounded. So good night my Dear  
you must make yourself happy & cheerful – something  
must trouble you, or you would weigh more than me.  
I supposed you were getting very healthy &  
robust. Guess your scales were not right  
Write soon – if I don't write all you wish to know  
just ask the questions and I will answer them  
from your constantly loving Husband

Uriah.



Receipt for a Shaver, for M. Cheek  
 Chaplain 20<sup>th</sup> Reg. Iowa Infantry, at Camp  
 near Springfield Mo. commencing June  
 25<sup>th</sup> 1862 - and ending Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1862

By	for	to	for	for	for	for
2/3	4 <sup>1/2</sup> envelopes	4 <sup>1/2</sup> pens	1 <sup>1/2</sup> pens	4 <sup>1/2</sup> pens		

I certify that the above is a true and correct  
 receipt for the above named articles, for  
 any part of the time specified

Received at Camp near Springfield Mo  
 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1862 of M. Cheek  
 4<sup>1/2</sup> pens - 4<sup>1/2</sup> envelopes - 4<sup>1/2</sup> pens  
 1<sup>1/2</sup> pens - 2<sup>1/2</sup> pens of the same

M. Cheek, Chaplain

Requisition for stationary for U. Eberhart  
Chaplain 20<sup>th</sup> Reg. Iowa Infantry, at Camp  
near Springfield MO. Commencing August  
25<sup>th</sup> 1862 and ending Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1862.

2/3 lett paper  
4 1/2 envelopes  
4 1/2 steel pens  
1 lead pencil  
2/9 pieces of tape  
ink

I confirm that the above requisition is correct  
that I have not drawn stationary for  
any part of the time specified

Received at Camp near Springfield MO.  
28 days of September 1862 from Lieut J. H.  
Rice, Assistant Quarter Master. [--]  
4 1/2 envelopes, 4 1/2 steel pens  
1 lead pencil 2/9 pieces of tape & ink.  
U. Eberhart, Chaplain



Dear Mother - I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have not much news to write at present. I have been very busy with my school and my household duties. I have not had time to write you often but I will try to do so more frequently. I am well and hope these few lines will find you the same. I have not much news to write at present. I have been very busy with my school and my household duties. I have not had time to write you often but I will try to do so more frequently.

In Camp - 25 miles south of Springfield M. D. Oct 18/62  
My Dear Mother - It is night, and rain is falling and has  
rained ever since last Sat. night - and we have made

all 45 miles since I wrote the other part of my letter.  
On Monday before day light we got marching orders, so  
I did not get my letter mailed, and have been delay-

ing it right away from you. May get it off to-mor-  
row. This is a very un-expected move. Gen. Blunt  
had a battle with the Rebels, and was driven back - he

was outnumbered 5 to 4 - so we have to go and  
re-engage him. We now have a days march  
from Cassville which is 10 miles from the

are going on the march - Travelled by rail  
since Monday morning, and it rained all the

day.



Drive. Last night. I did not know my tent  
as the team could not get up. I laid down by  
a short track - put some rails on the horse, and  
some short on them and held spring - - -  
I am in my tent - Got to spring & his feet are  
with me. I feel very dry with my own  
cloak - & one cloth - am able to hold my  
now get you letter of 20 - good to hear your  
you - This more may change the  
pleasure of the war - of which we will  
now have to stay in this country - I may not  
come home - I know not what is before  
me - But must close. I don't want  
you to lead that horse up it is in the  
best place on you, or if you had rather not  
I can send you all the money you need  
when you get in - I don't want you  
to spring back on Japan -  
I hope you are pleased with your  
own team. I have like the one that I had  
can't go - so we are lying here waiting. I'll send this  
letter



In camp 26 miles south of Springfield MO Nov 18/62  
My Dear Wife – It is night and rains hard – and has  
rained here since last Sat. night and we have march  
ed 45 miles since I wrote the other part of my letter.  
On Monday before day light we got marching orders, so  
I did not get my letter mailed, and now been carrying  
it right away from you. May get it off tomor  
row. This is a very un-expected move. Gen. Blunt  
had a battle with the rebels, and was driven back – he  
was outnumbered 5 to 4 so we have to go and  
re-inforce him. Are now now a days march  
from Cassville which is 10 miles from Ark.  
are going on to morrow. Traveled 45 miles  
since Monday morning, and it rained all the

time. Last night I did not have my tent,  
as the teams could not get up. I laid down by  
a wheat stack put some rails on the fence and  
some wheat on them and slept firmly. Tonight  
I am in my tent – Capt. Barney & his Lieut. are  
with me. I keep very dry with my over coat  
cloak & oil cloth – am well & happy – just  
now got your letter of 20<sup>th</sup> glad to hear from  
you. This move may change the pro  
gramm of the war – Think we will  
now have to stay in this country I may not  
come home. [--] not what is before  
me. But must close. I don't want  
you to teach that school if it is in the  
least hard on you, or if you had rather not  
I can send you all the money you need  
when I get some. Direct your next  
to Springfield as before  
AS ever your affectionate Husband

U. Eberhart

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> It rained all the night today  
our teams have not come up yet & we  
can't go so we are lying here waiting. Will send this  
letter this p.m.

(Upside down on page 1)

Nov 19 3 p.m. - It has ceased raining – think we will  
start tomorrow. This will go this p.m. But may not reach you  
for a long time.



④ In a pm sleep - I will be cheer  
and the correct list of the dead  
& wounded. Gen. Reynolds got the  
news of fighting the best. I  
think nobody lost down 40 or 50  
killed & wounded. But then  
was a 100 in our hospital.  
But I must close - you will  
soon see in details - I will  
write soon - I am long  
great work - got the prison  
that he spared my life - Bullet  
& shells flew thru all around  
me. But God spared my  
life - I know not what me  
will do now - don't think  
me will <sup>be</sup> in another battle to-  
morrow. Be of good cheer.  
I am daily my duty &  
the Lord will take care of me.  
I know I wish you could be  
here or help me this to Alvin, &  
I will direct this to Alvin, &  
be to you - as I have no time to  
write now - you - husband -  
Alvin send this to Mr. Ingram

Dear 8 62 & collect pen  
in the hospital on the battlefield  
10 miles south of Day, Missouri  
W.M.

My Dear Wife -

① We have just  
had a great battle, and I will  
write a few words to let you  
know that I am yet alive -  
and in good health - but very  
tired - have not slept any for 3  
nights - and often and little  
with at night - and expect to  
sleep tonight. We got to  
this place yesterday at 2 pm after  
having marched about 90 miles  
in 3 days, and when we got  
here, Gen. Blunt had been  
fighting the rebels from early  
in the morning, and had re-  
treated 3 miles, as they had been  
24,000 & as he had a few feet  
when we got out - we drove thru



- no joy as soon.

- ② back 4 miles, and then they took a stand, on a favorable hill, and a regular pitched battle was fought. That battle went back - we had, about 12- or 15,000. We knew not just how many were killed, nor how many were wounded - but it was the sharpest battle of the West. In our Division there were about 500 - wounded, and 100 killed - I think - altogether - killed - wounded and missing - some 1500 - and fully 500 more on their side. They fought like devils - and so did our men. I witnessed the whole scene - and was in the field until 10 o'clock last night - getting away the wounded and once when 3 several Regiments <sup>of</sup> Thompson's <sup>division</sup> were sent and brought down - I went and brought
- ③ Then back again, by leading with them by all that good had - some times we gained and sometimes they did - when night came on both parties remained on the ground - but the rebels retreated during the night so that this morning the victory was ours - though hardly fought. During the night and this of W. I was all the time with the wounded. As I look I seem I never will to pass through. This P.M. I visited the battle field - Oh! horrible sight - the dead were lying all round. Tomorrow we will bury them. We have sent our wounded nearly all to Fayetteville, and once when 3 several Regiments <sup>of</sup> Thompson's <sup>division</sup> were sent and brought down - I went and brought
- Wish - and may others



(Page 1, right side of page)  
Dec. 8 – 62 8 o'clock pm  
in the Hospital on the battlefield  
10 miles south of Fayetteville  
Ark.

My Dear Wife,

We have just had a great battle, and I will write a few words to let you know that I am yet alive and in good health but very tired – Have not slept any for 3 nights and eaten but a little until to night. We got to this place yesterday at 2 pm after having marched about 90 miles in 3 days, and when we got here Gen. Blunt had been fighting the rebels from early in the morning, and had retreated 3 miles, as they had some 24,000 and he but a few but when we got up we drove them

(Page 2, left side)

back 4 miles, and then they took a stank, on a favorable hill, and a regular pitched battle was fought that [--] until dark – we have about 12 or 15,000. We know not yet how many were killed wounded but it was the hardest battle of the west. In one Division there were about 400 wounded, and 100 killed – I think – altogether - killed-wounded and missing – some 1500 and fully as many on their side. They fought like devils – and so did our men. I witnessed the whole scene and was on the field until 10 o'clock last night getting away the wounded and once when several Regiments run I went and brought

(Page 2, right side)

them back again by pleading with them by all that's good & bad – some times we gained and sometimes they did. When night came on both parties remained on the ground but the rebels retreated during the night so that this morning the victory was ours – though dearly bought. During the night and this A.M. I worked all the time with the wounded And O Such a scene I never wish to pass through this P.M. I visited the battle field OH! Horrible sight – the dead were lying all round tomorrow we will bury them We have sent our wounded nearly all to Fayetteville Major Thompson is wounded Lieut Bean - also Lieut Cavenish – and many others.



(Page 1, left side)

In a few days I will be able to  
send a correct list of the dead  
& wounded. Our Reg. Got the  
[--] of fighting the best. I  
think we only lost some 40 or 50  
killed & wounded. But then  
were 100 in our hospital  
But I must close – you will  
soon see an account – I will  
write soon. I am doing  
great work – God be praised  
that he spared my life – Bullet  
& shells flew thick all around  
me. But God spared my  
life – I know not what we  
will do now – Some think  
we will have another battle to-  
morrow – Be of great  
cheer – I am doing my duty &  
the Lord will take care of me  
How I wish you could be  
here and help me.  
I will direct this to Alvin, &  
he to you – as I have no time to  
write more.

Your Husband,  
Alvin sent this to ma [--]  
[--] write to you & I will

(Page 2, left side, upside down)

Direct as before.

~~Ca. Jan 1862~~  
Friday Morning 9<sup>th</sup>:

[Dec. 9, 1862]

I got a little sleep last night. Feel better refreshed. Our men slept on the battle field - without their tents or blankets - The tearing came during the night. We some expected an attack, but I think the feel complete ly whipt - The more we learn about it, the greater the victory appears to be.

We heard the Rebels burned their train and left. But we know not. Old Hind man is a shrewd old Gen. They may not make a rally, but I am inclined to think this was the last and decisive battle of the West. It is said, it exceeded the battles of Wilson creek and Pea Ridge.



We still have 25 wounded  
in our Hospital - they will  
be sent to Fayetteville - I  
will also go there, if we  
don't have another battle.  
The pay-master is with us, but  
has not payed any. I know  
not how it will be now  
about coming home.

I rather think we will go  
through Ark. to Little Rock.  
But I must close, and go to  
work among the poor boys.  
I can't begin to describe the  
scenes that are going on aroun-  
-nd me - Will tell you when  
I get home -

This letter must do, until  
I get more time, for all of  
you.

Miss Fannie,  
Love to all

Your affectionate Husband  
& Father  
W. C. Chestnut

Tuesday morning

I got a little sleep last night. Feel better refreshed our men slept on the battle field – without their tents or blankets – The teams came during the night. We some expected an attack, but I think the feel completely whipt – The more we learn about it, the greater the victory appears to be. We heard the rebels burned their town and left But we know not. Old Hind man is a shrewd old Gen They may yet make a rally, but I am inclined to think this was the last and decisive battle of the West. It is said, it exceeded the battles of Wilson Creek and Pea Ridge.



We still had 25 wounded  
in our Hospital – they will  
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about coming home.

I rather think we will go  
through Ark. to Little Rock

But I must close and go to  
work among the poor boys.

I cant begin to describe the  
scenes that are going on arou-  
nd me – Will tell you when  
I get home.

This letter must do until  
I get more time for all of  
you.

Kiss Florrie,  
Love to all,  
your affectionate Husband  
& Father

U. Eberhart



(Letter 28)

Prairie Grove Battlefield - 11 miles south  
of Fayetteville Ark. Decr 10<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear Beloved Wife - It is already 8 at  
night, and I have much to do yet, but I must  
write you a few lines yet. I wrote you last Monday  
after the battle, but fear you did not get as soon as  
this, as there were no regular mails. I got yours of  
28<sup>th</sup> inst. written at Mr. Yearshawes just as I had seated  
myself to write to you - also one from Warren, &  
heard at the same time from all my family. This  
was very satisfactory indeed. And at the same time  
the WV Advocate, for the first time in 6 or 7 weeks.  
I also got a Chicago paper. Am thankful that my  
family are all so comfortable, and doing so well. I am  
still in good health, but pretty well worked down. It  
takes the flesh off of me too. I suppose you  
have ere this seen the news of an great battle. But  
will now try and give you all the facts in the case so  
far as known. We have not yet the official report  
but I can come as near it as any one, as I have been  
with the Generals, and also the Medical Purveyor,  
or Chief Surgeon of this Division. Dr. Porter, of  
Mercer Co Pa. I will describe the whole scene.  
While at camp Lyon, we got a dispatch, that Gen.  
Blunt, who was in this vicinity, had been attacked  
by Gen. Hindman, and had to retreat - on account of his  
superior force. As off we started, on the double quick



and traveled almost day & night, without rests  
or anything to eat, but what we carried in our haversack.  
- started on Thursday morning, & by Sunday morning  
traveled 90 miles. The our half gave out by the way.  
When 10 miles off - we heard the cannon. Major Hub-  
bard of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ark Reg - <sup>who was</sup> <sup>running</sup> ahead had been attacked, at sun-  
rise, and his teams taken, and his men had to retreat.  
They fell back 3 miles, and Gen Murray's Division came  
up - when the rebels began to fall back - they retreated  
4 miles, and then formed in a line of battle, on  
a high ridge in the grove - on the other side was  
a prairie. By 2 o'clock our Division came up - Gen  
Blunt was still 10 or 14 miles further west. In  
10 minutes, after arriving - we formed in line of battle, and  
made a most furious charge - principally with artie-  
ry - We had soon got cannon, and so had the enemy.  
From these they sent bomb shells and balls weighing  
10 lbs - one every minute, until the very earth rang &  
trembled. I at once took my position in the rear of  
the artillery upon a high, or an elevated position, in  
Tall Sage, and Gen Heno, when I could see the  
whole ground & the rifle scene. Some our Infantry  
went up on the double quick and drove the rebels back.  
Then the rebels made a dash on our right wing, &  
our men had to fall back - a little. Then they tried to  
flank us on our left wing, and soon & our men  
a desperate charge, and fought like devils - and drove  
back our men - in a hurry - so that 2 or 3 Reg-



The 19<sup>th</sup> June & 20<sup>th</sup> June. Wis. Run like several sheep - By  
this time I had been riding all round with my Pony  
looking after the wounded, but when I turn round, I had  
like lightning ahead of them, and such a sight I never  
saw. 12 or 15 or more, and many horses & wagons, were  
off as fast as they could. They were in a great perspiration, in  
the dust & powder had blackened their faces, and many were  
all bloody - some had their faces partly shot away - others  
an eye hanging out, or some other part of the face they  
had arms, and legs broken and were dropping themselves  
along - and all looked ghastly & wild - At them  
looked as though all was lost, and we would all be lost.  
and all are tears for the road was full for 40 or 50 miles.  
The 20<sup>th</sup> June & 27<sup>th</sup> June. By this time had changed again  
and I supposed they would all be taken prisoners, for the  
rebels rushed out of the woods like pigeons in  
numbers, and yelled like Southsides - they must have  
had at that place 10 men to an 1 - I thought & look  
a few minutes, and did not know what to do - something  
thought I would run too. But all at once the strongest  
fleeing came over me I ever realized, and off I rode  
along the fleeing crowd, and at the highest pitch of my  
voice. Plead with them to stop, and go back again.  
I plead with them in the name of God, for the sake  
of liberty, and suffering humanity. to stop - I plead with  
the officers - who were going as hard as the best - at the  
same time harassing their men for not stopping -  
and after following them on both sides I got them stopped







(Letter 28)

Prairie Grove Battlefield – 10 miles south  
of Fayetteville, Ark – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dearly Beloved Wife - It is already 8 at night and I have much to do yet, but I must write you a few lines yet. I wrote you last Monday after the battle, but fear you did not get as soon as this, as there were no regular mails. I got yours of 28<sup>th</sup> inst. written at Mr. Yearshaws just as I had seated myself to write to you – also one from Naomi, so heard at the same time from all my family. This was very satisfactory indeed. And at the same time the WW Advocate for the first time in 6 or 7 weeks. I also got a Chicago paper. Am thankful that my family are all so comfortable, and doing so well. I am still in good health, but pretty well worked down. It is taking the flesh off of me too. I suppose you have ere this seen the news of our great battle. But I will now try and give you all the facts in the case so far as known. We have not yet the official report but I can come as near it as any one as I have been with the Generals, and also the Medical Purveyor, or Chief Surgeon of this Division. Dr. Porter, of Mercer Co, Pa. I will describe the whole scene. While at camp Lyon, we got a dispatch, that Gen. Blont who was in this vicinity, had been attacked by Gen. Hindman, and had to retreat on account of superior force, so off we started, on the double quick.



and traveled almost day & night, without tents or anything to eat, but what we carried in our haversacks – started on Thursday morning, & by Sunday morning traveled 90 miles. The one half gave out by the way. When 10 miles off we heard the canon. Major Hubbard of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ark Reg – who was 10 miles ahead – had been attacked, at sunrise, and his teams taken, and his men had to retreat. They fell back 3 miles, and Gen Hiram's Division came up – then the rebels began to fall back – they retreated 4 miles, and then formed in a line of battle, on a high ridge in the grove – on the other side was a prairie. By 2 o'clock our Division came up – Gen Blunt was still 10 or 15 miles further west in 60 minutes after arriving we formed in line of battle, [--] make a most furious charge – principally with artillery – We had some 50 canon, and so had the enemy from these they sent bomb shells – and balls weighting 10 lbs – one every minute until the very earth rang & trembled. I at once took my position in the rear of the artillery a few rods on an elevated position, [--] Col. Dye, and Gen Heno, when I could see the whole ground & terrific scene [--] Infantry went out on the double quick and drove the rebels back. Then the rebels made a dash on our right wing, & our men had to fall back – a little, then they tried to block us on our left wing and soon 5000 made a desperate charge, and fought like devils and drove back our men in a hurry – so that 2 or 3 Reg-

the 19<sup>th</sup> Iowa & 20<sup>th</sup> Wis. ran like scared sheep. By this time I had been riding all round with my Pony looking after the wounded but when [--] runing, I rode like lighting ahead of them and such a sight I never saw. 12 or 1500 men, and many horses & wagons, making off as fast as they could. They were in a great perspiration in the dust & powder had blackened their faces, and many were all bloody – some had their faces partly shot away – others of an eye hanging out, or some other part of the face. Many had arms, and legs broken and were dragging themselves along – and all looked ghastly & wild – It then looked as though all was lost, ans we would all be taken and all our teams for the road was full for 4 or 5 miles The 20 Iowa & 37 Ill by this time had charged again and I supposed they would all be taken prisoners, for the rebels rushed out of the woods like pigeons in numbers and yelled like panthers – they must have had at that place 10 men to our 1 – I thought & looked a few minutes and did not know what to do – sometimes thought I would run too, but all at once the strongest feeling came over me I ever realized, and off I rode along the fleeing rank, and at the highest pitch of my voice, plead with them to stop, and go back again. I Plead with them in the name of God, for the sake of liberty and suffering humanity, to stop – I plead unto the officers – who were going as hard as the rest – at the same time damning their men for not staying – and after following them one half miles I got them stopped



and the officers formed them into companies and went back again. And just at this time Gen. Blont came up with [--] charge on them on the right and then the poor fellows had to take it – We drove them slowly before us until dark and had to stop or it would have been one of the greatest victories of the war, but this gave them time to get off, so that by [--] they were gone [--] men who had not for 3 nights and eaten little were too tired to follow. They slept on their arms [--] just dropped down and paid no more attention to the rebels or anything else. They claim that they had from 24 to 30,000 of an army, so far as I know we have from 16 to 20,000 after they all get in. This is already the 4<sup>th</sup> day, and this [--] by hundreds their wounded who could not get away number from 5 or 6 hundred, I was out in their Hospital to day – it is in a church out on the ground [--] beggars description. You can see legs & arms and other parts of the body lying round and [--] with an arm or one leg entirely shot off. They are almost starved to death – and have no blankets or tents – lie out under the open heavens [--] [--] all other things in proportion today to keep them from starving. They are a poor [--] set. But many are getting their eyes open about [--] deserted them. Are going home soon [--]. They acknowledge this whole loss in killed & wounded to be 2000. ours will not vary much from a 1000, but of this no. only about 200 are killed, and not many fatally wounded we have sent our wounded to Fayetteville – tomorrow I am going out to see to them, may stay a day or so. O I must not forget to tell you that I was mighty complimented by the officers for my bravery, and what I done that day. [--] called me to his tent, and returned his warmest thanks so look out I will soon come out with General They say I did more for the wounded than all the Drs and Stewards, But I must close. Have not got our pay yet, This said, the Pay master is here Will send you some money when I get it. O will scarcely yet have this written I think we will go right on [--] River I bought me a pair of rubber over pants a silk neck hanky and paper too – stamps are scarce. This is a fine country The weather mild & pleasant. The ground freezes a little at night, but during the day is is warm. My negro has not yet come yesterday [--] yet [--] I am about out of the notion of negroes [--] Husband – U. Eberhart



Letter No. 30

Prairie Grove Battlefield Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Good Wife:

It is Sat. night - 8 o'clock - and I will commence a letter to - to

finish some other time. My last to you was written last Monday night at Fayetteville. The reason I did not write sooner, was, I all the time anxiously looked for one from you. Your last was received nearly 2 weeks ago - just after the battle, so you may judge how anxious I was to hear from you - and on top of all this, I have been a little sick this week. just enough to make me a little pensive and lonely. If you had been here and "pimped" around me a little, and permitted the sunshine of your cheerful countenance to fall on me, or if I could only have read a letter from your pen, I presume it would have cured me at once. But for this you are not to blame. I have no doubt you have written, but we have had no mails here since the battle. I know not how, or why it was so - It is believed the officers did it intentionally so as to prevent the wounded writing, and others writing to their friends. But an hour ago a very large mail arrived, it is not yet distributed. I expect lots of news -

Our Daddy cooks for us - I wish the beasts at present - It costs you 3 dollars per week - for food

We are still getting along very poorly in our places - Judge whether for dinner -  
 We can have anything but what is in our places - we can have in our places



But while I am waiting on it, I will continue  
me to write. My sickness was partly over-  
much labor and excitement during the battle, and  
since in the hospital, and partly a bad cold - which  
affected my throat. It was some like Diphtheria. My  
throat is still pretty sore, so that it will be difficult  
for me to preach to-morrow. My cold also brings  
on me one of my old "chilly spells" of the "week". But  
I took a little medicine, and drank sage tea, and  
dieted myself, so that I now feel pretty well - all  
but my throat, and that I think will be all right in a  
day or two. A great many have the sore throat.  
Otherwise we have better health in our Reg. at  
present, than at any previous time. The wounded  
also are doing very usually well. Only one has  
thus far died, and one had his arm taken off in  
our Reg. Major Thompson, and Lieut Cavindish  
are doing as well as could be expected. Both  
will recover, I think. For this I am glad, for they are  
my two best friends - the most congenial & reliable.  
Capt. Barney, and I, are going up to see them next  
Monday. I will now give you a few do-  
mestic items. During the week I have been patching  
and fixing up a little, and among other things, I  
ripped up my old black pants - saved the good pieces  
to patch my new ones when they need it - and took  
the lining, which was good yet, and lined my new  
one with it - I mean those I bought at St. Louis.  
I have not yet worn them much - now don't you



think I am getting pretty smart. I also darned  
my old socks. I have not yet worn the new pair  
you gave me along - they are too small <sup>in the leg</sup> for me. If I  
don't get others before I need them, I intend to cut them  
open and darn a piece into them. Thus far I have  
worn white shirts all the time, but think I will quit  
for a while, as scarcely any one wears them in the army  
and it costs so much getting them washed, and then  
only half done. I have to pay 10 cts a piece. I bought  
me a nice, large black silk handkerchief, which  
I wear around my neck. I got a woman in the  
Reg. to hem it - she did not charge me anything - she  
is from Cedar Rapids and belongs to Capt Cook's Co.  
I have a nice and comfortable bed. In addition to the  
bedding I brought along, I have a good and heavy soldier's  
blankets - both of which I found, one on the day of the  
battle, and the other some time ago on the road. I also  
found a pair of good buck-skin gloves. A great many  
things are found, because some people are so careless  
that they lose nearly everything they have. I have not  
had any of my bedding washed, but my pillow cases,  
and you can scarcely see that they have been used. I  
first throw down some straw, then my oil cloth, then  
my bedding carefully - next musing I fold them up  
nicely and put them into my oil-cloth sack. Thus  
I keep them all clean, whilst others have them all dirty.  
I also, as at home, wash myself all over once a week  
and keep my clothes clean and nice. Just as much  
so, as if I were at home. Wm out & Post



Now just bear with me till I say a few words  
about my Poney, and I'll quit. Well it was as good  
as it could be when I wrote to you before, but it  
is getting better all the time. It is almost as well  
as a human - I can't ride out to water it, but every  
body is praising it - and wanting to buy it - O the way  
it will please, and stop it off - I could get 100 \$ any  
day - but I won't take it. I am bound to take this one  
from if I have luck with it. The weather is so  
splendid - just like summer - not even frost at night,  
and beautiful sunshine during the day. I have  
only had fun in my tent a few times, in a week  
O I pity you poor fellows in Iowa - on the prairie  
with your snow storms - Well that Jay Ma  
has not yet made his appearance, and it is now un-  
derstood that he will not come now until after the  
pay mts are due - which is on Christmas - When the  
mte is due me 47 \$ I know not yet what I will  
do with it. I may not get the chance to bring it home  
It is now understood, that we are in winter quarters  
and a number are to go back to recruit for the Reg.  
So I may not get a chance to go in some way. But if  
that mail comes in I may know more, so I will re-  
sist for the present, and do not see about it.

Thursday 1 o'clock - the 21-62 - That mail did not  
get distributed until nearly 11 o'clock - today - it  
was so large and then it knocked our meeting  
all to nothing. Every body got lots of letters, and had  
to read them - church, or no church - so the few of us  
that met - put off our meeting until to-night. This  
sore, though pretty well, for my throat is still a little  
puffed - two of them very young yourself, one on  
about a sick soldier. But I got no W & Advocate  
I am very anxious to get them. Your letters are  
dated Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. They contained one of skins of silk,  
the other a skin of thread. Many thanks - But I now  
have enough for the present, I bought a lot of thread  
at Fayetteville. And socks I can get from the citizens  
as this is a sheep country, they are not very good  
but only cost from 31 to 50 cents. And I can now get along  
with what I have, until I can wear cotton again.  
Your letters much revived my drooping spirits  
I am Deacons School much I wish I could see  
Well all right - for you will be doing something  
I see I can't keep you as a lady, only take care and



You keep writing so much about Shirley.  
That I almost feel more anxious to see her, than  
any body else. Only tell all you know about  
her. Her letter was very welcome indeed - I will send  
her one this time. I am afraid she will forget  
me - or get mixed up from me. Tell her we now  
have a message to each for no - her name is "Anna".  
He is doing well thank you - but is pretty wretched. Sam & Mary  
Watson has not come yet - he is with a lot of other ones  
of his acquaintance - may get him yet. But I am pretty  
well out of the notion of having anything to do with  
them. They are nearly all a breach on us. I only  
wish I had Helen's name here, but don't want to  
to start matters he has some reliable persons to come  
with - I wrote him if Mr. Bellitt can be allowed to see  
this story, that was unwanted, he ought to come along  
But if he did not get off them, he had better not come  
more, until I get up, for I think I will stay



get off, some time, between this and spring -  
I would rather not go now until the Spring - if it suits  
all round - I. I sincerely know, whether or how you  
can spare next summer, or not - if it does not so  
please, you could come - but you need to think, you  
could not come without her, but I don't see how we  
could take her along - We must show to get a baggage  
or baggage case, but a good part of our own baggage  
has to be made certain that if we go at all - or rather  
in go - we go south - as Mississippi, and system  
will be taken off of this contract - so our shipping will  
be the south western part of the bill - But I may know  
more about these things - so I will leave, and wish you best  
about these things - We again have the former of  
replicas made - I now have plenty of paper - ink,  
and envelopes - I think our device - but it's easy to do  
nothing I can get them perfectly - you can buy them when  
you get them - I rather think I have all by your letter  
up to this day - Why not always mention about every one  
of any thing - When I get one, I read it over a time, and  
then print it with the addition of what I think and when I  
write again - I do not always do with it - but very good  
some times - I must you to remember these - I  
after they are then we will leave - I must quite a little  
with the account, and I will be for her about her church matter  
I think she will be all right - I have great confidence in her  
I think, among her friends, they are getting very excited about  
these recent acts of conduct - I hope you will be able to  
through - I think you had better write to Mr. Chapman  
at once - and get him to see to it - when you get the first  
check - or send the money, and receipts to you - I think  
can state the accounts for the 4 children, I must tell them  
and make a true thing of it - if not, how the receipts sent to you  
and take great care of them - see how you do as you wish - about your  
to see - but I think you can do this with  
on with you - about  
to see -  
De G. Chamberlain



Letter No. 30

Prairie Grove Battlefield      Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Good Wife:

It is Sat. night – 8 o  
clock and I will commence a letter to – to  
finish some other time. My last to you  
was written last Monday night at Fayetteville.  
The reason I did not write sooner, was i all  
the time anxiously looked for one from you  
[--] last was received nearly 2 weeks ago –  
just after the battle, so you may judge how  
anxious I am to hear from you – and on  
top of all this, I have been a little sick  
this week. Just enough t o make me a  
little peevish and lonely. If you had been here  
and “fumbled” around me a little, and per-  
mitted the sunshine of your cheerful coun-  
tenance to fall on me, or if I could only have  
read a letter from your pen, I resume it  
would have cured me at once. But for this  
you are not to blame. I have no doubt you  
have written, but we had no mails here  
since the battle. I know not how, or why it  
was so – it is believed the officers did it intention-  
ally so as to prevent the wounded and others  
writing to their friends. But an hour ago a  
very large mail arrived, it is not yet dis-  
tributed. I expect lots of news –

[along left margin]

we are still getting along very pleasantly in our Mess – had a chicken for dinner -  
We can have everything we want in this county – and we live well in our Mess.

[along bottom margin]

Our darky cooks for us – I keep the books at f--] - It costs me about  
3 dollars per week – for board

[right margin illegible]



But while I am waiting on it, I will continue to write. My sickness was partly over - much labor and excitement during the battle, and since in the Hospital, and partly a bad cold - which affected by throat. It was some like dyptheria. My throat is still pretty soar[sic], so that it will be difficult for me to preach tomorrow. My cold also brought on me one of my old "chilly spells" of the "week." But I took a little medicine, and drank sage tea, and dieted myself so that I now feel pretty well all but my throat, and that I think will be all right in a day or two. A great many have the sore throat otherwise we have better health in our Reg. At present, than at any previous time. The wounded also are doing unusually well. Only one has thus far died, and one had his arm taken off in our Reg. Major Thompson, and Lieut Cavindish are doing as well as could be expected, Both will recover, I think. For this I am glad, for they were my two best friends - the most congenial & reliable. Capt. Barney, and I are going up to see them next Monday. I will now give you a few domestic items. During the week I have been patching and fixing up a little, and among other things, I ripped up my old black pants - saved the good pieces to patch my new ones when they need it - and took the [lining?] which was good yet, and lined my new one with it - I mean those I bought at St. Louis. I have not yet worn them much - now don't you

think I am getting pretty smart. I also darned my old socks. I have not yet worn the new pair you gave me along – They are too small, in the leg for me. If I don't get others before I need them, I intend to cut them open and darn a piece into them. Thus far I have worn white shirts all the time, but think I will quit for awhile, as scarcely any one wears them in the army and it costs so much getting them washed, and then only half done. I have to pay 10 cents a piece. I bought me a nice large black silk handkerchief, which I wear around my neck. I got a woman in the Reg to hem it – she did not charge me nothing – she is from Cedar Rapids and belongs to Capt Bucks Co. I have a nice and comfortable bed. In addition to the bedding I brought along, I have a good and heavy soldiers blanket – both of which I found, one on the day of the battle, and the other some time ago on the road. I also bound a pair of good buckskin gloves. A great many things are found, because some people are so careless that they loose[sic] nearly everything they have. I have not had any of my bedding washed but my pillow cases. And you can scarcely see that they have been used. I first throw down some straw, then my oil cloth, then my bedding carefully. Next morning I fold them up nicely and put them into my oil cloth sock. This I keep then all clean whilst others have theirs all dirty. I also, as at home, wash myself all over once a week and keep my clothes clean and nice. Just as much so, as if I were at home. Now aint I good –



Now just bear with me till I say a few words  
about my poney[sic] and I'll quit. Well it was as good  
as it could be when I wrote to you before, but it  
is getting better all the time. It is almost as [--]  
as a human. I can't ride out to water it, but every  
body is praising it – and wanting to buy it – O the way  
it will prance, and step it off – I could get 100.00 any  
day – but I won't take it. I am bound to take this one  
home if I have luck with it. The weather is more  
splendid – just like summer – not even frost at night  
and beautiful sunshine during the day. I have  
only had fire in my tent a few times, in 2 weeks.  
O I pity you poor fellows in Iowa on the prairie  
with your snowstorms. Well that PayMaster  
has not made his appearance, and it is now un-  
derstood that he will not come now until after the 2  
payments are due – which is on Christmas – Then there  
will be owe me 472 \$. I know not yet what I will  
do with it. I may yet get the chance to bring it home  
It is now understood that we are in winter quarters  
and a number are to go back to recruit for the Reg.  
So I may not get a chance to go in some way. But after  
this mail comes in I may know more, so I will  
stay for the present, and go and see about it.  
Sunday, 1 o'clock – the 21<sup>st</sup> 62 – That mail did not  
get distributed until nearly 11 o'clock today – it  
was so large – and then it knocked our meeting  
all to nothing. Everybody got lots of letters, and has  
to read them – church or no church – So the few of us  
that met put off our meeting until to-night. This  
suited me pretty well, for my throat is still a little  
sore, though much better and I too, got 4 letters & 6  
papers – Two of them from yourself, 1 from A--] and one  
about a sick soldier. But I got no WWC Advocate  
I am very anxious to get them. Your letters are  
dated Dec 3d & 7<sup>th</sup>. This contained one a skein of silk,  
the other a skein of thread. Many thanks – But I now  
have enough for the present. I bought a lot of thread  
at Fayetteville. And socks I can get from the Citizens  
as this is a sheep county. They are not very good  
but only cost from 31 to 50 cents. And I can now get along  
with what I have, until I can wear cotton again.  
Your letters much revived my drooping spirits.  
Your teaching school much surprised me  
Well all right for you will be doing something  
I see I can't keep you as a lady only take care and don't  
injure your health.

You keep writing so much about Florrie  
that I almost feel more anxious to see her than  
any body else. Only tell all you know about  
her. Her letter was very welcome indeed – I will send  
her one this time. I am afraid she will forget  
me or get married off from me. Tell her we now  
have a nigger to cook for us – his name is “Gus”  
He is doing well thus far – but is pretty wicked. Our Henry  
Watson has not come yet – he is with a lot of other ones  
of his acquaintance – may get him yet. But I am pretty  
well out of the notion of having anything to do with  
them – they are nearly all a treacherous set. I only  
wish I had Abram down here, but don't want him  
to start unless he has some reliable person to come  
with – I wrote him if Mr. Elliott came down to see  
his son, that was wounded, he might come along  
But if he did not get off then, he had better not come  
now, until I get up, for I think I will surely



get off sometime between this and spring.

Would rather not go now until Spring – if it suits all round – I scarcely know whether to have you come down next summer or not. If it was not for Florrie, you could come – but you seem to think you could not come without her. And I don't see how we could take her along – We would have to get a buggy or waggon and haul a good part of our own baggage And it is now certain that if we go at all – or when we go – we go south – as Missouri and Eastern Ark. Are taken off of this district – So our destiny will be the Southwestern part of Ark. But I may know more in a few days – so I will close and keep you posted about these things. We again have the promise of regular mails – I now have plenty of paper – ink – and envelopes – stamps are scarce but if I can do no better I can get them [--] and you can pay them when you get them. I rather think I have all your letters up to this date. May not always mention about everyone and everything. When I get one, I read it once or twice, and then put it into the bottom of my trunk – and when I write again I do not always look at it – and may forget some items. I want you to number them all after this and then we will know – I write quite a lengthy letter to Naomi, and talked to her about her church matter. I think she will be all right. I have great confidence in her. I think among hands, they are acting very careless about those receipts, and 4 dollars – Why don't they do one or the other thing. I think you had better write to Mr. Chamberlain at once – and get him to see to it – either get the quit-claim Deed – or send the money and receipts to you. If the deed can still be procured for the 4 dollars, I would rather have it down and make a sure thing of it – if not, have the receipts sent to you and take great care of them. - You can do as you wish about giving to [--] - but don't see how you can to this winter

on until after your school

is out -

U Eberhart

No. 74!

Contraband Camp La. Aug. 7 1863

My Dear Wife & Daughters -

As I have a  
moment's leisure, I will drop you a few  
lines. This is the Third day in my con-  
traband Camp, and during that time I have  
seen more real suffering, wretchedness, and  
want, than in all my life put together,  
you need not expect a very cheering letter  
All this <sup>miserable</sup> has been caused by sheer neglect and  
down right wickedness. — or in military terms  
"Red Tape". To give an idea of it, I  
would state <sup>that</sup> ever since the taking oficksburg the  
negraes have been coming in, and been brought  
by boat, and waggons loads, until every old  
house, stable and shed, and mill was full of  
them. A man was appointed to take care of  
but he went up the river and was gone 3 weeks  
and nobody else cared for them. Complaints  
were made to the different officers, but they  
likewise as not cursed those that brought it,  
~~so~~ they had nothing to do with them.  
They had nothing to eat, & could not get any  
love or mercy — as they military power  
it all. At last all kinds of diseases broke  
out among <sup>them</sup> for they were crowded together  
just as thick as they could be jammed,  
and they commenced dying until they had  
→ thick beds — many of them all a putrid  
continued next page



want, I have an unenviable  
you need not expect a very cheering letter.  
All this "misery" has been caused by sheer neglect and  
downright wickedness. — or in military terms  
"Red Tape". To give an idea of it, I  
would state <sup>that</sup> ever since the taking of the burg the  
negroes have been coming in, and been brought in  
by boat, and waggon loads, until every old  
house, stable and shed, and mill was full of  
them. A man was appointed to take care of them  
but he went up the river and was gone 3 weeks  
and nobody else cared for them. Complaints  
were made to the different officers, but they  
likely as not cursed those that brought it, &  
~~said~~ they had nothing to do with them.  
They had nothing to eat, & could not get any  
love or mercy — in the military law he  
it all. At last all kinds of diseases broke  
out among <sup>them</sup> for they were crowded together  
just as thick as they could be jammed  
and they commenced dying until they dead  
→ thick full — many of them all a putrid  
carrion. This finally roused up the au-  
thorities, and they detailed soldiers to move them  
all out of town, — dead or alive. This  
an awful job, and the soldiers were really  
wicked as hell, and abused them shamefully.



I am sorry that I have almost been compelled to put off writing to you so long - and now I may not get this off for a day or two, as the River is between us & the P. You will likely not get it for 3 or 4 weeks: it is only one or 2 mails a week. About your coming down this fall I cannot say. If I get into a better condition, I want home you. I still am fully determined to come home if possible this fall, but may not get out so soon as I expected. Indeed! I will have to resign if I keep running down river more. I may be permitted to go north a few months and collect funds for clothing for the contrabands. This was the arrangement with Capt. Thomas, whom I agreed to go into, but he got sick and resigned, and Capt. Nelson in his place. He is a pretty rough fellow and may not permit me to go. But a few more, I think will decide the matter. You need not trouble yourself much getting here to come down, for if you come at all, it will be late, and we will have time to make the necessary arrangements. About Warren going to school, I know not what to say, but am inclined to think she had better hold on, until this matter is decided. If I continue in the work, I suppose she would like to be with us. If I should resign, I will take a circuit, and we may be far from Mt. W. If she however is very anxious to go - let her go. But I don't think it will pay for you to go.

→ The trouble to go to home keeping - for I

continued next page



months and collect funds for clothing for  
the contrabands. This was the arrangement  
with Capt. Thomas, whom I agreed to go into it,  
but he got sick and resigned, and Capt. C. A.  
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us. If I should resign, I will take a cir-  
cuit, and we may be far from Mt. Vernon.  
If she however is very anxious to go - let her  
go. But I don't think it will pay for you to go  
→ the trouble to go to horse-keeping - for I will  
go with me, wherever I am - or may be  
And I now feel, as though I would have to  
resign before long, and go north - to save  
my health. Levi Weaver is well, and  
a good "Nigger Boss" - or "Massa".



to (page 9)  
Our camp is right on the "great cut"  
of the canal, about which you know  
so much - it was all a prearrangement.

and huddled them off by hundreds & thousands  
and into the waggon, and from there into  
the boats, and brought them into this place.  
It is ~~at~~ <sup>side</sup> opposite Vicksburg, on the Louis-  
iana side of the River, on the Point. Just  
at this time I was detailed to go and take  
charge of them. You will remember that  
when they urged me to go into it, they  
said I could select my own camp, and  
have as many ~~many~~ men to assist me  
as I wanted. So I selected 9 men from  
Herron's Div, but unfortunately, before I  
the detail made this Div. - passed from  
Grant's Department, so he had no man-  
power over them and I did not get them  
- so all the help I have thus far, is Levi  
Weaver. Well, here they are thrown  
off the boat on to the shore and left  
shift for themselves. On hearing all this  
I hastened over, and on last sabbath, instead  
of preaching twice in the city, I worked all  
day hard in the hot sun, and ever since  
until last night, I gone out, so I am  
trying to write a little to you. But now  
comes the worst of all - to add insult to  
injury, through some body's neglect, I  
have had no rations since here, and so  
have been here 5 days, so that many of  
them are actually starving to death, and all

→ dying, from disease and exposure, so that  
continued next page



as I wanted. 20 I selected 1 man for  
Herron's Troop, but unfortunately before I  
the detail made this Troop - passed for  
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trying to write a little to you. But now  
comes the worst of all - to add insult  
injury, through some body's neglect,  
have had no rations since here, - and so  
have been here 4 days, so that many  
them are actually starving to death, and as  
→ dying from disease, and exposure, so that  
the dead are lying thick all round. We  
in all the camp, not 20 well men.  
They are weak from hunger. We have the  
best work you ever heard of to get the  
buried. For you must remember, that this







Contraband Camp La. Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Wife & daughters -

As I have a moments leisure, I will drop you a few lines. This is the third day in my contraband camp, and during that time I have seen more real suffering, wretchedness, and want, than in all my life put together you need not expect a very cheering letter All this misery has been caused by sheer neglect, and down right wickedness – or in military terms “Red Tape.” To give an idea of it, I would state that ever since the taking Vicksburg the negroes have been coming in and been brought by boat, and waggon's loads, until every old house, stable and shed, and mill was full of them. A man was appointed to take care of it but he went up the River and was gone 3 weeks and nobody else cared for them. Complaints were made to the different officers, but they likely as not cursed those that brought it, swore they had nothing to do with them. They had nothing to eat & could not get any [--] love or mercy as they military power [--] it all. At last all kinds of diseases break out among them for they were crowded together just as thick as they could be jammed and they commenced dying until, the dead thick full – many of them all a putrid carion. This finally waked up the [--] and they detailed soldiers to move them all out of town – dead or alive – This an awful job, and the soldiers were mad & wicked as hell, and abused them shamefully.

I am sorry that I have almost been compelled to put off writing to you so long - and now I may not get this off for a day or two, as the river is between us & the P.O. You will likely not get it for 3 or 4 weeks. Is only one or 2 mails a week. About your coming down this fall I cannot say. If I do get into a better condition, I want have you come (I still am fully determined to come home if possible this fall, but may not get out as soon as I expected. Indeed I will have to resign if I keep running down any more. I may be permitted to go north a few months and collect funds for clothing for the contrabands. This was the arrangement with Capt. Thomas, when I agreed to go into [--] but he got sick and resigned, and Capt. A. [Derson?] in his place. He is a pretty tough fellow and may not permit me to go. But a few more, I think will decide the matter. You need not trouble yourself much getting [--] to come down, for if you come at all, it be late, and we will have time to make the necessary arrangements. About Naomi going to school, I know not what to say, but am inclined to think she had better hold on until this matter is decided. If I continue in the work, I suppose she would like to be with us. If I should resign, I will take a circuit, and we may be far from Mt. [--] If she however is very anxious to go - Let her But I don't think it will pay for you to go The trouble to go to house keeping - for I want you with me, wherever I am or may be And I now feel, as though I would have to resign before long, and go north to save my health. Levi Weaver is well, and a good "Nigger Boss" or "Massa."



[upside down at top of page]

Our camp is right on the great "cut-of" or canal, About which you heard so much – It was all a humbug.

.....

and huddled them off by hundreds & thousands into the waggons, and from there into the boats, and brought them into this place.

It is opposite side Vicksburg, on the Louisiana side of the river on the Point. Just

at this time I was detailed to go and take charge of them. You will remember that

when they urged me to go into it, they said I could select my own camp, and

have as many men to assist me

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them are actually starving to death, and others

dying from disease, and exposure, so that

the dead are lying thick all round. We

in all the camp, not 20 well men

They are weak from hunger. We have the

[--] work you ever hear of to get them

[--]. For you must remember that this

[upside down along top of the page]

I have now over 3 months pay due, which I can lift any day, here in Vicksburg. I let Lieut[?] Wrightman have 50 dollars which he will pay to Alvin and he is to send it to John to be paid

camp is composed of women & children, old and decrepids; and sick ones. The st--] men are all enlisted in the army. Now you have an outside view of our condition But to describe it all, language fails. This once of the lamentation, and begging, and groaning for. They come round me by hundreds & beg and cry just for a morsel to keep them alive or their children from starving. Fortunately, I brought a box of crackers, and a few other thins along for my own use, which I divide among them by small bits, as far as it goes. Yesterday I sent Levi out 6 miles to another camp, got permission to get some rations, but we have no team, and they have none to bring them [--] so this morning I started all that could, it got some, some will not get up.

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> ---- When I left off writing yesterday, I went to assist Levi to get the dead buried, as he could not succeed. I found dead bodies all over camp. We dug holes and rolled 3 or 4 in, and covered them up – ie. We had it done. I am so run down that I have to hold out a little. But I get on the Pony and ride round and give directions. Today there is so many dead. I thnk we will soon get them for so they will do better. We got some rations, but isn't near enough. Expect more today. We also are to have some tents. I am tired of it, and if things don't go better soon, I am bound to quit. I can't



**History of the 20th Iowa**

BENTON BARRACKS,  
St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 10, 1862.

EDITOR, GAZETTE:—The Twentieth may now be counted among the regiments regularly in the service, and to give a complete narrative of our experiences, I briefly review our ways and doings from the first. The regiment is composed exclusively of companies organized in Scott and Linn counties, ranked as follows:

- Company A—Captain, Bates, Linn Co.
- Company B—Captain Coulter, Linn Co.
- Company C—Capt. Thompson, Scott Co.
- Company D—Captain Torrey, Scott Co.
- Company E—Captain Barney, Scott Co.
- Company F—Captain Hubbard, Linn Co.
- Company G—Captain Altman, Scott Co.
- Company H—Captain Lucore, Linn Co.
- Company I—Captain Cook, Linn county.
- Company K—Captain Byram, Scott Co.

Companies A and B were in the rendezvous, at Clinton, at the time the 18th regiment left the State; companies O and D went to Clinton on the same boat, Aug. 13th; company E, on the 14th, and the others within two or three days following.

The Colonel and Major had been appointed previous to the above named dates. The Lieutenant Colonel was appointed the 26th, and other staff officers at intermediate times. They are as follows:

- Colonel—Wm. McE. Dye, formerly Captain of regulars.
  - Lieutenant Colonel—J. B. Leake, Scott county.
  - Major—Wm. G. Thompson, Linn county.
  - Adjutant—O. S. Lake, Johnson county.
  - Quartermaster—J. H. Rice, Johnson Co.
  - Surgeon—H. Ristine, Linn county.
  - Chaplain—Uriah Eberhart, Linn county.
- The first and second assistant surgeon positions are yet vacant.

to suit the peculiar condition of the ends. In this, our time of sore trial as nation, we shall lose nothing in Iowa, by being heed to that "still small voice" which in our heart of hearts indicates that their religious feelings should be respected to such an extent, at least, that they may not be forced to bear arms.

**FROM THE TWENTIETH REGIMENT.**

CAMP BENTON, St. Louis, Sept. 8.

EDITOR, GAZETTE:—The 20th regiment of Iowa volunteers arrived here last evening, remained on the steamer Northener until this morning, and after having partaken of a hasty breakfast, took up their line of march for Camp Benton. On every side they were greeted with the waving of flags and handkerchiefs, by all classes, men, boys, children, and always by the *genus minima*. On our way to this Camp we met the 99th Illinois, bound for the seat of war in the Southwest. As they passed, the Illinois cheered Iowa and *vice versa*. It is said by many that the 20th is the best body of men that has passed through St. Louis. The boys are all in good spirits and ready for anything, now that they are away from the fair ones left behind, who seemed so sorrowful at their departure. It is impossible to tell how long we shall remain here, or in what direction we shall march. Some say Kentucky, others the Northwest. The 19th Iowa is still here awaiting orders to march to the scene of conflict.

The recent reverses to our arms do not the least dampen the ardor of our regiment. On the contrary, it only increases our desire for the struggle to maintain our old ship of State in its original glory, and expire with it and lay themselves beneath the clods of Southern soil.

W. J. S.  
**Citizen Soldiers Vote?**  
the *Pittsburg Gazette* argues at length in reference to the



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The first and second assistant surgeon positions are yet vacant.

FROM THE TWENTIETH REGIMENT.

The following from the efficient chaplain of the 20th regiment will be read with interest. We omit the portion detailing the events of the trip to St. Louis.

BENTON BARRACKS, Sept. 11, 1862.

EDITOR OF GAZETTE:—According to promise I will give you a few items of information, relative to the 20th regiment

\* \* \* \* \* Upon calling the roll on our arrival in St. Louis it was ascertained that two of our men were among the missing. One of them we fear was unfortunate enough to fall overboard into the river, but the other one it is believed got off the boat at one of the stopping places, and *skeddaddled*, for parts unknown.

On Monday morning the regiment marched out through the city to Benton Barracks; and the city papers announced, that a better looking regiment had never entered into, or out of Benton Barracks. And last night at dress parade, I heard it remarked quite frequently, 'What a fine regiment! What fine officers!' So you see, that in making our *appearance* we made a great impression. And I am greatly mistaken if we don't keep this *appearance*, even in the battle field. And it is very probable that we shall soon have an opportunity to try ourselves, as the regiment is now under marching orders. To-morrow morning we are to start for Rolla, Mo., and then where, we know not. But I am inclined to think that we will not have far to go to find rebels. To this place letters may be addressed for the present. And let me say to those who have relatives and friends in the regiment, write often to them. You can have no idea how welcome these visitors are, and how much good they may do. I would also say send them all the good reading matter you can, it will not only entertain and edify them, but also keep them from idleness, and possibly from vice. The general health of the regiment is good. We have five cases of measles, and a few have diarrhea, but all are doing as well as could be expected. The boys are all in good spirits. More anon.

U. EBERHART



Author/Creator: Eberhart, Uriah, b. 1821.  
 Title: Papers, 1856, 1861-1865, 1878, 1881.  
 Quantity: 0.4 c.f. (1 archives box)  
 Summary: Papers of a Methodist Episcopal pastor, including diaries kept while riding a circuit in north central Illinois and while serving a church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and diaries and letters written while chaplain with the 20th Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, serving in the Ozarks and on the Mississippi River.  
 Subjects: Methodist Episcopal Church Clergy.  
 United States. Army. Iowa Infantry Regiment, 20th.  
 Circuit riders Illinois.  
 Cedar Rapids (Iowa)  
 United States History Civil War, 1861-1865.  
 Form/Genre: Manuscript collection.  
 Diaries.  
 RLIN Number: WIHV90-A1059  
 Location: Archives Main Stacks  
 Call Number: Mss 283  
 Shelf Location: MAD 4 /42/D4

*Chaplain  
20th Iowa*

State Historical Society  
<http://arcat.library.wisc.edu>  
[archref@whs.wisc.edu](mailto:archref@whs.wisc.edu)

*ch*

*7/7/05*

*Clinton Iowa -  
Aug - 22/1862 -*

*Battle October 5th, 1862  
Prairie Grove? -  
yes - some good stuff -*

*NOTE: (\*)  
MORE letters  
REMAIN in the  
MADISON Collection  
//  
THESE HERE ARE  
1/2*

*More letters  
in the Madison  
Archives  
Tom*