

Jacob Ebersole Diary
19th Indiana Regiment
1862

[Inside Cover]

J. Ebersole
Surgeon
19th Indiana
Vols.

In Camp of
Opposite [sic] Fredericksburg
Via

19th Indiana Vols.
Gen. Gibbons Brigade
Gen. Kings Division
Gen. McDowels Corps
Gen. Popes Department
Uncle Abes Country

[1st Page of Diary]

Wednesday, January 1, 1862

	Sal =	Horse	--	Bot	-	sabre	
5 years	80	-	3	-	4	-	2 159
April 5	70	-	1	-	4	-	1 188

Thursday, January 2, 1862

Thomas Daughery
Co. H
Amputation of the thigh in the middle third
Sat Sept 20 1862

Joshua Jones Co. E
Amputate leg below the knee—Sep 20

Friday 3

318 Killed & wounded in Gibbon Brigade
107 19th In
David B. Dunlap Co. H

Saturday, January 4, 1862

Dr. Volm (?) Mid 2nd Wisc (?)
22 (?) 8 in ambulances 25 - _____
9 for discharge

Sunday 5

Hackley (name crossed out)
Kendell Surfee
Pennsylvania
Sur M.J. H. White USA
Killed M.D. Franklin Corpse
Surgeons Paven & Revere

Monday 6

Tuesday, January 7, 1862

Rev. Dr. Copp of Chelsea Mass

Wednesday 8

Mr. Capt. Yates 22 NY

Thursday 9

Jacob Ebersole
John N. Green
A.B. Harris

Friday, January 10, 1862

Port wine and white of egg & white sugar for Summer complaint for children

34 of the 6th Wis
46 of the 19th Ind

Saturday 11

Sunday 12

Surgical operations consisting of skin or legumentary flaps---
performed by the French man.

Monday, January 13, 1862

At South Mountain our loss 443 killed – 1806 wounded
Miss 76

At Antietam

Our loss was 2010 killed 94914 wounded Miss 1043

Total-in two 14,794

Of the rebels at South Mt.

Tuesday 14

500 killed—at Antietam

4500 total killed 5000

wounded & killed 23,742

We captured in all 13 guns—7 carisons 9 limbers 2 field (?) 39 colors & 1 signal flag

Wednesday 15

To

Monday 20

Tuesday 21

Sunday August 26 1862

It is now 1 ock I have just eaten a good dinner of the following dishes cold boiled
mutton—boiled corn, stewed tomatoes, stewed plums with black tea. We are located in
the house and finely shaded yard of one of the First families of the Old dominion. Here
we have located

Wednesday, January 22, 1862

Field hospital—the rebels are in front of us. Our batteries 3 in number supported by
infantry—the 19th Ind. & 2nd 6th & 7th Wisconsin. The 2nd & 7th reg with me. Our batteries
have been playing during an hour

Thursday 23

And a half upon the foe, answered occasionally by them. We have Skirmishers out also
one of the skirmishers of the 2nd was wounded in the seat (?) a flesh wound. The house
was deserted as we came, all the valuables were taken away

Friday 24

We found corn and hay and ice half barrel of cornmeal. The Chaplain is seated in a chair leaning back against a tree writing a letter ursels (?) bringing up his diary. The other Dr. are lounging around the ground. The battle is a [sic] artillery fight with no important results yet

Saturday, January 25, 1862

So far as I know. We are near the White Sulpher Springs. The battle will be called the battle of White Sulpher Springs—4ock the enemy have sent in a flag of truce and the firing is suspended for the present. They are carrying in there [sic] dead and wounded.

Sunday, 26

Our men have taken nearly everything this man has. Here I procured one large plate one saucer and an old broken looking glass for which I paid one dollar.

Monday, 27

Tuesday, January 28, 1862

Wednesday, 29

Thursday, 30

Friday, January 31, 1862

\$644.80

From Paymaster 644.80

Iron Pots 6.00

Dr. Hames 5.00

Saturday, February 1

Saturday, 8

Sunday, February 9, 1862

I saw a telegram addressed to General McClellan to send home encased the body of Lieut. JH Morrison of Wisconsin 6.

Monday, 10

Friday, 14

Saturday, February 15, 1862

7th Wisconsin our New—Washington Zullec (?) Holmes

Sunday, 16

Monday, 17

Tuesday, February 18, 1862

John Sykes Co. J
1st Regular
Cavalry
Gen. McClellans Headquarters
Sharps—Carbine

Wednesday, 19

To

Saturday, 22

Sunday, March 23, 1862

Walker Co. B
Holdren Co. E
Carr "A
Blake "A
Magee "C

Monday, 24

Friday, 28

Saturday, March 29, 1862

One coffin for Bright (Co. K) and one for Daughery (Co. H) eight dollars each.

Sunday, 30

Monday, 31

Tuesday, April 1, 1862

In the 19th in 4 battles 302 killed & wounded
Wounded 249
Killed 53

Wednesday, 2

Sunday, 6

Monday, April 7, 1862

John J. Keedy
Washington Co.
Maryland

Tuesday, 8

Sunday, April 13, 1862

Monday, 14

Today, received a dispach [sic] from Joseph Glenn that Gov. Martin professed me the 19th Ind. (?) of I would except immediately

Tuesday, 15

Went to Cincinnati excepted teligraphed [sic] thank (?) you. In the afternoon went to Indianapolis. Today received commission from Gov. Morton. Surgeon 19th Ind. Vols.

Wednesday, April 16, 1862

To day received my Commission as Surgeon of the 19th Ind. Vol. Arrived at home in the evening ordered my cloths.

Thursday, 17

Made preparation to join my Reg.

Friday, 18

Still continue my preparation

Saturday, April 19, 1862

Start for Cincinnati. Spend the day in getting ready to leave for Vir. No train out for Washington today have to wait until Sabbath evening.

Sunday, 20

In the afternoon at 5ock took leave of friends. Started for my destination.

Monday, 21

Tuesday, April 22, 1862

Arrived in Washington

Wednesday, 23

Remained in Washington all day. Was introduced to Senator Wright (Calab), Senator [sic] Lane, Mr. Holoway, Mr. Merrell. Was mustered into the service of the United States as Surgeon of Regiment. Consigned to the 19th Ind. Vols.

Thursday, 24

Started for Aquia Creek by way of Alexandria. Arrived at Aquia Creek at 12 noon no escort going to Fredericksburg to day dangerous to go alone remained here except the hospitalities of Col. Bidle of the _____ New York. Remane [sic] with him all night.

Friday, April 25, 1862

To day started in company with about 20—towards Frederk [sic] my excort being on foot (?) I soon out moved them, but learned that Potomac creek was so swollen [sic] by the recent rains as to be unfordable. [sic] I returned and for the night lodged at Brookses Station.

Saturday, 26

To day reached my reg. in camp above the Falmouth near Fredericksburg.

Sunday, 27

To day broke camp, march to Potomac Creek—7 miles.

Monday, April 28

Thursday, May 1, 1862

Friday, 2

To day ordered to march.

Saturday, 3

To day encamped within a mile & a half of our old quarters near Gen. King's headquarters.

Sunday, May 4, 1862

Friday, 9

Saturday, May 10, 1862

To day Brig. Gen. Gibbon took command of Brigade. Marched to river, opposite Frederick.

Sunday, 11

Saturday, 24

Sunday, May 25, 1862

To day marched 8 miles South of Fredericksburgh [sic] to clover field.

Monday, 26

Wednesday, 28

Thursday, 29

To day ordered to Catletts Station on Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

Friday, 30

To day arrived at Catletts Station at 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 31, 1862

Sunday, June 1, 1862

Monday, 2

Marched to Haymarket on the Mannassas R.R.

Tuesday, June 3, 1862

Thursday, 5

Friday, June 6, 1862

To day ordered to Warrenton

Saturday, 7

Sunday, 8

Marching orders—took the road to Warrenton

Monday, June 9, 1862

5 ½ ock took road to Frederick—Marched to Elk run—6 miles—encamped during night.

Tuesday, 10

Resumed march 16 miles encamped at brick church. 1 ock. We have marched 5 mortal hours in a drenching rain in mud and slush.

Wednesday, 11

½ past 5. Continued our march, reached our camping ground on bluff opposite Fredericksburgh. [sic]

Thursday, 12

Friday, 13

Saturday, 14

Col. Merideth went to Washington to recruit his health—on leave of absense [sic] for 16 days. Dr. Green returned to reg. to day. McSoon (?) set about replenishing the order (?) at which he is an adept.

Sunday, June 15, 1862

Monday, 16

To day sent to General Hospital in Fredericksburgh. [sic] 3 patients. Was introduced to Chaplain Merrill, of the 35th New York. 9 ock. It is very cool had to put on two coats to keep warm. Feel lonely. Think of God, heaven the home of the blest of my dear family, my lonely wife and children. Wm, James, Joseph, Mary, & Frank.

Tuesday, 17

Cool and clear. Put on my flannel shirt and drawers. Received a letter from Father Glenn dated May, 21-27 days on its way here. All things remain in Status quo, no news today. I have thought of God and the blessed Savior. Committ [sic] all to his keeping. Amen.

Wednesday, June 18, 1862

Clear and pleasant. Nothing of interest to note this morning. To day visited the Hospital at Fredericksburgh [sic]. Our sick are doing well, improving. In the evening the brigade was ordered out for review and inspection by General King. A heavy rain prevented the review.

Thursday, 19

Clear with scattering clouds. Thank God for all the mercies of life, look to Him for my blessing. Went with Chaplain to see Chaplain of the 14th Brooklyn, did not find him in his lodging. We then went to visit a Union family by the name of Bryan living near, had Dinner.

Friday, 20

Has been a clear and pleasant day. To day visited the General Hospital went to the surgeon in charge to see a large wollen factory. Found it well suited for a hospital. We reommended it for that use. One of our men in a drunken spree (Thomas Gilbert) attempted to cut his throat , cut the skin over the left side of his neck 3 inches in length.

Saturday, June 21, 1862

Was attact [sic] with diarrhea this morning was quite sick was unwell all day. Dr. Stephenson kindly assisted me in prescribing for the sick.

Sunday, 22

I am (?) better. Chaplain had a short service after dress parade.

Monday, 23

Nothing of note has transpired to it was warm until after noon it then clouded up and the wind rose cooling off the atmosphere. It is now indicating rain. Thundering and drops falling.

Tuesday, June 24, 1862

We had a hard rain last night the flood in the Rappahannic [sic] is overflowing the banks. The pontoon bridge is washed away or drawn [sic]. At this hour 7 ock one span of the railroad bridge has fallen, it swept down to the bridge of the boats (?) they were drown (?).

Wednesday, 25

To day clear & cloudy fine breeze, pleasant. My hand pains me today much. I have an inflamed pustule on the third phalanks (?) of my middle finger. Col. M(erideth) returned from the City today. I rode with Chap. to see the Chap. of the 14th Brooklyn he had some time on furlow. [sic]

Thursday, 26

My finger is still very sore. It will soon be ready to open. Had a dangerously sick man to day had diarrhea men taken with cramps in legs it collapses become pulseless and cold and blue all over. (?) after is which is doing well now. 6th suffered all day with pain in my chest in area of heart. Suffered (?) five head pains (?) hair head ache.

Friday, June 27, 1862

To day sent 3 patients to Gen. Hospital. The private Secretary of Gov. Morton is here on a visit to the 19th Ind. Clear to day & warm. Have felt very badly all (day), in the evening took Quinin[e], soon felt better.

Saturday, 28

This morning felt much better. My Quinin[e] has done wonders. Thank God for Quinin[e] and all other blessings. To day the Staff field and line officers of this Brigade turned out to escort Gen. King to the depot on his way to Washington, all appealed his removal.

Sunday, 29

Warm and cloudy. The Gov. Sec. returned to day. No divine services to day. Want of agreement between the Chaplain and officer. Preaching was put off until in the evening. Dress parade guard mounting and Supper and Preaching coming all at the same time. Preaching was adjourned indef. The boys dismissed after prayer.

Monday, June 30, 1862

Mustered to day for pay. Inspection of men and quarters. Our camp was found some what deficient in Sanitary Condition. Chaplain is sick today, was attack [sic] last night with pain in stomach with vomiting. The Lord has been my help in him. I trum—

Tuesday, July 1

General King returned to day to resume command of his division. All are grateful with his return. I sent 3 patients to hospital to day. Gen. King was (?) by our band this evening. Now (?) some us to think we should soon start to Richmond.

Wednesday, July 2, 1862

To day continued rain and wind from the North East, cool and disagreeable. Hard on the soldier. One of our men died and was buried to day (Wilman). I slept under 4 blankets last night none too warm. I must still look to God for mercy and commit to may all to his earth. Amen.

Thursday, July 3, 1862

Cool and cloudy. Nothing of interest occurred to day but the circulation of starting camp rumor of the fight near Richmond. McClellan seems to be all right yet so far as we can hear.

Friday, 4

The day was ushered in by the firing of a Salute at 6 ock one gun for each state both in and out as the South.

Saturday, 5

To day nothing of interest has occurred. The usual routine of Camp Life. We were ordered to send all our really Sick to the depot to shit to Washington to Hospital. They did not get off were too late. Received a letter from home family all well. Bless God for all his goodness.

Sunday, July 6, 1862

To day was warm. Sent the sick to Washington. In the evening were (?) to leave divine services at 7 ock. Chaplain was sent for to attend the funeral of a member of the 7th Wisconsin and we had no preaching.

Monday, 7

Warm and hazy. Went to depot to look after an invoice of medicins [sic] which I was expecting—was not there.

Tuesday, 8

The 3rd Indiana Cavalry came in to day. I saw Lieut. H. Wright of my town. They have 6 companies—4 companys [sic] of the reg. are in Tennessee.

Wednesday, July 9, 1862

To day visited the camp of the 3rd Indiana Cav. Saw all the boys was introduced to their Surgeon Dr. Beck. Stay some time was glad to see the boys, they were glad to see me.

Thursday, 10

To day is cloudy and cooler, a fine breeze—looks much like rain. From present indications we will stay here some time. The soldier has to conquer his prejudices and learn to do as he is ordered and not as he wishes.

Friday, 11

To day had an order to send all the sick to the depot hospital. Sent 18. Preparations still continue for a move no new to day. I received a letter from wife, Dr. Ham (?) and SR Pierce. Cool and pleasant. I look to the Great God rest my soul & body—and all in him. I feel I am too careless.

Saturday, July 12, 1862

This morning cool—hazy. Our brigade was reviewed by McDowell to day with batteries of artillery. He stood on the steps of the Lacy House whilst the troops marched by.

Sunday, 13

Pass of without anything occurring of interest. Our Chaplain was too ill to preach to day. I was visited by Lieut. Wright of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry.

Monday, 14

It was warm to day. I visited the 3rd Indiana Cavalry. I saw my friends, I afterwards dined at Mr. Brigants—With the Chap. and the leader of our Band. After dinner I in company with Mr. Brigants visited the old forge and (?). The forge was built by Washington & shot was made.

Tuesday, July 15, 1862

Warm to day, very warm. In the afternoon clouded upp [sic] in the evening rained a light sprinkle with wind cooling the atmosphere. Rumors to day of moving. Received 10th line (?) to spread (?) sinks (?) and over camp. The health of camp is medium 30 average on sick list.

Wednesday, 16

Warm to day. Went to Fredericksburgh. The Hospital and visited the monument of Mrs. Washington. It is now 5 ock a storm is gathering in the West with loud peals of thunder. A light shower has fallen. It cooled the atmosphere. Bless God for his goodness.

Thursday, 17

Cool & cloudy. Yesterday the regiment drew 4 wagons for teams sorting knapsacks.

Friday, July 18, 1862

Cool & cloudy rain and windy during the forenoon quite cool, a driving rain. The Rappahannic [sic] is high and rising. I fear the RR Bridge will be carried away again.

Saturday, 19

Nothing of interest has transpired to day. Except that God has been good in preserving my life and health, and given my grace as has been my day and tried my soul delights in the O God I will still praise thee, for thy goodness and mercy to me.

Sunday, 20

To day has been a good day. At 10 o'clock a few from each of the Reg of the Brigade met in an arbour.[sic] Constructed out of fork poles & boughts—for a Bible Class. We had a precious hour in studying the first eight verses in the 4 Chap of Matthews Gospel—in the evening we had a prayer and an exhortation by our Chap.

Monday, July 21, 1862

Monday cool & pleasant

Tuesday, 22

To day Dr. Green went to Washington on business. We had a meeting in our arbour [sic] chapel this evening in prayer. Our chapel was too small, there was not room to contain all that came.

Wednesday, 23

To day was called to consult with Dr. Beck of 3rd Indiana Cavalry. In the case of Erin Huffman—who is quite ill with Typhoid Fever. I was called to see Wm Cooper, clerk of Capt. Cooper, Division Q.T. Master. We had inspection of ambulances & Hospital chorps.[sic]

Thursday, July 24, 1862

To day four Regiments one from Brigades, the 2nd Wis from us. One battery and Cavalry with Gen Gibbon went out to advance—In the evening late it rained hard, washing the surface clean. I hope the hard shower will conduce (?) to the health.

Friday, 25

This morning while sitting before my tent door, I saw on the ground a small worm or larva whit [sic] two lines long tapering from the center to each on it would bring its

extremities together and then extend itself with a bound (?) throwing itself 20 times its own length.

Saturday, 26

Pleasant this morning. In the evening rain. Little of interest has occurred today are report without foundation that our troop[s] were fighting at Orange Courthouse. Not believed. I did not receive a letter from my wife to day. I always expect a letter on Sat. I have much to be grateful [sic] to God for, I will still (?) (?).

Sunday, July 27, 1862

To day our additional assistant Surgeon Dr. Hams arrived. I was glad to hear from home that my family are well. I attended bible class and in the evening heard preaching. Received some [of] my things from home.

Monday, 28

To [day] I waited Mr. Brigants and prescribed for Capt. Yates Wife who was there sick. I took dinner with Mr. Brigants, pleasant day.

Tuesday, 29

Visited Mrs. Yates to day at Mr. Brigants found her better. Mr. Cooper at the Depot was also better.

Wednesday, July 30, 1862

To day Mr. Cooper went to Baltimore—he was much better Capt. Cole poor. Commisary placed a bank bill into my hand for my attend and upon his clerk Mr. Cooper. I refused to make a bill or receive pay.

Thursday, 31

Clear and warm to day with pleasant breeze. The day passed off without anything of note transpiring except that I went to Mr. Brigant's to visit my patient Mrs. Yates—found her better. Met and took tea with Surgeon Atherly and Lady and Capt. Yates.

Friday, August 1

In the evening went to prayer meeting. To day our brigade was reviewed by Gen. King, his aged Father was present also—after the review the Gen and staff visited our quarters admired & praised his taste and industry of our boys in building and decorating there [sic] Quarters. Clear and temperate to day—6 sick in the hospital. J.E.

Saturday, August 2

Nothing of importance has occurred to day. Except a review of our Brigade by Gen. King accompanied by his Father. The troops looked timely.

Sunday, 3

Attended Bible class to day had a good time.

Monday, 4

Sent to Wm Glen & Sons \$3.35. Today at 5 ½ ock we are to start on a re_____ (?) toward Richmond. Burnside around to day with his army.

Tuesday, August 5, 1862

We started at 2ock in the morning=Marched until 11 am. It was excessively warm many fell out by the way. At 10ock while 2 miles in the rear we heard cannonading in the advance. We hurried up and found that our Cav. Had come up on the enemy on the heights utop the (?) river.

Wednesday, 6

This morning at 5ock we formed lines of march in pursuit of the enemy on the Teligraph [sic] (?). We continued our advance until we reached Dr. F. Lippos residence, here lies wounded a shot above the knee fracturing the bone—Here we herd [sic] the enemy was in our rear—We marched back within almost 4 miles of our previous nights camp. We herd [sic] canonading [sic] we hurried (Thursday night we stayed at the mill on our return) for war and reached the farm where we stered the first night. Here the rebels had attack [sic] our trains but were repulsed they had previously taken some six or ten wagons with 60 of our extended men. We marched to Spotsylvania.

Friday, August 8, 1862

We are encamped all knight [sic] near a branch. This morning at 4ock we started forward and reached camp at 2ock all covered with dust and tired. Many men stray into camp alone.

Saturday, 9

It is very warm to day. I do not feel well. I suffer from riding in the hot sun my bowels are aranged [sic]. I commence to get ready to move tomorrow.

Sunday, 10

This morning at 3ock we took up our line of march the whole of King's division for Culpeper. There was an engagement between our forces and the rebels—on Friday and Saturday. A great battle expected by Teliograph [sic] we are hurried on. We march 17 miles and encamp a 11 mih (?) Start at 3 in the morning and moved on till we reach camp at Sider Mont (?)

Monday, August 11, 1862

Nine ock eveng.

Here we are 5 miles South of Culpeper—near Side Moun the scene of the recent Battle in which our side lost in killed and wounded 1500—the rebels the same or more. We make forced marches to reach this scene of conflict but came to late to take part.

Tuesday, 12

To day the rebels retreated and have passed over the Rapadan. I with Dr. Green visited the Battlefield and saw some of the carnage, but one man was left unburied, many horses we[re] laying dead in the field. Cartrage [sic] boxes and clothes were laying scattered upon the field.

Wednesday, 13

We still remain here in camp. To day made another visit to the field of the recent battle. Saw my prais (?)—the rebels, barried [sic] their dead but imperfectly parts protruding from the earth—The trees in some places, where the battle rages hottest are _____(?) with milk if shot and shell.

Thursday, 14

Thursday morning was here yesterday—on my way from the field of battle I visited the 7th Ind. Vol. I saw my old friend—To day our Division was reviewed by Gen. Pope—McDaniel, King and Gibbon.

Friday, 15

This morning at 9 am we move towards the Rappadan—We did not move to day, but delay until tomorrow morn at 9ock. The day passed without anything of note transpiring. God is yet our trustour hope and our salvation. Amen. J.E.

Saturday, 16

This morning at 9ock ___(?) we as a regiment formed in line of march and filed out of the field into the rear and there waited for the final order to march. We marched about 3 miles and encamped on the recent battle ground. The marks of carnage are all around us—dead horses—exploded shells.

Sunday, August 17, 1862

To day attended Bible class at 10ock and preaching at the barn—at 2—we had preaching in our Regiment in the evening. It was cool and pleasant. I thought much of home to day, of my family and the commandments of Sacred life. This is hard on Soul and body. J.E.

Monday, 18

To day in compliance [sic] with the Presidents order we were mustered to see how many are missing or absent without proper leave. At 4ock we were ordered to prepare to march. At 7ock we were directed to strike tents in haste and load the teams and send them in advance. We lay on the field all night under orders to march at 1ock.

Tuesday, 19

6ock we are yet on the field waiting the passing of wagon trains that have been passing on since 3ock last night. We start and pass Culpepper and on to the Rappahannoc. [sic] 10ock we lay down one mile from the river. Men lay down by the road side exhausted and sleepy to stand (?). Gen Segal and Carl Shurge and Shenk.

Wednesday, August 20, 1862

To day lay encamped on north side river—till 4ock was ordered to pack up and send everything away. Send sick to station on railroad. Enemy followed us close and skirmished with our Cavalry—killed some horses—took prisoners.

Thursday, 21

Now sitting in camp waiting for coffee and orders. At 12ock cannonading going on. I went out to see and when absent Capt. Crowse of first N.Y. Battery was firing shot is wounded through the thigh. I was thus favored with the first wound to dress. I was not present Dr. Myers (?) was called.

Friday, 22

This morning cannonading. Cannon ___ (?) at daylight by one side replied to by the enemy, luessant [sic] and terrific. We had to move our depot to a distant station and the[n] we were in danger and had to move again after coffee. 9ock heavy firing at freeman's ford—5 miles distant than firing in the afternoon.

Saturday, August 23, 1862

This morning at daylight Terrific firing commen[c]ed by our side and continued for 3 or 4 hours. Our ___ (?) was disturbed by a shot passing over our heads and cutting the limbs of the trees. We skedaddled in hot haste to a more safe distant.

Sunday, 24

This morning finds us at Warrington after a rather hard days march, we lay down in the meadow and the open heavens.

Monday, 25

Nothing has occurred of importance to day.

Tuesday, August 26, 1862

This morning at sunrise we started off in what direction I have

Wednesday, 27

We are all ready for a move. Slept ____ (?) ____ (?). I am de ____ (?) thankful to God for all his mercies. We returned to Warrington so down the Alexandria Pike encamped for the night 6 miles distant from Hay Market. At 3 in the morning we were all awakened to start.

Thursday, 28

At 3ock this morn we arose to change our camp _____ (?). 6ock we are now in the rear to wait for the arrangement of the lines. We on the road while resting heard distant noise of firing in our front at the crossroads. We found of our men wounded 3 and ____ (?) dead—killed by a shell.

Friday, August 29, 1862

Thrown by the enemy we captured 2 of their guns ____ (?). 29th To day we marched all day with frequent stops. At night ____ (?) on the enemy in a terrible battle. Brigade ____ (?) engaged. The 19th lost 205. Gen. King was killed. I was attending to the wounded until 2ock ____ (?). We took our living of In (?) ____ to the rear.

Saturday, 30

To day we find ourselves on the field. Our ambulances __ (?) worked it (?). Battle came about 3ock.

Sunday, 31

To day we found ourselves at Centerville having marched all night. In commanding our Ambulances full with wounded ____ (?).

Monday, September 1, 1862

To day we are resting in the rear of Centerville until 3 ock then we moved off to Fairfax.

Tuesday, 2

To day we are resting on our blankets in the sun waiting for further orders. AT one ock we start for the heights of Ripton Hill and arrive there in the evening.

Wednesday, 3

Here we lay all day resting and ruminating upon the occurances [sic] of the past fortnight. I wrote a letter to my wife to let her know that I am well and safe from ___ ___ (?). To day 24 of [the] Regiment came in paroled—as prisoners many of them taken while carrying off the dead from the field.

Thursday, September 4, 1862

To day we are sitting on the hill side (Uptons) writing out my diary at 8 ock not knowing what may occur next.

Friday, 5

Had charge of the Brigade as Brig. Surgeon. Distributes the Medical Stores & ____. A large number of sick. Diarrhea prevailing the result of eating improper food.

Saturday, 6

Busy all day—in the Reg. & Brigade. At 9 ock am were ordered to move. Got ready in haste. Moved all night passed through Georgetown & Washington and so on. Stopped a short time for coffee.

Sunday, September 7, 1862

Still on the march. A had march. We are now 4 ock in the afternoon encamped north west of Leesburgh [sic]. Surgeon Hams reported to the regiment today at 6 ock. Dr. Green is now in Washington waiting to go home.

Monday, 8

Awoke this morning from a good night's rest—everything quiet do not know what will come next.

Tuesday, 9

To day moved 6 miles to camp—McCanicksville [sic] here at a fine farm house. Procured [sic] potatoes tomatoes and peaches. Stayed here Tuesday night.

Wednesday, September 10, 1862

To day sent a letter to wife and one to Mr. Dymond. Sent Dr. Greens letters to him. In the afternoon at 8 o'clock marched and encamped near Cooksville.

Thursday, 11

Slept all night soundly under the umbrageous expanse of a fine oak. Cloudy—nothing but hay for our horses ordered to march. Moved to Lisbon on the Cumberland road—There encamped at 4 pm at the edge of a nice ___ (?) lay at Lisbon.

Friday, 12

Started at 12 o'clock passed through Ridgeville on the Frederick and Baltimore road. Moved on with frequent halts. Many union families in this region. Ladies frequently cheered us on our way with there [sic] present and waving Union flags and handkerchiefs. Encamped at New Market.

Saturday, September 13, 1862

At 11 o'clock started onward to Frederick. 8 miles. At 3 we reached the hills overlooking the small city. A splendid view meets the vision of the man, whose soul is moved by a grand landscape—here is a picture unsurpassed in any country.

Sunday, 14

Here we are encamped upon the banks of the beautiful Monocacy—Called at 4 o'clock to be ready to move at 6 o'clock. We leave with regret this beautiful place pass through Frederick and onward through Middletown and encamp—The cannonading continues as we crossed the ridge we saw the smoke of the battle in the distance.

Monday, 15

To day passed through 2 miles beyond we halt in line of battle in the evening at 4 o'clock at 5 we commenced to skirmishing at 6 o'clock battle raged and continued until darkness put a stop to the contest. Our brigade in killed wounded and missing lost over 200—our regiment until late at night We labored to treat the men.

Tuesday, September 16, 1862

The enemy left in hot haste at 10 o'clock last night pursued by our men and took many prisoners the loss of the foe was large in killed & wounded. We start in hot pursuit. They report loss 7000 (1000?-hard to read). The enemy passes of in cannonading our forces coming up. I and Chap. find good quarters in large barn in straw bed—our transport not come up—a heavy fog this morning.

Wednesday, 17

This morning finds us in the fog. To day a great battle has been fought our Brigad[e] and Reg. was decimated.

To day 3 operations up the lower third of a colord (?) boys thigh and dressed scores of wounded.

Thursday, 18

To day we lay still all day taking care of the wounded. To day I operated upon the upper third of the thigh of a man who was shot 3 times in his right leg.

Friday, September 19, 1862

To day I was detailed to our Brigade Hospital at Keedysville. It is in a large barn and a Seminary building. My wounded number 200.

Saturday, 20

To day I amputated one femur in the upper third flap operation and preserved the specimen. Amputated one leg in Middle third and preserved the bones. 40 in number.

Sunday, 21

Cloudy and fog—feel somewhat rested this morning. Thank God my life has been preserved and that I am able to do some good.

Monday, September 22, 1862

Continue my duties at the Barn Hospital. Our wound[ed] are doing well except that more severely injured cases. I have now amputated 4 times.

Tuesday, 23

Still at my post nothing of interest has transpired. To day amputated thigh of Andrews in Middletown, he will die. Dr. Green amputated the leg of Mr. Dunlap—in upper middle third.

Wednesday, 24

To day one of our wounded who had fracture of thigh and bad wound in elbow. I preserved specimen of thigh bone.

Thursday, September 25, 1862

To day I went to Sharpsburg and the Regiment and also to General McClellan's Head Quarters. Dr. Cobs of Massachusetts spoke to our wounded about the subject of the souls good. He was listened to with interest.

Friday, 26

Cool and slight frost, fog, too cool for the comfort of our men.

Saturday, 27

To day visited the battle field and the Hospitals in vicinity. Sedgewick Hospital & Frenches, and other I saw many wounded of Union and Secesh. Our Hospital was to day visited by 2 Ladys [sic] from the Baltimore Ladies Relief Society—they gave us 20 blankets, some shirts & drawers.

Sunday, September 28, 1862

Still at hospital near Keedysville.

Monday, 29

Tuesday, 30

To day reported to my Regiment for duty Having left Dr. Andrews of the 6th Wisconsin in charge of 10 badly wounded in Seminary.

Wednesday, October 1, 1862

Nothing of interest has occurred to day.

Thursday, 2

All quiet on the Potomac. To day—got pass and went to Seminary Hospital at Keedysville to see wounded. Allyn Co. H 2[nd] Wis had died the evening before I took out fractured ends of femur of middle of middle third—nearly transverse he died of this wound.

Friday, 3

To day received an order to prepare a report of the Medical Condition of the regiment past and present—with its overall status.

Saturday, October 4, 1862

Still in camp nothing of interest to draw our attention.

Sunday, 5

Warm & clear—Chap preached to day. I did not know the time of service and was not present I felt that I have been negligent [sic].

Monday, 6

To day I went to the Smoketown Hospital to see the wounded. I saw 3 or 4 capital operation, one of the arm, one near the hip on[e] of the thigh.

Tuesday, 7

Wednesday, 8

Thursday, 9

Friday, October 10, 1862

To day sent by the Sutler on box—on gun. My sword to Washington to be stored (?) until I could take them home.

Saturday, 11

This morning cloudy and raining Cool. Heard that the rebels with 4000 Cavalry and some artillery had crossed the river above. To day sent by the sutler my sword and gun—and box of specimens. To Washington. On Sunday Morn at 3ock the rebel cavalry through New Market and repeled the wagon and took my sword & gun.

Sunday, 12

Monday, October 13, 1862

This morning heard that my trophy gun & my sword were taken by the rebel cavalry at New Market in Maryland. My box of specimens were left. Cool and cloudy to day rained last night.

Tuesday, 14

Sunday, October 19, 1862

Monday, 20

To day we struck tents and moved with the whole division six miles to Bakerstown farther up the river.

Tuesday, 21

Wednesday, 22

Thursday, 23

Friday, 24

Laying in camp. Cool and clear.

Saturday, October 25, 1862

To day we had inspection and review. Our medical department was inspected by Capt. McClellan. Brother of the Generals—This evening this enemy Sutler sold liquor to our men and they had a great drunk.

Sunday, 26

This morning it commenced raining and continued all day—Cold storm from the north East. At noon was ordered to march, destination Point of Rocks, below Harpers Ferry but all afternoon in the drenching rain until 9 ock at night. Rain pours down, lay in field. (Barn)

Monday, 27

Started at 10 ock and moved about 5 miles to near Auroralsville (?) here we lay all night—slept well. Got some apple butter and apples.

Tuesday, October 28, 1862

To day broke camp and crossed South Mountain at Crampton's Gapp [sic] into a most magnificent valley we passed through Burkitsville [sic].

Wednesday, 29

In camp to day on the rolling hills—5 miles from Harpers Ferry. South some 2 ½ miles from the Potomac yesterday received a letter from home. My baby boy Frank is sick. I am uneasy for him.

Thursday, 30

To day crossed over the Potomac, again on the "sacred soil." We crossed at 4 ock an[d] marched out 5 miles on the pike and at 8 ock we encamped in the edge of a wood for the night. It is clear and pleasant. We will make our beds on straw our blankets with out tents—our wagons in

Friday, October 31, 1862

Morning clear and beautiful. We are near Lovettsville. Moved camp in the evening about a mile lay here all night, had good bed on straw & blankets. The sky is serene, the air is mild and soft as a kind woman's breath. Thank God.

Saturday, November 1, 1862

Ordered to move this morning at an early hour took the pike and marched 9 miles towards Snickets Gap, encamped near Prissersville. (?) We heard some cannon firing for several hours.

Sunday, 2

Lay in camp all day. Some cannonading all day in the direction of Snickers (?) Gap. Generals McClellan & Burnside went to the front today.

Monday, November 3, 1862

Ready by 7ock for the order to move, to the front. 12-_____ (?) ordered to march—In the evening encamped at Goos Creek Mills—Here we lay under our fly spread on a tripod of rails—our saddle for a pillow looking up on the camp fires.

Tuesday, 4

This morning we strike tents and are ready to fall into line at 9ock. Brig Gen. Gibbon leaves this morning to take command of Gen. Ricketts division. Colonel Marrow of the 24 [th] Michigan Commands the Brigade pro tem.

Wednesday, 5

Strike tents at 9ock am start for Warrenton and encamp at night near Rectertown (?) having traveled 13 miles.

Thursday, November 6, 1862

To day start at 7ock move 17 miles and encamp beyond Warrenton for the night. It has turned colder.

Friday, 7

This morning we are in camp without crackers—it commenced snowing and blowing—quite a storm.

Saturday, 8

Yet at Warrenton.

Sunday, November 9, 1862

Monday, 10

To Gen McClellan was ordered to report to Trenton New Jersey.

Tuesday, 11

To day broke camp and moved 7 miles South to Fayetteville. 7 miles from Rappahanoc Station.

Wednesday, 12

Thursday, 13

Friday, 14

To day was seized with neuaralyia (?) of the back and hips which quite disabled me. Making me quite lame.

Saturday, November 15, 1862

This evening ordered to report at Brigade Head Qrt for duty as Chief Surgeon of Brigade and was released the same day.

Sunday, 16

To day attended mass with Dr. Green. Had 15—dried apples 8—sugar 10—crackers 17—coffee $\frac{3}{4}$ --candles.

Monday, 17

To

Friday, November 21, 1862

Saturday, 22

To Moved camp to Brookses Station on the Aquia Creek Br—5 miles from landing—Dr. Green Went to Washington on business. I lent my ____ (?) to store at the city.

Sunday, 23

To

Monday, December 1, 1862

Tuesday, 2

To day Chaplain Dale brought his Son from Aquia Creek to day—He had been at Washington since the 17th.

Wednesday, December 3, 1862

To day am quite lame in my back and hips. I exercised to much yesterday. The wind is from the South—stiff and cool—Our tent stove smokes tremendously—My apitite [sic] remarkable poor—No paymaster yet. J.E.

Thursday, 4

To day I wayed [sic] 155 lbs we are yet in Camp—expected to move this morning at daylight.

Friday, 5

To

Monday, 8

Tuesday, December 9, 1862

To day moved camp 8 miles.

Wednesday, 10

To day moved camp 3 miles nearer the river encamped our Brigade in the edge of a wood fronted by a low soft and marshy piece of ground. Under orders to move at 2ock in the morning. At 4ock heavy firing commenced and continued all day of the until 2ock in the afternoon it slackened away—I am now acting Chief Medical Officer in the absence o Dr. Ward—It is warm and pleasant to day the ground is hard frozen. 3ock the roads good as I now write. There is occasional shots from our guns. I went the witness the bombardment of Reg.

Friday, December 12, 1862

Moved at daylight—and lay on the bank of the river until evening then crossed over and took our position in line of battle—Slept the mansion of Mr. Birnard.

Saturday, 13

The battle commenced, our division took the mansion of Mr. Pratt—24 operation Capital were performed. I performed a one of arm on leg—

Sunday, 14

To

Tuesday, 16

Wednesday, 17

To cool and clear to

I operated below the knee upon the man whose ankle I amputated on Sat. B

Originals in possession of Christine
Burgin, Cincinnati, OH

Cincinnati April 20th 1862

Dear Fanny

I started tonight on the 10 clk train, my baggage ticketed through to Baltimore - I have bought a sword, belt, sash, cap & gloves for \$34.70. I bought a saddle & bridle - \$21.00 - 2 pair of wollen {sic} drawers - Joseph gives me some India ruber {sic} fixings - I have had eleven photographs taken. Grandmah {sic} gave me \$3.00 - they cost me \$8.00 one framed. Grandmah {sic} will be framed too. I will give one to each up here presented by you and {one} each to my brother and sisters presented by you also. You will have 2 unframed to keep, or to give to someone. Yesterday I took dinner with Elyza Dysmond - to{night} I dine with L Dinham - I have not yet seen E. Glenn nor James - I expect to see them before I leave, and Omer & Mary also.

Yesterday evening after I had got nearly through purchasing my outfit Father handed me \$50.00 saying that he expected to assist me in getting my outfit - so is not that very generous - I may save some money here. If you have more money than you want you can pay it on the note Chambers holds against me, have him give credit on the note - I hope you will not grieve because I am gone. I go with a good heart and high spirits - not because I leave the dear ones behind but because there is a chance to do good & get good.

My intercourse {sic} with strangers has always been agreeable & pleasant - I {want} you to be happy and enjoy yourself, and think of me always being in the same condition.

I send my love and a thousand kisses to you all (I may not send money home).

Yours affectionately,
J. Ebersole

In camp near Sharpsburg, Md
Sunday Oct 5th 1862

Dear Wife

I write you a letter to answer one received from Wm. which was written before the one I received of you last (Part of which was written in Cincinnati). Wm. wrote me a good letter, he has improven in his chirography as well as in his style. I think if you could spare him he ought to return to school again, but perhaps for your sake he should remain at home. You will know better than I how to deisce the matter. If you can spare him, send him, if you have to hire more, send him. But if you should not recover well, or feel that you wish his company very much, let him stay at home. Today our monotonous camp life was broken by the visit of a Lady from Indiana, Mrs. Burton & her father Mr. Wilson. Father and sister of Capt. Wilson of our regiment. Mrs Burton's husband and father are bankers of Muncie, Indiana - I wish I could see you in our camp - it would ne such a nice thing for you to visit the field of the great battle of Antietam. I should insist on your coming if I had any assurance of our remaining here long enough to see you. I have written some of coming home but I fear the campaign will be protracted so long that it will be winter before I can see you. It is impossible to get a leave of absence now unless one is wounded

or verry {sic} sick - If one leaves without leave he will be dismissed from the sevice with dishonor and published in his own state. I had charge of near 200 wounded of our Brigade - from the 19th to the 30th of September. I performed operation and with the assistance of 2 assistant surgeons and 15 nurses took care of our wounded in the meantime sending such as could ride in ambulances evry {sic} day or two to Frederick - until all were removed but 10 of the worst cases, who on the 30th I left in charge of one of my assistants, and I returned to my regiment. I am requested by our division surgeon to make a report of my hospital for wounded. I am also directed to make a medical report of the regiment. Epidemicks {sic}, the morale condition of the Regiment, etc. I have commenced the report of the regiment, have it nearly done. I am making a collection of bones, of all the patients on whome {sic} I operate and of others. I saw off the broken ends a little beyond where they are fractured and cleanse them and will bring them home with me. I have already some remarkable specimens that I havlue much - I am appointed one of 2 surgeons from our Brigade to take position at the Division Hospital at the next battle (two surgeons from each Brigade in the division - making 10 in all - are stationed at the Mane {sic} Hospital to operate upon the badly wounded (amputate and so forth) The other surgeons are to be nearer the battle to dress some and send off the severly wounded to the division hospital - I have enjoyed rare opportunities at this battle, and have made an effort to improve them - Enclosed I send you an imperfect tavle of the diseases during 5 months - I have made a new one more perfect than this - You can see if you study the table a little how many have been sick during each month of the five and the number of cases of each disease - A number of diseases not mentioned where there was but 1 or 2 of them - I have today written to Joseph Glenn and sent him a lauditory letter from Gen. McClellan.

Yours Affectionately,

J. Ebersole

Thursday the 9th Oct this morning I received your letter of the 1st Oct. containing slips from paper etc. - It gives me joy to hear you are improving - You will soon be well & strong. You inform me that Wm. has gone back to school - I wish you to tell Bussee or George Taylor to try and sell my horse. Is better to sell him for 75 dollars than to keep him all winter - if you cannot sell him get uncle James or Aaron or Jimmy to take jim to the country and keep him - I was to pay Morton for hauling our part of the corn to town - If he has cut up our part you may let it remain in the field until dry and have it husked out and hauled into the loft and have the fodder taken care of - have your wood hauled in and sawed up before windy times come on - When I say I blacked my boots you ask where are my boys - we have 2 black boys - now and then I sometimes black my own boots when they are busy. I forget whether I did it or not. I am glad to get a letter from you - Am always disapointed {sic} if I do not evry {sic} day or two. I am glad to hear that Johnny is a good boy - Joseph is a fine boy too, Mary is my nice little girl. Kiss Frank.

{partial letter}

I have mentioned what we have in the field and on the march - When

we are in camp, near a town those who make an effort can get warm bread - or at least soft bread - It is difficult to get anything near Washington as all the roads are crowded with government supplies - As for sleeping, I have 5 blankets and one comfort and an oil cloth, and feather {sic} pillow. I am now using a hair or moss mattrass {sic} of the Chaplain's, he is absent sick, he expects to resign soon and I will try and get the mattress. When we arrive where we intend to encamp for the time we select as nice a place as we can, as near the Regiment as convenient, and near a fence or wood of any kind - then put up our tent. Some of the boys get water and one makes a fire etc - we after supper sit around our large camp fire made of rail or whatever comes to hand - until we are sleepy then spread our blankets on some straw or hay if we have it and lay down and sleep sweetly all night. In the cold nights I put a large stone on the fire and when I go to bed I place that at my feet. The outdoor life is verry {sic} invigorating if we can avoid extreme exposure - I feel strong fearless and bold - fear nothing, sesesh, nor cold, nor heat nor labor. I do not sleep as much as when I slept in a house. I do not feel tired in the morning - Eat harty {sic} etc. But would you believe it - after stating the above as the rule of my experience for the most part I am now suffering from a light turn of that pain in my back - which makes me somewhat lame, but I am better than I was yesterday - I have a large heavy blue government overcoat with a cape. I have 5 or 6 pair of good socks - I ware {sic} 2 pairs of pants, one pair of drawers - at a time which it is cold I ware {sic} 2 pairs of socks - My uniform dress suit I ware {sic} occasionally it is good yet. I have an oil cloth and leggins and have never been wet since I have been in the army (that is wet through and through). You say I make out a good picture, what of the bad side. The rough and tumble of camp life in the woods and fields. The nessary {sic} exposure to the inclement wether {sic}, the irregular meals - broken rest - etc. It is the life of a savage, war is demoralizing, its tendancy is to sink us and not elevate. We almost forget the lords {sic} day as all the operations of the Army go on on Sabbath as on any other day. You may wonder why I like the service. I can hardly tell you. There is always something ahead, something to excite or expect. I find myself attached {to} the regiment and the men though many are the worst specimens of humanity. The honor of the regiment is in part my own, I feel for the boys - in their wounds and sickness, and suffering, for the privates have but few of the comforts tha the officers have.

You speak of widowhood ending when I see fit to come home. I cannot come home or I would on a visit - I will come as soon as I can. I could not resign if I wished ever so much to do so. Dr. Green had eterly {sic} failed as we learn to day to get leave of absence - or resign - There is but one way for an officer to leave the service, if they wish to return home, is for him to leave the post of duty, and then he will be dismissed with dishonor from the service - and cashiered or his pay withheld if the government owes him anything - I do hope we will be so situated that I can come home at Christmas. I cannot tell however. I rec'ed 2 advocates today. I recived the Gazeter, 5 or 6 days after date, so they contain but little news - you need not send me papers unless they

contain something of special interest - as they reach me too late for news - we got the Baltimore Clipper and other papers the same day or a day or 2 after the date - for the news - If you see anything of interest in the papers send. In regard to the fodder, there was no positive bargain made as to my share. I expected to be at home when I rented the ground. Morton was to give me half the corn, I was to pay him for hauling it in. He has no right to but half of the fodder, the other half he should leave on the field for pasture but if he claims it you can do no better than let him have it. Persons will take advantage of every chance to make the most of every {sic} opportunity {sic}. You must buy hay, and let him have the fodder - I expected to see to taking the fodder myself, if I had remained at home - Sunday Nov 16th 1862 We are here yet at 2 o'clock - We are now in the 4th Brigade - 1st division - 1st Army Corps {sic} - part of our army corps {sic} are now moving down towards Fredericksburg and we will follow soon. This evening or tomorrow moving and will reach there in 2 or 3 days. I suppose we will go to Richmond this winter - perhaps sooner, our mail was ordered to be sent from Washington to Acquia Creek (now after second thought I would say to you - do not send anything but what you can send by John Taylor. IF he brings a box to Wm. you may send some butter, mattsess - I presume and the 7th, 14th Reg Ind troop will be near together - I think of you often, you are never far from my thoughts, I live for you and the children - all I do is for your sakes, you are my treasure as all I still love the Savior and endeavor {sic} to serve him with all my heart and witness a good profession.

Yours affectionately,

J Ebersole

Headquarters Med. Dept. 19th Ind Vols
Near Belle Plain Va. Dec 24th 1862

Lt. Col. S.J. Williams
Comdg 19th Ind Vols.

Sir,

I respectfully ask that a leave of absence be granted me for twenty days to visit my family in Indiana for the following reasons. My wife is an invalid, recovering slowly and imperfectly from a sever attack of disease - My private business urgently demands my presence for a few days. My own health has suffered from unremitting application to the duties of my position not having had one day's respite since entering the service. I have suffered with neuralgia of the spine during the past six weeks.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

J. Ebersole

Surgeon 19th Ind Vols

There being two assistant surgeons to the 19th Ind Vols, Dr. Ebersole can be spared for the time asked for, without detriment to his regiment -

Edward Shippen

Surgeon - Chief 1st Div, 1st Corps

Approved and respectfully forwarded
S.J. Williams
Lt. Col. Comdng

Headquarters 4 Brigade
Camp near Belle Plain
Dec 25 1862

Approved and respectfully forwarded
S. Meridith
Brig General

Hd Qtr 1st Div, 1st Corps, Dec 26 1862
Appd & Respectfully forward
A. Doubleday
Brig Gen Vol
Cmd Div

Hd Qtr 1st Army Corps
Jany 3rd 1863
Appd & Rsptfly for'd
J.S. Wadsworth
Brig Genl
Comdg Corps

Hd Qtr L{eft} G{rand} Division
Jany 5th 1863
Respectfully forwarded
Wm. F. Smith
Mj Gen. Cmdg

Adjs Genls Office
Jany 17th 1863
Respectfully returned Disapproved
by order of the Secy of War
Thomas M. Vincent
Asst Adj General

Head Qrs Left Grand Division
Jany 22 1863
Respectfully returned
Please see endorsement of A.G.O.
By command of Major General Franklin
M.M. Mahon
Lt. Col. & Asst Adj Genl

In Camp near Bellplain {sic} Va.
December 26 1862
Dear Joseph,

Enveloped with a letter to Mr. Dymond I send you a letter found in a pair of socks at our Division Hospital after we had move over the river, they were sent by the U.S. Sanitary commision, The letter was opened by the surgeon who was assorting the goods - I took the socks and letter went into the tents where our 27 patriots lay, who had suffered amputation of either legs or arms - I

selected two men - each of whom had lost a leg below the knee. I gave each a sock for his remaining foot. They each took a copy {sic} of the letter with pencil, as they lay upon their beds of hay - I read the letter to all in the tent, could the lady have seen the glow of happiness and joy that spread over the pallid faces of the dear boys. - she would have then felt that her prayer was at least in part answered - They said it was a good letter. They felt they were not entirely forgotten. The following are the names etc. of the men to whom I gave the socks -

Sargt. Stephen H. Reynolds, 1st Massachusetts {sic} Battery A. Enlisted at Madbury New Hampshire, wounded by shell, amputation below the knee - Dec 13th, 1862.

George F. Dresser Co. A 35 N.Y.V. Wounded by shell, leg amputated below left knee Dec 13th 1862.

If you please I wish you to publish this letter of Ellen M. Sprague and the names as above etc. of the men who received the socks - and send a copy of the paper to her - that she may know that at least her offering of love and patriotism was not miss applied - may the soldier blessing follow her - I wish you to preserve the letter and give it to Fanny -

Yours Truly
J Ebersole

In Camp near Bellplain {sic} Dec 27 1862

Dear Fanny,

I have recieved a letter from you, and one from Dymon recently. I learn from Mr. Dymond that he recieved the draft I sent him for \$5.50, etc. I am happy to hear of your and the childrens continued good health - When I last wrote I was in our Division Hospital. Our wounded were all sent to Washington on last Monday and on Wednesday I reported to my Regiment for duty. The Regiment had moved to this locality on the hights {sic} near the classic Potomac. Its broad waters stretch out before us - in placid beauty all the day. We are 3 miles from Bellplain {sic} - You ask advice about the rent of our house. I would say as you have sone so well in other business matters I can safely refer that matter to you, do as you please. Dr. Green has again sent in his resignation. It may now pass, time will tell. if any get leave of absence, I think I will but that is uncertain - we will see - You ask about the psition of our Brigade - Division - Corpse {sic} etc - ours is the 4th Brigade under Gen Meridith, 1st Division, now under Gen. Wadsworth - 1st Army Corps under Gen Reynolds - The 1st and 6th Army Corps are under Gen. Franklin - All are under Gen. Burnside. Our Generals frequently - You may see by the papers that Gen. Meridith {was} put under arrest - it don't amount to anything, it often occurs - Our boys are building log huts, working day and night as if we were going into winter quarters. No order has been given to that effect. The papers say we will not - Christmas passed off without much stir here, some bad whiskey drank, by the officers and men, one man nocked {sic} over the head with a gun by another, etc. etc. We had just come into our new camp and were fixing up. We are on a soil entirely almost of sand and gravel - and I presume will not be at all muddy {sic} The weather has been verry {sic} fine for a long time except

that the wind has blowen hard for 2 or 3 days at a time. This is a great country for long continued winds. You will see a letter in the gazette soon - it will explain itself - I have not seen or heard from the butter you sent to me, in fact I have not had an oportunity {sic} to look after it yet - I received the mittens. Today a verry {sic} solomn and impressive scene occurred {sic} in camp - Truly our experience is varied by evry {sic} day's change. At our division hospital a man was taken in, sick with Typhoid fever, it was not percieved that he did not belong to our division nor Corps - When the hospital was broken up and the wounded sent to Washngon our sick were carried in ambulances to there {sic} respective Regiments - but no one would own this sick man - Our kind & Gentlemanly Division Surgeon Dr. Shippen requested me to take him in and care for him which I did, had my nurses to sit by him during the long nights - wash and change him and give him the cool water and wine. This morning before day{break} he died - We carried him to his lonely resting place - escorted by 8 soldiers and a corporal - we burried {sic} him with the honors of war - Our Chaplain being absent, I said a few words at the grave - I do not want any clothes or socks - I have got all I need - Some butter would come good, but I do not know how long we will stay here - and it may not be proper to send any -

Yours affectionately
J Ebersole

January 4th, 1862 {sic}

Dear Wife,

I recieved a letter from you and one from Wm. yesterday. I am glad to learn that you are so happy in the pleasures of the holy days - It makes me verry {sic} happy to hear from you - I think you are greatly blest with the kindest of Parents and Brothers and Sisters - You need not be uneasy about my happpiness, so long as you can write of your own and the childrens. I live for you and them - You have had a nice time I know. I would like to have been there with you but I enjoyed myself here. I so not get discouraged nor impatient, time flies swiftly with me - I cannot realize that I have been here near 9 months in the army - It is all a dream to me. I have enjoyed more of the wild romance of life in that 9 months than in all my life before - To me it has been one continued experience of excitement, adventure, high hopes, success. I have felt my heart grow large and strong with emotions of patrotism, and love of country - I have no fears for the final results, God is in this mighty strife. Great results are to be worked out - Mankind will be better for it, the world will be blest - It is but one of the footprints in the path of the ages - As they move on to the final triumph of liberty and universal freedom. My intercourse with the Physicians of our Brigade and Division is of the most pleasant kind. I had some handsome compliments passed upon my skill in operating at the last battle. My knowledge of the use of tools acquired in former years was of great sevice to me. It gave me a facility and handiness that can be acquired in that way only - I believe I mentioned in my last that i had made an effort to obtain a leave of absence for 20 days - I have heard nothing from the matter since - I presume it willl not be granted - Dr. Green has resigned and gone home - he like the women in the Scripture "worried them out by much asking." I have not received the things you sent yet. George Columbus has not reached his regimētn yet, he is in Alexandria in the Convalecent Camp I hear waiting to come out - I have 4 or 5 pairs of socks - 6 flannel shirts, 4 pairs drawers - etc. You don't suppose that I want anymore. I am warm, I am comfortable - If I do not come home I will send to Cincinnati for a pair of boots and some other things, I will let you know - There will be some tax to pay, you must get the money and pay when it is due - You may get Mr. Stevens to attend to that - I suppose he will. If you get the photographs of the children taken sent them to me and your own also, I wish you would if you have not already done so,, get your{s} taken and send it to me if I do not come home soon (I may yet hear favorably from my application). This is Sabbasth and I am trying to keep it holy, doing no more than is absilutely {sic} necessary, putting off what what can be done until tomorrow - My heart trusts in God - he is my hope and shield - On new years (we) the officers called upon Gen Merideth, immediately as is the universal custom, the bottle was set out with water - I walked upp {sic} about the 3rd one and poured my glass full of water - drank to the health of all - thus you see I mantain {sic} my temperence principals above board - none but I refused to drink -

{no signature}

Headquarters 19th Ind. Vols.
Near Bellplain Va.
January 4th, 1862 {sic}

Dear William,

I recieve your leter with your Ma's on yesterday. I was pleased to hear that you woere so happy and enjoying Christmas so hartily {sic}. You have many nice presents and evrything {sic} to make you happy. You must learn however that happiness dows not consist in or is not produces by what we have - but what we are. TO be pre in heart is to be happy. Happiness has its seat in the heart. if we are virtuous and good we will always (that is the rule) be happy. Endeavor my boy to improve your moral and Christian character. Keep a close watch over your thoughts - and if tempted to do rong {sic} ask help of God and he will be near to assist and answer you - The army is an exceedingly wicked place. men act here without and restraint, and indulge in the most lothesome and degrading vices - Such as drinking (when they cna get the liquor), profane swearing - gambling, vulgarity - etc. etc. - to an almost unlimited extent. All the restraints of society are removed, the soldier runs greedily into all manner of wickedness. This is no place for boys. Our Chaplain has his boy here - he is about 14 years old - I fear it will spil him. He is making some money in selling papers to the soldiers, he makes some days 2 and 3 dollars -

Your Ma says you work at the sotre during you leasure hours. That is just right. It will keep you our of mischief - and you will form good habbits {sic} that will be an advantage to you all your life. You Grand Ma and Pa are verry {sic} kind to you, and you should love them, and do evrything {sic} to please, and make them a return for their care of you - Write often to your mother, and encourage Jimmy to be a good boy - Improve your opertunities {sic} in school - and show yourself a good scholar.

We have been in this camp since the 23rd of December, the soldiers have built for themselves small log huts covered mostley {sic} with cotton cloth tents. They dig into the ground 2 or 3 feet - and bank up the earth - build a fire place upp {sic} through the fround - and make a door - fix their bed on polls {sic} lain on forks - pine limbs on the polls {sic}, grass on the limbs - then put their blankets on and sleep nicely. I and Dr. haines have a cotton cloth tent 10 feet square and a small sheet iron stove which keeps our tent quite warm.

Your Father
J Ebersole

May send this letter to your Ma when it is convenit {sic} Let Grand Ma read it. J.E.

Head Qtrs. Med. dpt. 19th Ind. Vols.
In Camp near Bell plain Va.
January 13th, 1863

Dear Wife,

I have not had a letter form you since yours dated Cin. Dec. 29th 1862. Mails here have been quite lean and irregular for some days past. I have had but 2 or 3 papers during the past 10 days. - I

answered your letter and Williams also - and will write to you again before receiving an answer from the last - It is exceedingly dull here - but little to do - our regiment is enjoying good health. A great many have put up {sic} log juts and made for themselves comfortable winter quarters. We have a report to day that will soon move, no one here can guess where to as there appears no place to go to at this season of the year. A day or two rain would make the roads impassible so that it would be impossible to move the army at all.

I have had some hopes of getting leave of absence - My application at Washington was refused on the ground that it was irregular, as none were granted unless they came up {sic} through all the officers from where they start. The one I sent in was regular way 15 days since I have not heard from yet - it went through Division head quart with a strong endorsement from the Division Surgeon. I have yet some faint hopes that it may return approved - If they do not permit me a leave of absence this winter, it is now my mind to resign in the Spring, if it is possible. The weather {sic} has been remarkably pleasant up to this time here, very {sic} little cold, very {sic} little rain. Our camp is gravel and not mud - Can't you get some one to take our horse for his feed - can't you sell him for some price to the Livery Stables - he is eating his head off - Uncle James Miller has paid all of his bill there is nothing against him. If I do not get to come home I will send to Cincinnati for a box, I will let you know mayhap in my next letter and you can send me some butter, etc. - I will write to your Father to send me a pair of boots, some cheese concentrated milk, some fruit, etc. Some sardines, jellies, one good razor {sic}. You may send my shaving brush - General Merideth and Dr. Ward are expecting their wives here soon. I do not think it very {sic} pleasant in the winter time for females - They have no small children however and can go and come at their pleasure - I have got well of my lame back - have set my mind on going home and will be somewhat disappointed {sic} if I do not. If we should move I could pass the time better. I get impatient whenever we lay long in one camp. I wish to be doing something. I would like to see the contest ended. Our regiment is very {sic} small, not more here for duty than 250 - Gen. Merideth has not been confirmed yet by the government - Our Colonel will not be commissioned until he is confirmed. Lt. Col. Williams will be made Colonel. Butter is selling in camp for 60 & 75 cts per pound and cheese for 40 & 50 cts etc. Men will give 25 cts apiece for pigs feet - Oysters in cans - just those small cans - sell for one dollar - Apples sell for 5 and 6 cts apiece. I have not opened the can of butter you sent me yet. We have some we got in Washington yet, it is very {sic} good and cost us there but 30 cts. I have sitting before me on the table as I write a quart can of raspberries given to me by Henry Marsh, my hospital nurse. His Father, and two other parties sent to him and two other persons here - one half barrel butter - 2 barrels of fried fruit - cans & etc. Some they sold to the hospital - Some they kept for themselves & _____

{no signature}

Thursday, January the 15th, 1863

(After writing January the --) I was ordered it being 8 ock at night to report at division Head quarters. As the Division Surgeon wished to see me on business of improtance that could not be delayed - I went immediately. He wished me to go at 7 ock in the morning on the boat from Bellplain to Acquia Creek landing for 300 bed sacks (straw ticks) for the division hospital for the wounded in the impending battle - (This being the first intimation to me of a battle or a move except reports)

I have delayed finishing my letter expecting one from you - I may get one next mail. You may hear of another battle before you get this - I sill close this to night and put it in the mail. I sent you 2 papers, Harpers & Leslies Pictorials - you will see to the left of the bat of Fred-h. the gable end of the house with 2 chimneys that was our Division Hospital - You must excuse my bad writing - The wind has blowen for 48 hours a perfect srorm from the Southwest - warm - some clouds - no raind - These winds are said to bring rain after 2 or 3 days - I fear we will have a rain storm before or at the time of our movement - it is siad we will move tomorrow - I do not know where the enemy are unless they are in their entrenchments back of Fredericksburg - we may be going to attack them there again - I pray that the God of Favid may be with us and help us if we are in the right as I believe we are -

Your husband affectionately
J Ebersole

Head quart 19th Ind
Near Bell Plain Va.
Saturday January 17th/63

Dear Wife,

I mailed a letter to you Thursday evening Jon 15th - yesterday I recieved 2 letters from you and another today - In my last letter I told you I supposed we would have moved on yesterday, In fact the order was given to 3 days rations cooked for the men without letting them know it - Afterwards the order was countermanded. We no suppose we will move on Monday - and cross the river upp {sic} the enemy - I am sorry to hear that your health is so bad. i hope with rest your will get better. If your huffland bitters does not help you you had better take quinine and Citrate of Iron. Quinine 20 grams - Iron citrate 40 grams, water 4 ounces - mix - take a teaspoonfull 3 times in the day. It is the dame as you and Mrs Harris used to take. I am sorry I said anyting about going home before I knew of certainty that I would go. I know have not the least idea that I will get away soon - I wish you would do, in staying at your Fathers or going home just as you like. Do that which would be the most pleasant to you - I wish you to enjoy yourself all you can. I think you have a nice time - it makes me feel verry {sic} happy that you are so comfortable, having Geny - and she is so kind and good to wait on the children - it rained and blew hard on Thursday night - today it is clear and cool. I do not wish to go home if we are to move and have a battle - I am for active movements and chrushing blows - until the contest is ended. I am still hopefull. I will never dispair of my country. I have

faith in God and a good cause. There is neither virtue nor manhood in being discouraged and whiny - Many in the army are talking in a way to disharten. I will not suffer any man to do it {in} my presence, without rebuke - of some kind - I am for war, terrible war until every traitor is crushed and silenced. Be sure and get the Continental Monthly for Dec & January and read the articles on our country. You may read the article on Miss Hobband and her trails if you wind (Jimmy will read it at least). I will enclose to your Father on a half sheet a request to send me some things. I will make it separate {sic} so that if this letter does not reach you at the City you can send it up {sic} to him with the explanation - if you are in the city or if not - send Mrs. Haines word (a letter) to put up in a compact box what she wishes to send to the Dr. and send it by the boat to the City immediately to be enclosed in my box - I do not wish you to send me any butter as we have enough - we have dried apples 5 bushels we have dried peaches - butter etc. You may send anything that is nice that we can eat in the jelly line - prunes - canned fruit etc. Let Mrs. Haines send her box to the City not to you - We have not seen those Capt Wm. Gaff send yet.

{no signature}

Camp 19th Ind. Vols.
Near Bellplain Virga
January 25th, 1863

Dear Wife -

When I last wrote we were upon the eve of setting out upon our winter Campaign which lasted but 4 days - The 20th was cloudy and cool - the roads were beautiful and hard - At noon we were in line of march - and on our way to where we intended to cross the Rappahannoc {sic} - 6 or 7 miles above Fredericksburg. All went well until evening when it began to rain - we cept {sic} on at a slow rate until long after dark we came to our camping place. It was then raining and verry {sic} dark - we stoped {sic} near where a regiment had been in quarters, I with Dr. Haines and 4 of our nurses - here found a deserted shanty without roof, we made a fire as best we could and got some coffee - It was yet raining ahrd we stretched up {sic} our oilcloths and tried to find some rest for the night - There was no place to ly {sic} down, I sat up on a cracker box all night, Dr. Haines doing the same - in the morning the water was 4 inches deep around us - The roads were now completely softened - We moved on slowly through the mud and mire - at 2 ock we halted at 2 miles from the river - here we stayed all night of the 21st - all day of the 22nd - and night - On the 23rd at 8 ock we were ordered to return to our old camp - which we did, reaching our camps at sundown on the 23rd - It was found agter the rain impossible to move forward our artillery and trains. In some instances 12 - 18 & 26 horses were hitched to single waggons {sic} and pieces of artillery - and then not able to move them along - SO the expedition ended - and we are again in our quarters, and liely to remain here until Spring. This morning January 25 - My leave of absence that I sent up on the 24th of last moth was retuned. Disapproved - it was approved all the way up to the Secretary of

War, he disapproved it on the 17th of this month - being about the time that we were ordered to move - Tomorrow morning I will send up another application hoping that it may meet with better success - if you are in the city I wish you would stay until you hear from me whether I come home or not - I may hear from this application in a week or ten days - this morning we received those caps and my comfort you sent - they are quite nice - If you have not sent the things and the box I sent for do not send them until you hear from me again. The wether {sic} is now warm and pleasant - Our camp is dry and sandy - When you send the box send some buck wheat flower {sic} and yeast (cakes) - send a box of figs -

Yours affectionately,
J. Ebersole

Camp 19th Ind Vols
Near Belle Plain Va
Jan 28th 1863

Brig Genl L Thomas
Adjut Genl U.S.A.

Sir,

I have the honor to respectfully ask that leave of absence for twenty days be granted me to visit my family in Indiana.

The Regiment is small and in good health. I leave in charge a competent Surgeon, another has been ordered ny Gov Morton to report to the Regiment immediately and is daily expected and I am confident the sevice will in no way suffer from my absence.

I am very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt
J. Ebersole
Surgeon 19th Ind. Vols.

Approved and respectfully forwarded
A. Preston
Surgeon in Chief
4th Brigade, 1st Div. 1st A.C.

Approved
Edw'd Shippen
Surgeon-in-Chief
1st Div. 1st A.C.

Approved and respectfully forwarded
S.J. Williams
Lt. Col. Comdg. 19th Ind.

Hd. Qs. 4 Brigade
Jan 28 1863

approved and respectfully forwarded
S. Meridith
Brig General

Hd Qrs 1st Div 1st A.C.

Jan 30, 1863

Resptfly retd see Gen Order No. 3 Hd Qrs A of P

By cmd of

Brig Gen Wadsworth

T.E. Ellsworth

Capt and AAAG

Hd Qrs 4 Brig

Feb 2 1863

Resply returned - see endorsement

By order of Brig Genl Meridith

J.D. Wood

Capt & A.A.A.G.

Hd Qr 19th Ind Feb 3, 63

Resp Retd see end

S.J. Williams

Geo E Finney

Adj.

Indianapolis Feb 19

Dear Wife,

I embrace this opportunity {sic} {to} write you a few lines. We left Lawrenceburg at 3 o'clock on yesterday & arrived here at 8" without anything of note occurring. We did not find many of our men here when we arrived but during the night most of them came in. Gen. Meridith is also here - We are to leave on Wednesday next for our old place in the Army of the Potomac. General Meridith said today that he would see the Govner {sic} and try & have our stay in the state prolonged and have us go into camp either here or at Richmond Ind. I have not much confidence of the success of this efforts in that direction.

Now where do you think I am writing this letter from? From the spare room in Broth Miller's house. We found the Hotells {sic} too crowded that we could not get into any decent quarters - so I went to inquire of Brother Miller for a boarding house - he and Lester Miller offered us a place in their house - We excepted on condition that they would take pay, they said they would leave that with us etc.

I want to see you verry much. It went pretty hard for me to leave you and the children. I love you verry {sic} much indeed. It is a happiness to think of you. I think I have the best, and most estimable, and lovely family in the whole country, I hope and pray that the Great and Good father may keep you & the dear children from all harm and sustain you through all your trials and lonliness. I send my love to you, and hope you will not grieve my absence. I will not suffer or want, I will take care of myself. My greatest happiness is in knowing that you are happy. We have a nice room with a stove, carpet & good bed for while we stay here 0 While I know write a plate of large apples sits before me - There are a great many soldeirs and officers in the city and they expect a great time on Monday and Tuesday of next week - Write to me as soon

as you get this, if you get by Monday - So you can send your letter out on Monday. I will close by Sending a thousand loves to you & the children.

J Ebersole

Head quarter 19th Ind
Feb 26th 1863
Camp near Bellplain Vira

Dearest Wife,

I embrace the first convenient opportunity {sic} to write and let you know that I have reached my regiment safely - I arrived here on yesterday, Feb 25th - I was absent 2 or 3 days over my time, a verry {sic} stringent order was ishued {sic} while I was absent. I suppose I will be called upon to explain why I did not come to tome - I do not fear much trouble in the matter however - There was one continued sheet of snow from Cincinnati here - It has rained all today, the roads are verry {sic} muddy {sic} - I found evrything {sic} going on in the regiment as when I left except the military rule and dissiplen {sic} is being made nore severy and rigid. While I was absent 7 of our brigade were drummed out of camp - and our of the service - 5 of them had there {sic} heads shaved - in half their offenses was desertion and cowardice -

I was quite unwell on my way to camp, but began to feel better as soon as I came in view of my old quarters. the power of associations {sic} I suppose - I cannot tell you how bad I felt to laeve you and the children and dear friends. Much on my own account and more on you and the childrens account - I thought I would brake {sic} down but a maned {sic} up - It seemed to me cruel - but I feel better now - and will soon feel as susual - When I arived {sic}, I found my large box here - all safe, but the cans of peaches had broken the wax sealing - and wet some of the things 0 not much damage done - I found my boots all right, they fit well - I do not know how the box got here or ny whom the charges were paid. I went to the express office in Wahington and they said the box was there in the midst of a pile of boxes 20 feet square for the 1st army cops and they would send it down to Acquia Creek - soon - But as I said above I found it in my tent when I came here. It was brought up from the landing by our folks -

There is a better feeling in the army than when I left - resolutions have been sent home from the 7th & 19th Regiment of a strong patriotic tone and the soldiers are somewhat aroused - and more contented. Mr. Chisman & Camfiled did not get passes at Washington to come on with me. They intended to make an effort to come today. I have not learned whether they came this evening or not - it will be a great disapointment {sic} if theycannot get here after coming so far. I saw Joseph in Washington, he is well and said he would soon leave - I did not see Omer - I had not time to find him.. he was in Joseph's office a few minutes before I was -

oh had we not a nice time, it was a pleasant visit to me indeed - Long to be remembered - Dr. haines did not seem much disapointed {sic} that I did not see his wife, he does not express much emotion however at anything and may have felt more than he expressed. He talks strong of makking application for leave of absence himself -

I thin he will and may soon be jome - Our new surgeon is getting on verry {sic} well - he has not heard from his family since he left home 5 weeks since - Mails here somewhat irregular - I have given my mincemeat into the hands of the cook - we will soon ahve some nice pies - we now have as good bakers bread here as you have in the city. Gen Meridith is here, wife returned home - The ladies - our Colonel & Captains are still here - they must be mud bound - there is no talk of a move of the army or any protion of it that I can hear of - There is evry {sic} indication to me that we will stay here until the roads dry up - I have not yet seen the boys of the 7th Regiment - but will soon I hope. I do not know that I have written all I wanted or not but will close by sending my love and a thousand kisses to you & the little ones - I hope you will be in good hart {sic} and not grieve for me -

Yours affectionately

J Ebersole

Chrisman & Camfield are here - I send the parlor key by Chrisman - J.E.

Camp near Bellplain Va

march 12th 1863

Dearest Wife,

I received your welcome letter yesterday. I began to want to hear from you verry {sic} much - I am glad to hear you are cheerfull - and happy - I hope you will be have a large brave heart. God will bless you and keep you and yours from all harm I hope. I wish you to think and act for youelf, trusting in God always. There is evry {sic} indication of an early move from here. Evry {sic} order from head quarters has that indication. The army never was in a better condition, its morale is excellent. All have confidence in Gen. Hooker - The soldeirs will fight desperately under his lead - Dr. haines starts home tomorrow with 15 days leave. His papers were long delayed so that he became almost dicouraged, but they came at last and he starts tomorrow - he may visit Aurora, if so he will call to see you. I wis{h} you would send me you picture and mine and Wm and Franks - if you have them, by him if not by him, send in a letter. don't forget - Send me a kiss also if you can - You ask about the selling of the farm. I would sell if you can get \$4,500, so as you think best - I believe I could do better with the money than with the land - I wish you would urge the tinner to try and fix that roof. (when you can) My health is good - I made the explanation about my being behind time that the cars did not run on Sabbath and thus I last one day - Then I failed to make connection at Washington with the government boat thus I lost another, making 2 days - which was all satisfactory. I was honorably acquitted - The wether {sic} is quite changable here now - it blowes, snows raind & shines all the same day - The roads verry {sic} muddy yet - but they will soon dry off - Our new Dr. is getting on quite well. Dr. haines has sent on recommendation to Gov. Morton, he wants to be promoted to Surgeon of a regiment. He may be promoted and leave me. I cannot tell nor can he - I suppose when we move we will across the Rappahannoc. It may be 20 miles below here and attack the enemy in the rear, or flank - We are to go without waggons - to carry our effects, we are to have pack mules - to carry our medicines and

cloths {sic} -

It is morning, March 13 - it is cool, froze in the tent a little. I have a great deal of my nix nax yets - i have some apples - i have only used one box sardines. Yesterday Dr. Shippen our Division Surgeon was here and I gave him one box - I have not seen or heard of Charley Allen. I think the 3rd Indiana Cavalry have moved from were they were. Write to me often. I wish Wm. to write. it will be good practice for him - my love to you all - and to you

J Ebersole

Surgeon 19th Ind

Camp near BellPlain Va
March 19th 1863 -

Dear Wife,

I received your letter dated Aurora - 12th inst, last nigh. I had been looking for a letter for several days. I cannot well do without a letter from you at lesst one a week - I had written 2 you had not received when you wrote. the last one I sent by Dr. Haines who left here on Friday March 13th for home on leave of absence for 15 days - he said he would call and see yo if we went to Aurora - Thos notes were given to me in my name of course. One was for a hundred dollars. Due January 1st 1863 - the other for the same or a few dollars more I think, due January 1st 1864 - If you get this letter before you see Dr. haines I wish you would tell him to get the notes. If it is best to take them out of the hands of the Loyer {sic}, none as Mr Shattock has sold the house - if Mr Wymond will assume the payment of the same - As reagards the paying of Newton Campfield, you had better pay him if it is high than to have any hard feelings with him. You had better sell the farm if you van get \$4,500 for it - You can sell the pony if you can get \$40 dollars for him, that is if you wish to do so. The mortgage ws recorded, I have no bill at Shattocls drugstore whatever. About the renting of the farm I cannot give much advice ou know what I thought was about right for the farm. You and Mr Bussell must do the best you can in the matter. You meed not fear to annoy me with any or all your troubles. I will with great pleasure give you all the advice I can, I fear I do not always give you as clear and deffinite {sic} advice as you may widh but it is hard to tell always what to do. We frequently must do the best we can, and not what we wish or think best. I wish you much happiness and but little trouble you must not take trouble, do the best you can and then let events have their course always trust in God - our Savior don't let little things distress you all and go well I trust - (You have not told me yet, whether there is anything in the future to particularly distress or annoy you) let me know in your next letter if you can - If Dr haines does not arrange those notes I will not stop 2 settle the matter - It has been quite cool and stormy - all of this month - today is cool and cloudy there is still camp rumors of an early move - We may move within 10 days or it may be 20 - I found the picture of myself, but was disapointed {sic} in not getting yours - i hope you did not leave the city without getting yours taken - i wanted Wm also and Franks - I think mine is tolerably good - and no more - We have plenty to eat, good fresh beef, good soft bread,

fruit, dried apples, potatoes - etc etc - I saw Dora Longwood the other day - I told him to come over to my tent and I would give him some things that you had sent to him - I was going to give him an apple and a can of sardines - he has not come yet - he is robust and well - I went over to the 7th to hear there {sic} Chaplain preach. he has sent in his resignation. Many of the army Chaplains are resigning - Did Dr Haines get the mortgage when he got the notes of you. Since I have returned I have read the four Gospels and commenced reading the Acts. I find it verry {sic} interesting & profitable to read the Scriptures in course - I am endeavoring to store my mind and heart with the great and sublime truths of the Gospel. I have much time to read - and this is certainly the best of books -

I remain your husband, Affectionately
J Ebersole

If I have not answered you inquiries satisfactorily you must repeat them again in your next J.E.

Headqut Med dpt 19th Ind.
Near Bellplain Va
April 3d 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter of the 27th March. You hinted that you thought it was long. It did not take more than 4 or 5 minutes to read it and that you know is a verry {sic} short interview with one we love. If you could lengthen out the meeting to an hour or two, that would not be long - But I am thankful for small favors and others in proportion - I admire your plans for self improvement and hope you may have health and oportunity {sic} to continue your reading. Do not let small things interrupt your plans - I am pleased to see you in so good spirits. I think you have great reason to be joyful and happy - It would be ingratitude to God not to be. You do well to think of all the mercies and blessings our heavenly Father has conferred {sic} upon us. When we are tried, tempted, and afflicted we should carry all our sorrows to him who careth for us - We do rong {sic} when we attempt to bare {sic} in our own strenght what God has promised to help us bare {sic} - Yesterday was a fine Spring day though quite windy. General Hooker reviewed our Dicision. I do not know when we will move but soon I presume - I wrote you a letter several days since in answer to you dolorous communication. I received your explanation before I sent it but thought that I would send - Like Mother Lewis my sympathy and distress was all for nothing -

Mrs Craft of Rising Sun has written a long letter of 8 or 10 pages foolscap to Dr. Haines - She is a good writer, is quite witty and humorous - She runs her jokes upon Mrs Surgeon Haines & Mrs Surgeon Ebersole - I have you photograph. It is not good - You look like you had lost all your frinds - it wont do at all - I will not send it back now but if it is nessessary {sic} to return it that you may now take the rest I will return it - in some subsequent letter you had better try again - Why did you not get a vignet {sic} dont you think it would be nicer - perhaps not - The drapery is good in this picture but your face is too dark - and you {look}

awfully wobegone {sic} - One of my freinds has just been in and looked at my pictures - he took mine and put it in his pocket - I must have some more - there is a rumor in the camp that we are not to fight the rebs anymore, but to starve them out - Ten days since, the females were ordered to leave camp, & furlous {sic} were stoped {sic} - An order has come to permit the Ladies to remain, and granting furlouws {sic} again etc. - I do not know what it means - we may remain here sometime. I do not care it is the healthiest {sic} location in the world perhaps and as convenient as any. i hope Lizzie D. & Wm. D. will have a pleasant visit with you. I am sorry for Wm. D. if he is invalid - I hope he may so recover - I think him an estamable young man -

I have read as far as the Second Corinthians in the New Testament - This (the Bible) is the Book of Books - there is more wisdom in this Book than in all others. it is a blessed word of truth. here we can find precept and direction for evry {sic} action and emergency in life, consolation in affliction, comfort in distress, a word of caution for us when in prosperity. A rule for all our conduct in life. let the children read it (not as a task) wean there{sic} hearts to love it, let them early look to God as the great father of Love & mercy, let this be the great labor of your life - to wean the children to the savior. think about the matter, pray about {it}. It would be a pitty {sic} for one to loose {sic} his or her soul, now is the time to work - now is the time to sow the seed. Let it be done in all love & gentleness, long suffering and patience - looking to God for the increase - Oh! how my heart warms towards you where I think of you as a labouring & battling for your own and the salvation of the dear children. We have now prayer twice in the day in our tent. Dr. haines and myself - morning and night. you may ask John Shattuck for a bill of my account thare {sic} and send it to me - you can give the man on {the} farm a garden spot but he ought to help make and attend to the garden - however you must make the proper arrangement about that - Has the Black Berries thin {sic} out - Cut them all away from the pare {sic} trees - take good care of the white currents There are a few dwarf pare {sic} sprouts up in the uper {sic} garden ought to be atttended to - There is one cherry tree butted into those sprouts at the old parsnip beds - I wish you would cut of{f} all of the sprouts of the tree it is buded into - and let it grow where there is no cherry growing cut them down -

Your Husband Affectionately
J. Ebersole

Camp near Bellplain
April 3rd 1863

Dear James -

I will write you a letter to tell you how it pleased I am to hear from your Ma that you are trying to be a good boy - you are making an effort to please God and your parents. I want you to get a small stiff bridle bit for the paney's {sic} bridle - you can guide him and hold him so much better with one of that kind. We use no other kind in the army - You must get a small one that is a narrow one or it wont do - I would like to be at homd to see you ride your mice

poney {sic} - you must curry and feed him well - you will have great times this Summer in making your garden and attending to the yard - You must not forget your lessons - try and make rapped {sic} progress, and when I come home (if God permits) I will send you to some good school so that you can ceep {sic} upp {sic} (your age considered) with William. I want you to be as good a schollar {sic} as he - I think I love all my children the same - I would like you to write to me often - a short letter. Write with care - write your letter, correct it then copy {sic} - let all your t's be crossed, your i's be dotted, let this be your exercise. have the headings of your letter all formal -

Your Father
J Ebersole

Sunday April 12th 1863
Camp 19th In Vols
near Belleplain Va

Dear Wife

I recieved a letter from you 3 days since, it was that small letter - you inform me of the fact of Aunt Lizzies and Wm Dymoons visit etc. - You speak of selling the pony - do not do it unless you do not or the children do not want him - I would rather you would ceep {sic} him, you ought to have \$40 for him without saddle, unless he is no use to you and in your way - I send you as you will see, some scribbling. I sent a corrected copy with more added to your Gather to hand to Joseph - for publication - agter the needed correction, if he sees Joseph to publish - I hope he will not put it in the paper - I think it is verry {sic} flat and inane - It is now the rumer {sic} that we will move on next Tuesday but you see it uncertain it may storm. When you wrote the above letter, I had written 2 you had not recieved - I sent an order on Mr Jones the clerk of the County Court for that money -

Love to you all
J.Ebersole

My letter is so large I cannot add anymore - We have carrots beets, butter, maple molasses, dried peachs canned peaches. I am heavier than when at home.

This has been a high week with the Army of the Potomac. We have been visited and reviewed by the President, accompanied by Mrs Lincoln. They arrived at Falmouth on Saturday - the 4th inst - on Monday the president reveiwed the cavalry commanded by Gen. Stoneman. One or more Corps of Infantry with artillery were reveiwed each succeeding day, ending by reviewing the 11th & 12th Corps on Friday - the 10th inst - On Thursday our Corps - the 1st was reviewed - it consists of 3 divisions - Our brigade is the 4th in the 1st division, our position is on the extreme left of the division and of the Army of the Potomac. We are encamped upon the hights {sic} overlooking the broad and beautiful waters of the Potomac at the mouth of Potomac Creek near Belleplain landing - We were reviewed on a Spacious plain of bottom land on the banks of the Potomac -

many things conspired to make it a day of interest and excitement. The beautiful wether {sic}, the desire to arouse and shake off the drowsey monotoony of the winter quarters . The expected visit and review by the president, Gen Hooker, and a number of General Officers - Six Major Generals with 12 or 13 Brigadiers were in the train - By 12 M. the Corps with its 6 batteries were all in position by Brigade in mass. The infantry in 2 paralell {sic} columns - the artillery massed in two divisions. We were not long in position before 21 rounds from our large mouthed Napoleons announced the coming of Uncle Abe and Fighting Joe, and their cavalcade - a long train of Officers and lanciers - The lines were long and to be 4 times ridden in full lope. The riders as well as horses were well jaded before this part of the program was ended - They now brought up at a conspicuous & commanding position in tthe field - here the President and the Commanding General, surrounded by his staff and large number of General officers present, took their position. It was now our time to show our style - in military movement. At the word, they move my Brigades - in mass - passing in review by colum at half distance. The most of the troops of the Corps being old soldeirs they displayed great perfection in drill and movement - One regiment - the 14th Brooklyn - in particular was distinguished by their good marching as well as their showey {sic} uniform, which consists now of light blue pants, dark blue roundabouts trimed with red showing red vests, they wore white gloves, and caps trimed with red - Other Brigades with less showey uniforms did well and elicited much praise, But when our Brigade - the 4th Division of the 1st Army Corps - The Iron Brigade as it has been called, came up, there was a universal manifestation of admiration and applause - evinced by the waveing {sic} of handkerchiefs by a number of Ladies who were present and many expressions of aprobation by officers -

The proud elastic byt firm military tread, the exact and uniform movement, as if evry {sic} company and evry {sic} Regiment were moved by one input and inspired by one soul - "This remarked Gen Hooker - to the President - "is the famous 4th Brigade. Yes - rejoined the President, it is commanded by the only Quaker general I have in the army." (general Merideth being by birth and early education a quaker) This Brigade was pronounced by many officers - Several Major generals - and Gen Hooker himself to be the best and most soldierly body of men they had ever seen in this or any other army. Their compliments must have been highly gratifying to our general, who has with indomitable perseverance and industry brought his Brigade to so high a state of dissipline {sic}. He is deservidly popular with the officers and men of his command, the result of his mild yet firm baring {sic} in enforcement of dissipline {sic}. he is exceedingly careful of the honor and reputation of those under his charge - The 4th Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Army Corps is now composed of 5 regiments , the 2d, 6th & 7th Wisconsin, 19th Ind, & the 24th Michigan which was added to the Brigade soon after the battle of Antietam. It is a fine large regiment, commanded by Colonel Morrow of Detroit, a most excellent officer and gentleman. He and his Regiment have fairly won by their gallentry and courage at the battle of Fredericksburg, a place in the "old Iron Brigade." We have recently been much

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I supposed we would have moved before this but we have had a great rain storm of 48 hours continuous - it is now clear and warm - Peach trees are just coming into bloom - We have had several prayer meetings lately in the hospital and have had good meetings. A tract distributor has been here, scattering reading matter - I called upon the boys to put there {sic} names down in my diary - 16 came forward and put there {sic} names down for to meet together for prayer - There is some spiritual awakening in the Regiment, more than I have seen since I have been in it - When Wm comes home I wish you would induce him to lead in prayer in the family. You can draw him out by encouraging him, let him lead at night and you in the morning - it would do him verry {sic} much good I think - I wish my little boys Jimmy & Joseph would be religious & pray to God - "now in there youthfull {sic} days, while the evil days draw not nigh when they will say they have no pleasure in them" - You and your man on the farm may be able to get Mr Wheeler to take care of the peaches - by giving him a share of them - I think he would do it - those little bushes in rows are quinces with pears {sic} grafted in them, some took and many did not. I wish you would examine them, you can tell by the pears - being larger, and thicker than the quince, where you find a pear you must cut the quince off about 3 inches above where the pear comes out - let the other that have no pears in quinces grow, you may cut off all but one of the straightest sprouts and let that grow - I think the verry {sic} best thing you can do is to be out in the open air as much as possible, do not expose yourself too much in the way of continued hard work for hours at a time you should take it moderate oversee and let some one else do the hard work - You should not do hard work but be our and see to it, do but little yourself.

Monday morning April 20th - On Sat last I was detailed to take charge of the sick of our Division to be transported by boat to Washington - The boat left the landing at 4 ock Saturday with 108 sick - 15 nurses, myself in charge - Dr. Jones assist surgeon to assist me. We arrived at the warf {sic} foot of 7th St by 9 & 1/2 ock, the ambulances were there in readiness to convey the sick to Lincoln Hospital a mile north of the Capital - By 12 ock we had all the sick off - after having given them some coffee and soft bread -

I lay down on the sette and got a short naps of sleep from then till morning - I expected to retrun on the same boat while I and a nurse went to buy some fish (fresh) the boat at 7 ock went off and left us - we got on the mail boat at 7 1/2 and came on down the president - Sec Stanton, the Command in chief Hallack came down in a special boat to Aquia creek and were in consult with Gen Hooker - I have nothing of special news to write: There are rumors of some change in the army - All the troops of our Brigade were called out in heavy marching order with knapsacks and 8 days rations blankets etc. They just got in line it commenced raining - they were ordered to return -

I remain as all your Hysband affectionately -
J Ebersole

Head qurt Md. Dpt.
19th Reg. Ind. Vols. Bellplain
April 26th 1863

Dear Wife -

I recieved a letter from you yesterday with the bill from John Shattock - I presume the bill is correct. You will pay it as soon as convenient -- Your yard is no doubt verry {sic} nice. I would like much to see it - I hope you all may remain well and happy you must not work too hard - You should have a pair of gardening gloves of rubber - they would protect your hands - You will find when you get your new bridle {sic} you can manage the pony much better. We have a new Chaplain - he came here on Friday last. We have been paid off - the amount due up to the first of March. I will send to the City \$270, Two hundred & Seventy dollars. When you write again tell me as near as you can the amount you have used from the City. I am glad to hear that you are so well. I hop you will get srton and robust - I do not see anything to prevent it - We have had long and hard rainstorms, the roads are in a bad condition. It is now clear, cool, and windy - The roads will soon dry off, then I presume we willmove - I recieved a letter from Wm he says he is getting on well in school - I hope he is not loosing any in morals - I see in the papers glowing accounts of Union meetings and a revival of patriotic sentiment throughout the whole country. This is verry {sic} cheering indded - Now as the farm had fallen into your hands to manage you will make it pay, no doubt - I enclose to you an account of the grand review of our Army written by someone of our Brigade to the Indianapolis Journal - I do not know who wrote it - Dr. haaines has made application some time since to Gov Morton for promotion to a Surgeon. he feels restless and thinks he ought to have a higher position and more pay - I do not of course blame him for wanting to get upp - I should much hate to lose him. he is pleasant and popular but rather careless and negligent in our tenting together he leaves every {sic} little thing for some one else to do. I send you Gen. Merideths card - & Lt. Colonel Dudley of our Regiment - In the organization of the ficision, Surgeons and their apointment {sic} for the next battle i am assigned to the division hospital (the place I wish to occupy {sic}) I will have oportunity {sic} for to perform amputations and other capital operations. i also have the honorable and responsible duty of remaining with the wounded of our division in case of a defeat and retreat of our troops {no signature}

Hospital of the 1st Div 1st A.C.

3 miles below Fredericksburg on the north side

May 1, 1863

Dear Wife,

I will let you know that I am well. on Sat morning a portion of our division crossed over the river 3 or 4 miles below the city, driving the Rebs from there {sic} rifle pits, killing 20 and taking over one hundred prinsoners - we lost in killed 9 - wounded 80 - our hospital is on the oposit {sic} side of the river. We are wiating for the operation of the army up the river - they are coming down on the flank and rear of the Rebs works - Our men have entrenched themselves and there they lay, looking the enemy in the face neither one attacking. I suppose I will remain with the Dicision hospita. That is I will move if we repuls {sic} the enemy but will remain in the rear. Dr. Garver or Dr. Haines will stay

with the Regiment - If we are whiped {sic} and driven back and must leave our wounded I and Dr - will remain with the and the Rebels - But there is no danger in that. It would vary my experience. It rained hard in Friday and in the night, but is now clear and warm. the ground is getting quite dry - No more at this time but remain as ever yours - affectionately,

J Ebersole
Surgeon

I do not know whether you will get this soon as all letters are stoped {sic} in Washington for the present - You may be sure that I am well and doing well. We have had 11 amputations I ahve performed 3 of them. We have 6 wounded Rebels - one has dies. i took the leg of one off below the knee - he is doing well - Our brigade was the first to cross the River, right in the face of the foe. Ehile they were firing upon them from their rifle pits on the oposite {sic} bank - this is monday and all is quiet here but we hear all day distant firing up the river. I expect we will be ordered at some time to advance upon the enemy (read in the 2d page)

On the bank of the river Rappahannoc - at Bankes Ford
Sunday May 10th 1863

Dear Wife -

I was writing a letter to you on Friday the 8th after having received one from you at our camp below Fredericksburg 0 When I received an order to repare with horse & instruments immediately to bankes ford. 9 surgeons from our cops started at a few minutes of six for a ride of 8 miles in mud and dark. We did not cross until yesterday noon. We found 70 or more wouned in a barn near the river. There are about 200 in this vicinity. We find our confed neighbors here verry {sic} clever. The officers courtious & gentlemanly - Major - said to us that they found an occasional visit of our army to thier side of the river a great advantage in the way of carrying them supplies - for they expected to take from us all they wanted in way of clothing and ammuniton and hardtack -

Our wounded are doing well up to this time - I have been favored by one of the Confed soldiers with this sheet of paper to write you this note. i am now standin {sic} and writing having a tin of cartridge box for my writing desk - I have come down from the barn one mile & a half distant where our men are to get bread & other supplies from our side of the river. you may not be uneasy about my safety as I am all right and as sage here as anywhere. I am glad to hear that your finger is better etc. The letter of which I have above spoken I did not finish or send.

Wednesday 13 - I will now finish this Confed sheet also and send you. I made acquaintance of Brig Gen Wilcox & Capt Millage - Confeds I went to confed prayer meeting one night, the Chap read sang & prayed and exhorted - they say they have like services every {sic} evening - and preaching every {sic} sabbath in all the regiments -

I will now enclose in this likenesses etc. - I have been nearly a week within Rebel lines. They are warmly clad - have but little to eat, except flower {sic} one forth pound meat per day -

I have just now read a letter from you May 7 do not pay Mr Henry

as I think i do not owe him anything. you ow {sic} him for shoeing

{new page}

I suppose you will be much disapointed {sic} and mortified by our repuls {sic} & apparent defeat - you must not be anctious {sic} about the army. A small matter sometimes turns the scale and the best layed plans fail - we will succeed after a while. We have terribly chastised the Rebel army and ours is in good condition - A large number of 2 year & 9 months men are going out of service and we may have to wait a while before we can go forward - 9 month men are of no account - Do not be discouraged do not complain ceep {sic} a good heart - have faith in God and the right - I have been with the rebs a week and am satisfied that they believe we can conchur {sic} them if we use all our power. We are just as good soldiers as they - There {sic} case is more desperate than ours - They fight with disputation {sic} all we want is perseverance -

J Ebersole
Surgeon

{new sheet}

Wednesday I do not know whether you can get any sadisfaction {sic} from my crabbing or not - I have written under all disadvantages possible - I think you have spent but little I wish you to use all the money you wish get evrything for yourself & Wm & the children you & they may need - I have not yet been able to learn of the injury of any of the Aurora boys - I will tell you in short the reason of our want of entire success in this effort - It was the breaking and running of the 11th Corps and the want of support to the 6th Corps under Sedgwick - Gen Jackson is dead - the Rebs say there {sic} own men killed him through mistake - 2 of there {sic} brigades were fireing {sic} into each other he went between them with his staff and was hit in both arms. One was amputated. he died soon after - I will mow close - My love to all & prayers for your well bieng ever Kiss Frank & Mary

J Ebersole
Surg

In Camp near Whiteoaks Church
3 or 4 miles below Fredericksburg Va

Dear Wife,

I have just received a letter from you. It was verry {sic} welcome. Since writing last from our Division Hospital near our present camp we have had a rappid {sic} and verry {sic} disagreeable march (We moved up) Our division returned to this side of the river and moved up 6 or 8 miles above Fredericksburg where a large protion of our army had crossed over. We crossed and remained there on Sunday & Monday - A hard battle was fought Saterday & Sunday. On Monday we recrossed in the night - amidst a hard rain storm and came down to our present camp - Our army or a portion of it had crossed at Fredericksburg and taken the heights in part but were driven back - So we had to recross - But events

and moves had been so rappid {sic} and inexplicable that I cannot tell what is going on. You will have learned from the papers long before you get this all about the success or want of success of the army. We have had a great deal of rain and mud - You will learn that our Brigade was the first to cross over the river below Fredericksburg - Charging right up to the enemies rifle pits - Dr. Haines & Garver went over when the regiment did, and acted verry {sic} brave - I have seen verry {sic} rough camp life during the past 2 weeks - I feel somewhat discouraged that we did {not} succeed better than we did but I do not give down - I forgot to find those photographs in my letter - I will not send them in this as the mailes {sic} are so uncertain now. We came to this camp yesterday & I do not know when we will move again. I presume soon - The battle above Fredericksburg was the most terrible in the sound I ever heard - but the troops on both sides were so posted that the casulities {sic} were not so great as in some other battles. I presume our Division was not engaged here at all so I do not know much about the dead & wounded personally I have not the least correct information in the matter & I presume will not have until I see it in the papers - I do not know what to write that would interest you - I see but little and know less of what is going {on} Wednesday 13th The above was written on last Friday when I received an order to report immediately at Division Head Quarters & so did not mail it today we got all our wounded (who were at Banks ford) over the river and on there {sic} way to hospital and I returned to camp dirty and tired. When I went over the river on Friday last I had to leave my horse with {one} of the men with the pontoons he took him up the river to the United States ford 6 miles where the great battle of Sat & Sunday was faught {sic} - I had to return in ambulance and pony is 10 or 13 miles from here I presume I will get him soon again {no signiture}

In camp on the Rappahannoc
3 miles below Fredericksburg Va
May 20th 1863

Dearest Wife

I received a letter from you several day {sic} since - I am always happy to get a letter from you - I think of you always and am happy in you and our children you are my joy and my glory next to the Great father of us all and our Blessed Savior - I hope you will all be happy and continue to enjoy health. Many are the newspaper accounts of the movements of the army of the Potomac but I presume we will not soon move again as about 60 Regiments of 9 months & 2 years men will have gone out of this army by the end of June - These 9 months men are not good soldiers - by the time they are used to the camp and are drilled they think of going home and will not fight - The Gazette in its most reasonable editorial articles sets forth the true condition of the army and the situation - as near as I could if I were to make the effort - I see but little or nothing said in the papers about the going out of the 9 months & 2 years men - No account was made of this fact in the general talk about the speed move of the army - My opinion is

unless we are reinforced with some old troops we will not move in force until the Conscripts {sic} are brought in and disciplined - and that will not be until next fall - Our new chaplin is with us and I think will do a great good as he is taking hold in the proper way - and is devoted to his work I have a verry {sic} pleasant and efficient {sic} corps of helps - pleasant assistant surgeons - a good hospital steward - good nurses - One of the best cooks in the army for the hospital he also cooks for us - we ceep {sic} evrything {sic} clean and nice about the hospital & yet along evanly {sic} and smoothly - A number of our men are sick with diarrhea but not bad - I said something in my last letter about being in the lines of our enemies and haveng {sic} my horse in the hands of someone of our men - I have gotten him again I lost nothing but a bridle {sic} reign {sic} and some straps off my saddle - Our 2nd assit surgeon is some sick and is making an effort to get leave of absence to go home. He is an awkward and dull man and not suited to the service but a clever and good man. Gen Wadworth {sic} Commander of the Division has gone home on 10 days leave Gen Meridith is in temporary command of Division. Spirits were brought into camp & a number of the officers & men of the Brigade were intoxicated to their shame & detriment of the service - I get the Gazette quite regular now - after July our Regiment will be in the last year of their service. The time will rapidly run to a close then - All are in good spirits there is no demorilasation {sic} in our Corp our army our troops - I would like to call in to see you for an hour to two to see how you are getting on but cannot for a while I expect to come home in the fall or winter again I wish you could be here for two or three weeks to see how we do in camp -

In camp near Frederickb Va
May 25th 1863 -

Wednesday 20th 2oclk - The medical inspector of our corp just left the {sic} our quarters - he is inspecting the Hospitals of the Regiments and the quarters of the men - he inquires into the way the cooking is done - the condition of the sinks etc - I flatter myself that he found my Regiment in good condition - I sent you in my last letter the cards of Gen Meridith Col Dudley & Gen G Burnside - I received a letter from Wm I write an answer to him today I do not wish to lay in camp all summer - it becomes verry {sic} monotonous and tiresome indeed we have a pleasant camp high and rolling -

Yours affectionately
J. Ebersole
Surgeon

In camp near Frederickb Va
May 25th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter of the 16th inst - Since I last wrote nothing has occured {sic} worthy of note but that we have from our

Brigade sent out 4 regiments down on the peninsula {sic} between the Patomac and Rappahannoc - to help (so I hear) some of our cavalry out of a tight place. They have now been gone 5 days. we have heard from them today and expect them back tomorrow - They have visited a fine country that has not been over run with the army - They have been living well - have met no enemy - Our troops took one Lieut Colonel (rebel) his family lives on the peninsula he was over on a visit our men grabbed {sic} him up - they have had no fighting - Dr. Haines went with the Regiment - I remain with the sick in camp. Dr Garner has been sick a week with diarrhea - Before he was taken sick he made application for leave of absence, when sick he acted like a child wished to resign - etc - His leave came and he started home. He is not adopted to the service and I think he will get out of it. I learn that Wm Tayler is at home on furlow {sic} - it has been verry {sic} warm here for some days - until today it rained a little and blows from the northeast - and is cool and pleasant - I see some of the boys of the 7th Indiana everyday, they are all well, Capt Pattisen was a little sick several days - (Tuesday May 26th noon) Our regiments have just come in camp from their expedition {sic} down the peninsula - they found the cavalry they were not in much danger. They the cavalry had collected 700 - seven hundred contrabands of all ages a great many horses & mules waggons {sic} - bacan - all has come in safe - The men were tired and dusty they had some days march 32 miles - these people are all rebels every family having some member Rebel Army. I have sitting before me as I now write on an extemporised table that I have just finished out of 2 boards of a cracker box the legs made from the limbs of a small cherry tree. I have sitting a large bocat {sic} of roases {sic} and other flowers. I procured at a large and once weathy county seat belonging to Fitzue {sic}; It is near where we crossed the Rappahanoc in the last Battle and is used as a hospital. 14 only of our wounded now remain form {sic} time to time as they were able - to Washington We hear with great joy the good news from from Vicksburg. I hope we will sooner or later be able to add something to the glory of our arms - as a nation and redeem the honor of the army of the Potomac - I have yet great confidence in the genius and ability of Gen Hooker - I am willing to give him one more chance - I think the next effort - we will succeed - I would like much to see you and the children and all the friends I think much of you and pray you may be happy and trust in God our Saviour - always - My love to you as ever - Kiss f & m for me. J Ebersole

Camp near Falmoth {sic} Va
May 31st 1861 1863 ?
Dear Wife -

I received your letter of the 21st inst on yesterday. It makes me happy to think you have so pleasant a home as you have. I would like to enjoy it with you verry {sic} much indeed - and hope to if it is the will of Providence after a while - To day is Sabbath - our Chap - has gone to Washington to take the boys money, in order to express it - we were paid on Thursday last - I sent \$300 home I presume we will be paid refularly now as it becomes due - I have

just had my dinner of Soft bread - ham, dried beef, coffee - potatoes etc. I rode out this morning to the hospital a mile distant to see some of our wounded. I went still further a mile or more to a wealthy country seat of an ancient family - Greys by name. A large brick mansion covered with tin with numerous out houses for servants etc. The house has 2 fronts - one towards the river Rappahannoc, sloping down to the river, filled with flowers, shrubs and trees. The other front looking towards the farmlands covered with large peach trees, a beautiful lawn of green grass. I called to see Mrs Grey her niece was also there - a young widow. She has traveled all over Europe and the States - I had a long talk with them about flowers, shrubs and trees etc Birds - toads etc - They have the Mockingbird {sic} here - in his wild state. There was not a word said about the war or the rebellion {sic} they are rebels out and out - Our pickets are here all along the river - A guard is stationed at the house to prevent the destruction of property and prevent insult to the females there is no man about the house except a young son - I got a large basket {sic} of beautiful roses and flowers of other kind. Nothing new or strange however - You speak in your letter about the rats annoying you, can't you put the corn in barrels and thus preserve it - I told Bussell to let the enemy have some of the pasture but not more than half by any means - I am glad to hear that Berry is so good you must as you do no doubt make her feel happy. I will give her a nice present when I come {gap in letter} if I should not forget it. I could be put in irons if I should - I hope the Children will be good and try to improve in all there {sic} ways and in there {sic} lessons until I come home. I wish you much happiness. I send you all great love, my heart is with you to live & die {sic} with you - My life is bound up {sic} with yours and the childrens, nothing is so afflicting as the thought that may one of my children should be bad and a disgrace to Society - I was to Prayer meeting last night in the 24 Michigan Reg - I spoke to the boys and prayed, as did others, we had a good time - I am sorry to hear of Brother Ransdales ill news indeed - yours with Love

J Ebersole

Camp near Falmoth {sic} Va

June 3d 1863

Dear Wife -

I received your kind letter of the 30th yesterday. I am made happy by hearing of your improved health, in which the pony, new saddle, beets, corn, beans, potatoes, gooseberries {sic} gardening etc - figure conspicuously as aids and conduces to the desired consumption of good health - I was always fond of these outdoor recreations. I was always fond of the flowers - The swelling buds - glowing fruit - in fact the whole circle of nature's handy and beautiful work. As displayed in barren forms, colors & perfume of the floral kingdom - There is something lovely in a flower, some element of purity - I think you have been very {sic} successful in your gardening - I fear I will lose my taste for these things by the time I return to civil life - At least for the labor of taking care of them - You must make an effort to get some wood cut for next winter - On Wednesday night at 2 o'clock we were aroused by an

order to cook 3 days rations - Strike tents load up and be ready to march by 6 ock in the morning - all of which we did - had evrything {sic} in readiness, horses saddles etc - we sat - lounged and waited for the order to march not knowing where - at 10 ock we were order to pitch our tents again untill {sic} further orders - Now we are all settled and house or tent ceeping {sic} again as usual - I presume the or{der} to be ready to move, was in consequence of some Rebel movement that required or appeared to require watching - It is dry and warm, with some cool winds and cool nights - the climate is verry {sic} pleasant, much as it is in Indiana, I think there is not so much sultry weather here as there - We had but little to do in camp. I wich to improve my time as much as I can with the limited number of books we have here - and endeavor to ceep {sic} as busy as I can - reading and reviewing the subject of Surgury & medicine - It is a pleasure to write to you and the children - I write with greater ease and pleasure than when I first came into the army but there is yet room for improvement. my regular duties in camp are first in the morning after getting upp {sic} to eat breakfast at 7 ock to have sick call, when all the sick are sent to the Hospital (these are men that can walk) Dr Haines and Garver attend to these when they are both here present - if not I assist - I prescribe for any who may be in the Hospital. At 10 ock I walk around through the quarters among the tents of the men and see if they have (policed) that is cleaned there {sic} tents & floors & yards - & the streets between the tents. Where they cook they dig a deep pit into which they throw all the slop and offal from there {sic} cooking, these have to have earth thrown into them evry {sic} day to cover upp {sic} the filth. The sinks where the men retire are deep oblong square pits screened by brush. These have to be covered with 6 inches of earth evry {sic} day when they are filled up new ones are dug. A well regulated and oliced camp should be as clean as a neat dwelling in the country as regards evrything {sic} that is really filthy and injurious to health. Those who are clenly {sic} in person and quarters are sure to enjoy the best health. I am going to adopt the practice evry {sic} morning of wahing off with a wet towel. I am trying to improve in evrything {sic} to govern my will, my heart, and passion and apeteite {sic}. To lay asside {sic} evrything {sic} that is unlawfull {sic} and do evrything {sic} that is right - God will help us if we thus try he has promised to help me in grace and sucor in the hour of trial. I wish you and the children to be pure in heart, that you may see God - pure as the clear moon and beautiful stars, pure and lovely as the perfect flowers that God has made. Your patience and faith will be tried, God intends to try us all. Without the trial of our faith we will not make much advancement in morrell {sic} improvement - Try evry {sic} day to more and more the child of Hod - Do your duty whether you feel free to it or not and after a while it will be easy and a pleasure - Dr Garner returned yesterday much restored in health and spirits - It does a man a great good to visit home & see his wife and children -

Yours with much love -
J Ebersole

This is Friday June 5th 1863 noon. We have just received an order.

to have 3 days rations cooked and be ready to move anytime. It is said the pontoons are moving. Some think we will cross the river again. It is reported that the Rebs are leaving there {sic} works over the rivier - I may not have a chance to write again soon

J Ebersole
Surg

Headquart Med dpt 19th In
Camp near Falmoth {sic} Va
June 11th 1863

Dear Wife,

This morning at 7 ock in comany with Chap. Barnett and Lieut Richardson of Com. F 19th Ind. I visited John F. Wood of Co F 19th Reg - who is by a Court Martial condemned to be shot to death by muskets on Friday June the 12th between the hours of 12 and 4 ock for desertion and chagning his clothes to those as near the enemies as possible. Reporting himself as a member of the 19th Georgia Regiment. Pretending that he had been taken prisoner, desiring to take the oath of allegiance to the north after being paroled - He had on 3 occasions before throwen {sic} away his gun in face of the enemy and deserted his ranks before a battle. We found him near division head quarters in a Sibley tent under guard with irons on his wrists. He was lying up his oil cloth with his coat under him. he resting upon his elbow writing in his diary - He is near 19 years old. His mother died when he was 7 years of age - has 2 brothers who were discharged from the 19th Ind for disability - His manner was calm and humble, said he thought he did not desire the sever punishment - Said he thought he could stand it if God would forgive him. Whose forgiveness and blessing he sought earnestly but as yet with little comfort - Wished to be prayed with and advised -

that he might order this cause aright before God - Said he did not think he was affraid {sic} to die - Thought he would as soon die as not as he was disgraced and condemned as a coward in the eyes of evry {sic} one - and the whole country - He did not think he was a coward - if so he was the only one of the Wood family he said - Heis Father and Mother had both belonged to the Church - He himself had had been a member and enjoyed the comforts of faith but had gradually declined from his steadfastness and fallen - While the Chap was conversing with him his breakfast was brought in - we retired until he had finished his repast - He the guard said slept well during the past night. His irons were taken off when he eats -

We returned to the tent, he spreading an oil cloth for us to sit upon - The Chap and an other one present - prayed with him earnestly imploring the mercy and grace of the Heavenly father upon the doomed man. What an occasion for prayer was this - how precious the fours and moments here left to consider and prepare for the Great Eternity just before him - We left him with a promice {sic} from the Chap to return again to see him. An application was made to extend his time but it was not granted - There appears at present no possible chance of his reprieve.

It is now 12 ock Thursday night in the evening - I visited Woods the condemned man again - We held a prayer meeting in his tent, 3

Chaplains 5 or 6 others were present - What a Strange meeting was that the solum {sic} meeting inside. While the guards with polished guns and gleaming bayonets surrounded the tent and filled the door - There was an earnest and importunate petitions offered upp {sic} for the condemed {sic}. I have just sent off one sick man - at this midnight hour as we are ordered to be ready to move by 3 ock in the morning. The condemed {sic} man is to be carried along - and his hour comes. He is to be shot and buried by the way - I today received your letter stating that Mary and Frank were or had been sick - O {sic} my sweet Babies - I am so sorry that they should be sick but am thankful they are better.

I do not know where we are going but I suppose towards Warrenton or Bulls run or Washington - I may have an oportunity {sic} to wire more if not Adué - J Ebersole

Friday morning at 3 ock we left camp and took our course toward Warrenton bu the Catletts road - We carried the condemed {sic} man John J Woods in an ambulance with us - and at 2 ock in sight of Barear Church 12 miles from our camp we halted and Woods was shot dead. Sitting on his box coffin his vrest bare, he facing the guard a handkerchief was tied over his eyes. It was as much as I could bare to see. This execution was ordered to be in the presence of the division -

We are now encamped as I write the Sun just sitting - on deep run - 18 miles from our camp. It has been a warm and disty days march - I have taken since I came into camp a good wash with soap all over - I feel comfortable indeed. I am sitting on my blankets lyng upon the fround where I expect to sleep - without any tent - i may not weite any more in this (farewell)

J Ebersole

June the 16th In camp at Centerville Virginia - I did not have a chance to send this untill {sic} this morning - The army is gaithering here. You will know the situation by the papers before this reaches you. We have had hard marches many of the men have blistered feet - I am sitting up on my blanket where I slept in the open filed in my shirt and drawers writing in haste as the mail goes out at 1/2 past 5 ock - I do not know where we will next to Washington I presume -

Affectionately
J Ebersole

Camp hernden on the Alexandria & Leesburg Railroad - Louden {sic} County Virga June 19th 1863

Dear Wife - We came to this camp on Wednesday 17th The weather had been excessively warm, dry and dusty - Most intensely disagreeable - last night it rained a frand shower, this morning it is verry {sic} pleasant and cool - I do not know the situation - but suppose {sic} the army of the Potomac is spread out upp {sic} and down the Potomac from in front of Washington to harpers ferry. Watching the movements of Lee's forces we this morning occassionally hear firing fron Canon {sic} - in the direction of the river - Some 7 or 10 miles off. We have had no mail for a week - I hear there is a large mail at Corps headquarters being distributed, we will soon get it. The campaigning in the Summer is harder on the Soldier than in the

winter. I dread the heat and dust more than the cold - The first year of my Soldiering has taken all the romance out of the matter for me. It is now a mere {sic} matter of duty and professional service. If there is no preventing providence I expect to remain in the Regiment until the expiration of its term of service - which will be a little over a year yet.

Camp near Gilford Station on the railroad 4 miles from where the above lines were written. We moved here yesterday - last night we had another hard rain - It is cloudy and dark today - This morning we are aroused at 2 o'clock with orders to be ready to march at daylight - My sleep was but half out when we got up {sic} - had breakfast by candlelight. We packed up {sic} and were ready - all but taking down our tents, when orders came out to strike tents until further orders - It is now evening and we are still here - I have had an influenza with running at the nose - Stiff and sore bones for some days, feel a little better today. Things drag along slowly - Much of the early romance and charm of camp life has disappeared {sic} with me, everything {sic} has come down to a practical basis of duty & labour and patience - This is a better part of Virginia than we have usually been in - We are within 6 or 8 miles of the Potomac - 22 or 24 miles above Washington some 12 miles from Leesburg - there are some Union men in this county, the county was exempt - So far as emancipation {sic} was to bare in Virginia - Gen Merideth has returned to his command from visit home of 15 days which was given him to recruit his health, he has had 2 or 3 attacks of slight hemorrhage {sic} of the lungs recently, My love to you, my heart is with you and the dear children as ever -

J Ebersole

Sunday June 21st 1863

I closed my sheet yesterday stating that we had had no mail for some days. It came last night - We got it this morning. I received 9 Papers, one Aurora Commercial {sic} from you - And but one letter from Brother Ransdall, none from you - in this I was somewhat disappointed {sic}. It is now 28 min after 9 o'clock raining a little. Heavy cannonading is going on some 5 or 8 miles up {sic} the river in the direction of Edwards or Harpers ferry. We momentarily expect orders to move (May not however) - I took a dose of oil last night and feel some better this morning - O {sic}! I have not forgotten to inform you that I have bought another horse for a pack horse - gave \$10 dollars for him - we call him bones - he is a government horse - was worn out when he is recruited up he will be a good horse to carry our blankets and other traps - I am allowed {sic} feed for 2 horses so he will not cost anything to keep {sic} - Your Pony here is doing well, I will expect to bring him home when I come of nothing befalls him in the meantime - he is very {sic} pretty and a nice riding horse - the booming of the cannon still continues as I write - We have but few sick men in the Regiment - I sent to New York and got McLeods report the Military Surgery of the Crimean War. I find it very {sic} interesting - I have nearly read {sic} it through - Everything {sic} is going well with me in my office and professionally - we will have marching orders soon -

Yours {sic} affectionately

J Ebersole

Monday June 22d

We are still in camp at the same place - the firing heard yesterday was between Gen Pleasanton & Steward's {sic} Cavalry with some small force of infantry and artillery {sic} - Our forces were {sic} driven some in the beginning of the fight - In the afternoon we drove them 4 miles - and through the gap - it rained hard last night for a half hour - This morning it is clear and fine - All is quiet at this time - I have nearly gotten over my cold - we cannot send letters only occasionally - I expect that we will have difficulty in getting our mail matter during our Summer campaign - I may write some more in this if we move before I send it off -

J Ebersole

Camp near Middletown M.D.

Saturday Jun 27th 63

Dearest Wife -

I hasten to write you a few lines which our Chaplain will take back to mail at Middletown, 2 miles in our rear. We have just passed through it and are now encamped for the night - This is 3 o'clock - We left our camp in Virginia on Thursday morning - crossed the Potomac at Edwards ferry on the same day - The first night camped near Barnsville - on yesterday Friday we crossed Sugarloaf Mountain and at night encamped near Jefferson in the valley {sic} of the Beautiful Monocacy {sic} - This morning we came near 8 miles to our present camp - The Rebs are said to be on the Antietam Battle ground - 10 miles from here on the other side of South Mountain, When we passed through Middletown we were in sight of the old South Mountain Battlefield - Enclosed I send you some of the flowers of the mountain laurel - which I plucked as we passed over Sugar Loaf - It is now sprinkling on my paper and I must hasten - I have had no letter from you since 2 weeks from today - we will soon have another great battle I suppose - Gen Merideth made a speech to his Brigade today and told them they must sustain their already great reputation - yours in love and haste I will write as often as I can

J Ebersole

Camp near Emetsburg {sic} Md - 2 miles from the Pennsylvania {sic} line June 30th, 1863

Dear Wife,

I last wrote you from Middletown, I received your letter of the 22d on the same day - the next morning - the 28th - we recrossed the range of Mountains and encamped in the evening at Frederick City. Early in the morning we broke camp and marched 25 miles to our present camp. We have passed the most beautiful country in the world - The most lovely valleys {sic} in the best state of cultivation - We have views from the Mountain elevations extending over a vast tract of those lovely vales - We had turnpike for 15 miles - into Emetsburg {sic} - 1 1/2 from the town we passed Mount St. Maries {sic} college for males - It is a lovely place, beautifully nested in the Mountain slope, surrounded with the most picturesque country - In the suburbs of the village {sic} is located

St Joseph female college - has a nunery {sic} - The sisters of mercy here, after the Battle of South Mountain and Antietam repaired t{sic} to Frederick City and devoted themselves to the care of our wounded - we are greeted on evry {sic} hand with smiles and cheers - The women and children flocking our to see us and bid us Gods welcome - Little girls and boys cheer us with "Hurrah for Uncle Abes boys", "Hurrah for the union", "Hurrah for George B. McClellan" etc - Many of the people here and the mojority of the army are in favour of Mc having command of the army - It is now half past 2 ock we move at 8 - I must close my letter - The soldiers hand their letters to the citizens as they pass, for them to put in the office for them. I may do the same with this - The rebs are reported at York Penn - we are hastening on to find them. I love you all verry {sic} much and rejoice in your happiness. I am well and in good spirits. i hasten - yours with much love, give my love to all our dear friends Mrs Chambers - Tressila - Mrs Taylor - etc - Mrs Freeman etc -

Now Adue {sic}
J Ebersole
Surgeon

Gettysburg Penn.

July 12th 1863

Dear Wife,

I am still here. When I last wrote you a few lines I was quite unwell. I had to quit work and lay up - I {was} verry {sic} unwell for 3 or 4 days but am now almost entirely reconvered. My Regiment is 40 miles from here at this thime. Near Boonesborough or the old Antietam battlefield I presume - I will soon join my Reg - Many of our wounded here have been sent to Balti ore - none but the worst cases will remain here -

I am boarding at a verry {sic} pleasant place, have had milk & buttermilk. The whole country around the town is one great cemetary - the air is heavy with the effluvia of the dead - I have had no letters from you for a long time, I do not expect any untill {sic} I join the Regiment. It is hardly worthwhile to direct you letters here - as I may soon leave - Gov Curtain {sic} was here yesterday, he was called out last night and made a short speech. Gettysburg is a pretty place. It bosts {sic} of a Theological Seminary - a college - a beautiful cemetary - Gass {sic} - and a supply of water

Yor {sic} husband
J Ebersole

Thursday July 16th

Dear family -

I am writing with the Baby pulling at me so you must excuse it if my words are not distinct. We were so sorru to hear of Willie's leaving. Ma says if she had known of such a thing in time she would have kept him here. We have not had but one letter from Lizzie. She is very anxious to hear from Clara often, she is now at White Mountain. There is a great deal of excitement in the city. Morgan is now at Camp Dennison, it is rumored that they are fighting out there now. They have burnt Camp Dennison. they camped on our Camp

Ground last night. Ma thought of going out there for safety, Ma will not need many for a couple of weeks, she says when she does come she had better bring Clara with her to make a visit. Ma is I think coming down for a few days when harvest is over. My house will be done next week. I am glad for I want to get settled. Love to all, write soon. The baby keeps pulling the pencil out of my hand so I cannot write. She talks a little and is very fat & cunning.

In haste, Love -
{no signature}

Camp near Burlin {sic} on the Potomac
8 miles below Harpers Ferry Md.
July 19th 1863

Dear Wife,

I left Gettysburg On Monday last at 2 ock and hastened forward to join my Regiment on the battlefield, as I then supposed near Williamsport. Before I got up, I learned that the Rebs had all crossed over to the other shore. I waited for and fell in with the Reg - at Keedysville, on the old Antietam battle ground, We are now encamped on the same ground we occupied {sic} last fall before we crossed the Potomac. I presume we will remain here some days to reorganize the shattered pieces and prepare the army for future work - My Regiment and our Brigade suffered terribly in the late battle, we are almost annihilated. The 19th went into battle with 300 men, now can muster but 84 muskets - Many of our fairest & best have fallen having given their lives to their country and the cause of mankind - An order has been issued to consolidate the small Regiments and muster out the Colonel - one assistant surg. and some of the line officers. I left Dr. Haines at Gettysburg. Dr. Garver is with Lieut Col Dudley who is wounded - lost a leg 0 and will die I think - I send you his card - I was quite sick at Gettysburg - had to quit work and lay up - take med. etc - I was for a day and more conigned to my bed and 3 days to the house - God dealt kindly {sic} with me and restored me again - On the first day of the battle I was in a hospital at the outer edge of town. My your horse was hitched near by with my saddle bags on, that large and fine Marine Glass of Hoseph in it - The Rebs drove our men in and sent them flying through town. Just as they swept around the street - Some one of the 11th Corps who was fleeing jumped upon my horse and dashed of at full speed - the Rebs after him - I did not know who it was - I supposed he - the horse - and all the outfit was laost for a certainty. I was sorry to lose the poney {sic} - on your account as I expect to btring him home. He has been such a good and kind fellow, has been in the sevice so long that he seems to have caught the Spirit and bearing of a veterin {sic} trooper - The day after the last days battle I went to the Regiment and learned that he had been seen and recognized by one of my Regiment and recovered - with all the trappings safe and in order - If he had not been taken just then, the Rebs would have seized and carried him off undoubtedly. So here I said in my heart - God has helped me - even in these little matters. A thousand blessings crowd my pathway and

not least among them is the continued good health of yourslef and the children and I trust you are endeavoring to live to glorify God - and prepare for a better and farer {sic} country than this. I see Morgan has reached the rear of Cincinnati (later I do not know) at this date. The last was the most terrible battle in which the army of the Potomac has been ingaged - The newspapers do not exaggerate. They hardly do justice to the cause - our position was a strong one on Thursday and Friday - The Rebs were slain by the thousands as they made desperate attacks upon our lines -

When I came to the Reg I found 2 letters from you. They refreshed me much. I did more in the late battle in the way of operating than in any former - not withstanding I was so unwell - I sent by express to Wm Glen & sons a small box of bones - I hope they will arive {sic} - I was all 3 days of the battle within the lines of the enemy - a number of surgeons who had there {sic} horses with them were relieved by the thieving Shivalry {sic}, and lost their hoses - I will rejoice when this great was is over - I will be glad to hear of the downfall of Charlston - I thing you had bnetter sell the cow - ti is too long to keep her, sell her if you do not buy anotehr, by {sic} another if you can get one you like. You may be able to sell her to the butcher - I will close by sending my love to you all -

J Ebersole
Surgeon

Camp near Middleburg Virginia
July 23rd

Dear Wife - I recieved your letter in which you imformed me of William leaving in persuit {sic} of Morgan and his followers - It must have been a trial to you to see him leave and enter upon the uncertainties of a campaign - I felt but little uneasyness {sic} except for his moral condition - or that some accident of exposure might befall him - I had but little fears of them ever seeing Morgan or nis men - Morgan{s} raid has been a source of much mirth in the army. We supposed by the tone of the papers that he would have been baged before he had moved 20 miles - but he goes through Ind and at last accounts nearly through Ohio and not baged {sic} yet. He certainly will be baged {sic} before long - We came to this camp on the 20th - i do not know why we rest here so long - The weather is verry {sic} fine, the roads are good - etc - Middleburg is a small village - and most intensely secesh - We have passed through Louden County which is quite union in feeling - We had many evidences of the union feeling of the Citizens as we passed. We have had no papers for several days and do not know what has been done in the last 3 or 4 days - We are in daily expectation of the fall of Charlestown - and also of the baging {sic} of Morgan - I do not know what we are agoing to do or where we are going - but presume we will drop down in front of Washington somewhere perhaps at Fredericksburg and reorganize the army and wait for the new conscripts - My health had come up to the old standard neraly. It is not my wish that Wm should cultivate a taste or desire for the Army - There is little in it that is desireable {sic} - If he should enter the service as a private the end would most certainly

bu ruin of soul and body - You know my mind upon that matter - he is too young - The state could not require his services unless he was (and his parent) willing -

When men get sick in the army on the eve of an engaement we call it playing off - I presume Mr Stevens has no taste for being shot at - I presume before this letter reaches you Wm will have returned - and Morgan will be bagged {sic} - I presume you are much disapointed {sic} that the Army of the Potomac have not bagged {sic} Lee's forces - If you believe all that the reporters ahve said, you would think it a small matter to surround and capture 50 or 60 thousand men - Lee had one of the best armies in Pennsylvavania that was ever raised of the same number in the world - they boasted that they could go where they pleased - I would delight in seeing you all and resting some time but I presume I will not see you untill {sic} the fall campaign is over - Remember me to all the friends - I send my love to you and all the children - Dr. Haines os uet at Gettysburg with the wounded -

Affectionately
J Ebersole

Camp at Warrenton Junction Virginia
July 26th 1863

Dearest Wife -

I have written 2 or 3 letters to you in the past 2 weeks and have received 2 from you in that time - Until yesterday when we arived {sic} here from Warrenton - we had not had a paper nor heard from the external world for a long week - I was much surprised to learn that Gen Morgan was yet in Ohio burnin {sic} delpts and tareing {sic} up railroads - Why is he not bagged - You know you in the west are always much mortified when we do not bag large armies with whome {sic} we are opposed - when we are said by reporters to have then in a tight place - Our whole army is skirting dwon through this reageon {sic} on the flank of Lee's forces = who is in the Valey {sic} - We had a hard rain last night after a verry {sic} warm day - I have no tent with me - My tent is behind in the Hospital waggon {sic} left at Gettysburg - I have a piece of tent cloth as large as 2 blankets, this I stretch upp {sic} and lay under it - It is open at both ends - I came near being drenched with rain last night - The sun came out this morning and made all right - We have had but little to eat the past 2 weeks - frequently nothing but hard bread and coffee - & sugar - We brake {sic} the crackers - put them into one of those thin long handled iron skilletts - pour some water on them - then stew them or shteam them until they are somewhat soft - We make molassses of sugar to grace them with - Sometimes we have fresh beef - sometimes salt pork - We have dried peaches in our waggon {sic} behind - I think I never was more hungry than on the first day in the evening of the battle of Gettysburg - I beged {sic} something of a drunk Irish Louesiana {sic} Tiger - he gave me some hard bread he had evidently taken from our dead - & some slices of partley {sic} spoiled bellona {sic} sausage - part of which I eat {sic} - for 3 or 4 days there was nothing to be bought - We went into private homes and asked for something to eat - not knowing when we had one meal, where the next

was to come from - Thus half starved we could but half work - After the Rebs were driven out we done better - I have charge of the Brigade in addition to my own remnant of a Regiment - The number of the Brigade was changed from the 4th as it was - to the 1st of the division - We have but 2 brigades in the 1st Division now, 2 went out - their time haveing {sic} expired - I ahve been busy all mornign in sending 13 verry {sic} men from the Brigade to Wahington to Hospital - I hope soon to hear of the fall of Charlsten {sic} - I think we will not do much untill {sic} the army is recruited and filled upp {sic} with new troops. We have had no mail since we arive {sic} here - I expect a letter from you in the next mail - I presume Wm will have returned by that time - I send love to you and all the children - I would much like to see you and be at home again but am happy in doing my duty here untill {sic} the end comes - as God may direct - always affectionately -

J Ebersole
Surg

Warrenton Junction July 31st

Dear Wife,

I received your letter with Williams yesterday - If you must have the farme {sic} house roof repaired before I come home have the roof raised - it is too flat, that is the reason of it rotting so soon - If you do not have it raised and made more slanting, it will soon ware {sic} out again - This is in refference {sic} to the side of the kitchen. I do not want anything in the way of under clothing at this time. It is too soon in the season to prepare for winter yet. I have more than I can carry at this time - I received a letter yesterday from Sister Eliza Homan - I had written to here and sister Mary Gyies - sometine since - Malinda is married - a Knightstow. She thiks married well - They are all well, Eliza speaks of her childrens ages - her youngest being 6 or 7 years I believe. I am glad to hear of Morgans Captor {sic} at last - after so long a chase - I think you of all have shown geat bravry and the right kind of pluck - I am glad to hear of Williams return, well, etc - I am in good health now after my turn of sicness and I trust with the blessing of God I now will remian well. It seems that I am to have one turn evry {sic} Summer - There is nothing of interest transpiring here now - The army that was nearly without clothing is being refurnished and fited {sic} upo - a few months of active movement and a battle make sad work with the equipment and clothing of an army - Some men have their third pair of shoes since we started last June - Agates description of the battle of Gettysburg is considered by many to be the most truthfull and graphic of any written - he gives the only true description fo the first days fight by the 1st and 11th Corps I ave seen. General Merideth has gone home I hear on 60 days leave of absence I presume he will not return to the field again. I ahve reason to think he will run for vongress this fall in his district - I am gald to hear that William behaved so well in the short campaign after Morgan - I wish James and Joseph to be encouraged in evrything {sic} that is manly and true and good - You wnquire of my will or wish as regards Wm and James going to visit their Unvles Aunts & COusins in Preble County Ohio - I have no objection if you can attange the matter and get

them off - I presume they will have to go to Dayton from ther to the station on the road 2 or 3 miles from Lewisburg - I believe there Aunt Elizabeth Brown lives in Lewisburg, they should stop to see her first - as she will ne the first to come to, then go to Ozies. I presume as that is nearest - I wish Wm would if he goes, call on Dr Fall & give him my compliments - he lives on the road from Lewisburg to Ozies - I am under great obligation to him for many and great kindnesses and help when I was a verry {sic} poor and orphan boy - I do not know whether I always succeed in answering your inquiries satisfactorily or not - I dont know that you can read all I write (give me information on those peoint - I may be able to correct some information) - Affectinately -

J Ebersole

Surg

Head Quart 19th Reg Ind. Vol.
Camp Warrenton Junction
July 31st 1863

Dear Wm,

I received your letter with your mothers yesterday - I was interested in you narative {sic} or discription {sic} of your chase after Morgan - It requires some pluck to stand up and wait & expect the approach of an enemy - those who have been in battle say they fear more just before going into bat{tle} than when they are engaged - I saw a great {many} dead of the first days fighting at Gettysburg - more than at any other I had winessed - i am glad to hear that you behaved well and done your duty - Nothing in the world gives me greater happiness that the fact of my children acting under all circumstances {sic} honestly, faithfully and like men - I am glad you were released soon as I so not think you are old enough to stand the hardships of a long and sever {sic} campaign - If I had a score of sons - able and fit for service I would not object to their going - You must use your influence with James to inspire him with good and true motives and principles - I wish he would early embrace the doctrine of the true religion - It would save him when nothing else will - I ahve written to your mother about you & James going to Preble county - If you go you must be verry {sic} carefull {sic} about getting off and on the cars - and not go on the platform - I do not see how your Mother can do without you both while you are gone - It is reproted here this moring that Mosby, a guirilla {sic} leader of the Rebs, has taken about 40 sutlers waggons {sic} near Fairfax courthouse - Some troops left here this morning - they said they were going to South Carolina. Matters are clear here now - we lay in camp from day to day - I have been rather busy - as in the absence of the ranking surgeon of the Brigade I have beem action as Chief Surgeon of Brigade - as will as attending to my own Regiment - I live here in the open field, with no tent but a piece stretched up opne at both ends not ghigh enough to stand under, here I make my saddle my pillow, Spread my oil cloth and blankets down, I have no chair nor stool - We learn to live without any of the ordenary {sic} comforts of life - I sit on the ground, or on a medicine knapsack - mu ink on the ground - thus I write letters & make out my reports - I have

said something in my letter to your mother about you going on a visit but I leave it to her - She know best what should be done - I think you hav {sic} improved much in your writing - you should endeavor to write weill as that is a great mark of a Schollar - I mean the matter, as well as the form - & chyrography {sic} - I am greatly interested {in} you all and send my love to you, your brothers & dear little sister -

J Ebersole

Head Quearters Med Dpt
1st Brigade 1st Division 1st A.C.
rappahannoc Sta
V.A. Aug 9th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your letter dated Aug 4th yesterday - You write you had been unwell. I am glad you were better when you wrote - The hot weather will soon be past then you will gain in health as you usually do - My health is good, up to the fall standard - we have now more to eat have some soft bread - brought from Washington - have ham - dried apples - fox grapes - and elderberries, beans - etc - I have had for the month past and still have, charge of the Brigade - as Chief Medical officer. Dr Haines is well - We have had some excessively hot weather here - night before last it reained hard - which has cooled the atmosphere greatly - you wish to know how much wood you should cut. I think 10 or 12 cord would do you for one year. You had better have some of these old and worthless apple trees cut for fireplace wood for winter - I would not have more than 500 five hundred railles {sic} made - tell the man who cuts the railles {sic} to pile them upp {sic} off the ground so that they will not rot - I wish the wood and railles {sic} cut on the top of the hill next to Wheeler - none cut below the stone quarrie {sic} unless the timber is down - There you can have them cut. There is one tree down there - across the back fence - you can go with William and see and have it cut if it can be split into wood - I would like much to be at home to attend to matters. The house and lot in town wants reparing {sic} and the farm needs attention verry {sic} much - We must wait - and endure - I do not regret that I am here - though I can hardley {sic} wait for the time to come that I may return to you again - O! how I would love to be at home directing and attending to matters there - I befin to feel a little more like entering into private practice again - Our paymaster is here, we will soon be paid off for the months of May and June. 3 weeks more and 4 months would have been due - But few conscripts have been sent to the army yet. I have nnot seen any of them yet. I always loved my home better than any other place in the world - I expect when I get home again I will never feel like leaving it again - Monday August 10th I rec'ed my money this morning - \$320.95 cts - I will send home \$280 this time, past payday I sent home \$300. It is verry {sic} here today. Ice was found at a large farm house near here - we are now at this time enjoying the luxury of ice water - So you see we are not entirely cut off from evrything {sic} good even here on the banks of the inhospitable Rappahannoc - Evry {sic} farmer or planter of any pretentions in the part of

Virginia has his ice house but as most of the plantations are deserted - most of the ice houses are empty - Is is past 11 ock I suppose the Hospital cook is getting dinner - we will have bean soup - stewed elderberries & grapes - bread & coffee - with jam - I am pained to hear of Dymond and Lizzies illness - it is a disappointment {sic} to find langor & diseases {sic} where they expect to find vigor and health - I remain with much love for you and the children,

Your husband
J Ebersole

I cannot write much interest as day after day and month after month brings the same experience - and I so not like to repeat the same thoughts over and over again - I look for your letters with much interest.

Rappahonnick {sic} Station
August 13th 1863

Dear Wife,

I recieved your letter of the eighth of August on yesterday. I am always glad to get a letter - especially from you - Indeed no one else with rare exception writes to me - I am thankfull that you and the children continue well - I agree with you that our successes in the past 2 months have been great and if continued for 6 months to come there will not be much rebelous {sic} teritory {sic} to contend for left to traitors - I have no doubt of final success bit think there is much yet to do - The rebellion will die hard - I am pleased to hear that you have a prospect of a good school at home - let James and Joseph go of course - Cant My Little Sweet Mary go too sometimes to see how they do at school in the big house - and aint Frank large enough to go -- The boys are going to Lewisburg - are they - I hope they will have a good and sage journey - There is a piece of music published called the "Iron Brigade." I wish you would have Ida Stephens get it and learn it. It is dedicated to and named after our Brigade - It has the pictures of General Merideth, Col Williams and 3 other Col of the Brigade on it. I wish to hear it playes when I come home in the winter - Many troops are moveing {sic} - there are some intimtions that the army will fall back near Washington and part sent to other fileds - If I were at home I think I could help you ear your new potatoes, corn, beans - berries etc etc - Today is Sabbath our Chaplain has gone to Wahsington to express Soldiers money, he took many thousands away for that purpose - I sent \$280 - out of \$320. 2 months more will be due the frist of September - We will ahve no religeous services today. I have read some in the testament, lain about in the shade - meditated upon the past thought of the present and the future and have written this and so passed the time of my sojourn here - Of course I remember all the good people at home at {sic} think of all that I will do when I get home again - When I get home I wil fix up nicely and we will live quietly in the fear of God and prepare for that heavenly laws -

Yours truly in love
J Ebersole

Rappahonock {sic} Station Va Aug 28th 1863

Dear Wife,

Today is the anniversary {sic} of our terrible battle of Gainesville. the first bloody and destructive {battle} our Regiment was engaged in - The past year has been crowded with toil wounds and death to the 19th Ind - I recoil from the thought of passing through in the coming {sic} year what we have in the past - I received your surprise letter the day before yesterday. it was verry {sic} nice to in deed - You complain of not being pleased with your letters etc - I presume the less we study our letters and the more notural we are the better they will be - I do not fault your letter because you speak of yourself and what concerns you - that is what I wish to find in them - I suppose you would believe me, when I tell you, that I would be happy to see you, put my arms about you, and kiss you, talk with you, walk with you, ride with you, eat with you, and last, but probably not least, "Run the blockade with you" I wont take no pleasure in causing you mental suffering though - I am not growing old verry {sic} fast I assure you. My warm blood gives me some trouble, The Apostle understood the matter, see 1st Corinthians, Chap VII, verse 5 - We have by order been moving our tents and laying out the camp as directed by the army regulations - this ought to be and {sic} indication of remaining here sometime - The boys have a saying that when we are ordered to fix up and make evrything {sic} nice and clean that it is a sure sign we will move soon - You speak of haveing {sic} your mind and time continually ocupied {sic} - in your household affairs - this is well, the time will pass the faster to one thus engaged. While we are in camp I have much time for reading and reflection as well as for my other duties - I have quite a comfortable quarters now, I have a large hospital fly over my small tent - it ceeps {sic} the sun off it and extends over the front and side for shade in front which is my reception room at the side is my dining room The dining room is screened by a nice hedge of small seders {sic}. i have beautiful sedars {sic} planted in front - It is actually lovely - It has been quite cool here for some days - 2 blankets are verry {sic} desireable for covering at night - Sabbath morning - 30th last night was quite cool. the day is clear and lovely - I did not close my letter on Friday - I have written twice to Father Glenn & have not reeived an answer - once last month (July) - I sent by express from Gettysburg a small bos to Wm Glenn & sons - I have since sent money but have not heard from them. Will you at your earliest oportunity {sic} enquire about the business - yesterday I witnessed the execution of the sentence of "being shot to death by musketry" the second time - five men of the 2nd Brigade - 1st Division of the 5th A. Corps they were substitutes who had received there {sic} pay and then deserted. It is said one had deserted from the army before taking the pay of a substitute. they had thus for money sold their country and patriotism and justly deserved their fate - Their execution was a Salom {sic} and impressive pagent witnessed by the whole Corps and a large number from the first Corps. Six or 8 hyundred conscripts had just landed from the cars. They were morched to the place of execution to witness the sene {sic}. No doubt this prompt and certain punishment will deter others from committing a like offence. the convicts were

taken out of the guard house dressed in white shirts and blue army pants, their hands tied behind their backs, each man marched in the rear of his coffin supported by a soldier on each side of him. 2 of them were Jews, I believe 3 were Catholics {sic} - 3 priests were with them to administer to their Spiritual comfort - Preceded {sic} by a band of music, they marched through the whole line, the drums muffled, the band playing dead marches and the most solemn {sic} times. They halted when they came to the graves, They (the convicts) sat upon the foot of the coffins facing the line of soldiers - one hundred in number, who stood 10 paces in front of them, muskets in hand - after some time spent in conference with the priests, one of them (the condemned) stood up in the attitude {sic} of speaking. I was not near enough to hear what he said, he stepped {sic} to his brother convict and kissed him, then returned to his seat. A white bandage was speedily {sic} placed over their eyes - the priests and the officials retired, the command was given, make ready - take aim - fire - All was over - five souls were sent into the spirit land - 2 fell over and lay dead upon their coffins, the others fell off - all were dead - I turned my horse's head towards camp musing {sic} upon the scene, this too is part of the Rebellion -

Much love to all my pets
J Ebersole

Camp of the 19th Ind Vols
Rappahannock {sic} Sta V.A.
Sep 6th 1863

My Wife,

I received a letter from you last week - I am glad you are well, though Beny is sick - but getting better. We are not at N. York as some suppose, but here on the Rappahannock {sic} - Some of Indiana Regiments went, one or more from the 12th Corps - the 27th is there - All is dull and slow here. We are digging rifle pits - and throwing up {sic} breastworks on both sides of the river - we hold the south side of the river here for 3 or 4 miles out. The weather is very {sic} fine here now. Cool and pleasant at night, clear and warm in the day. We have dug a well (our Regiment) 3rd feet deep - have good cool clear water - and plenty of it - The men are making bowers over & in front of their tents to shade them. I have had a slight bowel derangement for some days past - I am some better this morning - the health of the troops is very {sic} good - We are now well supplied with vegetables {sic} potatoes, onions, beets turnup, cornmeal - etc beans - The Regiment has less than a year to remain in the service now (less than (11) eleven months) and beginning count the months and days to the time of their discharge - I expect to visit home after the fall campaign is over - it may be 3 or 4 months yet - We expect the paymaster here in a day or 2 again - I have not yet heard from the last money I sent home - I wish you would inquire about it and let me know about it if they dont - I will tell the bos when I come home how many I want of the mice dried pound peppers - I have not got my hand-trunk from Washington yet - I have made several efforts and have been disappointed {sic}

I think I will get it soon as I am in need of some cloths -

commenced this letter this morning and will now try and finish - It has clouded up {sic} and will soon rain - I have not as yet seen anything of your, Williams and Franks photographs - I suppose you have forgotten them - I often look at those I have got, of James, Joseph & Mary - I am engaged in writing a history (or rather Recollections of) incidents connected with the medical department of the 19th Reg - The mail has come for today. I received 2 gazettes but no letter - I am suprised that I have not heard from ny box I sent by express from Gettysburg - nor from the money I last sent to Cincinatti - I send much love to youall, and remain as ever your husband -

J Ebersole
Surgeon

Monday September 7th 1863
Camp 19th Ind Vols
Rappahonock {sic} Sta V.A.

Dear wife in charge
of the family and children
at home -

I will write youa short letter as I have an oportunity {sic} to send it by Asy Hubburt who has been discharged from the sevice in consequence of "Epelepsy" - he had these spasms before entering the army - he was clear of them, he says, for a year - after he came into sercie - they have returned - he is now discharged - He has been a good soldier and done his duty well - I sent a letter yesterday by mail. All is quiet and momotonous here, nothing to break the quiet of camp - We wxpect to have a great time here - in 2 or 3 weeks (if Gen Lee is willing) nothing less than the presentation of a spendid flag to the "Iron Brigade" - By the firends fo the several Regiments comprising the same - The flad was gotten up at Washington, made at new York - and is said to be a most grand affair - We expect to have a large number of guests from Washington - perhaps the President may be here - Gen Mead, etc etc - I willnow give you a general invitation to grace the occasion with your presence - Bring the baby Franky, with you - Let Mary come too - As for the next I will tell youall when we meet again, now adue {sic} -

I remain as ever your Husband
J Ebersole
Surgeon

Camp 19th Ind Vols
September 13th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received a letter from you a day or 2 since - I write this morning, lest I may not have an oportunity {sic} for some tiem to come - A heavy fource {sic} is now crossing the river in order to try the psotion of the enemy. It is presumed that he is falling back towards Richmond. Two or three Corps are crossing - We have

orders to be in readiness to move at a moments notice - We may not move however all depends upon what they find in the front. Our paymaster is here maying the troops, he intended to rest on the Sabbath, but when the nove was put on foot it was thought best to pay today. Our Reg will be paid - I am verry {sic} sorry for Lou & Frank - they - the youngest married and the first to experince a loss of that kind - You can offer Uncle James Miller the buggy and harness {sic} for \$130, one hundred and thirty dollars - i think it ought to be worth that much - If he want it learn what he will ive if he will not give that much and let me know - I wish the harness to go with the buggy if it sells - After a long dry spell we last night had a fine shower evrything {sic} looks beautiful now I saw Charly Allen last night, he was here to see me, he had come with his cavalry and encamped near in order to cross the river at an early hour this morning, he was {well} except a tooth ache - and sour mouth - He said all the boys from Aurora were well. the seventh Indiana are with us, or near us, in the same Division - they are all well - I so not care to move much from our present camp - we have made evrything {sic} comfortable - I dread the great and bloody battles - But I am will for anything that will bring this "Cruel was to an end" - We here are in find spirits and expect that by June 1864 the Rebellion will be played out - I hope so - I have heard a great deal of fireing {sic} of cannon in the direction our troops have gone. I presume we are feeling our was (as they call it) as we advance. We expect to oto the Rappadan {sic} If the Rebs do not prevent us we will go to Richmond - I have but little knowledge of the strength of our forces here but it cannot be large as so many went to N. York and have not returned yet - Enclosed I send you a photograph of Gen Gilmore - who is now as you know before Charleston - I send much love to you and the children - I am pleased to hear that Beny has recovered. I feel verry {sic} greatfull {sic} to her for her faithfull {sic} stay in the family. I am pleased to hear of the boys so good an account - I hope they will continue untill {sic} I come home good boys - good children do not loos {sic} their reward, not in this world nor in the world to come.

Affectionately
J Ebersole

Camp 3 miles south of
Culpeper in the field
Sep 20th 1863

Dear Wife,

When I last wrote to you we were on the Rappahannock {sic} on the 16th we broke upp {sic} camp and moved to our present location. The boys had made great preperation for the flag presentation festival. All the officers of the Brigade had vgiven them \$5 to \$10 dollars and have fixed upp {sic} a floral hall in splendid style and were anticipating a grand time - Had sent to N. York for the meats and drinks - of drinks they had ordered an ample supply. The 19th was set for the great feast - The order to move was a great disappointment {sic} to many. The goods for the supper followed us - On the oafternoon of the 19th the anniversary of the battle of

Antietam, the presentation took place - the flag is the most beautiful piece of art I have ever seen - There is an eagle - with the names of all the Regiments of the Brigade. the names of all the principal {sic} battles they have been engaged in - "Iron Brigade" and "Epluribus Unium" all worked with floss silk - not a mark of paint about the flag - The staff is of Rosewood. It is said to have cost \$500 - five hundred dollars - If you will get Frank Leslie for Sep 26th you will see an ilustration {sic} of the 5 men I wrote you I had seen in the 5th A.C. No reverses in the south west or at Charlestown {sic} - I do not think we will move upon Lee unless he is much weakened by the transfer of his troops to some other quarter - I have recieved a letter from Wm a few days since - My impression is that we will have an early winter and will have to find quarters sooner than we did last fall - Since wetiting the above I have had indication that we would move soon in the advance - It is 5 ock we hafve had preaching in the open air to about 15 or 20 a band playing near us at the sime time. It is a hard place for a chaplain to do any good preaching - I send much love to you all and trust the time is shortening that seperates us -

Give my love to all
J Ebersole

Camp of the 19th Ind Vols
Near Pony Mountain VA
Sep 30th 1863

Dear Wife -

I recieved a letter from you yesterday, dated Sep 24th. - Of course I was glad to hear from you and to hear the news - You course with the roof is the better one perhaps - It will last several years - you can turn the cow into the corn pasture. i think the trees will not be hurt by her. You should not let any one else turn in - It was said here as soon as we heard that Rosecrans {sic} was repulsed that the Army of the Potomac would be blamed. We are so used to being found fault with that it makes but little difference to us. We know and the history will show that the Army of the Potomac has fought harder and stood better than any other large army of the Republic - Lees army is the best Rebel army in the south and where ever it or any considerable part of it goes, there will be hard fighting . Our western army never had such troops to contend with as we have had unless it is in this instance. You wonder why I do not get homesick I do not, yet I think often I would like to be at home - I expect to be there agter a little while. The time of the Regiment expires in a little less than 10 months that time will soon pass off you know - We will soon be 9 months men, then 6 months, & 3 months - it will soon pass - I think you are doing verry {sic} well - If your health and that of the children will be preserved I trust in God it will be - Yesterday we moved camp about one mile from where we were - Our present camp is verry {sic} beautiful - the weather is fine - water is verry {sic} good - etc - We have soft bread beets onions potatoes fresh beef dried apples - beans - sugar coffee canned milk etc - Nothin to do - The government has furnished to each surgeon of Regiment a large now work on hygiene {sic} by Surgeon Hammond. I am

reading thst now, at my leasure {sic} -
Oct 1st The month of temperate days and beautiful nights has made
its advent - This is the place to enjoy fine wether {sic} and note
the changes that occur - All is quiet here yet I see by the papers
that we are pressing upon the Rebs - and a battle may soon occur
in the neighborhood - All is dull and momtonous here - we wait and
still wait - I have but little to write, nothing new - I think you
had better sell half of the corn if you can, when it is gathered
you will not have the trouble of puting {sic} it away - you can
keep your pig until late in the winter before you kill it - if you
wish. You may send Wm Picture etc. Winter will be upon us in 6
weeks or sooner - I so not know where we will winter, have no idea
- I rather think we may have a battle before we go into winter
quarters - i ahve cloths {sic} sufficient untill {sic} the
beginning of the new year. I do not expect to get anything new
until I come home - If I am permitted {sic} a leave of absence this
winter - I am happy in your love, and long for the time to come
when we can meet again. Until then I remain as ever your husband,

J Ebersole

Surgeon

Camp on buiscuit {sic} Mountain
Bull run range near thorough
fare gap - Oct 23rd 1863

Dear Wife,

I have received your letter of Oct 14th When I last wrote to you
we were at Centerville. We expected the enemy to collect us there
but they did not so we moved out to meet them. Then they fell back
- and we are following up - I do not know whether they will stand
to give us battle or not. This is a most beautiful and pictueresqe
{sic} country. We are now laying a the base of an elevaton of the
bull run range called buiscuit Mont - The bold bare grey & white
rocks run up to a dizzy height. Yesterday evening - in company with
our Chaplain & the Chap of the 24th Michigan went to the top of the
rocks - A magnificent view spred {sic} out in evry {sic} direction
fo deversified {sic} landscape - Consisting of open farms - Clumps
of woodland, Mountain ranges, beautiful vallies {sic} I made an
effort and stood upp {sic} on the highest peak but could not stand
long - myhead became dizzy - We have good water here - I presume we
will not remain here long - perhaps a day or 2. Yesterday I got a
few miserable small seelig apples of a farm house near - I eat them
as appetizeronly as you would eat the lusous {sic} bell flower or
fall pipen - We still talk of the Iron Brigade going home. may of
our men-are getting out of the notion of re enlisting. If the
governemtn delays sending us home I do not know that the Regiment
will except {sic} of the terms agter a while. You wish me to come
with Regiment I have made up my mind to go with it. If the Regiment
does not return I will endeavor to get leave of absence this winter
- I advise you to sell you corn but if it is a dollar per bushel
you might as well ceep {sic} it a while - If it is possible get
some wood cut as coal will be verry {sic} scarce - I recieved a
letter from your father a few days since - he says Wm is the best
boy he ever sow. We passed through Thoroughfare {sic} gap night

before last was all night nearly in getting through - we lay down before day on the ground and slept well for an hour or 2 - My health is near excellent. I am in good spirits the whole army is in highest morale condition. The home election has given new energy to the army - evrything {sic} is working to the great end - Chrushing {sic} the rebellion - You should not depend to much on what yousee in the papers about the comeing {sic} home fo the Brigade as that matter is not yet settled - My opinion is that we will get to come home but it is not certain - I would like to be with you and enjoy your good apples and all things but I can wait as my duty evidently calls me here - If I get to Indiana I wil try to get some position in the state so that I can be at home oftener. I think if there is a place that will only suit me I can get it - I fear sometime that you have too much care and that I should be at home to take the care off your hands - this is my greatest trouble - You must take things evry {sic} easy and not be over anxious about matters - I send my love to you, kiss little Frank and Mary for my and wait and I will if God permits see you soon.

J Ebersole

Camp near Bristoe Station
on the Orange & Alexandria R.R.
Oct 27 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your long letter on yesterday. i see by you letter that you are in better health and all the children are well - I would like to have some of you sider {sic} and apples & apple butter - We have had some hard marches this month and rather a hard time - On Saturday we marched about 18 miles in a continuous rain and waded 3 streams over boot top deep - Then lay down on the damp ground for the night - We hear occasional rumours {sic} about the veteran corps going home but knew nothing certain about it - it may ne that we will not know that we are going until we receive an order to report at Washington - We had a hard frost last night. I am glad to hear of all the news from home etc etc - I would like to have those peictures if I do not return home soon - I think 2 or 3 weeks will deside {sic} the matter - Give my complements to Aunt Lizzie Dymond and tell her it will be no fault of mine if I do not appear at her party for the "old folks" - I have not desided {sic} yet whether I will go in for 3 years more - And will not deside {sic} untill {sic} the last moment. I may I may get to come home without doing it. The Regiment may not accept the proposition if it is delayed too long - etc etc - At all events I think I will get a leave of absence some time this month for a short time at least - You cannot imagine how dull it is here. We eat & sleep and sit around the camp fires from one day to another - varried {sic} by some hard marches - cold beds - etc - I have not suffered much. I have blankets to ceep {sic} me warm but the men have a hard time. I have not seen Wm Layton . I have made an effort to find him but the Second Corps has not been near us for any length of time. You know the army is stretched out some 6 or 8 - sometimes 10 miles and never all together - If I can I will try and see William. if you send those pictures send one at a time as they may get lost -

I wish you would send me one of my photographs as I may want 2 or 3 of them - how many are there left - If you think you can take care of all the corn perhps you had better not sell any more - but you can judge of that matter - etc - I would not boil the sider [sic] as much as we boiled it when I was at home, it was too strong. I wish you would make some 2 or 3 gallon - boil it a little to purify it then when hot put in gallon jugs - hot cork it tight, set in a cool place for winter - You must not expect verry [sic] big or smart letters from me while I have to write them sitting around the camp fire in the wind - If I were to tell you how much I love you - how I long to see you etc - and repeat it continually you would become tired of it, but be assure of all and more to, if it is not repeated.

J Ebersole
Surg

Camp near Bristow Station
October 30th 1863

Dear Wife,

Since I last wrote to you the Regt received an order to send one man from each Company home to recruit for the Regt. We have heard nothing of late to encourage us to think we will be sent home as a Regiment this winter - So you need not expect me untill [sic] sometime during the winter after we get into winter quarters - You may send me these pictures as soon as you please. We may be in camp here sometime. I do not think we will move for this fall or winter as the season is so far advanced - The Sutlers are bringing up some goods and our boys are in great glee over the good things We have butter and canned milk again - We buy apples the size of {?} for a quarter for 5 or 6 etc - If you could sell yours for that you wold [sic] soon have your hands full of Greenbacks - Tomorrow we will be mustered for and will soon be paid again - Time appears to rool [sic] by berry [sic] fast - I am getting in a great mind that after I leave the army and am at home a while to visit Europe for 5 or 6 months to go through the Hospitals etc. This you see is only a revival of the old desire - I do not set my heart upon it much but leave it to the indications and developments of Providence - Th wether [sic] is rather pleasant and fine - we are all in good spritis and in fine condition. There was not one sick man in the Regt this morning - I have verry [sic] easy times, could not have batter - I think of you all with much love and happiness - i think I have one of the most interesting families in the world. I wish all my children to be food and worthy - They ow [sic] much to your care and good sense in their management. Tell Jimmy & Joseph that I am well pleased to hear of their good conduct and wish them to make an effort to ceep [sic] up and improve upon the past for that is the way to live - Enclosed I send a photograph of Maj Gen Reynolds who fell at Gettysburg, bravely leading the first Corps in the terrible fight of the first day when our Brigade and Regt suffered so much - I will soon get a map of the plan of the battle of Gettysburg - and send to you. I got a map of all our great battles for future refference [sic] - I wnat you to use all the money you wish and spend the winter at the city if you desire -

Could the children not go to school in the city if you were there. You could dispose of the pig and find a place for the cow & poney {sic} during the winter I presume you will do as you wish in the matter I presume - If I had some convenient french books I wuls study some at intervals - but ther is not much time that I am not subject to some interuption {sic} and yet have but little to do - I have your small picture with Josey when he was a little boy when I get Wms and Franks I will have all - Kiss the Children for me and five my love to all - my compliments to Mrs Chambers & Ruth Chambers -

Affectionately
J Ebersole
Surg

Camp near Brandy Station
on the Railroad to Culpeper west
of the Rappahannock VA Nov 9th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your long and verry {sic} welcome letter several days since but have not had time to write and am now writing and evry {sic} moment expecting the call to "pack up and fall in" Though we may not move for hours - On Thursday evening the 5th Nov we moved out of our camp at Bristoe Station - we were guards for the waggon {sic} train, moving slowly we reached Warrenton Junction at 3 ock in the morning, nearly all night going 8 miles - We lay down in the darkness and slept untill {sic} morning - Here we staid {sic} all day by our Cavalry who had been on a recognicence {sic}, were discharging there {sic} pieces, a mile in our front and in the woods. There was several several thousand of them. It sounded like a severe engagement. We thought the enemy were upon us for a while - They had orders to emty {sic} their guns but we did not know it -

On Saturday we fell into line and marched to within 3 miles of Kelleys {sic} ford and encamped for the night. At 3 ock in the morning we were aroused by the Bugle call to "pack upp {sic}" Upp {sic} we jumped, made a hasty fire, it was cool and frosty. Rubed {sic} our eyes and looked around and found that the call was for the Second Brigade or our dividion. They were to move, we to remain untill {sic} morning. We therefore got under our Blankets again for an hour or two - All day to day Saturday, there was heavy firing in our front and on our right. We had driven the Rebs from the Rappahannock and taken 12 or 15 hundred prisoners, one Battery etc - Yesterday Sunday we crossed over the river and now the whole Army lays at Brandy Station on the Rail Road - We have 5 Corps here, the 1st 2d 3d 5th & 6th. We that is I do not know what we will do next but suppose we will follow the Rebs as far and as fast as we can - if they make a stand we will give them battle and whip them. i think the whole army is in good condition in point of morale & verry {sic} confident of victory if we meet the Rebs - Your letters are verry {sic} acceptable - I am pleased to learn yor {sic} health is better - & that all the children are well and doing well - I have just been to the 14th Regt Ind Vols and learn that Wm Taylor has gone home to recruit the Regiment. he is Sargent of his company and may be promoted to Lieutenant - I have nothing of

interest to write of my self but that I would like much to see you all but in this I cannot have my own way and must wait the event of circumstances and the will of others. I have no doubt but that I will be home sometime this winter on leave of absence - I can with all confidence and contentment confide all our interests at home to yur care and management - But I fear sometimes it is too much for you but you must not let meatters trouble you to much. Now you must know that I lvoe you verry {sic} much and it makes my heart glad to hear such a good report from Wm and all the children. I think more of my family than I do of money or anything else -

Much love to all

J Ebersole

The wether {sic} has been beautiful. We have had no snow yet but hard frosts. One year from yesterday we had a hard snow storm. I fear a storm when the army is in motion -- It is so hard to move the supplies - for man or horse - We all have high hope that the war will be closed at least by next July - It is now 11 ock the sun is shining but one dark cloud is over our heads and the snow is this moment falling in scattering drops - for the first time this fall I am sitting by a stick fire among the brush and trees. Laphe, our cook is cutting the fresh beef to fry. he has got the coffee put on & we will soon have some dinner - it will be beef stake {sic} coffee & hard tack - Billey May has returned from an excursion of about a mile - he went for some corn to parch but the filed was guarded and he could get but 21 ears. I now hear distant cannonading in the direction of Culpeper 6 or 7 miles distant. I presume our cavalry are friving the Rebs towards the Rappadan {sic}. I have not recived those pictures yet - I wish I had some of you apples & sider {sic} here - I wish you would enclose me some postage stamp in you letters as they are hard to get here - I have not one at this time and will have to hunt around to find one for this letter -

Yours affectionately

J Ebersole

Camp 19th Ind near Rappahanoc {sic}
Station VA Nov 16th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your letter containing the photograph of Wm - It is a verry {sic} good picture. I am much pleased to have it - I{n} the same mail recieved letter form your Father & Wm. Wm says he is greatly interested with his sundies and hard at work on a good letter - is imporving - both in pennmanship {sic} & composition - Your Father says it is the intention to have you and the children spend the winter or a part of it in the city. I have sent you by mail a small book and account of the invasion of Pennsulvania by Lee and the Bat- of Gettysburg - Written by Jacobs professor {sic} of mathematticks {sic} in the Colledge {sic} of Pennsylvania - A map accompanies the book showing the position of the contending forces on those ever memorable days of July. You will see I have made pencil markes {sic} - I written {sic} my name showing the situatio: of the hospital I had charge of during and after the battle. It is

on the Rail Road & main Street - We have had rain it is quite wet and muddy {sic} - It is still warm. We rather expect soon the Road is finished up to the river - the Bridge is nearly finished - We have recently got some good butter cheese & milk from the Division Pervayor {sic} or Sutler - Some green apples also 4 for 25ct quarter - butter at 50ct cheese 40ct etc - Enclosed I send the photograph of Chaplain Wm Way of the 24th Michigan of our Brigade - I got it in echange for mine which he insisted on haveing {sic} - I could dispose of a score if had them. I expect to get some more taken when I have an oportunity {sic} You should let Mrs Chambers have one or wait untill {sic} I get some taken that are better if I can - The Sun is now shining beautifully - we are all in good spirits and happy. I got a new pair of pants today of{f} the quartermaster - They are ("reenforced" - "mounted") double on the inside of legs for riding, light Blue, heavy, warm, cost \$4.60 ct. I am looking for a letter from you with my babys picture in it. I hope you are happy and well and the children also - Wm tells me he has made \$10 ten dollars by retuning a stray dog - the dog must have been a valuable beast I think - You may not be uneasy about my combat as I have a way of looing after myself that is perfectly cheerfull {sic} and successfull {sic} too, I assure you. It is not often that I am either cold, or wet, or hungry for any length of time - I hav five large blankets with that large comfort I brought from home - one overcoat, 2 oil blankets etc. I think you would do well to leave James at Uncle James to go to school if you go to the city. I think if I were in you place I would go to the city and spend some time. Now I will close by sending you much love and many kisses, and the promise of more when we meet again - until then good by {sic} -

Affectionately
J Ebersole

Camp 19th Ind Vols Near
Rappahonnoc Station Va
Nov 19th 1863

Dear Wife,

I yesterday received a letter from you dated, or mailed, the 12th. I have written 2 letters since the one that had the picture in - This will {be} the 3d one in 10 days. I am much pleased to learn that Mr Freeman has charge of the school - James & Joseph should have an oportunity {sic} to be at school all the time. I am sorry too that duty calls you to be at home this winter as it would be verry {sic} pleasant to you so spend the winter in the city with your friends and acqantences {sic} - You could let the boys stay at Aunt Wlizas - could you not, part of the time, and you go to the city. Get the boys evrything {sic} they need to make them comfortable so they may feel happy and study well and learn fast and be good boys - Yes I think your self denials and crosses are verry {sic} great for a "weak minded woman" Particularly the "darning of socks and the writing of the occasional letter" not to mention the looking after the rats - But you know that "Tribulation worketh patience" etc - I have sent you a small workl on the invasion of Pennsylvania & the bat of Gettysburg - I think it quite

instructive - The R. Road is in runing {sic} order up to Culpeper there is some indications that we will move soon, My opinion is that we will move upon the Rebs on the line of the Rapidann {sic} & give them battle where ever we find them - The wether {sic} may with the {?} be so bad that we cannot move. I wish you would send me a pair of good wollen {sic} socks by mail - wrap them up close, tie a string around them, cover them with paper, use paist {sic} with the paper - then around all tie a string - The postmaster can tell you how many stamps to put on - If I were you I would put the fruit in the cupboard near the fire in the siting room - I will renovate the seller {sic} as soon as I get home - The cow will not hurt the [each trees I think, while the pasture remains good the field - She will find water there furing the winter unless it freezes extremely hard. I would feel verry {sic} happy if it were so you could spend the winter in the city - it would be pleasant to you - Tell mary & Frank I got their paper kisses - but I wiant some kisses from their cheeks - They must save them for me until I come home. Dr. Haines has not been with the Regiment since the battle of Gettysburg - He is with the Division Hospital. The sick of the Division are all together under the care of one srugeion & 2 assistant Surgeons - They have 20 large Hospital tents and sometimes have an hundred & fifty sick on hands. Before any important move they send the severely sick to Washington and follow the Division with with the remander in Ambulances. Whenever a man gets so sick in the regiments that he cannot sir up or cannot travel we send him to the Hospital. This morning I had but one man excused from duty, and that was from an old wound in the hand - Many of the Conscripts and new soldiers in New york {sic} and some other Regiments in our Division are sick and dying - The old troops are verry {sic} healthy - I sent by express to day to Wm Glenn & sons \$300 in 5, 20 treasury notes baring {sic} percent interest - payable in gold evry {sic} months - I cannot send so much next time quite - I am sitting by a large log fire writing this - I must now move to get out of the smoke - The Chaplain has gone to Warrenton Junction 8 or 10 miles down on the R. Road to express the money that the oys wish to send home - The express office does not come up nearer than that. I have no wish to be taken prisoner. I assure you under the exhisting {sic} conditions of things I do not think there is any danger. For we expect to whip the Rebs when we meet them again - We have evrything {sic} plentiful now, Soft Bread, potatoes, Rice, Ham, fresh Beef, Butter. I am in my highest condition of health - I have no doent but that I willget a number of kisses when I get home - The time is passing Rappidly {sic} Christmas weill soon be here - I do not think I will be at home before the first or middle of Hanuary - in fact I do not know anything about it. It will not be untill {sic} we go into winter quarters or the Roads get so bad that we cannot mover - but I am content to wait - I wish you to have evry {sic} thing and be as happy as you can - Much love to you and all - Give my compliemetns to Mr Freeman & lady. Iam happy to have my children under his accomplished & Christian care - as a teacher.

J Ebersole

(Send no more stamps as I have got a supply)

Camp 19th Ind
on Mine Run - 12 miles
from Orange Court House
South of the Rappadan {sic}
Nov 30th 1863

Dear Wife,

I have time to write but a few line s to send to Washington by a Reporter. Our whole army is here in front of the enemy a great battle is certain if the Rebs do not run - fireing {sic} has been going on all the day - it is now 2 ock 8 or 10 of our Division have been wounded - I am well - Haines is also well all in the best of spirits and confident of a victory. The wether {sic} is clear and cool - I will not get any of your letters untill {sic} this affair is all over . You may wright {sic} & I will get them after a while - I do not know when I will have a chance to send again we have no [means]

J Ebersole

Head Quart 4th Div. 5th A.C.
April 23d 1864

(Circular) The following is announced as the organization of the
"Field Hospital of the Division" for the ensuing Campaign -
Surgeon in charge of Division Hospital -
A.J. Ward 2nd Wisconsin

Executive Officer
Assist Surgeon Haines, 19th Ind Vols

Recorder
Assist Surgeon A. R. Barnes 76th N.Y. Vols

"Operating Staff"
1st Brigade Chief Surgeon, J. Ebersole 19th Ind.
" Assistant J.W. Beech, 24th Mich
" " D.C. Ayres, 7th Wisc

2nd Brigade, Chief	G.W. Metcalf,	76th N.Y.
Assistants	A.C. Coe	147th N.Y.
	G.W. New	7th Ind

3rd Brigade Chief	W.T Humphrey	149 Pa V
	T.C. Reamer	143 " "
Assistants	J.A. Ramsey	121 " "
	N Strauss	150 " "

By command of Brig. Gen. Wadsworth
C.N. Chamberlain
US Vols Surgeon in chief
4th Div 5th A.C.
Army Potomac

This is a copy of the organization of the field Division Hospital,
for the coming {sic} campaign. In case we have a battle, you will
see I am at the head of one of the three operating tables of the
Division. One of the places of greatest honor in the Division. The
very {sic} place I desire above all others.

"Will you preserve this"

J Ebersole

{no first page but is 26 April 1864}
enclosed I send you a copy of the order from Corps headquarters. I
wish you to preserve it. I hope there will be no occasion for
service of that kind, but I will cheerfully comply if there is
occasion for my services. There is but little to excite or interest
in camp - We have been here since the 20th of December 1862 {sic}
more than four months - Have to keep {sic} 10 days rations on hand
and ready to march at on hours notice. A few evenings since at 8 or
9 o'clock an order came inquiring whether we could be ready to march
with an hours notice - The cooks went to work boiling meat and
cooking to be ready - That was the last we heard of the matter - We

have made ready to march a half dozen {sic} times - and have eaten up our ration. Thus it goes you see - we have to {be} ready all the time and still wait - I want to see you verry {sic} much. I send you my love, kiss the children especially little Frank for me. Give my compliments and Christian love and greeting to the Chamberses and all the frineds - Remember me to Brother & Sister Nemsesele {?} - Today we are to have preaching in our Hospital tent by our own chaplain - his name is Thomas Barnett of Selmy deliware {sic} County Ind - He is Methodist - I have just had my dinner. Soft bread)the last that we will have for many a day I presume - as our overns have been taken down and sent off) - Bolied ham, butter, Stewed dried peaches - coffee - Mustard with vinegar - we have potatoes in pleanty. All our sick have been sent off so we have but little to do but eat, sleep - and ceep {soc} a general oversight of the Medical Department - i send home \$270 out of my two months salery - that would be \$16,20 Sixteen hundred and twenty dollars per year - that is more than I could make if I were at home - I got for the two months \$317.50 I got pay by the day, so there will be a difference in the months, less for a short month - There will be 2 months due again the first of May. I presume we will not be paid again untill {sic} in July. You must put a good saddle blanket under your saddle (an old blanket coubled 3 or 4 times) as side saddles are apt to rub the backs of horses - Today 26th of April is the anniversary of my joining the Regiment near this camp - My commission dates from the 15th of this month so I am 11 days in the second year. So time moves on rappidly {sic} The Regiment has but 15 months to remain in the sevice. My time will expire with the Regiment. So after July will have but one year and soon but 9 months and so on - It will be a great time when the war ends or our time expires. If I should stay till our time expires I will come home once before the end -

Your Husband
J. Ebersole

Cincinnati, May 2, 1864

Dear Ma,

I arrived here about 1 O'clock Sat. night with Peter, the train being 2 or 3 hours behind time, and on yesterday passed a very prfitable Sunday. In the evening Bro. Ninde preached a sermon especiall to those youn men who were going away. It was a very good sermon, This morning I was sworn in. I brought me a good pair of thick heavy army boots for 13.00. It is a good price. I bought me a knife for 70 cnts and drew 20.00 from the store (paying for my boots and leaving nothing to be paid for at the store but my shirt 2.00 and my handkerchief 1.20) I have spent 15.40 already and I think I will get me a haversack tomorrow for about 1.50 They asked each one this morning if we wanted shirts, socks, shoes, pants, coat, cap, overcoat, haversack, and knapsack. I ordered nothing but an overcoat and knapsack as he man for whom I went furnished me his uniform, a good pair of pants a bliuse, and good cap. I will also get a blanket. James gave me a nice oilcloth, which he had never used. We marched around 'some today, and will get our equipments tomorrow and in all probablity will go to Camp Dennison tomorrow evening. Dave Frazer came up on the 9 O'clock train this morning,

and seeing a chance enlisted in our company for \$200.00 I had nothing to do with his going. Peter had concluded not to go, as they promised to raise his wages, and they told him they thought if he would wait there would be a good chance there and also his Uncle here thought he had better not go. I was sorry but I think he had better not leave his place. Two boys from the A Grade in our school got into our company this morning (very nice boys) 1 from my grade and 1 from the D Grade. The principle has gone and 1 male teacher so there are not doing much there, as they only recited 2 lessons today. Everybody I have seen yet thinks that the "Winfield Rifles" is the most moral company in the Regt. There are a good many young persons in it. I feel in good spirits. I hope you will not be lonesome, or feel bad at least now as we may not go into any danger at all. My oilcloth kept me dry today. The draft commences Thursday. Mr Dymond had a chill Friday and Saturday. He and Lizzie are both sick, although Lizzie is not much sick. I wrote to Pa, will send it tomorrow. Tell Will that those boots are here ready for him. Our Regt. turned out 700 men today, our company 72. Annie made me a very nice companion when folded up it is just the size of small sheet of paper. I have paper & envelopes, buttons, needles thread yarn flannel comb tooth brush, lead pencil soap and towel. I have a belt to wear my money in, I will leave my watch. I will write often and tell you where to write. If at any time you do not know where to write to me, send you letter here and they may know. Tell the boys to be good boys. I send much love to you all and will try and take care of myself and remember the good advice I have received.

Yours Truly
W.V. Ebersole

Camp Dennison May 8th 1864

Dear Ma

I have just received a letter from you in which you feel so vavly avbout my going, ert. I was very sorry but suvstitutes could not get substitutes and you need not feel so badly as we will have very little marching to do and are well equipped in every way and I am in the vest company in the regt. We are encamped on a plain to the south of Camp Dennison the Miami river a few hundred yards to our rear. We have good tents, (two men to a tent) and plenty of blankets. I have never felt better in my life. It is very pleasant here, plenty of water, and plenty to eat. We have had fresh beef today for dinner and breakfast bean soup, hominy, coffee, bread, and pleanty of potatoes. The person with me in my tent is a very nice boy, younger than me and there are several boys in the company. The officers are very kind and I don't think there is any danger of my getting sick or not standing it. We will most probably go East somewhere, about Tuesday. The boys are in fine spirits and well. I took a good wash yesterday. One of the men in the store came out today and brought me your and Pa's letter and also a gazette and Advocate. We had nothing to do today except inspection of arms at 9 o'clock. I am getting along fine but am sorry that you feel so vad. I hope you will soon be well again. Three months will soon be over. I will try and keep aloof from the evils of camp

life. There are a good many ladies and gentlemen out from the city today. We will be mustered in tomorrow - probably. I must take my dinner dishes to the river and wash them. I have leveled off the ground around my tent, and dig a ditch around it and am going to get some hay or straw for a bed. We have two rubber blankets. our camp looks very nice. We wash it up every morning, clean out and fix up our tents, and then have breakfast at 6 o'clock, then drill from 9 to 10, dinner at 12. Drill from 2 to 3, and dress parade at 5 supper at 6 and go to bed at 9. I do not need anything and if I do I will send to the city. I started with those boots of Uncle Will's but stopping to get them pressed out a little one burst out at the side. the shoemaker said they were rotten leather. I am going to draw a pair of army shoes, as all old soldier say they are the best thing for the feet. I send much love to all of you, do not fear for me. I will write from time to time, write to me when you can, pray for me.

Your affectionate son
Wm. V. Ebersole
Co. B 7th Regt O.N.G.
Care Capt Booth
Camp Dennison O.

Division Hospital 4th Div 5th AC

June 8th 1864

Dear Wife,

We are now on the north side of the Chickahomony - 5 miles from bottom bridge - part of the Corps including our division is there now - There has been in the last week 2 or 3 pretty severe partial engagements with the enemy - We have had the advantage in every {sic} engagement I believe - I am improving {sic} in health in the last 3 days - We have but little to do but lay about under our tents. I hear fighting now down at the river - There are intimations that we may move by the flank to the south of Richmond and attack from that way - We have good many sick in our Hospital - The wounded and bad sick have all been sent off - If we take Richmond by siege {sic} we will see frost before it falls into our hands (it is sure to be taken) as I believe - I received a letter yesterday from Thomas Rickover - in reference {sic} to his son - I learn from Dr. New of the 7th that he was wounded in the face and has gone to Washington - I presume his Father has found him here this. My mail comes sparsely {sic} - I get but few papers and fail to get all the letters you send - All the boys from Aurora are well - all are in good spirits and confident. Much fatigued and worn out and dirty - clothes - shoes etc were issued yesterday to their great comfort - I send you a few roots of Moss ivy with the flowers - White and delicate. Plant these roots in a pot of sandy soil, wet in shady place (I send you a slower of the magnolia Umbelata - I do not send) They grow in abundance near where I now write - If this moss ivy should live it will be a remembrance of my stay near the banks of the Chickahomony - The white delicate flower is very {sic} fragrant - It wants shade and water as it grows near the water - I got a Gazette if 1st June this morning - Four months pay will be due the first of July - I send love to you and long to see you all - Give my love and compliments to all who may wish my well

being -

J Ebersole

Army of the Potomac
October 1864

The undersigned having been in the several capacities pertaining to our rank and service associated with Surgeon Jacob Ebersole (19th Ind Vols) take great pleasure in expressing our high regard for his skill and ability as an operator. his wisdom as a conservative advisor combined with the genial affability of a true Medical Gentleman and Officer.

Surgeon Ebersole's experience is some of the first and many of the hardest fought battles of the present war, early led to his appointment "chief of one" of the "Operating Boards" in our Division in which position and in that of Surgeon in Charge of the Hospital of the 4th and 5th A.C. he has won the highest confidence and esteem of all interested.

J.H. Beech	Surg - 24th Mich Vols S. in charge 1st B 3rd Div 5th A.C.
Wm T. Humphrey	Surg 149th P.V.
I. Allen Ramsay	Surg 121st P.V.
G.W. Metcalf	76th N.Y. Vol Surg in Chief 3rd Brig - 3rd Div 5th A.C.
A.S. Coe	Surgeon 146 N.Y. Vol

My ancestors - according to family tradition were of Holland and German origin - paternal from Germany and maternal from Holland. They came to this country in the 17th Century were of the mechanical and mercantile class - with an education suitable to their class or place in life - My Grandfather on my mother's side came to Cincinnati in 1807 from Maryland - My mother was born in 1799 in Hagerstown Maryland - My mother's Father was an ingenious and learned mechanic - made clocks and so forth {sic} my mother would tell us of the visit of a company of Indians to my grandfather's house and shop, which was in the same building, to see and hear a musical clock which was a great wonder to all of the village {sic} folks - The Indians would look on and hear the wonderful {sic} musical clock, without exhibiting a sigh of wonder or emotion.

Written by Dr. Jacob Ebersole

Incidents of Field Hospital Life with the Army of the Potomac

It is with some hesitation that I arise in response to the call of our honored Commander, to speak to you on the topic named this evening. When I recall the eloquent and moving addresses that have been given us from time to time here by the various distinguished members of this order, I realize that my pen and my subject must

fall far short of your expectations. The military surgeons place and his work are of necessity removed as far as possible from the immediate place of danger and the actual scene of conflict. It is not his to plan the campaign, or to lead the charge, or inspire fainting hearts by deeds of personal valor, but faithfully skillfully and untiringly to minister to the sick, to attend to the wounded and comfort the dying - He understands what the Soldier's life finally brings to many, the death wound, the burning fever, the wasted body, and the broken constitution. He knows what the battle means, the shattered limbs, the moan of pain, the life long cripple. Nor is his position devoid of exposure; oftentimes to personal danger, to privation, to protracted and exhaustive labors while he is brought in almost daily contact with scenes and incidents of the most pathetic and touching character. I can only attempt to recall tonight in a familiar way a few of these incidents, with the hope that they may be not without interest to you -

I was connected during the Civil War with the Iron Brigade, so called from its meritorious actions in various battle fields. It was composed of the 24th Michigan, 2nd and 7th Wisconsin, and the 19th Indiana regiments - of which latter regiment I was surgeon in Chief - It was in the first Army Corps, commanded by the lamented Genl Reynolds, who fell early in the first day of Gettysburg - our corps was moving in the advance, passed Gettysburg to the left, and engaged the enemy to the northwest, 2 or 3 miles from the town - About four (4) o'clock I was ordered to go into Gettysburg, to take possession of the Railroad Depot there, and establish our hospital therein - This depot was at the north edge of the town - In the afternoon the 11th Army Corps, under Howard, met the rebels to the north and were fiercely driven back through the city past my hospital - Here my hospital steward, a worthy & faithful man, came hastily to me in great alarm and perturbation, and said "shall I go to the front or stay with you" - he being an enlisted man greatly feared being taken prisoner and landed in Libby or Andersonville. I replied to him "do as you think best, but whatever you do act quickly" - he snatched up his hat or coat and hastened below to the street. We were on the 2nd floor. I called to him as he went "to take my horse" as the only way to make his escape - Going to the street window to see what would happen, as my eyes took in the scene, I saw my horse fastened to the fence across the street, with great saddlebags and blankets, all my army treasures strapped upon him; at that moment, just before my steward could reach him, there leaped into the saddle one of our own boys in blue, in full retreat, and both rider and horse disappeared in an instant. This was just before sunset - looking from the upper windows of the hospital, I could see our lines being repulsed, and falling back in utter confusion. Our front was entirely broken, the colors trailing in the dust and our men falling on every side. The enemy were enveloping the town from that side, sweeping past the Hospital and completely filling the streets - To finish the horse escapade, on the following 5th day of July, when I heard from our lines, I found to my surprise, my horse with all my trappings on his back, safely housed with those of our brigade - awaiting my coming - He had been recognized by one of the boys of my regiment, who knew him well,

exclaimed "why there is our Doctor's horse" - pulled the rider off of him and put the horse in safe keeping for my return -

I remained here a fortnight, working day and night, till again ordered to join our army which was in pursuit of Lee. I was again within the Rebel lines after the battle of Chancellorsville, when Hooker was so badly repulsed. About 10 days after the battle, I was detailed with a body of nurses to go over the Rapidan to attend our wounded lying in the various Rebel field hospitals. At the ford of the Rapidan I was received by the guard and escorted to the barns and farmhouses where our wounded men had been gathered together. Here I found all our men who could not be sent to the rebel prison pens on account of their terrible condition - The scene here presented was one of pity and pathos which no tongue could express. But where death, and suffering, and despair were dominant, there were however beautiful touches of friendship and sympathy extended by our foes, without dissimulation or hypocrisy. The boys in gray would come to the door of our tent and viewing the pitiful scene, would say in the touching vernacular, "We 'uns pity you 'uns in your defeat and suffering - we hope to meet you 'uns in better times someday" - One of my young nurses - a pleasant and kindly youth, met another boy of a rebel battery situated some 2 or 3 miles away on the first day of our arrival - It was a case of friendship at first sight between the two lads. he would go with his southern friend, when his work was done to spend part of the night at his battery - This was repeated several times - And at the time of his last visit, the rebel battery being ordered to the front, he was kindly escorted back to his tent in the middle of the night by his rebel companion - When our work here was finished we were again escorted back to the ford. The only incivility offered to us during our stay, was from a rude private who was sternly reproved by the rebel officer in charge of the guard.

In December 1864, our brigade was in camp & winter quarters near Belle Plaine - A fine lot of supplies were sent us for use by the Sanitary Commission - In sorting the goods there appeared a nice pair of homemade woolen socks - in the toe of which was a letter (folded up). I took the letter and socks into our adjoining tent, where there lay 27 of our boys in blue who had suffered amputation either in legs or arms. I selected two men, each of whom had lost a leg below the knee and gave to each a sock to comfort his remaining foot - they each took a copy of the letter in pencil as they lay upon their beds of straw and then I read this letter to all in the tent -

Andover Conn. Nov 29th 1864

— My dear Friend and Brother in our Country's cause.

To your care and keeping I commit these socks, and trust they may never be disgraced by any conduct of their wearer. Loyal fingers fashioned them, and may a patriot's tread, whose every step shall tell against our rebel foes, wear them threadbare (if need be) in crushing this wicked rebellion. In every stitch is knit a prayer for our nation's weal, and the hope that peace may smile upon our land, long ere these be unfit for use. You have gone forth nobly, and placed your life an offering at the feet of our beloved country, and may the God of battles be your trust, may his protecting arm

shield you from every danger and bring you vack to home and friends, there to a good old age to enjoy the fruits of you labors. But if it must be that you perish in the strife, may you me transferred from this earthly army to the glorified army of heaven, your victory won, never more to be disturbed by the rattle of musketry or the boom of cannon -

Perhaps these socks may find their way to some hospital, to some weary, weak and home longing one - If so, know my dear friend, that thousands of hearts are suffering with you, and would faldly come to you relief. Take courage and you shall yet be able to go out and help us gain the citory which must be ours.

There are many here, who say that our gifts never reach our soldiers. For that reason it would be very gratifying to me to know who may receive these socks, and will it be asking to much that you let me know. Hoping that your heart may be brave and true, and your arm firm and strong, I am, most truly you friend,

Ellen M. Sprague
Andover Connecticutt

Could the good lady in her Connecticutt home have only seen the glow of happiness and joy that spread over the worm and pallid faces of those men, she would have felt that her prayers were in part andswered. They said it was a good letter and they felt they were not entirely forgotten -

Our companions who have on various occasions spoken to us about this Festal Board have perhaps deemed it their privelege to bring to our attention some relic, some trophy, by the which to more vividly put before us, the scenes in which they personally took part - I cannot present to your view tonight any such relic, as say an old sword bearing the marks of many a hard fought filed, noir unfurl in you presence the historic battle flag tattered and torn, and pierced by an hundred rebel bullets, but you will not deem it out of place or egotistical on my part, if I do present a Surgeon's trophy, as represented in this picutre or tintype which I hold in ny hand, and read to you the accompanying letter, showing how even in the field hospital, and in the camp, professional skill, and a high degree of proficiency in the Surgeon's art were not unknown or unappreciated. In Gettysburg, July 1st 1863, there was brought to my hospital care Sargeant Alex. Ivey of the 7th WIsconsin volunteers, terribly wounded in the left leg just below the knee - I took his leg off at the knee joint, (an difficult operation requiring much care and much more rare then than it has since become with the great advance in the Surgical art during the past 30 years - Sargeant Ivey was removed, with other wounded after ten days to the Chestnut Hill Hospital Philadelphia for final treatment - I received from him afterward this letter -

Chestnut Hill Hospital
Philadelphia Sept 20 -1863
Surgeon Ebersole :

As your amputation of my limb at the knee joint causes much curiosity among the Surgeons here, I thought I would let you know about it. They say it is one of the best amputations that they ever saw. And they wonder how it was ever done, and the inspector who

was around this morning said he was going to write you to know how you did the work, He said it was the prettiest stump that he ever saw. you do not know how I was annoyed the first 5 days by the Surgeons here coming to see my stump. They kept me busy showing it, besides asking all sorts of questions. Everyone had a different opinion as to how you did it - the Surgeon in Charge told the Dr. of this ward to have a picture taken of my stump. So if they take it I will have one sent you, if you wish for it, I do not want these Surgeons here in the rear, that think they know everything, to gain anything in that way. I was a Palmer's office yesterday and measured for a new leg. Palmer says I have such a nice stump for an artificial leg - So I will close with thanks to you for your skill in taking off my limb - from your humble servant,
Sargent Alexander Ivey
Co D 7th Wisconsin Vols.

An operation not as well known or described 30 years ago as now, though it was known and imperfectly described in the 16th century. It is also mentioned by Hippocrates. The first example of this operation in military surgery is one mentioned by Michailis who visited the wounded French in Charleston left there by Count D'Estaing after his unsuccessful expedition to Savannah in September 1779. The perfection and beauty of this stump I attribute to two or three points in the operation, I will not say that they were original with myself, these are; that I make by lateral flaps - left the patella or knee cap intact, and removed part of the synovial surfaces of the condyles of the femur. This wound healed by the first intention, and made on the the most perfect useful and pretty stumps imaginable. A record of this and four other operations at the knee joint may be found in part 3d Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion Page 401 - No. 20, etc. There he will also find 5 operations at the knee joint accredited to me, 4 primary recovered, one secondary fatal.

INCIDENTS OF FIELD HOSPITAL LIFE WITH THE
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

BY JACOB EBERSOLE, M.D.,
Late Major and Surgeon Nineteenth Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

The military surgeon's place and his work are of necessity removed, as far as possible, from the immediate place of danger and the actual scene of conflict. It is not his to plan the campaign, to lead the charge, or to inspire fainting hearts by deeds of personal valor, but faithfully, skillfully, and untiringly to minister to the sick, to attend to the wounded and comfort the dying. He understands what the soldier's life finally brings to many; the death wound, the burning fever, the wasted body, and the broken constitution. He knows what battle means; the shattered limbs, the moan of pain, the life-long cripple. Nor is his position devoid of exposure; oftentimes to personal danger, to privation, to protracted and exhaustive labors, while he is brought in almost daily contact with scenes and incidents of the most pathetic and touching character. I can only attempt to recall to-night in a familiar way a few of these incidents, with the hope that they may be not without interest to you.

I was connected during the civil war with the Iron Brigade, so called from its meritorious actions in various battle-fields. It was composed of the Twenty-fourth Michigan, Second, Sixth, and Seventh Wisconsin, and the Nineteenth Indiana regiments, of which latter regiment I was

Sketches of War History 1861-1865: Papers
Read Before the Ohio Commandery of the
Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the
United States, Vol. 2, 1896-1896.
Cincinnati: Robert Clark & Co., 1896; pp327-5
333.

surgeon. It was in the First Army Corps, commanded by the lamented General Reynolds, who fell early in the first day at Gettysburg.

Approaching Gettysburg, our corps was moving in the advance, but passing Gettysburg to the left, it engaged the enemy to the north-west, two or three miles from the town. About 4 o'clock, I was ordered to go into Gettysburg, to take possession of the railroad depot, and establish our hospital therein. This depot was at the north edge of the town.

In the afternoon, the Eleventh Army Corps, under Howard, met the rebels to the north and were fiercely driven back through the city past my hospital. Here my hospital steward, a worthy and faithful man, came hastily to me in great alarm and perturbation, and said, "Shall I go to the front or stay with you." He being an enlisted man greatly feared being taken prisoner and landed in Libby or Andersonville prison. I replied to him, "Do as you think best, but whatever you do, act quickly." He snatched up his hat or coat and hastened below to the street (we were on the second floor). I called to him—as he went "to take my horse," as the only way to make his escape. Going to the street window to see what would happen, as my eyes took in the scene, I saw my horse fastened to the fence across the street, with great saddle-bags and blankets, all my army treasures strapped upon him. At that moment, just before my steward could reach him, there leaped into the saddle one of our own boys in blue, in full retreat, and both rider and horse disappeared in an instant.

This was just before sunset. Looking from the upper windows of the hospital, I could see our lines being repulsed, and falling back in utter confusion. Our front was entirely broken, the colors trailing in the dust, and our men falling on every side. The enemy were enveloping the town from that side, sweeping past the hospital, and completely filling the streets.

To finish the horse escapade: On the following 5th day of July, when I heard from our lines, I found, to my surprise, my horse, with all my trappings on his back, safely housed with those of our brigade—awaiting my coming. I remained here a fortnight, working day and night, till again ordered to join our army, which was in pursuit of Lee.

I was once before within the rebel lines after the battle of Chancellorsville, when Hooker was so badly repulsed. About ten days after the battle, I was detailed with a body of nurses to go over the Rapidan to attend our wounded lying in the various rebel field hospitals. At the ford of the Rapidan I was received by the guard and escorted to the barns and farm-houses where our wounded men had been gathered. Here I found all our men who could not be sent to the rebel prison-pens on account of their terrible condition. The scene here presented was one of pity and pathos which no tongue could express.

But where death, and suffering, and despair were dominant, there were still beautiful touches of friendship and sympathy extended by our foes, without dissimulation or hypocrisy. The boys in gray would come to the door of our tent, and, viewing the pitiful scene, would say, in their

touching vernacular: "We 'uns pity you 'uns in your de-feat and suffering; we hope to meet you 'uns in better times some day."

One of my young nurses—a pleasant and kindly youth—met another boy of a rebel battery situated some two or three miles away on the first day of our arrival. It was a case of friendship at first sight between the lads. He would go with his southern friend, when his work was done, to spend part of the night at his battery. This was repeated several times, and at the time of his last visit the rebel battery being ordered to the front, he was kindly escorted back to his tent in the middle of the night by his rebel companion.

When our work here was finished we were again escorted back to the ford. The only incivility offered to us during our stay was from a rude private who was sternly reproved by the rebel officer in charge of the guard.

In December, 1864, our brigade was in camp and winter quarters near Belleplaine. A fine lot of supplies was sent us by the United States Sanitary Commission. In sorting the goods there appeared a nice pair of home-made woolen socks, in the toe of which was a letter. I took the letter and socks into our adjoining tent, where there lay twenty-seven of our boys in blue who had suffered amputation either in legs or arms. I selected two men, each of whom had lost a leg below the knee, and gave each a sock to comfort his remaining foot. They each took a copy of the letter in pencil as they lay upon their beds of straw. And I read this letter to all in the tent:

ANDOVER, CONN., November 29, 1864.

My Dear Friend and Brother in our Country's Cause:

To your care and keeping I commit these socks, and trust they may never be disgraced by any conduct of their wearer. *Loyal fingers* fashioned them, and may a patriot's tread, whose every step shall tell against our rebel foes, wear them *threadbare* (if need be) in crushing this wicked rebellion. In every stitch is knit a *prayer* for our nation's weal, and the hope that peace may smile upon our land, long ere these be unfit for use. You have gone forth nobly and placed your *life* an offering at the feet of your beloved country, and may the God of battles be your trust. May His protecting arm shield you from every danger and bring you back to home and friends, there to a good old age to enjoy the fruits of your labors.

Perhaps these socks may find their way to some hospital, to some weary, weak and *home-longing* one. If so, know, my dear friend that thousands of hearts are suffering with you, and would gladly come to your relief. Take courage and you shall yet be able to go out and help us gain the victory which must be ours. There are many here who say that our gifts never reach our soldiers; for that reason it would be very gratifying to me to know who may receive my socks, and will it be asking too much that you let me know? Hoping that your heart may be brave and true, and your arm firm and strong,

I am, most truly, your friend,

ELLEN M. SPRAGUE,
Andover, Conn.

Could the good lady in her Connecticut home have only seen the glow of happiness and joy that spread over the worn and pallid faces of those men, she would have felt that her prayers were in part answered.

Our companions who have on various occasions spoken to us about this festal board have perhaps deemed it their privilege to bring to our attention some relic, some trophy, by which more vividly to put before us the scenes in which they personally took part. I can not present to your view

to-night any such relic, as say an old sword bearing the marks of many a hard fought field, nor unfurl in your presence the historic battle flag tattered and torn, and pierced by an hundred rebel bullets, but you will not deem it out of place or egotistical on my part if I do present a surgeon's trophy, as represented in this picture or in type which I hold in my hand, and read to you the accompanying letter, showing how even in the field hospital and in the camp, professional skill and a high degree of proficiency in the surgeon's art were not unknown or unappreciated.

In Gettysburg, July 1, 1863, there was brought to my hospital care Sergeant Alex. Ivey, of the Seventh Wisconsin Volunteers, terribly wounded in the left leg just below the knee. I took his leg off at the knee-joint, an operation much more rare then than it has since become with the great advance in the surgical art during the past thirty years. Sergeant Ivey was removed, with other wounded, after ten days, to the Chestnut Hill Hospital, Philadelphia, for final treatment. I received from him afterward this letter:

CHESTNUT HILL HOSPITAL, PHILADELPHIA, September 20, 1863.
SURGEON EBERSOLE:

As your amputation of my limb at the knee-joint causes much curiosity among the surgeons here, I thought I would let you know about it. They say it is one of the best amputations they ever saw. And they wonder how it was ever done; and the inspector, who was around this morning, said he was going to write you to know how you did the work. He said it was the prettiest stump that he ever saw. You do not know how I was annoyed the first five days by the surgeons here coming to see my stump.

The surgeon in charge told the doctor of this ward to have a picture

taken of my stump. So, if they take it, I will have one sent to you, if you wish for it. . . . I was at Palmer's office yesterday, and measured for a new leg. Palmer says I have such a nice stump for an artificial leg. I will close with thanks to you for your skill in taking off my limb.

From your humble servant,

SERGEANT ALEXANDER IVEY,

Company D, Seventh Wisconsin Volunteers.

The operation was not as well known or described thirty years ago as now, though it was known and imperfectly described in the sixteenth century. It is also mentioned by Hippocrates. The first examples of this operation in military surgery are mentioned by Michaelis, who visited the wounded French in Charleston left there by Count d'Estaing after his unsuccessful expedition to Savannah in September, 1779. The perfection and beauty of this stump I attribute to two or three points in the operation—I will not say that they were original with myself. These are, that I made it by *lateral* flaps—left the patella or knee-cap intact, and removed part of the synovial surfaces of the condyles of the femur.

This wound healed by the first intention, and made one of the most *perfect, useful*, and *pretty* stumps imaginable. A record of this and four other operations at the knee joint may be found in Part Third, "Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion," page 401, No. 20, etc.

December 5, 1894.

Military Order

of the

Loyal Legion of the United States

Commandery of the State of Ohio.

CIRCULAR No. 28.

SERIES OF 1905.

WHOLE No. 659.

In Memoriam.

Companion

Jacob Ebersole,

Surgeon 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

JACOB EBERSOLE.

Born May 15, 1820, near Eaton, Ohio.

Died July 27, 1905, Avondale, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Jacob Ebersole was distinguished in many regards—as a citizen whose civic ideals were of a high order, and whose patriotism was not only fervent, but devout and intelligent; as a physician whose services in the home, and in his remarkable record as a surgeon in the Union armies, placed him in a high rank; as a veteran of the Union armies, who cherished with heroic spirit the privilege of fellowship with those who had served by his side in the “far-flung” line of battle in defence of the Nation’s unity; and as a Christian believer, whose life of devotion and simple-hearted benevolence gave him an unusual place in the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he joined in childhood, and in which, for more than sixty years, he occupied the office of steward and trustee.

Those who knew Dr. Ebersole in the intimacy of the home, and who were privileged to converse with him upon patriotic, civic, professional, or religious topics, will recall upon reading these lines, the personal charm, the delightful manner and the beautiful spirit of the man. He cherished, aside from his religious fellowship, nothing more highly than his relationship with the Loyal Legion.

Dr. Ebersole was graduated from the University of the City of New York, and in his young manhood practiced medicine in Aurora, Indiana, for twenty years. In April, 1862, he entered the service of the Union as Regimental Surgeon of the Nineteenth Indiana Infantry, in Bragg’s famous “Iron brigade.”

When, on October 19, 1864, that regiment was consolidated with the Twentieth Indiana Infantry, he was mustered out after about two years and a half of distinguished service. He served with the Army of Potomac, and at times had charge of brigade and division hospitals. The mere mention of the battles through which he served—Gainesville, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg—with skirmishes and minor battles in addition, may suggest something of the work he did. After Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg, Dr. Ebersole was detailed with nurses to enter the Confederate lines to take charge of Union wounded. Our venerable and beloved Companion was worthy of the place which he earned in social, professional, military and religious life. September 4, 1845, he married Frances Glenn, who, almost on the eve of their sixtieth wedding anniversary, was permitted to minister to him at the last, together with the five children—William V. Ebersole, who is a Companion of the Loyal Legion by inheritance; James H. Ebersole, Joseph G. Ebersole, Mrs. H. W. Crawford and Mrs. Edwin L. Martin. Rev. Dr. E. P. Edmonds, assisted by Rev. Dr. A. J. Nast, officiated at the funeral services, July 29, 1905.

JESSE BOWMAN YOUNG,
H. P. COOKE,
W. H. CHAMBERLIN.
Committee.

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

CINCINNATI, October 18, 1905.

Our late Companion, Jacob Ebersole, Surgeon 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was elected a member of the First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, through the Commandery of Ohio, February 1, 1893. Insignia 10026.

The accompanying report of the committee appointed to prepare a tribute to his memory is printed in accordance with the Regulations of the Commandery.

By command of

BREVET MAJOR GENERAL WILLARD WARNER, U. S. V.,
COMMANDER.

W. R. THRALL,
Major U. S. V.,
RECORDER.



MAJ. JACOB EBERSOLE
Surrey, 19th INDIANA
VOLTS.

The two foregoing abstracts, and six on this and three on the succeeding page, relate to excisions of the left testis,¹ which is probably more exposed than its fellow to shot injury, in a degree inadequately expressed in the statistical summary on page 385:

CASE 1134.—Sergeant L. J——, Co. I, 134th New York, aged 18 years, was wounded at Gettysburg, July 1, 1863. Surgeon H. Janes, U. S. V., reported: "Severe gunshot wound of the genitals and removal of the left testicle." On July 16th the sergeant was sent to Annapolis, and, on October 5th, was registered as "convalescent from an excision of the left testis for gunshot wound, and returned to his regiment." He was discharged June 10, 1865, and pensioned. Examining Surgeon J. R. Dockstader, of Sharon Spa, reported, February 3, 1870: "Gunshot wound in the left testicle, which was removed on July 4, 1863. The ball in its course penetrated the soft parts in the neighborhood, ascending into the region of the groin. It has made sad inroad upon his health." Dr. J. S. Swart reported, January 2, 1872: "Wound of left testicle, which is entirely removed. No inconvenience from the castration as regards his health. The disability is permanent in its present degree." Surgeons R. B. Bontecou, W. H. Craig, and C. H. Porter reported, September, 1873, that the "ball passed through the left testis, which was removed, and also injured the muscles on the under side of the left thigh."

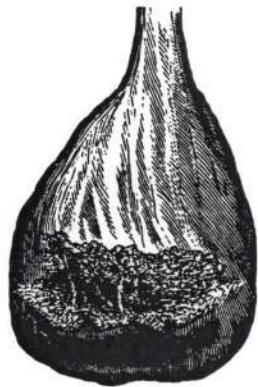


FIG. 356.—Shot wound of the left testis. Spec. 2560. †.

CASE 1135.—Private James E. L——, Co. C, 105th Pennsylvania, aged 21 years, was wounded at the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. A conoidal musket ball perforated the scrotum and inflicted a slight wound in the thigh. The left testis was so much injured that it was excised on the field by Surgeon J. Ebersole, 19th Indiana. The patient was sent to Harewood Hospital May 26th, and transferred to Jarvis Hospital June 6th, thence convalescent to Camp Parole, July 19th, and returned to duty August 23, 1864. He was promoted sergeant and served till the muster out of his regiment, and was honorably discharged and pensioned July 11, 1865. He was in good health, though rated as totally and permanently disabled, in July, 1872. The injured testicle was contributed to the Museum, and is represented in the wood-cut (FIG. 356).

CASE 1136.—Sergeant Oscar T——, Co. I, 77th New York, aged 24 years, was wounded at Spottsylvania, May 12, 1864. Surgeon S. J. Allen, 4th Vermont, reported that "a ball entered the outer side of the right thigh, passed through, and wounded the left testicle. On the same day the injured testis was removed. The patient entered Carver Hospital May 24th. He was furloughed June 28th, and returned to his regiment to be mustered out January 30, 1865. June 11, 1870, Pension Examiner W. H. Miller reported that this man "complained of pain in his left thigh when he labored hard; that he was not able to retain his urine as long as formerly; and that the disability was not increased to more than three-fourths."

CASE 1137.—Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin G. B——, 2d Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery, aged 33 years, was wounded at Petersburg, June 30, 1864. Surgeon Horace Luddington, 100th Pennsylvania, reported that a conoidal ball penetrated the left testis and perineum. The wounded officer was placed under the influence of chloroform and the disorganized testis was excised. The patient was sent to the Seminary Hospital, at Georgetown, August 3, 1864, recovered, and was furloughed on August 23, 1864. He was discharged the service November 19, 1864. Examiner James Neil reported, April 30, 1867, that "this pensioner has lost his virile power and has partial paralysis. The disability is rated as total and permanent." Examiner T. F. Smith reported, September 23, 1873: "Constant pain in scrotum, extending to the groin."

CASE 1138.—Private L. B——, Co. C, 2d Wisconsin, aged 23 years, was wounded at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, and taken prisoner. He was exchanged, September 26, 1864, and sent on the steamer New York to an Annapolis hospital, where Surgeon B. A. Vanderkeift noted a "gunshot wound of the scrotum, destroying the left testicle." After furlough, this soldier entered Swift Hospital, Prairie Du Chien, November 24, 1864. Acting Assistant Surgeon W. F. Kelley reported: "Gunshot wound of the right hip and perineum; the ball entered at the root of the penis on the left side and lodged in the left hip. The patient states that, under the circumstances, the wound did well. He lay on the battle-ground for thirty-two days with very little treatment, was removed to Gordonsville and remained eleven days, and then was removed to Lynchburg. On May 6th, the ball was cut out by a Confederate stretcher-bearer, and, on May 13th, Surgeons Thompson and Phillips (prisoners on the field) removed the left testis." On admission, the wound was discharging and inclined to slough, but speedily amended, and the soldier was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, April 13, 1865; discharged July 29, 1865, and pensioned. On July 5, 1871, Examiner J. Conant, of Prairie Du Chien, reported: "The ball entered on the left side and just above the penis, and injured the left spermatic cord and testicle, so that it became necessary to remove the latter." Examiner S. G. Armstrong reported, September 20, 1873: "Gunshot wound at the left external abdominal ring, causing castration of the left testicle." The reports of the examiners indicate that this pensioner's disabilities arise principally from the effects of wounds in the thigh and forearm.

CASE 1139.—Corporal A. C——, Co. E, 61st New York, aged 21 years, was wounded at Hatcher's Run, May 31, 1865, and sent to City Point. Acting Staff-Surgeon J. Aiken reported: "Gunshot wound of the penis and scrotum. A conoidal ball passed through the prepuce and glans penis, the left testis, and the fleshy part of the left thigh. The testis was split by the ball and lay bare. The patient was enfeebled by irritation and suffering, which had been excessive. On April 5th, chloroform was administered, and an operation was practised by Acting Staff-Surgeon W. J. Burr, by removal of the left testis and part of the glans penis, paring the edges of the scrotum, which had sloughed considerably, and uniting them with sutures. The parts healed slowly by granulation, and by April 21st were nearly well." The corporal was sent to duty April 26th, transferred to Carver Hospital, May 2d; to Whitehall, Bristol, May 27th; to De Camp Hospital, July 14th, and thence mustered out July 26, 1865. No application for pension.

¹ CASE 1016, p. 353, and CASE 1054, p. 362, were instances of primary ablation of the left testis; and other examples will be recorded as CASES 1149, 1152, 1153, p. 412; 1158, 1160, 1161, 1163, 1164, 1168, and 1169, p. 413.

It was formerly thought inadvisable to excise the upper extremity of the humerus for shot injury when the injury extended far down the shaft,¹ but that precept has been repeatedly disregarded, with good results:

CASE 1543.—Corporal G. Martin, Co. I, 5th Connecticut, aged 35 years, received, at Marietta, June 22, 1864, a gunshot fracture of the left humerus. He was taken to a Second Corps field hospital, where, on the 24th, the head and several inches of the shaft were excised by Surgeon E. L. Bissell, 5th Connecticut. On September 2d, the patient was admitted to hospital at



FIG. 439.—Appearance of cicatrix two years after primary excision of the upper extremity of the humerus.

Chattanooga, and was subsequently treated in hospitals at Nashville, Jeffersonville, and New Haven. He was transferred from the latter to the Veteran Reserve Corps, April 23, 1865, and finally discharged the service August 31, 1866. E. D. Hudson, M. D., of New York, reported, May 24, 1866, that he had furnished Martin with an apparatus, and forwarded a photograph, represented in the wood-cut (FIG. 439), with the following statement: "Loss of six inches of the head and continuity of the humerus. Linear incision

some seven inches in length. Arm shortened three inches and considerably atrophied; wound healed; deep fossa of cicatrix; hyperostosis from humeral end of the clavicle; hand and forearm normal; no command of forearm. Usefulness of the limb very satisfactory in lifting and pushing, and the forearm can be carried up beyond a right angle, and will improve by practice." On his application for pension, E. L. Bissell, M. D., certifies: "Martin was wounded at Resaca, in the right forearm, the wound being of such a nature as to enable him to continue with his regiment," and that at Marietta "he was severely wounded in the left shoulder. He was sent to the Brigade Hospital, Twentieth Corps, where an operation of resection of the head of the humerus was performed by myself. On or about June 27th, he was transferred to the hospital at Kingston, Georgia." Dr. Bissell also testifies that he finds "Martin has recovered from the operation, but that he has no control of the arm nor will he ever have." The Examining Board at Boston: J. W. Foye, J. B. Treadwell, and H. Chase, reported that "A gunshot entered the left shoulder from the rear, at the articulation, and passed through it. Two inches of the shaft of the bone, with its head, were removed, and the arm is useless and pendant." On September 5, 1873, the Board reported: "Hand is well nourished; he has fair power of grasp, but cannot lift heavy burdens; disability total."

CASE 1544.—Private J. Trombly, Co. H, 1st Michigan, aged 23 years, was wounded at the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, by a minie ball, and taken to a Fifth Corps hospital, where excision of the upper extremity of the left humerus was performed by Surgeon J. Ebersole, 19th Indiana. "The head and a portion of the shaft of the humerus were removed through a longitudinal incision commencing at a point midway between the acromion and coracoid processes, and extending five inches down the coraco-brachialis, dividing the fibres of the deltoid, pectoralis major, and biceps muscles." The patient was



FIG. 440.—Cicatrix as it appeared a few months after an excision of the upper part of the left humerus for shot fracture.

sent to Washington, and placed in Harewood Hospital. The case progressed favorably, and in a few weeks the wound had healed, and "there was fair use of the forearm." At this time Dr. Bontecou had a photograph taken, from which the annexed wood-cut (FIG. 440) is copied. This soldier was discharged November 16, 1864, and pensioned. Surgeon Robert O. Abbott, U. S. A., directed him to report to Dr. E. D. Hudson, a skilful designer of surgical apparatus, with a view to the adjustment of some appliance to augment his control of the movements of the limb. Dr. Hudson, who has described the case,² stated: "The arm was of ordinary length, considerably atrophied, flexible, ungovernable by the will, unable to swing forward; pectoral muscle impaired; no effort at reproduction of lost part—functions of supinators, pronators, flexors, and extensors of the hand, and fingers normal. With scapular and humeral appliance, oscillatory shoulder joint, and auxiliaries to pectoral muscle, he carries the arm forward across the chest, flexes the forearm to an acute angle, carries his hand nearly to his mouth—and departed with his trunk-valise in the hand of his mutilated arm, greatly rejoiced at his restored condition. With practice, he will so far regain the use of his arm as to hardly appreciate any loss." Drs. Brown, Noyes, and Webber, constituting a Pension Examining Board at



FIG. 441.—Excised upper extremity of humerus fractured by a ball that lies in the medullary cavity. *Spec. 2625.*

Detroit, Michigan, reported, December 17, 1873: "A resection of the upper extremity of the left humerus, about four inches of bone being removed." This is an under estimate, as shown by the specimen copied in the wood-cut (FIG. 441). It is reported in the *Catalogue of the Surgical Section*, 1866, p. 109, as a Chancellorsville specimen received without history, but was subsequently fully identified.

¹ The precise length of bone excised was specified in one hundred and ninety instances. The amount of the shaft removed, with the head, was stated as: half an inch in 1 case, an inch in 11 cases, an inch and a half in 10, two inches in 43, two and a half in 24, three in 46, three and a half in 7, four in 23, four and a half in 11, five in 7, five and a half in 2, seven or eight inches (or possibly, in one instance, nine) in 5 cases. In twenty-three cases, this point is not indicated. The insertion of the deltoid is usually described as at about the middle of the humerus (HENLE, SAPPET, GRAY). In sixteen humeri just measured, from adult male skeletons in the Army Medical Museum, the extreme lengths were from twelve and a half to fifteen inches. The marks of the deltoid insertion were "about the middle," in all cases; but approaches the lower part of the middle third in proportion to the lengths of the upper extremity.

² HUDSON (E. D.), *Remarks on Excisions, with Cases and Plates*, New York, 1864, p. 12.

This is a speech presented to a Veteran's gathering, I don't know where, by Major (Ret.) Jacob Ebersole of the Iron Brigade of Indiana. His home was in Aurora, Indiana before relocating to Cincinnati, Ohio for the rest of his life. He was married to Frances Glenn and fathered 8 children. Clarissa Crawford Meeker Burgevin (born October 4, 1918) is his great-granddaughter.

It is with some hesitation that I arise in response to the call of our honored Commander, to speak to you on the topic name this evening. When I recall the eloquent and moving addresses that have been given us, from time to time here by the various distinguished members of this order, I realize that my pen and my subject must fall far short of your expectations. The military surgeons place and his work, are of necessity removed as far as possible from the immediate place of danger and the actual scene of conflict. 'Tis not his to plan the campaign, or to lead the charge, or inspire fainting hearts by deeds of personal valor, but faithfully, skillfully and untimely to minister to the sick, to attend to the wounded and comfort the dying - he understands what the Soldier's life finally brings to many, the death wound, the burning fever, the wasted body, and the broken constitution. He knows what the battle means - the shattered limbs, the moan of pain, the life-long cripple. Nor is his position devoid of exposure; oftentimes to personal danger, to privation, to protracted and exhaustive labors while he is brought in almost daily contact with scenes and incidents of the most pathetic and touching character. I can only attempt to recall tonight in a familiar way a few of these incidents, with the hope that they may be not without interest to you.

I was connected during the Civil War with the Iron Brigade, so called from its meritorious action in various battle fields. It was composed of the 24th Michigan, 6th, 2nd, and 7th Wisconsin, and the 19th Indiana regiments - of which latter regiment I was Surgeon in Chief. It was in the first Army Corps, commanded by the lamented Genl. Reynolds, who fell early in the first day of Gettysburg - Gettysburg - our corps was moving in the advance, passed Gettysburg to the left, and engaged the enemy to the north west, 2 or 3 miles from the town - About (4) o'clock I was ordered to go into Gettysburg. to take possession of the Rail Road Depot and establish our hospital therein - This depot was at the north edge of the town.

In the afternoon, the 11th Army Corps, under Howard - met the rebels to the north and were fiercely driven back through the city past my hospital - Here my hospital steward, a worthy and faithful man, came hastily to me in great alarm and perturbation, and said "shall I go to the front or stay with you" - He being an enlisted man greatly feared being taken prisoner and landed in Libby or Andersonville Prison. I replied to him, "do as you think best, but whatever you do, act quickly". He snatched up his hat and coat and hastened below to the street - we were on the 2nd floor. I called to him as he went, "to take my horse" as the only way to make his escape - going to the street windows to see what would happen, as my eyes took in the scene, I saw my horse fastened to the fence across the street, with great saddlebags and blankets, all my army treasures strapped upon him; at that moment, just before my steward could reach him, there leaped into the saddle one of our own boys in blue, in full retreat, and both rider and horse disappeared in an instant. This was just before sunset - looking from the upper windows of the hospital, I could see our lines being repulsed, and falling back in utter confusion. Our front was entirely broken, the colors trailing into the dust and our men falling on every side. The enemy were enveloping the town from that side, sweeping past the hospital and completely filling the streets - To finish the horse escapade, on the following 5th day of July, when I heard from our lines, I found to my surprise, my horse with all my trappings on his back, safely housed with those of our brigade - awaiting my coming - He had been recognized by one of the boys of my regiments, who knew him well, who exclaimed "why there is our doctor's horse" He dismounted and put the horse in safekeeping for my return.

I remained here a fortnight, working day and night, time again ordered to join our Army which was in pursuit of Lee. I was again within the rebel lines after the battle of Chancellorsville, when Hooker was so badly repulsed. About 10 days after the battle, I was detailed with a body of nurses to go over the Rapidan to attend our wounded lying in the various rebel field hospitals. At the ford of the Rapidan I was received by the guard and escorted to the barns and farmhouses where our wounded men had been gathered together.

Here I found all our men who could not be sent to the rebel prison pens on account of their terrible condition - The scene here presented was one of pity and pathos which no tongue could express. But where death, and suffering, and despair were dominant, there were however beautiful touches of friendship and sympathy extended by our foes, without dissimulation or hypocrisy. The boys in gray would come to the door of our tent and viewing the pitiful scene, would say in their touching vernacular, "we 'uns pity you'ums in your defeat and suffering - we hope to meet you 'ums in better times someday." One of my young nurses - a pleasant and kindly youth, met another boy of a rebel battery situated some 2 or 3 miles away on the first day of our arrival - It was a case of friendship at first sight between these lads. He would go with his southern friend, when his work was done to spend part of the night at his battery - This was repeated several times - and at the time of his last visit, the rebel battery being ordered to the front, he was kindly escorted back to his tent in the middle of the night by his rebel companion. When our work here was finished we were again escorted back to the ford. The only incivility offered to us during our stay was from a rude private who was sternly reprovved by the rebel officers in charge of the guard.

In December 1864, our brigade was in camp and winter quarters near Belleplaine - A fine lot of supplies were sent us by the United States Sanitary Commission - In sorting the goods there appeared a nice pair of homemade woolen socks - in the toe of which was a letter (folded up) I took the letter and socks into our adjoining tent, where there lay 27 of our boys in blue who had suffered amputation either in legs or arms. I selected two men - each of whom had lost a leg below the knee and gave to each a sock to comfort his remaining foot - They each took a copy of the letter in pencil as they lay upon their beds of straw and then I read this letter to all in the tent - "(Here the letter Page 8") Andover Comm. November 29th, 1864. My dear Friend and Brother in our Country's Cause,

To your care and keeping I commit these socks, and trust they may never be disgraced by any conduct of their wearer. Loyal fingers fashioned them, and may a patriots tread, whose every step shall tell against our rebel foes, wear them threadbare (if need be) in crushing this wicked rebellion. In every stitch is knit a prayer for our nation's welfare, and the hope that peace may smile upon our land, long ere these be unfit for use. You have gone forth nobly, and placed your life an offering at the feet of our beloved Country, and may the God of battles be your trust. May his protecting arm shield you from every danger and bring you back to home and friends there to a good old age. To enjoy the fruits of your labors. But if it must be that you perish in the strife, may you be transferred from this earthly army to the glorified army of heaven, your victory won, never more to be disturbed by the rattle of musketry or the boom of cannon - perhaps these socks may find their way to some hospital, to some weary, worn and home longing one - If so, know my dear friend, that thousands of hearts are suffering with you and would gladly come to our relief. Take courage and you shall yet be able to go out and help us gain the victory which must be ours.

There are many here, who say that our gifts never reach our Soldiers. For that reason, it would be very gratifying to me to know who may receive these socks, and will it be asking too much that you let me know. Hoping that your heart may be brave and true, and your arms firm and strong, I am, most truly your friend - Ellen M. Sprague, Andover, Connecticut. (now turn back to page 10)

Could the good lady in her Connecticut home have only seen the glow of happiness and joy that spread over the worn and pallid faces of those men, she would have felt that her prayers were in part answered. They said it was a good letter and they felt they were not entirely forgotten.

Our companions who have on various occasions spoken to us about this Festal Board have perhaps deemed it their privilege to bring to our attention some relic, some trophy, by the which to more vividly put before us, the scenes in which they personally took part - I cannot present to your view tonight any such relic as say an old sword bearing the marks of many a hand fought field, nor unfurl in your presence the historic battle flag tattered and torn, and pierced by an hundred rebel bullets; but you will not deem it out of place or egotistical on my part, if I do present a Surgeon's trophy as represented in this tintype picture which I hold in my hand and read to you the accompanying letter, showing how even in the field hospital and in the camp, professional skill, and a high degree of proficiency in the Surgeon's art were not unknown or unappropriate. In Gettysburg , July 1st 1863, there was brought to my hospital care Sergeant Alex. Ivey of the 7th Wisconsin volunteers, terribly wounded in the left leg just below the knee. I took his leg off at the knee joint (an operation much more rare there than it has since become with the great advance in Surgical art during the past 30 years - Sergeant Ivey , after ten days to the Chestnut Hill Hospital, was removed for final treatment. I received from him afterward this letter.

Chestnut Hill Hospital

Philadelphia Sept. 20 - 1863, Surgeon Ebersole:

As your amputation of my limb at the knee joint causes much curiosity among the Surgeons here, I thought I would let you know about it. They say it is one of the best amputations they ever saw. And they wonder how it was ever done, and the Inspector who was around this morning said he was going to write you to know how you did the work. He said it was the prettiest stump that he ever saw. You do not know how I was annoyed the first 5 days by the Surgeons here coming to see my stump.

They kept me busy showing it, besides asking all sorts of questions. Everyone had a different opinion as to how you did it - The Surgeon in charge told the Dr. of this ward to have a picture taken of my stump. So, if they take it, I will have one sent you, if you wish for it, I do not want these Surgeons here in the rear, that think they know everything, to gain anything in that way.

I was at Palmer's office yesterday and measured for a new leg. Palmer says I have such a nice stump for an artificial leg - So, I will close with thanks to you for your skill in taking off my limb. From your humble servant,

Sergeant Alexander Ivey

Co. D, 7th Wisconsin Vols.

An operation not as well known or described 30 years ago as now, though it was known and imperfectly described in the 16th Century. It is also mentioned by Hippocrates. The first examples of this operation in Surgery are mentioned by Michaelis who visited the wounded French in Charleston left there by Count DeEstaing after his unsuccessful expedition to Savannah in September 1779. The perfection and beauty of this stump I attribute to two or three points, in the operation, I will not say that they were original with myself, these are; that I made bylateral flaps left the patella or kneecap intact, and removed part of the synovial surfaces of the condyles of the femur.

This wound healed by the first intention, and made one of the most perfect, useful and pretty stumps imaginable. A record of this and four other operations of the knee joint may be found in Part 3rd Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion page 401 - No. 20