**Henry L. Sholts** (First_Last)

**Regiment Name** 38 Iowa Infantry

**Side** Union

**Company** ? C

**Soldier's Rank_In** ? Corp.

**Soldier's Rank_Out** ? Sgt.

**Alternate Name** ?

**Notes**

**Film Number** M541 roll 24

The information for the Soldier Records on this site was taken from a General Index Card like this one. (SAMPLE)
UNION IOWA VOLUNTEERS

38th Regiment, Iowa Infantry

Organized at Dubuque and mustered in December 4, 1862. Moved to St. Louis, Mo., December 15; thence to Columbus, Ky., December 28-30. Attached to District of Columbus, Ky., 16th Army Corps, Dept. of Tennessee, to June, 1863. 1st Brigade, Herron's Division, 13th Army Corps, Army of Tennessee, to July, 1863. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 13th Army Corps, Army of Tennessee, to August, 1863, and Dept. of the Gulf to June, 1864. United States Forces, Texas, to August, 1864. United States Forces, Mobile Bay, to October, 1864. District of LaFourche, Dept. of the Gulf, to December, 1864. 3rd Brigade, Reserve Corps, Military Division West Mississippi, to December, 1864.


Regiment lost during service 2 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 4 Officers and 311 Enlisted men by disease. Total 317.

Click here to search for soldiers in this unit.

Click here for a listing of all soldiers in this unit.
Camp Franklin Dubuque Iowa Oct 27 1861

Dear Martha Wayland & Clinton I take opportunity to write you I am well. Lee is well he will get the 2nd Lieu(sp Lieutenant) without doubt now. There is great commotion here about Col Brush. He is not liked at all everybody dislikes him Gov Kirkwood has been here three days endeavoring to get the Coloneley settled & us mustered. Brush certainly is not qualified for the position of Col.(Colonel) but everybody want him to resign & I do not think he will resign. There will not be any thing accomplished until such things are settled.

I suppose you think that the soldiers would finally get discouraged by waiting waiting & waiting. Well some are discouraged some are mad some swear and some run away but a large majority of them take it patiently and laugh over it For my part I am not discouraged nor disheartened. I am satisfied and contented when I hear from my family often (for this is my greatest pleasure) I am contented to do anything. But I want to be mustered in as soon as possible(sp possible) and come home to see you all. Oh Martha sometimes it seems hard to be deprived of the society of my family to me most dear. But then I realize that you are with a kind and gentle Mother and I therefore feel well. I received(sp received) a letter from my Father yesterday the folks were well.ie my folks. Bony Sholts has lost his oldest girl & the next one is not expected to live. They have the Typhus Tyfoid(sp Typhoid) fever
Bony Marsh is sick with the same disease
George Golligan one of my cousins in
Michigan who was a 2d Lieu (Lieutenant) in Michigan
Reg (regiment) was killed in one of the late battles
Elijah Marsh will be discharged on account
of his wound received at the Battle of Bull Run. Henry Marsh is sick in the hospital
Henry Eunis is dead. Our company is
certainly the best in the Reg(sp regiment) and the 38th
Reg(sp regiment) is as good as they get ---- Iowa boy
Kirkwood said if we beat the old Reg(sp regiment)
we beat the world. Chadwick compay(sp company)
is sure a good one sure.
The Measeles still rage here the hospital
is full and lots in every barrack
but no deaths of measels yet.
Wartendyke will be discharged. He aught
to be he can never make a soldier.
I picked into the Capt(sp Captain) to get a discharge
for Dyke and he will get it no doubt
Yesterday we got our dress coats they are
very good I don’t know when we shall get
our over coat probably not in three weeks
I can not tell anything about when we
shall come home but in my next –
letter it may be possible I can.
Martha save what little gold you have as
every dollar is worth $1.50 easy now and
it will be worth more when I get my
pay I should send $225.00 to Wis (consin) to pay taxes
on our land. There is not much war news
now but things will all come out somewhere
in time. The war can and must close by
March next. There has been a battle at
Meaysville Ark near Pea Ridge in which
Oct 27th 1861
Page 3

the Rebels were badly beaten. The rebels are all driven out of Kentucky and the Rebels army is disheartened and want to go home but the leaders fully knowing that they must suffer the punishment due to their crimes will push the war forward with all power they can wield until sheer exhaustion compels them to abandon fiendish ungodly treasonably civil war. But war or no war we must try and be content & happy as possible & as it is wisdom to make the best of life for if we do not make life worth living for me certainly better quit claims to it

I must now go and get Lee to come and write some in my letters, so I will close & may the Divine blessings rest on my little family until I see them all again. Write often Martha and I will write the same this from your affectionate husband

H.L. Sholts

Lee has not time to write &
I am go g to town & must close
Camp Franklin Dubuque Nov 23, 62

Dear Martha it is a pleasure to write to you.

I am well. We arrived at Dubuque yesterday at three o'clock P.M. Had a pleasant journey, except it was very lonesome on account of leaving the loved ones at home.

All the boys have seen our Degareaty type (sp) and they think it is very nice. They think I have a pretty woman. I know that better than they do.

M DB Hanan says that Sholts is the best man in the whole army, and he don't care a damn for any of the rest in the company.

The boys of my mess brought back a lot of Pies, Sweet cakes, booked Turkeys & chicken & Pigs. Cain Legg is sick at Fredericksburg. I have a nice overcoat. I cannot tell whether we shall stay here or not through the winter. but I am inclined to think we will. It is impossible (sp impossible) to tell at
present. the draft will come of this week in Dubuque and I think we will make a fuss, but they had better be quite and probably they will.

Nov 23, 62
Page 2

The Supervisors of Chicksaw county have cut down the bounty to volunteers (sp volunteers) families to one half. And the boys are very indignant to the course they have taken. You will get you six dollars per month for three months, and then only three dollars sill (sp still) I think they have no right to swindel the soldiery(sp soldiers) in that way and it will all be eixed(sp mixed) up. I don't want you to feel uneasy about it I will attend to it I think of getting a protest and getting the names of all the co (sp company) from Chicksaw
co (sp county) to sign it and send it to Newhampton to be published. I shall write
to Peter Case today to send all the
money he can get & what he has got
to you immediately. Lee is coming
home he will start in two or three day
he has a nice suite of Lein clothes
There is considerable war news. There
will be a great battle at Fredericksburg
Va (Virginia) before this gets to you. There will
also be a great battle a Vixburg (Vicskburg)
Miss (Mississippi) before many weeks. The rebels
are retreating all the time North Car-

Nov 23, 62
Page 3

- olina will be back in the Union
in a month I belive(sp believe) almost
I will send some doilies by Lien Bur -
- ton and after he comes I will send
them by mail. David Darns young-
- est child is dead  it died two weeks ago
A H Warren has cut down his sign
Cary keeps tavern in the Julian house
Lockwood lives where Cary did Peter
Pitts lives in the house we did.
The 32d (sp 32nd) Reg(regiment) have gone to Deavenport
(sp Davenport)
The Irish Reg(regiment) is coming in here
James Potter is at Benton Barracks
he was taken prisoner at the battle
of Shilo with the rest of the Iowa 12th
he is well except a bad cold
If we should go south I think we will
be in the same division he is in
Warten Dyke & A A Brown have not come
back they are sick. Tell Wayland
Pa looks at his picture often and thinks
of him and his little brother oftener
Kiss them for me Martha. And if we
stay here Lee & I will come home
again this winter if we can

Nov 23, 62
The war must close by the first of March I think. Then Martha (sp Martha) we will enjoy the God given right of again living together with none to molest our happiness. Take good care of the children. Tell them Pa will come home again. Give my love to Mother, Father, Susan, Estoline, Willis, Helen, Marty, Wayland, Clinty, and by all means to Martha. I will write soon and I hope next time some good war news. I have a very poor pen and am in a hurry for the officers want me to come down to their quarters to sing.

Write to me often and tell me how you get along in every respect. This from your affectionate husband ever for the Union & freedom to all.

H L Sholts

Kiss Way Clinty
for land
Martha
Camp Franklin Dubuque Dec 2/62

Affectionate, Martha, after a long time I write to you. I received your welcome letter -
ter to night and was glad to hear from
my dear family Lee got back last -
night and I tell you I was glad
to see him we talked together until after
ten o'clock. We had orders to march some
time ago but we are still in camp
Franklin, but we will go very soon but
no one knows when probably we shall
start Cairo the last of the week
I have sent you all the papers that con -
tain any news. The 21st Regt. (Regiment) the one that
JV Carpenter was in have been whipped
loosing all their baggage camp equipage
close and 5 men killed I don't
know who were killed. The army of the
west is all concentrating down the
Mississippi river to form one grand army to
attack Vixburg all the rebels are concen -
trating at Vixburg also, there will be
a hard fought battle then I think & probably
we shall go there, if we are successful
in the battle and of course we shall be
the war in the west is done

Top of Page 1 upside down

I have written another sheet but dare not send it
on account of the money Kiss our dear children God Bless you
all Give my love to your mother and all the rest
from your affectionate husband H L Sholts
will write again before we leave here.
The army on the Potomac is figuring but all on both sides are concentrating their forces in the valley of the Shenandoah and the battle that is to come of a Fredericksburg Va will be the most bloody ever fought on the American Continent but still the rebels may retreat and not risk a battle Burnside I believe is a good & able general and he has Seigle to back him. the war must close before many months. I feel willing to go south fully believing that the God of battle will bring our armies of victorious. I also trust the same great ruler of all human events will bring me back to my family when the war is over. I look at my dear little family many times everyday everyone of the boys say its beautiful picture. & I know it is I would not take any money for it. Now Martha don’t pay any attention to John or his she fool. I am glad you told them what you did all right. I was paid $13 dollars the other day I will send you $5 in this letter and some more soon. I am saving my money the best I can but if I can I am going to save enough to buy some things that I may need and I shall bring
come home with me

I have allotted $10 (per month) to be paid out of my wages to you by Peter Case of New Hampton. I should have sent it to some one in the west Union but companies have to send together. If I allotted any I had to allot it to some man in Chick-asaw county. It will be paid to base every two months. I have written to Case too send it to you as fast as he gets it. So you can get $20 every two months without any cost. The reason is when we get south we may not get our pay oftener than one in four months or six & then it is liable to be lost by sending it home. So far but by the allotment system, it is fast every two months any way. You see that I have reserved $7 per month for my self. but a part of that I will send to you. I have made $6 today
but I have to wait until next payday for it. Next payday will be the 1st day Jan (January) 1863 I intended to make at least $15 per month clear if I am well all the time I am in the army. But Martha I would rather be with the loved ones at home than to have the world & all else beside

Dec 2/62
Page 4

Most of the boys have alloted the most of their pay too their friends at home but it has to be sent to one man and he distributes it free of charge. It is a law of Congress and all the army of the Potomac do the same. Wortendyke A A Brown & A B Legge havent(sp haven’t) come back yet I expect they are at home sick, one of our co(sp company) died & two more are very low they may get well.
The way I made $6 was, I went to town & bought a watch for $6 and sold it to F M Appleberg for $12. He is as good as the wheat
I am glad you are all right. (you know) I
knew you would be. For I know my gate....
When I come again then, we will take it all over. Tell Wayland when you write again to write some to Pa. Tell him to be good to little brother and Pa will bring each of them a nice horse. I will get that song and send it to you before I leave here. When you write again direct this way, H L Sholts Dubuque Iowa. Care of Capt Tuikham Co c 38th Reg Iowa. Not Inft to follow Reg

Now Martha don’t worry about me I am well I feel as well as any man in the Reg I have but little to do. I have one of the best places in the co I have no work to do I have some care on my mind to be sure but that suites me. But I have above all earthly things a dear little family at home. That I hope in God’s name maybe spared until I return never to be again separate ed until death shall disunite us. I shall write often now, as often as once week at best I will write again before we leave here H L Sholts

Dec 14/62
Page 1

Dear Martha again I write to you from this place I am Well and feel very well... We are going to start tomorrow morning for Cairo therefore all is bustel &
hurry in camp. Everything
is being packed up
I will send yo(sp you) two more
papers, containing a part ----
of the battle at Fredeericks-
burg Va. I think Burn--
sides forces will whip them
bad I certainly hope so.
It is now Just four months
since I enlisted and in two
months more I shall be
home I think without a
doubt. I am not sorry we
are going south although

Dec 14/62
Page 2

I do not expect as good times
as we have had here, but
you must not worry about
me I shall be very careful
of my health and do the best
I can I wrote to a few
ago. I recieved(sp received) a letter from
you day before yesterday
but did not write because
I wanted to know when we
were to start. And I want
you to know all about it also
Lee is well and feels well. I
suppose there is a letter on
the road for me from you
but I shall not get it un-
til I get to Cairo. I expect
we will go to Memphis from
Cairo but just as soon
as we get through Cairo
I will write to you. So now
when you write direct to
Cairo Ill(Illinois) & as usual

Dec 14/62
Page 3
We have a good many sick at present. but I am well and believe through the help of the Lord I shall be able to return to you and my dear children in the spring. Everything seems to work right ---- The hand of the Lord is in the work and slavery must crumble to the earth and then (and not till then) we shall have peace, lasting peace. Now Martha I shall write to you at least once a week. And you know how I desire to hear from my family and I want you to write certainly as often. We may possibly see George I hope we may. It will take about three days for us to go to Cairo then I will write again.

Dec 14/62
Page 4

I carry your & the children likeness in my side pocket et all the time, so I can see you all very often. money would not buy. I do hope you will have no trouble where you are for when I think you have the best mother that lives I really want you to stay with her but you will soon have some more many and if you want to go to Wisconsin I want you to go. If you do go to Wisconsin take great care while on the cares especially in getting on and off. & put your money where you would not
get robed(sp robbed). I am very sory(sp sorry)
but John and his wife are coming
back. but you must not
notice them any more than you can help

Jan 6th 1863
Page 1

Camp 38th Iowa Brownsville Texas Jan 6th 1863
My dear Martha it is with
pleasure I again write to you
I am quite well But con -
- siderable weak as yet but feel
well & have a good appetite
I hope & believe now that
through the kind aid of the Almighty
God I shall be restored to perfect
health again I recieved(sp) two let -
ters from you yesterday one dated
the 5th & one the 13th of Dec & oh how
glad I was to hear from you
but it does seem to me that
it takes a very long time for
letters to go & return but we
have had many hard storms on
the Gulf since we came across &
that hinders the mail going or
coming here as boats cannot
land here in times of rough sea. I hope we may get back into America sometime next spring so that we can get mail oftener than we do here. For it is extremely monotonous & dull to hear nothing either from home or any where else.

We were paid two months pay on the 30th of Dec that paid us up to the last day of Oct & on the 31st of Dec we mustered for two months more pay I recieved $43. (34 dollars monthly pay & $9 dollars on my clothing account) Most of the men in the reg over drew on the clothing & had what they over drew deducted out of their pay but I happened to be lucky eno- ugh to have done pretty well for I have a plenty of good clothes yet and a brand new overcoat, that I shall send home in the spring.
Jan 6th 1863

Page 3

if I can get a chance. I have made some money since I came here & am able to Express to you at this time $50. I shall put it in the Express office tomorrow but cannot tell when it may start for you. You must do what you think best with the money. Be sure to keep enough for your own use.

I do not expect to get any more pay before Apr or May. I have therefore kept twenty two dollars for my own use for I am buying the most I eat just now & it costs me very high for every to wit Butter 75cts per lb ___ ___ but I buy them & I live on them & still send you more than my entire wages so you see but I am yet bound to get along to do it honestly
Martha send me some postage stamps for I am nearly out

Jan 6th 1863
Page 4

I have now sent you $252 besides what I sent from Dubuque & Government owes me now $34 more which if I had it now I would send it. The last $50 will go to Madison just as the $72 did from New Orleans by the Adams Express Co & you can get it by sending an order for it just as well as to go yourself & prob - - ably you had better do so for it will be very cold for you to go after it in the cold winter. The weather has been very cold here since Christmas it is freezing yet today. The cold
winds from off the mountains chills everything here. Sometimes the weather changes from hot to very cold in one moment of time this is when the blast of cold wind first rushes from the mountains. I love to have it cold but I don’t like the piercing winds that attend it the change is to very sudden for health I fear. Oh bub we are out of the 13th Army Corps Herron has come back & we are again the Army of the Frontier but direct your letters as before until I tell you different kiss dear Wayland & Clinton for me except (sp accept) my entire love & respect give my regards to all inquiring friends

H L Sholts

(Cross ways to page 1 on the left)

May the Lord bless the people in Rutland & you my dear family with a double blessing I am glad they have a good meeting there I will write to J ____anan soon I am obliged to him for his good long letter I am sorry to hear my father has left the church tell me the reason & pray God pity & have compassion on whomever the wrong rests. Martha be patient & kind as you ever was & be not discouraged & I will get back all right Yet I believe so far the Lord has protected me through many trails & afflictions & is still willing & ready for which I am truly grateful

(Cross ways to page 1 on the right)

Lee is well I will write again soon God bless you

Feb 4th 1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo Feb 4th 1863
Dear Martha I have just recieved (sp received) your ever welcome letter of the 28th & oh how glad to hear from home this often. I recieved (sp received) yours of the 25th on the 28th & immediately answer ed it. Your letters appear to come straight (sp straight)
through now & I hope mine do the same
There is great irregularities in the mail
leaving here. But we send as
often a boat lands that can take them.
- Dan will no doubt heare (sp hear) of another
disaster of the 78th as soon or sooner than
this reaches you. For last night Two
gun boats from Columbus TBB came
down here with the 75th Iowa reg (sp regiment) to reinforce
us here at Island Mo 10. because ___ report
came up to Columbus that the rebels had
attacked us & also attacked the force at NC
10 so the gunboats came down shelling
the shores making a great ______
---- night. But finding all quiet
on Potomac as the saying is this morning
they all went back & left us alone in
our glory. If you hear of any such news
do not worry until you know something
about it Our reg is in good condition
improving in health. Snow & Kieth
are still in the hospital but doing well
We have an excellent - Hospitan (sp hospital) warm &
comfortable & plenty to eat & good nur-
-ses. H Baker is our company nurse
he is a good one . R W Heider is not very
well Brawer & Hill have got well Aim
King has got the mumps he is doing
well There is not nor ever has been

(Kiss our little boys & may the Lord bless
you all. Give my respects to Mother Brinton & except (sp accept)
my love Martha from your affectionate husband
& companion through life H L Sholts to Martha

Feb 4th 1863
Page 2
a case of small pox in the regiment (sp regiment)
Nor is there any small pox in the country
Most of the men have been vaccinated(sp vaccinated)
for the kind pox. He did not vaccinate(sp vaccinate) me
he said the fit on my arm was sufficient(sp sufficient)

Well Martha I have no news to write
I understand that the Channel opposite Vix-
burg(sp Vicksburg) is washed out so that boats can
now pass by Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) without opposition
also that the ____ of the Potomac is to be
sent west because the rebel army of
Va is going wet(west) to protect Vixburg(sp Vicksburg)
I hope it is so, the great contest will
then be fought in the west.

It is the opprision (sp impression) of most all military
men that the war cannot last much
longer & I still am in hopes I will be home
in the spring. Tell Wayland Pa will bring
him a rebel to look at. Tell Truty boy he must
be good like Wayland & Pa will bring him a horse

We have cold weather now but not half as
cold as you have up there I suppose. I feel
well and contented because I know it is for
the best to feel so. I would gladly have the war
close if it could close honorably & come home
to my family never to leave them again until
death shall part us. Martha your ___
___ laying in my desk before me and
oh how natural the pictures of the loved ones
at home look. Yours looks as if it could
almost speak to me. Waylands is very sober
& Chitys is very roguish. It is of great value
to me. Lee is well I see him every day. King
our teamster died 2nd nist (sp night) & was burried with
military honors. I led the singing.

I will write again Sunday. Write often Martha dont
mind what a foolish sweed may say You & she
are very different persons. You know something
she the reverse. I can read your writing faster than
print. Please excuse bad writing.
New Madrid Mo Feb 22d (sp nd) 1863

Dear Martha it is with pleasure I write to you. I received (sp received) yours of the 15th last evening the one you wrote the 11th newly - by here on the steamer Ruth last Thursday. The reason the Ruth did not land was the wind blew hard as she was heavily laden government stores I shall get it tomorrow night & thirs-day (Thursday) I shall get another from home Oh it does me so much good to hear from you Martha. It is the greatest (sp greatest) pleasure a soldier has to get letters from home. When the mail steamer comes let it be night or day, the steamer blows the whistle four times & then the whole reg (sp regiment) will yell mail, mail. I hope I shall have a letter. I ought to hear from home. I hope I will have a good long letter from home He He He. Then the mail is brought into camp taken to the adjutants office & there distributed to the different - co (sp company). The Capt or orderly or somebody will bring all the letters of his co to the co tents & there read the names, it is breathless excitement - except as ones particular name is called & then the silence is broken by Hear

Hear give it to me. Oh its from home & so it goes (sp goes) every time with almost everyone I am full as eager as any. But some poor fellows wait & wait until all the names are read over then turn away in silence thinking perhaps they will be the lucky ones next time. I believe I get as many as any now in the reg & they are all from my dear little Bub of whom I shall ever be fond
Feb 22nd 1863
Page 2

My health is good. C P Snow has got back from the Hospital so my mess are all together again. I think the health of the Reg is about the same as it was Dan Nicholas has the mumps. Dave is well James Boswell is well. Lee is OK.

We have very changable (sp changeable) weather here Friday was warm & pleasant as summer. Saturday was cold & rainy. Today Sunday is quite cold. The river is rising very fast, a good indication for work below. The gun boat Indianola has run the rebel blockade at Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) making the second, one that has passed the gunz (sp guns) of that city. The cut off canal is about completed & then our shipping can go down the river in safe - - ty The Queen of the west that rans (sp ran) the blockade before is doing valuable service below Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) sink - - ing rebel boats of all diversification. Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) must come down this time. It will be some time yet before the attack is made on Vixburg (sp Vicksburg). There (sp They're) other focus ahead first, then comes Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) & come it must I am glad to see the bill has passed the Sen-- - ate Emancipating the slaves in Mo (sp Missouri) I hope it will pass the house & become a law & then Maryland & West Va (sp Virginia) will follow in the make The reason the rebel Democrats of the north are agitated at present is they see now that their fathers (The Devil) government of
whom Jeff Davis is agent is going to be
blotted out of existence, & they cry peace
peace but the only peace they want is national
bondage & slavery a national law. The southern-
erz (sp southerners) don't ask for peace they want to fight &
they
will fight (sp fight) until we exterminate the whole race

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Page 3

After we whip the south & get home then
it will be time to attend to those poor cowardly
miserable insignificant Tories at the
north. I will venture to say nine out
of every ten soldiers will bring a revolver
home with him, to shoot Tories with. They
will shoot them too. The language of
the Tories is encouraging to the South, but
Martha they have not backbone to do anything
We are to cowardly to do anything, barking
dogs seldom (sp seldom) bite (bite). People even here
dare not hurrah for Jeff Davis or any
thing of the kind, he would be string to
peace in a moment. If I can feel & know
that you & the children are well have enough
to eat & drink, more & are well used
I am contented even in the army for
I want to see this rebellion put down right
it will fall on its knees (sp knees) and beg for mercy
This government must be preserved if
we have to sacrifice the lives of every rebel
let it come. We can will & must
The Reble army have at last come to want
they are freezing to death for want of clothes
Salt is $1 per lb & other things in proportion
their supplies are now cut off and
they must yield, to save their
army from annihilation & still the dem-
ocratic press at the north cries in loud
tones oh give them six months armistie(sp armistice) & we shall
have peace & give peace on any terms
He He He

Feb 22nd 1863
Page 4

God grant the day never come when
I shall be a traitor to my country. No I would
sooner serve my three years & then enlist
for three more.. I do not apprehend, any
danger from the traitors north all the
effect it will have is the war will last
longer, had the traitors north kept their
mouths shut this war would have been
ended by this time & we could all now come
home, but there is a day of retribution
a coming. I hope the war cannot last
much longer. I do not think it will.
Martha you must do the best you can
be as contented as you can. Take good care of the children as you can. Write as often to me as you can & I will write often to you & come home as quick as I can & then Oh how I will **Kiss** you bub (endearment) and embrace for the longer I am away the more I love & esteem you, for I have known you from a child & know you but to love you You had better calculate to go to Wis (Wisconsin) in the spring & if I can I will go with you I hope I can. Tell Wayland Pa will bring him a gun to shoot rebel with. Martha I think you many times every day and of my children likewise. May the Lord bless & preserve all until I get home. I still believe by the help of God I shall come out of this war & spend the remainder of my life with my happy little family

Except (sp accept) my Love Martha give my respects to Mother Kiss Wayland & Clinton for Pa H L Sholts

(Top of Letter 2, Page 4 upside down)

Barrows wife has got another boy born 15 Feb 1863

Mar 16th 1863 Blue Page 1

For Martha
No 6  New Madrid Mar 16th 1863

Dear Martha K I again seat myself
to write to the loved ones at home. Lee has
just come into my tent to write & he
and I are now at it. I wrote a letter
to you last Sunday (yesterday) in that I said
I should send you some money in a week
or ten days but I have concluded to send
it by express with Capt Miller co ie
Co (company) G almost
$3000 as has also Co C I sent $50 to
you you in care of Joseph Hobson the cou-
-nty clerk of Fayette Co(county) he will receive
the whole amount for Co G & fifty dollars
for Mrs H L Sholts. Lee sends $50 to his
father & $50 to Susan It will probably
be ten or twelve days before it gets there
that will be somewhere between the 25th &
and the 30th of the month So you can go
bub and get it at west Union and
you can get it in one fifty dollar bill
or in smaller bills if you want it
you will have to pay a five or ten cents
express charges when you get it
you will get it in greenbacks of course

Top of page upside down between For Martha and No 6

Martha you never told me
whether you said you would   Lee

Mar 16, 1863
Page 2
I expect you will get a draft of ______ dollars this month that you had better ___ for green backs or Iowa money I hope and expect the Cases will pay their notes right along also Morse and the rest of those small accounts then you will have a plenty of funds for the present and then bub keep it close. It will be enough for you to know where you keep your money and let no - - body else know any thing about it. Bub when you start for Wisconsin make a small pocket in your under clothes and put into it all your money (except enough to pay your expenses on the trip) And sowe(sp sew) it up, as you might drop it out of your pocket or someone might try to rob you. Well no more on that subject All the boys that you know are well in fact we have only two sick men in the company and they are not much sick. The health of the regiment was never so good as at present. I am well and feel well as can be expected
March 16, 1863
Page 3

When you get to Wis if you are contented
and you dear Martha & our little boys are
well I shall be perfectly contented
Oh I do hope you will have a pleasant
trip on the road & a happy time when
you get there. When you get there I will
make arrangements to have my
allotted pay forward to Rutland
Wis Oh Bub one thing I want you
to be sure and remember. That is
when you go or before you go "give
the Post Master at West Union
instructions in writing to forward
all your mail. Whether in the name
of Martha Sholts Martha H Sholts or
Mrs H L Sholts to Rutland Dane Co(county)
Wis(Wisconsin) don't forget it for then if money
comes in a letter from any source to
you you will be sure to get it your -
self also instruct your folks to
see that it is forwarded in ALL cases
and then it will be alright.

Another thing before you go write to Peter
Case & tell him you are going to Wis & that
want him to send your money to Rutland
Wis But maybe you will think I
am very particular & that I doubt you
March 16, 1863

Page 4

ability to do business but it is not
so I know you have a sound and clear ___ Blanks where
but still bub you will receive(sp) advice f___ letter is torn
me in all kindness. God knows I love yo_
and my dear children & want to see you
do the very best you can. Oh how glad I
would be to see you & Wayland & Clinty tonight
but as I cannot & knowing I am in the
service of our beloved country to put
down traitors I feel I am doing
a great & good work & may God bless
my good intentions. May he graciously
protect and preserve my dear family & spare
me to return safe to you all. I do firmly
believe that I shall finally return to you
dear Martha & then oh may we rear up
our children aright. The excitement
of ____ has passed by for the
present & all is quiet. It is generally
thought we will go farther south soon
but I cannot tell any thing about it
I had rather stay here if I could have my
way but if we are ordered farther down
I say all right I am ready to shoulder
my Nap___ sack and forward march
I dont think we will leave for a couple
of weeks yet anyway we expect the 21st
& 22nd Iowa reg here soon. Carpenter is in
the 21st. I will write again in two or three days I shall look
New Madrid Mo Mar 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1863

Dear Martha I again attempt to write a few lines to you. I have written three time since I received any from you, but Lee has gone to town after the mail & it may be he will bring me a letter from my dear companion. I am lonesome when I do not hear from you for a long time the last one I got was dated the 10\textsuperscript{th} of the present month. So you see it has been a long time since I heard from you. In my last I stated that I thought we would go south from here but now I guess there is no danger of going south for a long time. The 23\textsuperscript{rd} reg left yesterday & today for Memphis. The 21\textsuperscript{st} & 22\textsuperscript{nd} Iowa went by here last Thursday night. Yesterday the 1\textsuperscript{st} Nebraska & three gun boats all bound south, so the 38\textsuperscript{th} are alone again. Government has made this a Military Post & we are to defend it we have lots
of things here 150 mules 20 or 30 horses six siege guns & government has sent to us a very pretty battery of six field pieces

On the whole we have guns till you can't test & a splendid lot of ammunition. I tell you I hated to see the Iowa boys off although they were not so clean & neat as the 38th for when they go I realize that many of them will never return. It seems to me that the 38th reg is blessed of Heaven for we have been lucky although Co "C" had to lay in the mud several days & nights when we first came here yet we can not aught to complain. We now have a plenty to eat drink & ware & not much to do the people around say the 38th is the best
looking & cleanly regiment they ever say

There has ever been a good state of feelings
in the reg among men & officers with the ex--
caption of a very very few fanatics who have
chosen to identify themselves with the great
through the columns of "the most
inferior of all inferior sheets the Fayette
Co(county) Pioneer" by heaping abuse upon each
other, but it does not affect me in
the least I am on the best of terms with
all, as far as I know or care. I suffice
you must have gotten some of my
last letters in them I told you all about
the sending of fifty dollars to you.

Mar 22 1863 Blue
Page 3

War new(sp news) are still very encourage-
ing at present. I think the war must end
the present season for many reasons
that I cannot tell at present for I have
not room. I received a letter from
Alice Newton & J A Sholts yesterday Newton folks are well I also got a letter from my Father & Mother the same time all were well. Oh Bub I ma wants you to come out there she thinks you & her could take comfort Martin has just move up north to Bell I suppose or near there. My mother thinks our little boys as dear to her as to you and my self Waylands sheep has a buck lamb which Pa says he will take and give in the place there off a ewe lamb to Clinton if I say so. I think it would be best to do so ma says she will have the fleece of waylands sheep kept & when you get there she will help you to spin it in - - to yarn she has made lots of cloth for thier own use Oh Bub I do wish you & the children were there today God grant you a safe and pleasant journey a happy time there & that I may be so mis- erable happy as to meet you and my children

Mar 22 1863 Blue
at my Fathers house no more to part
until death shall call some one of us to
heaven above. Where I hope through
the attoning blood of Jesus we may all finally
rest   Martha I am sorry (sp sorry) to tell you that
David Benedict is dead. He died the 15th of
Feb at Helena on board a boat that was
to bring him to St Louis. Tomorrow I shall
write a letter to my parents  I am afraid
you are sick bub the reason why I don’t get
any letters from you. Oh it does cheer
me up to get a letter from home &
when I hear from my Bub & my
children & hear that they are well. I am
perfectly happy although I am far from
those that are near and dear to me

It is sabbath evening I attended divine
services today & this evening I am scra-
thing for this is the worst few I
evessaw & I have no place to write
just now as Lyman is using the desk.
Bub when get this put it in the
fire. Write often dear Martha God bless
you tell me all that is going on Kiss
my babes often tell them of Pa so they
won’t forget me  May the Lord bless
you’ll give my respects to mother & ex -
cept (sp accept) all my love yourself Martha
Write often and tell me when you expect to
go to Wis

H L Sholts
March 24th 1863
Page 1

My dear Martha I just recievied two very kind and affectionate letters from you oh I am glad I was to hear from you dear bub & that you was well the good little boys the same I had begun to get quite lonesome but now I am O K for I have heard from the ones dear to my heart & besides I am well & feel tip top because I keep hearing encouraging news all the time I hope ere this Charles town is taken & triumphantly marching in towards Richmond, Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) must fall in a few days longer Comadore Tarragnt fleet the rebels are discouraged all over the south I tell you bub the sympathizers about here look gloomy & sad They know the hopes of the slave oligarchy is crushed and rebellion is almost played out. It is reported that old Price is coming back in to Missouri & I should not be surprised if he did for the whole rebel army is almost reduced to starvation on the east side of the Miss - sissipi River & Price can get lots of plunder if he can get into this part of Missouri you must not be surprised if you hear of a rebel raid into Kentucky before long for Bragg is moving in the direction of Lexington

KB
Mar 24th 1863
Page 2

Savannah is blockaded & will be taken by storm or bombardment in a short time I think
Mobile is being sieged by our Ironclads
Charleston harbor is under the control of The Iron Monitors & May God graciously grant that the old flag (the blessed in - - sign our nationality) may soon wave over the ramparts of Fort Sumter & ___ Moultrie
If things progress as fast for the last two the war will end by the first of June & I hope to spend the 4th of July with you dear Martha & my children at my fathers house in old Wis
Be it as it may my dear wife I am a soldier for my country I am contented when I can hear from you often & that you are well & the children well also & if the war lasts for years God grant that my life may be spared to the end of the war & to return to thy bosom I love my wife I love my children. I love my Brothers & Sister. I love all my friends and above all I love the Savior of all mankind & next to him dear Martha I love you But there is another thing I love that is my native land I am proud that I was born on American soil that my wife & children are also Americans & that I have an in - - disputed right to help fight the battles of my country that I have many times in my short
sworn to support her constitution and her laws & may I ever be true to all her **rightful** institutions & God grant that we may early learn our children to love their native land the land that gave them birth. But oh it pains me to think that which armed traitors at the south are try - ing to overthrow the best government that was ever instituted on earth by openly violating every law both human & divine that there are many fear foolish, heartless vagabond traitors at the worth that would glory to see their native land the land that bore them, the home of the homeless fall beneath the Iron heels of oppression into the most barbarous depth of degradation I can not express my feelings when I realize how the soldiers in Union army have left their homes their wives children & father & mothers their sisters & brothers & all that is near and dear to them to endure the hardships of camp life. The fatigues of long hard marches in a sterile country the many chances of death on the battle
field the maladies & diseases that send many to their long homes while thousands at home sneer at their suffering their privations & their disasters & loudly cheer when they hear of a reverse in our army. God will certainly punish such a people. There is certainly one thing that rejoices me that is this war must finally close & when the soldiers do get home there will be a grand overhauling of those double traitors.

March 24 1863
Page 4

There is nothing arouses the feeling anger in a soldier's breast quicker & more keenly than to know & put the very ones they are fighting for the very ones they are protecting in life & property are their most bitter enemies. But enough of this. All I have to say is I shall pity such men when the army is discharged and gets home. Then the poor cowards will meek away and sink into their boots. We do not fear them gladly we fight them forever but the effect in the south prolongs the war. Had the copper head held their fangs this war would have ended now. But I think as you do but the conscription law will make them
squirm it will bring them into the field & oh how it does please the soldiers they rejoice with exceeding great joy Let them refuse if they dare & we will come home with our bayonets and then Mr S will walk in the same familiar way if making such men the scratch with our sword bayonets rifle 

The health of our regiment is good all the other regiments have gone and the 38th are alone in their glory I think we will stay here as long as this very important place & nothing but a fighting regiment can stay here The rebels know if they try the 38th they have men to contend against three thousand rebels cannot take us for we have a plenty of rifled canon beside our guns, our rifles cannot beat Mother do not worry about me I am very healthy & believe I shall be at any rate I shall not borrow trouble But you had not better start for Wis until you get the fifty dollars I sent you & I should think you would get the $20 I allotted to you also very soon If Case don’t pay his note to soon I will write to Meriam to sue him also the same with Morse they must pay up soon

(Crosswise text on page 4)

But when you get to Wis I will tell you what to do with some of your money. Kiss my children Bub except(sp accept) my love & well wishes and when I get home I can make you squeal like a mink. Oh how I wish I could slip into bed with you tonight & I know you would hug up tight as a mink but bub never

Continued Page 5

Mar 24 1863
Page 5

Crosswise text on page 4 continued

mind I will be home just as soon as pasably(sp possibly) can you know I love you dear Martha & you
can you know I love my dear Martha & you know I love my dear children God bless you all may he kindly watch over you as he has done so far and I have nothing to fear Lee is well Lee and I will be on guard tomorrow Lee is a good fellow give my love to Mother I will write again next Sunday, this from your affectionate husband who loves ___ dear Martha and think of you and the children most constantly

H L Sholts

April 13 1863
No 13  New Madrid Mo April 13 1863

Dear Martha it is with greatest pleasure that I attempt to write to you at this time for I know you will think it a long time since you have heard from me. I suppose you have recieved(sp) a letter from Lee in which he told you I had gone on a scout and expect to be gone some time. Well bub I have been & have returned all right. I am well & sincerely hope that you and the dear little children are well also. I recieved(sp) three letters from you last night when I got back & oh how glad I was to hear from home& that you were all well. I hope & pray that my dear little Clinty boy may out grow the dyarhea(sp diarrhea) when you get to Wis Bub do all you can for him I know you will I know you are a kind & good mother & a lovely wife & when other menns wives are here in the reg I almost feel sad to think I cannot see mine but never mind Martha I shall be home when the war ends & then we will spend the remainder of our lives in the society of of each other & our family Tell Wayland Pa would like to eat some of his boiled eggs. Tell him to be a good boy as he always has been Pa will always love him & brother. Kiss my boy he was two years old last Friday ho how I would be to see him & Wayland & especially my little girl Bub still I know better than to be homesick I am contented as possible

I hardly think you can read this kiss my children & except(sp accept) my love dear bub give my respects to Mother  

H L Sholts
Well bub I will give you a short description of our expedition. We started out last Tuesday the 7th of Apr with 50 men of our company Serj Lyman & Corp and my self had just gotten in from a tour in Tenn & KB in time to start another trip down into Ark. Well most of us started on boat at 9 oclock on the morning of the 7th at noon eat dinner at Point Pleasant 10 miles from camp. We tool one wagon drawn by six mules to carry provisions after we got below Point Pleasant we began to get horses and Mules & Sadles as fast as we came to them. & as fast as the boys began to get tired they could ride a horse or mule soon we began to strike into the swamp that extends for hundreds of miles which when the Miss River is low has once in a while a dry ridge in it. Well that night we stoped at the three different houses (all Secesh) but pretended Union men stayed all night had the women cook for us Next day the wagner attempted & finally succeeded in get through, the first muck of the swamp all the rest of us rode through on horse back a distance of four miles to a place called Gayoso on Pemiskote Mo which by the way is a miserable little dilapidated place of about twenty houses built on a narrow strip of land about ¾ mile from the Miss River with swamps all around it. One mile from this place is Lincoln Island so called because the people on it are Union
Here we found it impasable to proceed farther with our team & were of course obliged to leave a part of our force for a guard to our baggage & provisions so we left half of the men & the rest saddled up the horses & mules Straped on to the saddles our overcoats & blankets. Swung on our guns & gun equipments & mounted our animals & were off in double quick time. We were going down where a Union soldier had never before been & it was reported there was a band Guerill- as in that vicinity, but we dashed on as fast our animals could travel following our Guides for we had two faithful guide for without which no man can travel in this country unless he has always lived here) until finally we came to a halt the guide say boy now we have to swim you must fix your ammunition so as to keep it dry We also had a box of medicines & a case of Sugians(sp surgeon) tool a Surgean with us all had to cross the guides were debating which should take the lead when a negro (that we pressed in) to carry our medicines rode up and offered to lead the way so in he went the boys on the horses in indian file I had a spee - - did young horse he could swim like a fish although I had so much load on him that he sunk all under but his head & neck. All came
through save but ringing wet. Then we traveled on the ground about a mile & then came to a Cyprus swamp but of breaks & old logs

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Page 4

This was a dismal looking part of creation but strange as it may appear there were occasionally a house of the meanest style where human beings lived (shall I say lived No where people stayed) They had never seen a live Yankee before Ah Martha what looking women & girls & children Pole shallow sunkeneyed dirty raged(sp ragged) indescribable beings they are. The men women & children trembled & cried when they see us coming. For they have been taught to believe the Yankee would take everything had burn their houses & murder women & children & they all expected it as sure as they lived but we treated them very kindly at which they manifested surprise as we went into one house the woman said gen - - tlemen take everything I have got but don’t hurt me & My children we assured her we did not want anything she had neither did we want to hurt her or her children. At another house after we had got in heard a little boy of ten or twelve say Mam "they are
not Yankees they are men" I do not think one in ten of them can read or write. Well through the day we took several guns and broke them to peaces as we could not cary them at night we came to a house where there man was suspected of being a guerrila and as we approached we all put the horse through the best we could & before he was aware we was coming we surrounded the house and took him He was badly scared for as we came up to his dooryard (and this was all the fence he had) our horse jumped his fence & some knocked the rails in every direction he had his gun hid out by the side of a log it was loaded when we told him he must go with us his wife & children began to cry most piteously Oh bub I felt for the children I know they weren't to blame thought of my children This family had not enough to eat for one day but we took the man however we could not find out as he was realy a guerilla & the next day we let him go Well we went on two miles through a

End of fragment

May 9th 1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo May 9th 1863
Dear Martha I have just this moment recieved(sp) your kind & affectionate letter of the 3rd nist. It was carried by here & came up Memphis. I expect to get another today or tomorrow. I have written three times lately Martha you cannot think how glad I feel that you have got to Wisconsin I am very sory(sp) that my dear Mother is sick but one thing I do know you know how to feel for here(her) & you know how to take care
of her or help her when you can. Yes Martha she is a good Mother. She always was to me & I know she will be to you. I believe you & the children are well you will enjoy yourselves first rate sincerely I hope so. I think you was fortunate in coming at the time Mr Ecker came I saw him and thanked for his kindness. He gave me the sugar for which I thank you. I am very thankful that you were well & kindly recived(sp) by my folks. I am pleased at the way my little children are treated. I shall always remember with gratitude the acts of kindness shown by anyone to my

Crosswise text Top
There is a deal of talk about our Reg leaving here I cannot tell how it is I am not particular whether we go or stay I will write you again in two or three days

Crosswise text Middle
Enclosed please find $5 dollars for Wayland & next time I will send some to Clinton But Mea must keep it & use it if you want to

Upside down text Top
Yesterday I had my picture taken & today I send it to you The sun shone brightly to make a good picture but I guess you will know it Martha kiss my children tell them often of me & they will remember me

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Page 2

family for it is a very pleasant thought for me to feel confident that my family is are well used well thought of & contented
while I am away in the army of the U.S.
To which I Would say may the blessings of
God rest upon them.

_____ that oppose or misuse my
family I shall brand as traitors and
villains(sp) & when I get home I will make
them know I have more affection for my
family than to stand such abuses but I
have no doubt Martha but you will
live in peace & quietude with my folks
Calvin says you are a lady & you shall be
treated as such. I believe you will I know
you are a lady & I know you can command
the respect of any person of refinement
I am sorry that Mr Watermons children
met with so sad an accident Oh if it
was ours how hard it would seem, but
truly I can say, I am very thankful that
our live & health has been spared & I hope
it may be the same in the future. It will
be a joyful time for us all when the war
ends & I get home I am well & feel well
the ware news are good just now although
I have heard of _____ refuse I am anxious

Cross wise on page 2
All my boys are well Several
of them send their respects to you
waiting for news from Charleston
I think the war will end this summer. I
hope so provided it ends right if not
I want it to continue until it does end
with secession buried as deep as Hereuhum
darkness. Calvin says you are not like
the war widows there for they are all Copperheads
I am sory(sp) if such is the fact but I am
proud of you because you are _____ & patriotic
& look at the condition of our beloved country
in its true light I have no fears of Cop-
perheads for they are cowardly villainous. We
have a very few in the 38th I told a lieut
yesterday that his principals were meaner
and lower than Jeff Davises & that I though(sp)
more of the original serpent than such
a copperhead but such men are scarce
in our reg. I tell you Martha we have
a splendid regt(sp regiment) of about 900 men, all
well drilled, well armed, well clothed & well
equipped well fed & well used. Good judges
that have been all through the armies say
they seldom see so fine a lot of men
or so nice a regiment Col Hughes feels
very proud of the 38th He was offered a Brig
Gen ship of Mo Molita but would
not leave the old 38th Lee is well & all right

Crosswise text top

Tell Calvin I will
write to him very soon
in my next probably

Crosswise text middle

Give my respects to all
Tell Perry Phillips to get
up & Howl
May 9th 1863
Page 4

Lee sends his respects to you & a kiss to the children. Martha do you remember what occurred five years ago today. I can well remember what it was. Five years ago today I had the pleasure of calling you (dear Martha) for the first time. Mrs Sholts. Since then we have seen good times and hard times but never has our affection for each other been for a moment broken & during that period we have been presented by two beautiful & lovely boys. God has blessed us most of this time with health & common necessities of life. Our comfort & happiness was uninterrupted until the roar of cannon told that our country was in danger of being over run by armed mobs. Then Martha & not till then I left my home my family. I left all that was most dear to me to do what little I could to rescue my country from the dangers of this survile insurrection. It is for the respects I have for my father & Mother that I am here. It is for the love of the best Government in the world that I still continue to stay from the lovely of lovelies (Home).

What the next five years may develope is hard to tell but I look forward with a hopeful heart a government as sound as ever with every traitor subdued or with universal Peace from shore may the Lord bless you Martha Wayland & Clinton K yours ever for the Union H L
Well you say what do you think of New Orleans
I will say that the buildings are generally good &
clean & many of them cannot be beaten for elegance
in the U.S. The streets are regular & strait
but narrow They are most beautiful & sub-
stantially paved & deep ditches on each side in
which is a running stream of water besides the struct-
are washed daily from the force pumps at
almost every corner by a hose that dashes
the water all over the pavement & every thing
is as clean as water can make it. It is cer-
thinly a beautiful & splendid city. It is the
military authorities that compell everything
to be kept perfectly clean. The inhabitants
are a mixed multitude but mostly French Spanish
& Dutch while the lower part of the city is populated
by negros, creoles & mulattoes. There are many yan-
kees there besides all the soldrisy are
northern people they all profess to be for the
Union but I am convinced there are thou-
sands that sympathize with the rebeldom though they
dare not show it out much. Restarants Saloons
Eating houses are numerous on every street & corner
Churches of every denomination are found here & some are very nice. Yesterday was the Jews New Year Day & they were assembled in their Synagogue. I passed by & heard them sing but did not go in I being a gentile Their synagogue is a splendid building with Hebrew inscriptions over the Door. I some of them dressed in old Hebrew style. It was very odd Street cars run all over the city and for miles out There is a street rail way running from the city to Lake Pauchertram a distance of 6 or 8 miles & I am intending to go out there in a few days & see the beauties of that salt lake & bathe in it & then I will give you a description of it. Ships & steamers arrive & depart for & from New York almost dayly(sp) the steamer come through from N.Y. in 6 to 8 days So we get news although they are quite stole by the
time they reach us but we are glad to get the any way War news are quiet but encouraging. I expect our Division back in a few days or we will go to it I will write again soon. Lee is well we are all getting better fast Keep up good courage my dear girl I shall finally get back to stay with you Kiss my children May God bless you all affectionatly(sp) H L Sholts

May 17, 1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo May 17 1863
Dear Martha it is with pleasure I set down to write this beautiful Sabbath mor ing. I am well & feel contented because I believe you and the children are well& satis fied. I have not heard from you for several days. I expected a letter this morning when the mail came. Several of the boys got let ters but I got none. But I guess I will get one next mail. There are no war
news of any account just now everything seems to be wrapped in mystery I do not know hardly what to think, but one thing I do believe that will end all right when it does end I intend to come home this fall but it may be only a furlough I still hope on and hope ever that the war may close this season I have written several times to you lately I write twice each week I got only one letter from you but I think one of your letters has been misspent somehow I am anxious to hear from you now,. It is now a little over nine months since I entered the service & I can truly say thank you God I have had good health all the time & that my family have

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also been blessed with life & health I hope to hear that my dear Mother is well when
I get the next letter. Lee got a letter from Susan today all you folks were well when she wrote. All the folks in the vicinity of Fredericksburgh(sp) are well as usual. A.A. Browns wife has moved back from Freeport Ill to Fredericksburgh(sp) and she has gone on to the old place where they lived when we lived there. She expects to have the tooth ache soon. J D____ wife is not very well at present. Hannah Kidder, Chancy Stone & a whole lot of others were baptized last Sunday. The spring is backward in Iowa up to the 10th they had planted no corn. A H Warrens wife has been quite sick for a long time. C____ Keely is not expected to live. He had the measles at camp Franklin and when we got to St Louis he was worse and was sent to the hospital. & we came here afterward he was discharged & went home but his lungs were so bad the poor fellow can never recover. Wortendyke is still at St Louis. He gets no better & as soon as his descriptive roll get there he will be discharged. Wortendyke is a fine man & good soldiers far as his strength will go but he has no constitution for soldering for it is tough business sometimes All the boys that you
May 17 1863
Page 3

are acquainted with are well. They send their respects Kerigsberg expects his wife here this week and then himself & wife will cook for our company officers. I hope they will like the business but I do not want my wife to come to such a place to be a servant even if she could make a few dollars in money. No Martha I want you to live where there is society where there are folks & especially where there are female women this is an awful place for gambling. I mean among the citizens although very many of the officers & soldiers do the same now because moral restraint is in measure with - - drawn from around them here little boys & women go to the horse races & bet & get drunk almost as frequent as the men even negroes(SP) attend the sports & take part in all that transpires for just now the masters have to use their slaves well for if they do not the are leaving. But if slavery was to be as it is here at this time negroes had better stay with their masters. The farmers in this vicinity are plowing corn almost all performed by negro men & women but there are thousands of acres that lay out & cannot be cultivated on account of no fences or hands to work them
May 17 1863
Page 4

There are no schools here, no churches
no nothing to moralize or Christianize the
people I have never seen but one minister
of the gospel in the state & I believe that 99 out
of 100 men drink whiskey, swear, gambol
run horses & do anything but what is man —
—ly & right — I believe a gentleman as well
as a lady is very hard to find in this
country nor am I surprised at such being
the fact for the curse of slavery & the conse-
quent depravity engendered there by & will
produce anything but good society

Oh how glad I am that ____my family were
born in then north amidst the glow of gospel
light & free institutions where science & art
are practised & the press instead of tradition
is the power of the people. Time may
make a great change in the south but
certainly this generation must pass away
before light liberty & the pursuits of happiness
can be realized ____ by the masses of the people
promulgated by a few chivalric fanatical leaders
full 3/4 of the people can neither read or write&
their means of knowing any thing with regard to
the country or government are so small that
I may say they hardly know that they live in America

But no more of this I hope you will write
often & tell the rest to write some also give my love
to Mother I hope she is well. Kiss our children
for me. Tell them Pa will not forget them Except(sp accept)
my love & best wishes Martha hoping to be with
you when the war ends I remain as ever your affectionate
husband & friend ever for the Union & the right
May 24 1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo May 24 1863
My dear Martha I have just received(1p) yours of the 20th and I hasten to reply I am glad you are well & you & the children so well suited It makes me feel happy & I can say I am perfectly contented to stay as long as the war lasts although I ten thousand times prefer peace and home & the associations of my family & friends to staying in the army. I am well & my boys are well & all appear to be contented The health of the regiment is good. Lee is well I got a line from George the other day he felt well I have come in from a boat where I had a talk with a gentleman just from Vixburgh(sp Vicksburgh) He says Grant is in the rear of the town & about two miles from it. That Heaynes Bluff is evacuated that our Mortar Boats are shelling upper batteries of the city & the gun boats the lower batteries. He also says that the rebels can march in the rear of Grants army & force him to retreat but this is his opinion. I believe Grants will take Vixburg(sp Vicksburgh) before long probably this week at farthest
If that Potomac army would only just now cross the R'hafa Hamock & engage Lees army it would be a great saving of life to Western soldiers for then the rebel army of the Potomac could not spare men to fight Roseancrans & Grant but the thing will be as it was last year the Western men will have all the fighting to do until fall if the war last that long & I believe it will

One great thing gained in the battle of Chancellorsville was that Stonewall Jackson was wounded and died although he was wounded by his own men. I can say of him he has shown the most bravery of any Gen of the war. I regret he was on the wrong side for he was a hart in himself, but as he was engaged in an unholy & cruel war against his country I
am glad his end has come but since he
was a brave warrior for which I can but
respect him although an enemy.

Well I have just been down to the river the
Bell Memphis landed & I got a Memphis paper
& it says Gen Sherman under Grant has taken
Heaynes Bluff with 8000 prisoners & Gran is doing
anything generally at Vixberg(sp Vicksberg) but shall wait

May 24 1863
Page 3

several days with anxiety to see the truth
of the statements confirmed. I it will not
answerer to believe half of the reports I hope they
are true. If Grant takes Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) now Bragg
must get up and have Tollohoma. What is
needed now is for all the armies to make
one d____ simultaneous move then the
enemy cannot concentrate their forces at any
one place they must fight each and every
one of our men at the same time. By this way we could dry this thing up in a few months but our Gen do not appear to work together for while one army is fighting the rest are lookerson & the whole rebel army can be concentrated on one force of ours this is the reason why so many times we hear is said the rebels have a superior force I have come to the conclusion to let it mag & if the Good Lord will spare the life & health of my family & myself I will be contented let what may come. Bub I will take your kind advice & be careful when I am out scouting. The Col thinks (as I am informed) that I am the most successful scout he knows still I do not claim any laurels for any thing I have yet done. I _____ to do my duty take a

May 24 1863
Page 4

soldier should. The first time I was out and took that whiskey that I wrote about before I have
since learned that there were twenty guerillas in
the swam(sp) close by me & my men & that they dare not
to attack us although I had but four men with
me for I had left two to guard the horses while
the rest of us went into the swamp but no more
of that this time Oh Martha I wish I could be
with you if I could not stay more than a week
I would like to sing with you I am glad you go
to singing school I don't believe there is a
lady in Rutland that can beat you singing
I can tell you a thousand thing when I get home
that will interest you but will not pay to
write everything in a letter
    I am glad that our mail goes
through so quick now I get yours in four
days after you mail them & you get mine the
same this certainly is a very fine thing
    I shall write again Wednesday or Thursday
I write twice a week & sometimes oftener I
would like some of my folk write also
and send it in your letter. Tell Wayland & Clinty
Pa kisses their pictures very often & I have another
one by the name of bub that I also kiss that picture
I sent you is not a good one and I will get
another some day & send it tell Pa not to work
to hard for it will bring oon another of those fits
I am glad you are so healthy & about splitting
rails it is my private opinion I shall have dif-
ferent business for you when I get home so you
need not calculate to split rails or make fence
Give my respects to all Except(sp accept) my love for you &
the children This from your affectionate husband
    To Martha         Henry L Sholts
May 27/1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo May 27/1863

Dear Martha I have just recieved your very kind & affectionate letter of the 22nd & as I ever am I was very glad to hear from you & that you and children & all the folks are well. it makes me perfectly contented to get your letters & find that you are well. & well suited & contented oh how glad I am you are just where you are I am glad you are able to help my mother for she is a kind good woman & I know she thinks as much of you and the children as she does of her own May God ever bless her for her kindness to me ever since I had a being. I am glad my folks are white & I hope you will ever be treated as you richly deserve like a lady. I know Martha you can work but you are not very strong & now the hot weather is upon you so be careful & do not over do I am truly glad for my mothers sake you are there & I am glad for yours & the children so are where you are May you be thus ever contented may God bless the try to make you
I was a little unwell with diarrhea and I went into the woods & got some barks & roots and they cured me in two days so now I am well and feel tip top. All of my boys are well. And all appear to be satisfied but some of their families are sick at home. The people in Fredericksburgh have got the scarlet fever & Brown Snows & Hills children are quite sick with it & Browns wife is still very sick. Mrs. Kingsberg arrived here this morning with her little girl she is well & looks as she always did. Kingsberg & wife will now cook for the company officers. I am glad you are not here for I think this is no place for a women. You are far better of where you are. All the Sergt I send my respects to your family. Lee is well and feels well. He is a fine fellow he sends his love to you & all the folks he thinks when the war is over he will go to Wisconsin and see the folks but I guess he will have to tie up to the Spring Valley House first. The weather is very warm now but today it looks like rain I hope it will rain. I guess I am going to stand he hot weather pretty well I generally can you know for I am a tough one.
We have **Glorious News**
from Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) I suppose you have the same. The news are not confirmed only in part as yet fort here have not been a boat up for three days but we expect one every. One thing is certain Grant has whiped Pemberton & Jo Johnson most beautifuly they (our) forces have taken Canton Jackson Black River Bridge Heaynes Bluff Chickasaw Bluff & have gained the entire rear of Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) & report from all quarters have it that Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) it – – self has surrendered. I believe such is the fact & today or by tomorrow I expect to know such such is the day before yesterday we heard the glorious news while we were at Dress Parade & when we got through the Col march us up into close order & we gave three Loud Long Ernest & Heart felt Cheers for Gen Grant Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) Our Country & I’m my said thank God I know our loss must be great but to those who have fallen peace be to their ashes & may my camp never forget that they laid down there lives
for the great cause of humanity for
their love of country & for the loved ones at home
& although the now sleep where No war nor
battle sound is heard they live on earth I thought
and deed as truly as they live in heaven & while
friends mourn their loss may they not forget
that they have died the most humble & glorious
death that man can die

When I get the news as to
all the movements and the fortifications I will write
again Do the best you can Martha I get all
your letter. Oh I got a letter from Peter
Case this morning he told me all about the
money it will be alright he does not appear
to collect those small a/c much & I guess
he never will & if he does not I guess we can
live I don't want you to borrow any trouble about
them I will send you a small rose
but it will be smashed when you get it there
are many kind of roses here they have been in
blossom one month  Give my respects to all
the folks & except(sp accept) my love for you & the children
I remain as ever your affectionate husband
& friend ever for the Union the Constitution
& enforcement of the law & peace on earth &
good will to man  H L Sholts

June 7, 1863
Page 1

New Madrid Mo June 7th 1863
Dear Martha In great hase(sp) I
write to let you know we are going
to start immediately The 24th Missouri
have come to relieve us & we are going
south. I cannot tell where. But I think
to Helena Arkansas or Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) Miss as soon
as I get through and have any chance I
will write again. I am well & feel
perfectly willing to go. Although this is
a very pleasant place. the 20th Iowa the
36th Indiana & two other reg are one Wis
reg is here but I do not know the
No Lee is well I sent you $35
by Mrs Kingsly to be mailed at Alton
Ill I hope you will get it before
you get this that makes $130 I have
sent you since I came here dont
you think I have done pretty well
Martha direct just as you have
to Cairo Ill (to follow reg) It will be
some time before you get another
I presume but don't worry my dear wife

June 7, 1863
Page 2

I feel well I believe I shall come home
all right. Oh I hope you will have good
health & that the children will keep well
& healthy tell grandmother Sholts Honor
I send my best respects hoping they live until I get to see them again give my respects to my Father & Mother & all my brothers & sisters & except (sp accept) my love dear Martha & Wayland & Clinton Tell Waayland I geuss he had better not enlist for a few days yet. But if he wants to tell him to come down to the 38th Reg

Except (sp accept) my love dear Martha & children I remain ever true to you my family & country

H L Sholts

Cross wise at bottom of page

Tell Wayland To take good care of his & bothers sheep

June the 11th 1863
Sherman Landing 15 miles up the Yazoo river
June the 11th 1863
Dear Martha we have docked the shoar at this place & are awaiting orders from Gen Grant It is 5 or 6 miles to Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) I think we will march across to Big Black River to meet Jo Jacksons They had a fight here yes —- terday & came out all right Jo Jackson attacked Grant in the rear & Grant turned his forces upon him & drove him across the Big Black & while Grants army was fighting Jackson Pemberton tried to cut his way through Grants lines but

June the 11th 1863
Page 2
Grant by a flank move —- ment cut a paart of Pember —- tons off & captured 8000 rebels I saw a part of them on the way up the river Things here are encouraging We can & will take the place. I expect this will be a grand battle and one that is to turn the whole face of the cousirn(concern?) Oh Bub how desolate every looks in this country you can hardly imagine what a terrible(sp) devastating thing was is the Yazoo river
a narrow deep crooked & slug -
- gish nasty stream very
unhealthy to use Still we are
obliged to use it & consequently
many have the diarrhea quite
a number in our reg are sick

June the 11th 1863
Page 3

I am well & feel all right There
are about 30 large steamers lay -
- ing here all loaded with soldiers
just arrived & we expect 25,000
more tonight or tomorrow
the 3rd & 9th Iowa are up to Haguez
Bluff & I guess we shall go there
before we get off the boat
I believe George is all right
I have seen the list of killed
& wounded in the 3rd & his name
does not appear The bell is
now ringing & we are off
I will write again in a few
moments Well I just
had the pleasure of shaking
hands with Lieut J J Tisdale
he looks healthy & all right
he feel well. The fleet is
all moving & we are going
back down the Yazoo I will
stay until I find our destination
Five o'clock PM. Dear Martha
We have just landed at Youngs
Point just above Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) we are
on the Louisiana shore. The mortor
boats are shelling the city I tell
you bub they make the ground
tremble A Col from the front
says that the fortifications must
give way & the city surrender inside
of three days for yesterday
they took a dispatch carrier who
had a dispatch that said
"If you do not send me
reinforcements. We shall
be obliged to surrender in four
days" this was from Pem-
berton to the rebel authori-
ties I expect we shall
land here at Youngs Point
I cannot tell how long we
shall stay Martha I have
over two dollars worth Postage
stamps & plenty of paper
and envelopes so I am in
good rig for writing I shall
write often & you must do the
same Kiss my children do
not worry Martha about me I am
July 13th 1863

Camp 38th Iowa Vixburgh(sp Vicksburgh) July 13th 1863

Dear Martha it is with pleasure I write you a letter at this time I am getting along well I have had the ague & fever at any rate I am getting so I can run up & down the miserable hills & feel like my self. I wrote you a few days ago when George was here. George staid all night with me in that letter I said our boys had gone to Port Hudson well they started & got to the Levee in town & the news came that Port Hudson was taken on the 8th the order was countermanded & the division was ordered up to Yazoo City & the next morning they on boats for that place I should have gone with them but Capt thought I was hardly able & he wanted me to stay with the co & I have my hands full for they are all sick that are left but me but all aware getting better but Stile today I got him off to the hospital in town I hardly think he will get well, he has been sick a long time & is very
much emaciated but all the rest are better

War new are glorius & of course you get them long before I do & I will only say may god bless our army & navy Our country & our homes. I do not expect to hear from you Mar - tha for sometime for all the letters for the 38th Reg will go where the boys are & I shall not get a thing

July 13, 1863
Page 2

until we follow them or they come back, but I hope & trust you are well & my little Wayland & Clinton all right & that you will keep well & that my brother John A will get well is my hearts desire I shall write you often & tell you just how things are. I will tell one thing Hod Baldwin is a notorious coward he has never been in even a skirmish we could not get him out on the lines to fight & when the shells come in to our camp (as they did often) he always run poor miserable coward He is good to me & think everything of me but I despise a coward if he
was not such a villainous ninny there would be a change in our company that would be bet - ter for me but it wont work now it is too late & Lieut Baldwin is branded as a coward but rest assured if there is a chance offers itself that is any better than my present position I shall get Col Hughes says so I am informed but bub there is a company I long to command be with that has three numbers in it & their names are very dear to me Oh that's the place for me Oh that's the place for me Martha I am contented & considerable happy for we have good & encourag ing new & it does seem that the war cannot last long & I think it must close in a short time or all the soldiers in the rebel army will go home for their families are actually starving to death Oh the wretchedness of the South

July 13 1863
Page 3 (Note right corner is torn off)

It is getting da
Bub just before
you a beautiful little
three silver sets countersunk
ced by several silver rivets it was very pretty
thought One of our soldiers made rings there
& I had him make us nice a one as he could &
gave him .75 cts for his work. did you get the
ring or not if you did not get it never
mind it let it go & when I get home I will
give you a kiss in place of the ring. Tell Wayland
& Clinton to be good boys & I will give them a horse
a piece when I come home give my respects to all
my friends & especially to John A Sholts

Except(sp accept) my love Martha & I hope God may
bless you & the children with life & health & that I
shall be permitted in you society ere long
& I hope to stay as long as I live unless
my country again should demand my aid
I believe the war will over by fall write often
Martha & direct as you have or as I told
you some time ago either way is all right
Kiss my little boys for me oh that I could
but kiss them myself tonight

Well it is dark & I will close God bless
the loved ones at home H L Sholts
New Orleans Aug 17th 1863

My dear Martha I take the present opportunity to write to. I have not had a chance for several days before & now I write by candle light. I am well & feel well or pretty well for I am little fatigued have had to work pretty hazard on account of having so many men & so few well ones. Well I will go back to Fort Hudson & the first that strike my attention is that on the 14th I received one letter from Mrs ___ she thank me ten thousand times for my kindness to her hus - - band she feels very bad. I recieved on that day three letters from Calvin & John give them my thanks & tell them I will write when I have time. But I also recieved Eight good glorious & lovely patriotic letters from my little Martha Oh how good they did do me although I pre- fer to have letters come right along as soon as written Bub I think you will be a good strong speaker by the time I get back I am sure that you can cut down some of those fireside would- be-great warriors-if they-only-had-a-chance. I must confess that you possess more ability in writing than I ever was aware of & I rejoice in it for you will have the care.

Give my respects to my folks tell them I am for the constitution and enforcements of the law Tell Pa not to fear England & France for when we get this family quarrel settled we will ask them both to step in for we are on a good war footing & ready for them both still I would dread a foreign war at this time but do not fear it for great good will grow out of this unholy war I am persuaded to believe.

It is getting quite late & I am tired & must retire sweet
dreams to you tonight dear girl may you ever be favored of God
how glad I would be to hear your sweet voice once more and join
with you in singing from the recesses of a lowly spirit   HL

August 17 1863
Page 2

as in fact you already have the care of two promising
sweet little boys that inatefaculties in
them which if properly developed (and heaven grant
they may be) will surely make their mark in the
world for they have the elements of knowledge in them
may God bless our children & favor them with the privi-
lege of a good education I am proud to read such good
sensible, reasonable consistent letters as you write
Martha Now I understand where that house is that
you are going to rent. I think the price is cheap enough
& from what John wrote in his letter I shall be
very glad when you to keeping house alone. I hope
your folks will send our things to you immediately
so you can get alone John says that Mary Liz the
very D - d & tries agrivate and perplex all she can
& that her pointed satires were at you. Now let
what I say be public as far as the family is con-
cerned & I say get our things Get into that house
or some other & do the best you can by every decent
person, but do not let my sister Miss Mary L
Sholts ever step a foot in your door. I order that
I demand it & I mean it never unless she will
make proper reparations for each & every mean
low contemptible slander slang & abuse. I can see
more by what John 7 Calvin write than by yours why
you desire to keep house Oh I say by all means keep house
Aug 17th 1863
Page 3

buy all you want to make you & the children comfortable but enough of each and everything to last some time thus saving time trouble & money and as for flour & meal potatoes pork butter milk & you had better buy of my father for he has such to sell & is an honest good man About wood Martha do not buy any on that that is already chopped for the stove & be sure that it is dry & good you can get it for 5 or 6 shillings per cord I think perhaps some of my folks would like the job as it will be cash Now Martha in buying things remember that there is a good difference buying things cash down & trusting ad infinitam & that prices must be arranged according so when you want groceries go where you can get them cheapest & best & buy enough of each & everything to last some time there by avoiding perplexity & saving money Be sure to keep a lock on your door & never leave the house accessible to anyone no matter who What little money have keep it locked or otherwise properly taken care of Avoid being away from home nights as far as possible I would advise that you take in no borders unless it be a little girl for in that place it might cause a story & that would be very unpleasant as far as I am concerned I do not care for I have the utmost confidence my wife I know she is all right
Aug 17 1863
Page 4

You shall not need a man I have a little & shall soon have a little more & I hope before we leave hear I can you some but not as much as here to for, this time for, I want to keep some for in this climate I may need it. I hope you had a glorious time at Spauldings bub I think you are getting quite old well go in such things need attention but I want nothing to do with them & I don’t believe you hanker after them much but when you get to keeping house and folk come on such errands tell them you have quite the business. I am on the 2nd year of my term of enlistment as the 14th was one year

With a painful heart I must announce that our good and noble Capt Henry Tinkham is dead he died at Port Hudson on the morning of the 14th of Aug thus another of my most influential friends has pass ed away So you see we have lost head of our reg & head of our co Our division is ordered to Mobile I cannot tell how soon we will go I hope not for a few
days as we are in the most beautiful camp I ever saw
I believe it is very healthy here we can get anything
we want. I will write you again tomorrow or the next day
and give a short history of our trip down here
the health of the reg I think is improving very slowly
but fall is approaching & it will soon be cooler but
the air is not half as hot here as it was at Vicksburg
Well bub you will now have to alter your direction
again as we are in Banks department

Direct Sergt H L Sholts Co "C" 38th Iowa Reg Inf
7th Brigade Herrons Division 13th Army Corps
(Dprt of Gulf) May god bless you my dear friend
& companion do not be discouraged for I shall not for I am
through it & return to my once happy & contented little family
Kiss waylaid & Clinton for me Henry L

Aug 23 1863
Page 1

New Orleans La Aug 23 1863
My dear Martha day before yesterday I recieved
your very kind affectionate cheering letter of the
7th & 8th and now is the first time I have had a
chance to reply. I was very glad to hear from you & that
you were as well as what you were I am quite well
& in good spirits but the health of the reg still
continues very poor. We have but a few men
fit for duty. As I wrote to you before of the death
of our noble Capt. I will say nothing more about
it. Both of our Leiuts. Are sick & Orderly Barton
is not well. I am therefore acting Orderly Sergt & most the care of the Co falls upon me of course then you see why I cannot get time to write to my dear family (to me the most dear of all things on earth) but after this I will try and write at best twice a week to you dear Martha & for the present I can not write to any lady else. Our Division is now under marching orders & will no doubt go to Mobile before long but whether our reg will go or not I am unable to say I hope we will stay here for a while and recruit up as there are not over fifty men really fit to march now We loose some everyday in the reg all from disease contracted at Vicksburg

Top of page 1 upside down

Except(sp accept) my thanks for the nice flowers bub may they ever bloom in fragrance & beauty "Remember me" though away

Aug 23 1863
Page 2

Yes Vicksburg cost us many valuable lives & the debt is not yet paid some more must die that got sick there but I think now that almost all
that aware here will get well Lee is pretty well but not as strong & robust as he was yet he will stand it if any man does in the army I think James Boswell is not very well or very sick so as to keep around Don Nichols is unwell with diarrhoea but I guess he will get all right or nearly all of the Fredericksberg men are sick but none dangerous R. W. Kiedder was left at Vicksburg in the hospital & this morning we got a report he was dead but I hope it is incorrect all our boys at Vicksburg have been sent up the river for which I am very glad this is a very pleasant place & I think it is also very healthy and as soon as we get Vicksburg worked out of the system of the reg. We will be on earth again & alive in what is left The decimation of our reg is not far from two hundred men. We have 31 from our Co now in hospital & more that ought to be there still I think if we can stay here four weeks the most of them will be well or nearly so for my part I am contented & feel quite happy when I can hear from home often & that my little family is well Oh I have ten thousands reasons to be thankful for the many mercies & blessings of the Lord has conferred on
us all the days of our lives especially for his kind 
care & protection during the past year I hope & be - 
lieve if we try to do right it will all be for the best 
in the end. Let us hope & pray & look forward to the 
happy time when sweet peace shall again bless our 
once happy though now distracted country. I can 
almost see the end of the war & I do think a few 
months more will end the strife for Jeff Davis 
is fast playing out but let it be long or short 
hot or cold. I desire to remain in the army of my 
beloved country if kind providence will bless me 
with life & health & protect my family, until the 
last vestige of treason is buried forever, never to 
be again resessitated into life. Oh how the treason 
has cursed our country. As you truly said thousands of 
orphans & widows will be and are left to mourn the loss 
of husbands & fathers that even sweet peace cannot refund 
but as you wisely say life is but a short & dreary 
spell in this world of sorrow yet it is the bright 
birth place of all earthly beings & as life is spent 
here so eternity will surely find us yet in 
that bright future I look forward to eternal 
life where there is no war no sorrow no parting 
of friends but an eternity of felicity to this I 
hope with my family to come. Martha keep up 
courage do not get disheartened Try to do right as I believe 
you do
I am very glad your folks are going to send our good to you. I think Martha when you get to keeping house with our two dear little children you will feel as if you had a home of your own again & be more contented. Oh I shall be happy when the war ends & I get home to live with you again. Home has a charm for me that is keen & dear I always loved my home & I shall all ways feel the same respect as I ever have for my family & friends. I am just now informed that on account of the poor health of our reg we will not go with Division to Mobile but it may be only a sensation report. I hope for the good of the reg that we will not go for a month I can go now & am ready individually but there are few that can Webster a brother in law of Col Hudnott died last night I guess you remember him, he used to come up to Bogarts I will write again soon and let you know all I am able to. I do not feel despondent dear Martha for I shall try to do the best I can. I do not have to work any more than I have a mind to you know but when the boys are sick I help them all I can. Write to me often & let me know all that is going on. We got two months pay last week & I shall send you some money to Stoughton or Madison perhaps or perhaps I may send it by letter. Kiss my children for me (Pa will not forget any of you) give my regards to all friends. Except (sp accept my love & kind wishes my dear companion) This is affectionately from your H L ever true to you to his country & his God

H L Sholts
New Orleans Aug 26th 1863

My dear Martha I just this moment received your kind & affectionate letter of the 9th & 10th. I was as I always am greatly pleased to hear from the loved ones at home & that you & our little boys were well. How thankful I always feel when I hear from you & that you are enjoying life, health & the blessings of the great giver of life. I do not feel very bursomb today for my medicine is just working the bilious matter of Vicksburg loose & I vomit a good deal but I am confident it will all be for the best in two or three days for I am going to take a regular cleaning out as the boys say. I feel well in my mind & quite comfortable in body so Martha do not worry or think I am sick for I can take care of my self & have plenty of friends here but they are most all sick too. Our sick boys in the hospital up here to Carrolton have been moved to the U S Hospitals below the city of New Orleans. J. D. Keith is very sick he is dangerous but I hope may yet recover our sick are going slowly I think there is a powerful army concentrating here I presume for a forward march to Mobile.
Tell L. Hanan Esq. I thank him for his encouraging letter & will answer it soon. Tell my brother to write again for I highly esteem his patriotic letters.

H. L.

Aug 26th, 27th, 1863

Page 2.

If this army should move very soon I think our regt. would not go far. There are not enough able men in it to make a full platoon but I see no more prospects of moving now than I did when we first came here. Troops continue to arrive night & day & the tented field is becoming an ocean of white walls. Some thing will get hurt after a little. I think Lee is well & sends his love to you & waylaid & Clinton. I hope you will be keeping house by yourselves by the time this gets to you. I hope you will get all your things from Iowa. While at Vicksburg, I sent my overcoat, blanket & goods to Peter Case by Express with several others. The coat is worth ten dollars. The blanket $4 & if you could get a chance to get them without too much trouble hub. I think it will be difficult for you to get them. If you do not want you to take too much trouble for I can get them when I come home. I have a chance to get on Gen. Banks' bodyguard & I think I...
could get the position of Chief Clerk at $40 per mo but will have to reenlist for three years & that I do not want to do for god knows I ask not for money or fame I desire to stay in the army of the Union until we can have honorable peace & then it will be the proudest

Aug 26th, 27th 1863
Page 3

time if my life to retire from the bloodstained field to private life to enjoy the dearest of all earthly blessings the happy happy society of my family. NO I would not exchange my peaceful happy home & friend for the position of a Major Gen in the army yet Martha I love my country. I love her law abiding citizens I love the patriotic soldiers in the field that are giving their lives for their country I love my family & for them I am willing to suffer. All the privations of a soldiers life & endure the hardships consequent to war.
For these & many other reasons I expect to be a soldier until this war shall end then dear Martha I hope to be with you & stay with you until the great I AM shall say well done come up higher But if after this war shall have ended foreign ___ or domestic traitors dare again to trample down the good banner we have fought under then my dear family will have to bid me good by for a short time again I hope never to see the time after this war that we have anything but peace but peace I do look for it a little England & France must take back aa few things or the Yankee boys will make them root hog or die I wrote yesterday & have no new today the report about Charleston I think was hoax but hope the place may soon fold We are in the right & God is with our arms.

Aug 26th, 27th 1863 Page 4

I am truly thankful that my father is kind and obliging to you. I feel very grateful to him
& hope God may long preserve his life & bless him with health. Martha I want you to pay him for all he does for you & the children he has always had to work hard for his family & I for one want to repay him a little & if I am spared to get home he shall never loose anything for his kindness to you.

I like the room you have hired. I think it is a good one & very convenient. I will not write anymore to night sweet dreams to you Martha

Thursday Aug 27th 1863

Good morning Martha Wayland & Clinton how do you do How much do you think I would give to see those black eyes snap and kiss those rosey cheeks I do not know but I would give a ten dollar green back at least. Just to be with you all twenty minutes I feel pretty smart this morning but some weak on account of my medicine but it is working good & will be just the thing I need & have needed for a long time. The nights are getting quite cool & I think health of the reg will soon be better.

I will write again soon. Write often & let me know how you get along and the news generally. Barrow got a letter from home I stated that N H Kendall was not expected to live that Esq Quackenbush was dead he died with bloody flux several others had the same disease May the great giver of all earthly blessings watch over you & guide & protect you my dear friend & by his aid & assistance I hope to be with you when I have discharged my duty to my country. I subscribe myself affectionately your husband & friend now & ever for the Union

H L Sholts
New Orleans La Sep 6th 1863
My dear Martha K I am happy to write to you this beautiful sabbath morning. I received two kind good & interesting letters from you yesterday & as I ever am I was awful glad to hear from you
I am glad my little bobo linty is well again I hope he will not get sick I am improving fast & shall go on light duty in a day or two more if nothing happens I shall do the orderlies business & I can make it very light I feel well but am some weak yet. My fever is all gone I think & I have no diarrhea my bowels are in better shape than they have been in two months so have great reason to rejoice & be thankful. I think we ought to be thankful for the preservation of our lives this far & by prudence & care & full faith in the great giver of life & health I firmly believe I shall live to come home and enjoy the happy society of my happy little family. let the war be long or short, but I hope it may not last many months yet it may & we must be prepared to stand it. We must be contented although it may seem impossible(sp).

Cross wise on page one

Martha that note against Eyegabrand is due in Oct & you better send it to Peter Case Or Esq Merriam You can tell it is $15 on the face it is all right & you get every cent & if you have any more notes due there send them but I cannot think of any more

The furloughs will prove a failure I guess I shall have to send my money in a letter from here but will wait a little longer & see if the boys are going & if they do I can send it in a letter & have the letter mailed in Wis then it will surely get to you

It is too late to mail letters today & I will write some more before I send it if there is anything
On your last you said "By all means do not get discouraged" Well Martha that is good advice just advice & just the way people at home writing to friends in the army ought to write I know I must not get discouraged. I have seen many die in the army & I know that the most have died have been homesick & discouraged after the sickness commenced & have run right down & died that was the way with Still & Kieth So you see I have determined to be contented let what will come. I guess you remember what I said before I left how that if they killed me they must shoot me snug. I hope that may be the case I put my entire trust in him that inks the destinies of world & have no fear this morning I opened my testament & read the 27th Psalm now you read it & then sing the part of it we used to sing One thing have I desired of the Lord & How I should like to sing it with you this morning but I cannot & I will not worry about it. I am glad you are going to get your things from Iowa I think you made a splendid bargain in buying your thing if they are not to much worn out certainly you get a pile for $20 If the store is a good one it is worth the money I hope by the time this gets there you will be keeping house & then if you are blessed with good health you & the children can
take comfort. I hope the war will end so I can come home & live with my family by winter but I cannot tell much about it. If Charleston soon falls it will be another death blow to the Confederacy. It is reported in the papers that Ft Sumpter & Moultrie Ft Gregg & Battery Wagner are in passes—sion of our troop I hope it is true we shall know next Wednesday for there will be a steamer in Tuesday from N. C. Old Jeff Thompson (that we chased so much in Mo) is at last captured with his whole staff he is an old villain & I hope he will ahng.

Our reg is on the improve I guess we will be able to do something in a few weeks & then we will have to march away. all our boys are getting better but Mulwine & Horning (that you know) & they are at a stand still it is hard telling how it will go with either if them. I do hope for the best.

Martha I have grand chance for making a small fortune or misfortune as the case might be I can have the position of Capt of a negro company here & get my commission from Maj Gen Banks at $130 per month by enlisting or joining the army for the term of five years but will not do it at present when you write tell me what you think of it. If I thought the war would last two years longer
I would go in

Sep 6th 1863
Page 4

you see it will amount to $1500 per year & it will cost probably $500 out of that to live & support my family that would be a saving $1000 per year but oh the dread of being away from home so long is what ails me but if you think I had better go into it I will do it And if you had rather remain poor & run the risk of the war ending in any respectable time I will not take a commission but remain contented where I am at $17 per month & when the war ends I can come home If I should take the commission I could resign in case of ill health but for no other & it would be for five years in the hot south but big pay Shall I do it or not. I wait for a reply & I want you to tell me just what you think Osgro Hill is dead he died at St Louis the 15th of Aug J H Micnerns wife is dead She was confined the child was still born & she survived but two weeks
poor Mich I pity him It is reported that S J Tisdell is dead I hope it may be incorrect but it may be true I saw J V Carpenter he took supper with me day before yesterday he is well he paid me a dollar he his folks owed me at Fredericksburg Our division have gone out on a raid for cotton & niggers but the 38th being mostly on the sick list did not go but staid for guard I do hope we can soon be in condition to go when the division is ready they will be back in ten days I will close for this time hoping & trusting God may protect & prosper you & my little boys Give my repects to my folks Kiss Wayland & Clinton for me & except(sp accept) my love & kindest regards Affectionatly(sp) from your husband H L Sholts

Crosswise on page 4

Monday morning I am well this morning and going on duty as Orderly H L Sholts

Sept 29th 1863 Page 1

Carrollton La Sept 29th 1863
My dear Martha again I write to let you know my present situation. I am well except for a slight headache I am gaining streng - th & flesh every day. so you see I have a thousand reasons to be thankful for the goodness & mercies of our kind heavenly benefactor & then I think how my family have been blessed with health & life since I left them. I truly feel greatful to the great
giver of life & immortality I hope he may ever bless us as he already done & when peace shall come
I have a full & lively hope of returning to that loved spot
my home sweet home. & the dear one that I let behind
me. Lee is well & fat as a pig the health of the reg
is still improving & I expect before long we shall
be ordered away from here. All the men you know
are doing very well but Jacob Horning he can
not live but a short time. he is near his end
poor fellow. I feel sorry for him, he is a good sol-
der & a fine man. He was getting better & got a re-
lapse in some way & has run right down this will
add another to the list of boys that left Fredericksburg
making five that went the worming I left them that have
given all for their country oh the horrors of this useless war

Sept 29th 1863
Page 2

will probably be better than to throw them away
I shall not send much any way a few shirts & such stuff Martha buy your wood already prepared for the stove for it is cheaper & better & will be much more convenient & handy for you do not depend on anyone chopping it little by little for you know that some times I used to get off to the Post Office & neglect it & I am the best wood chopper you ever had at least you think so. Tell J B Burton that I will write to him soon give him my regards __

Barrows has been promoted to 2d Lieut from Orderly Sgt That is the way the promotions are gotten in our reg by regular grade so now I am 3d Sergt Had Col Hughes or Capt Tikham have lived I would have been the Lieut in place of Barrow but it is all right. Barrow is a good fellow & I have no objection to the change all I ask for is life & health & safe return to my family & may God grant it for my sake & that of my family It is raining hard today & looks rather gloomy especially for the boys in their little shelter tents Myself & one other Sergt have a very commodious tent so we are comfortable & the rain does not affect us so much These dreary fall rains I dread for soon everything will be mud knee deep
Sept 29th 1863
Page 3

I have received three letters from you since I have written. I am ashamed to tell it for when I get a letter that I praise as highly as I do yours I should answer it immediately. But Sunday was a long lonesome day & I could not write & Monday I had business on hand & today I take opportunity to write, I have no new father to write we have just heard that the Rebs were concentrating a powerful army near Chataungeo & were likely to give Rosencrans a very hard battle in fact we have the report that Rosencrans has already lost heavily. I hope & Pray for the best of course you know all about it for you live in America I am very glad that you keep up such excellent spirits none but a noble self sacrificing would do it under the circumstances. Martha may you ever be favored of God & may your children ever prove a blessing to you.

Oh how glad I am you are keeping house & I do hope that you will soon get your things from Iowa in fact I hope you have them before now. I wish you could get my Over Coat & Wallen blanket from Fredericksburg I do not know but I will send home some clothing for my self before we leave here for I have more than I can cary. If I do I will let you know by letter. I will send by express if at all. It will cost high but
Martha if you have a place to put potatoes you had better get about 10 bushels while they agree good & cheap & put them where they will not freeze also get 15 or 20 pumpkins a few turnips lots of cabbage & vegetables get in your seller & then when you want anything you can just go into the seller and get it (Lamon B Tazz _____ ____ but old ____ Bother him some times ____ ____ Charley) the writing in brackets is that of old Charley Snow he is a little tight & wanted to write some so I let him right he is a smasher but all right Take good care of your health & the health of our little boys for they & you are all this world to me. Dress them warm & do not let them suffer if you can posably avoid I hope you will have good luck in getting your money you have let out. It seems to me that any man would pay a debt of that kind when they know it is your only means of support & your husband is away in the army but Martha do not worry about such things a bit but now keep your money safe let it to no one for you may need it & need it badly. I expect we shall get paid off soon & then I will send you some by Express to Stoughton or or Madison & you must go yourself & get it & keep it for money makes the mare go you know Oh if the war would end & I get home to you & would not care if I did not have a dollar. I know we could live happily but do the best you can my dear companion be patient-do-right-by all don't get discouraged & I shall not write to me often tell me all the news Kiss my little boys buy that cow if she gives milk & will give milk all winter if you can keep
Brownsville Texas Nov 25th /63

Dear Martha I again attempt
to write you a few lines I am
well & in good spirits I am
gaining in strength a little every
day I think. I have not received
any letter or letters since I wrote
last but I intend to write three
a week and you must do the same
at least. The health of the reg is good
but at present our reg is small
for a great many aware home on
furlough. Lee had the ague
last night but he will come
out all right he is very healthy
I think this is a very healthy
place & I am contented to stay
here as long as I stay away
from home. all but the mail
matters they are so far behind
time still we must be patient
and our letters will come & go
after a while. Things are the
same as when I last wrote
the 19th Army Corps are in the eastern
part of Texas coming this way slow -
ly & the whole of the 13th are here or
along the coast east of here. Gen
Banks with part of the 13th Army
Corps has taken Corpus Christi &
Galveston is in our possession
with our armies on the road
for Austin so, I conclude that
Texas will very soon(say in six
months) be back in the Old Union
I believe there can be a large force
of Cavelry(sp Cavalry) raised in this State
There is a reg organizing here
now and will soon be ready
for the field. & as our armies ad - - -vance they get recruits everyday
We are building new & exten - sive fortifications around this
place the work being performed by

colored troops _____ _____
that the darky soldier is
of some value at least to the
government. I wish that every
negro in the U. S. _____ are able
were in the field armed & equiped
with a gun shovel or pick axe.
I expect it is very cold up
there now Martha & I think of you
often & how cold it will be in
the cold winter mornings for
you to get up & build your
fires I heartily I could be
there to do it for you & my little
boys but be of good cheer Martha
the Lord will preserve me to
return to you "when this cruel
war is over" if I only try to do
right & I shall try to do that the
best I can. Surely we aught
to feel grateful to the great giver
of life for his boundless good--
--ness & mercies towards us

Nov 25/63
Page 4

Do the best you can. Take good
care of the children. I hope God may
continue to bless them & you with
health & the necessary comfort of life
when I get home it will be a happy
time to me & to you also.

There is no news to write
and you will have to excuse a short
letter this time & next I will try &
write more. The weather is rather(cooler now & the nights especially)
also quit cold but I have a plenty
to keep me warm & am going to
draw another coat thrown
my dress coat away. I have bought
me a pair of seven dollar boots They
have legs in until you can rest
so I am prepared for wind &
water all the time. I have a plenty
of money. I was in town today & got
me a tip top dinner for 50cts(cent)
The people are ignorant & dirty
here generally but very kind &
courteous to the soldiers I will
give you a description of Brown--
--ville generally, someday & if I can
get over to Matamaras & will give you
a description of that place
I will write again next
Sunday so goodbye for this time may
God bless you all        H L Sholts
Dear Martha I again attempt to write a short letter not that I have any news to write but I know that you are always anxious to hear from me & how I get along. I am well as can under the circumstances. The last letters I have received from you were all written in Oct so you see it is a very long time since I have heard from you and my little boys. I feel anxious to hear from home & I feel anxious also to get the war news. We did get a report of good news but it came in such a manner that I dare not give it any credit I hope to get the truth soon

(Along the left side of page one)

Lee is well & O K he sends his respects
I wrote you a letter day before 
yesterday & gave you a short discrip-
tian(sp description) of Matamoras in Mexico 
it may interest you a little 
but here I will say that some of 
its atrocities(sp atrocities) cannot well be dis-
- cribed(sp described). Everything on as usual 
nothing much to change the mo - 
- notony of camp but drill, guard 
parades & inspections until you 
cant(sp cannot) rest, but I am satisfied & 
perfectly contented & if I could only 
hear from home often, I should feel 
first rate. The weather is warm here 
we have had two or three cold days 
& some cold nights but the natives 
say the hardest part of the winter 
is through Dec & Jan is warm 
& in Feb they pant corn & garden 
I hope we will go north before 
another hot summer comes ah-- 
--ead I prefer cool weather to hot 
& I long for the time when I can 
be my own boss & live in the 
cold north. With my happy little 
family yes that will be pleasant & I 
& you & our children, I have reason 
to believe will be happy if I & you 
all live until I get home
Dec 4th 1863
Page 3

A portion of our division went up the Rio Grande a few days ago & took Ringgold Barracks a military post that was held by the rebels; they took everything the rebels had & most all the garrison were taken prisoner. There is no prospect of our leaving here yet & I do not see much prospects of going very soon anywhere unless some more troops come here. One thing is certain Texas does not amount to much to the rebels & I cannot say as it amounts to much to us. I hope we may march through the state north in the spring if we do not this winter for after we get back from the Rio Grande & the Gulf about 200 miles we will find a good productive country but from here north to the rio San Antonio the country is a barren
Dec 4th 1863
Page 4

desert (sp desert) almost If we leave here
we may go to the Gulf & ship for
Corpus Christi & then march
north but I guess we shall
march from here directly north
I wish I had something to write
that would interest you and my little
boys but I cannot & you must
try to be contented with such as
I send you God knowa I love
and respect my family & I hope
through his "mersies" (sp mercies) to have my
life spared to return to you dear
Martha Wayland & Clinton
Try to do the right - do the best
you can by the children & your -
- self be as wise as a serpent
& as harmless as a dove for you must look out for us
or you will suffer for I see plainly that root hog or die is the game & you must take care of yourself. I cannot tell any thing about wence shall get payed off I guess it will be a long time
Be of good cheer my dear bub for I shall be spared I believe to return to you when this war is ended May God bless & preserve & protect you all H L Sholts

Jan 3rd /64
Page 1

Camp 38th Iowa Brownsville Texas Jan 3rd /64
My dear Martha again I attempt to write to you a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living. I have not heard from you for a long time but I hear there is mail at Point (Elizabeth) & tomorrow I will get some I hope from the loved ones at home I am getting quite smart am doing duty again acting Orderly which is not very hard I hope soon to be stout & able for anything I expect
you had a good time Christmas & New Year  I hope so at any rate. To me they were dull dry cold days, nothing to excite any interest or anything but the dull monotony of camp. Thing are just the same as usual here. I have nothing new to tell Lee is well & healthy Dan Nichols & Ruban Watrous have the ague occasionally. C P S____ is very sick he went to the hospital today I shall not be surprised if he never recovers. I truly hope he may for Charley is a good man, every time. For a few days the weather has been very cold freezing nights & the wind has blown very hard & this is the reason we have got no mail for the boats cannot land at the point where there is a gale

Jan 3\textsuperscript{rd}/64
Page 2

Enclosed you find Fifty Dollars I send as a New Years Gift & I desire you to let it out in safe house or as much if it as you can spare. Perhaps you can
loan it all for I think I will send a little more home soon. for we have mustered for two months more pay & have it due me & if we get it I shall send you most of it. Don't you think bub I do pretty well to send you $50 out of two months pay of $34. You see I have made something in trafficking(sp trafficking) in revolvers & watches & after I send you Fifty I have plenty left to last me till next pay which is now due But you did right in letting Eager have that $50 & getting it so fixed that you can get it at any time now let this $50 go in like manner & be sure it is safe I will ssend you some more soon Don't let any one have it without security & good security otherwise keep it in your own hands until I come home. I do not get any war news at all for we get no mail hardly at all in this out-of-the-way-place but I hear that the President message is a good one & that great hope are entertained(sp entertained) of a speedy peace oh I hope so Martha God knows I hope so for I long to be with you my dear com - - panion & my little children. For heaven knows I love you & will do anything that will facilitate your hapiness.
I remember you everyday & in secret I forget you not. In the night when I awake my mind goes home to you & my little boys & I long for this cruel war to end that I can once more enjoy your blessed society still I am contented here for I know I have got to stay until the war is over & then I hope through the mercy of God to return to you my bosum friend do the best you can dear Martha save all the money you can without stinting yourself & when I get home we will go at something that will secure for us a good honest living without so much hard work as we used to have in Iowa.

I hope to be with you before another New Years day shall come around. & then we will have a horse a pig & cow & you can mind the da-y while I grinde(sp grind) the plow I should think but you would want aa pig to feed your swill & slop to but you know better than I do about that. Do not be in a hurry to let this money & if you cannot get good security for it don’t let it to ANYONE for this world is full of ups & downs & those that are good & honest today are frequently worthless & dishonest tomorrow so keep your eyes peeled bub & don’t let them nip you I know you two(sp too) are a sharp little gal & I
feel perfectly safe in letting you handle all the funds. I can get & firmly believe you will do OK by me as well as by yourself, & our dear little children

Martha I cannot make this interesting it is out of the question. There is absolutely nothing to chron-ich all I can say is do the best you can try to do right in all things & if God spares my life to return we will be the happiest little family in the world. Oh may God bless you my darling little boys with life & health & me to return to you & I humbly pray that time is not far distant

Gen Herron has at last come back to us for which I am very glad for we like him much bet -ter that Gen Dana I will write again when we get the mail that is at the Point for then I shall get some news from home.

Tell my little children Pa will not forget them & you must not let them forget me. This is affectionatly(sp affectionately) from your husband who is ever faithful and true to you. Kiss my children & except(sp accept) my love and respect. Yours truly H L Sholts

To Martha K
Wayland K Sholts
Clinton K
Feb 2d 1864 Blue
Page 1

Head Quarters Co "C" Iowa
Vol Infantry
Brownsville Texas
Feb 2d 1864

Sir I have the honor to apply
for an examination as to my fitness and ability
for the position of Lieut(sp, Lieutenant) in the Corps D Afrique

I have the honor to be
Sir your obedient servant

Henry L Sholts
Sergt(sp Sergeant) Co "C" 38th Iowa Infty

To Adjt Gen of
the army of the
Rio Grande

(Address on page 2 of)
Feb 2d 1864 Blue)

Head Quarters Co "C" 38 Iowa Fifty
Brownsville Texas July 2 1864

Henry L Sholts

Sergent (sp Sergeant)
Co "C" 38 Iowa Infantry

asking for Lieuts (sp lieutenants) commission
in a Regiment Corps D Afrique

__________ and Respectfully forwarded
Horace C Baldwin

Martha you want me to write
Page 1

Martha you want me
to write more than are
little sheet so here
I come again. There is a good deal of mea-
siness in cam (sp camp) because we do not get our pay
and clothes and aa
good many are deserting
but are being brought back but I am going
to stick till the last choir is not back
the drum is now beating

Page 2
for church but
I guess I will finish
my letter. Lee has
been trying all day
write a couple of letters
but he has just got
one dated he has a
good deal to do
there are about forty
in the hospital now
but non very
sick except two
or three. There are
a good many cases

Martha you want me to write
Page 3

of measles here
a man died the other
day and the funeral
possession(sp procession) marched
through camp
the band playing
the Dead March
with Muffled
drum it was
very solemn
The health of our
Reg(regiment) is good not
hardly any but
can eat their rations

Martha you want me to write
Page 4

Well I think you
will be tired this time
and you may expect
to hear from me
again in about
a week. I should
like to have you write
often for it is lone--
- some here nights
they seem so lone
and it does me
much good to hear
from the girl I
left behind me

(Top of page 4, upside down, each endearment encircled)

Kiss for Kiss for Kiss for HLS
Ma Way Clinty

Fragment Page 5
But the sailors understood their
Page 1
But the sailors understood their business & finally succeeded in getting every man of the sinking boat & in a short time she must down. by this time it was day light & as good luck would have & all the time we were taking the crew & soldiers from the stars shown very bright & made it as light as day almost.

Next morning not a ship in sight but we steamed on in a NW direction as we had last our course during the night we arrived of Brazos De Santiago on the 31st of Oct and lay at anchor until the 3rd of Nov when we landed in a small boat on the old sight where Gen Taylor had his supplies landed while his head quarters were at Point Isabella after he marched.
But the sailors understood their
from Corpus Christi towards the
Rio Grande. We staid(sp stayed) there until
the sixth & marched down the
sea coast to the mouth of the Rio
Grande __ we marched acrossed(sp across)
a channel where we had to wade
to our necks in salt water
there we turned up river &
arrived on the banks of the Rio Grande
at ten o’clock at night very
much fatigued but here we
could get all the fresh water we
wanted. This camp was where
the battle of Palo Alto was fough(sp fought)
the next day we did not march
for camp killed some beef
as there are thousands of fat cattle
on these plaines. Next day we
march for Brownsville & we
marched till you can’t(sp can’t) rest
I was never as tired in my
life as when we got into
this city &so ot was with all
But the sailors understood their

The Rebels evacuated the place
at our approach & fled to the in
terior after having destroyed the
fort & everything they could
Brownsville is a place of about
two thousand inhabitants mostly
Mexicans & Spaniards & all talk
the Spanish language there are
a few white & they are all in
business Motimoras is right
across the river almost in a
stones throw of Brownsville
Hee(sp here) is the great headquarters
of Southern Smuggling. There
are thousands if not millions
of bales of cotton in sight
upon the other side of the river
that have been taken from the (U. S.)
across & army supplies brought
back in turn but it is now
dried up We have a new com -
- mander Gen Dana he is very
strict & we have had to work very
But the sailors understood their busy ever since we came here. I have been acting Orderly all the time & have not had a chance to write or even wash my clothes un-til today & then I had to detail another Sargt(sp Sargent) in my place.

I am pretty well but not very stout for the constant changes of food and water gives me the Diarehea(sp diarrhea) but I am all right & in good spirits only I don’t hear from home any more.

It will be a long time for letters to go from here to you & you must be very patient & not worry about me for I do the very best I can. I hope you have got that money I sent you from New Orleans & I will send some more when we get our pay & I have no idea when that will be. Oh I shall be glad to get back to America again so I can her from that dear little family of mine I think this place...
is healthy & I think we shall stop here some time to garrison. We left Brown and several others a Brasor & he will die I fear.

(Written on side of page 8)
Our co(company) is the largest in the reg(iment) & we have but 30 percent

Motamaras is a city of about Thirty Thousand or Forty Thousand inhabitants extending from the Rio Grande back about five miles and along the river about four. the front or port facing the river is quite low & the most that presents itself to view from this side is the immense files of Cotton Bales that have been taken from the CNS & smuggled over these piles are miles in length & worth millions of Dollars. About two miles back from the river is the Plaza (an elevation of the land) on this table of land are the best residences & a very few of them a good to owned by Americans or Germans or almost any body.
Motamaras is a city of about
Page 2

a Spaniard or Mexican will have
a dirty little hut made in the
most rude manner of brush &
mud & covered with raw hides
of cattle or old bark sacks, with an
old rug hung up for the door. without
a window or a floor or a stove or
fire place. & the way they cook is they
build a little fire in the center, just
as those Indians did at Fredericks-
burg that we saw. & they broil their
beef on coals & bake their bread in
the ashes. With very few exceptions
this is precisely the way the inhabitants
of Motamaras & the adjoining coun-
try try live. There is another class of
men I must speak of. That class
is the water carriers of Motamarus
The have large barrels (42 gal(sp gallons) & they
roll them into the Rio Grande
& fill them at the bung hole & then
attach a rope to each end so that
the barrel will revolve like a wheel

Matamaras is a city of about
Page 3

& when full they pull it out
& up the bank and away they go
all over the city like mules at
the plow & surprising as this may
seem the whole city is supplied
with water in this slavish way.
The carriers get 25cts(cents) for each
barrel & hot or cold wet or dry
they stick to the business year after
year. It never rains here or rather
rarily (sp rarely) rains at all in this im-
mediate vicinity on account of
winds that blow continually either
North or South & the air from
the north being much cooler than
that from the South the water al-
ways falls on the mountains
and leave the air dry causequiat-
ly (sp consequently) no water falls here except
once in a while side currants
bring a little rain from the
east. Since there is so little rain
of course there is little vegetation

Motamaras is a city of about
Page 4

& not any timber except a kind
of brush that grows ten or twelve feet
high & resembles the william very
much. it is called Chaparal(sp Chapparral). The
goats live on the leaves of this bush.
This is all the timber there is here
so you(sp your) lumber must be very high
& fire wood very scarce.

There are a great many cattle
here but I guess not one in four
thousand are milked for the people
milk flocks of goats. It is truly
amusing to see them milk a goat
They get from 50 to 100 in a yard to -
getter & catch oone at a time draw the
hinder leg forward & then milk in
a small cup each goat gives from one
to two tea cups full of very rich milk
but I do not like it for it is strange
They sell it for $4 per Gal(sp gallon)

Things are very high in price as
I have told you before. Lee is well &
OK I hope you will get all my
letters & that I shall get yours
Write often Martha for oh how it
dresses me to get your kindlouy(sp kindeously)
letters give my regards to all & kiss
Wayland & Clinton for Pa tell them
I love them & remember them Except(sp accept)
my love Martha & best wishes May
God ever bless & protect you H L Sholts
But the sailors understood their business & finally succeeded in getting everyman of the sinking boat & in a short time it was daylight & as good luck would have & all the time we were taking the crew & soldiers from the ___ the stares(sp stars) shown very bright & made it as light as day almost

Next morning not ship in sight but we steamed on in a NW direction as we had lost our course during the night We arrived of Brazos De Santiago on the 31th(sp 31st) of Oct 7 lay at anchor until the 3rd of Nov when we landed in a small boat on the old sight where Gen Taylor had his supplies landed while his head quarters were at Point Isabella after he marched
from the Corpi Christi towards the
Rio Grande. We staid(sp stayed) there until
the sixth & marched down the
seacoast to the mouth of the Rio
Grande _____ we marched acrossed(sp across)
a channel where we had to wade
to our necks in salt water
there we turned up the river &
arrived on the beanks of the Rio Grande
at ten o’clock at night very
fatigued but here we
could get all the fresh water
we wanted. This camp was where
the battle of Palo Alto waat fought(sp fought)
the next day we did not march
for camped killed some beef
as there are thousands of fat cattle
on these plaines(sp plains). Next day we
march for Brownsville & we
marched till you cant(sp cann’t) rest
I was never as tired & in my
life as when we got into
this city & so it was with all
But the sailors understood their

The Rebels evacuated the place
at our approach & fled to the in-
terior after having destroyed the
fort & everything they could
Brownsville is a place of about
two thousand inhabitants mostly
Mexicans & Spaniards & all talk
the Spaniard language there are
a few white & they aware all in
business Motimoras is right
across the river almost in a
stones throw of Brownsville
Hee(sp here) is the great headquarters
of Southern Smuggling. There
are thousands if not millions
of bales of cotton in sight
upon the other side of the river
that have been taken from the (U. S.)
across & army supplies brought
back in turn but it is now
dried up We have a new com-
mander Gen Dana he is very
strict & we have had to work very
But the sailors understood their busy ever since we came here I have been acting Orderly all the time & I have not had a chance to write or even wash my clothes un-til today & then I had to detail an--other Sargt(Sargent) in my place I am pretty well but not very stout for the constant changes of food & water gives me the Diarehea but I am all right & in good spirits only I don't hear from home any more. It will be a long time for letters to go from here to you & you must be very patient & not worry about me for I do the
very best that I can. I hope you have got that money I sent you from New Orleans & I will send you more when we get our pay & I have no idea when that will be. Oh I shall be glad too get back to America again so I can hear from that dear little family of mine I think this place is healthy & I think we shall stop here some time to garrison we left Brown & several others at Brasore he will die I fear.

Written on side of page 8

Our co is the largest in the reg & we have but 30 percent

Fragment Page 3
Martha I notice by you letter that you hear(sp hear) a great many things by the way of letters from others that are in this regiment who have friends in this vicinity, for instance(sp instance) the Nichols H___ Moulten ___ ___ there has been 10,000 lies written home about this as well as other regiments. Some say they have not enough to eat. That's a lie we have a plenty and so it is with the most some
homesick worthless fellows write

Now about the health of the places the people here say it is unhealthy in the winter season, but my experience has demonstrated factorily to no(sp know) that this is a healthy place only two men of our reg of 900 men have died since we came here & there are no cases in the hospital now but what are getting better Dr Heart is well liked by the sick. J D Kieth is again back in the company though quite feeble C P Snow is getting well just he is still in the hospital I am well & feel first rate(except I am sorry(sp sorry) things go as they do with your folks) Another thing My dear Martha don’t believe what you hear until it is confirmed. We have not gone to Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) & I begin to think we will not go there at all. Gen Gurtis said the 38th reg had taken New Madrid after the 32d (32nd) burned the barracks burned the cannon car - ravages & spiked the cannon & blew up the magazine & deserted it all together. & left in the hands of the rebels & now that they have taken it & still hold it 38th can stay there as long as their co wants to

Fragment Page 4

Martha I notice by your letter that you Page 2

The battle of Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) cannot come of for a
month yet. I begin to think our forces will take Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) in spite of the combined efforts of the whole south. When Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) falls into our hands it is the last great battle. I know it has been said often only one more great battle & then peace but now I say after Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) is taken the serpent of secession (sp secession) is cut in two & it must die. Jeff Davis say if Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) falls they are gone up the spout. I have a report that past Fort Houndson has fallen by the hand of the hand Brave Gen Banks I hope it is true then the two Mississippi fleets will come together at Vixburg (sp Vicksburg) be patient dear Martha it will soon be warm weather then go to Wis (Wisconsin) if I don’t get back There are going to be more Indian troubles in Minn (Minnesota) but you are saaafe don’t (sp don’t) borrow trouble about it This must close this spring it can - - not last three months I feel con - - fident through the mercy of God I shall be home in the Spring. Martha don’t give way to discouragements. If you cannot stand it you will have $7 due you from Peter Case $15 & interest due you from John Case & I should think Moorse would heg his note some more family money & the first of March you will get $20 of my allotted pay so you see you will have money & I do not want you to go to Wisconsin Your gold is now worth 1.60 on the dollar if you get out of mony sell your gold for $1.60 on the dollar or 60 percent advance. I cant (sp can’t) tell you when I shall get pay it will be good when it comes all in a file
for some but I have been well & have felt well
ever since I have been here. It did seem like
a long time to wait for mail but at last I
got 3 letters at once they were written the 18th 24th 25th
& the one the 11th Jan. The letter telling me about
the bounty I have not got yet. Maybe I will
get it yet. Lee is well Martha in your last
letter you seemed somewhat discouraged
about the war but you know you will hear a
great many things that are not so. I am not
discouraged. I do still think the war will
end in the spring in March or April at the
furthest. At any rate I intend by the help
of god to come home to stay in the spring

God has blessed me ever since I have been
in the army & I am not afraid but that I shall live
to come home to my family (The dearest to me of
all below the sun) Martha I would gladly give
everything I & you have got to have the war over
& be home in peace. But it is as it is & we
must make the best of it. The negroes here
are smart they know all that is going on
& in the spring they will make a break for
liberty. It is too cold for them now & they
know it tomorrow I am going to get for my squada nice large chest
& bake kettle to
make corn bread & some __________

Then I go out all the boys want to go with
me for we always get something that have some
fun. Now about the battle of Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) Gen
Sherman tried very foolishly to take the
city with 35,000 so as to have the honor alone
& of course had to fall back but still he
felt of their strong hold now knows much
for some but I have been well & have felt well

better how to attack them Sherman should
should have waited for Gen Grant & Gen McClernard
from above & gen Banks & Comodore Flora-
- gut from below to have come up then the
combined forces would have taken Vixburg(sp Vicksburg)
and that was the plan laid out by Gen Holland
but Sherman could not wait
the river rasing very fast & I hope the
combined forces below have got about ready
to strike another blow at Vixburg(sp Vicksburg). The
next time I believe it must fall. &
I hope they will besiege the city
Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) must be taken It will be hard
to take & many brave boys (as Wayland
sings) must fall but we must clear the
river & then the rebels will certainly starve out
Tell Wayland and Clinton Pa thinks of his little
boys many times every day I think of you all the
first thing in the morning & the last thing at
night I often see you all in my dreams
as I hope to see you soon in reality.
May God's blessing rest upon you all
& preserve you from disease & death until
I return is my prayer. Oh Martha do not
worry about me I am trying to do my duty
fighting for my country & trying to protect
the rights of my dear wife & children. If I had
no children I would not care so much you
and I could stand it But we have two intelligesnt(sp intelligent)
pretty little boys that I want to make men
off(sp of) & I want them to have a country to live in
Give my love to all your folks. Tell my big
boy I will bring him a horse & one for brother
I have plenty of money This from your affectionate husband
H L Sholts

Top of page 4 upside down

The storm has eased & the weather is fine it freezes
some nights Oh that could embrace you tonight
I would kiss you a thousand times & the children the same