

The Filson Historical Society

Mss.

A Hanback, Lewis 1839-1897.

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

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Correspondence July - December 1862.

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Camp Clear Creek Miss
July 17th 1862

My dear Nettie

Your Dear lengthy letter was Received
Five days ago I had intended to answer immediately
But by some Reason have deferred Writing until the present moment
Oh I was so happy in Hearing from you in Receiving such
a Dear letter Breathing such a pure and holy love
for young Lewis It found me in perfect Health and only
too happy at knowing that you was well and more
I was greatly Rejoiced at the Patriotism you evinced
For while each one has the unmistakable assurance of a
Holy love mingled with a Desire to meet me home
Yet in every sentence there lived and breathed
the pure flame of Patriotism a patriotism which
Bids me Bear all for Duty sake for the vindication of an
insulted Flag and the National Honor

My Dear Nettie I thank you doubly thank you for the words
of cheer you sent me to know from your own lips the truths
that notwithstanding your best desire to see me yet in
consideration of the Glorious Mission in which I am
engaged you bid me strive on Endure all
 Hoping for the hour when peace shall settle like a
gentle Spirit all over the land when the Clarion
note of war shall have died away the sound of the Battle
no longer be heard when ~~all~~ ^{no} more Heartstones shall be

shall be desolated No more Family Circles Broken
To the time You point me when all shall return
to Home to Friends to more than friends

Yes my Dear Act I am rejoiced at thought that
you are so confident of the future so willing to
trust all to that Higher power who in his Wisdom
"Doeth all things well"

When in a thoughtful mood I realize the magnitude
of the cause for which we battle for which we endure
the Dangers & Perils of a Soldier's Life When
I realize that this land of Freedom this Government
instituted by Freeman is in danger from traitor Hands

When I realize that ~~to~~ War on our part is for the
support of ~~the~~ Government now ~~threatened~~ with Destruction
I am but reassured of my duty I am but more firmly
established in the Duty which appears before me
And am rejoiced that I can raise my arm
in defence of a land so Glorious of Constitution so
High and Noble as, an ours Thankful that in
another land there is a loving heart which beats in unison
with mine and bids me stand firm ⁱⁿ the cause of liberty
and Right With such a Monitor as you our dear self
I am content to endure all Satisfied that in the end
I will receive from ~~the~~ approving smile & Rich Reward
for everything endured

How many letters do you suppose I received on
the same day that I received yours
Six letters Just think of that ~~that~~ Letters all at once

When I looked over them I saw that one bore
your own Dear Superscription So I sat me down
and Read all the other letters and saved ~~Yours~~
to the last You know they always save the Best
Type for the last of the ~~Series~~

It was indeed a rich treat to ~~the~~^{to} read so long a letter
so full of interest I was very sorry to hear that your
head ached so ~~seriously~~^{on the Fourth} If I had been by your side
your head would not have ached or if so I would
have laid my hand upon your brow and eyed it
Wouldn't I? I know I would prove a good Doctor
I am afraid Mr. Flower is not a good Physician

I was glad to hear that the Cooper Mansion
was as firm as a rock that during the storm
My Dave little Act stood at her post with broom
in hand to keep back the raging element
which threatened to invade both Parlor & Hall
Oh you must always be brave act as ^a Brave Soldiers
Slight Heart

God Grant that we may always act Brave as
we traverse lifes path for many a storm cloud
will darken our way many a storm will sweep
over our path But if we act firm if we stand
by each other and encourage each other with words of cheer
We will pass through the Darkest Storm to the
light of a fair and peaceful Day
You know the darker the night the Brighter is the
Morning. I was really much surprised at reading about

B.O.C. — It was just like him to ask
Such a Question. I am so glad & Thankful
that you answered him as you did
and he "has not given you up" Well I do not
blame him for brooding over his misfortune
For I know if some nice young man should win
your affections from me and engraft himself
in your heart I too would hate to give you up
But don't think Dear Ned that I fear to trust
you, never

There is not much news down here we are having
a nice time. A awful accident happened
in the Company next to ours. One of ^{the members of the Company} ~~our~~ comrades
snapped a cap on his gun supposing it was not
loaded. But alas his mistake the gun was loaded
and as the cap snapped ^{the gun} went off the ball passing
through the head of one of his comrades killing him
instantly it was an awful sight and the poor fellow
was fired off the gun. Tell awful I put him from
the bottom of my heart

Dear Ned we have marching orders with
4 days provision going to Eastport on the Tern
River. Start in the morning or at least expect
to march at that time we have had a nice rain
and the Roads are in good condition. Do please
write to me soon. Right away after you receive this
Direct your letters as usual. I did intend
to write you a much longer letter but it is so
late and I must take some rest in order
to be ready for the coming morrow

Good night my Dearest
Your Own Lewis

Received May 19th



X Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin
Morgan
County
Illinois

00210

The Filson Historical Society

Gertrude Miss
July 24 - 1869

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society



Gerke Miss
July 24 - 1862

Camp Green Creek
Miss
July 17 - 1862

The Filson Historical Society

City Trips such a beautiful
 Night The whole Heavens illum-
 inated with Gems of Sparkling Light
 Like Trusty Sentinels Keeping Watch
 over us as we slept
 I slept very sweetly and away in the
 Night I went away in a Fairy
 Car far away over Hill, Dale and
 River Over waving fields Over the
 Great Old Woods and the Broad
 Prairies to a well remembered Spot
 To meet a Peaky loved one My Darling
 Kettie Oh In my imagination I had
 a Happy Time a loving Welcome
 a Warm Hearted Kiss Well I note to
 find it all a Dream But I felt
 as though we had met though long
 Miles lay Between us
 Next morning we marched early
 Arrived at Birnsville at Ten o'clock
 The Town was mostly Deserted the
 Country around Densely wooded & Parcel
 settled The Day very very Warm
 So Give you an idea of our march
 it was to have only to tell you that
 Fourteen men Hell Dead During the
 March from one Regt alone
 awful wasn't it Our Regt got along
 very Well. Good night Dear Sir the Captain

Iuka Miss July 24th 1862
 My Darling Kettie
 So right after Roll
 Call I thought I must
 write a letter to My Dear
 Art and let her know where
 I am located
 Don't you think Iuka is a
 very Curious name? if you
 don't you are different from
 me But if the name is
 an odd one In its oddity it does
 not Spoil the appearance
 of the Town. Oh if you was
 Here to night Just to walk
 down to the Springs and Drink
 the Sulphur and Iron Water
 But I must not Run my in-
 Sight an unmeaning Style
 But must give you a little
 History of our March from
 Camp Big Springs to the Town

I will write to Kettie to let her know how I am getting on

I said very much to Kettie and she said she would write to you

of Iuka Miss
Our Division numbering
Nine Regts ^{Departed} up Camp
Monday Morning July 21st
We Had four Days Ration with
us Two of which we carried
in our Haversacks and Two we
Hauled. The Day was very
Warm But one thing was in our
Favor the Rain of the few days
Before Had laid the Dust
so we could march without
swallowing so much Scotch
Soil as we are often compelled
to do We marched 17 miles
and camped nine o'clock
at night in an Orchard
Could not doubt by a Rant
Old Rebel At least his
Wife was success for she trusted
her Mouth in the neatest kind
of a spucker Turned up her
Nasal Organ and exclaimed
In tones not the softest

that she wished the Mill
was Dry so the Yankee Soldiers
could not get Water
perhaps one great Reason for
her asperity was because
she had a Boy killed in one
of the recent battles before
Richmond Though the Old
Man did not seem to care
much about the loss of his
son Judging from the remark
he made that he "tried to
keep the Parson Fool from
enlisting and had even went
so far as to offer him Ten Hun-
dred Dollars to stay at home but
it was of no avail"
He has another son in Chicago
One the Fort Malden Prisoner
That night I slept in the orch-
ard with no covering but my
Blanket & no canopy over head
save the broad Heaven Resplen-
dant in its Glory and Brightness

[25 July 1862]

We are here to Guard the Rail
Road Protect Loyal Citizens &c
We will have ^{spare} a great deal of Putty
But I guess we will stand up to it
Health of the Company is very good
Boys all Sancey have plenty of Blackberries
apples Potatoes Green corn Hard Bread
& Meat to Eat

I have not much news to write I am
Just writing now that you may know
where I am You may direct your
letters the same as you always have
done I do hope to hear from
you before many days the mail
came this morning yet brought me
no letter from you I am very
hopeful though that I will hear from
you ere long

Love to you
Lewis

Friday Morning Ten O'clock
Good Morning Dear Sir
How do you feel are you very
Busy so that you can not devote
a moment of time in reading this
letter I don't care whether you have the time
to spare or not I intend to write as
long a letter as I please and all I require
of you is to read every word now mind
me.

We left off rather abruptly (last
night) with my account of our march
to this place We reached Suka at
Six P.M., passed through the town
and at the distance of one mile
we camped for the night that night
the windows of Heaven was opened the
rain descended not in copious
showers but in torrents
We had no Tent consequently
we were well drenched and
presented a very Gay appearance the

51200

Next Morning

For once we were a lucky Regt
They we were ordered to remain at
Duka We were in high spirits
of course But the other Regts
Swore Loud and Peep that only
I made us enjoy our Good Luck the
Better The Reason we were all
So anxious to be located here was
the Great Beauty of the Place ^{which} together
with the splendid Mineral Springs
which abound here has made it a great
& resort for the People of the South
during the Summer Months In fact
this is the Saratoga of the South
Just imagine to yourself a Beautiful
Town Closely nestled among the
Hills fine Stately Mansions Coquettish
little Cottages Elegant Parks Splendid Groves
Magnificent Springs from which pour
forth a mineral ^{Water} Capable of Restoring
life though that life hang But by a
Thread Just imagine all this and
Your Picture of Duka miss will be
Complete and Natural

You Dont wonder then that we are
all highly pleased with our new
Home After the Long time we
have spent in the Wood and
scraps of man it is indeed a
Respite to be permitted to gaze
again the Marks of Civilization
last Summer there was Seven Hundred
Visitors at this place Beauty wealth
and Fashion held Royal Court
Here was to be found the Gay the
the Grave the Happy the unhappy
the Rich the poor the Weak the Strong
the Loving Heart the unloving Heart
the Deceiver the Coquette the Confiding
the True Heart which knows no
Flattery no Deceit And here
was to be found that last worst
Character The Traitor to Country
to Principle and to God
Such no Doubt has been the Core
Concentrated mass of Human Nature
which once lived and Flourished in and
around Duka miss

Fitch Mass
No. 5-4
Aug 3 - 1862



Miss Lettie Cooper
Fitch
Morgan County
Ill

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The Filson Historical Society

Life Redeeming fees to the oppressed will sound it
in the ears of the Oppressor and the Tyrants
and Crazed Heads of Europe shall know
that the Government Based on Freedom Principles
has power sufficient to overcome all attempts at
its overthrow. No matter what that sustaining Power
may be do not think dear Nettie that I have
any plan in the future. I firmly believe that the
Age of peace will come just as I have said
it would. By Captain Chapin who arrived last Monday
I received a letter from you was ever so glad at hearing from
you and I would hear from you by the Captain and I should
have been sorely disappointed had he brought no letter for
me. You should enjoyed your meeting with Mr & Mrs Wheeler
Do you know why they staid at you so I am full you because
you are Frank's Girl from whom he used to receive such long
letters last winter. You must not call Mr Wheeler "Old Wheeler"
any more for he is one of my best friends and Mrs Wheeler is one
of the dearest kind of Ladies you won't get jealous, will you?
So you will like her and Mr Wheeler for my sake 'unt you?
Will you to you get along studying the tactics I almost see you with
your Father shot him out in the field practicing the art of being a Soldier
going through our Horns Drill at "Shoulder Arms" Present Arms"
Shoulder Arms" Support Arms" etc
Add you and Debbie and think on doing something for your
Country. You want to go into the Hospital as sure as you in earnest?
I would like to see you exposed to so much care trouble and danger
go I know you would meet with it. I know it is a holy mission and none
but those whose hearts are right with the Princes of a true patriotism will
engage in it yet I would rather know you was at home than that you
were far away exposed to all privations of the field and cant
It is very hard to pay very hard just such a day as it was one year
ago yet I am under different circumstances & what I was then I will not
take the walk this evening I took that evening with my Nettie but
I am living in hope you know hope is the anchor of the soul
When you see me again may I come in health and not be
as I was a year ago I must close perhaps I may write ^{before I seal my letter} more perhaps
not I am looking for a dear long letter from you every day
my good wishes to all and love to you
My dear Nettie
From your
Loving

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the Benefit of that experience In addition to this my mind
Rebelled at the Idea of Remaining Behind while others
Made the Sacrifice I had But one life to yield but
One time to Die Could I offer it up in nobler cause
than in Defence of a Country whose laws I loved and
whose institutions I as an American Citizen was Bound
to aid in protecting and to Crown all my soul leaped
at the thought that when I went into Battle I did
so not only for my Country and myself But for you
Oh very happy have I been in all the toil privation and
Pain of the past year when I think that this is not
all for myself alone But that you will be the share of
my Joy of my Glory and of the Blessed privileges
Which necessarily obtain in the preservation of the Country one & undivided

A Year Dear Let Pory not seem a very long time after
it has sped away Yet innumerable have been
the Changes which it has brought about

I am thought last August that ere another
August the Rebellion would be crushed But
it "Still lives" The Snake though scotched is not
"killed" Still good headway has been made The old
Flag floats again over many of the States in whose Cities
Towns and Villages but a year ago flaunted
Defiantly to the Winds the Stars and Bars of the
G. S. A True we have met with a partial Reverse
Before Richmond For a few days the nation was
under a cloud But with the news "McClellan is Sared"
Passed away the Dreading Gloom Once more the

the Sunlight of Hope Danced upon us and
again we live in the sure Confidence of an
Ultimate Success

Oh I look forward with a beating heart to the hour
when the Glad shout shall make the Nation ring
when their wild tumult shall have ceased when
weeping Angels shall cease their vigils when loved ones
shall return when over all this Union ^{States} over every City Town
Village Hamlet from every hilltop and plain from
the ~~the~~ Farthest East to the Farthest West from the
Ice Clad Plains of the North to the Sunny Hills
of the Far South Everywhere shall stream to the
Breeze the ensign of the Free the Star Spangled Banner
flourishing once more over a Land ~~once more~~ United
once more bound by the Bonds of a Holy Brotherhood
then standing again on the Threshold of our Home in the warm
embrace of the Dear ones from whom we have so
long been absent Heart pressed to Heart we can
look ^{back} with a smile over all the past over all the trials
and dangers which have brought us to so happy
a meeting Nor will our Happiness be enjoyed by us alone
Far over the wide Waste of the Pathless Sea will be borne
on the Wings of the Wind the glad Tidings to the
oppressed Millions of the Old World that Freedom's
Land is still a Land of Refuge to the Homeless Exiles
that the Schemes of Treason and Tyrants have failed their
Consummation that America is still the America of Washington
and La Fayette And the same Wind which wafts the

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Ala
Camp of the 27th Reg^t at Fox Creek
August 22^d 1862

My Dearest Lettie

What do you think I am doing.

— Writing a letter to you before breakfast
got up this morning at Reveille just at
daylight attended Roll Call came back
to my tent. Saw some paper lying on the
Desk which made me remember that I owed
you a letter in return for the Pear lengthy
letter you sent me and received last Monday.
Since I last wrote to you I have marched more
than one hundred and fifty miles and have change
ed location from Mississippi to Alabama. The last
letter I wrote you was from Tuka immediately after
I had closed my letter the Regiment received march
ing Orders with 2 Days Ration in Sacks we got
ready and just at Park Saturday evening ^(the Regiment fell in line) the order was
given to march Do you know what that Order was
First the Colonel Commands "attention Battalion"
Next "Shoulder Arms" Next "March by the Right Flank"
Battalion Right Face" Next "Right Shoulder Shift"
Arms" Next "Forward Route Step Quick March"

And with this last Command we are off, and
as I know where we are going I will tell you
Way out in the Country a distance of 15 miles
lives an old Rebel known as Col. Marm. He is
Rich and has frequently made his boasts that
he has supported a Guerrilla Band for the past
year and will this year this coming to the
ears of Federal Commanders it is determined to
visit the wrathful Old Rebel and help ourselves
to some of his stores so we are bound thither save
a march of 15 miles to make by moonlight. Though
a country thickly beset with Guerrillas it
is a beautiful night - how tenderly does the moonlight
fall upon ^{us} and around us how brightly does the Musket
and Bayonet gleam in its gentle light looking
ahead you can see the long line of troops moving slowly
along while to our rear comes the rumbling of wheels and
the loud creaks of the Steamers the cracking of the Whip
and the hoarse braying of the mules all of which
betokened a long train of wagons ready to bear
away Col. Marm's ill-gotten gains
So we march along over the roughest road I ever
saw over hills and across ravines all ^{the time} through a heavy
dense wood of pine and oak
Once in a long while we stop to rest and I am so sleepy
that I throw myself

on the Ground and Sleep as sweetly as though
I lay on a couch of Roses. But the Cry "Fall In"
would rouse me and jumping up away we would
go. Three O'clock Sunday morning We halted
Before Mansions Mansion Stacked arms Sent
a Heavy Detail to load Cotton and
Catch Mules and Horses the Rest of the Battalion
Broke Ranks and soon on every side could
be heard Squawking of Chickens Cackling of
Geese Oh didn't the poultry suffer
Old Mrs Mann looked Fearful at the
Marauders But that only served as an incentive
to the Work - Besides the Poultry Catchers
there were Squads of men Roaming through
Orchards and Gardens Helping themselves
to peaches Apples Potatoes &c with as much
Nonchalance as though they owned the prem-
ises. At Seven O'clock the last Wagon
was loaded we fell in and turned our Faces
Home and arrived safely at ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~place~~
at Four O'clock P.M. with Sixty Bales
of Cotton forty Bequaes ^{for} ~~which~~ we found
Work sufficient to do) and any Quantity
of Chickens Geese and Turkeys
The next day the Regiment received marching

Orders again, with three days notice prepared
Tuesday 2 O'clock A.M. We started for
Tuscumbia Alabama distant 35 miles
from Ocala We bid Farewell to Laska with
some Regret It is beautiful place and in all
healthy and besides its Sulphur Springs boasts
some Fair Farms though I assume you Dear let
that I was not smitten with any of their Charms
or accomplishments as an evidence of some of the
said accomplishments I mention a Major
Family whose mansion was just
opposite our Quarters He has three grown
daughters all of whom Chew Tobacco actually
Chew Tobacco If you go to any house in this
part of Rebeldom you invariably find
the Snuff Box occupying a prominent
position among the Household Gods
Now do you think they use it They Pipe
The process is simple enough they take a Hickory
stick or some other tough piece of wood
and Chew one end until it resembles
a Brush then they fill the brush full
of Snuff into their Snuff Loring Mouth it goes
and there remains until the Snuff is used
up when the same operation is enacted over again
and so on until they are satisfied

5

Now how do you like some of the Southern
 Ladies' accomplishments. I declare I
 have digressed from the narrative of our
 marches. Well we left Iuka before daylight
 and by the time the morning sun rised
 the Eastern Sky and Pothed Hill Mountain
 and Valley in a flood of golden light
 we were miles on our march, with very
 short halts we continued the march until
 ten o'clock A.M. when we halted
 at a place called "Buzjant's Post" (poetical
 name isn't it) to prepare our breakfast
 and dinner and rest through the hot part
 of the day. The sun was an hour high when
 the drums rolled the assembly the Regiment
 was formed, and we were off for a march of four miles
 ever since we left Hamburg Tenn. The Country
 we had marched through has been of the
 poorest kind small farms poorly attended hills
 hollow swamps & dense forests characterized
 the country in which we have been sojourning
 since last April
 we are opening out now a new Country
 to our sight - we were rapidly

the far famed Valley of the Tennessee
noted for the fertility of its soil and
the Scenery of its Mountains and Plains
I never shall forget the feelings of delight
that thrilled ^{through} my veins as emerging from the
Rocky Hills and Dense Woods my eye
first caught sight of the Rich Country
which lay stretched out before me I
felt almost as though in some mysterious
manner I had been wafted to the
far off "Sucker State" nor ^{was} I alone in
my joy Every Body seemed touched by
some Magic Hand which ~~infused~~ ^{within them} new life
and vigor & Oh as I marched along with
what a vividness was recalled to mind
past scenes and past recollections
the hours when peace sat in the high places
when the busy hum of industry resounded on
every hand. When in the full tide of prosperity
we lived a nation of freemen enjoying the
rich blessings our Fathers bequeathed us
then we had no battle fields but what the
whole nation could be gazed over and
be proud of then we never dared not
stake the land then the glorious old

Flag was the Only Ensign that floated
over American Soil No "Stars and Bars"
floated over one part of the land No Armed
Force Bid defiance to the Constitution
And trampled the laws under foot
Every where peace Reigned Supreme
And the Prayers that went up from the
devout Patriots in Maine That the
land of the Free might be preserved
from intestine Feuds Received a hearty
Amen from the Patriots of Far of Florida
But the Halcyon days went by the ^{Days} ~~Hours~~
of Peace and joy went down under the Part
Portentous Cloud of War from Freedom's
Blue Field Star after Star disappeared,
Treason Spouted forth its vile Venom Still
the Nation Slumbered on The Wiest a ^{id} ~~id~~ Part
of the land Could not Believe that man could
in so short a time so far Degenerate as to
Strike a suicidal Blow against a Government
So good & Great as ours But the Blow came
and the Embattled fort in Charleston ^{Harbor}
the eyes of the Nation ^{was} ~~that~~ directed How Breathless
was the anxiety that filled each Heart as it was
enquired "How fares Sumpter" But the Crisis Came

the hosts of treason prevailed, Sumpter fell
Yet ^{amidst} the sound of Hostile Cannon and the Crumb-
le of the Walls the Nation awake from its Lethargic
Slumber and Spring to Arms to Revenge the
injury offered against freedom and Freedom's
Flag ~~which~~ ^{Peace} fled from our Borders
The trump of War was sounded and soon from work-
shop and Ham from the counting house and
Office came forth the Sons of Liberty willing Ready
to sacrifice all for the common defence of the Country
And nobly the Work is Being performed The Storm
though still at its height gives indication that
its fury will soon be spent, the War will cease
The victory will be ours peace with its Countless
Blessing will come to us again the Old Flag
again triumphant will float in majesty and pride
over every land and sea. And above all it will be demon-
strated for all time that the people can not only
make laws but can maintain them when
made that popular Governments receiving
their powers from the Consent of the Governed
are capable of affording the greatest good and the
surest defence to the rights and Liberties
of the people living under that Government
Well I declare Dear Set that I fear you will
think I am straying a long way from the account
of our March from Iuka to Tusculum
We Encamped the first night in a Grove beside
a Church Had a beautiful camping place a nice
Spring furnished us with pure Water I rested very well never

[22 Aug 1864]

Opened my eyes until
me
as soon
as you
perceive
that - my
of its safe
arrange
Sun 9

opened my eyes until
Had breakfast and at an early hour was
on the march. Took dinner at an Old Scotch Mansion
Encamped that night within three miles of Tuscum-
bia. Took supper at an Old Planter's House
A. G. L. P. Had plenty to eat paid my
half dollar and went on my way rejoicing
Next morning we marched into Tuscumbia pitched
our tents and in the afternoon took a stroll
round town in company with a friend Next morning
Companies D and K were ordered off with
three days rations to convey a train of wagons
to Eastport and back. We started at ten
a half a clock with seventy wagons encamped
at sundown 18 miles from Tuscumbia
No sooner had the train stopped than the
boys broke for a flock of geese out in a
pasture and soon returned with about a dozen
of them so of course we had plenty of geese
for supper a neighboring cornfield furnished
us with plenty of green corn and a long
row of Bee Stings furnished us with a good
supply of Honey the Orchard along the
Road supplied us with Peaches so you
will readily perceive we lived well
The next day we marched to Eastport which lies

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an old dilapidated town on the Tennessee
River. He loaded up and moved out of town
about half mile, camped on Banks of Bear
Creek. I brought a Hook, and line, and started fishing.
But I did ~~not~~ have much luck. So I deferred fishing
until another day, and throwing myself on the ground
with my blanket round me and was soon in the
land of Morpheus. "Morpheus" reigns Supreme. Started
early next morning - (Sunday) Marched
20 miles and camped at Loudoun. Slept
comfortably, and next day reached Tusculum.
Having had a very nice time. That same day the
Regiment ~~had~~ ^{received} marching orders, so you
see we were kept on the move continually.
We marched at two o'clock next morning for
Courtland, Alabama. passed through some splendid
Country. Halted for dinner. Having marched 10 miles.
We rested during the heat of the day, then marched
a few miles further and stopped for the night the
next morning marched into Courtland. Halted for a
few hours. Then we received our Mail and received
a 2 letters from Mrs. Wheeler in one letter contained
a Handkerchief nicely embroidered also a Bouquet
from some nice young lady friend of hers who had
been smitten with my picture. You dont you feel bad
just a little nite jealous? We struck out again
for Hot Creek - camp distant eleven miles from
Courtland. At dinner we had a

[22 Aug 1862]

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 Good letter at Tusculum I also received
 a letter from you just before we left Duba But
 I have never had time to answer it as we have
 been on the go all the time
 you felt bad in giving up your Brother But he
 is only doing you what thousands of Brothers have
 done and you are only doing what many
 a loving sister has done I hope you will nobly
 bear all for the Country's sake and for the Cause which
 in truth is a glorious one Write to him often encourage
 him with loving words and bid him be strong in
 the defence of his Country and his Country's flag Trust
 all to Him both in times of trouble as well as
 in the sunny hours of prosperity Oh what a curious dream
 that was your had I do think your description of a battle
 perfect I hope it never will come true But if it should
 your presence would do me more good than a score of
 as to be wounded in battle how contented I should
 suffer all pain if you was only near me to nurse
 and comfort me But I hope that I may pass through all
 this danger unharmed Return to you safe when the war is
 over now urge Warden from you ^(this morning)
 fifty dollars to you I sent ^{(By Captain}
 Reacht Chapin until after you have rec'd this
 I hope you will receive it in due time ^{the money} when you
 receive it open the envelop and place it in ^{the} other and
 subscription papers in a fresh envelop and take it
 to her Well I would like to write some more But I guess
 I will have to quit for the present I have written this letter by
 piece meal Have had to jump up every little while to tend
 to some business I do hope to hear from you ere long
 You must look over the space which has intervened
 since my last letter I wanted to write ever so bad
 But it was out of the question Write a long letter
 soon
 Ever your friend

at noon What do you think I had in common
with 3 friends Now Hold your Breath and Read
we had fried Bacon Swimming in grease Corn
dodger Cucumbers and Water for which we were
Charged the modest little price of .50 cents
a piece But we did not pay any such a Bill
we gave what was right and left them with
our regards Camped that night at Mallets
Creek Next morning Reached Fort Level our
present Camp We have a beautiful Camp
Captain Chapin's Company appears are in the
fort moved in to day though it is Sunday
Near our Camp is the Chapel remains of a once
Beautiful Mansion with ^{an} Orchard in the
rear of about thirty acres with the grounds
carefully laid out with all kinds of plants and
Shrubs the house was burned by order of Genl
Mitchell Because the owner Fennell aided
in Builing and destroying Railroad Bridges &c
Fennell is now in Command of a Guerrilla Com-
pany the day Before yesterday a train of
Cars was Captured By these guerrillas within
three miles of our Camp we started out
after them But they fled at our first Volley
which killed four and Wounded several
We lost our mail as the Captured train
was burned I do not think there was any
left for our men now as I receive a dear



01
L1200
Mr. Nathan Cooper
Chapin
Morgan Co
Illinois

The Filson Historical Society

Nashville Tenn

Oct 23 - 1862

The Filson Historical Society

[23 Oct 1862]

Capt Pitt requests me
to write that he is well and will
be home at the first opportunity
offered please inform his friends

Act Lieutenant Nash requests you
will inform his friends of his very
good health

9120

The Filson Historical Society

Nashville Tenn
Oct 23^d 1862

My own Dear Nettie

I have the rare opportunity offered of sending a letter home by a friend who leaves next Saturday for Louisville. We are in Nashville have been for the last five or six weeks. Our Division commanded by Genl Palmer left Camp in Mississippi on the 4th day of September crossed the Tennessee River at Decatur Alabama on Friday Morning Sept 5th and immediately took the direct Road ^{to Nashville} distant 140 miles. We made a forced march through a Country infested by Persons in shape of Guerrilla's who followed our retreating steps and murdered whoever came in their power. All along the way we were fired into by the Rebels who after having delivered their fire ran away and if overtaken being dressed in the garb of a Citizen they claimed the rights which the laws of War guarantee to the inhabitants of an enemy's Country. The Days were long and burning hot the Roads were dusty but we stood up to the work like Men fighting for liberty ought to and the evening of the 3rd day arrived within three miles of Nashville where we camped.

Captain

My Dear

My Dear

My Dear

You must excuse this short letter I could write a volume to you if I had time. I will communicate as early as I can with the General's message.

took from me... for the picket-line... 00219

Three Days after We moved into the
City. We are getting along Very well
Health of Company is good
But one sick in the Hospital for some time
past - But he is sick no more He fought
his last Battle 2 hours ago.

Perhaps you may know him Archibald
Hobson. His parents live up about Decatur
He was sick with the Typhoid Fever

Oh it goes so hard to be cut
off from all Communications with Home
For the last Seven Weeks we have not
had a mail do not know how you
are getting along. Communication is still
suspended. But I think it will be opened
in a few Days. I could write you very
interesting History of our position here
But this letter may fall in the hands
of some Roving Band of Guerrillas
and I dont want to write anything which
could give the enemy the least insight
into our affairs. I may say however
that we are constantly in expectation of an
attack that we have fortified the City
to such an extent that Forty Thousand men
cant take it. That we have to Forage
for our supplies. Our Regiment was out
Yesterday brought in 400 Cattle 200 Hogs 300
Sheep and 300 Wagonloads of Corn Hay and
Fodder. Pretty good days work.

Every thing is at an exorbitant price
Coffee, 80^{cts} to \$1.00 Sugar 60 to 75^{cts}
Ref. 28^{cts} to 30^{cts} Per Pound Tea \$4.00 Pound
Common Molasses 2.00 Per Gallon Potatoes 75^{cts} Pick
Nothing cheap here but Large Beer .5^{cts} Glass
Butter of poor quality \$1.00 pound
Of course people take advantage of our
Situation and charge accordingly only
think in this Country which is covered with
a heavy growth of timber, A cord of
Wood cannot be Bought for less than
Ten Dollars But these prices are nothing
to what they are down in Secession

Aethie Mine what I have written
this far you can read to your friends
The rest read to yourself

Oh How I long to hear from you How I long to receive
once more one of those Dear Dear letters at
the sight of which my heart leaped with a strange
wild joy How I miss them for they have
been to me what the compass is to the Seaman
My guide and my hope During all the
past weeks I have thought so much of you
of what you were doing and what you were
thinking the reason could be for my not
writing to you, By day I have thought of you
and by night I have been beside you in my
dreams Sometimes fear you may be sick
But I comfort myself with the hope that you are

Well and am not worried on my
 account I have one consolation (during
 all these past weeks) for my lovely
 Gorge the shadow of your loved self.
 I often look at it and when I do I ever feel
 happier and more determined to do my whole
 duty so far as I can I could write
 a dozen pages to you for my heart
 is very full But I must be content to
 write but little now and wait for a
 more favorable opportunity I must close
 Oh yes there's one thing I must name
 In a letter I wrote you before we started
 for Nashville I informed you that I had
 sent the money to you by Capt Pitt
 I did so but when Capt Pitt got to Corinth
 Miss — we found he could not get any
 further so he sent the money to Cairo
 to be deposited to his order. I felt very sorry
 that I did not keep it and send it by Capt
 Bzarth But at the time I gave it to Capt Pitt
 I had no idea that Capt Bzarth would go home
 as soon as communication is opened, Capt Pitt
 will go home then you will get it
 My Dear Nettie I will close You need
 not write until you hear from me again
 My best wishes to all my friends and
 the love of my heart pure and undivided
 to you
 Good night
 Ever Your Lewis

I forgot to tell you in the letter
 that I had sent the money to you by Capt Pitt
 I did so but when Capt Pitt got to Corinth
 Miss — we found he could not get any
 further so he sent the money to Cairo
 to be deposited to his order. I felt very sorry
 that I did not keep it and send it by Capt
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 the love of my heart pure and undivided
 to you
 Good night
 Ever Your Lewis

Friday, Nov. Warren Fickner sends a letter enclosed to his wife which you will please
 send to her we are on Fickett's day leave in a few moments

64



Miss Hattie Cooper
Chapin

Wagon Co
Blaine

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

I get along very well in my
new position like it very much
You must understand that
this is not a permanent
appointment it may last for
a Day or a year I left
the Company for the Reason that
I was tired of doing Captain
Byrath's duty I was sick of
acting Captain with a Lieut's
straps on. The Position I now
hold is much pleasanter
far more agreeable to my taste
and feeling I sent you Genl
Rosecrans Order appointing Brigade
Inspectors which (if you receive)
will explain my duties I have
to see that the Camps of the Brigade
are properly policed that Guards
do their duty that the General
Routine of Camp is properly carried out

Ad Quarters Roberts Brigade
Camp Sheridan Tenn Dec 12th 1862
My Own Dear Feltie
Four days ago I
had not heard from you and
Oh how Lonesome and sick
at heart I felt I did not
know what the matter could
be over four weeks had past
away since Communications
had been opened and yet
Nothing had come from you
during that time I had
written five or six letters Oh
very true it was that I often
laid down at night and
wondered how it was that
you did not write But still
I Hoped on looked forward with
anxious rep for the arrival of the mail

and I did not look in vain
Last Saturday I received a Letter
Sergt. Ticknor Brought it to me
and with a smile which I
knew full well the meaning
of Said "Here's a letter for you
Lew" I read it and during that
day I moved about with a light
Happy heart That night Another
letter came from you But I
did not see it until Morning
I have named that Saturday
as one of my lucky days
I would have answered them
Sooner but have been very busy
We have moved out five miles
from Nashville have camped
in a beautiful forest and
are of course enjoying ourselves
 hugely Everything is quietly progressing

Active preparations are going on
for an advance the enemy
are reported massed in force
at Murphysborough 25 miles
distant If the report is true
Rosecrans will be after them
ere long I do not anticipate
much of a fight However
I think they will fall back to
Chatanooga Alabama Health
I have just been
arguing with Lieut Scott Bet
the Oyster and lost accord-
ing to Col Robert division
Well I declare its no use
for me to try to write the
Boys are making too much noise
and I have to stop writing
to read the latest news to
Adjutant Genl. Stevenson

[12 Dec 1862]

In fact I am on Duty at
all times I have a nice
Horse consequently dont
have any more wearisome marches
to perform I dont have to stand
Grand Guard and Brigade
Guard In fact am not expo-
sed one tenth part as much
as I was In addition to this
I keep with a body of men
~~who~~ the Col and we have
plenty of everything acceptable
So you see I can make a very
good case out of my position
I congratulate you on your
Having Dan and Mattie
So near By I know it will be
a great comfort for you and
good company until I come
By the way please say to Mattie that

His promise to write has
not been made good
You state Capt. Hill has
not delivered the money I
sent - By him to you for Mrs Eby
He is acting very strangely
I suspect that he has donated
the money to his own use I
want you to write immediately
as to whether you have received
it or not if you have not
I shall address a note to him
enquiring into the matter and
after waiting a reasonable length of
time for an answer I shall
publish his villainy in the Jack-
Sornille and Winchester Papers,
I must close I want to write
much more but cant to night
it is nearly 12 ock.

AS

Good Night Dearest
Ever your Lewis



Chalounga
Dec 8 1862



Miss D. H. Cooper
Chalounga

41206

The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarters Robert's Brigade
11th Division. Dec 18th 1862

My Dear Betty

I have just received your letter of the 10th Inst. and hasten to answer to inform you of the receipt of the two lengthy letters which I received some days since. To day I received another which told how sad you felt on the receipt of my last letter informing of the non receipt of letters from you. Let me wipe the bare idea that you are sad over anything which I may have written. furnishes to me an incentive sufficient to make me drop every thing else to answer your letter and drive away every feeling of sadness from your mind. This makes the fourth letter I have received from you during the past few days and very pleasantly has passed the intervening time. Every feeling of sadness has vanished every cloud disappeared and to day my life's sky is bright with new hopes & new resolves. you send me a kiss of reconciliation. I accept the kiss but not the reconciliation for I have nothing to be reconciled over. Not a thing very true it is that I often felt very sadly disappointed at not hearing from my treasure. But I do think I never felt one strange thought

flit through my mind never for one moment
I suffered the dark idea to find a resting
place in my brain that you had grown weary of
writing to me No doubt you doubt the being
I love with all the intensity of my nature Sad
Sad indeed would be my way Dark and
Bitter would be the thoughts that would crowd
out every feeling of light and love Never will
I entertain for one single moment ^{an instant} so dark and
terrible as that you are not and will not be
eternally true to the sacred vows we plighted
together For this reason when I did not hear
from you for so long a time I knew it was
no fault of yours very true I often felt disappointed
sorely disappointed But I always attributed it
to mails Do not think from anything I wrote you
that I wished you to undecide that I thought
you care less as to whether you wrote to me or not
I knew your reasons were all sufficient I trusted you
willingly and I was not deceived So my
dear sister this explains all don't it and
if by anything which I may have written you
inferred a feeling of doubt (as to your not writing)
on my part Drive it away and let us live in each
others love with not a single doubt to darken our path
way there is much very much that I would
like to write But the office is filled with persons
on business and amid such a hum and bustle
I find that it is next to impossible for me to write

Christmas will soon be upon us Christmas
with all its joys and sorrows. To many a home
it will not bring its wonted happiness for since
last Christmas many hearts have been desolated many
over whom sorrows chilling blast never slept
before are now treading the dark and dreary way
drinking the cup to many Dregs. Many who a year ago
dreamed of happy days to come lived in bright visions
of the future seemed to forget that all things are but as
the transient Dew that man's mortal that prospect bright
and promising to day may be swept to the four winds
to morrow. Have we now been awakened from this
 blissful dream to a full realization of the fact that
life is not all a dream & that he who would perform
his duty well must nerve himself for each and every
duty prepare himself for stern realities for life trials
for troubles for dark forebodings for defeats as
well as victories. This life is an enigma and
he who would solve its great questions must
labor earnestly faithfully. To enjoy life we must be
prepared for all its trials sorrows & disappointment
so that when the storms break upon us as break they will
we may stand their fury and sustained and soothed by an
unflinching hope safely outside the stormy sea overcome
every obstacle. So let us live my Nettie. Build not
too high our hopes let us live so that we shall not quail
before life's sternest reality nor fear to pursue our way through
ignorance and sorrow stand in waiting for joy.
Then will we fulfill life's great responsibility and in

thus performing our Duty we will find life not
 an empty dream But a reality a happy reality
 I commenced about Christmas and I will end
 the subject by saying that I hope you will
 have a happy merry time I wish with my whole
 Heart that I could be with you But
 I cannot and so I must make the Best of it
 Hoping that ere another Christmas storms upon
 us that War will have ceased its desolating
 Ravages and that Hearts now separated will be
 again united that's my hope my living hope
 each day I imagine that I am home
 I mean I get to Dreaming that I am home once
 more and I imagine how you look and talk
 I live over again old times think how cold my feet
 used to get as I passed by a mansion where lived
 a certain young lady so you see I am considerable
 of a dreamer after all Well I do hope you will
 excuse this rambling letter. By the way it is
 nearly dinner time and I have the honor
 to dine with your Generals who visit our
 Head Quarters to day

I like my situation very well find its
 duties very pleasant my Best Wishes to all my
 friends accept all my Love and Believe
 me to Be Ever Your Devoted

Yours
 I have
 enclosed
 & call
 your my
 Dear letter
 your mine
 that become
 my his
 yours
 my
 my
 my
 my