

The Filson Historical Society

Mss.

A Hanback, Lewis 1839-1897.

H233 Letters. 1862-1865. .33 cu.ft.

1

Correspondence January-June 1862.

00zD



Fort Gofferson

No 31

Key Jan 11-1869

Wm. A. Little, Capt
Chapin, Worcester
Ill



00219

The Filson Historical Society

Fort Jefferson Key

Saturday night Jan 11th 62

Ever My Own Dear Betty

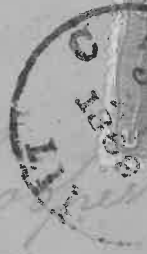
I embrace my first opportunity of writing
you a line or two which leaves me
in excellent Health and Spirits we came
here last night pitched our tents in the
Wood and ~~and~~ throwing our Blankets on the
ground were soon locked in the "arms of
Moose" in fact slept soundly though
the ground was so wet that we could
squeeze water out of it to day we have
done nothing ^{and} waiting for a larger force
the pickets extend three miles from Camp
and have brought in Eleven Deer today
I do not know whether we will leave the
tomorrow ^{or} not our force numbers about
six thousand all able bodied men we left all
our sick at Cairo and sent 2 Bats since
we came here Ges Patsy and Clam Hobson
who were not able to march but will be
all right in a few days I expect we will have
a battle in a few days I think we are able
for them or will be the General says that
a running fight with the Rebel ^{this afternoon} ~~has~~ ^{been} ~~done~~
done ~~as~~ ^{as} usual I have not heard the partial

It is reported that one of the Rebel gunboats was sunk
- but I think the object of this expedition is
to throw a force between Bowling Green
and Columbus and cut off all communication
many think however that we are but the
advance guard of the force destined to take
Columbus any how a few days will be apt to settle
the question as to where we are bound for
I know Will, Colton this evening have just
returned from his quarters he is in excellent
spirits though slightly indisposed to do so. The boys are
all in excellent spirits to night every where you
can hear singing laughter the Pironae
fires burn brightly the hard crackers and
fat Bacon taste delicious in fact we
all feel like friends since we left Cairo
Dear Nettie I have written all that has taken
place of any importance I do hope that you will receive
this without delay as Danover immediately we will get
our letters without much trouble I do hope you will
not feel too uneasy trust all for the best I think
of you so much I have your precious shadow along with me
it is a treasure to me I forgot to say that one
of the 29th Reg in guard last night attempted to
desert but was caught by the pickets and brought
back he will undoubtedly be shot a late he really deserves
it and he is now with the force on the back of my knapsack
I expect it will puzzle you to read it I must close my dear one
Good night Ever yours own Lewis

The same as always have

17 Jan 62

No 32



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin
Morgan
Ms

The Filson Historical Society

Camp No. 3 Jan 1st 861

We are 25 miles from Cairo out in
 the Sacred Soil of W.V. fortune favors
 me with the chance of reporting to you
 to you. The teamsters are getting 1 pack
 for more provisions and will carry my
 letter back. We had an awful hard
 day's march yesterday. Chase on guard
 consequently was thrown in advance of the
 Army we marched from the Cross Roads
 to this encampment. pitched our tents in the
 Bush I got to Bed at 1/2 O'clock A.M.
 and slept soundly until a few moments ago
 it is now 5 o'clock this far we have
 seen no sign of an Enemy they have invariably
 slipped off to Columbus their strong hold
 all through the Country a general desolation
 prevails Men are scarce and as a general thing
 are usually found in the House ^{near} stand
 at the door the ^{are} Boys ^{are} drawn
 than their worse halves their Curiosity
 leads them to brave the army in order ^{that} they
 may see the sight. The Boys are all in
 High spirits and take all privations with
 as much gusto as would the Hero of
 an Hundred Battles. We have plenty

to eat consisting of Hard
Crackers (such as I sent you)
and beef and Ham & sweet
Cooked Ham & sometimes Rice
Just as we like it
we are perfectly independent
With all our marching and counter marching
I believe we will be back in Cairo
in a few days & without a fight. But I can't
tell.

Dear Het as I march along I
think of you so often and I tell you my
Heart grows light and I forget that
I am tired. I have had a shadow along
and every day I start a good look at it
and think of better days to come. I
hope I will get a letter from you
when the Volunteers come back.
But I must close I am writing
on my knee so you will excuse Bad
& scratching write soon to Cairo
Good Bye Dear Het
Ever your Lewis

No. 47



Miss Lettie Cooper
Chapin Morgan
County
Virginia

00219

The Filson Historical Society

On board Steamer
"Silver Wave" near
Island No 10

March 16th 1862

The Filson Historical Society

and think that some of
these days I will see
my original But I must
close I am very tired
I merely write this that
you may know that
I am well and thus
for safe Remember me
to all the family

My love to you
Ever your Lewis

On Board Steamer Silver Wave
Near Island of this River
March 16th 1862

My Dear Nettie
I must write a
line or two to you ^{though} I don't
know when I will have
a chance to send it
we are very near the
Our mortar boats have
been bombarding the fort
all day the Rebels replied
this evening we have not
lost a man and have had
but one wounded the mortar
boats did good service throwing
shell weighing over 200 lbs
over 2 miles the gun boats
have not done much yet
But I think will to morrow
The enemy are in large numbers

But I think they are
not so well provided with
fortifications as they were
in Columbus I have been
out all day in full sight
of the Batteries only one
shot was fired at us and
that fell short I tell
you it is exciting to watch
those Siege Shells hurled
from the mortars as they
go flying on their Death
Dealing Mission
You can easily see them
if you stand just behind
the mortar and get the range
We are all in good spirits
we expect to bag the
whole army what
another Fort Donaldson
for history's gloom over
Dear Lett I have been
vainly looking for
a letter ever since

I came to Columbus
up to the time I have heard
nothing from you yet I live
in hope Oh if I only could
get a letter from my Lettie
I could face all danger
with a Braver Heart
I do want you to write if
you do Direct as you always
have done to Cain and
be very careful to direct it
plainly I will get it
I was laying down on the
Sofa in the Boat this evening
and I thought if Lettie
was only by my side to lay
her hand on my brow how
very happy I should be
But it was only a thought
I often have such thoughts
they are the Dear Companions
of my lonely hours I have
your Dear shadow in my
pocket I often look at it

the Island close by a
Farm House in which live
Two Brothers by the name of
Philips they own 40 Slaves
So you see we are surrounded
or at least in close proximity
with the peculiar Institution
as a general thing they are
miserably clothed and seem
very much dissatisfied with
their lot they are a grumbling set
go about their work sullenly
no light no joy illumine their
countenance there is the same
settled expression of servile obed-
ience which every Slave wears
talk not to me of the humanity
of slavery there is no humane
principle connected with it
it is a vile corruption which
pollutes the land that nurtures
and sustains it it is a venem-
ous serpent that winds itself
into the meshes of society
and then send forth in the hour
of fancied security its Forked Tongue
loaded with its venemous poison

On Board Transport Steam
J. L. Gill

Near Island No 10
March 26th 1862
Nettie Mine

Yesterday when
the mail arrived I thought
I would get a letter from
my Nettie but I did not
no letter came for me
Oh I have a great notion
to scold you for not writing
so I could have had a
letter yesterday but I did
not receive one from you
I read 3 or 4 old ones which
did me aboung as much good
as receiving one would
I just went into my State room
opened the Old Carpet Sack and
took out a bunch of letters in
all about 40 and which I had

Received from a certain Young
Lady whom I think a good deal
of from the Dutch took
out 3 or 4 letters and just
vented my spite against the said
young Lady by reading said letters
now don't you think I was
very mad don't you wish
you had written to me
Well I live in hope that I
will receive a dear good letter
by the next mail if I do
I will promise you a long
kind of a letter in return
We are going nothing at Island
No 10. But I think the Gall will
will be open in a few more
days we are sending a Steam
Boat way over the country to New Madrid
When General Pope will send
his army across the River
and make an attack
upon the Enemy in the
Rear you will understand more

it is managed to get a
Steam Boat through to New Madrid
The water is very high and
the Bottom lands is submerged
By water the Sloughs are
all full and as a number
of these sloughs are to be found
between here and New Madrid
Plenty of water is obtained
whereby a Boat may float
easily a good part of the way
the Remainder of the way a
Channell will have to be
dug wide enough to let
the Boats pass as soon as
the Boats reach New Madrid
Gen. Pope will throw his
army across the River march
upon the Enemy when they
will either fight or Surrender
We are having a very good time
are quartered upon the Post
have plenty to Eat Our
Boat lies 6 miles above the

I love thee and I feel
that on the Fountain of my Heart
A Seal

Is set to keep its Waters
Pure and bright for Thee

Oh it was a happy auspicious
Hour for me when first we made
pledged vows of Love & how
strong I have been since
that time to resist the insipid
advances of the Tempter

It ~~was~~ ^{is} the thought of Her
my Feticie that ~~made~~ ^{made} me
strong to resist in a great
measure the many tempta-
tions that surrounds a
young officer of the Army
Every day I feel thankful
that such an influence
is thrown around me. I should

like to write more but it
is late and I will close
promising to write you the
longest kind of a letter as
soon as I receive one from
you Good night Dear Feticie

Ever yours
John Lewis

How much more confident am
I now ^{that slavery is an enormity} than I was
when I see this Freedom's
Home racked to the very
Centre by the Shoes of Civil
war a land once peaceful
now Belligerent one section
arrayed against the other in
deadly strife. When I think
that all this bloodshed
this War with its horrible
Train was originated by
men whose God is Slavery

Oh how debased to what
a low estate has man
fallen who would raise
impious Hands against
a Government so pure &
Benign as ours a Country
which ever has extended
the Olive Branch of peace
never fought except in self defence

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Base indeed must be
the man who would
aspire to strike down so
fair an edifice as ours
Hard indeed is it for me to
believe that in this fair land
could be found so many
ingrate sons ready and
willing to strike to the
death the mother that
nourished & sustained them
made them what they are
were men of honor and
of station But its true and
we are fighting them today
But I fear I will weary
you with my thoughts is it
not so Dear Art Since I
Commenced writing another
mail has arrived bringing
me no letter from my little
You disappointed I was
But I must be patient I
will get a Dear letter that

will amply make up
for all my disappointed
ments Some times I think
you are sick and can-
not write for you said
you had a Bad Cold
Oh how very very Bad
I should feel to hear of
you being sick and
I not be permitted to
Hasten to your bedside
and try to alleviate your
pain it would be a sad
But pleasing task to
administer to you faintest
kiss yet I live in hope
that you are well Nettie
Winn He who searcheth
the heart of man know
full well how great is
my love for you how
every thought is yours
I love you I can say

On Board Steamer
Mc Gill near Island
No 10
March 24 1862

On Board Steamer
Mc Gill for Fort-Phillips
Howe & Jeff Davis
Mass
April 16 - 1862



Saturday Morning, April 19th

You see Dear Set that I still have
the letter I wrote you some days ago but
I have very good reasons for not sending it
When I wrote we were at or near Fort Pillow
since that time General Pope's Army
has been ordered to join General Grant
up the Tennessee River. He started from Fort Pillow
last Thursday morning this is Saturday morn-
ing and we are within one hour of Cairo
We will ^{not} reach General Grant's army before
next Tuesday or Wednesday. Gen^l Pope's
Army comprises in numbers 30,000
all No (1) Troops. We are going to help
the Grand Army take Vicksburg
I was not sorry to get away from the
Arkansas Swamps but still I would
rather went on down to Memphis
but soldiers must have no likes and
dislikes & I am contented to go where
the Service requires me. Enclosed I send
you 2 Jeff Davis Postage Stamps
as Troops. I & Smith Mr Bonarth
C E Foster Mr W Dickerson and Thos
Frashure are going home on furloughs
all are sick and have been for the
last 2 or 3 weeks. I will write you a long
letter as soon as I can after we get
to our destination. Direct your letters
to Cairo Ills.

27 Regiment Ills Vol

~~Genl Pope~~ Good Bye
L Hancock



Miss Nettie Cooper
Capin Morgan Co. Ill.

The Filson Historical Society

12 copies from Council
in sight of the
enemy

April 24 - 1862

The Filson Historical Society

In Camp way out in the Woods In,
Tennessee 12 miles from Corinth
almost In sight of the Enemy
April 27th 1862

My Dear Lettie

I rec'd. Your Dear lengthy letter written
on "sermon Paper" this Evening and just as you
said. I was so agreeably disappointed when the
letter was handed me I glanced at the supersc-
ription and I do confess my countenance
underwent a change. I generally know by the
superscription who has written to me. But I could
not determine whence the letter came which I held
in my hand. But I soon found out. For as I tore
it open the same dear writing (that has so often
gladdened my sight) met my gaze. Oh Dear Lettie
how happy I felt. I sat down upon a log
and read the first long letter I had received for a
long long time. (You speak of writing letters to
me which I never received. I received
one letter at Island No. 10 and one the
other day, which was written whilst you was
at Springfield. It had been everywhere but
the right place. These were all the letters I had
rec'd. from you (until this Evening) since about
the first of March. Do not start Dear Lettie when
you read this. But it is true.
I do not doubt in the least but that you have

written

to me But for some Reason they have never
come to me I fear one Reason is that the
Postmaster at Cairo mistakes you 27 for a 29
and so sends them to the 29th Regiment
you will pardon me when I caution you to make
your 27 very plain so that no chance will
be offered for an excuse on the part of the P.M.

One thing you speak in your letter about
writing something to me in your last letter
(Crisch is one of the letters I have never rec^d)

Do please write the same to me in your next
for I can not divine what you mean
Dear Fattie I am so glad to hear of
your making such a long visit I am
glad because I fancy that you have
enjoyed yourself and it always does me
good to hear that you are happy why should I
not feel so, you are my own Dear one mine to love
mine to cherish and so when I hear of happy times
you have my great rejoices with you the same bright
gleam of sunshine that shines around you, that
enriches your path darkens mine also and makes
me rejoice in your joy with you for our way is the same
our grief is one our love the same

you spoke of being present at the funeral of the three
soldiers who fell in Arkansas I was intimately
acquainted with one of the number Sgt. W. Spain
He belonged to same company I did in the three
months service he was a brave noble man
generous freely forgiving those who injured him
and withal a true patriot - Peace to his Remains
may he sleep as sleeps the brave

27 April 1862

You will see by the heading of this letter that we are drawing very near to the Enemy. We this reaches upon a battle will have been fought that is without something should transpire that would defer it for a few days. We are gradually drawing our lines nearer to those of the Enemy. The 27th Ills 10th Ills 27th Ills 42nd Ills 16th Ills 14th Michigan 20th Batteries of artillery 2dnd Ills form the advance on the left of the Army. Our sharpshooters had a slight skirmish with some of the Rebels yesterday. But it did not amount to much. We marched yesterday about 1 1/2 miles & encamped in the woods in such a beautiful place & near a stream of water which sings as it flows over a pebbly bottom. (Monday morning) Good morning ma. Gettle how do you think I slept last night. I had no cot no mattress but rolling myself up in my overcoat & blanket with dry leaves for a bed and the starry heavens for my protection I slept as sweetly dreamed such nice dreams of home that I almost regretted when I woke up this morning (by the roll of the drum) that night had gone away and another day been done. I have just had my breakfast. Tell you what we had fried cakes coffee boiled down molasses "only this and nothing more"

I did justice to what was spread before me
Did as I was leamed at Home Get away
and asked no questions
And now Dear Nettie ever so close let
me say to you do not have any more
Gloomy foreboding (in regard to the battle that
is to fought here in a few days) than you
can possibly help having. Think only of me
as having gone through the storm safely
that you will be anxious I doubt not
that you will await with greatest interest the
results of the battle's result. But let
me say in all your anxiety think that the
great God who walks before us in the battle
who holds us within the hollow of his
hand will not suffer me to fall without
it should be in accordance with his
will. It is I feel and confident, that
our cause is a Holy one I am willing
to abide the result. And if I have to march
in battle I will breathe your name. I will
gather fresh courage to do my whole duty.
Should I fall it would be a most glorious death
Should I come out of battle maimed for life
I will have the proud consciousness that I suffered
for the Right and if I am saved from death or
previous wounds I shall be thankful to the God who
preserved me. I must close the mail here in a
few moments I had to borrow this paper to write, as all
my paper is back at the camp. I will have to send
this in a secessy envelope if the best I could do
necessity is the law here write immediately to me.
Do please and direct letters to Camp as you have &
be very careful to make that 27th very plain
accept all my love Lewis

The Lightning flashed out the Thunder
 Rolled and Lettie got the headache
 too Bad so we went Back and
 sat in the parlor so I think many
 things about the good joke Gilbert
 and the best had on us about
 that new Dress. what has become
 of that Dress? I want you to keep
 it as a memorial thus I pass
 away the guilt hour of Evening for
 though I can see my spirit takes
 flight far over hill and Dale far
 to see the only being that I love
 with a pure whole souled love
 I then stand upon the sill that lies
 beneath the door and away I can
 hear the welcome which will spring
 from a loving heart like yours
 By the way who wrote that piece
 of Poetry in the work basket
 entitled "the old House" I
 think it is very good Well I
 must close I only can write a short
 letter Captain Booth and the Company
 is out 2 miles towards Corinth
 a bridge I must go out should have
 gone this morning but was compelled
 to do some writing for the Company &
 had to remain on camp this is Sunday
 in Morgan County but here I see no
 difference here from any other day
 we have but little Sunday here I have not
 heard any preaching for 3 months
 there is a school

You better do what
 did mean yesterday
 good
 had my paper
 all except
 assurance of my love
 Write soon and oblige
 yours Lewis Hancock

in camp near Corinth
 May 11th 1862
 My Dear Let

This Sunday afternoon
 I am to write you a short
 letter which leaves me in good
 health since I wrote last have
 been in quite a skirmish
 but the enemy proving stronger
 than we we had to fall back
 we lost about 30 killed and
 wounded the enemy numbered
 (according to the account of a
 deserter who left them in sight
 after the battle) 26000 com-
 manded by Price Vandorn &
 Bragg. We had but four thou-
 sand in our command
 Genl Palmer one of our
 Company was wounded
 We fell back in our old encampment

place many of

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But we will
try than of handsomely yet
He are having such beautiful
The room is not full
Admits out at such beauty
of them which is the evening
of morning and an array
of things of my kind in use
He says me that I cannot be
He says I ought to be almost
I was very happy of the things
which were which we believe upon
which are the thinking of the now that
ment up so slowly to the least
I know they are interesting from
deciding events & have a great
joy in having over again and
draping down recalling the scene
we have through of the nice that
we had one evening with all of
a wish in these some guests

which we left in the morning
The battle of 11 May for a little
a battle was here near
The town of Southampton was
the troops occupying the town and
as the evening broke away
fell back to the Bay before
back about ten thousand
men we were at about 2 miles
of ground the Rebel leaders
failing back. we had a most
pleasurable March got back
to camp about 9 o'clock AM.
There was a happy in the
morning we had a fine
brought up everything and
in ~~the morning~~ ^{the morning} when being
to camp here but in evening
found the right had them
put a strong fire for
some heavy shelling in a
Rebels position so that
they had everything about



No 48

Camp near Corinth

May 11th 1862

Miss Hettie Cooper

Chapin

Morgan Co

Illinois

00219



No 48

near Corinth

Miss

May 14 - 1862

Miss Hettie Cooper

Chapin

Morgan Co

Ills

00219

that ~~Remember~~ Being among friends
and acquaintance would cause you
to forget to write to me or cease to
think of Luis. Oh No, I never thought
at once that you had forgotten
me I cared not where you
were I always had the sweet
consciousness that I was Remembered
- by a Dear one far away
that she often Breathed my name
often wished me By her sides
of you. Such is the Confidence &
repose in you a Confidence that
springs from a pure fountain
And I know that I can have
and Do have a like Confidence
from you in Return for mine,
As I stated before I have written
often to you But I regret it is
owing to the Bad State of
the mails the miserable manner
in which they are managed
that you have not had all my
Letters I Recd a Dear long letter

which you wrote to me from
Jacksonville also your note
from your Father's Letter
I answered Both first the letter
and then the note and now
I am answering this last letter
So you see I am aiming
to be punctual. Our Company
is away in advance of the
Main army have been thrown
out to support a Battery of Artillery
that has command of a Bridge
protecting it from the Rebels
we are sleeping out in the great
old woods down in a Creek
Bottom Have splendid weather
only very warm. At night
when I lie down and wrap my
Blanket around me and ex. I
go to sleep I gaze up into
the Starry world and think of other
Days of past Hours think ever
think of my Nettie and so I
gaze but not at the Starry Host



Miss Hettie Cooper
Box 1204 Springfield
Missis

The Filson Historical Society

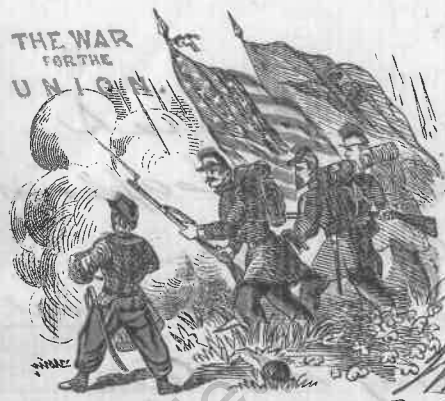


The Filson Historical Society

Now must make the 2nd letter
or there is danger of the letter
going to the 29th Battalion or another

exercise all
Now that we are leaving
the glorious Old South
I wish I could visit
Old Morgan but that
is out of the question
I must content myself
to serve Uncle Sam and
celebrate the 11th down in
Miss I do hope you will
have a nice time
lots of nice things to eat
and army number of Beans
I must feel jealous a bit
if I hear of it
Well Dear Net I will close
this note I have only
written to let you know
that I am well
Much Love to you
Write soon as you receive this
Ever Your Lewis

Do not
to bring all
care of both
Be careful to include you
letters must



Camp Big Springs Miss
June 24 1862

My Dearest Net

Last night the mail
came to camp. But no letter
came for me from you and
I felt so disappointed at not hearing
from you when I had looked so
confidently forward to the arrival
of the next mail I was
on guard and I remained
awake all night and thought
Oh so much of past joys
past life thought of the
days of peace and prosperity
that once shed their joys around
us all thick as autumn leaves
But above all else I thought
of my Nettie my own dear
Nettie and at thought that I
could call you mine mine

20219

to Love, Mine to Cherish
all Thought akin to Disappoint-
ment Fled I lived again in
the Hope of Hearing from you
Ev Long & During the still
watches of the night I held
converse with you I was again
in The Home that shelters you
the Recipient of kind attention
from all But from you alone
Came loving Words
words that thrilled in my heart
as words never did before.
Nette's Mine I am not going
to Write you a long letter to day
I wrote a long one to you But a
few days ago and I only write
this evening Because I sat down
By side of some letter paper and
thought - flashed through my
mind might I not write
a letter to Hettie's. I took
up my pen without further ceremony.

I am now Writing
Oh yes I heard that a
Violent Storm Had blown
down your Father's orchard
that is the worst of it
and Camp near Blowing
away the Cooper mansion.
I heard so from Robt William
He Having Rec^d a letter
from Home, stating such
to be the fact -
We are encamped at the same
place we were when I wrote
you last at Camp Big Spring
it Receives its name from
the large Spring which is
in our neighborhood and
which supplies us with splendid
Water The Weather is very
Warm and getting warmer
We are having a very comfort-
able time Have to Drill 3 Hours
each Day Just enough to