NAME OF SOLDIER:	Brown, Elon F.			
NAME OF DEPENDENT:	Widow.	Brown, Sarah W.		
	Minor.			
SERVICE:	U. S. U. S. Inf.			
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1869 Apl. 21	Invalid.	142519		
1870 June 5.	Widow.	183664	144582	
	Minor.			
ATTORNEY:				
DISPOSITION:				

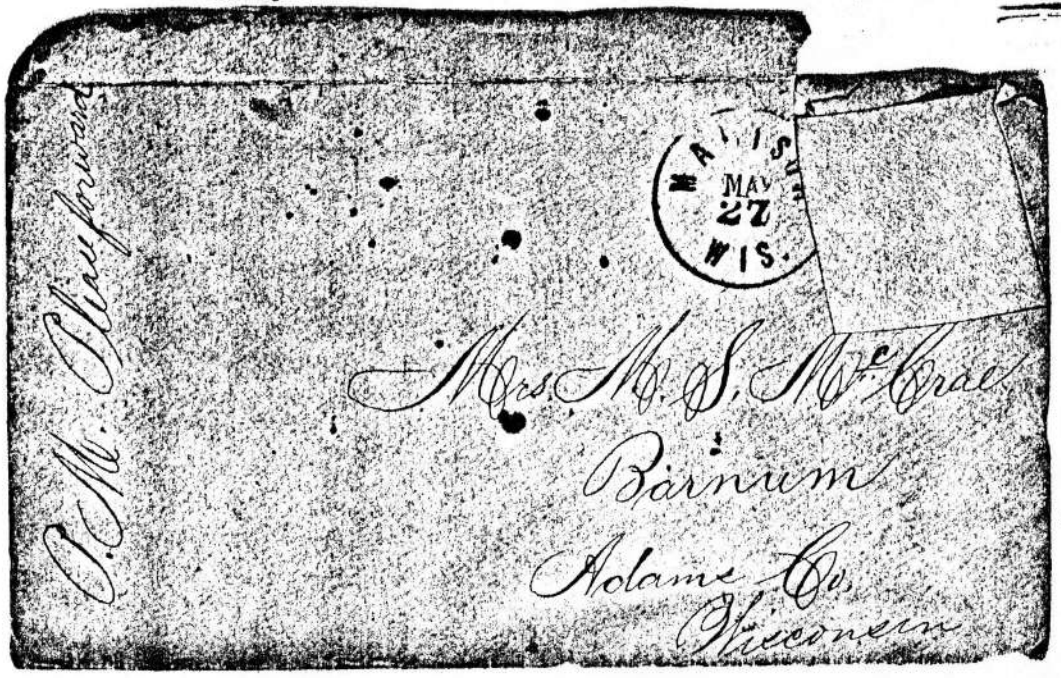
Record Index: Elon F. Brown
Widow: Sarah W. Brown
Roll number: T288_55

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in The Town of Jefferson **in the County of** Jefferson **State of** Wisconsin **enumerated by me, on the** 14th **day of** August **1850.** Alex Stewart **Assistant.**

Dwellinghouses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description. Age.	Sex.	Color. (White, black, or mulatto.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read or write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Julia Orville Hoyt	15	f				New York		1		
		Cornelia "	13	f				" "		1		
		Sarah "	11	f				" "		1		
		Lucilly "	8	f				" "		1		
		Lythera "	6	f				" "				
		Adelia "	4	f				" "				
		Mary "	1	f				" "				
		Chas Hausbrough	20	m		Labourer		" "				
455	470	James Brown	51	m		Physician		" "				
		Melina "	41	f				" "				
		Melina "	17	f				" "				
		Eliza "	12	f				" "				
		Francis E "	11	m				" "		1		
		M M "	4	m				" "		1		
		Milton "	8	m				" "		1		
		James "	6	m				" "		1		
		Lucinda "	4	f				" "				
		Robert H "	1	m				" "				
	471	F J Roberts	34	m		Farmer	1800	" "				
		Martha M "	34	f				Massachusetts				
		John F "	8	m				Wisconsin		1		
		Amelia P "	7	f				" "		1		
		Jefferson "	5	m				" "		1		
		Sidney "	3	m				" "				
		Laura "	1	f				" "				
	472	Mary Carrier	27	f				New York				
		John "	8	m				Wisconsin		1		
		Jane "	6	f				"		1		
		Mary "	5	f				"				
		Ellen "	2	f				"				
455	473	Jesse Roberts	61	m		Farmer	4000	Connecticut				
		Betsey "	55	f				Massachusetts				
		Marvin "	19	m		Farmer		New York		1		
		Emory "	14	m				" "		1		
	474	Benjamin Roberts	25	m		Farmer		" "	1			
		Jeanette "	25	f				" "	1			
456	475	Jared Allen	42	m		Farmer		" "				
		Julia "	40	f				" "				
		Rachel J "	14	f				" "		1		
		Susan L "	13	f				" "		1		
		Eugene L "	11	m				" "		1		
		Leander F "	9	m				" "		1		

18 Iw
7/4 V

Behind pictures
Co. G - First Regt
Bendans - Sharp Shooters
Washington, D.C.
Uncle Robert
or Elon; or
Mitchell ?



Poem

by

Uncle John

My little neice has learnt to sing,—at least she reckons so, . . . She thinks she's ketched the proper swing in that—air tremmolo,—she's spent a fortune on the thing . . . but . . . really, I dunno!

Most every night when I tune in, I listen at her squall,—the wiggle, wabble, trill an' screech—I suffer through 'em all,—but I'd sooner face a firin' squad—my back against the wall!

It's turrible—how fur they've led the human voice astray—an' twisted an' distorted, in their diabolic way . . . My idea is, they've murdered it—an' done the job fer pay!

But,—we might as well be hopeful, as to try to raise a fuss; I wouldn't want my sistern-law to listen at me cuss . . . And, Teeny's finished "trainin'" so, her voice can't get much wuse!

Obituary.

Beret Smesrud, wife of Knut A. Smesrud, died Nov. 17, 1893, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. O. Hawkins, at the age of 62 years.

Beret Steensath was born in Norway July 12, 1831. She was united in marriage to Knut a Smesrud in 1854. She was the mother of ten children, eight of whom with the aged husband still survive her. There are five sons, viz: Chris, Lars, Ole, Arne and Andrew, and three daughters Mrs. Carrie Hatlestad, of Cottonwood, Mrs. Anne Peterson, of Minneapolis and Mrs. E. O. Hawkins, of Canby.

The direct cause of her demise was dropsy. For several weeks she was a great sufferer but bore her pain with Christian fortitude. The funeral was held at the St. Stephans church in Canby Sunday, Nov. 19, the Rev. Olaf Hoel officiating, and we laid her to rest in the quiet church yard to await the Trump of God.

IN MEMORIAM

Friend (at dinner)—How can yo tell old chickens from young ones?

Up-to-date Youth—Say, can't yo see through a little powder and paint

If Married

A lengthy lecture,
Now and then,
Is handed to
The best of men.

Dad Had the Proof

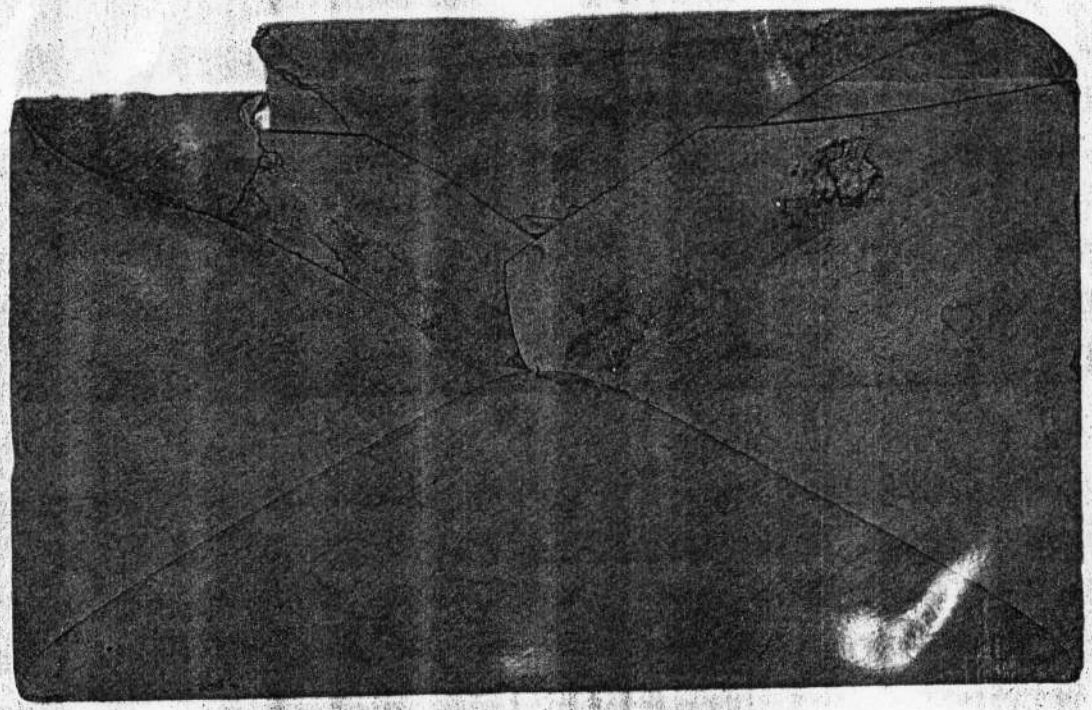
"My face is my fortune," boaste the princess daughter of the family.

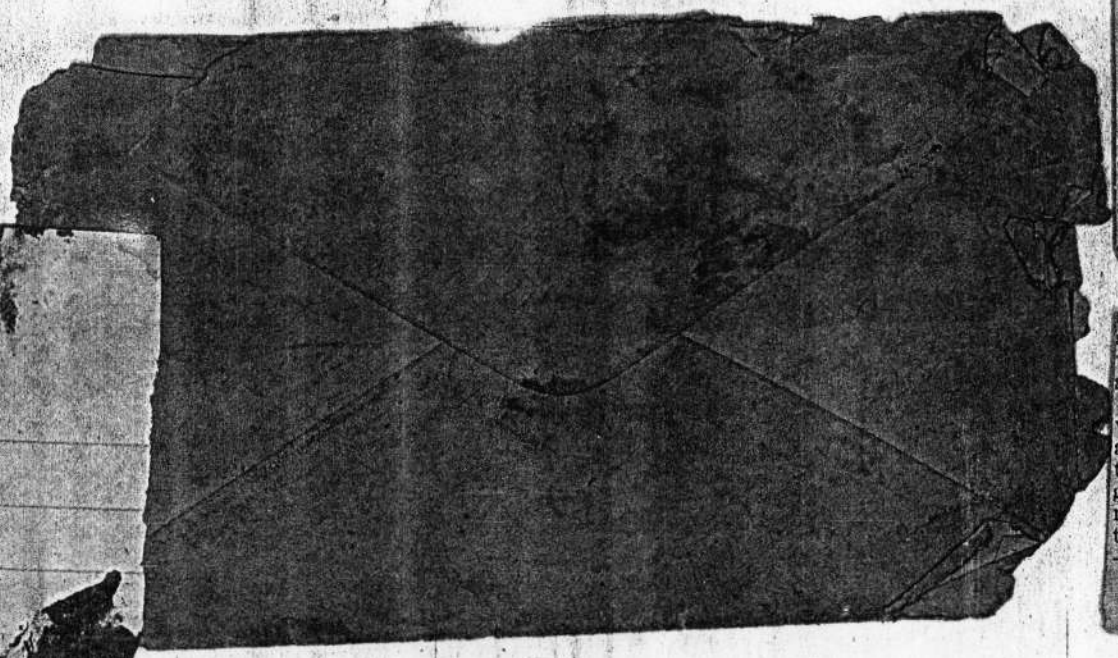
"You mean my fortune," growled he dad, who was writing a check to pa the bill from the beauty parlor.

His Opinion

"I dropped into the Tote Fair stor this morning," related a guest, "an found the proprietor and his cler playing checkers."

"Eh-yah!" returned the landlord o the Petunia tavern. "I always di say that a merchant that will pla checkers before noon ain't got muc business nor much sense to attend t it if he had it."





Co G
First Regt Berdan's
Sharp Shooters
Washington D.C.
uncle Robert
v
clow

called st at Ke capital at a clipping pace, and, suddenly before an old-time mansion, dismounted and rang laughing in, leaving her horse modestly to wait for his little mistress to return. I watched the pink face, golden hair and handsome riding habit until they disappeared within the wide open door, and then turned my attention to the horse. His bridle was as delicate as a silken cord and on his back was a flat, Englishman's saddle with one small stirrup. As I stood looking the young girl came bounding out the gate and mounted, evidently pleased at the harmless admiration of a stranger.

"How do you manage to stick on that saddle?" I asked.

"Oh, it's the easiest thing in the world," she said, "Father is uneasy sometimes, but I always like a man's saddle best," and, bounding lightly to the horse's back, in another moment she was out of sight.

"That's one of the Kentucky girls we like to read about," thought I, and as I turned away I had a feeling akin to sorrow when I remembered how the graceful, healthful habit of horseback riding was falling into disuse among the Kentucky girls of the present day. —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Persistent Childhood.

A little girl made a great clamor

April 24, 1987

Dear Vic + Sybil —

I trust that you returned home safe and sound and that you had an enjoyable trip. Vic, we do hope that you are feeling back to normal again.

I am sending you copies of the letters. Sorry that some are not better but some were so faint that it was difficult to read the originals. You will also notice that not all the pages are there but it is all that I have.

Sincerely,

Cliff + Viola

The following letters are from Cliff + Viola (A to S)

Victor R Cass

From Vista, N.

Lenice March 9 1851

Dear Brother & Sister

I will I hence set up to (you request me to write soon Well I have this sheet of paper and I thought I would write a line or two After receiving your letter bearing the date of February 1 which gives us information of you circumstances and I am glad to learn that you are so well off and in a way to be better off if sickness or death does not interfeer which I hope it may not I will proceed to answer some question which you have asked and explain some other Dear Sister I have never thought heard of of you for not signing off neither do I think hard of you now for I have had a better understanding with you than the others and you have had trouble allmost without measure and for this reason I have not asked you when I would because I have had feeling for you and have been sorry for you and would have been glad to have relieved you had its been in my power but I have helpt others to my disadvantag and if they would render kindness in return I should feel better than I now do towards them I did expect that you heared many things said there to mothers and by strangers which would be calculated to excite in their favour and you being about to leave the country did not reply in that you mite have done was otherwise with you for the sake of those feelings we wish to exist when separated which will dwell sweet on our memory whill the lamp of life holds out to burn though we may be separated far apart yet how sweet then memory still show delightful is the memory of kindred ties that is bound together in love by those ties which have sprung up in our youthfull hearts while being fed around one table and warmed by one fire, how sacred such ties to remain in our memory

Richfield Ohio

Dear Sister I am happy to learn that you find friends in that country and from you have heard before but you requested me to give you the address of Amarilla it is ~~Portland Lake~~ Hillsboro Columbiana County Ohio. Apr 13 a little over a months has passed since I commenced this letter yet we are all alive and enjoying a common degree of health But Mother has been very sick somuch that she had watchers a few nights but has so recovered as to attend to her own concerns and live a lone which I guess is not as agreeable as it used to be but I do all that I can and would take pleasure in doing more would it be acceptable but she is so constituted that is impossible for any one to suit her long ~~at~~ Araminta thinks she has render a great help she came there with Mary and Elkin some one of the boys and stay all night and she would have to be seen to more than mother for she would faint and the neighbours begin to think it a double task for them I do not speak of this to complain yet the burden lies on me Warren stayed with mother a few days which was a help to mother Araminta has been to visit us Mary stayed with us one week Araminta health is not very good and it is not to be wondered at for such livings they have is enough to distroy the life and comfort of any one I hardly know what will become of them I have received a letter from Crastus he has affliction sore and trying lost one of his children and Abigal has been very sick which has cost him over $200 and Abigal is very poor and allways will be he feels the loss of his little boy which he named after me yet he has been dead 6 months a promising boy he was and his days are numbered

Our children grow finely little Ellen is a very cunning girl and we think a great deal of her as well as of the rest they are now quietly in bed taking there sweet repose Elizabeth has now gone to bed and I must go soon, while I am writing I am thinking of you and yours and it is a pleasure to think of you, but if you will bear with me I will lay my pen down and resume it some other time when I ma find something more interesting to fill up the remainder of this sheet for I suppose you would like to have it filled May 11 all well a very pleasant day had a fine shower every thing is cheered with the prospect of Summer yet it has been very backward Lenorm was here yesterday the folks was well mother Mother was well [illegible] I have not got my corn planted yet but I hope to by week others things are as they were when you left Salmon is in geneva I suppose he was the last I heard from him Crosters live in the town of emmet Calhoun Co Mich his address is Battle Creek Calhoun Co Mich I suppose you have got tired of waiting for a answer from me I intended to have writen sooner yet I have not my reasons are various some on the account pressing business and some neglect which I hope you will forgive me I will try to do better in future. we have attended meeting in our schoolhouse to day, I received a letter from Norman oldest boy a few days since writes they are well Norman lost his wife last spring and married a gain in three weeks this is all I can tel you about them perhapse you have heard from them

Dear Sister & Brother I will propose to you
in this way that every thing may be fairly understood
which I doubt not you will freely acquiesce in any
thing that is fair I know not how much it will
cost me in mothers last days the prospects is more
than I want to think of now: yet if I do not there
is none that can in this country I loose now all my
labour but I trust to manage to make the place bare
all other expences. But I had thought of asking you
once more if I would receive one third of mothers clothing
[illegible] if I am willing to do
and I hope that I shall not be so hard hearted as not to
grant it) for you (and you know to me I would
not ask this if I could do it without. But I am badly in
debt and it is a heavy burden on me to bear more
than I can with safety yet I do not want to see Moth
suffer if I can help it If you will I will be
to the expence of making the deed and send it you
postage paid for you and James acknowledge
[illegible] return it to me and if this is asking
to much think on it candidly and report to me as
soon as possible and be assured that I remain
your affectionate Brother untill death
Elizabeth sends her love to you wishing to see
you a gain the short acquaintance she was so
pleased with remembers us to the children and
James in particular

F. B. Br.
M B

Franklin B Horne
Elizabeth M Horne

we will be more as soon [illegible] in

Salem, Jan. 15th/59

My dear cousin Elon:

Your welcome letter is received, and most gladly will I devote a few moments in responding.

Truly, we have long been deferred, but your letter has served to bring afresh to my mind the "dreams of childhood" — the many happy hours we have spent together in days that are past and gone; and, which shall we only recall at most probably the happiest days of our lives. But the ever turning — never ceasing wheel of time is rapidly bearing us on and we are only "growing older". — Grow old as die we must. We wish it were not so, but thus it is.

You and I Elon are young yet, too young perhaps to think of getting old, but I

[illegible] to look to [illegible]
[illegible] played together—
[illegible] Ten or twelve years
ago. [illegible] song [illegible]

The [illegible]
Bear [illegible]
Are [illegible] as we were then,
With [illegible]
But master [illegible] upon the hill, all coated over with snow,
That afforded us a sliding place, some Twenty Years Ago.

I was very glad to hear that you
and all the [illegible] were well. I hope [illegible]
you [illegible] and that
the [illegible] at extra age [illegible]
[illegible] broken [illegible] in a long long time.
Russel had written to me before of the
death of [illegible], but he [illegible]
received of the other death. Russel and I
have written several times to each other in the
last year or two; but for some reason or

have been doing with George Lane his wife dead. It is rather pleasing to see them all flat home together as we did last New Year's Eve. We talked over old times & Kindred Relations. Generally speaking "all is well."

I want to see you very much Elon and all the family, but I don't know when I shall be permitted. It is quite doubtful whether I ever come to the "west" again so far. But I would really like to come and see you. We should be very happy to see you here if you ever conclude to visit the "land of your birth."

You will see by this letter that I have gone from the above address. I hope you have got home.

Elon please write to me again as soon as you can conveniently and let me know about yourself — if you have a good home — a good school — what you are studying — what Mitchell is doing — &c. &c. Cousin Sandy resides with me in sending "love" to you and all your friends.

Your cousin,

Mr. Elon Brown

Mrs. C. Brown.

Hattie

or other [illegible] received your last letter. I was [illegible] for it, and in this way, "Procrastination is the thief of time."

I intend to write to [illegible] soon. It is pleasant ~~to~~ to hear that you are well, and we are all usually well too. Pa and Ma are in pretty good health, and we boys are pretty rugged too, at present. Irene has not been quite out of health the past year but is now much better. Benjamin is married and has one boy, about two months old. He is living here on the old farm with us. Robert is going to school this winter at South Butler, or Kings Corners, it used to be when you were here. Butler has changed some since you left, you would hardly know it Elon.

Uncle Benjamin's family is well, I believe, except Judah who is in poor health and the only one of the children remaining unmarried. Esther lives on the old homestead; and George is little North on the same farm. The old folks and Judah

hard work is about done with. It has been verry dry here this summer. too dry for corn and potatoes. We shall have small crops of both. Wheat, and oats are good. You were right in supposing wheat and corn were our chief productions though potatoes, oats, and barley are raised to some extent. Mitchell went back to Adams Co. early last spring. I have not heard from him for about two months. he and the rest of the family were well then. I believe he intends to come back here this fall.

Dear Eugene I can hardly think of you as I know you must be. My mind runs back to the little boy I used to know. I think of the days we have spent together and which seem to be the happiest days of

my life and when I think of you, you seem to be the same that you were then. Had we only realized our situations in life how happy we might have been. We had not yet learned the evil that was in the world. As I look back at those days my mind is filled with a host of tender recollections. The thought makes me almost wish myself a boy again. But Eugene we are still young and there is much enjoyment for us yet if we only live as we should.

But the greatest earthly enjoyment is a conscience void of guilt. O what happiness there is for us if we only gain admittance into that world of "Eternal Rest." O it rejoices my heart to hear that you have set out to walk in the high-

way of holiness. Press forward there is a prize at the end of the race. The way is rough and rugged but we have help to walk in it. "Sorrow may continue for a night but joy cometh in the morning."

Dear Eugene if you will answer this I will try to be more punctual next time.
Please accept these few lines from your sincere friend
E. F. Bra

Sun Prairie Aug. 24/5

Dear Eugene

~~months~~ more than th months have passed since the receipt of your letter and still it remains unanswered. I did not intend to have it delayed s long at the time of its receipt. but time has passed and when on gone it cannot be regained. As you stated it is a much pleasan er task to read a letter from a friend than it is to write one. Well I have been verry bus this summer and in fact have not had much time to write. But I will not stop to appologize. the time that is lost is lost forever and our aim should be to improve the present.
I have enjoyed verry good health this summer and have worked pretty hard. But harvest is passed and

And now my friends farewell; I go to the performance of a painful duty may God keep me from evil and bring us all unto himself that we may meet above.

I shall endeavor to let you hear from me often and I hope you will be punctual about answering me. I dond think the war will last 3 years but we cant tell. The Soldiers seem to think we can dig up the whole Southern Confederacy with our bayonets and plant corn on it in less than that time. I dont know as you can read this but if you could see the convenienies I have for writing you would wonder that I could write atall. Direct your letters to ~~Madison~~ Randal Guard

Mr Robbert H Brown
Pkarquet Co

Camp Randal
Madison Wis

Yours in love,

Dr M. Meeral

Elon F. Brown

CAMP RANDALL.

Madison May 29 1861.

Dear Brother and Sister

Again I have pen in hand writing to you but under different circumstances than I was when last I wrote to you. The news which I am to tell you will probably surprise you I know not whether it will grieve you, or make you glad. I have enlisted in the army to go South to fight for my country. Do not think I acted rashly in this matter but be assured that it was well considered before a step was taken. I felt it my duty to do so for some weeks before I did, but shrunk from it. The thought that I am going into the wholesale butchery of my fellow men is heart rending and yet I would not give it up if I could. The war is fast on the part of the North and any man is a traitor

to his his country who refuses to go if he has nothing to keep him more than I have. Many have gone who have left friends who were depending on them for support and should I refuse who have no one to take care of? The family is large and there are enough left to see to each other. I am of but little use to the world so if I am killed the loss will be small. I would like to see you once more before I go but that is impossible. You have doubtless seen me for the last time for the art of war is so well learned at the present day that a great majority of all who go to battle are killed.

I belong to the 2nd Regiment which is to consist of one thousand men (ten companies of one hundred each). I have been sworn in to the service of the state for three years or during the war. We are to be mustered into the United States service this afternoon. The Regiment is not quite full yet but will be in two or three days. We dont know when we will leave here: probably we will not leave ~~the~~ the state before fall. I came in and enlisted a week ago last Monday. I intended to have gone back to Sun Prairie the same or the next day and to have stayed two or three days but the same day the Colonel shut down closer on the boys and I could not get away and probably cannot for two or three weeks yet. James is at work there I did not see him for two or three days before I came away as I intended to go right back. We have very comfortable quarters and most of the boys enjoy themselves. I do not enjoy the company very well and nothing but the thought that I am at work in a good cause keeps my spirits up.

We have to drill (V) seven hours a day which is enough to make us tired at night.

The company to which I belong is called "Randal Guard" (after the Governor) the whole regiment is called "Camp Randal"

I sent you some scraps which I cut from the newspapers sent from Chicago.

Camp Kalorama. Washington Aug. 28th/61

Brother and Sister

Yours of Aug. 11th has been received and I will attempt to answer. Since I last wrote to you we have removed our quarters from Ft. Corcoran across the Potomac a distance of three miles, and are now encamped on the north side of Washington, about a mile and a half from the capitol. We have been transferred from Sherman's, to Kings Brigade, which consists of the Second, Fifth, and Sixth Wisconsin regiments the seventy-ninth New York, the thirty-fourth Indianna and the Second Fire-Zouaves.

The First (Ellsworths) regiment of Fire Zouaves were badly cut up and have gone to New York to recruit, I don't know what this regiment of Zouaves will do but if they fight as well as Ellsworths did at Bull Run we will all be satisfied for they did most execution

along all right. If an attack is made here I shall be able to have a share in the fun but I am not at present able to march if we should be ordered to advance into Virginia.

It is a general time of health among the soldiers, not more than thirty or forty are sick in our regiment and those are not dangerous; not a man of our regiment has yet died of disease. — Skirmishes take place every day between our pickets and those of the rebels, and hardly a day passes without several being killed on both sides.

I thought when I got your letter that I would go to work and write an account of the battle as it was but it would take me some time to do it and I have not the knowledge of what the officers intended to do or what any but our own brigade did do so I thought it would not pay. There has been an account of the battle in full detail written, a correct report too, by Sec. Wilkes and if I can obtain it I will send it to you; if I cannot get it I will give you a short history of it myself as soon as I am able to learn the proceedings of the whole army. The reports of officers have not all been given yet. I must close not having any thing more to write.

Yours Truly Elon F. Brown

I hope you will not be foolish enough to enlist; no man who has a family has any business to enlist. Every married man in the ranks is sorry he enlisted, for they say their families are not provided for as they expected they would be. Give my regards to those who intend to enlist in your neighborhood after harvest.

Success to them

there than any other three regiments. I saw the Black Horse Cavalry charge on them and such fighting as they did is seldom seen; I will not attempt to describe it but when the cavalry retreated their numbers were few in comparison with what it was at the onset. ~~~ But this is stale news, (that is, if you have the papers in Adams Co.) and I will not dwell upon it. You wished me to tell you all the news and write as often as once a week; I will do so, at least as often as I have any thing new to write, but there is no use of writing the daily reports we hear for a majority of them are untrue, and as for the battle of Bull Run you have already heard all about that.

The secessionists are now within ten miles of us with a large force, probably over a hundred thousand men; their pickets are stationed within five miles of Washington and not many days (or weeks at most) will pass before one of the bloodiest battles recorded on the page of history will be fought.

I have not believed untill within a few days that they would dare to attack the capital but it is now certain that something will be done soon. They would not get so large an army so near here unless they intended to use them but we are ready for them and, I think could defend this place against twice our number; but that remains to be proved. If we should make an advance into Virginia within a few days I think we could drive them back and they would probably retreat to their fortifications at Bull Run and Manassas Junction.

I cannot tell you as I did before that I am well for I am not, although I am able to drill and do guard duty; I am hardly able to walk straight when I get a marching load on. Yesterday when coming to this place I could not march in the ranks but had to fall out and rest often on the way. Nothing in particular ails me except what is common in warm climates at this season of the year; I am very weak and cannot march but a short distand before feeling faint, but when cool weather comes I think I shall get

Direct to Co B
7 reg Washington D C

PROTECT IT!

Arlington hight
October 26 1864

Dear Brother and
sister I now thought i
would rite a few lines
to you i am well and
hope these few lines
will find you the same
we are stashian about
fore miles from washing
we are ~~stant~~ stashion
rite in the woods the
regement are camped
here so it vary pleasant
for i can go and see Elon
when ~~i wish~~ i wish so
it makes it vary pleasant
for me you must
excuse me for not writi
ng to you for years a
go i now that i had

ought to have ritten
to you before but dont
do as i have dun rite
often and iwill do the
same ihad aletter from
mitchel he was well
and was doing well
icant tell anything
about what we area
going to do we
dont know what is going
on enny mor than you
do you cant beleave any
thing that you hear we
had a wiseonsin papes heer
and it stated that this
regement was all cut to
peasses that there was not
only fore hundred left
yet scarc
James Brown think of enny
thing else so
good by for this
time

Camp of instruction near Washington D.C.
January 1st 1862

Dear Brother and Sister

I received your letter yesterday was very glad to hear from you it has bin a long time sin ce I have had a letter from you I was glad to hear that you wer able to eat your daly allowance I have bin quite sick but have got most well now I have not done any duty in the last five weeks and have bin in the Hospital a little over three weeks I returned to my tent the day after all chris years I was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs I got a partly over that and was taken with the feaver and ague I had a bout a dozen shakes and the Doctor broke that up and since then have have bin recruiting up and I think that in a few days I shall be able to write and let me no whether you received it or not I received a paper the Adams Co Indipendance I suppose you sent it I have sent two or three papers to you I have had somemore pictures taken they are not very good and if I have a chance to get sommore taken I will send you one that looks better than this one does I am in my tent alone now the rest of the Co is out Drilling they do not drill but a little now as we are getting pretty well drilled the Drilling that we do is the hardest drill that there is we are calculated to lead the advance of the army we go a head as coots whilst the rest of the army comes on And I long to see the day when we shal advance when rebelion shal be be no more when our country shal be at peace when the soldier shal be at home engoying the peaceful habitation that he yoused to I pray God that this rebelion may be son brought to a close but while it does last we must fight: please to write sons Malvina please to write to me I have letters from Ellen and James every few days they are well except a very bad cold my love to all in enuiries

Neill Brown

be able to do duty. I tell you this
Regiment is getting pretty nearly
dis couraged when we enlisted in Madi
son the captain told us that when we
got to Newyork we would get our guns
and when we got to Newyork they sayd
that our guns were forwared to Washing
ton and we would have them as soon as we
got there when we got to Washington they
sayd they were making our guns and the
would have them in a short time
the fact of it is we have not got them
yet and dont no when we will I suppose
we will have good guns when we do get them
as the boys will not take any thing else
but good ones as we were sworn in for
sharp shooters we will not take nothing
but rifles and good ones there was
a short peice came out in the papers a sho
rt time a go that sayd that we were to
be armed with Spencers Magicine Rifle
they have had one on the ground and try
it it is a god gun it shoots eight times
with out loding the catrges are
set in to copper so that the
powder cant get wet if you go in
the water and we do not have to
grease any Caps it has been very sick
ly here there is in two Regt there
there is from one to fore dies a day
we have lost fore out of our Co sin
we came here the principal disease is
the measles we have not had any barra
cks yet but live in little cloth tents
from five to six in a tent when it is
only big enough for 3 or 4 perhaps you may
think that I am dis couraged I am not
but it seames to me that if they are going
to keep us here all winter they might
build Barracks for us so that we could
be comfortable to be sure it is not so cold
as it is in Wisconsin but it freezes
quite sharp nights and the wind blows cold
Mack you did not wright whether you
received my letters or not the last letter
I wrote to you I sent my picture I wish you

PROTECT IT!

Camp Arlington
Jan 9 1862

Dear Brother and Sister I now take my pen in hand to rite a few lines to you to let you know that I [redacted] well and hope these few lines we find you the same Colon is well at present it rains here to day and it is very mudy now we went out on picket last weak we had a good time out there we shot a ~~feed~~ siccesh hog and had good dinner a it tasted first rate for it was the first fresh meat [redacted] ~~had tasted since~~ I left sun prairie we ~~ha~~ has to drill a bout 3 hours a day and the rest of the time we have to oarselves we dont expect to move from here this winter

there is three Wis
regiments camped heer
in this briggade the 2 and 6
and the 7 so we are a mong
Wisconsin boys heer I wish that
i could cum up there and see
you but i cant so make the best
of it i cant think of much to
rite about now you said in
the letter that you sent Elon
that you sent me a paper but
if you did i never got it
We have enough to eat such
as it is it is beaf and poark and
beans and rice and bread it is
enough if it was half cooked
rite soon and rite all the news
about what is a going on on the
prairie if you want me to
send you sum papers i will
i can send most eny wone
that you want that is all that
i can think of to day

Fort Pillinghast Va.
Feb. 18th 1862.

Dear Brother and Sister,

James was over here this afternoon and handed me a letter from you and I will reply immediately. Since I last wrote to you some very great blows have been struck against rebellion. We received news last night which made us almost wild with excitement it was, that Fort Donelson, in Tennessee, had been captured with two rebel Generals and fifteen thousand men. This is a great victory, the very greatest of the war; it is almost equal to the greatest of Napoleon's victories. The army has celebrated the day firing cannons, cheering

a time. I think that as soon as the roads are good enough so that artillery can be moved we will advance here. I hope so, for we want a chance to wipe out the stains of Bull Run ourselves.

I will send you some papers which will give you the official reports of the of the late battles. We have not got full particulars yet.

The Drums are beating for roll call so I must close.

Write immediately,

I remain as ever,

Your affectionate brother,

Olon F. Brown

D. McBrae

and by making almost every other demonstration of joy that it is possible to make.
This last succession of victories has been brilliant and a few more such and secession will be dead. Let me name over the victories we have had since the first of Jan. 1st Battle of Drainesville Va. 2nd Defeat of Humphrey Marshall and rout of his army in Ky, 3d The Battle at Mill Springs Ky. and death of Zollicoffer. 4th Capture of Fort Henry Tenn. 5th Capture of Roanoke Island N. C. with 2300 prisoners. 6th Capture of Fort Donaldson with 15,000 prisoners. 7th We received news tonight that Savannah Ga. is taken. These are all great victories and they have been in quick succession; and while we have gained them the rebels have not gained a single one. This looks like winding the thing up. James and myself are well. Mitchell was over here two weeks ago; he was well.

I was over to Washington last week and saw Congress in session; heard the great men talk; it is realy worth while to watch them conducting their business for an hour or two.

I was very sorry to hear of Vina's sickness and I hope soon to hear of her recovery for I think she has had her share of sickness.

The weather is very bad and has been so for a month and a half. It rains almost every day and the mud is about six inches deep.

We have had two or three inches of snow several times but it did not stay on more than two days at

interfere with us. England has manifested a hostile spirit toward us on account of the seizure of Mason and Slidell but they have now been given up and I hope England will now let us settle our own difficulties to suit ourselves. But I do not think she will let us alone, something else will be wrong now, but let her come she will be warmly welcomed and the British Lion may yet have to crouch before the American Eagle. We have shown by giving up Mason and Slidell that we desire peace and if she is still determined to fix it on us in our national affairs she will justly forfeit the ~~so~~ respect of every civilized nation on earth.

I would like to have been present at your Christmas dinner and was engaged in very different business. I feasted on Uncle Sam's rations of bread meat and coffee. New Years passed in the same manner.

It is really a pity if you have got to do without a school this winter. Give my love to George and Jimmy. Regards to all friends

Write Soon. Affectionately Your

Daniel McRae — Elon F. Brown

Malvina McRae

Got a letter from Ben. last night all were well

Ft. Gilmanton, Arlington, Va.
Va., 2nd, 1862.

Dear Brother and Sister,

Yours of the 25th inst, (last month) was received this evening.

I will take back all I said in my last about not writing if you do so often as many times as you say you have. The truth is though, that I do not receive a letter from you once in two months on an average, so I suppose the letters are lost on the road. You spoke also of sending ~~two~~ three papers but I have received but one. I am glad to know that you do write and I hope you will continue to do so. James is in good spirits. They went this morning

and will stay three days.
I shall not see him until
he comes back. I presume
he will answer your letter at
the first convenient opportu-
nity. I heard from Mitchell three
days ago; he was in the hospi-
tal but getting better. His dis-
ease was first the chill fever,
then the ague. I hear from
him once in about five days.
A new year has opened upon
us and we of course are anxious
to know its results, but as we
are not prophets and have no
means of investigating the future
we must content ourselves by
reviewing the past. A year ago
we were a peaceful nation, with
no thought that our land was
so soon to be deluged in blood.
True, the two sections of the coun-
try were at variance, and some

of the states of the South had de-
clared that they owed no allegiance
to the Federal Union, but who
dreamed of a rebellion so rank,
of so great dimension or strength.
But the truth came burst upon
us, and a free people rushed by
thousands to the support of a
free government. We have shown
to the world that, with peace
at home, we can in a few weeks
raise an army strong enough
to cope with the strongest nation
on earth. We have now in the ser-
vice of the United States nearly
seven hundred thousand men;
these, and those now in the rebel
service, swells our army to over
a million, and a million more
might be raised if necessary.
I think this rebellion will
be crushed out in less than six
months unless foreign nations

Camp ——— near Alexandria Va.

March 21st, 1862.

Dear Brother and Sister,

As I have a few mo- of leisure time I will improve it in writing to you though I have received no news from you for more than a month. I don't know as it is hardly right to send a letter in this way but the truth is that I am short of money and must smuggle it through some way. Uncle Sam is able to stand it and I believe there is no penalty attached to such a crime more than to make the

receiver pays the regular postage.

The army of the Potomac has at last moved and we are now seeing some of the hardships of "soldiering!" On Monday the 10th inst. the advance commenced. We went to bed Sunday night knowing nothing about what was to take place the next day; even our colonel knew nothing about it but at one o'clock Monday morning an orderly arived with a dispatch for us to march in two hours. Our guard was immediately relieved and told to prepare to march; reveille was beaten and long before daylight we were on the march. We expected then to have a fight the next day at Centreville but the rebels run and gave us no opportunity. The next day our advance guard had taken peaceable possession of that stronghold — Manassas, and therefore we had no occasion to go farther in that direction. We camped

Centreville until day
before the "back track" towards Alexandria. A great expe-
dition is filling out at that place and we are going
on it. Where our destination will be I cannot tell but
I think it will be down the Potomac and up the
Rappahannock or Haines River, it may be to some point
farther South however, — at all events we expect it
will be to some place where we will have work to
do. McClellan told us a few days ago that the time
of our inactivity had passed and that in future we
might expect long and rapid marches and hard
fightings. He said he had kept us idle for a long time
but not without a purpose; that that purpose
was now accomplished. ~~and that here~~

When we arrived at Alexandria the boats were
not ready for us and we returned to our old camp
at Fort Billinghast and stayed three days but
we have now left camp for good and will probably
embark tomorrow.

We will probably go where we will not get
our mail very regularly and I shall probably
have but few opportunities to write but I will
write as often as possible and I want you to be
more punctual about writing. Direct as before and
it will be forwarded to us wherever we are.

with Gen. McClellan throughout the country as almost every paper I see has some article against him; but my own opinion is that Gen. McClellan knows his business and editors and every body else would show more wisdom by keeping still than by such talk. Gen. McClellan has planned all the movements thus far and the accounts of great Union victories are continually being received and yet because he has done no deeds with the army of the Potomac every one is clamoring against him. If he had managed it so as to have had a battle at Centerville or Manassas and had three or four thousand of his men killed or wounded and had succeeded in driving the rebels from the place, he would have been eulogized and called a great general but he gained a great victory without loosing a man and people don't like it. They cant appreciate a "bloodless victory". I don't think their grumbling will amount to anything but if he should be removed it would be a similar proceeding to the removal of Gen. Fremont. Fremont has proved himself innocent of the charges against him and the President has assigned him a command again. His Department is Western Virginia and Eastern Tennessee and all the country south of that to the gulf of Mexico.

Since I commenced writing this letter the mail has come in and I have received two letters one from Eliza and one from Mitchell. Ben's folks are all well Mitchell has been in the hospital six weeks and was of the time very sick with the "lung disease". I have heard from him every week since he was sick but have not informed you as it was his request that I should not. He is now better and able to be up considerable. The letter I got to night was his own writing which is the first he has been able to write himself. He told me he had received a letter from you and that you had been blessed with another heiress. I congratulate you if you consider many children a blessing.

James stands roughing it pretty well. I never felt better in my life.

The reason I have sent my pa[illegible] am out of money.

Affectionately Elon F. Brown

Lottie sends that [illegible]

General Hospital:

Wednesday Washington, D.C. April 2.th

Dear Brother and Sister.

I received your letter of March 1st a long time ago and was very glad to hear from you. I had began to think you didnot care whether you herd from me or not and I supose you thing the same by me; but I can tell you the reason I was taken sick the 9th of February and was taken to the brigade hospital the 12th of February and from that time I didnot get up out the bed onely as I was helped up untill the 17th of March last Monday were moved from the brigade hospital on No 7 Avenue to the General Hospital what part of the city it is I cant tell, but should

that makes me think of snow of which I have seen but very little of one this winter. A few days a go I was twenty-one years old and my mind run back to where I was a year a go to your house on the old home stead yes home there is no place like home!

you say in your letter that you had not received but two letters from me I have riten good many and in two of them I sent my picture in one Ambrotype and one Potograph and in my last I wrote especially to no if you had got them as you did not say any thing a bout them I suppose you did not get them so that acounts for the ee letters lost that I have riten I believe I have I have received 3 letters from you since I enlisted if you will be sure and direct your letters as I tell you they will come streight the last one that I got it was all chanel that I got it you put on Elmo name in stead of mine be carful how you direct our Regt has been armed with colts revolving musket and have gon to Fortress Monroe and the report has came back that 270 of them have been taken prisoners while on picket duty how true it is I cant tell I have not seen any thing of it in the papers I am getting tired and must close you will please to wright soon and let me no all the news yours afectionally

M. McBrown

D. McCrae
M. McCrae

but should think it was near
the Mane part it is impossible to get
out of the Hos fotal to see they have
got guards stationed all around and if
I it was so I could get out I am not
able to it is a bout all that I can
do to to get to my meals and back a
gain we have got a good hospital and
a large one it is large enough to hold
over 400 patients and water brought in
an aquiduct from the Potomac it
is a new one that has just gone up
it is not quite finished yet there is a
bout 25 sharpshooters in the same room
with me and the most of them will have
their Dis charge the Dr spoke to me a bout
my dis charge but do not no whether
I will get it or not I think it would
be the best thing they could do I have
bin in the servis now 6 months and
a few months I have bin unfit for ser
vis I suppose you will want to no
what has bin the mater with me my disea
has bin Pnoreumonia the next
thing to the quick consumpsion
there was a bout 2 weeks that they did
not expect me to live so they have told
me since I got up a round there was a bout
5 weeks that they fed me brandy every
two hours a half ounce at a time
in my last sickness I have drinked more
licker than I ever drinked before put it
all to gather since I came here I have had
no medison a tall perhaps I will get a
long with out. if I get my dis charge
I shal go and see Benjemins folks
im the nearest town Probaly I never
shal be I can go there in one day and
one night I have had letters from them
every litle while the last I herd from
them they wer well but they had
4 feet of snow on the ground it is as
warm as it is in May this in May we
have had one hard thunder
shower. there is a lot of white mar
ble scatered a round the hospital

Camp near
fredrickburg virginia
May 24/62
Dear Brother
and sister as now
have a opportunity I
will improve it in
riting to you as i see
that you are not a
going to rite to me
i will rite to you I
am well and hope these
few lines will find
you the same it is
raining over the day
the farmers here has
commenced to cut their
hay i have just been
riting to the inder and
so thought that i would

a few lines to you
Elon had a letter from
Mitchel the other day
and he thought that he
would get his discharge
soon and he says that
he was a going to
Main and stay this
summer But why do
you not write I can't
see it was pretty along
time since I heard
from you I had a letter
from Bens father the
other day they was all
well at present we
expect that we will move
on every day the rebels
pickets are only about
2 miles from here
there — is about battle
expected in few days

our orders are to be
ready at 5 minutes
notice it is quite
sickly here this summer
we had two dy out of
our company last week
Well I can't think
of much more to
write about this time
so I shall have to close
for this time so good
by for this time from
your affectionate brother
J B Brown

J McC
J McCrae
Mahonri McCrae

You wished to know what kind of fellow George Paulette is. I done with to say my thing about his character. He and I Bryon good terms but he is not one of my chosen companions. (draw your own inference)

This side of the river and the prospect now is that we will go into winter quarters near here. The winter campaign has proved a failure and to tell the truth, I am beginning to lose faith in the final success of our cause. One thing I am pretty certain of and that is that we are near the close of the war; it must be settled one way or the other soon; the people are getting sick of war and I fear if we fail again we will have lost our cause.

I saw Russel day before yesterday; he was well and said he stood "soldiering" first rate though he had no particular desire to visit the rebels again. He was in the fight across the river last week. Our brigade was also in the engagement but I was not with them, I was left on this side of the river on account of poor health. I have done no duty in the company since the battle of Antietam. I am troubled with rheumatism in my chest and shoulders so as to be unable to carry my gun and equipment. Otherwise I am well.

I have not heard from James for about three weeks; the last letter I received from him stated that his wound had entirely healed up but he had no use, whatever, of his left arm, and probably never would have. He expects to be discharged as soon as he is able to return to Wisconsin. He did not write the letter himself because, he said, his arm pained him so he could not

George has often asked what kind of place they live in. I could tell him where they live and what they do for a living if I knew myself.

Camp of the 2nd Wis Vols
Near Negro Creek Va.
Dec 22nd 1862

Dear Brother and Sister
Another opportunity offered and I improve it in writing to you in answer to a letter I received from you a long time ago but which I have been unable to reply to before. We have been pretty busy most of the time since we left Maryland and the consequence is that I have about a dozen letters to answer which I have carried a long time. Last week our army crossed the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, fought a bloody battle were defeated and retreated to

So your letters from me have not been over. I have answered every letter you as soon as I got them. I will not tell you the names of post offices I have addressed this letter to for fear it has changed since I heard from him, I write. Poor Boy! he has suffered every thing but death and I fear he is to suffer a great deal yet before he is well. I had a letter from Robert a short time ago; he is well. Benson folks are in Michigan though I cannot tell their Post office address. How are the times now in Adams Co? I suppose they are pretty hard. I hope you will do well on the farm you have taken. Does anyone live on our old place? I suppose you work it yet. Tell me whether anything has been done toward selling the estate or not or if the taxes have been paid. I must close; please write again soon and dont wait as I have.

Your affectionate brother
Elon J. Brown
Co H. 2nd Wis. Vols

D. M. McCrae

Bristol, Pan, 20th 1863.

Dear Sister

I received your kind letter of the 11th Ult last night and now as a favorable opportunity aords I will reply I have some very paneful news to till you it may be that you have herd of it before our dearly beloved Brother James is ded I no not how to wright to ease the pane this news will cause you for my part I feel very bad he was wounded very severly on the 28th of last Aug and his wound had scarcely got well when the Small Pox got hold of him and soon cared him to an untimely Grave it seames hard to have our friends die in a strange land and among Strangers While his body

Pleasantly the durm is half out last night there came a bout 2 two inches of snow for the first this winter the weather is warm and I guess we will loos the snow there is not mutch news to wright this time I was glad to hear that the children wer all well but you did not say a word a bout Mack when you wright I want to hear from all I should like to see those Twins for if they look as near a like as they did when I was there they look near enough a like is Meerae Staying to home this winter tell George to atend School faithful this winter for he will soon be so old that he will have to stay at home to help his Papa I should be very mutch pleased to get a letter from him next time you wright tell me how the Folks gets a long in general in that Sandy region give my respects to all inquiries and wright soon!

From your affectionate Brother

Malvina McCrae
Stonewall Jackson
Mitchell, Mo. Brown Co.

was Racked with so Bad a wound
then to with Stand Satch a contagious
disease Elm received a letter from Mrs
Mackswell Stating that She had
taken care of him ever Since he
was Wounded and had became very
mutch atatched to him She had
done all that was in her power
to do for any one but all in Vaine
care could not Save him it is one
consolation to us to no that he had
good care but he has gone from this
World of Sufferings and we are
left to Lament his Early loss
it is but a short time Since we
had to lament the loss of a dear
Brother next to him but whos turn
will it be next we cannot tell what
is in the future it may be our
lot next. I received two letters
from Elm last weeke she wrote tha
t they had gone in to Winter
Quarters but last night
the news came in that the
Army of the Potimac had
crossed the River and doutless
they have had Some hard fiting
before this time Russel and
Elm both will doutless be in
the fight R. James died a Chris
mass night a bout 12 Oclocke
I have received one letter from
Eliza Since they arived in
Michigan they have gone in
to the Woods this winter I also
received a letter form Robert
a short time a go he was well
he Sayd that he was on the
ice all day Christmass Seating
he did not Say whether he was going
to School this Winter or not I have
not had a letter from Russel Sin
ce he en listed although I have
written to him My health
is prety good I am going to Scho
ol the School passes off very

I have not seen or heard from Russel for six weeks; I shall try to get a pass and go and see him next week. All the family were well at the last accounts I had of them. Ben thinks he got cheated when he traded his farm for one in Michigan. His land is very poor. He is at work in the woods this winter.

I must close. Please write me soon again

Your affectionate brother
Elon H Brown

R. & M. McCrae
Monroe Wis.

{ Co H 2nd Wis. Vols

P.S. You said you had a new post office. Please tell me where it is and who is the post master.
E. H. B.

Camp of the 2nd Wis Vols.
Near Aquia Creek Va.
Feb. 5th 1863

Dear Brother & Sister

I received your two letters of the 25th ult; yesterday and will now reply. It had been so long since I had heard from you express your political sentiments that I hardly knew what your sentiments were but according to your last letter I see you are still true to the "old flag". Your letter gave me much satisfaction for it is seldom that I get a letter full of hope, encouragement and patriotism. We were sadly disappointed when the war commenced in thinking it would be short. We cannot expect a speedy peace now but we will not despair. If we

persevere we will save our country at last. It is far better that we have a long war now than a dishonorable peace that will result in eternal war.

The weather is pretty cold now, the snow is two inches deep.

The health of the army is pretty good. My own health is improving every day and I think I will be able to do duty again by the time the roads are good enough for another advance which will not be before March. The roads are very bad now. We are very well pleased with our new commander Gen. Hooker. We believe that when we advance again it will be to victory, but be that as it may the Union will be restored. Every thing does not

depend on the army of the Potomac. I look to the west with great anxiety; when the Mississippi is cleared and the Confederacy divided we may look for a great change; such an event would discourage the South and encourage the North and such an event will certainly take place. What the people need now is patience; we must not expect every thing to be done in one or two years. We cannot compromise with the South now, we must fight it out and the more cheerfully we do it the better.

I had not heard of the death of Frank Rodgers until I got your letter, I knew he was in the hospital but did not think he was dangerously sick.

Camp 2nd Wis. Vols.
Near Aquia Creek Va
March 1st 1863.

Dear Brother & Sister,

I have just rec'd your letters of the 14th & 15th of Feb. containing the sorrowful, aye, heart-rending news of the death of our sister. I know not what to write; my heart is stunned and I ask myself is it reality. The tidings were so unexpected that the blow struck with double force. I feel as if weeping would relieve me but the fountain of my tears are dry. Alas! human life is short, and brittle is the thread that binds us to earth and liable to snap at any moment. Our sister has but gone a short time before us; we must all soon try the realities of that unseen world from which no traveler ever yet returned. But we need not go in the

he sent to South Carolina this spring. I do not give much credit to the report yet it may be true. I am sure I dont care whether it is true or not; I had as lief go there as any where else. We are sure of hard fare and hard fighting where ever we go.

Vina will you please write the particulars of Amanda's death to Eliza. I know but very little about it and it would be improper for me to write it if I did. I do not know the feeling between you and Eliza but if old differences are not forgotten I ask that they may be. Let us be as brothers and sisters should be and not like strangers. Eliza's address is,

Pent Water, Ocean County. Michigan.

Give my love to the children. George is old enough to write me a letter; I would like to have him do so.

With many wishes for your welfare
I remain
Your loving brother
Elon G. Brown
Co H 2nd Wis Vols

Dr M. McCrae.

dark; our great Creator has given us a "light to our feet and a lamp to our path" if we will only accept it. He has given us His holy word which contains a guide through life and a guide through the "dark vally and shadow of death." We are reminded by our sisters death that life at longest will be short let us then take warning; the admonition is to us and it speaks in thundering tones, "Prepare for all must go." Shall we turn unmoved from the scene and wait till another and another of our number falls before we think of preparing? No! Let us give our hearts to God now and "halt between two opinions" no longer. One great struggle with self one firm resolve, a casting all on the strong arm of God and all is over and we rest in a Saviours arms. Accept it now; the morrow may be too late. God grant that in your answer I may be able to read the glowing words: "but others do as they may but as for one and my house we will serve God." McCrae, I recollect the last time I saw you, your mind was almost made up to become a Christian but you were putting it off for a more "convenient season." That season will never come. Delay no longer. Now is the time. God help you.

You say you had not rec'd an answer to your last letter when you wrote. I answered it Feb. 5th and I presume you have rec'd it before now.

I have not seen Russel for nearly three months though I have been trying to get a pass to go and see him for some time. I think I will have a chance to see him soon. I heard from him a short time ago; he was sick then but I did not hear what the matter was.

My health is now quite good and I think I could stand a pretty hard march. The roads, however, are in very bad condition and an advance will be impossible for some time. There is a rumor in camp that our corps is to

A

nature, and my heart still beats with the same love toward my brothers and sisters that it did when we all met around the same fireside and passed the hours in childish prattle; knowing nothing of the coldness of this world. Those days have flown but brighter ones are coming. O, let us rejoice that we may yet meet and spend an eternity of bliss together.

Since I last wrote you, I have been to Washington where I spent six days. Nearly two days of that time I spent looking for the grave of our brother James. I, at last found it, and now have the Number of it so that I can visit it again without trouble, if I have an opportunity. He is buried in

Grave No. 11, Range 2, Block 3 W. at the Old Soldiers' Home burial-ground, about three miles north of the Capitol at Washington D.C. I also got a certificate of his death and burial, at the Burial Record office. In filling up the books

A

Pardon me for sending these scraps of paper. I first sealed finish on half a sheet but I could not. I have enough more to day to fill another sheet but then its enough to tire you out. I hope you will be able to read it though. It is pretty writing. I shall write again in a few weeks. Hear from you soon again of course.

U. S. Gen. Hospt.
Frederick Md.
March 18th 1864

Your very affectionate

and welcome letter was received late last evening and early this morning I seat myself to reply. I cannot express in words my thanks for the treasure it contains, for, my dear sister, the assurances of your remembrance and sisterly love, awaking as it does emotions of the tenderest kind, is a treasure which cannot be over-prized. It was with deep sorrow that I read your account of your sickness as well as that of little Alice: 'tis truly hard to be thus alone and in such affliction, and one comfort only can we have in such cases; that is the thought that this earth, this vale of sorrow is not our final abode. If we look up thro'

our sorrows to the source of all good we are able to say "Thank God this is not my home."

"Our troubles and our trials here,
Will only make us richer there."

If we let these thoughts comfort us we are joyfull even in affliction. There is a Friend that never forsakes, and that Friend is always ready to listen to the petitions of his children. You know the consolations that religion affords and my earnest prayer is that an abundance of grace may be given, by the Almighty to still afford you peace even in the midst of sorrow and earthly affliction.

Sister, I cannot express the sympathy I feel for you. My heart is full but my pen cannot convey to paper language that will in any degree indicate my feelings. I wish you to remember me as the same I used to be. Time and the hard scenes I have witnessed have not entirely destroyed the tenderer feelings of my

at that office they wished the address of his nearest relative. I gave them yours as you are the aldest member of the family, so your name is recorded there.

It was my intention in visiting the grave to plant a tree there and sow some flowers but I was unable to do so because they had just taken up the head boards to paint them over and were about to put new sods on the graves. The grounds are very neatly kept and are about to be ornamented with trees and flowers. The head-boards are of black walnut with the name company, and regiment of each ~~[illegible]~~ painted on them in large plain letters. I shall try to visit the sacred spot again before I return to Wisconsin. It is some consolation to sit upon the ground above his ashes and muse upon the scenes of the past when the loved boy was in the full strength of youth and his laughing eye met my gaze.

Well, do I remember the last time I ever saw the loved form of our brother. It was two days before he received his death wound. We were at Warrenton Va. Had just halted

A

My Dear Sister I thought I had finished on the last half sheet but I think of a thousand things more to say and I must mention a few of them. My health is now pretty good and I shall leave the hospital by the middle of next week I think so when you get this you may consider me as fit for duty. I may possibly be mistaken about going away and so you may direct your letter as before and if I am gone it will be forwarded to me. I am now on the last three months of my three years term of service; that will soon be gone but whether I shall then return to Wisconsin I cant tell. I am very anxious to see you and all the rest of the family, but you know I wish to go to school ~~two~~ two or three years and I think I can do better in New England than Wisconsin and I have not money to spend in traveling for pleasure. I dont know yet what I will do but must make up my mind soon. I received a letter from Robert last night. It was rather strange that I

A

after a hard march of fifteen miles. We were then in the immediate presence of the enemy and for three days had been almost constantly skirmishing with them. You recollect it was on the "Pope Retreat." As soon as we halted he came over where I was (his regiment was just across the road from mine) and we walked out to one side and had about half an hour's conversation. The bugle sounded and we had to separate and hurry to our arms. We shook hands as we parted, for we expected to move forward into battle immediately. I turned again and looked at him thinking "shall I ever see him again?" He also turned again and looked at me and, I doubt not his feelings were the same as mine. We had to hurry to our posts and our eyes never met again. Nor can they meet until the grave is opened and we rise clothed in the robes of heaven.

Your reference to the death scene when our sister passed away was touching.

U.S. Gen Hospt.
Frederick Md.
June 11th 1864.

Dear Brother & Sister,

My three years are ended and I have no broken bones. I am well and though not able to endure as much fatigue as when I entered the service I am in very good condition — able to give three more years to the cause. You may expect to see me in Wisconsin at the close of the next three years if I live. I go to Washington this afternoon; may be ordered to South Carolina Florida or Texas for aught I know. I don

I suppose you know Mitchell has enlisted for one hundred days in the 40th Wis. Vols. Co. D. His time will be over the first part of Sept. next. Russell's health is better. He is in Washington. His address is Campbell Hospt. Ward 8 Washington D.C.

I believe Mitchell's regiment has not left the state of Wis. yet.

and I hope to hear more of it when I see you. I know nothing of the circumstances except that our sister is gone and I can see her no more on earth. I fear her husband was not the man he ought to have been. I know nothing of him. I wrote to him after Lucinda's death, and expressed my sympathy for him and assured him I should ever hold him in affectionate remembrance as the partner of the loved being who was gone. He never answered my letter. Russel says he is a poor worthless fellow. If you know his address I wish you would tell me and I will write to his [illegible] and ask him to furnish me a picture of her. If he has one he can have it copied.

Eugene and I have no correspondence. He wrote me once since I was in the army but as he was to some extent opposed to the war, I wrote rather a sharp answer and he never replied to it. I wrote that on the field of Antietam a few days after I was wounded.

You are mistaken, my dear sister in supposing Mitchell has ceased to care for you. He speaks of you in most all of his letters. You know his health is very poor and he has to be very saving of both time and money in order to keep at school. His heart is as affectionate as ever but he realizes that life is before him and he must prepare to meet its duties and responsibilities. It is only three years since you saw him; you say it is four. So it will not be four years till next fall since you saw me. Ever yours in brotherly love Elon.

should receive a letter from both of you at once for I dont get more than three letters a year from either one of you. Robert has not written me before for six months. He has left Ritter's and I am glad of it for he had a hard time of it while there. He is now going to school in the same neighborhood. It hardly seems possible that he is as old as Mitchell was at the time of our parents death. I still regard him as a little boy of seven or eight years, but he will be fifteen next Wednesday. I think he will do much better for himself than Mr. Ritter would ever do for him. He does not write to any one very often but when he does write he always inquires about you and the children. He still loves you and all, but of course his being separated from us all at so early an age has made him ~~more less~~ less anxious about us. Poor boy! he has had a hard row but I believe he will get show himself to be of the right material. He has a desire to go to school and that will help him.

Give my love to Daniel when he comes home and tell him I wish him to write as often as possible. Kiss each of the children for me and be assured of my constant love.

With a prayer for your prosperity and happiness, hoping a long life may be before you that you may bring up your children in the way that they should go, and wishing to hear from you soon again I remain

Affectionately Your Brother
Elon R. Brown

care where. A merciful God has watched over me through the years that are past and I trust in his mercy still. I would like to see you but I could not stay many days if I ~~did and it would be idly spent~~. No, this is life and we must meet its responsibilities with determination and fortitude. This life is for labor let the next be for happiness. May I meet you on that fairer shore where our visit will never end.

I have not time to write much. as it is most time for me to leave Frederick — probably forever. It makes me sad to think of it, for I have some very dear friends among the Marylanders. Don't write till you hear from me again as I can't tell you where to direct. I'll write again in a short time. Kiss the children for me.

Ever your affectionate brother Elon.

Our Camp is on Chelten Hills 18 miles north of the city near the North Penn. Rail Road. It is a lovely place and if work didnt crowd so I could enjoy it.

Camp Wm Penn.
Near Philadelphia Pa.
July 28th 1864

Dear Brother & Sister.

I must spend just five minutes writing to you although it is near midnight and I am sleepy.

On my arrival at Sun Prairie I found my commission awaiting me together with orders to report here. I left Sun Prairie Monday July 25 and arrived here last evening. I was mustered into service today and shall just assumed command of my company — "D" of the 45 U.S. Colored Troops. The company numbers 96 men, 38 of whom are

in Virginia under command of the 2nd Lieutenant having been sent to Washington at the time of the great raid. I expect to go to Washington in a few days with the remainder of the company.

I dont write you a long letter for I have work enough on hand to keep me constantly employed for three weeks. My company business is all behind hand. My 1st Lieutenant is a fine fellow and one who understands his business but he has had to be Quarter Master and Adjutant considerable — on account of scarcity of officers — and he could not do that and keep the company business up. He is now acting adjutant and I am alone in my quarters with every thing on my hands.

There is before me a pile of invoices, receipts, reports of Ordnance, clothing, camp & garrison equipage. &c that will make me work night and day for some time, so dont expect a long letter.

My health is good. Four companies of our regt are full and the others are rapidly filling up. We think we will be ready for the field in a month.

Give my respects to the few who take interest enough in me to inquire after me.

Love to all.

Affectionately

Elon J. Brown
Co D 45 U.S.C.T.
Camp Wm Penn
Phila. Pa

Address as above

fall but does her own work.
Now I have told all the news, I
believe, and don't know what
else I can write unless I tell you
that I shall be heartily glad when
this war is over. I don't want you
to understand that I am sorry
[illegible] for if we [illegible] today
[illegible] that we are repulsed we may
feel it. You know what they are
and must not discourage it. It is our
duty now but those who have [illegible]
[illegible] to the voices of [illegible]
know [illegible] it. The dead
of the battle field are nothing to
the cases of daily [illegible] in camp
of this city [illegible] more [illegible]
But God who is our refuge and
[illegible] is able to protect us against
[illegible] and soon. Your [illegible]
[illegible]

Dear Brother and Sister:

P. 1

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Ft. Pillingham Arlington Va.

As another opportunity is offered I will write a few lines to you. The encampment is at the same place it was when I last wrote to you, but it has been gaining important reinforcements since then. Our army has met with no defeat lately but everywhere a battle has been fought we have been successful. I sent you a paper yesterday morning which contained the official report of Commodore Farragut, the commander of the naval expedition. If you received it you will see [illegible] about that affair and [illegible] comment upon it. It was a brilliant victory and gained credit [illegible]

I have sent you a paper recently. Did you receive it?

T-1

Camp of the 2nd Mass. Vols.
Arlington Heights Va
Sept. 5th 1862.

Dear Brother and Sister,

An opportunity is offered and I will improve it in writing to you.

I have the painful intelligence to give you that James was wounded severely in the left shoulder on Thursday the 24th of Aug. I have not seen him since he was hurt and I can only tell you what I have learned from his comrades. One of his comrades saw him the next day after his wound had been dressed, and he said James was doing well, that his wound was very painful though not dangerous.

I cannot tell you where James is now for there are so many wounded that it is impossible to keep track of

They displayed no ability in placing their men in advantageous positions but stood them upon open fields to be fired at from the woods. No men ever fought better than did our men and if the army had been ably handled we might have whipped them. Our loss is terrible I dare think twenty thousand will more than cover it, that is, the killed and wounded.

Our regiment has lost 56 killed, 205 wounded and 30 taken prisoners. We only had 430 men to begin with so you see our regiment is small now. Our whole brigade (four regiments) is now about large enough for one regiment. We were under fire most of the time for ten days. Four days I was away from the regiment.

I have now been with the regiment five days but have been too unwell to carry a gun and equipments until today. I am now getting nearly well and shall try to do my duty. Nothing has been the matter of me except that I was completely

"used up" by hard marching and exposure.

You may be sure I shall use all the means in my power to find out James' condition but it will be a difficult matter and it may be two or three weeks before I can hear from him. As soon as I hear from him I will write to you again.

Dora, I received a letter from you a long time ago but it has been impossible to answer it until now. We have had hard times here during the last four weeks but the prospect now is that we are to have a little rest. Gen. Gibbon told us the other day that we had suffered so badly that we should rest all that it is possible for us to do for a month. We will not be put into battle again until we get recruits unless it is absolutely necessary for the safety of Washington. There are no signs of a speedy termination of the war, I have made up my mind to stay my three years out if I live, then if it is necessary I

will enlist again.

Gen. McClellan is in command of Virginia. We never lost confidence in him. Although he was unsuccessful on the peninsula he displayed great generalship; his army loves him and altho he has many enemies at the North he has none in the army. The soldiers of the revolution never loved Washington more than the army of the Potomac loves Gen. McClellan. You ought to see him ride by his troops once and you would be assured of that. No sooner does he appear than every hat is off and every voice raises a loud "hurah".

The weather is very pleasant; the roads are in a splendid condition for marching. The nights are a little too cool for comfort but the days are just warm enough for comfort. I cannot tell you any thing about crops for every thing has been destroyed by the army. Fruit is plenty and we have all we want.

than I was led to believe.
He may have died but I still
hope to hear that he is safe.

Affectionately yours
Elon J. Brown

Dr M. Myrac
Strongs Prairie Wis

Hedgesville Md.
Sept 19th 1862

Dear Brother and Sister,

Although I have written to you since I received any word from you I will write a few lines again for you have, of course, heard of the recent battles in this State and I am anxious to relieve your anxiety concerning me.

I am well with the exception of a slight wound in my left shoulder which I received in the Battle near Sharpsburg day before yesterday.

My wound is not dangerous, being only a bruise. It was done with a bullet which passed over my shoul

der just raking the top of it. If I had been half an inch taller it would have hurt me pretty bad but as it is I will be able to return to my place in the ranks within ten days.

Since I last wrote to you I have been in two battles one at South Mountain near Middleton on Sunday the 14th and the other near Sharpsburg on Wednesday the 17th inst.

At South Mountain I was not hurt though I had a good many close calls.

Our Brigade is nearly annihilated. It now numbers but 281 men. Last spring we numbered over 4,000. A few are sick in the hospitals and the remainder are either killed or wounded.

The four regiments composing our brigade have been consol-

idated into one regiment and is now in front expecting battle again.

I am in a barn with about 120 wounded men. It is a very good hospital and we have very good care. I am able to wait on myself and help others some.

The wounded fare much better here than they did in Virginia for the citizens turn out and take care of them. There are several ladies here ~~waiting~~ waiting on the helpless now.

I have no time to write more now. Write soon and often if you please.

I have not heard from James since I wrote to you before. I don't know what to think about him. I do not wish to alarm you but I fear he was wounded worse

McCrae, Why dont you write? I believe I have not had a letter from you for a year though I have written to you a good many times. I suppose you have worked very hard it the reason you have not written but I would like to have you take time to write to me once in a while.

I believe I have written all I can think of so I will close hoping soon to hear from you.

Yours affectionately

Elon B. Brown

D. & M. McCrae
Strongs Prairie Wis.

My love to the children; regards to all enquirers.

E. F. B.

You can assure Mr. Hane's people that George is safe. He has not been in any of the late battles.

the loss of life. I hope soon to see
the slave war transferred to the gulf
states where it should be and I
expect such will be the case. If
the government continues to send
troops to south Carolina the rebels
will have to draw their troops from
Virginia and that state will be
[illegible] to the union [illegible]
[illegible] and
[illegible] not [illegible]
[illegible] sent death by the [illegible]
if we are not [illegible] think [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] to the [illegible]
war [illegible] advance will be
made [illegible] soon. [illegible]
[illegible] and you
[illegible] for what it is worth
nothing. [illegible] they don't you write
[illegible] know whether we
are dead or alive, I am tired of
writing without receiving an an-
swer. If you have not time to
write a long letter a short one
do. When you write tell me if any
thing more has been di[illegible]
selling that state. Tell me also
who among the chivalric sons of this
county have enlisted, what regiment
they are in. Frank Roy [illegible] Prairieville, is in the service [illegible]
[illegible] after. I heard that Dacinda
was married; please tell me what
you know about her [illegible]
[illegible]
The weather is fine; as [illegible]
has been but few frosts. [illegible]
most [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] week [illegible]. Our [illegible]
are comfortable; they are so
constructed that we have a pi[illegible]
inside. James is well; [illegible] this morning. I received a letter
from Mahetabel yesterday; [illegible]
last got a letter from Eliza a few
days ago; she is quite unwell this

B

blame you if you would
but beg and forgive me and
you when I first went to
Maine I intended to write
as soon as I got there but
we had kept away after
another without getting
any writing when I promised
to write a number of letters
back to friends there but
I never have I do not know
what they think of me I want
you to give my love to Sister
Gleason and tell her that
I remember for getter here
when we was in Michigan
I did not have time to write
I only wrote one letter while
I was there and that was to Ben
Elon and this Summer I
have been very busy
for you know that I did
not work for my self last
winter and my ~~sewing~~
sewing and knitting got
all be finde hands but

B

York Sept 30th 1903

Dear Brother and sister

Your letter of Feb the 22nd
was received while we were at
sent water waiting to go aboard
of the boat to start for home
it had got delade on the road
I received a letter from Elon
about three weeks before that
bearing the heart rending news
that our lovely and loving
sister was dead oh it was
full more death blow to me
it was only two weeks before
that I heard of Dear Fanny's
Death ~~and it was only a short~~
and Ben was sick and the Dr
had not brought him out of danger
when I heard of Fanny's Death

the little girls things I send the cards
that I send the five
dollars I sent at
first I would
have sent more
but I was in
so much
trouble

ouine Sadge of my feelings
when Dear Ben brought
to the house senseless with
his head so badley beaete
and tho all tolde me that
he could not live I was in
a strange lande and among
strangers and the the thought
that I must bearey him there
in them words was of fel
to think of but the good
Lorde Spaide me that affli
tion but I had to worke harder
than I was able to while he
was sick and then to hear
better peaede news was more
than I could stand and when
I got the letter and read to ma
ais Sesenda was dead the
letter fel from my hand
I could stand no more the
next that I know I was on
the bead I fainted away

the sente for a Doctter
I did not leave my bead
for two weeks the first
three days my head could
not be raised up without
my fainteing but I tride to
bee Reseilde to the will
of god noweng that he doeth
all things well you must
have felle very lonely when
you fallowde Susenda to hear
grave and I deeply sympathyse
with you but if I could have
seen bear long enough to have
imprinted one kiss upon her
colde brow it would have
been a comfort to me but
I trust she has gone to heaven
while with the grace of gode
assisting me I intende to meet
at heu. Dear Sister I
suppose you feal very hard
towardes me for not writing
to you before and I am not

B

Along now I have been
employed in sewing and knitting
this summer ~~I have~~ he is
at Mudason in a store as
clerk his health is poor
now he is not near as well
as he was in the Spring
he coughs very bad I think
he has got the consumption
he does not look as he did
before he enlisted he is
so poor I received a letter
from Elvin the other day
his health is poor he says
his health is not as good
as it was two Months ago
the sick and wounded have
been all removed from
the hospital but he was
and he was left in charge
of the building he said that I
must think that he was down
sick but he was not for he

B

will be provided with good
books he had a letter from
Robert ~~the other~~ a little time
ago he was well Mrs.
Ritter is dead it must
seem to him like losing
a brother he has served this
so long Russell is in
camp parole at an away
Maryland waiting to be
exchanged he has got a furlough
boff I would like to see
you very much and have
a long talk with you it
may be that we shall come
up there this fall I wish you
would come down near
and learn it really does seem
to hard for us to live so near
and not see each other
I don't feel like write as long
as you get this and I will write
to Gitt away Give my love
to the children Allen and
Ella send their love Eliza D.

anniversaries were dearly loved and deeply enjoyed. It is, in my imagination, only a few days since we were children amusing ourselves in a thousand childish ways. When I think of it soberly I can hardly believe that today you are 31 years old and the mother of a family. It seems strange still to regard myself in my 25th year. Life is flying and who would stay its onward march? There is a world of rest before us where no toil or pain or sorrow is. There let us meet.

The Wars seem to drag off well and though the rebellion seems slow to fade away yet we at least as we would like to have them are fading and in due time we will have peace and a firmly established government. God is in our side, and he will finally bring all things well and he will finally bring us out a purified and better nation.

Write as soon and fail to write immediately. Don't put it off until it gets cold and you forget it. Tell me all about the place, your crops and of things in general. What changes have taken place since I was there? Do. How are the times? Nina don't forget to write. I want to hear from both of you.

Your affectionate brother,

Elon J. Brown

Give my love to George, Jennings, Willie and the rest.

Direct to U.S.A. General Hospital Frederick Md

U. S. A. General Hospital
Frederick, Md.
Oct. 13th 1863.

Dear Brother & Sister,

I cannot think you have forgotten me, or that you have ceased to feel an affection toward me, although nearly eight months have passed since I have been favored with a word from you. I have not ceased to think of you and the dear reminiscences that cluster around the old home, though in looking over my memorandum I find that my last letter was dated March 1st. To that letter I have never received an answer. The last letter I got from you announced Lucinda's death.

I have often thought of writing since then but put it off hoping to receive a word from home. I suppose if I should ask why we have not

written you would say (if you replied at all) that you had been so busy you had not had time to write. Well now I dont doubt but you have been busy and worked hard, but I think you could have written to me before this. However, I dont feel hard about your slighting me for I believe that your delay has been unintentional, and I still trust that your heart is warmly toward me. I have sent you papers occasionally always mentioning my address that you might know where to write.

Since I last wrote to you I have been in the bloody battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorville but was unhurt. Russel was taken prisoner at Fredericksburg and I supposed him dead for over a month. I got a letter from him the other day. He was at Pirtle Camp, Annapolis, Maryland. He had just been exchanged and was expecting to join his regiment immediately. His health has been quite poor all summer but is now better. My health has not been good for me at a great deal. I stood field service until the 29th of last June when I entered the hospital. (three days before the battle of Gettysburg commenced in which I did not share) My health is now quite good though I am still troubled to some extent with dizziness. I had from a short time ago, intelligence that Willie is dead. He died in Feb. Mr. Sill sometimes to keep house. He is well. Hilell is attending school in Medina. I just now received a letter from him. Ben's folks are well and living on a farm in Cuyahoga Co. Ohio.

Lina, this is the Sabbath day. It seldom ever passes without my thinking and my soul is overwhelmed by recollections of old times long when and

(4)

your next if anything has been done to-ward settling the estate. Who is Administrator? Have the taxes been paid up to the present time? I dont ask these questions because I care any thing particular about how the thing runs, but merely to satisfy my curiosity. I long since ceased to expect anything from that. If the plead amounts to enough to pay for removing ~~the graves of our parents and purchasing~~ a suitable set of tomb-stones for them. I will be satisfied. I have not heard from Russel for three months. In his last letter he told me not to write until I heard from him again as he was about to leave Camp-Parole and join his regiment. I know where to direct to his regiment but I am doing as he asked me to be keeping still. When he moved from Keedak to Dan ~~Bowity he told me not to write again~~ until he wrote and then he did not write for a year and a half. I dont know but he is going to play the same game again. I would like to hear from him but I suppose he will have to take his own time to write. The fact is that there are none of my brothers or sisters that I can keep up a ~~direct~~ punctual correspon-

(1)

U.S. Gen Hospt. Frederick Md.
Dec. 13th 1863. (63)

Dear Brother & Sister,

A thousand thanks for your favor of the 24th & 30th of Nov. which has just reached me. I was very much surprised at receiving it for you had not written in so long that I had ceased to expect you would ever write. Disappointments of such a nature are very agreable. How foolish we all act about some things. We ought to do everything in our power to add to our happiness and a few kind words from a dear friend ever give happiness of the highest order, and yet we deprive ourselves of this great happiness by neglecting to write, knowing at the same time that unless we write we will receive no answer. Yet, in justice to myself I must plead "not guilty" of any blame for this long silence. I have found

by experimenting that you will never write to me unless I neglect to write to you. I believe if I had written once a week to you ever since I have been in the army you would never have written at all but when I stop writing for a few months you want to hear from me again and then you write. Now I dont want to accuse you of "wilful" negligence for I am sure I have a place in your hearts, yet that you have been too careless about writing you must admit. Now I will tell you just what I am going to do in future. I am going to answer all of your letters punctually and I shall insist upon it that you answer mine, and you can depend upon hearing from me just as often as you chose to write. No oftener. I am going to wait for an answer every time (except something extraordinary occurs) When you want to hear from me just

write and you shall have your wish. In regard to your not knowing where to direct I will say that a letter directed to my Company and Regiment will always reach me for I receive letters from my regiment every few days. Now in future when you are in doubt about where I am, direct your letters to Co. H. 2nd Wis. Vol's. Washington D.C. and it will reach me. It will take a few days longer to come if sent to the regt. but I will get it in time.

I am sorry to hear that crops turned out so poorly in that section this year and also that the country is not being settled up very fast. I am afraid several years will pass before Adams County gets settled very thickly. I dont suppose the old place would sell for much now? You did not say anything about the old home. I suppose you live there yet. Please tell me in

for christmas here. The ladies are getting us up a good dinner. The ladies of this city take great interest in the sick soldiers here and do everything in their power to add to their happiness. There are now about 2,500 soldiers here. ~~now~~ last summer there were nearly 2,000. They have mostly got well and refoined their regiments.

~~My love to each of the children and let~~ me hear from you soon again

Your affectionate brother

Elon G. Brown

P.S. As for sending a name for the young lady you spoke of I couldn't think of it. I hope she may be an honor to society and a blessing to her parents.

If you write within a month direct to U.S. Gen. Hosp'l. Frederick Md. If after that time direct to my regiment.

My Regards to all enquiring friends.

E.G.B.

from him as often as once in ten days, sometimes oftener. I have quite a number of punctual correspondents but they are not among my relatives. I hope to be able in future to class you among my regular correspondents.

You want to know why I am in the hospital. Well, that's hard to tell. When I came here nothing ailed me except that I was worn out, "used up" so weak that I had hardly strength to walk. I was also troubled with rheumatism which made me very lame. I am now doing pretty well and shall soon refoin my regiment. You are right in saying that I would not stay here if I were able to be in the field. I don't like hospital life well enough for that. The army is now going into winter quarters and there will be nothing more done before March or April and I think I will be able to stand the Spring campaign. The spring campaign will be my last, for my time will be out the 11th of June. You advise me not to

(4)

suffering the same way
it fairly makes my blood
bile to think that our
government wont call out
enough men to crush them
at once she has got me in
enough and why dont she
do it because she is
making money out of it
we may fight them
as long as we please as
we have done and we will
stand in the same track
only be minious of
many a brave soldier
but it seems as those uncle
sam dont care for soldiers
and why should I let
them say as they will and
I will say with them God
bless you A C B

Camp Near
Blandy Station Va
Sept 11th 1864

Dear Brother Sister
after the silence of about one
year I take my pen in hand
to write a few lines to good
to let you no that I am yet
alive and in the land of the
living but my health is not
very good I have not seen a
well day since last winter
nor dont expect to while I
am in the army the exposure
and hard ships is more than
I can stand we have all in
good warm winter quarters
and we have gay times but
when we are on a march
it more than pays for the
good times we have in camp

reinlist. There is no danger of it in my present state of health but if I were well I would never leave the field until this war is over. I expected when I enlisted to see the close of the war before I returned and all I wish is that I were able to do so. Perhaps I may but I fear not. I have never yet entirely recovered from that bruise I got at the battle of Antietam 15 months ago. My shoulder pains me very badly at times; I have never carried a knapsack on it since that time. You tell me not to make you think I am not as badly off as I really am. I have not. I have told you as plainly and truthfully as I can. I am far from being well yet I am better off than many who are doing duty. I think I shall be able to stand one more campaign at least; you advise me to get my discharge. Please say no more about it I would not ask for a discharge if they should keep me until my hair were gray. No, I want

to go home with my regiment and in no other way, and most of all I wish to leave an honorable record.

Mitchell was at work in Bristol Dane County at the writing of the last letter I got from him. His cough is very bad and Elina writes that she fears he has consumption. He left school on account of poor health, but it seems to me that working on a farm this weather is as bad. He is industrious and will work as long as he lives. Bens folks are well and living in York Dane County. I have not heard from Robert since I wrote you before.

We have had no snow here yet and no cold weather to speak of. Last year we had snow and very cold weather in Nov., but it was warm through Dec then as now. One year ago today the first battle of Fredericksburg was fought. We had fine weather then.

They are making great preparation

(2)?

there has 150 reenlisted
from this Regiment & 8 from
this Company and gone home
on 30 days furlough and it
brings duty very heavy
and what is left the weather
is very cold here it is the
coldest that I ever saw in
Virginia the snow is about 2
inches deep it fell on the day
and nite of the 4th we have
water in our canteens out
nite we bind them close
up in the morning and that
is cold pretty cold weather
but I suppose it is nothing
compared with Wisconsin
tomorrow I shall be on
picket the picket line is
about one mile from camp
we have to stay out 24 hours

(3)?

I suppose that you have
heard all about my expedition
while I was a prisoner in
Belle Isle so I will not
say much about it but
I can say more than a
grate many can for I have
been to Richmond but
I never want to go there
agane under the same
circumstances agane for
they nearly starved me
to death my allowances was
one cracker a day with no
meat or coffee if I had
not of had some money
I guess I would of starved
I paid one dollar a loafe
for bread that one loafe would
make one meal and there
is to day many a poor soldier

Racine Sept 1 64

Dear father
It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of writing you these few lines to let you no that I am well at present hoping that you and family enjoy the same blessing I received your letter last Saturday it lay in the post office yesterday I was not down to see the old folks they are all well mother is getting very frail I am afraid she will not stand it a great while father health is good as ever although he looks very old times are very dull down there there is nothing doing Samuel is in the gold mines near Quebec he is doing very well Kate is doing very well in Nashville he has four dollars and a half a day you stated that you had a notion of going to the war but

(4)

interest up. One or two of the best instructed teach it generally. Very few of the men could read or write when they enlisted. Most of them were slaves until the war set them free. They are contented and have become very efficient soldiers and if properly treated will at the close of the war make good citizens. I feel as if I am at a post of usefulness and feeling so am contented and happy.

Enclosed I send you ten dollars which you will accept as a present and appropriate it where it will be most useful.

Mitchell and Ben have taken a farm together for next year. Have bought a horse team and are going into the woods this winter. Robert will stay with Eliza and go to school. But I must close for it is past 11 o'clock at night. Give my love to George and the other children. Give Alice a kiss for me and write soon again.

Tell Daniel to write when he can make it convenient and believe me

Your affectionate brother

Elon G. Brown

Direct to Co. D 45th N.S.C.T.
Camp Casey Va
Near Washington D.C.

Camp Casey Va.
Nov. 14th 1864

Dear Sister,

Your letter has finally been received though over a month from its date. It went to Camp Wm Penn Pa. and was from there sent to the army near Richmond and at last returned to me. Well I assure you I was glad to receive it even though it was of almost ancient date. It brought to me the assurance that though distant I was not forgotten and carried me back to the old homestead, where, for a few moments it let memory recall the hours of pleasure as well as those of solemn sadness spent there. I was sorry to learn that Daniel had met with the serious accident you spoke of and earnestly hope he has entirely recovered before now. Your neigh-

horhood seems to have undergone quite a change since I was there, so many having left for the army. It must seem some as if the folks were gone away from home. I am afraid Adams Co. will be evacuated before Richmond is. I suppose you have seen Russel before now as he wrote me ten days ago that he expected to start home next day. I would have seen him before he went if I could have done so, but had no time after receiving his letter.

My health is much better now than when I left Wisconsin. I am quite rugged. Weigh over thirty pounds more than when you saw me last. I send with this my photograph which I think is rather better than the one I gave you last summer. I had the ague every other day for a while this fall but have got over it now and am feeling first rate. I was not off duty a single day with it. Both Lieutenants of the company are absent on detached service. I have had no help from either yet and having had everything

to attend to myself have had no time to attend to private correspondence. Had I not had so much to do I would have written you oftener. We are at present camped only a short distance from our old encampment of 1861 so I am on familiar ground. We are on Arlington Heights just opposite Washington. Have been here since the 11th of August. We expected to be sent to the front two months ago, but no order to that effect comes yet, and we may stay here all winter. Six companies are already at the front; there are four companies of us here. I am well pleased with my situation and have, as yet, not been sorry I returned to the field. If I have good health I can stand everything required of me.

I have a school organized in my company, each evening from 6 to 8 o'clock the men are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography &c. I do not teach it regularly myself but go in occasionally and take charge a short time to keep the

Campbell Hospital
Ward 5
Washington D.C.
Dec 14th 62.

Dear Sister

After a long silence I once take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you to let you know I am well and I hope this will find you the same it has been a very cold winter here but nothing to what I suppose like Wisconsin but I think I feel the cold more here than I use to there I suppose it is on account of so many sudden changes we have had

and you will give me all news in general and the price of milk and produce yours truly remember me to your Brother with this I will close hoping to hear from you soon. my love to all of the children

R. G. Brown

only 11 inches of snow
this winter and that didn't
stay ~~and~~ long there is no
traces of snow now whilst
if there I suppose you have
got about 2 feet and
has enough to make good
sleighing. This nothing
happens next winter I
will be in the mind to
but not ~~exactly~~ exactly
in Adams county or not
long there after I shall
be emigrating to Nebraska
and I want you to be in
readiness to go with me altho
you may not like it
there you can get on a
more place than you ever
did in. There is plenty of
land there to work on shares
and plenty of government
land there to and just as good

as ever was
ploughed and plenty
of ~~timber~~ sugar maple
It is a hard thing to start
a farm in the timber but
when you do get one clear
you will get a good farm
Well Mack I have got
over last 7 months
from to day I stay here
then I am a free man
once more well I can't
say that I am sorry
that I came for it has learnt
me a good lesson that
I never shall forget I
don't expect to do any
any thing at all well
but may show it as a
hold place and I have
some money for it to
satisfy me for this.

Mitch

when I get home
I hope you will be
able to go to Nurenary
for I think you can do
better there I shall go
as soon as I get back
Well kind I have written
this in haste & hurry I dont
know if you can read it for
it is very poor writing
Well they is no more at
present so I will close
hoping to hear from you
soon Please accept
this from your ever
affectionate Brother
Russell Brown

Campbell Hospital
Washington D C

My Dear Sister your
of the 16th inst has just
arrived and I take the opportunity
to reply I had almost given
up getting an answer but
luckily it has come at last
and like all other letters from
near and dear friends was
gladly received I was
very glad to hear that you
was all well Well your
letter found me well
and I hope this will
still find you well.
We are have had a general
time of rejoicing but it
has turned in to bitter
mourning never was there so
[illegible] in the nation

you will hear the sad
tale before you get
this so I will not say
any more about it,
the news as my cousin
says in the City that
they have got the assassin
of the President God
grant it may be so
and I think it is so The
Slavery I think the war
is over and I don't think
it will be long before
I shall be home you
spoke of getting a letter
from Lon while
in the heat of battle and
you did not no neither
he has written of my
well I have had one from
him since and he came out
in fine health the fighting
is done in Georgia

now the fighting is over
I think he will return
to his friends unless Cousins
entice him you said
you did not no but
I was there to but I
was not, I had a letter
from Ben and he was
disappointed I have not had
a letter from the boys
in Madison yet a long
time so I don't no what
they are doing also I guess
they are mad at me for
some thing but I don't
no what it can be
I suppose you have
heard of Fremont folks
sally the girls are
all married but the
youngest one Sarah
and I suppose she will be
soon

Campbell Hospital
1st Co. 2nd Battalion
D.C.
Washington D.C

Dear Sister

Will Hutchins you asked me to send you my likeness and I had some taken the other day but they all got very poor but I will send it one such as it is and

I should like to see you badly I get poor and lonesome

Campbell Hospital
Washington D.C
March 15th 1865

My Dear Sister after so many a time I have received a letter from you it is almost like giving one from the dead. Will you may be astonished that I was glad to hear from you and and glad to hear that you and family are well and and glad to hear you say that you think you will go to Kansas for it will be much better for you and you can have one hundred and sixty acres as good as well as not it will only cost you the trouble to go and I think that it is worth

Dying for Will Sister
this is as pleasant a day
as ever you see in Wisconsin
in may I have left the
Ward and gone to my
Company to do guard duty
and I like it much better
than I did in the Ward it
does me good to get out
doors so I can breath pure
air once more and the
nine months are faster and
the time that I have to stay
here will soon pass for I
have got five six months
yet to stay then I will
say good by Mare and
come home for I have
seen enough of it altho
I have not served myself
as I ought many which
has but have seen
more to do me good a

Write Soon
I hope you will
not forget to answer
this letter for I always
like to hear from my
sisters and I think that
is the first letter I ever got
a-from that I ever got
from you but I hope
it will not be the last
Well that is nothing more
to write so I will close
with my regards my
love to the Children
Yours respectfully
your affectionate
Brother

R. G. Brown
Pt. Co. 20th

Camp in the Field
Near Petersburg Va.
Apr. 28th 1865.

The Campaign is ended. Grief over our National bereavement and joy over the near approach of Peace is strangely mingled. I am well have stood hard marching, hard fighting and the hard fare generally of the campaign as well as any officer of the regt and far better than most of them. Have no time to write a letter.

Love to all.

Your brother
Elon E. Brown

Camp 45th U. S. C. T.
Edinburg Texas
Sept 22nd 1863

Address
Co. D. 45th U.S. C.T.
2nd Brig. 2nd Div.
25th A.C. Texas

Should I have the service letters will be forwarded to me so you need not delay writing on that account. E.B.B.

My Dear Brother & Sister

Yours of July 25th has been received, nearly two months after its date. It was gratefully perused and shall be promptly answered. A word from the loved ones at the old home always send a thrill through my veins such as can be awakend by nothing else and I often wonder that I do not receive them oftener. I have written you once since the date of your letter which you have, no doubt received ere now. That was written while I was at Las Cuevas, thirty miles above here. A portion of my company was enlisted for only one year and after the discharge of those I had not men enough to garrison the place and was accordingly relieved by a detachment of 1st 41st U.S.C.T. I am now on duty with the regiment. I expect to be discharged within two or three weeks from

Bens people were well at the date of their last letter which was August 22nd.

Our camp is on the bank of the Rio Grande which is scarce thirty rods wide. We visit Reynose a little town of about one thousand inhabitants, on the opposite side in Mexico as often as we choose, but as it contains nothing of importance we do not care to go often. The country is full of robbers and therefore we are always careful to return to camp before nightfall unless several are in company well armed. Our relations with the respective governments of Mexico we know nothing about and have almost ceased to feel solicitude on the subject. We are treated with every mark of respect by the Liberal Mexican party which now has possession of this portion of Mexico, but I have no sympathy with their cause and would not trust a Mexican of either party under any circumstances.

Please write again soon. McCrae why dont you write? I shall be very thankfull to hear from you whenever it is convenient for you to drop a line.

Your affectionate brother
R. M. Brown

ably before you get this yet I may not. Nearly every regiment in the division was composed in part of one years men and they having been discharged the regiments must now be consolidated and there will be many surplus officers who can be spared. As I tendered my resignation three weeks ago I think I will be one who will be allowed to go. Rina, you seem to think I am feeling very downhearted because I was not allowed to leave the service last spring but you are much mistaken. Uncle Sam hasn't got a more cheerful boy in his service than I. True, I wished to go, but as I couldn't I was content to stay. And now I am really glad that I did not then leave the service as I have seen much of the world that I would not have seen. I am receiving much larger wages than I could get out of the service and am having as easy a time as a man could ask for. Many things connected with organization are very unpleasant, good. I have other reasons for wishing to leave, therefore I hope to go soon; but if I am detained till spring I shall not be surprised or angry. I shall be satisfied in believing all is for my good and the best interests of the world. I do not think I shall visit Wisconsin for several months — perhaps years — even if I get my discharge tomorrow. I intend first to make a tour through the central and eastern portions of Texas. It is said to be a fine country. If I find a location that suits me I shall seek a home in this state. The climate agrees with me and I am much healthier than when in Wisconsin. But I shall not settle here nor anywhere else for two or three years. I expect to have to go to Washington to settle my accounts with the government, after which I intend to proceed to New England and enter some school; I do not now know where. I may however change my whole plan and return home at once. All depends on circumstances which I cannot now foresee.

I have not had a letter from Russell for about six months. Mitchell and Robert and

Manchester N.H.
Oct 3d 1866

My Dear Sister,

Yours of Sept 23d was received yesterday — a pleasant surprise. A letter from you is always a surprise for I am never expecting one. The warm welcome they receive is none the less hearty, however, on that account. I know you have ten thousand reasons for not writing while I have none and therefore I wait patiently until the favorable time arrives, which it usually does about twice a year. I generally expect to write two or three times before receiving an answer.

Your birthday is close at hand and I was intending at that time to write you again but after the warm greeting of yesterday I cannot neglect, so write now hoping you may receive it by that date. I occasionally send you a paper or circular which reminds you

[illegible] hands of the [illegible] to Mr. Wilde [illegible] Norman Cross in his [illegible] I [illegible] not [illegible] for a month [illegible] in India. [illegible] this winter. I think if he remains at home [illegible] will not be able to enter [illegible] that [illegible] he may.

In regard to Rosey's dress, Nina, I don't know what to say. I do not feel able to spare the money to pay for them myself and I know nothing of the family &c. It was a foolish thing ordering them in the first place but that cannot be helped now. I could pay for them and have them set at once but hardly think I would be justified in doing so. None can honor the memory of parents more than I do or treasure it with more fond affection, and yet I would not waste money over their dishes unnecessarily. As I look around me I see suffering everywhere and I am called upon to contribute toward relieving it. Can I, ought I to draw coldly from the living whom I might benefit to spend my mite for the dead who are at rest and beyond my reach? I cannot think so. You ask what shall be done with them (the gravestones) or about them. I don't know I have nothing to do with them, and never had. I think Daniel never had anything to do with them [illegible] therefore not [illegible]

go there I would not have trouble now. I think the will be paid for out of the estate eventually but I presume it will not be settled before Robert is twenty one and that will be several years yet.

Crops of everything very in Columbiana Co. now. Are they leaving it as fast as they are able to get away? Who is Daniel working for on Yellow Creek? Will he work in the woods all winter? Georgie is now large enough to see to things about home pretty well. I hope he can go to school this winter. By the way, what kind of schools do you have there now a days?

I shall not go West before spring at least and perhaps not then. I have a good situation here and it would not be wise for me to leave it until I have a better one in prospect. I sent you a circular of the institution I am connected with the other day; did you get it? If so it will give you something of an idea of what my duties are.

In this I enclose ten dollars which I send as a birthday present, hoping it may be of service to you. (Please write me again as you have opportunity and tell Daniel I'd like him to write also when he has leisure.)

Truly
Affectionately yours

Chas. G. Brown

Mrs. Malvina S. McCain Manchester N.H.
Spring Cut Columbiana
Pennsylvania

Manchester N. H.
Oct. 11th 1867.

My Dear Sister,

I told Elon I would write to you if I had time because you was sick, but now I am seated to do it, I don't know how nor what to say; though E. has often spoken of you, I don't know you & you know still less if possible, of me; two strangers, never having seen each other, and yet I call you "sister" and think of you as a sister, & for my husband's sake, as his sister, I love you as my sister.

I was very sorry to learn from Georgie's letter that you were so sick as to require watchers, I hope that you are much better by this time, well enough to read this and write to me, Georgie writes that you have another little one to care for, watch over and to love. I hope she is a good, healthy babe & will be

a comfort and blessing to you, and I trust your health will be restored, so that your family may long have "Mother's" love & care.

Please tell us what you call the baby when you name her, when I think of her I want to do it definitely, as something besides "it" or even "her". and when we speak of her too.

It is evening, a few minutes after nine o'clock, so Elon will come home soon from the school, I will close, asking you to kiss the children all, for the aunt who would like to see them & do it herself. if you are able and can find time, I would be very glad to have, even a short letter from you,

Give my regards to your husband & believe me

Most affectionately yours

Sarah E. Brown.

Bryant & Stratton Business College,

CITY HALL BUILDING,

Manchester, N. H. October 31st 1869

My Dear Sister Vina,

I am ashamed I have left your very welcome letter so long unanswered, but I was busy befor I left New Brunswick for this place & since coming here I have not had much opportunity so you will excuse me I hope. I am here to dispose of the Business College & settle up affairs as well as I can. I left Norman with Father & Mother it will be three weeks Sunday since I left there & I don't know when I can go back, I miss him very much but he will have good care & my sisters, Jennie & Georgie, put him a good deal,

The friends here are all glad to see me & it is a comfort to know (tho I knew it before) that every one who became acquainted with Elon loved him, & that the church feel that his death is a loss to them all, tho an unspeakable gain to him, I wished last spring & summer that you & Elijah might see him & your brother, though it would have been but a sad meeting, as it was now when you meet him there will be nothing to make either sad, both will be free from sin & redeemed from the effects of sin, nevermore to be sick or even tired, never to feel sorrow from any cause & our dear Elon is already so blest. I do feel thankful for the assurance I have that it is well with my husband, now &

forever, & that if I live this present life by faith on the Son of God I shall meet him where we need no more part nor fear parting. If Elon had died here where we were well known his funeral would have been from the church & a sermon would have been preached, but at his own earnest request there was no sermon at all, we were not acquainted there, the funeral was from the house, the minister made a few remarks, read some texts which speak of death & the resurrection & offered prayer then at the grave another short prayer. It was Elon's wish that there should not be any ceremony to attract attention, so we buried him quietly & he sleeps quietly, but I don't feel that I have lost him, I think he sees me & knows that I love to think of him & if he could speak, if that was permitted, I believe he would say to you in this letter, "do not grieve for me, but so live that we may meet in the better world" & I know he would say he still loves you & does not want to have you banish the thought of him. I shall never cease to regard him as present & shall teach Norman that Papa lives & sees him, for I think God sends departed friends to minister to those they have loved on earth. But I have talked a long letter to you & will close, I hope when convenient you will write again, direct to Box 199 New Brunswick N. J. I can't remember your husband's given name, I think it is Daniel, so must address the envelope as though you were a widow, which I pray may not be for long years to come, give my love to the children for yourself & husband be assured of it from

Sarah W. Brown

Sept 22 1873 Willi
Menomonie Dunn
Co Wis

Dear father and mother I
wrote to you the 18th of aug
and have not herd any
answer from you so I
thought I would write
and see if you could
answer I have been to work
the most of my time I
am well as ever my
object in writing this
morning is to tell you
of the country as I stay
to uncle williams last nig
and Charles himself has
been up north looking
land he says that there
are lots of vagant land
within 8 miles of heare
and so I thought I
would write and tell
you of it as it is getting

settle up pretty fast
and if you can come
come without delay and
if you cant ~~come~~ ~~come~~
get the money to come
with writ to me and
~~get~~ I will send it to
you if you can get away
to get hear with y come
set skang ang I will get
the money for you to get
back with now be shure
and come I shant tell you
any news till I heck
from you I am to work for
uncle ben at present
iam going to sedrealls to
day and it is getting late
so you must excuse me
from the pen for I must
be tearlong ma if pa
thinks that she cant come
you fixes your self and I will

it out of the Store and
pay the highest for everthing
so I think that
I had beter Stay hear
till after harvest any
way I was glad to hear
that he had got a teem you
he payed the money down
for them if so how did
he get so much in
debt to his work that
will be a hard det
to pay the intres and all
will make it very
near three hundred dollars
you ask me to help clear
it of course I will do all
ean to help clear it so
will haft to figure closer
then he has ever yet and
put ever cent in its
place or he will loose the

N-2

place I do all I can to-
wards paying it up
well I have wrote all that I
think of now so I close
Say uncle Bens to day
and they will write for
them selves tell will
and the girls to write
when ever they can and
I will the same by them
I plead excuse poor writing
and bad spelling Direct
to Red Cedar Falls Dum Co
from your son
James Libra

Forward

Cedar Falls
Dunn Co. Wisconsin
July 5th - - - 1874

My Dear Sister & Brother I now find my self seated to perform A very painful duty as I told you that I would write if there was any change in James well Dear Sister your Dear Son James is gone his spirit took its departure July 1st to the spirit land to join the coral band to sing praises to his maker he died with A fair prospects of Heaven we toled him about 24 hours that he could not get well thoe he said that he could not think of leaving his Parents yet thoe if it was Gods will he must. about 3 hours before he died he wanted me to pray for him after I had got through he said that was good and that he was ready to go his peace was made with God and he toled me to tell his Parents that he was sory to leave them but that he had tried to obey them as well as he could and do all he could for them tell them all to live so that some day we shall all meet again where there is no more parting he talked with Willey some time toled him to be A good Boy and do all he could for his Parents and live for god for it will be but A few days before we will meet again do not cry Willey

he came to my house and the 11th of June
we did not think him dangerous he was up
walking about but he kep going downd and
I sent for a doctor he come and said that
he could help him the first aiset he made he
did not give his sickness any name the next
time he come he said it was the tifoid fever
the fever run its corse and got better
then congestion of the lungs set in and
that took him away Deas Sister do not think
hard of me for not writing sooner for my
hands was full on Saturday I toled
Frank to go up to Mitchels and have
them and Willey come down but
as luck would have it by chance they
all come they came to make a viset
unconsious of any sickness Mitchels
folks staid til sunday after noon Mitchel
staid till tuesday then went home wednesday
I sent Frank by the way of Bens to
Mitchels Bens folks got there in time to
see him alive but Mitchels folks did not
none of the rest of our folks was not
here nuthing to ~~the~~ see him buried
he died July 1st at 7 O clock
& 10 minutes he was buried on
tuesday 2nd in the afternoon in the
Menomonie Burying ground

D-1

State University Madison Wis
Feb 20 1875.

My dear Sister,

Very great was my surprise last night when I rec'd a letter in your well known hand & post marked Barnum I cant understand how it is that more than one half of the letters written by me to you should miscarry yet by putting ends together I make that out to be the case. You say I never wrote you one word letting you know where I was," yet before I started I wrote you where I was going & the next day after getting settled at Noanks I wrote a long letter to each of the family, Louisa Russell Mitchell & Eliza. This was just after my week's visit with Sarah and Norman. Later, when I sent those papers to Russell (or rather when my lawyer said he had sent them) I dropped you a postal card. Now is the fault mine if you

D

did not hear from me?

First let me speak of matters of business. I am exceedingly sorry that my circumstances are not such as to allow me to fully grant your request. My salary here is only $700 per year in money and I have not been in it three years yet. When I finished my college course I was in debt several hundred dollars which was paid during the first year. During that year I also visited you all which cost me some $50 more. My last summer's trip to the East cost me $500 and beside this I have loaned $50 which though due I have not got & probably will not get before next fall. To all these expenditures add the costs of living for three years & subtract it from $2000 & you can get a pretty clear idea that I am not very "flush".

The interest upon your mortgage will be $22.50, that amount I will send you. I am very sorry that I cant do better, but my circumstances will not permit it.

While in the East I did not hear a word from any of my people in Iris. consequently I

D-3 D

knew nothing of your sad loss until recently.

Mitchell wrote me a long letter a few weeks ago in which he gave me that fact & spoke of your visit to Menomonie. I fully appreciate your loss & grief. While his worth could be best appreciated by his mother, others who knew him could see that in addition to his genial temper & kind heart he had that patient perseverance which must in the end bring success to his efforts.

But I will drop the subject as to me it is a painful one & to you much more so.

I hav'nt time or space now to follow all my windings while in the East. Let me just sketch an outline. Started from here as I wrote you, spent two days with old College classmates in Chicago, spent one week in New Jersey with Sarah - (& of course visited the spot where all that was mortal of Brother Elon lies buried) went on to Noank on the southern coast of Conn. reaching there July 1. Here I stay till Sept. 10 with the U.S. Fish Commission making collections of animals, studying habits forms &c. I then went up to New Haven Ct. to Yale College where I spent two months more at work on the same business under Prof. Verrill

D

Boston where I spent the day time of eight days inspecting the large cabinets of Boston Society of Natural History & Harvard College, & the evenings with an old friend from Madison.

I then went to Cornell University (Ithaca N.Y.) where I worked a few weeks upon insects thence home to Wis. by way of N.Y. City & Philadelphia in each of which I stopped one day. In going from Albany to Ithaca & thence back to N.Y. City I suppose I must have gone somewhere near some of our people but was altogether too busy to think of looking them up. I reached Madison Christmas day & about ten days later began my work again in the University where I am now.

Of my impressions of Sarah I will say nothing as you will soon have opportunity to form your own. She came west with me & is now visiting friends in Oskaloosa & Pella, Iowa. A letter from her last week

D5

announced that she & Norman were going to Dunn Co by way of St Paul. She will visit all the people there, make you a call, stop at Madison & return to New Jersey.

Just when all this will happen I dont know. Probably not before warm weather. I wish it were so that I could be with here but I cant leave Madison till the close of the year.

Norman is a bright little fellow, but judge of him for yourself.

Am sorry to hear of Celia's ill health. Is she really ~~ill~~ or simply delicate so that she becomes ~~so~~ sick easily. Guard her from exposure as much as possible & try to stage her over the next few years which will be the critical time of her life & she will yet come out rugged. A little careless exposure now may make her an invalid for life.

My Thanksgiving dinner (In Ottica N.Y. with some new acquaintances) was a very good one & I enjoyed it but most certainly I should have rather enjoyed being at Mitchell's

D

with the old family circle again reunited as far as it is possible to in this world. ~~It would have~~ I dont know that I ever saw all together at least I can not remember any distinct time previous to Father's death.

I have heard about as much as I want to of Eliza's girls & their husbands. I am disgusted with the whole posse. One married two years & the other, one. Both have been jilted & again brought to-gether & I think Ella & her donkey are again separate although this I am not certain. I have written three letters to Eliza one to Emma & one to Ella without getting a reply & shall not try again.

Was rejoiced greatly to hear that George W. had turned up alive & able to catch horse thieves. I have written to him to the place where you said he was.

But enough. Love to all the children & kindest remembrances to all acquaintances.

Yours Affectionately
Robt H. Brown.

Sikeston Apl. 18. 1877

Dear Brother

I received your letter some time ago and have delayed writing until now as I have not had time before you wrote to Robert to send me this money and I wrote to him not to send it as I think I can get along without it and have concluded not to come home as I expected to in the spring and I have enough to answer my purposes here in fact I had enough to do me at the start but wanted to see if you was like Robert he would write me how he was getting along and enquire after my welfare I wrote him a very discouraging and asked him to help me. and I must say that his reply was not just what I expected it was insulting all the way through but it didn't cost much to find him out only 8 cents after I received his letter and yours and and read yours I supposed that if I would come home you would some way get the money and send me I determined to write you and ask you for it and see what you would do if you would do as he did and I must say that I was disappointed

and as for Roberts I ask him no but nor
does either for that matter I never did think much of him
since that winter I left and went to see Prairie he
seemed afraid that I would ask him for money but
I didnt and dont believe I ever want my ed you
needent send any but come down and see us as
I Married this Spring to Miss Susan Parry
Johnson she was 18 in Sept and I
was 23 in Oct you can think what you
like and judge from our pictures which
is the best looking she is like myself
Poor but I am not afraid but I will
get along all right I will close write
soon and come and see us as
soon as you can I will enclose such
picture and you can see how you
like her write soon from G. L.
McRae

Cedar Falls June 22 1889

Dear Brother & Sister I hope you you will forgive me for not writing sooner I commenced a letter last sunday but did not get time to finish it as we went out to look at the crops and found some ~~st~~ strawberries and stoped I am picked enough for dinner and then we ~~w~~ went ~~a~~ again in the ~~after~~ noon we got a nice lot of them I ~~am~~ have been very busy every since I got home Addison's uncle and his fainil was out from Nebraska and and I wanted to get my house cleaned before they came and as soon as they went ~~a~~ away Florence and I went a strawberrying June ~~22~~ 24th yesterday we went again it was a little after 12 o'clock when we ~~fl~~ left home and we got back at 3 we got 10 quart ~~of~~ ~~a~~ pricit I have got 4 qts canned 1 qt Delly and some dried and I am going again today I think we have done pretty well we will have quite a lot of fruit ones we they get ripe we have had ~~them~~ mu every meal since week ago sunday I wish you came here to help us eat

some of their we will have green
peas the 4th some of our peas are big
enough to eat now but there is not many
I have not wrote half enough yet
but Addison is going to the falls so I
must close for he is going over to
August schutta to see about buy
ing a colt I wrote one letter to you
but did not send it of course you
have heard how I got home from pa
Addison is ready so good by

From your sister

we are going to see the start spread
next thursday sells brothers circus
I don't know either we will go in
or not I have not got the boys
waist done yet

Frank Brown is very sick is not
expected to live he has moved back
in the woods write soon

Alice Barber

Direct to
General Hospital
Ludsary Square

Direct to Mitchell McBrow
General Hospital Ludisary Squa
Washington D.C.

The last letter that I had from
Him they wer at Alexandria
he says that they wer going on
this expedition on the southern cos
I think they have gon for I have not
herd from him in over 2 weeks
the longest I have bn with out hear
ing from him I hope that it will not
be long before I hear from him
M. M. Brown

Soldiers Home - 4-2

My Dear ~~Alice~~ Rosa,

You must excuse me for not answering your letter sooner, but I mislaid it and lost the address. I am as well as usual. Everything here goes on about the same. We have had a beautiful winter but not enough rain to suit the people. I hope you and the family are well and prospering. I should be glad to hear from you at any time. Love to all

Your aff Father

David McCrea

See page 22 Press June 17

TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE DEDICATION OF

Athenaean Hall,

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,

AT THE

Assembly Chamber,

Friday Evening, June 7th, 1872.

COMMITTEE.

G. G. SUTHERLAND, L. M. FISHER,
J. C. HUTCHINS, G. D. CLINE,
A. D. CONOVER.

Madison Democrat Print.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

MUSIC.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, ... H. W. DEHING.

RECITATION—"*The Demon of the Fire,*" . . . J. W. FISHER.

MUSIC.

ORATION—"*Culture: Will it Pay?*" . . . . R. H. BROWN.

MUSIC.

Toasts and Responses.

"*To the Class of '72,*" . . . . . E. T. SWEET.

"*To the Sciences,*" . . . . . T. E. BOWMAN.

"*To Military and Agriculture,*" . . . . . W. E. HOWE.

"*To the Press,*" . . . . . J. W. BASHFORD.

MUSIC.

"*To the Bar,*" . . . . . L. R. LARSON.

"*To the Pulpit,*" . . . . . PHILIP EDEN.

MUSIC.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN.

CLASS DAY EXERCISES,

OF THE

Class of 1872.

Saturday Afternoon, June 15, 1872.

ON THE

UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

NAMES OF CLASS.

1. Edward Daniel Adler.
2. Edwin Charles Arnold.
3. Albert Eugene Bourne.
4. Thomas Evens Bowman.
5. Frank Green Brown.
6. Robert Henry Brown.
7. Henry Martin Chittenden.
8. Sidney Houghton Cole.
9. George Dumars Cline.
10. Joseph Coyer.
11. Elmer Horace Craig.
12. Henry William Deming.
13. Philip Eden, Jr.
14. Louis Maturin Fisher.
15. William Alvarno Franklin.
16. Henry Warrington Hoyt.
17. Benjamin Wilkins James.
18. John C. Keefe.
19. Louis R. Larson.
20. Charles Edward Laverty.
21. George Fisk Merrill.
22. Carroll Sinclair Montgomery.
23. Daniel T. Newton.
24. William Elijah Odell.
25. John Kimbal Parish.
26. John Bernard Slattery.
27. George Geer Sutherland.
28. Edmund Theodore Sweet.
29. Edward Perrine Wilas.
30. Horace Martin Wells.

Order of Exercises.

MUSIC.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, . . G. G. SUTHERLAND.
POEM—"*A View of Youth*," . . . . G. D. CLINE.

MUSIC.

ORATION—"*Ready for Action*," . . . H. M. WELLS.

MUSIC.

CLASS HISTORY, ... A. E. BOURNE.
CLASS PROPHECY, ... E. C. ARNOLD

MUSIC.

CEREMONY OF PLANTING CLASS TREE.

DEDICATORY ADDRESS, ... PHILIP EDEN.
PRESENTATION ADDRESS to the
JUNIOR CLASS, ... L. R. LARSON.

PROCESSION TO THE CABINET.

MUSIC.

HYMN.

Arise, my soul, on wings sublime,
Above the vanities of time;
Let faith now pierce the veil, and see
The glories of eternity.

II.

Born by a new, celestial birth,
Why should I grovel here on earth?
Why grasp at vain and fleeting toys,
So near to heaven's eternal joys?

III.

Shall aught beguile me on the road,—
The narrow road that leads to God?
Or can I love this earth so well,
As not to long with God to dwell?

IV.

To dwell with God,—to taste His love,
Is the full heaven enjoy'd above:
The glorious expectation now
Is heavenly bliss begun below.

Sermon by Rev. J. H. Trembly, D.D.

HYMN.

Soldiers of Christ, arise,
And put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His Eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts,
Is more than conqueror.

II.

Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued;
But take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God:
That having all things done,
And all your conflicts past,
Ye may o'ercome, through Christ alone,
And stand entire at last.

III.

Leave no unguarded place,—
No weakness of the soul;
Take every virtue, every grace,
And fortify the whole:
Indissolubly join'd,
To battle all proceed;
But arm yourselves with all the mind
That was in Christ your Head.

Benediction.

BRYANT & STRATTON BUSINESS COLLEGE,
City Hall Building,
MANCHESTER, N. H.

E. P. BROWN, Principal.

MANCHESTER NOV 1

Mrs Malvina S. McCrae
Spring Creek
Adams Co.
Wis.

Russell G. Bass
Co A 5th Regt N. Col
Washington
DC

CEDAR [illegible] WIS.
JUN 23 1884
D. E. Barber, P. M.

Mr Edward Haynes
Poster
Yellow Medicine Co Minn

BARRON
NOV 17 1889
WIS.

Mr J L Deppenger
Poster
yellow medicine Co
Minn

BARRON MAR 12 CDS

Mr. Daniel McCrae
Spring Creek
Adams Co. Wis.

Felicia send
a love ~~xxxx~~
She will
rite soon
they are
poor
ever and
~~[illegible]~~
Your ~~[illegible]~~
loving
friend
Pa

Dear brother and
sister as we have ben
hear a long time
[illegible]
time to write I am
agoing to write
but this is all the
paper I have got
and it is black so
the ground was be
for it snow we have
[illegible] a lot of snow
note there is some sleds
[illegible] now we got to mail
the next friday after
[illegible] left your place
and got home the next

came over to uncle Ben
last monday heard we
was hear so he came
up Alice is not very
well she has got the
rumatis and the bron
kettis is set in so she
is in a bad condition
have they ~~haint~~ done any
thing about that note
yet and will you rite
and let us know
it is half [illegible]
and [illegible] all was
[illegible] dinner all [illegible]
most 11 so I [illegible]
close for [illegible] time
[illegible] Delia

edward will rite soon
but he is loking of going
in the woods with Bunel
and Pope horse Lean Laura
will stay at home

day to dinner the horse
was sick all the way
little Jennie was sick
all the way he was the
worst of all and they
were next day was the
best she did not mind
the jarring at all
Charley was pretty sick
after we got here They
are all better now Edward
traded Rocky for
a gray beyer than Charley
and now he has a chance
to sell Tell the man
that ~~got~~ had publishe clothes
to pay now and wants
to see in the papers

so of course he want
done to sell to him, with
out good security
Lowell took sick the next
day after we got here
but is better she is
better now I have not
been very well I guess
it is eating rye bread
with no grease rich
let us have some to
eat this winter but
she don't give enough milk
to make butter we have
not seen any of your folks
yet we could not get any
place for the horses
being sick adieu

CAMP RANDALL.

Madison, May 29 1861.

Dear Brother and Sister

Again I have pen in hand writing to you but under different circumstances than I was when last I wrote to you. The news which I am to tell you will probably surprise you, I know not whether it will grieve you, or make you glad. I have enlisted in the army to go South to fight for my country.

Do not think I acted rashly in this matter but be assured that it was well considered before a step was taken. I felt it my duty to do so for some weeks before I did, but shrunk from it. The thought that I am going into the wholesale butchery of my fellow men is heart rending and yet I would not give it up if I could. The war is just on the part of the North and any man is a traitor

And now my friends farewell; I go to the performance of a painful duty may God keep me from evill and bring us all unto himself that we may meet above.

I shall endeavor to let you hear from me often and I hope you will be punctual about answering me. I dond think the war will last 3 years but we cant tell. The Soldiers seem to think we can dig up the whole "Southern Confederacy" with our bayonets and plant corn on it in less than that time. I dont know as you can read this but if you could see the conveniencies I have for writing you would wonder that I could write atall. Direct your letters to ~~Madison~~

Randal Guard
Camp Randal
Madison Wis

Mr Robert H Brown
Pekaryuet Co

Yours in love,

Elon F. Brown

D. N. Moore

to his his country who refuses to go if he has nothing to keep him more than I have. Many have gone who have left friends who were depending on them for support and should I refuse who have no one to take care of? The family is large and there are enough left to see to each other. I am of but little use to the world so if I am killed the loss will be small. I would like to see you once more before I go but that is impossible. You have doubtless seen me for the last time for the art of war is so well learned at the present day that a great majority of all who go to battle are killed.

I belong to the 2nd Regiment which is to consist of one thousand men (ten companies of one hundred each) I have been sworn in to the service of the state for three years or during the war. We are to be mustered into the United States service this afternoon. The Regiment is not quite full yet but will be in

two or three days. We dont know when we will leave here; probably we will not leave ~~here~~ the state before fall. I came in and enlisted a week ago last Monday. I intended to have gone back to Sun Prairie the same or the next day and to have stayed two or three days but the same day the Colonel shut down closer on the boys and I could not get away and probably cannot for two or three weeks yet. James is at work there I did not see him for two or three days before I came away as I intended to go right back. We have very comfortable quarters and most of the boys enjoy themselves. I do not enjoy the company very well and nothing but the thought that I am at work in a good cause keeps my spirits up.

We have to drill (7) seven hours a day which is enough to make us tired at night. The company to which I belong is called "Randal Guard" (after the Governor) the whole regiment is called "Camp Randal"

(4)

suffering the same way
it fairly makes mi blood
bile to think that our
government wont call out
enough men to crush them
at once She has got men
enough and why dont she
do it because she is
making money out it
we may fight them
as long as we pleas as
we have done and we will
stand in the same tracks
only be minous of
many A brave soldier
but it seems as thoe uncle
Sam dont care for soldiers
and why should I let
them way as they will and
I will way with them good
by rite soon R G B

Camp Near
Blandy Station Va
Jan 11, 1864

Dear Brother & Sister
after the silence of about one
year I take mi pen in hand
to write A few lines to you
to let you no that I am yet
alive and in the land of the
living but mi health is not
very good I have not seen A
well day since last winter
not dont expect to whilst I
am in the army the exposure
and hard ships is more than
I can stand we now are in
good warm winter quarters
and we have gay times but
when we are on A march
it not than pays for the
good times we have in camp

(1)

Robert G. Brown Jan 11, 1864

there has 150 reenlisted
from this Regiment 2 8 from
this Company and gone home
on 30 dais furlough and it
brings duty very heavy
on what is left the weather
is very cold here it is the
coldest that I ever saw in
beginning the sno is about 2
inches deep it fell on the day
and nite of the 4 if we leave
water in our cantens over
nite we find them froze
up in the morning and that
I call pretty cold weather
but I suppose it is nothing
compared with Wisconsin
tomorrow I shall be on
picket the picket line is
about one mile from camp
we have to stay out 24 hours

I suppose that you have
heard all about mi expedition
while I was A prisiner in
Rebeldom so I will not
say much about it but
I can say more than A
grate many cant for I have
been to Richman but
I never want to go there
agane under the same
sircumstances agane for
they nearly starved me
to deth mi alowances was
one cracker A day with no
meat or coffee if I had
not of had some money
I guess I would of starved
I paid one dollar A loafe
for bred that one loafe would
make one meal and there
is to day many A poor soldier

(1)

Elon Brown 9/22/1865

Camp 45th U. S. C. T.
Edinburg Texas
Sept 22nd 1865

My Dear Brother & Sister

Yours of July 25th has been received, nearly two months after its date. It was gratefully perused and shall be promptly answered. A word from the loved ones at the old home always sends a thrill through my veins such as can be awakend by nothing else and I often wonder that I do not receive them oftener. I have written you once since the date of your letter which you have, no doubt received ere now. That was written while I was at Las Cuevas, thirty miles above here. A portion of my company was enlisted for only one year and after the discharge of those I had not men enough to garrison the place and was accordingly relieved by a detachment of the 41st U.S.C.T. I am now on duty with the regiment. I expect to be discharged within two or three weeks prob-

Address
Co. "D" 45th U.S.C.T.
2nd Brig. 2nd Div.
25th A.C. Texas

Should I cease to receive letters will be forwarded to me so you need not delay writing on that account.

(4)

Bens people were well at the date of their last letter which was August 22nd.

Our camp is on the bank of the Rio Grande which is scarce thirty rods wide. We visit Reynosa a little town of about one thousand inhabitants, on the opposite side in Mexico as often as we choose, but as it contains nothing of importance we do not care to go often. The country is full of robbers and therefore we are always careful to return to camp before nightfall unless several are in company well armed. Our relations with the respective governments of Mexico we know nothing about and have almost ceased to feel solicitude on the subject. We are treated with every mark of respect by the Liberal Mexican party which now has possession of this portion of Mexico, but I have no sympathy with their cause and would not trust a Mexican of either party under any circumstances.

Please write again soon. McCrae why dont you write? I shall be very thankfull to hear from you whenever it is convenient for you to drop a line.

Your affectionate brother
Elon M. Brown

ably before you get this yet I may not. Nearly every regiment in the division was composed in part of one years men and they having been discharged the regiments must now be consolidated and there will be many surplus officers who can be spared. As I tendered my resignation three weeks ago I think I will be one who will be allowed to go. Rina, you seem to think I am feeling very downhearted because I was not allowed to leave the service last spring but you are much mistaken. Uncle Sam hasn't got a more cheerful boy in his service than I. True, I wished to go, but as I couldn't I was content to stay. And now I am really glad that I did not then leave the service as I have seen much of the world that I would not have seen. I am receiving much larger wages than I could get out of the service and am having as easy a time as a man could ask for. Many things connected with my situation are very unpleasant, yet I have other reasons for wishing to have, therefore I hope to go soon; but if I am detain-

till spring I shall not be surprised or angry. I shall be satisfied in believing all is for my good and the best interests of the world. I do not think I shall visit Wisconsin for several months — perhaps years — even if I get my discharge tomorrow. I intend first to make a tour through the central and eastern portions of Texas. It is said to be a fine country. If I find a location that suits me I shall seek a home in this state. The climate agrees with me and I am much healthier than when in Wisconsin. But I shall not settle here nor anywhere else for two or three years. I expect to have to go to Washington to settle my accounts with the government, after which I intend to proceed to New-England and enter some school; I do not now know where. I may however change my whole plan and return home at once. All depends on circumstances which I cannot now foresee.

I have not had a letter from Russell for about six months. Mitchell and Robert and

(1)

Jan 20th 1863
by Mitchell M. Brown, sharp shooter

Bristol, Tan, 20th 1863.

Dear Sister

I received your kind letter of the 11th Ult last night and now as a favorable opportunity afords I will reply. I have some very painful news to tell you it may be that you have herd of it before our dearly beloved Brother James is ded I no not how to wright to ease the pane this news will cause you for my part I feel very bad he was wounded very severly on the 28th of last Aug and his wound had scarcely got well when the Small Pox got hold of him and soon cared him to an untimely Grave it seames hard to have our friends die in a strange land and among Strangers While his body

(4)

Pleasantly the durm is half out last night there came a bout 2 or two inches of snow for the first this winter the weather is warm and I guess we will lose the snow there is not mutch news to wright this time I was glad to hear that the children wer all well but you did not say a word a bout Mack when you wright I want to hear from all I should like to see those Twins for if they look as near a like as they did when I was there they look near enough a like is Meerae Staung to home this winter tell George to atend School faithful this winter for he will soon be so old that he will have to stay at home to help his Papa I should be very mutch pleased to get a letter from him next time you wright tell me how the Folks gets a long in general in that Sandy region give my respects to all in quries and wright soon /

From your affectionate Brother

Mitchell M. Brown

Malvina McCrae
Stanford, Ky

was racked with so Bad a wound
then to with stand such a contagious
disease Elon received a letter from Mrs
Mackswell stating that she had
taken care of him ever since he
was Wounded and had became very
much attached to him she had
done all that was in her power
to do for any one but all in Vain
care could not save him it is one
consolation to us to no that he had
good care but he has gone from this
World of sufferings and we are
left to lament his Early loss
it is but a short time since we
had to lament the loss of a dear
Brother next to him but whos turn
will it be next we cannot tell what
is in the future it may be our
lot next. I received two letters
from Elon last week he wrote tha
t they had gone in to Winter
Quarters but last night

the news came in that the
Army of the Potomac had
crossed the River and doubtless
they have had some hard fiting
before this time Russel and
Elon both will doubtless be in
the fight R. James died a Chris
mass night a bout 12 O clocke
I have received one letter from
Eliza since they arived in
Michigan they have gone in
to the Woods this winter I also
received a letter form Robert
a short time a go he was well
he sayd that he was on the
ice all day Christmass seating
he did not say whether he was going
to school this Winter or not I have
not had a letter from Russel sin
ce he en listed although I have
written to him My health
is prety good I am going to scho
ol the school passes off very

Camp in the Field
Near Petersburg Va
Apr. 28th 1865

The Campaign is ended. Grief over our National bereavement and joy over the near approach of peace is strangely mingled. I am well tired stood hard marching, hard fighting and the hard fare generally of the campaign as well as any officer of the regt and far better than most of it. Have no time to write a letter.

Love to all.

Your brother
Elon J. Brown

April 28, 1865 Elon Brown