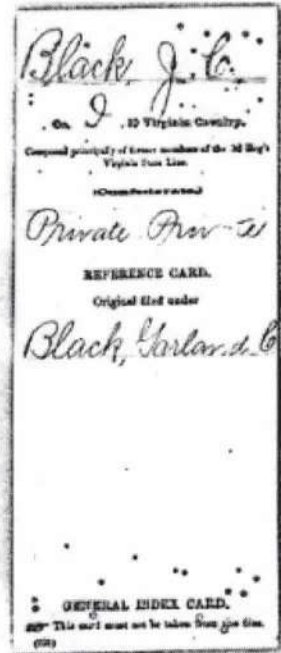


Sholts, Henry L. Age 27. Residence Fredericksburgh, nativity New York. Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862, as First Corporal. Mustered Sept. 12, 1862. Promoted Fifth Sergeant Nov. 4, 1862; Second Sergeant Oct. 1, 1863. Died of disease March 16, 1864, Brownsville, Texas. Buried in National Cemetery, Brownsville, Texas.

Detailed Soldier Record

Click on the question marks for help with this form.

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)

FEATURED EXHIBIT



FLAGS

Symbols in Battle
★ CIVIL WAR FLAGS IN ★
NPS COLLECTIONS ★

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.

SERVICE.-Expedition to Union City, Tenn., December 31, 1862-January 1, 1863. Moved to New Madrid, Mo., January 1, 1863, and duty there till June. Moved to Vicksburg, Miss., June 6-15. Siege of Vicksburg June 15-July 4. Expedition to Yazoo City July 12-21. Occupation of Yazoo City July 14. Moved to Port Hudson, La., July 24-27; thence to Carrollton, La., August 15. Expedition to the Rio Grande, Texas, October 23-November 4. Advance on Brownsville November 6. Duty at Brownsville till July 31, 1864. Moved to New Orleans, La., July 31-August 5; thence to Mobile Bay August 7-9. Siege of Fort Morgan August 9-23. Capture of Fort Morgan August 23. Moved to New Orleans, La., September 8-11. Duty at Donaldsonville till December. Consolidated with 34th Iowa Infantry December 12, 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.](#)

HENRY L. SHOLTS

Oct 27 1861

Page 1

38th IOWA INF, Co. C
CORP. THEN SGT.

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 posable(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 recieved(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

Oct 27th 1861

Page 2

SICK ()
Bony Marsh is sick with the same disease
George Golligan one of my cousins in
Michigan who was a 2d(sp 2nd) Lieu(sp Lieutenant) in Michigan
Reg(regiment) was killed in one of the late battles
Elijah Marsh will be discharged on account
of his wound recieved(sp 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 dishartened(sp 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 wyeld(sp wield) until shear exhaustion compels them to abandon fiendish ungodly(crossed out) 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

Nov 23, 62
Page 1

Camp Franklin Dubuque Nov 23,62

Dear Martha it is a pleasure to write to you
I am well. We arrived a Dubuque yester -
-day 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)
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 co (sp 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 imposable (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 volenteers (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 souldiers(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 Newham-
-pton 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 Marth (sp Martha) we will
enjoy the God given right of again live -
- ing living together with none to mo -
- lest 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 wan(sp 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

Dec 2/62

Page 1

Camp Franklin Dubuque Dec 2/62

Affectionate, Martha, after a long time I write to you. I rceieved(sp 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 sill(sp 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.(sp Regiment) the one that JV Carpenter was in have been whiped(sp whipped) loosing all their baggage camp equipage(sp equipment) close(sp clothes) and 5 men killed I don't know who were killed. The army of the west is all consentrating(sp concentrating) down the Miss(Mississippi) river to form one grand army to attack Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) all the rebels are concen - trating at Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) also, there will be a hard fought battle then I think & probably we shall go there, if we are suckcessful(sp 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.

Dec 2/62

Page 2

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 Fredericks - burg 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 victori - ous. 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

Dec 2/62

Page 3

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 with out 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 allotted 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 haven't (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 tomor-
- row 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 fami-
-ly and I want you to write
certainly as often. We may
pasobly(sp 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 pocke-
-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 Wis(consin)
I want you to go. If you do
go to Wis(consin) tooke(sp take) great care while
on the cares(cars) especially in get--
-ting on and off. & put your
money where you would not

get robed(sp robbed). I am very sorry(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

Jan 6th 1863

Page 2

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 enough 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

(Along left side of page 3)

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

(Section on top of first page upside down)

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

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 vaxcinated(sp vaccinated)
for the kind pox. He did not vaxcinate(sp vaccinate) me
he said the fit on my arm was sufficint(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 Way land 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
& Chitiys 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.

(Section on top of 2nd page up side down)

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.

Feb 22nd 1863

Page 1

New Madrid Mo Feb 22d (sp nd) 1863

Dear Martha it is with pleasure I write to you. I recieved (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 greates (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 whis-
-tle 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 geos (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 figh (sp fight) until we exterminate the whole race

0

Feb 22nd 1863

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 selnom(sp seldom) bight(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 nees(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

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

*Blanks where
letter is torn*

March 16, 1863 Blue

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 Blue

Page 4

ability to do business but it is not
so I know you have a sound and clear _____
but still bub you will receive(sp) advice f_____

*Blanks where
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

for your ___ letters tomorrow

God bless you Bub H L Sholts

Mar 22 1863 Blue

Page 1

New Madrid Mo Mar 22nd 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 10th 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 23rd reg left yesterday & today for Memphis. The 21st & 22nd Iowa went by here last Thursday night Yesterday the 1st Nebraska & three gun boats all bound south, so the 38th 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
seige guns & government has sent to us
a very pretty battery of six field pieces

Mar 22 1863 Blue
Page 2

On the whole we have guns till you cant
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 exception 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 sory(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
eversaw & 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 recieved 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 new(sp 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

_____ Huson with _____ 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 -
- sissippi 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
Charlston 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

Mar 24th 1863

Page 3

sworn to support her constitution and her laws
& may I ever be true to all her rightful in -
stitutions & 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 must be a grand overhauling of those double traitors

March 24 1863

Page 4

There is nothing arouses the feeling anger in a soldiers 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 mennis 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

Top of Page 1, upside down

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

April 13 1863

Page 2

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(sp Sergeant) 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 Plea - - sant 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(sp Mississippi) River is low has once in a while a dry ridge in it. Well that night we stoped(sp) at the three dif-ferent houses (all Secesh) but pretended Union men) stayed all night had the women cook for us Next day the wagoner attempted & finally suckceeded 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 ½ mile from the Miss River with swamps all around it. One mile from this place is Lin-coln Island so called because the people on it are Union

April 13 1863
Page 2

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 splee - - 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

April 13 1863
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 ragged(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 fragement

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 sorry(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 recieved(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

May 9th 1863

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

May 9th 1863
Page 3

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 Hereuhim
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 necessaries 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 til 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 surville 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 con -
- tinue 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

May 9th 1863

Page 5

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

May 9th 1863

Page 6

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 morning. I am well & feel contented because I believe you and the children are well & satisfied. I have not heard from you for several days. I expected a letter this morning when the mail came. Several of the boys got letters 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 wraped 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

May 17, 1863
Page 2

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) aware 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 they 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

To Martha

H L Sholts

May 24 1863

Page 1

New Madrid Mo May 24 1863

My dear Martha I have just recieved(sp) 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

May 24 1863
Page 2

If that Potomac army would only just now cross the Rhafo 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 Chan - celerville 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 Tullohoma 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(sp) 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 _____

May 27/1863

Page 2

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 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 ar - rived 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

May 27/1863

Page 3

We have **Glorious News**

from Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) I suppose you have the same. The new 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

May 27/1863
Page 4

for the **great** cause of humanity for
their love of country & for the loved ones at home
& although the now sleep(sp) 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 haste(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

Page 1

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

June the 11th 1863
Page 4

Five oclock PM. Dear Martha
We have just landed at Youngs
Point just above Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) we are
on the Louisiana shore. The mortar
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

well & shall write & send a
letter at every chance I have
May the Lord bless you all & me
too this from your affectionate
husband & friend H L Sholts

July 13th 1863
Page 1


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 div -
- sion 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 get -
- ting 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 to
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

Aug 17th 1863

Page 1

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 husband 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 prefer 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

Page one cross wise

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.

Page 1 Upside down at top of page

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 infinatum & 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 Inft
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 ar 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 aught 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 fam -
- ily is well Oh I have ten thousands reasons to be thank -
- ful for the many mercies & blessings of the Lord has conferred on

Aug 23 1863
Page 3

us all the days of our lives especially for his kind care & protection during the past year I hope & believe 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

Aug 23 1863

Page 4

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 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

Aug 26th 27th 1863
Page 1

New Orleans Aug 26th 1863

My dear Martha I just this moment


recieved 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 bunsomb
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 hos -
- pitol up here to Carrlolton have been moved to
the U S Hospitols 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

Upside down at top of page 1

Tell L 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 reg 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 yourself by the time this gets to you. I Hope you will get all your things from Iowa While at Vicks burg I sent my overcoat & blanket by Express with several others goods to Peter Case The coat is worth ten dollars. The blanket \$4 & if you could get a chance to get them without too much trouble bub I think it will be difficult for you to get them & I 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

Sep 6th 1863

Page 1

New Orleans La Sep 6th 1863

My dear Martha K I am happy to write to you this beautiful sabbath morning. I recieved 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 lenty 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 pre -
- pared to stand it. We must be contented although it may seem imposable(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

to write about

Sep 6th 1863

Page 2

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 be - fore 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(sp) 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

Sep 6th 1863
Page 3

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 Confed - racy 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 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 Michners 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 respects 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 aa 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 -
- dier & 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 Segt 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 recieved three letters from you since I have written I am ashamed to tell it for when I get a letter that I praisse 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

Sept 29th 1863

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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 cab -
- bage & 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

her and get her milked I will write again soon This
is most affectionately from your husband H L Sholts

To my Martha Wayland & Clinton

Nov 25/63
Page 1

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 recieved
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

Nov 25/63

Page 2

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 slowly & 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 Cavalry(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

Nov 25/63

Page 3

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 rater(sp 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(sp cents)

The people are ignorant & dirty
here generally but very kind &
courteous to the soldiers I will
give you a description of Browns--
--ville generaly(sp 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

Dec 4th 1863
Page 1

Dear Martha I again attempt(sp 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 recieved 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 anx-
-ious 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

Dec 4th 1863

Page 2

I wrote you a letter day before yesterday & gave you a short description (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 described (sp described). Everything on as usual nothing much to change the monotony 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 plant corn & garden I hope we will go north before another hot summer comes ahead 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

desart(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 geuss 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. Things 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 3rd/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 entertamet(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.

Jan 3rd/64
Page 3

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 bosom 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 are in a land of sharpers but one good thing is you two(sp too) are a sharp little gal & I

Jan 3rd/64

Page 4

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 Infy

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 Infanrty

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
Ma

Kiss
for
Way

Kiss
for
Clinty

HLS

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 _____ the stares(sp 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 31th(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

Fragment Page 6

But the sailors understood their
Page 2

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 across(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 fought(sp fought)
the next day we did not march
for camp killed some beef
as there are thousands of fat cattle
on these plains. Next day we
march for Brownsville & we
marched till you can't(sp cann't) rest
I was never as tired in my
life as when we got into
this city & so it was with all

Fragment Page 7

But the sailors understood their
Page 3

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

Fragment Page 8

But the sailors understood their
Page 4

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 an-
- other 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(regiment)
& we have but 30 percent

Motamaras is a city of about
Page 1

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 take(sp taken) from the CNS
& smugled(sp smuggled) over these piles are miles
in length & worth millions of Dol-
- lars . 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

but a Mexican or Spaniard & still
to diversify the scene right by the
side of a nice brick building -----

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 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

rarly(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 - - gether & 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 cheers 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

Fragment Page 5

But the sailors understood their
Page 1

5

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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)
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in sight but we steamed on
in a NW direction as we had
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time & I have not had a chance to
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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

Page 1

Martha I notice by your letter that you
heare(sp hear) a great many things by the way of letters
from others that are in this regiment who
have friends iin this vicinity, for instant(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 sory(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 Vicsburg) in spite of the combined efforts
of the whole south. When Vixburg(sp Vicksburg) falls in--
to out 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 Hondson 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 saafe 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 Moore 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

Fragment Page 3

for some but I have been well & have felt well

Page 1

3

for some but I have been well and have felt well ever since I have been here. It did seem like a long time to wate(sp 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 negros(sp negroes) here are smaart they know all that is going on & in the spring they will make a break for liberty. It is to(sp 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 7 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

Fragment Page 3

for some but I have been well & have felt well

Page 4

better how to attack them Sherman should
should have waited for Gen Grant & Gen McClernard
from above & gen Banks & Comodore Flaura-
- 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