

Camp 6 miles Below new orleans Jan 6 1815

Dear Brother in haste I set down to Write you a few lines to let you let you understand that we are tolerably well at present and I hope these lines may reach you in the Same Condition I will endeavor to give a small But aced (accurate) account of our army and the incidents attending it Since wee left Cumberland our passage has Been truly Slow but safe We have lost our ensign He was drownded 2 miles above the grand (gulf) on the 17th December on the same day [I was appointed] ensign without opposition and ranked as Such ever Since On the 31 Dec John White a private in our company was buried and on the Second January 1815 Frederick Miller was buried 27 miles above new orleans He died like a soldier in his perfect Senses our army agreeable to the best information has lost about 25 men dead and drownded dear Brother We have a Fine Capt and a fine Lieutenant and all the boys has behaved soldier like on the first night of our landing Jackson called for 600 [650?] Kentuckians he was apprehensive of being attacked our Capt Cald for volunteers myself George Weller Berard Bridwell were the first out but we soon got a plenty but we mist our expectation for fighting we had none Genl Jackson has been fighting the enemy 14 days at a distance of one mile We are encampt one mile and half from the enemys Brestworks We [all?] are tolerable well and in high Spirits and are anxious to meet the enemy they are well fortified intrenched and have too throughed up great Brestworks in fair view of the army They sware they will winter in Orlean and our men swear they shant this morning Jackson fired 54 rounds at the enemy in one our {hour} Since that time firing hasn't ceased The enemy has not fired since new Years day it is Generally believed they are preparing to attack us if they do you will hear of a great fight Just now Jackson commenced firing again our regiment _____ among _____ cannon _____ I have not onced got in Sight of our enemy I feel like I wanted to get Closely ingaged with them I dont think that there is any of our boys that will Run from them We Can See them plainly with a spyglass I hope I have to give you the correctest information of the proceedings of our army it is reinforcing very fast Genl Jackson has throughed up great Brest Works from river Clear out to the swamps so that they cant get past without storming our warks the enemy are _____ very strong we have not all arrived yet but we expect to get them soon and tents likewys we have received no money nor dont expect to get any shortly the inhabitants of orleans has subscribed ten thousand dollars for our purpose Since I have begun to write I understood that we shall meet the enemy in a few days if they dont meet us I went out at natchese and hunted for Strother but they told me that he had left that place last summer for orleans Our Gen, is so tite with us I am affraid I Cant get a permit to get there Dear Brother I have received no letter from you I hope if you have not wrote you will write as squick as possible to me stateing the regiment I am in and Company &c We are lying just in this form here in by the river

ORLEANS

our army one mile
above the enemy

[6 Jan. 1815]

I expect we shall remain until our six months are out Capt Farmer Sends his compliments to Coll quickly (Quigley?) and also his [for] you for my sake tell Mr George Mathis that his apprentice Barna Bridwell is well and _____ Hugh _____ would _____ plain give it is impossible for me to tell how Many troops there is in all but the levee and a wayout to the swamps is crowded with troops the Creealls are turning very fast Jackson has the negroes a fighting too when Jackson first came here he told the _____ people he Considered all those who would not turn out was against and those that were not for him must be against him so they all turned out promptly We have a great set of officers Dear Brother if I was to give a Detail of all the proceedings Since I left home there would be a Complete history of it ~~give my~~ Brother George has Stood the trip as well as any man in the Company give our Compliments to all relations that may inquire after us nothing more at present with respect I remain your Dear Brother David Weller ensign in the 15th Regiment K, D, Millitia Capt Samuel Weller

Cover: Capt Samuel Weller
near Bardstown, Ky.

The Filson Historical Society

40x17

Camp Below new orleans January 13th 1815

Dear Brother after my Best respects to you all I take the liberty of writing to you informing you that we are all well and in great spirits Dear Brother I wrote to you on the 6th inst stating the situation of our encampments on the night—we were marched down to the River bank and the British Began to throw in their Congreve rockets and there was one passed in our company about 3 feet high but you may depend upon it we let the way through for it on the next morning at rivilee Beating the alarm was raised and we Flew to our arms like soldiers and marched to the Brestworks a distance of about 200 yards We had Scarcely got to the works Before the Battle Began it Began at day light and lasted agreeable to the best information 2 hours and 5 minutes but the Almighty was pleased to Crown us victorious Dear Samuel I have for once seen the enemy completely scourged their loss was great Supposed to be 2000 kiled wounded and taken Our loss is trifeling in comparison Say 8 for ten had they attacked us on our right and on our left but all to no purpose at the same time they attacktet our works on the other Side of the river and by the french giving way on me right first they got complete possession of our works and spiked cannons then Genl Jackson dispatched 300 of us Kentuckians and on the next morning We retook the place without opposition and on the Same evening we were marched Back again there has been great firing heard Below us supposed to be at the distance of Sixty mile the general oppinion is that the enemy is bout to retreat But if they should be fool enough to attack us again I feel confident that we shall serve them in the Same way as we did before Our Company will no doubt be noticed in the official letter for it was on the centre and right in hottest of Battle About 50 prisoners were taken by our company the red Coats lay thick enough to walk Clear of touching the ground before our Company There was only one man kiled near us and he had his Brains Shot out on me and I was as Bloody as a Butcher I dont suppose there ever was men fought more Bravely than the hole of the troops ingaged Samuel Heffley wants you to let his mother know that he is well Isaac Keith is sick and in the hospital in orleans George Bean is well Jack Kelly is well David Weller ens 15th Regt K,D,M to Samuel Weller By the request of Barna Bridwell I want you to tell Mr. George Mathis that he is well and that we wants him to let his ~~mother~~ farther know it Peter Boly is well let _____ Cut Close too him our Lieutenant Ashley acted Bravely so did [our other] officers espesualy our Coll. Slaughter.

David Weller to Samuel Weller.

THE FILSON CLUB
1510 SOUTH THIRD STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY. 40208

Camp Jackson 2 ½ miles below orleans March 3th 1815

Dear Brother I have again taken up my pen in order to inform you that you that your Brothers are well and I hope this letter may reach you in that happy Condition of health it is with regret that I have not the liberty of entering into a Detail of our Situation and the fortifications of this country as there has lately Been A General order Against it ~~writing~~ But I hope to see the day that I Shall be able to give you General Satisfaction we are confined very closely to our camps, we have not received one solitary cent of money yet and there is not any prospect of it, I have been at thornton Strother Several times but all in all to no effect he is not worth one cent in my opinion. John Kelly has resigned and him and Strother Startet home yesterday as I had not an opportunity of seeing him start I shall send this letter by mail Kelly has got the disentary wich he thinks Could not be cured in this country I am afraid he will have a serious Journey. Dear Brother I have got your sword of Kelly on Condition that if you Should get another or Should not want it on my return I am to pay you 21\$ but I would be very glad if you would buy and do without it if possible as it will be of no service to me upon my return I shall take Special care of it I wrote a Letter to Jacob Riser A few days ago then I it not in my power to know wether I should get the Sword or not but as J Kelly sent work back after he Startet to write immediately Concerning that business I was induced so to do It is uncertain how lone as Shall Stay here but I am affraid our time out but J Kelly can t4ll you something ~~thin~~ about it my mother and sisters matty Peggy and mary I want them to have me one of the nicest Suits of Cotton maid that ever was maid in Kentucky against my return I dont care what it Costs so it is in stile George and me has enjoyed as great a Share of health as ever we did in our lives all the boys of your acquaintencis are well accept Peter Boly and Barna Bridwell the latter I am affraid will not get over it I want you to let [Mr?] William Gilkeys People know that he died on the 19th January or let George Kelly know it as he lives close by it I am sorry to announce again that I have never received one letter from Kentucky my friends have all forget me David Weller Samuel Weller

Cover:

Capt Samuel Weller
Bardstown Nelson
County Kentucky