

The Filson Historical Society

Mss.

A Hanback, Lewis 1839-1897.

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

3

Correspondence March - December 1863.

00z19

73



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin Morgan Co
Illinois

The Filson Historical Society

In Marshall
business

March 26-1843

The Filson Historical Society

St Cloud Hotel
Nashville Tenn
March 21st 1863

My Own Dear Nettie

I have been down
here at Nashville for a few days on Business
I am going back to Camp Tomorrow
and I entertain the hope that I may find
a letter from you waiting for me
I have not heard from you for four weeks
But I know you have written to me
I think the rebels have (Instead of myself)
had the pleasure of reading your letter
from the fact that a Train of Cars was
attacked and destroyed last week

I should have written to you some days ago
had I not expected a letter. when the mail
would come one day and bring no letter
from you I would think to myself to Morrow
but the lucky Morrow has not yet arrived

Now do not think Nettie Mine that I am
administering a lecture to you in any way
don't think that I will ever be so foolish

again as to write you another ^{spicy} letter
While I always ^{am} made happier by hearing
from you and while I would like oh
so much to receive a letter from you every
week Yet I know the risk a letter
has to run before it can reach ^{me}
and knowing this I look forward ^{with patience} from one
mail to another until the letter comes

I sent off a few lines to you the
Morning Our Brigade started on its march
did you receive them?

We were out 11 days after the Rebels Our
Division Commanded By Gen Sheridan
drove the Enemy back after the
capture of the Troops under Command
of Col Colburn of which ^{an account} you doubtless read
at the Time I thought ^{at} one time that
we would have some fighting to do But was
mistaken for the Rebels always managed
to keep out of our way

Yesterday the Rebels captured about 300
men of the 22nd Wisconsin and 19th Michigan
at Brentwood a small town 9 miles from
Nashville from accounts read our men
made a very poor fight
This Boo is a part of the force that escaped

from Spring Hill it is rather singular
that they could be gobbled up
so soon after their last good luck.
I would not be much surprised if I
was to be wakened up some morning with
the sound of ^{the} enemies Cannon
a great many think that the Rebel Army
is being drawn away from Vicksburg
and as rapidly as possible ~~is~~
being sent to Reinforce Bragg at
Tulahoma, if such proves to be the
Case they will undoubtedly attack
us or else they will endeavor to
play the same game on Rosecrans,
that they worked so effectively in
Buel's Case last Fall that is
throw a large Army in Ky Cut
off our supplies and Compel us to
fall back to the Ohio River I don't
think they can make that plan
work.

We are having Beautiful weather
Peach & Cherry trees are in full Bloom
the Grass grows Green the Birds sing
Sweetly the Sun shines Bright every
indication is given that Spring is about

5
Make glad the Earth with its presence
Our Division was reviewed last Monday
by General Rosecrans and was pronou-
nced by him to be the finest Division
in the Army the troops looked well
and marched splendidly

Tell my Dear I must Close even with
a short letter when I get out to Camp
I will write you a longer one
do not judge of my love for you by my
short letters I am very much hurried
and this is the best I can do to day

But ere I say Good bye to you
I want to tell you again what I have written
so often before that I am all your own
that my life my all is centered in you
To you I look not as a friend But as my Companion
Oh On the wearisome March, Many a mile is
passed over while I am looking forward thinking
of that happy hour when I shall take your hand
in mine and call you "My little Wife"

Often do I peer far into the future the misty Curtain
is withdrawn and I see the home made happy
in that love which Can never grow cold never
For the love which lives in these dark hours
will only be thy Brighter when war's stern
Alarms shall have died away and Peace
shall once more irradiate the lands now
discordant and unhappy

Write soon and often
and ever think of me
as Your Own
Leuris

For Creek Alle

April 11 1863



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin

Morgan County
Illinois

by hand
Capt. Bellman

The Filson Historical Society

Capt Williams left Chatham
on Thursday 20th June will
be at home in 2 months
in going a long while

Wishes

Capt Williams of the
29 Aug is on
this morning

The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarters 3rd Brig 3rd Division
20th Army Corps April 11th 1863

My Own Dear Hetty

I have just finished reading
a letter from Mattie in which I learnt
the unwelcome news that you are sick
I do hope that when you receive this you will
have regained your accustomed health

Oh how I wish I was home just for a little while
I would nurse you up you couldn't help getting
well. Mattie tells me to write to you often

don't I? Oh I wish I could send you a letter
every week and could receive one from you
in return the happiest moments of my life are
passed in reading your words of confidence
and love. Oh if you knew how strong I feel
to do right how your dear image is ever
by my side my guardian spirit my monitor
to do well to resist temptation to make myself

more worthy of your confidence and love. If you
knew with what joy I look forward to our reunion
to that time when I can take you to myself and
say to you "Thus far in life our way has been separate
but now we call journey together living with and
for each other" If you knew all this I know your
heart would leap with joy

I received a dear letter from you Yesterday
written March 27th and 28th Oh how glad
I was to hear from you You did not say you
was sick but I feared you was working too hard
I shall not rest contented until I hear from you
If you are not able to write only a few words I
will think them precious if they ^{only} tell of your
being better

I have spent this afternoon in Company
with some (Friends) riding over the Battlefield
I went over the greater part of the ground
where the fighting took place It is much
changed from what it was a few days after the
Battle Still it is yet the most desolate and
forsaken place I ever saw the evidence of a
Severe Battle is still to be seen dead horses
everywhere to be seen trees torn with Cannon shot
and scarred with Bullets parts of wagons Artillery
Wheels &c. and last of all comes the sure
indication of a Bloody fight In the Number
of Graves which are to be seen and which in their
own mute Mournful way tell the Story of the Brave
Man there sleeping

Very sad are the thoughts that crowd in my mind
as standing beside the humble grave of the Soldier
he reads ^{on the head board} his name & Rank and Rest imperfectly
Carved one can't help but think that far
away from scenes of War and Blood fond hearts

are weeping for the Soldier who has fought
his last Battle who shall never more return
to the home once made happy by his presence
Of how many many hearts have ~~with~~ been crushed
how many bright hopes have vanished into thin
air since this war began how many
have given up their Earth Treasures sent
their dear ones forth never more to see them
Such is the fruits of this Bloody war
though the sacrifice which is required ~~is~~
from us our bravest and best still
it must be made and willingly we must
give Blood and Treasure lavish it out
with a prodigal hand never cease our efforts
until the Majesty of the law shall have been
Vindicated until the Traitor power shall
have been humbled

I was sorry to hear of John R.'s Sickness
hope he will soon be able to help take tickets
say please remember me to him

Yesterday the Rebels captured one of our Passen-
ger Trains between Murfreesboro Tenn.
and Nashville they took a lot of Prisoners
about 180000 recaptured 35 Confederate Prisoners
and burnt the Trains they also attacked
Franklin's Tenn with a large force but were
repulsed with some loss though I learn
this evening that Gen Stanton's Command
our Cavalry a Brave and Skillful Officer was captured

We are having very easy times now have beautiful
Weather the Grass looks fine the Woods are
putting on their Green Mantle Oh its just
like Spring this evening we have been favored
with a Thunder Shower which has served us
a good purpose in laying the dust

I am very busy nowadays Yesterday I
Mastered our Brigade in Order that the War
Department could be furnished with the Number
of Conscripts need to fill up our Regiments
I hope to see some of the Illinois Copper heads
in the Ranks Before the Summer Campaign closes
If you see Mattie Please say to her that
I intend answering her letter tomorrow

and that she may expect a good letter
for you know the "Better the day the Better the
deed" I sent you a long letter a few days ago hope
you have received it ere now Just this moment the
Boom of a Cannon falls upon my ear some
disturbance on the Picket line

Now my Dear Hetty you will not think hard
of me for not writing a longer letter will you
It is growing late I am tired and Sleepy I

Must seek my Soldiers Couch But in the silent
watch of the night I shall fly to your side I shall dream
that you are by my side once more Oh sleeping or waking
I always think of you as my Treasure my Counsellor my
Guardian Spirit as my own Dear Hetty I close this letter with
a fervent wish and Hope that you will soon be well and that I may
hear from you ere long
Ever your own
Leino

Head Quarters 3^d Regt
3rd Div, 2^d Army Corps
April 11th 1863

My own dear Hettie,

I snatch a few moments
time to write you a few lines which
I will send by Sergeant Nash who
starts home to day.

I wrote you a letter which
I mailed last Monday morning but this is such
a good chance that I could not allow it to
pass. Ever since I received Mattie's letter
I have been anxious to hear from you
for she wrote that you was unwell. I still
hope that you will soon write me yourself
and that your indisposition will not last
long. Oh how I count the hours until I
shall hear from you. You may write me
a short letter if it only embraces three words
"I am well" I shall be satisfied.
I am the possessor of excellent health had a
sore throat for two or three days but that was
soon cured. Hettie mine you must not expect
a very long letter from me to day for
I am very busy. And if my letter seems to
short just think of me as your own dear
Lewis

Willing ready to do anything which will
enhance your happiness anything which will
aid in proving to you the great undivided
love which my heart offers you If you are ^{still} lying
~~still~~ in your sick room let this thought
cheer you If you are well again let it make
your way happy and bright That wherever you
go ~~where~~ I am with you in spirit that though long
Miles intervene between us Still I am by your side
I hear your voice as it bids me welcome and I
feel upon my lips the warm kiss which I breathe upon
your brow Each day I feel happier in the
thought that I am loved for myself alone
and in that thought I feel so strong a feel
that I will succeed in the great struggle of life
To me there is no dark future there may be storms
there may be dark days but so long as the
light of your love shines upon my heart
I shall not fear to meet life's sternest realities

We are having a very nice
time Beautiful weather Grass growing trees
green with foliage The next letter I write I
will send you a Bouquet of Southern Flowers
Dinner call There the Bugle is sounding
Sergeant Ash will soon be off
I want to write Uncle Wilson a note So
you will excuse this very very short letter and write me a
long one in return Ever your own Lewis.

Head Quarters 3rd Regt
3rd Division 20th A.C.
May 6th 1863

My Own Dear Hettie

As this is a dark damp
day I thought I would commence
a letter to you though I shall
not promise to finish it to day
I received your dear long letter
several days ago and I ^{will} not assure
you that it was a most welcome
visitor. It brought me the good news
that you was well again and that
you had enjoyed yourself excellently
at Jacksonville.

And you after said to yourself
on the evening you received my
letter by Sergt Park that you
"wished it had been Lew instead"
I wish so too but I have to be
content for the present
some of these beautiful days I will
surprise you
I often think how I would pass away
a leave of absence and I assure you
I generally manage my thoughts

as to make out that I would
have a glorious time sometimes
I imagine I am on the train that
I have passed Jacksonville and am
drawing nearer and nearer to Chapin
I can see every hollow I remember
every field every house and occasionally
the train flits by a familiar face
on we go Jones's switch is passed
over the Bridge we rumble along through
the Woods and around the tortuous curves
we speed our way presently the open
Country is gained we pass by Mr
Williams House then Uncle Jim's Man-
sion But I dont remember any thing
more about the Country I am looking
down the track to where my Hettie lives
you are all opposite the Orchard the
Iron Horse gives a shrill whistle
the Brakes are put on as we pass the
House I glance quickly hoping
I may see you sometimes I do
out flies my handkerchief
it flutters in the Wind but you dont
seem to notice it Well the train stops
there is a hurry and bustle I snatched
up my bundles and step out on
Morgan County soil friends Christ

around me I answer their enquiries
as quickly as I can and then
I start up the track the dear
remembered way I can't walk fast
enough it seems that my feet drag along
I am so eager to see you
Presently I reach the fence I cross over
and now comes my joy I see you
passing through the room You stop and
peer out to see what approaches
one glance suffices through the
open door you dart down the
walk half way from the fence you
meet me My arm is around you and
I press a kiss to your lips in that
short moment I am a thousand fold
repaid for all the privation and
danger which I have endured for
Two long Years. I forget all the past
and ^{my} heart send forth a thankful
orison to the power that has preserved
me for this happy meeting
Well my leave of absence passes away
We have been very happy such nice
evening walks such quiet talks such
as we used to have. The time comes
when we must part But strong in
each others love we we say good by

and even in parting sad thoughts
are driven away by the holiness
of the cause which separates us
I come back to the army stronger
happier than ever before and you
have more faith a stronger hope
in the watchful Guardian ship
of Christ who notes "even the sparrow
when it falls"

I have often passed an hour away
thinking over what I have just written
and I always feel happier by it for
I know that such a meeting will
be mine sooner or later

Enclosed I send you
two Photographs one for yourself and
one for ~~May~~ they look more like
me than any I ever had, taken before

I am anxiously waiting for your
next letter which will bring me
the shadow of your own dear self
Now you must be sure and send
it

There is no news connected
with our army we are lying still
doing nothing we having a good
time plenty to eat and wear
We have a very nice camp

[6 May 1863]

on the banks of Stone river

I wish I could send you
a picture of my stopping place
Tents are surrounded with Cedars
which we set out some time ago
and all around us are great forest
trees covered with rich green leaves
Oh this is a beautiful Country

We are all feeling good over
Hooker's good success on Va
and Banks in La

Grant seems to be doing something
at Vicksburg. Everything wears
an encouraging look at present
all looks bright God grant that
the days may come no more
I don't think we will move from
Murfreesboro for some time yet.

I don't think the Rebels will attack
us here. So you need not fear
that we will be engaged in a fight
very soon.

Enclosed is a "Rose Bud"
which Major Rust sends you with
his compliments - he is my particu-
lar friend so you will accept it
as coming from

[6 May 1863]

a Gentleman and friend

Well I must close Write soon
dont scold me for writing you
such a short letter Send
me a long letter in return

and dont forget to enclose
Your Pho My respect to all
the family to Mattie & Dan
and my love to you

Wish our dear Betty
Everyone Loves

P.S. I am going to send you
the Nashville Weekly Union
for one year, you will find
it very interesting
Love



The Filson Historical Society

Camp on Stone River

May 1843

The Filson Historical Society

Headquarters 3rd Brig
3rd Division 20th Army Co
May 11th 1863

My Own dear Nettie

By Sergeant Stash (who arrived at Camp on last Friday) I received your letter and enclosed I found your picture. When I first caught sight of it my heart leaped with a glad joy almost as much as though I held you in my arms. Oh I was very happy all that evening. Often since when I take your picture out from the envelope and gaze at it with a long and look I can hardly realize that I am the sole possessor of your love, your great fathomless love. But when I think over the past live over again the hours gone by I realize how you are all my own. For I remember how we met and how we loved. I think over the happy times of 1860 and 1861 I recall how first we met and how we parted. I came to you

a Stranger a homeless stranger dependant
upon my daily exertion for sustenance
You welcomed me as a friend and
in the course of time you trusted
me with your hearts true affection
This is the true source of all my ambition
to succeed in life You trusted me I
must prove myself worthy of your trust

Oh it will be gall and bitterness to me if
I should ever prove myself not worthy of
your love I cant endure the thought
and so each day I try to act so that
I can not only meet the approval of
My own Conscience but feel that I
have acted worthy of your Confidence and
love My darling Nettie if ever you
are troubled with a single doubting as to my
Constancy and love If ever a single fear
stands up before you that I may not mean
all I say I pray you drive it far from
You dont harbor it for a single moment
ever think of me as all your own I have never
for a single moment regretted my action of
that Friday Evening when I first told you
of my love Or of those other evenings in the
Summer evenings of '01 when our hearts were
united in the bonds of a holy Casting love

dependant
erance
and
trusted
ectorn
my ambitions
and I
trust
me if
thy of
might
so that
al of
at I
ce and
in you
to my
le fear
t dream
far from
ment
have never
in of
you
in the
were
love

I am willing to trust you forever and
I want you to trust me for real or for
noe Our lives have been joined together
our way Made one God is ~~my~~ witness
and yours to the true character of our
love Now Hettie mine dont think that
I doubt you dont think that I fear you
doubt me What I have written I
give as an evidence of my Undivided
love all yours. but I do know that
Othe ^{once} as happy as he whose life sky
shone as bright and promising as ours
~~to~~ have had their life hopes wrecked
upon the hidden rocks of doubt and
Wagings they have imagined that
all was not right and the thought
encouraged has proved ^{to be} the destroyer
of their happiness
And now Hettie mine all I want to say
is that I want you to write always
just as you feel You have a right
to write to me just what your hopes and
fears are and if your heart is sad and
heavy when you write let me know what
troubles you and if I can I will comfort you
dont fear to tire me that is and impossi-
bility I never grow weary reading you

they are my Comforters when I receive
a letter from you I am always
made happier and ^{am} more confident that
~~happy~~ days are yet in store for us.
You write that you
felt so disappointed in not hearing
from me during the last two weeks
I have written you two letters in
My last I sent you my Photograph
also one to Mary
I forgot to acknowledge in my letter
the receipt of the nice bouquet you sent
me I prize it ever so high because
a loving hand prepared and sent it
to me

We are having such beautiful weather
that I am almost homesick so you
need not be surprised if I do come ~~down~~
to see you some of these days. Oh I
want to see you so bad I want to
breathe upon you lips the kiss I send
you now. Well supper is just ready
and I must stop I may write some
more this evening if I don't please
excuse my short letter and write a long
one to you. Ours
Levi's



512 00

Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin Morgan Co
Ills

The Filson Historical Society

Car Merion 2
Shelbyville

June 1863

The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarter 3rd Brigade
2nd Div 30th Reg
June 24th 1863

My Dearest Austin

We March in 1/2 an hour
Orders came at 3 O'clock this morning
to be ready to March at four
but it has been changed to five
O'clock. We take the direct
road for Shelbyville where Bragg
is said to be strongly posted.
I expect to be in another fight
before the week is out.

I have not time to write anything
More than that I go on this March
bearing with me your love. This is
a great joy to me. I shall think
of you often and will write at
every opportunity.

Ever Your
Lewis

I have not time
to write another word
the Camp is striking
tents now and we
have received the order
of March Our Brigade
takes the lead
Your
Lewis
Write soon and
Ours



00219

Miss W. L. Co. m
Chapin, W. Va.

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarters 3rd Brig
3rd Div 51st Reg
June 25th 1863
4 1/2 O'clock P.M.

Yesterday Morning
we started Marched 5 Miles and
came across the enemy skirmished
with him until 3 P.M. then marched
for Millersburg arrived there at 5 1/2
P.M. It commenced raining at 10 O'clock
and rained steady until 9 O'clock
this Morning the Roads are terrible,
So bad that our Wagon Train did
not reach us until 7 O'clock this
Morning we lay out in the Woods last
Night had scarcely anything to cover
us got wet of course although I found
better than a great many as I have
a Complete Suit of Rubber
We had nothing to eat except what
little we begged I had a Cup of
Coffee and a cracker for supper
the same for Breakfast but we got
along very well four 1/2 Miles to

To our front Johnsons division
had a hard Skirmish yesterday
eve last 90 killed and
wounded but drove the Rebels back
and now occupy Liberty Gap
a very strong position
We have not moved today on acc-
ount of the Bad Weather though
we have been in readiness with every-
thing packed since 13 O'clock
Heavy firing is now going on to our
front. Thus far we have had
splendid success we are flanking
Bragg who is at Shelbyville
Tell the friends of Co K that
the company is all right
Gen Thomas Commanding 14th Army
Corps occupied Hovers Gap last
night No Resistance whatever
Very strong position.

My darling the
Mail came a short time ago
but no letter from you. Oh I
want to hear from you so much
you dont know how anxious I
am there is talk that in a short

on
today
back
ap
a acc-
est
the carry-
to
to our
writing
last-
Army
last
the
I
much
I
book

time the mail will not reach
us And I fear I will not hear
from you Write to me often
Oh I would prize a letter so highly
now even more than I ever did
before You are My own dear
Hettie and I know you will
write just as often as you can
I will write every time I have
an opportunity
I must close as the mail
is just leaving please this
writing for I am in the greatest
hurry
Love Yours Own,
Lena

The Filson Historical Society



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin Morgan Co
Illinois

00219

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

written about the 20th of June
a great anxiety has been
lifted from my mind when
I failed to hear from you,
for so long a time I conjured
up all manner of reasons
and finally thought that some
person was meddling with our
Correspondence I approve
of the course which you have
taken I am glad you have
left the place (though it had
been your home for many years)
where, lives that Woman
I think you will live more
contented and happy you will
be free from the Machinations
of the Woman who should have
been a Mother and not an
enemy to you

And I hope you will do as
your father advised you forget
the past live for the future live
for the happiness which is yet
in store for you live for me your
own Lewis

Leave Mrs Cooper to take such
course as she may deem best
to accomplish her designs I assure
you she can not injure you

Head Quarters 3rd Brig^d
3rd Div 20th Ab
July 4th 1863

My Darling Nettie

We are still in
pursuit of the Enemy
Arrived here (at Cowan Station)
five o'clock P.M. yesterday
The rebs left at 12 M.
We are now at the foot of
the Cumberland Mountains
and are resting to day
waiting for more Rations
to come up before we cross
the Mountains

Last night I came in from
the Picket line (at 9 o'clock)
tired Hungry
Sleepy I sat down to eat
1 my supper When I heard
some one cry out "Hell I
have found you at last"

It was our Brigade Post
Master who had been hunt-
ing over all the Camps
for our Head Quarters

Oh I did not want to eat
any more supper the thought
of receiving a letter from
you drove away all
thoughts of being hungry
I asked the Post Master
if he had anything for
me he said no
Oh how my heart sunk within
me I had not heard from
you for near a month why
I did not know One thing
I did know and that was
that you would write if
you could I went in my
tent lay down feeling so disapp-
ointed Moody & Johnson
laughed at me but I could
not see anything funny to laugh at

Ever since we started I have
been anxiously looking for
a letter with each mail I
met with disappointment
Since the last mail I had
been looking forward to this mail
and when the Mail Boy
said no letter you do not
wonder I am sure that I felt
Badly

I lay on my cot a few
moments when the Mail Bag
was brot in the tent
and then I learned that
the Mail Boy had not assorted
the Bulk of the mail
in fact only the loose letters
which come in no packages
So I set to work with a new hope
There was a large mail for
our Regiment I looked it carefully
over and was rewarded with
a letter from you a long letter

[4 July 1863]

Well I must close this
letter, how did you spend
the fourth. I had a fine
time resting thinking over
the happy hours of the past
July 3rd 1863

Have just
come in from the Picket
line I have been out on
line since 5 1/2 O'clock AM
it is now 10 1/2 O'clock
It is raining quite hard
We have had an immense
quantity of rain since we
left "mud creeks" the creeks
and river have been very
high and the men have
had to ford them

Rain, Mud and Water have been
plenty since we started

We still remain at
Cowan Station dont know

When we will move

Rosecrans, was at Winchester
last night we may
move to morrow

if we do I will will
write again I wrote
Mathe a letter last week
from Manchester

I also sent By Capt Will-
iams (who goes through
Chapin on his way home)
a lot of Photographs of
Officers in the army
have you recieved them
yet I close for the present

Ever your
Gen's

write soon and often,
your letters are doubly precious
out on the march



Miss Nettie Cooper
Emma Chapin
Morgan C. Allen

00214

The Filson Historical Society

Camp on Cumberland
Mountain
July 19. 1863
Just received from
as per list -

The Filson Historical Society

How is Debbie?
tell her Robert
is in good
Health

yes I received
your
question
last
day

Dear
Sister
I
am
in
good
health
and
hope
you
are
the
same

Brig 3rd Div 20th R.C
1863

I wrote you
yesterday I received
your letter written on the 17th of July
I was very happy to hear that you
was so pleasantly situated, it relieves
a great burden from my mind know-
ing this. Of course I
be welcome at your sister's
still I did not know who
feel to any degree satisfied
I am therefore gratified
Your letter that you are more
situated than you have been for the past
year. I know you appreciate my feelings on
this subject, to hear of your happiness is
my greatest source of happiness. And so
when I read in your letter of the pleasure
you experience in your present home I can
but feel thankful.

Oh how we have
felt very sad when I thought of the
great sorrow you was bearing alone
and I longed to be with you and take
you from under the cloud
cheer you up

stanto
m
ay
d
master
n
noo-
w
P.M.
leston
m
C

0215

with my presence with the love of my
whole hearts I would have willingly
made any sacrifice if by that means
I could have gone to you.

But I had to drive away my longings.
My darling for stem duty called me
and I had to obey.

But I am looking forward with high
hope to the happy days to come.

I am dreaming of the time when all
this clatter and clangor of arms shall
have driven away when War shall cease

And peace shall shine out upon a
land loved and redeemed

Oh how I long to run out to that time

When we lay aside the implements
and armor of War and assume the more
compatible habiliments of peace

I very often think of the hour when I shall
step from the car at the Station and
how I shall receive your loving welcome
And the mere thought of such a happy
meeting fills me with an unutterable

joy In your letter you express fears that
we will soon be engaged in a severe
Battle, Thus far the enemy has fled precipi-
tately before our advance I do not think
there will be a severe fight here soon

but if we do I assure you glorious
news will come to you - from our army
You speak of the danger to which I
am exposed that is very true. but we
must trust all to Him who rules above
I have no other thought than that
I will yet see you

In my mind I picture out a long
life of happiness in store for you and I
I do not entertain a single thought
other than that I will see you
all this danger & privation
Still it is ^{not} well for us to look
back as
well as the Bright
day of sorrow come
Sickening if it does come we must
endure all with a patient fortitude

We are encamped on top of the
Cumberland Mountains (that is our Brigade)
Oh such a nice place. So cool all the
day. We have our Hd Quarters in a House and
after being out on the ground for so
long a time in the Rain and mud
I assure you it is very nice to cover all
We have plenty to eat
Just think we had Chicken Pot pie rice
potatoes Roast Beef Blackberry pie
Honey &c &c for dinner to day. Not much

I am going down into the valley to visit a
June to morrow with you was along

How is...

danger of my staying is then do you
 think This Country is inhabited by a
 ignorant poverty stricken lot of inhabitants
 they have but little and that little
 is being swept away by the ravages
 of War I was out yesterday with our
 Brigade Quartermaster after Cattle
 we drove in our thirty big little
 and indifferent this Morning (Sunday)
 by eight the Citizen Lupo had
 Co. distance of (2 Miles) morning
 the made their appearance when
 asked they wanted by the Quarter Master
 they were hunting after
 their which you all took yest. d.
 and so continued to pasture the poor
 Q. M. until nearly noon Some got
 their "Keows" but the most went home discon-
 late for we have ^{must} Beef. Vouchers are given
 the owners of the cattly we take which are
 readily cashed by Government, there is
 no unfair dealing with the Citizen S.
 it is necessary for the Man presenting the
 voucher for payment to first prove his
 loyalty, else he receive the Green backs 8/21, W.C.
 Have just heard glorious news from Charleston
 hope it may prove true "Fort Wagner taken
 and Fort Sumpter fast being battered down"
 I should like to see Charleston lined and
 a Monument erected over the site with this
 in scription "they treason Rose and fell"
 I must close this hastily written letter hope to hear
 from you often do write every week
 Ever your Lewis

00215

PHILLY
AUG
4
1868



Wm. Lettis Cooper
Chapin
Ill

00219

The Filson Historical Society

San Camp - at
Burlington - at
Aug 1st 1863

The Filson Historical Society

Ad Gen 3rd Brigs 3rd Div 20th Me
In Camp at Bridgeport Ala Aug 1st 1863
My Darling Het

Our Brigade is now camped
at Bridgeport Ala on the Tennessee
River The Rebels are across in our front
But have not meddled us nor we them
we arrived here yesterday have a pleasant
Camp Do not know how long we will
remain not long I think

Old Roney is coming down to see us to day

The pontoons will be down in a few days
and we will cross over

I have not another moments time to write

I only drop this line that you may know

that I am well I was very unwell

for a few days but am well again

5700

Have not had any mail for several
days when it does come I expect a dear
letter from you

The Escort for Forage train is just leaving
for Stevenson Ala 9 miles from this
Place

Write you

Ever your

Jewis

The Filson Historical Society



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin
Morgan Co
Illinois

00219

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

Ad Gen 3rd Brig 3rd Div

20th AC 7 O'clock A.M.

In camp at Bridgeport Tenn Aug 4th 1863
My Darling Nettie

I am afraid you will think that I am fond of writing you short letters. And I don't know but you may have reason to think so.

C. P. W. I commenced writing to you this morning and ere I could write four lines I had to mount my horse and ride six miles and back. I had an escort of 20 Cavalry and went up the Tennessee to find out the condition of the roads and their locality. It has been one of the hottest days I ever felt and as we rode along I felt in a melting mood. I assure you Oh we had some ripe peaches. Oh go nice.

I commenced this letter by saying that you might think I was fond of writing you short letters. But when I tell you how busy I have been and what scant opportunity I have had of writing I hope if you have ever entertained such a thought that you will

drive it far from you

There is not a day (and hardly an hour) passes
by but I think of you and with each
thought my love grows stronger purer

And now that you are away from the home
of your Childhood Now that you have
gone from under the roof which has been
your shelter for so long a time driven
from there by the wicked passions of
a jealous woman Now when all this
sorrow and misfortune has come upon you
I give you the sympathy and love of
my whole heart and this from me
I feel assured will make you
happy even in your hour of trouble

I long for the time to come when I shall
stand before the world your protector
when our way shall become one when each
shall share each others joys and sorrows
Oh there is joy in store for you and I
there is a happy life to come
When this war is ended when the halcyon
days of peace come again You will
be mine My treasure and my comfort

Such thoughts as these crowd upon
my mind every day of my life and
make me share lightly all burdens all
tribulations Looking to the joy beyond

• Out to the years to come I picture to myself
the home made happy by your presence by your
love It will be a happy ^{home} & feel assured it will
love you and I have had a sufficient experience
already to teach ^{us} that discord is the great
author of all miseries which gather around some
homes We will shun discord we will shun every
influence which would ever to cast a shadow
over our home to day my heart goes out
in grateful thankfulness that ever our ways met
Oh that was a happy winter I spent with you
when from strangers we became friends and then
so imperceptible (that we knew it not) Love wore its
golden Meskes around our hearts bound them close together
Oh so close so firm that nought but death can sever
How much I would like to be with you for a
short time 2 years ago I remember now two years
ago don't you my darling two years is a long time
but with the speed of thought - ~~say~~ journey back
to that happy home when our hearts held communion
together Very timid was I in my love then for
it was a tender plant but now I am strong and
should we meet now ^{though} the world stood by I would
press you to my heart and breathe "God bless my Darling"
on your lips.

I am very very anxious to hear from you
Your last letter was written July 19th and I am daily
looking for another

As you will see by the heading of my letter we are
Camped at Bridgeport 46 35 miles from Chattanooga
we are camped close to the Tennessee River have a fine
view of the river from our Head Quarters The Rebels
have pickets on the opposite side of the River from us
Our Boys and they have jolly fun sometimes
talking to each other They were at first very anxious
to know whether we had any stragglers or not
then they wanted to know how Old Rosey was
they said Bragg was all right when our Boys
asked where Old Bragg was

I expect we will leave Bridgeport before many
more days we received an Order looking that
they last night in which we were ordered to
have 10 days rations ready and all horses
and mules shod that looks very much
like marching if we do march I will drop
you a line if we do not I will write soon
anyway I received a letter from Mrs Daniels
in which he said A singing school would soon be
started at Sunnyside He seemed to think that you
would go I hope you will I do want you to do
anything which will assist you in passing away time
anything that will serve to make you happy

for your happiness lies next to my heart
Tell Mattie that she owes me a letter and
that she must fulfill that part of the Scripture
which say "pay what thou Owest"

I hope you will write me often as you can

Good By for this time

Over Yours
Levin

Ad Gen 3rd Brigade
3rd Div 20th AB

Camp Roberts Ala Aug 16th 9 Oclk P.M
My Darling Net-

Although it is so late yet I
must write you part of a letter I can
finish it tomorrow

Yesterday I recieved a letter which was written
July 15th had been just one month on the way
though a long time coming it was not less
welcome I assure you I have recieved
one letter which bears a later date July 19th
I think. During the past ten days I
have been looking in every mail for a letter
from you. Oh I do feel so disappointed
when I am expecting a letter and none
comes for me and very often I feel vexed
Not at My Net but at the Mail
I know you write but for some reason I do
not always receive ~~them~~ letters
I suppose it is the same with you I have
no idea that you receive all my letters
Why since I left Murfreesboro (June 24th)
I have written you fifteen letters some of
them very short a few words scratched down

by the light of the Campfire after
they had days duty
I have no idea that you have received
One half the letters I have written you
So you see the Mail plays false to you
as well as me.

We are still Camped at
Bridgeport Ala though I think we will
Move ere long I think the Pontons
will be down in a few days and will
Cross over the Tennessee River

The Rebels are on the opposite side from
us and no doubt will dispute our
Crossing but I think it can be done
without much loss on our side

On the Tennessee opposite this place is an
Island three miles long on the other side
of the Island from us runs the Channel
of the River over which is a Rail Road
Bridge On the side of the Island next to us
the Bridge was destroyed by the Rebels
when they retreated from Tennessee And
Night before last they burned the Bridge
over the Channel We have been
expecting them to burn it for some
time So we were not surprised when
~~#~~ 12 O'clock at night the Guard woke

us up with the information that the
Bridge was on fire. Oh it was a
Magnificent sight. The bridge one mass
of flame the dense volumes of smoke
the crash of the falling timbers the
Myriads of sparks that went sea-ward
and to add still more to the terrible
scene to make it still more sublime
Our Artillery opened upon the camp
of the enemy situated near the burning
bridge. Out on the midnight air
ranged the cannon and far through
the darkened space streaked the shells on their
death mission. Whether any person
was hurt or not is not known.

Next morning the sun's first light fell
upon a mass of black red ruins.
The loss of the bridge does not trouble us
as it can be easily rebuilt.

Oh yes I must tell you about my ride
this evening. Maj. Rust came down
to my quarters and I proposed we
should ride up the rail road to where
Companies No. 2 & 3 of my regiment are
stationed guarding a P.R. Bridge.
He was ready for the ride in a few moments
he mounted and started for the bridge.

which was four miles distant had a pleasant
side and arrived at the Companies Camp
5th Oct. we were received by Capt. B. B. and
Military staff took us to the mess
eat as few peaches. Chatter awhile and
mounting our horses started on
course. I did not like to dismount at
of Oct. I had here I am writing
a letter to you.
I was in the other night about being
into the other night was sitting
before me talking about your
dear heart that was my dear
dear heart that was my dear
and when I was young I felt happy
I felt only a dream that I felt
sitting in the thought that I felt
my friends and I felt my friends
to a happy and I felt my friends
possessed of a name of great riches by far
that the name of great riches by far
you may be true that I feel only
concern is now I shall not be the rich
treasure of your love and I
of that and I will share with you
you the love of a heart that beats only for you
And so my darling when the way seems dark
when the trouble which has come upon you
weighs heavily on your mind when sick at heart

You turn from the cold world for the
with you own heart you will find comfort for the change
that our heart beat in unison with yours



Bridgport Ark

Aug 16th 1863

The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarters 2nd Brigade

2nd Division 20th Army Corps

Camp Roberts Bridgeport Alabama Aug 26th 1863

My Darling Nettie

This is such a lovely night that I can't help writing to you I must make you a free Confession You know So I will begin by confessing that I am feeling ever so lazy. The ever so lazy but as I walked out a little while ago I thought of you and I looked up into the full faced moon and wished I was home with you by my side but wishing don't do a bit of good in the Army So I determined on doing the next best thing just what I now am doing writing you a letter.

I have not heard from you since the 15th of July almost one month & a half ago I look in every mail for that Dear familiar scratch (ardon me I mean no offense) but no such sight greets my vision

I heard by letter from Morgan County that Dan and Mattie had started east and I expect to hear from you visiting in Jacksonville on Sunny Side having lots of fun But I want to hear from you on so bad

And why shouldn't I * You are my
Our Dear Treasure and don't a man
always feel anxious for the safety of his
Treasure The Miser You know counts
over his Shining Eagles and finds Comfort
in the Clasp of the Gold Now the
only difference between me and the miser
is that the miser ~~is that~~ he loves his
Gold Ives to recall the means by which
he gained each dollar While I love
a little piece of humanity. I love to
go back to the years gone by and live
over the minutes hours and circumstances
which brought to and placed in My keeping
a treasure. The love of a trusting Heart
Why I have very soon proven myself a
Miser Well so be it May I ever prove
a miser in the care which I will
take of the Treasure God has placed
in my possession That through the
Years to come Your love and Mine will
only be the more strengthened The more
enduring Oh the great future Still a blank
to You and I to everyone - how little do
we know what lies in store for us
Happiness perchance Misery but then we
Must not dig for trouble life has its Shadows
but still from out the Cloud comes the
Sunshine Nature is always more beautiful

after the storm and so in life he who
meets the cloud of adversity with a heart
brave and fearless will come out into the
glorious shining light of peace ^{triumphantly} and his sun
which at midday was enveloped in the
storm will sink to rest in the bosom
of the stars

And now I must say something of myself
In the first place Aunt Harback
tenders his good wishes to Miss Hettie and
hopes she is well. He is happy on enquiry
to inform Miss Cooper that the Youth
who is in the Army and who keeps
her Photograph very near his heart is
very well

Oh yes I must tell you how disap-
pointed I made myself the other morning.
I dreamed I was home thought I was
at Uncle Wilson's Everything looked
natural I remembered the faces of the
friends Mrs came to see me I was
having a gay time talking of the Army.
But when all at once the clatter of
the breakfast plates waked me up and
I found myself (instead of being at home)
lying on my cot with the drapery
of the Tent about me I felt mad
for about three days so disappointed.
You don't think Hettie Mine because

I talk about home so much that
I am very homesick I Am not
any more so now than I ever was

Our arms are pressing so gloriously
Everywhere that I expect another year
will end the strife and bring peace
to the land. I never get tired
thinking of the how "when peace
shall again come to us" when this
"Cruel War shall be over" when the
homes now darkened with the absence
of dear ones shall again be brightened
with their presence when all this
din and clangor of arms shall have
ceased and instead will be heard the
glad shout and song of a land redeemed
and at Peace with the World

And I love to think of our meeting of
the warm words of welcome and that love
lit smile which comes only from "Two Souls
with But a Single Thought

Two Hearts that beat as one"

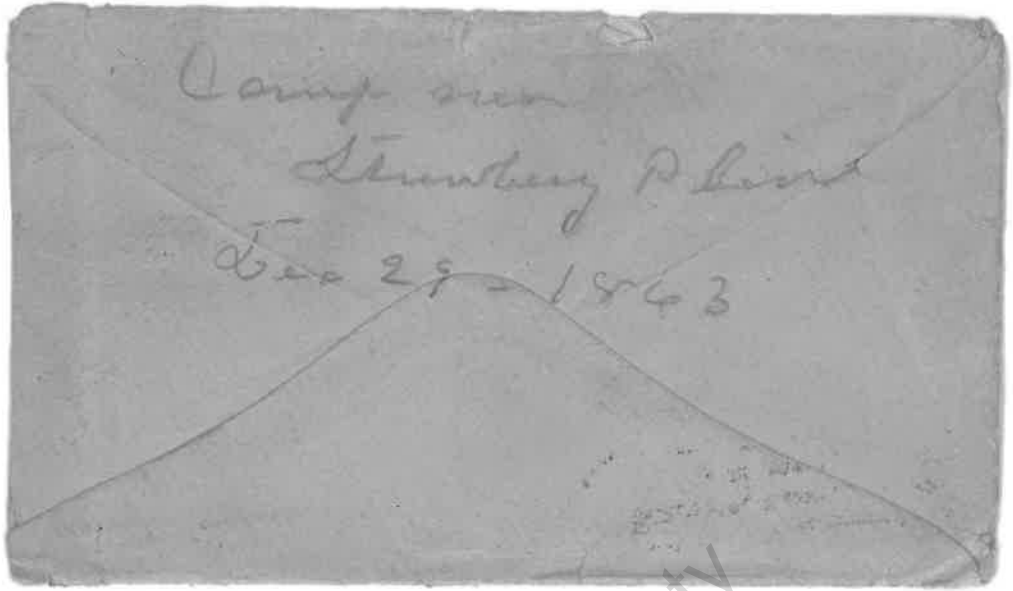
But it is getting late I am feeling sleepy
So I will stop for to night and finish and
Mail this to morrow
So good night My darling and though far
from you still I am with you to night
And ere I lay down to sleep I will send
a wish freighted with love, prays northward
Journey that God will bless My Darling and
Keep her under the hollow of his hand until I return
but always Good night My Kit
Lena



Miss Nettie Cooper
Chapin
Morgan Co
Tennessee

67-11

The Filson Historical Society



The Filson Historical Society

Head Quarters 3rd Brigade 2nd Div 4th AC
In Camp near Strawberry Plains. Dec 29th 1863
My Dear Nettie

I heard a little while ago that a
Mail would be started for Chattanooga
Early tomorrow Morning I immediately deter-
mined to write you, but after I got back
to My Quarters Doctor Bowman and I
got to talking over the Exploits of our Youth
and (Please don't think hard of me) I forgot
all about Your letter. Until just a few moments
ago My memory reminded me of my
forgetfulness. I received the dearest kind
of a letter from you the other day bearing
date of Dec 4th. I am so glad you received
My Telegram at such an early hour
after I sent it, I shall after this never fail
to do likewise. Under similar Circumstances
I am very much exercised about you
being Unwell I do hope to hear of your being
better, I fear you do not take sufficient care
of yourself. Don't you remember what long

lectures I used to Read to you during that
Dear Old Winter of 1860. how I used to scold
you for wearing thin shoes in the snow
and on the frozen Grounds. I expect you
used to feel shudders at me sometimes &
Wonder to yourself what business I had to
lecture you on the matter of Health, Well
I used to wonder myself. Study up a reason
why I should feel anxious about your
taking Care of yourself I could not divine
the reason then, but I can now.

My love for you prompts me to say to you
be Careful of your health for your own sake
and for the sake of your Soldier down in Tenn.
If you Received My letter written from Knoxville
you will know that John P. Kelley and
A. C. Whittington passed safe through the
Battles.

As I am enjoying myself very finely
Out here in the Woods. I do wish you
could see what a nice little Shanty I
am living in. Have a fireplace, just think
of that, I mess with Dr. Gorman the Brig-
ade Surgeon of our Brigade. He has just turned
his back to the fire. Saying "As Soon as I warm

my back I shall go to bed"

He is a first rate Man we get along swimmingly together,

To day the Dr. Col Miles of the 27th Ill. Mo's Strachure and myself paid a visit to the Top of "Clinch Mountain" which looms up near our Camp. We had a hard time getting up. Took us about two hours to make the ascent I come pretty near giving out so did the rest. Strachure went along as a guide he having visited it yesterday. We took our horses with us way to the highest point. We had a glorious view could see wavy below us the farms and the streams. Could see Knoxville 20 Miles distant and Way to our right distant more than 30 Miles lay "Old Smoky Mountain" its top covered with snow. I was amply repaid for my labor. Tomorrow we are to move about 1/2 mile. The Dr and I assisted by an "Colored German" intend putting up a house. When we get it Baileh I think I shall make you a sketch of it and send it

In my next letter
I expect you wonder how I spent
Christmas. I had the most
pleasant days before
I went out into the country
for a few days before
Christmas. I went to
the mountains and stayed
at a little place called
the Mountain House.
I had some very good
company and stayed
for some days. I had
some very good food
and I was very happy.
I had some very good
company and stayed
for some days. I had
some very good food
and I was very happy.
I had some very good
company and stayed
for some days. I had
some very good food
and I was very happy.

00215