

The Filson Historical Society

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42

Yandell Family Papers, 1823-1887

Correspondence, 1862-63

72x2

20
~~19~~ items

Columbus Jan 5th 1862

My dear Sally,

Your welcome letter of the 1st came this morning. The first portion of it gave me great pleasure, but the latter portion — however I will inclose it to you & it will speak for itself. Your letter was well expressed — its style, easy, and graceful. All you need to make you a good writer is, a handsome, polished chirography, attention to your writing and the avoidance of blots — I may add also the avoidance of extravagant language. — "utter amazement" "astounding" I take pleasure in apologizing to you for the injustice I did you, in my late letter to pa, in which I complained of your not writing. I am sorry. Don't let us get mad with one another, about such trivial things? Brothers and sisters surely ought to have charity for one another. Let us be amiable henceforth dear little sister? I hope you will understand this. Please do? Never mind the smoking cap, it is a thing of no importance, and I should not be willing for you to spend one cent upon it. Gen will not do. Accept my thanks for your good intention and never mind the cap. Since I wrote, Genl. Pillow has left us and we miss him much; he was the best man we had. He was escorted to the cars by his division, consisting of infantry and artillery, and by a host of friends besides. It was a sad sight — his departure, and his hold upon the affections of his officers was evinced by the many unbidden tears which dimmed the soldiers eyes. I never saw as many men shed tears before, as did upon that occasion — I have hitherto expressed my opinion of him, and will not now retract it. Last night I was invited to a town party at Genl. Cheatham's. The guests were Mrs. Bankhead and her two daughters aged thirteen, and nineteen, Mrs. Allison, a very handsome young married lady, Genl. McCown & staff, Captains Bankhead & Stewart of artillery with their Lieutenants, Col. Kelly, and several others. We had a band of soldiers

municians who gave us most music - to which the guests danced and
waltzed. We had a nice supper of oysters, cold ham, champagne etc. I
It was very pleasant, and reminded ^{me} of city life. I have been very busy to
today. At surgeon's call I presented for twenty five men, and I have about ^{my}
minutely sick men in my charge. Visiting the sick in tent, and in Hospital, dis-
and going to visit two sick Officers in other regiments, making out certifi-
cates of discharge, and many little things besides, ~~which~~ have kept my hands full
full of work. Then, I took dinner out, which occupied considerable time - I am
dined with Col. Carter on the Yambout "Polk". Commodore (somebody) ^{and} ~~the~~
Lieutenant (somebody) Surgeon (somebody) and Col. Porter were the
other guests. We had fried oysters, roast pork, cold hog's head, and do-
roast chickens - soup first - plum pudding last - claret & sherry wine. I
The dinner was good, the conversation was instructive and interesting. Tomorrow
we have a meeting of the medical staff to pass resolutions upon Dr. Williams' ~~one~~
death. Yesterday we went to Memphis, resolutions passed by the Officers of
our regiment concerning our loss. I also wrote an obituary of him which pro-
went to the Appeal for publication. I suppose it will appear in Tuesday's
issue. It is the first thing I ever wrote for publication. I felt that it was my
duty to write it, as no one else in the regiment was likely to do so.

It is wretchedly cold tonight, and I am compelled to cease writing till ^{tomorrow}
tomorrow. Today I have been busier than yesterday. My appointment has
been sick and I have had all the work to do. Fortunately I am in glo-
rious health, and to be busy is a great pleasure when one is well. I hope
to be surgeon of our regiment. Were it in the power of the Officers or men
either I should at once be placed in that position. I have been fortunate
in gaining the goodwill of the men and the confidence of the Officers.
As soon as Col. Nely heard of Dr. Williams' death he went on to Richmond. I
my recommendations for the surgeons place. He had taken all necessary

I and sleep before I heard of poor Williams' demise. Since entering the army,
you etc. I have striven constantly to overcome my intemperance of temper. I have endeavored
to be amiable, and cheerful, and contented. And though I have often wounded
about my own feelings by giving way to my intemperance, and have been sometimes
spitful, disgusted by my want of self control, yet I am thankful that I have
accomplished somewhat, and I deem no trial too severe, which will re-
my hands lay me, by bestowing upon me such a temper as you had. I know that
I amiability can be acquired, and in my mind it is a jewel above all
virtues - a virtue without which a woman is a monster, and a man
is the ~~is~~ a boor. Though I am woefully dissatisfied with my past life and my
conduct, and doily come, yet each year I look back with some satisfaction upon what
I have accomplished. I have learned what are my most glaring faults
now and though I am conscious that I do not battle against them with that
valiant enemy and vice which their magnitude demands, yet to a very im-
perfect man, even a little progress in virtue is a consolation; for aside
which from the pleasure which it at present affords - it is an earnest of the future.
Thus, like the young fruit tree, it only produces beautiful blooms the first few
years, which gratify the eye alone, but as it becomes mature, it bears
luscious fruit, which yields all the sweets. Could I have my wish grati-
fied as Solomon did, I should ask for knowledge first and ~~my~~ amia-
bility next. And in a woman, I should prefer amiability to knowledge,
in case they unfortunately incompatible accomplishments - They are ~~never~~
I hope ~~virtues~~ virtues which are acquired. When I was compelled to choose for a
female companion, between an amiable fool, and a ~~wise~~ ^{wise} ~~fool~~ ^{fool} spitfire,
I should fly to the arms of the amiable fool, and shun the wise
spitfire, as a demoniacal plague. I am called off to see a sick man,
and I had just returned and was warming my feet preparatory to examining my
separating when I was again sent for to see a man with cramp colic, but I have not

take some medicine which I hope will remove the necessity of my going.
I shall sit up for another however for fear of being called up. I can scarcely
say however I sit upon that account for I scarcely ever retire before 12 o'clock,
and it is now only half past eleven. As to the Surgeoncy of the regiment
I do not consider it certain that I shall get it. The General has the right
to assign any surgeon in the service to any regiment, and he may send
some one here, keeping me in my present position, but my friends will
use my claims strongly, and I hope to get the place. Tell Willy I will
write to him soon. Mary Ann's husband writes his love to her. He is well.
I am wretchedly in need of a servant. I hope you will get me one soon.
Send on the pants and cap if they are done. I wish I had had the
vest cut out, but it can't be helped now. With much love for you, mother, and
Willy, I am my dear Sally your devoted brother

J. P. Youdelly.

P.S. Our grandmother was Sally, not Sallie. No preference Sally and
was S. S. P. P.

Columbus, Jan. 9th 1862

My dear Father,

Your letter of the 7th comes to hand today. I was very much disappointed by your unfavorable report about a servant, & I am sorely in need of one, and can get none here. As to your suggestion about River's boy it is impracticable. He has his hands full already, and for a servant to attend to my horses, worn, etc, and also to wait on a wife, or even a single individual, in a company, it would be impossible. I must get a servant at some cost, somewhere. At last, the question of who is to be Surgeon of the 4th Reg, is decided. During the whole of this week I have been in ^{the} stew about it. Never having had any respect for our Lieut-Col. and never having treated him with that humble respect which he deemed due him from me, I have mented, as he thinks, and feared, as I know, his enmity - his bitter hatred. In an intrigue of his last summer, by which he intended to oust Col. Kelly from his position that he might gain it, I took a very active part against the Lieut. Colonel's plot, and was in some measure instrumental in defeating him. Since then I have known he hated me, and I must confess it never caused me much regret or uneasiness. Nor did I endeavor to conceal my contempt for him. For sometime however he had been uncommonly civil and seemed to be endeavoring to carry favor with me. He was aware of my strength in the regiment, and doubted his own influence with it. When I heard of poor Williams' death, I took no steps to secure the place made vacant by his demise, considering it would be undignified and unbecoming in me to shew any haste to step into a dead man's shoes - especially when that man had been my associate. I have always considered electioneering undignified and improper in a professional man. Besides I knew I was looked to as the successor to Dr. Williams, that I was preferred to him by the regiment, and

that my friends would take all necessary steps to procure me the position. I did not dream that I should meet with any opposition, or that any one would endeavor to prevent my promotion to a place which I deemed for myself justly entitled to by all military law and usage, and by the wishes of the regiment. Hence a few days since I was almost startled by the information, gained by chance, that Lieut. Col. Stahl had, immediately upon hearing of Dr. Williams' death, gone to Genl. Polk, without consulting any of my friends, or any of the officers of the regiment, and recommending one Capt. Fowler, and recommended to him as the choice of the regiment, Dr. M^{rs} ^{Wright} of Dyer County — a civilian, and a man who was in no way entitled to the place. Upon Stahl's representation — hastily, Genl. Polk issued an order to Dr. M^{rs} Wright, to report himself as "Surgeon of the 4th Reg^t". Col. Nely, at once saw Genl. Polk, represented the facts in the case to him, and caused him to revoke the order. He told Col. Nely, Stahl, had acted without warrant, had misled him, and had no right to recommend any one as Surgeon without consulting his officers. He told Col. Nely to get up a petition from the officers, recommending some one, and he would up — a know it and send it on to the Secretary of War at once. The paper was gotten up and signed by ~~about~~ thirty-four officers out of forty in the regiment — one Capt. was at home sick. When Genl. Polk received this he issued an order appointing one Surgeon & Dr. Bateman Aft. Surg. When I was apprized of Stahl's mean, low, underhanded, treacherous — having secretly, stealthily, sneakingly, endeavored to injure me, and to violate my rights, and to put an indignity upon me, by placing a civilian, and an old exp-works doctor over my head; and this to not only without the knowledge of the regiment, but in opposition to their wishes: When I heard of this I set my teeth upon him. I went to every Captain in the regiment and in the presence of their Lieutenants, I denounced Stahl's conduct, as vile, low, and underhanded; and conducted as no man but a man

tion. from Ohio (or he is) would be guilty of - etc. etc. My sentiments were echoed by
any every officer save three. They were astonished, amazed at Stokes course, and
deemed felt that they had been outraged by his secret action - not having apprized, never
The Lt. consulted them about it. The next night - night before last - the Lieut. - Col. and
ed by called a meeting of the officers - at which I was present - as he said to set him-
diately self and his friend Dr. Mc-Goughy right before them. He stated that I had
son - asserted that Dr. Mc-Goughy was not a graduate. He informed them that he was
son a graduate at my fathers school, and as an evidence of his ability and
ment, professional standing, that you had once written to him to get his opinions
way concerning an epidemic of dysentery, upon which you were preparing a paper.
It is - I corrected my statement to them concerning his not being a graduate, which
"Reg". I had been told was the case. He further said that he did not think it was his
him, duty to consult them - believed he had the power to recommend the Army-
that son - he then being in command of the regiment. That he had meant no
and any discourtesy to them, but that he knew I was his enemy, and he would not re-
at up - commend any one who was his enemy. That I had abused him - called him
"D up - a Yankee & c" - that he could not help being born in the North, and that
yester he had never voted save in the South - that as an evidence that he was sound
my - on the Southern question he was here fighting for it - & so on & so on ad libitum.
He is - ad libitum. I replied to him that in calling him a Yankee, I did not in-
then I mean his soundness as a Southern man, nor did I believe him an abolition-
my secret ist, but I had an insuperable antipathy to all persons coming from
to my his part of the country - my opinion of them was not formed hastily, but
ed up from an intimate knowledge of their motives, and an extensive expe-
know-rience of their characters. They all had little, mean, low ways which
his I say, Southern men were never guilty of - That his late conduct was a specimen
the regi- of what I alluded to. We got considerably excited, and reiterated to him all I
at, ~~and~~ had said before to the other officers. He finally declared he could stand it no
man longer - hoped I was a gentleman and would give him satisfaction -

I assured him he was perfectly correct in both suppositions. The officers
rather interposed here and the meeting adjourned. He requested me in their
presence to go with him to Genl. Polk, that Genl. Polk might judge
who had misrepresented and acted wrong. He appointed eleven o'clock next
day as the time for the interview. I was there punctually and waited an hour
and a half, when I was compelled to return to the regiment. After I
had been gone an hour or two the ~~command~~ went to Genl. Polk and
through his representations that the recommendation of the officers which
had been placed in his hands was not an evidence of the choice of the
regiment, he induced Genl. Polk to suspend all action in the matter
till Shalb should see him again. In the mean time he instituted re-
treat electioneering in the regiment - though he denies it - hoping to bias the
minds of the men sufficiently to beat me for the place by an election.
This afternoon he called an election. I got 455 votes - Mr. Goughy 139.

My victory is triumphant, and my friends are jubilant and defiant.
Elections are very bad things in an army, as they excite bitter partisan-
ship and enmity, and injure someone always. Shalb is the sufferer now.
He roused the ~~entire~~ wind and now he may reap the whirlwind
which he has sown. I shall not use my power, nor shall I glory
over him in his defeat. I am satisfied. I have triumphed gloriously.
I have proved that I am the choice of the men and officers both. One
company is from Mr. Goughy's ^{own} neighborhood and he is known to many others
in other companies. His friends used his age & experience, and strove in
every way to elect him. The electioneering was hot and strong, and no-
real difficulties ~~some~~ ^{came} near growing out of it. After the election the
soldiers came en masse to my house and called me out for a speech.
I thanked them as "my brave comrades with whom I had served dur-
ing the last eight months - first as a private - then as an officer -"
I made a brief and temperate speech - though I confess I was ex-
cited somewhat. At the end of my remarks they threw up their hats
and gave me cheer after cheer, with a strength and a hearty good wish
that made me proud. They shook my hand by the scores, congratula-
ting me upon my well deserved triumph over my enemies.
Old Mr. Goughy had several talks with me while he was here, in which
he denied all desire or intention of supplanting me or of hurting my feelings.
He said you had befriended him when he was young & poor, and that he
could never think of wronging a son of yours.

Generals and other chief men held a council of war tonight at Fort Polk. It was convoked by him. The general impression is that we will have a fight tomorrow. It has never been so universally looked for before. Every one here is confident of our success - so motivate be!

I am surprised to find by looking at my watch that it is half past one o'clock in the morning. I shall not have time to write more in the morning. so adieu. Love to Sally - Willy & Mother.

I am your devoted son
Samuel D. P. Gambell.

The Filson Historical Society

Columbus Jan. 12th 1862

My dear Father,

Yesterday I sent you a letter by Mr. Grey, who was going to Bolivar; he promises to send it by hand from Humboldt, or if he saw no one to take it, he would put it in the P.O. In that letter I gave you an account of my late troubles, and victory. I am now Surgeon of the regiment, ~~elect~~ by ^{the} ~~wishes~~ ^{lottery} of officers and men, expressed in such a manner that the Lieut. Colonel can not close his eyes to the fact. As I told him it would be, the election has produced much bitter feeling, and as I am triumphant over him by a very large majority - he of course has suffered. Those men who voted for McGooghy - most of them voted for him from personal considerations - his old friends. But a very few, voted for him because they disliked me. My friends believed me the best man for the place, they believed me entitled to the place. They looked upon McGooghy as an interloper - one of the "melish" - as they called him - They considered that Stroh had attempted by trickery, and meanness, to defraud, and injure me. They hated Stroh before, and were burning to give expression to their feelings towards him. They feel that they have whipped him. My influence in the regiment I consider rather remarkable, for officers are not often popular with the men. It may surprise you to hear the statement, but it is true, that, probably two Captains excepted, there is not another one who would now be elected in his own company were he to resign and run again for the office. Stroh could not be elected to any office. Other medical officers have had troubles in their regiments but I have none. Night before last some of the men came up to Headquarters to reneade me, but I was not in at the time, I was told afterwards that Stroh took the reneade to himself and made them a speech - he did not allude to me in any way. Last night some others gave me a reneade, and called for a speech. Being in no humor

for speaking, and deeming silence best under all the circumstances, I said but for a few words, and invited them in to take a drink. The liquor had been a present sent to me from a soldier that afternoon. Each one gave a toast, and to hear one oneself spoken of so freely to ones face, was decidedly embarrassing. One drank "to Dr. Yundell, a man worthy of the position he holds." Another drank "to Dr. Yundell - the choice of the 4th Reg." Another drank "to Dr. Yundell - the lion of the 4th Reg." The others I forget. The innumerable evidences of regard which I receive constantly, are a source of unmingled pleasure to me. I shall endeavor to retain their good will and confidence. There are a number of negroes in the regiment, and I am on excellent terms with them. They appeared to feel as much interest in my success as their white masters did. Several of them came to me after the election to congratulate me. One of them said "Well Dr. I'm mighty glad you's elected; low me to congratulate you sir." Punch, Col. Nelly's son, stopped me next day to ask me about the election. With a broad, hearty grin on his worthy face, he said "Well Dr. you beat 'em! I declare I's mighty glad. How many votes up did that ole man git anyhow?" I replied, only 139. "Law bless my soul of me!" said he "I believe I could ha' made a better race 'n that myself." Col. Nelly went into every company and electioneered for me. Several of the Captains even made speeches in my favor to their men. One of the men said, "to a Mc-Goughly." The man who said Mc-Goughly was a regular graduate and had a "sheep skin." "I expect he has got a sheep skin, and from what I hear of him, I ~~think~~ ^{think} he has got the sheep head with it." I shall endeavor to conciliate those men who opposed my election - that is the privates - for of course I hear them I can do no malice. And even if I were disposed to feel angry with them, my signal Dr. victory would make me magnanimous. The enemy did not come down five yesterday as I wrote you I expected they would; but we expect them tomorrow. They may not come down so soon, but they certainly do intend to make felt an attack upon us very soon. They have landed this afternoon eight or ten miles above us. They are reported twenty thousand strong. Their camp I

but fires are visible from our outer lines. They will endeavor it is supposed
to attack us in three or more places. By water and also by land. We
bear on in good spirits though, and expect to whip them. The night is cold, and
Dr. seems wavering between ~~settling~~ and raining. What a time they will have of
it tonight! God defend the right? Of course it is not certain that they will at-
tack us, but the almost universal opinion is that they will do so very soon, and
a fight is expected tomorrow. I am surprised that any notice of Williams' death
will has not been published in the Appeal. I told them to publish it and send me
the bill if it cost anything. If you are in Memphis now, I wish you would
inquire at the office for the price. Or it might be worth while for you to write
me to ^{the} Editors to inquire about it. I should like you to see it. Poor Williams, he had his
faults, but they are all forgotten and forgiven now, and we only remem-
ber his virtues. He had many good qualities and was a useful member of
our society. How common death is nowadays! I trust this warning has not been lost
upon me. I hope to be ready to meet my summons when it comes. Every day
of my life I grow more and more thankful to God for blessing me with pious parents.

I am very busy. My apothecary is sick, and Dr. Bateman has not come yet. I
wish he was here. If we have a battle, his services will be ~~very~~ greatly needed.

There is no Sunday in the army, when a fight is expected. Every body has
been busy today. Some of the regiments are out working on the trenches to-
night, and the work will be carried on all night. Dr. Williams had not
made out his monthly report before he died, and I have been so busy that
I could not commence it till last night. It has to be handed to the Medical
Director tomorrow morning or he will report me delinquent. I have just
finished it this afternoon, and that with attending to my sick ones has kept
me as busy as a bee. Pneumonia is beginning to show itself. I lost one poor
fellow last night. What is your treatment for pneumonia? Have you any
faith in tart. emet. in controlling the pulse. Do you believe in depreparato?
I hope the boats will come soon, as my others are beginning to give way.

Nothing ever gives me more pleasure than good accounts of Sally. I love the dear child more than I can tell. Her welfare, and progress in knowledge and goodness is ever in my mind. She is somewhat like ma, that I never think of the one without thinking of the other. I trust Willy will not think hard of me for delaying an answer to his letter. I am so pressed for time that I can not write often, and besides my letters to you are for all the rest of course. I am surprised that the people in your part of the country have so little patriotism, that they will not hire a servant to a soldier. I have not had time to enquire for a servant about here, but there is no chance of my getting one I know. However what can't be helped, must be made the best of. I have decided to keep the mustang here, as I shall have a better opportunity of taming him than you would have. I am glad Willy is developing a taste for female society. I hope you will encourage and cultivate it in him. It will be of service to him in many ways. Tell the wife, I say she must lickin'. Tell him to take care of himself. Muscovy ducklings are foolish enough to stand in the rain till they are drowned, but muscovy ducks learn wisdom with age. Margants husband is well, and rents howdy.

Give my love to mother. Tell her I long to visit Woodlawn again, but I dont know when I can do so. Tis Sally for me. Bless her dear soul I would give a months pay, to see her.

I am your devoted son

Samuel P. Garrison, jr.

Columbus Jan 16th 1862

My dear little Sister,

I am so glad that you were so good a girl on new years day, and I am confident you will strive to improve yourself as rapidly as one day follows another. Each day you will find that you have more and more control over your passions. For my sake go on as you have begun. Study your Bible, learn your Latin thoroughly & write much every day. You have no idea how happy a cheerful letter from you, makes me. It puts me in a good humor with every body. If Pa hears nothing of my notice of Dr. Williams' death and thinks it not too late now, I will try and write another one. I think he can remember the one I wrote. Tell him I have had no opportunity to send the valise so far. I don't intend to scold you a bit in this letter - but I will only say, you know my opinions about little girls going to parties. Young Ladies, must go to parties - as that is their best advertisement for heaven. They must show themselves in society, that the young men may know they are in the market. My ideas upon the subject are considered, I know, by some persons, as ultra; but they were Mrs's ideas, and her judgment was more infallible than any ones whom I have ever known. Her ideas of propriety were never at fault. We have had no battle yet, though, as I write there are several gunboats in sight and there is considerable cannonading between them and our batteries. I am confident in the belief which Genl. McCorn expressed this morning, that nothing but the sudden and severe change in the weather prevented the enemy from making an attack upon us sometime during the last three days. The probabilities of an attack now, are not yet entirely dissipated. We may have it any day. I don't believe the cold weather will prevent a battle

This winter. Confound the wretches, I wish they would wait till
warm weather returns, before they attack us. You know how much
I abominate cold weather. Yesterday was a terrible day, and I could not
keep warm, notwithstanding I spent my whole time and talents in the
effort. Today is miserably cold, but not so bad as yesterday was. If we
should have a heavy thaw tomorrow, the enemies can't come down by land.
Yesterday a gentleman told me he had a servant to hire, and I immedi-
ately contracted for him at \$20. per month. - What an enormous price!
In the afternoon he called to tell me, he couldn't spare him. If Pa writes me
in his next letter he can't possibly get me a servant, I shall start out
in earnest to get one in some way. Tell Pa to hurry up the pants and cap -
send them by express & notify me of it by letter. I hope Willy will be well
enough next spring to enter the army again. I wish he could stand the climate
I would like to have him as my Hospital Steward or Wardmaster, but it's
entirely too cold for him here. I think I am getting the same pay now
as brother David - I think his is only \$162 per month. I think our rank
is the same also - Major of cavalry. I am lucky am I not? I ought to
be able to make \$100 a month I think, and if my commission dates from
January 1st I shall have money enough to go where I please if I do not get a
position as soon as our Regiment is disbanded. Again, tonight we hear we
are to have a battle tomorrow certain. The ground is glazed with ice, but
it is not ~~so~~ ^{enough} cold to interfere with military operations. I am so sleepy
I will wait to finish this tomorrow. If we have a battle I may be able
to give you an account of it. Today (Jan 15th) I don't see a fight here im-
possible. The ground is covered with ice and it is now starting. Walking
is very difficult, and marching I think today is impossible. I suppose the
first appearance of pleasant weather will bring the enemy down upon
us. The militia of Tennessee may be forced ere spring to take the field
for the protection of their borders. The Yankees are vastly superior to us

in numbers, and are better armed, yet I can not help believing that
our success is ~~certain~~ ^{certain}. I have one fear, which troubles me, that is that
should we be whipped here, or at Bowlinggreen, the cowards and
the Tories within our borders, would give up our cause, and proclaim for
our mission to the Yankees. I am hurried and must close. Mayault's hus-
band sends his love to her. He is very well and is getting on firmly.
Love to Pa, Wily and mother.

My darling little sister, remember, that you
are dearer to me than the apple of my eye.

Your brother
Samuel P. Yaudell Jr

The Filson Historical Society

Columbus Jan 27th 1862

My dear Sally,

Your letter & parcel of 24th came today. I gave you a letter and one to mother also, for my last one was but a note - a hurried and poor one at that. I have been out of sorts for some time, but now am hearty and clear headed again. The hovelock is capital, and the pants are charming. A thousand thanks to you and mother for them -

The day after receiving the welcome & capital good box from mother, I had Captains Jackson, Polk, and Chew, also Dr. Bell to dine with me. It was a successful and delightful dinner. The nice turkey presented itself first, which we attacked and nearly annihilated; reinforcements came up then, in the shape of squabs and sausages, they shared much the same fate.

I may remark here, as some secure for them, that they were - though not raw venison, ^{yet} they were fresh. Next appeared a pound-cake pudding, supported by ginger-cakes. We met them fiercely, completely routing and destroying them. In palliation of the pound-cake's conduct, I will say, it was ~~some~~ hot in liquor, having been served with brandy sauce. I sum up the result as follows - lost on our side none - on the side of the Cornettibles one turkey, one pound-cake, one loaf of bread, a number of ginger-cakes, and also some sausages and squabs - actual number not yet reported.

My men mates and I are now attacking the hane, which is daily melting away under our vigorous ~~attacks~~ ^{assaults}. Crochet the comfort into a cap or cap cover.

I received a note from Mr. Bartlett - my dear friend - yesterday, telling me he could get me a boy, William, from Mrs. Cherry. I wrote to him to send him up.

I received a short letter from brother David & sister Fannie a few days since. They are all well. He speaks of visiting you all in the spring, but fixes no definite period. I shall endeavor to meet her at Wooddown. I could get a far-

though now I expect, but I think it injudicious to do so. A surgeon should be seen
at his post. It is a very responsible position, and I am determined to prove my-
self worthy of it. I am very young to be a surgeon - probably the youngest one here,
in the army here - I believe I am - and therefore I should be vigilant and intelli-
gent in the discharge of my duties. I want no one to be able to say "He is too
too young for such a place." However, whenever the proper time comes for me to do so,
I shall endeavor to do so. Tell mother us
I am more than anxious to visit her again. She will appreciate my position. You
and I haven't much time for writing. I have a reputation to make, and a
name to sustain. I am willing to sacrifice pleasure now, that I may reap a
richer harvest hereafter. You have an education to acquire, and also a
name to sustain. You know your duty. I know mine. Let us both be true
to our blood & ourselves. Let our parents be renewed in their children. You
hold up one side of the house & I will the other. Willy has time for visiting & for
for parties - It is well for him to mingle in society. He is a man, and is at an
age which will be benefitted by frequent intercourse with society. When you
reach the proper age - when it will become a profitable way of spending some
of your time - then you shall see enough of it. I will chaperone you. Wait for
me. Your letters are improving again. For a time they were not creditable, and
did not evince care or progress. Now they do, and your last letter was excellent. I
write, and read, and study hard. You know my ideas, opinions, & wishes. You
love me. Will you gratify me, even though I seem now rather
exacting & more stringent than is necessary? This afternoon I dressed one of
the worst wounds I have seen for a long time. One of our men cut his foot
with an axe - dividing the big toe in equal parts, and extending nearly
up to the instep, entirely through the foot. I saved it up from one end to the
other, and then applied adhesive straps. I made a very neat job of it, &
the men who witnessed it, were very much struck with its appearance.
It is a dangerous wound, and "no one can tell now what may be the

the result of it. The army is the place to study medicine. One sees every variety
of disease and accident. I inclose in this letter, a notice of me in the little
new paper here, called the Confederate News. I should have sent you a copy of
and it some time since but did not like to do so without sending a letter, and now
"He is till now I have not been in writing condition. It is from the paper of the
1st to 22nd. Did the paper copy this? I wish some of the Memphis papers would,
to mother as it would let all my friends know of my promotion. I take part with our
position. Late defeat. In no reason to despond, and I am provoked with the weak
and spirited militia men, old women in pantaloons, and chronic croakers who
seem to infect Memphis and other parts of Tennessee. Are we to throw down our
arms, throw up our hands, and cry "all is lost, we are whipped, we will
never be subjugated" the very first time the fortune of war turns against us? No!
You and shame and confusion be upon the croakers, who go about with long
faces predicting destruction to our young Confederacy. So far this has been a
very bloody war. When we commenced it, we believed it would be one of the
most sanguine wars that was ever waged. We were willing to take the consequences
of some quences then. Was one disaster sufficient to place us almost on the verge
of submission? I trust not. May I never live to see the war ended, if it is to
end in our subjugation. I would rather see our population decimated - yes
decimated. I would rather see it annihilated, than give up the cause. What are a few
thousand lives - or thousands of lives, compared to the success of a nation?
In a just cause it is far better that the few should suffer death, than that the many
of may prosper, than that their lives should be saved, and all suffer digni-
fication & infamy. We have had too much success. We need the chastening of
early defeat. I believe this late disaster, will prove to be of great benefit to us.
I intend to write to mother soon. It is growing late and I must close.
My love to Pa, mother, & Willy, . Stephen sends love to his wife; he is well.
Be a good girl and remember how much your brother loves you.
J. P. Gaudette.

too. He is held in much higher estimation by the soldiers than formerly - and is a most capital Brigadier.

I have formed my opinion of Justice. He is a gentleman I think, and a pretty good doctor. He is intellectually weak, and is as pliable as dough. He is somewhat generous, but a stronger mind can control both his conversation & ideas. He & I get on nicely together. I wrote brother & sister a long letter a good while since & in it asked some important questions & sent sister some money - The balance due for my horse. I have heard nothing from them, though I sent the letter by Express. He doesn't say in his letter to Pa, when sister & the children will visit Woodlawn. Only one thing disturbs me in the letters from Woodlawn - that is, that some-how, Sally is forced by circumstances into society. A party, or a dinner, or a visit somewhere. I think it all very well for you to engage in such pleasures, and to visit all our aunts, uncles, cousins, dear friends, & acquaintances. It is very well for old people too, who have nothing else to do, but to be sociable & neighborly. It is far otherwise with a young school girl who has an education to acquire. I suggest to Sally the idea of going to Boarding school. Had we lived, I should never have thought of Sally's going to Boarding school, but under the circumstances, I am growing to believe it is the best of two evils.

Your devoted Brother
Samuel P. Fendley

Columbus Feb. 2nd 1862.

My dear Willy,

The letters received from home this afternoon afforded me, as they always do, much pleasure. Your letter was descriptive - therefore exceedingly interesting. It is now eleven o'clock, and I dare say you are all asleep. I am sitting by a comfortable, cheerful wood fire, broad and deep, with old fashioned audacious. Such a fireplace ought to be sufficient to make any man contented - and I am. My room, is ten by twelve feet. I have lined it with an old tent fly, which makes it as close as is desirable. I have another tent fly for a carpet & a even sack for a hearth rug. I have made for myself a book shelf, a washstand & mantle-piece of unplained plank. I write upon a small table given me by one of the men, and sleep upon a bed made by a carpenter in the regiment. I have one split-bottomed chair, one chair bottomed with a canvas sack, a box, & a trunk for seats. A tin bucket, tin basin, and mug, complete my furniture - except a trap candlestick, in which I burn a star candle. I am as snug as a bug in a rug. I have my room all to myself - barring visitors, who come often & in numbers - and come I believe as much on account of

my bungalow, as for the pleasure of my society. The cap
sailly suit is both pretty, and pleasant to wear. I saw
it with great satisfaction. I agree with you in your
estimate of Miss Priscilla. She is certainly a most interesting
young woman - is very pretty, dresses with taste, has good
manners, and seems - as I have no doubt she is - amiable.
I dare say it is a funny sight - for smoking. The lower
animals are born with grace - Human beings acquire it.
A little duck swims & walks as gracefully as its venerable
grand dame, who has waddled through half a score of years.
A little puppy curls his tail as handsomely, and trots along
with as much of the "poetry of motion", as his old sire who
has curled his tail for years and trotted into old age.
Not so with the unfeathered biped. He is born awkward,
and only learns to do anything gracefully by practice. There
is more in smoking than a casual observer would believe.
Anyone can tell a new smoker by the way he handles his
cigar & emits his smoke. I can tell from the way a man
smokes, if he began it late in life. I can tell a gentleman
from a blockhead by the way he holds his cigar. A pretty cor-
rect opinion of a man's character may be formed from the rest
of cigars he smokes. These are facts & I have often proved them to
my own satisfaction. I rather think it is a good idea of par-

to learn to smoke & I hope he may succeed. I had a dream a
boat time last night, in which I thought some one told
me he was dead & that the person also told me he saw
him very drunk the afternoon of his death. I am not
superstitious, but I had not heard from any of you for
a much longer time than usual, and till I received the
letter this afternoon, I could not help thinking about
the dream several times. A singular coincidence between a
dream and reality occurred to me a short time since. Down in
town I met a man whom I hoped without recognizing,
although I rather thought I knew him. After I had gone
a few rods he called me back, and I recognized a former
member of the Shelby Tugs (though now acting as a spy). He
remarked that he had the mumps & inquired what he
must do for it - I replied to him - "Let it alone & keep your
bowels open." "Why that is very singular," said he. "Coming
up here on the boat last night, I dreamed of meeting
you & of asking you this same question, and you made
me the identical reply - word for word, that you just
now made to me". Odd was it not. Beauvoir is coming
I imagine without doubt. It will be a capital thing for
the army here. He bears with him the prestige of victory &
the elot of experience. Pillows return will be a good thing

Columbus Feb. 4th 1862

My dear little sister,

I agree perfectly with you in the sentiments you entertain concerning our sainted Mother's death. I am no longer sorry that she is not with us. She was too good to be in this bad world, & she did not deserve to suffer as she would have suffered had she lived till now. God does all things for the best - we have not always the wisdom to appreciate his works. I am more than glad, that you are so cheerful, and take so just a view of God's mercies to you. Ours is a family unusually blessed, & we can never be sufficiently thankful for the innumerable blessings which have been vouchsafed to us, both as a family and as individuals. Your description of the ice-land hyacinths & beautiful clouds is excellent: it would do credit to an older head. Let me now speak plainly about one thing, which only requires earnest effort to remedy. I allude to your hand writing. It is wretched & you ought to write better. How much do you write in your copy book? I wonder that Pa does not urge upon you the imperative necessity of your improving your writing. I would not go to aunt Martha's - nor anywhere for pleasure. Shun society as you would the plague, and busy yourself so deep in your studies, that the necessity of going with anybody to any party, or any dinner, at anybody's

house, will never enter your head till you are eighteen years
old at least. If you can't manage it otherwise, stick your ears
up with cotton so that you can not hear invitations to go any-
where. Sprain your ankle so that you can not leave home.

Work hard, harder, hardest. Study much, more smart.

What do you think of going to Muspusboro to school? I am a-
fraid you can't do much in your present situation. If you
were constantly thrown with girls of your own age at school, you
would appreciate your backwardness in literary requirements and
feel the necessity of making all things subordinate to study. There
you would have fewer temptations to waste your precious time in
idle & useless observances of etiquette. You had better offend half
your relations, than to allow one of them to interfere in any way
with your studies. I fear you will think all this very harsh,
and unreasonable, and be able to satisfy your own conscience;
but believe me, my dear child in whom my fondest hopes
center, if you like you will yet acknowledge that I was
right & not a bit too earnest. How happy I should be if I could
only know that you would take my advice, and do as I ask.

The cap is charming. It gives me quite an Eastern appearance.
Accept a kiss for it. The picture is yours. Do as you like with it.
Tell cousin Kate I will exchange pictures with her if she is
willing, as soon as I can get to a daguerrotypist. Give her my

love and tell her not to miss a home-guard. She is
one of my good looking cousins whom I should like to see.

It is now very late at night and I must close my letter
though I am opposed to short letters & blank paper. There is
no excitement in the army here nowadays. The weather is
generally bad, and the mud is almost unfathomable.

I have had several severe cases of pneumonia lately, all
of which have terminated successfully. I am in excellent
health, cheerful & contented. As it will make no great dif-
ference, I will hold these letters over till I can fill up the rest of
this sheet. Feb. 5th 1862.

We have had the most furious
rain here tonight that I have heard fall in a long time.
Nothing worth noting has occurred since last night.

Remember me to the servants. Mary Ann's husband is well,
and sends love to her. Kiss mother & cousin Kate for
me. Please do what I ask of you and remember
that you are my dear rough diamond, who only re-
quires hard rubbing to become as bright as I wish.

I am your affectionate
brother

Lunsford P. Gaudette

Columbus Feb. 14th 1862

My dear little sister,

Your letter of the 8th was an exceedingly interesting one, and I should have answered it and put of a previous date before this, but I have been somewhat out of sorts. Day to day I sent Perkins the \$21 - several days since by a friend. I shall hereafter deposit with him my surplus funds. I shall probably wish to move about some next spring, and I intend to save enough money for that purpose. I sent sister \$120. on the 27th of January by Express and not yet having heard from it I fear it did not reach her. I wrote again a few days since to enquire, I have now paid for my horse - if that money reaches her. You will be surprised to learn that I have not got my servant yet, and I am sadly in need of him. Tony Bartlett is a curdlep fellow. I wrote to you and Willy not long since, in which I expressed my opinion about your intended visit to Aunt Matilda. I trust you will see my motives correctly, and do you with me in the position I hold. When you grow older you will learn that I am right -

The news this afternoon from Fort Donnellon is glorious. A telegram to Genl. Polk says, five of the enemy gunboats disabled - and the enemy whipped, horse foot & dragoons. I hope it is so. The war has at last commenced in earnest, and as the enemy is vastly superior in numbers, as well as in arms, I look for many heavy losses & severe defeats, ere we achieve our independence. Some people scarcely yet appreciate that the country is at war. They are gay and frivolous as if their country were safe. They eat, drink, and are merry just as if nothing was going on out of the ordinary run of things. There is no letting who's children may be beggars after the war is over. You may be thrown upon your own resources for a livelihood. No one ought to spend one cent for pleasure now. But this is not my reason for opposing your visiting our relations, for I would rather give you what you would spend in that way, than to have you go if you could travel free. Today is the coldest I have felt in a long time. The thermometer stood in my room this morning at 8 o'clock at 18° above zero, and out doors at that time only 7° above. Tonight at 10 o'clock it is 10° above. Sickness has increased of late in my regiment. A good deal of pneumonia, but I

have been successful in its treatment. I am not in writing humor tonight, and as it has been so long since I wrote home, it won't do to put off sending you a letter any longer. Love to all

Your devotedly attached brother
Simford P. Gardner.

Columbus Feb. 16th 1862

My dear Sally,

Though I wrote to you last, I have decided to write to you today instead of to Pa, or Willy. Fort Douelon has fallen, and another river is opened. Nashville or Columbus may fall next. I trust you have begun to appreciate the condition of the times in which you live. We are now at the beginning of "the wild hour coming on". I can not believe that the South will be unjugated, but I see the future red with blood. Much of our beloved country is destined to be devastated by the enemy - our homes destroyed, children made orphans, and thousands of now happy families, reduced to penury and want. You do not know what trials are in store for you in the gloomy future. I believe our Father will yet have to shoulder his pain and upon his precious life to the chances of war. It is vain to expect that all your brothers will live through this war. All of us, and Pa too, may lose our lives in the fierce struggle which has just commenced. At the close of the war, and may be before that, you may be reduced to abject poverty, and be thrown upon your own resources for a livelihood. Everything now urges you to improve the golden hours of your youth. There are many trials ~~for you~~ in store for you in the future, & I trust you are striving earnestly and with your whole soul to acquire patience. Learn to curb your temper. Do you try never to speak a cross word to anyone. And when you do, are you truly penitent for it, or do you justify yourself by ^{the} thought, "any body would have gotten mad - it was enough to provoke a saint - I couldn't help it" etc, etc? I have drawn no exaggerated picture of what you may expect in the future & I hope you may suit as I do. I perceive that I have not convinced you that you ought not to visit. You justify yourself in all your acts - and of course consider me unreasonable and hypocritical. You wish me to tell you how long I think you ought to study every day - I will. First let us see how many hours you now employ in that way. You study your Latin (with a clear translation, and don't often haul to use a dictionary - not very hard work) "two hours every day." - You practice with your "pen or pencil" for an hour" (as to practicing with a pencil - you may just as profitably scratch in the sand with a stick) "Then you "read some". Add to these labors, the time you spend reading your Bible and reading to Pa - and call both "study," and ^{find} that you "study" nearly four hours out of the twenty four! Four hours from twenty four leaves you twenty

hours. Take eight for sleeping, and you still have twelve hours left!
At school you would be in the study room about seven hours, and besides
would have to study some each night, and morning before going to school.
You are tolerably robust, have a pretty good constitution, and I give it as my
medical opinion, that your health would not be impaired nor your life
shortened, by your devoting eight hours a day for the next three years, to study.
I would advise that you continue to study your Latin as you are now doing.
That you write an hour morning and afternoon in a copy book with a pen.
That you study arithmetic two hours a day; and that you study geography
two hours a day. You will still have ample time to write all your letters, to
read profitable books, to exercise sufficiently, and to read some in your
Bible night and morning. Now my dear little sister will you do all this for my
sake? I await your answer with anxious hope. Your last letter gives evidence
of care and attention in writing it. I hope I may be able to say that of all that may follow.
You have been faithful in your promise to me about writing. Continue so, as you learn.
Do you know that our mother had you christened "Sally Milron Yaukell" - after our
Grandmother who was a very remarkable woman. It is an honor to bear her name.
I was named for Pa & I conceive that I have no more right to drop any part of my
name than I have to change it entirely. Sister Fannie bore the name of Fannie
J. Pautcher till she was married. A time may come when your name will
be changed by law, and then I shall not object to your writing your name
as you please. In a letter from Marm, of a late date, his good wife wrote me
a page, and signed her full name. I don't like middle names myself, and I
have frequently wished that I had none, but as I have it and am not ashamed of it
I shall always retain it. I wish I had something of interest to write you, to bal-
ance the advisory part of my letter - Or something funny to support the piece
of advice which I have prepared for you. But be a good girl my pet, and
don't allow it all down. It is bad to take I know, but it will do you good.
I should not be willing for you now to go to Murfreesboro. The times are too
troubled. The future looks dark and gloomy. The South as well, as the North
has been very wicked. The hand of God is upon us, and we are being punished
for our manifold sins. How heavy our punishment is to be, only the future
can determine. Our only hope is in prayer and in the mercy of the Supreme

Being. I don't believe that we are ever to be subdued by the North - I can not believe it. If the Southern Confederacy is destroyed, Republican government in America is at an end. The South can not be held long in subjugation by a Republican government. If the worst comes to the worst I hope England or France may interfere; and rather than live under Lincoln, I would pray that one of these nations would attack us to ~~the~~ ^{the} Empire. Though we all appreciate our critical condition yet the boys will have fun. Tonight I received a complimentary ticket to a Regt. Minstrel performance in the Regiment. It was very funny and afforded me much amusement. At the close of the performance the Chief Musician announced to the audience, that they would give another entertainment tomorrow night if the Gunboats did not come down on us, and make us fight. Two of them ugly monsters came down in sight of us this afternoon, but soon went back. I have no doubt the Yankees will give us a fight here soon. I wish we had a larger force here. We have not fifteen thousand men. With their Gunboats, and mortar boats, and fifty or twenty five thousand men they can drive us from Columbus - without an interposition of Providence. We will then fall back upon Fort Pillow and fight them again. If we are driven from ~~from~~ there, we will fall back upon Randolph. And when we get to Randolph, I will then tell you what we will do next.

Think of all that I have written. Ponder over it, and take the advice that I have given you. It is growing late and I must soon close my letter & retire - though I dislike to read blank space in a letter. Ask mother if she can get hold of any grey woolen make goods in the neighborhood. Military clothes are now so expensive that I must find something cheaper. Ben Williamson has a very nice suit, made by his mother. Grey jeans would be even better than the goods he wears. I have seen some which is very handsome. If she can procure any suitable goods at a reasonable price, ask her please to get me enough to make me a suit of clothes. If I ever get to Memphis again I can have it made up. I received a letter from sister Fanny a few days since. She had received the money. All were well. Give my love to mother, to Pa and to Wily. My dear little sister remember that you are my most precious jewel.

Your devoted brother

Sam'l J. P. Gentry,

Columbus Feb 24th 1862

My dear little sister,

Another Sabbath day has passed. It has been a mild, beautiful day, and peaceful in its appearance, — but in its appearance only, for it has witnessed the preparations of man for the destruction of his fellow man — and may be today's bright sun, has seen another bloody field somewhere in our beloved Confederacy. This morning a flag of truce left our port for Cairo, bearing Mrs. Buckner and other ladies, on their way to join their prisoner husbands. About the time it started six gunboats and four or five transports hove in sight, and stopped a few miles above our forts. The flag of truce was not allowed to proceed by them, & the ladies were forced to return. No one knows what the boats were there for. Many persons believe there is to be an attack here very soon — others believe we will not be attacked here, but that the enemy will get in behind us — between us and New Madrid and cut us off. It is the belief of some very sensible officers here, that Columbus will inevitably be evacuated. If we are attacked here, there will be a fierce battle fought, and thousands of lives will be destroyed. If we have to evacuate, our loss in stores, ammunition, etc. will be immense, and besides, the enemy will attack us as we retreat. The "wild hour" is upon us. We are at last in the midst of a bloody, terrible struggle for existence. The vigor with which the North may prosecute this war, no matter how fierce, is wise not, in my opinion, expedite the termination of the struggle. They may whip us back from one state to another, until we are driven to the uttermost confines of the Confederacy, and yet we will not be conquered. Our whole land may be desolated, and the timid money worshippers, lovers of ease and peace as slaves, rather than war and trouble as freemen, may swear allegiance to Lincoln's government. But still there will remain a small band of patriots, who will oppose the usurper — at first feebly, but finally, as they gather strength, powerfully, and they can not be conquered. There even may be killed, and yet there will be in the southern heart the same feelings which brought about this struggle, now intensified and rendered invincible by our sufferings. I can see no end to this war. The United States will continue it indefinitely, because to cease

the war and allow us to leave them, would be their own destruction. There only hope of saving themselves is to subjugate us and make us pay their debt, or at least a great part of it. Our only hope of avoiding destruction and utter ruin is to fight our way through our troubles and conquer our independence. The success of one party is the annihilation of the other - no master without a victor, the vanquished people are abolished as a nation. Neither party can afford to give up, and finally foreign powers must interfere. When one foreign power interferes, other foreign powers will be almost certainly become involved: and at last the whole civilized world may be at war. I almost begin to believe the prediction of some persons who have predicted that this war to be the great war spoken of in the Bible. Every month that the war goes on, lessens my hope of seeing it brought to a close within the next two or three years. The future is dark and gloomy. No picture can be drawn of it which ~~would~~ would be too fearful to be possible. Peace and quietness, from this time forth, for a long, long time to come, abolished in the least. Sorrow, tribulation & suffering, will take their place. Be prepared to receive your share, and to bear it like a Christian. God is your only sure help - In Him alone may you infallibly trust. Your father may be taken from you; your brothers may be killed in battle, thrown into captivity, or driven into exile. Be prepared for any fate, for my dear child, I tell you there are wild, fearful, uncertain times. Life is but short - and at furthest, we will all be in our graves in eighty or ninety years - each year rolls by more rapidly than its predecessor, so that it will not seem very long to us to live, no matter what misfortunes surround us. I trust that we may all "inspire each shining hour", and be prepared to die. That is our chief end, at last, and we can prepare ourselves for that, no matter what are our surroundings. God is omniscient, and omnipotent, and just. He knows what is best for us, He has power to do what is best for us, and He will do what is best for us. Now difficult it is for us to avoid complaining, and repining; and yet how unwise, and unjust it is of us to do so, when we know God is omniscient & just?

Pos letter of the 22nd & your note of the 20th reached me this afternoon. I welcomed them with joy, as it had been a considerable time since I had heard from any of you. I had hoped that your first letter would announce Sister

Fannies & the children arrived at Woodlawn. I wish they were all there. We do not yet know here whether or not the Federals hold Nashville. I have heard nothing from Brother David since the fight. If he had been taken prisoner, or killed, we should have heard of it ere this. I trust he and his family are safe. Your letter is more excellent than any one you ever wrote before. I have no fault to find with it, and nothing but praise to give you for it. Its style is impeccable, its sentiments noble, and worthy of our Father's Mother's daughter. My dear little sister, you can not conceive how happy you make me by what you say of yourself in that letter. You are a noble, good girl, and I know you will be all that I wish you to be. I am proud of you tonight - prouder of you than I ever was before. Go on as you are now doing. Double all your efforts. Go on bravely fighting the great battle against your faults. Be vigilant and unremitting, and they will diminish and grow weaker, till at last you will overcome them all. I doubt whether it would be best for Willy to come here to join the Army. I expect he had better go back to Brother David - However, he and pa can decide that point. I enclose with this letter a note from Dr. Perkins which will explain itself. I sent him 21st but he could not make the change and only received 20th. If Pa says it is all right I will send the balance when I draw my next pay. Tell Willy I will write to him soon. Give my love to pa, mother, & Willy, Stephen sends love to his wife and children & is well.

My dearest sister remember how much I love you.

Your devoted brother
Samuel P. Yandell, Jr.
Surgeon. 4th Reg. Tenn. Vols.

1862

Madrid Bunk March 9th

My dear Father,

Tonight I have heard of an affair
 you - the first since we left Columbus. Since we be-
 real soldiering. We - that is, the 6th Tenn Reg, and five
 at this place at dusk Feb. 27th or 28th. I was fatigued
 consequent upon marching, and slept that night a
 wood on. For three days I did not take off my
 March at 2 o'clock A.M. our regiment left here for
 we arrived about 6 o'clock A.M. That night we were a
 body of the Yankees - we were on the outpost of the
 The shells fell all around us, and the pickets were
 regiment of Yankee infantry. At 12 o'clock that night
 of the fortifications where we slept upon the fire
 was covered with snow. Next day we found one dead
 was killed. We lost none. We came back here the
 second trip to New Madrid - which place is only
 below here. There has been skirmishing every day
 our forces and the Yankees. We have lost a few men
 For ten days I have had scarcely any regular sleep,
 that I shall only write enough to let you know
 of this place and New Madrid is very uncertain -
 but I still am most confident of our ultimate success. An account
 of our hardships and adventures would interest you, but I can not write
 tonight. Sickles has recovered very much, but our troops are in fine spirits
 and undaunted. Received today your letter and S. Kelly's of Feb 28th
 Rives is well - so is Stephen. Give Saddy a kiss for me. There is no
 telling when we may meet again. I am very well and full of
 and hope. Love to mother and Willy.

whose
 ances m
 on tired, m
 well. The future
 Both may fall -

Your devoted son
 Sanford P. Youdelly.

7022

[1862]

March 9th

Wm. H. ...
to

Prof. S. P. ...

Warren ...
University

The Filson Historical Society

men to fill the ranks. Aunt Emma Wendell saw two of Kelly's comrades in Manchester, who had fought bravely at Donelson, and then made their escape. Mr. Vandell wrote me that Mr. Mary's regiment was ordered to Johnson's division, and that he had sent to New Britain for his family. I do hope they will get out.

I do not know how long we shall remain here, as I am expecting every day for Sophy to send for us. After I have paid her a visit I shall go to Canton to see Cousin Eliza. After that I cannot tell where we shall go. I trust we shall be able to go to you before very long. We are all very well indeed and as happy as we could be any where in these times. Excuse my writing in pencil but it is more convenient this evening, as my pen is miserable. Give my love to Mother and Sally and Billy, and tell the two last, they both owe me a letter. Lenny does also. Uncle Boston, Aunt Melvina and the children, send love. Yours affectionately,
Henry C. Vandell.

Where.

March 23rd 1862.

My dear Father,

Your very kind and affectionate letter came duly to hand several days ago, enclosing one from Mr. Rice, and yesterday I received one from Mr. Vandell enclosing yours to him. I read them to the children, and we all feel very grateful to you for your kind expressions of warm affection to us all. The same evening we went to Boston, and finding Cousin Eliza at Lowell, and Henry very kindly, came as far as Faneuil's Station, several hours ride in the stage, to meet us. He was so kind and affectionate as could be, and said he was very glad to see us at his house. Aunt Eliza was up here when we reached Boston, and we found Cousin Fanny quite sick. Aunt Eliza came home the next day however. Henry has a right nice little house, consisting of three rooms, and he, his aunt and cousin seem to be getting

are very pleasantly. We stayed with them from Monday until Saturday when Uncle Boston sent for us, and we have been here ever since, two weeks ago yesterday. They were all very kind to the children at Cousin Henry's, and did every thing to make their time pass pleasantly. Henry took Allison riding and driving with him, and Cousin Tom and Aunt Eliza were unwearied in their endeavours to interest them. They have been as happy as children could be since they came here. Aunt Melvina is very indulgent, and they find plenty of sport in playing with the little negroes, hunting eggs, and going out into the field with the hounds. They are all improving, & Susy has gotten entirely over her cold and deafness. They are anticipating great pleasure in their visit to you, which I do hope we may be able to make before many months are over. We heard they were fighting several days since at Island No 10, but have heard nothing since. Yesterday the

boy went to town, and brought back some papers, but they were not of recent date, and there was nothing new whatever. I am very anxious to hear further. I cannot think we will be defeated again, with Beauregard and Johnston so near together. I think we can safely rely upon repelling them. Although our affairs certainly do look dark enough, I intend to keep up hope even to the very last. Surely having entered into this struggle we will bend all our energies to maintain our independence, and not suffer any privation or hardship to appeal us. I trust Dr. Vandell may be enabled to fulfil all the duties of his station so that no fault may justly be found with him, and that Tunny may regret himself well. Poor Willy! I am sorry his health continues so bad, but hope he will soon be able, when Spring weather comes on to take his place again in the ranks. There need fighting men and soldiers now, there are plenty of officers and surgeons, and clerks, but we want the

Corinth April 15th 1862

My dear Father,

I got back to Corinth late last evening. Brother and I are both well. Our army and the Federal army both suffered severely. I don't think either can claim a victory. We captured many cannon - lost some. I am worn out, but can not rest yet. Love to Solly, Widdy, and mother. Her hopes fearful. The wounded men will be lost in great numbers.

Your devoted son

Samuel P. Gaudin

72x2

The Filson Historical Society

Coniuth April 21st 1862

My dearest little sister,

I am grieved that so long a time has elapsed since I wrote to you, but it has been almost unavoidable, surrounded by difficulties, annoyances, and constant vexations, in the midst of arduous and harassing labors, I have found it impossible to write, though daily I have felt that I ought to write to you. I deem it most unfortunate that I am so separated from you. I feel that it is my duty to be with you, to watch over and counsel you, and to comfort you in your sorrows and troubles. But alas this horrid war prevents all things which are good, interferes with all things which are right, and fills every home with sadness, and the whole country with suffering. God grant that it may soon end, and yet I do not see one ray of hope for its speedy termination. The future grows darker and darker. Those persons who reason themselves into the belief that peace will soon come - or at least that the war will soon cease, are blinded and misled by their wishes. There is no hope of peace, without God makes it for us, and I fear we are to be fearfully chastened for our sins. If God punishes us by war until we all repent and turn from our wickedness, I do not believe anything more will see the end of this war, for I am sure the people as a body are growing worse and worse as the war lasts. Maybe He will preserve the country and restore peace, for the sake of the few righteous who are in the land. This is my only hope, and it behoves us to pray unto Him without ceasing. We should make prayer the great business of our lives. I confess that I am gloomy. I am weary of war with its privations and anxieties. More than everything else is the separation from you my great and sore trouble. I fear you will find it difficult to read this. I am sitting on a bundle of bed clothes, writing on a little board on my ~~bed~~ knees. The smoke from a smouldering fire in front of my tent constantly blinds me. My feet are wet from wading in the mud and water about the tents, visiting the sick. For three days it has rained almost without ceasing, and the soft swampy ground is saturated with water. All day long my feet

are wet and I am besetted with mud. There was never before so much sickness in the regiment as at present - and my assistant Surg. is sick besides. Our fare is meager and unpalatable - salt meat and biscuit - nothing else - yes - poor coffee. I hope I am a Christian, and my only consolation is in my religious faith. Were it not for this hope - this rock to lean upon, I should be almost utterly miserable. I have much need for patience, and am constantly and inevitably driven to reflection.

The more I reflect, the more unalterably am I convinced that the only true & real peace or happiness on earth is that which religion affords. I do not wish to convey the idea to your mind that I am a Christian in the strict sense of the word - I know that I am very worldly and wicked, but I strive to be a Christian. I read my Bible, and pray much - I reflect upon my condition much. I pray for strength to resist temptation. I pray for mercy, and patience and charity. I feel the power, and wisdom and goodness of God. I am comforted by prayer, and I believe God listens to my prayers. I sometimes doubt if it ever be wise to get away on any account. Life is but a brief affair, and ~~we care~~ ^{people} I respect about as happy under one form of government as another. Liberty purchased at the price of war, is dearly bought. War is never Christian in its origin or its termination, but till the millennium comes wars will be fought. Do not think that I am losing my patriotism. I expect to serve in the army till the war is over. I am not of being a medical officer - you know it was never my choice. Nothing now holds me in my present position but a sense of duty to you. I wish to go into the cavalry as a private and I may yet do so - I shall not do so hastily however - not without much consultation with Pa and brother.

It is my earnest wish to go into the fighting corps. The anxiety - the mental anguish which I suffer, when with the wounded, is almost unbearable. Often in civil practice, when with a case of severe suffering, whose medical skill was impotent to relieve, I have wished I was not a physician. I suffer I believe almost as much as my patients do. I fear I have forgotten my calling - and yet I am utterly at a loss to determine what my mission is. I pray God to give me strength and wisdom. Pa urges that by leaving the medical corps, I should damage my future prospects.

in my profession. This I don't admit. After having served twelve
months as a Surgeon - having risen from the ranks to that position,
and having been a medical Director - then to go into the ranks again
and fight the war through, would not damage my prospects in my
profession. As to the relative hazardness of the two positions, I do
not believe the difference is so great as is frequently supposed. The danger of a
private is greater than that of a Surgeon - but not infinitely so. If you
and Pa would only consent to it I should at once resign and join Morgan's
regiment. Sitting by my side is an Dr. McKinney who lives near Collierville - an accom-
plished physician and about Pa's age. He joined us Sunday of the battle - to
watch over a son about my age - a Sergeant - Dr. McKinney became lost from
the regiment during the engagement and Monday was captured by
the Yankees. They kept him till two or three days since, and he did not
know of his son's death till he came back to the regiment. Young McKinney
was killed Sunday, and his body was not recovered. He was a noble
young man - a gentleman and a Christian. His poor old father is overwhelmed
with grief. Poor man, he sighs constantly, and ever and anon while he is in
the tent, an unbidden tear steals its way down his cheeks - a tear for his lost
child. He reports the Federal loss - by their own acknowledgement - to be
18 or 20,000. He is sure that their loss was even greater. He says five Federal
Governors come down after news of the battle reached their states. He says
this is the heaviest blow the North has felt yet. He does not think there is
any prospect of peace however. I see Brother David almost every day -
He is a noble man, and I am always profited by association with him.
The elegance of his manners with equals, and the gentleness of his manners
with inferiors, are patterns well worthy of imitation. He says he intends to
join the church as soon as the war is over. I find I love all the members of my
family more and more as I grow older. I see their faults as plainly as
I ever did, but experience of life has taught me charity. I have learned to
endeavor to see their virtues more plainly, and to be more blind to their defects.
When we enter upon life we measure all things by our ideal standards -
Without being conscious of it we have ideal fathers and mothers, ideal brothers
and sisters, ideal cousins etc. etc - and we measure the ~~standards~~ ^{reality} by

our ideals. Consequently we are frequently dissatisfied with our relatives and often think hard of them when we ought not to do so. We find fault with them when they do not act just as we would have them do.

Time and experience teach us that there is no earthly perfection, and unconsciously we love right of our ideals, and measure our Fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters and cousins, by other Fathers and Mothers & Brothers & sisters and cousins that we must and are thrown in contact with.

This has been the case with me I know. I have always loved my family - I am sure as much as anyone has - but every year of my life teaches me to love them more and more. This is true in a great measure with regard to associations with persons outside of my family. But it requires an effort to be charitable towards people outside of the family. I try not to be curious towards people who do not suit me, & avoid understanding by my saying "I try not to be curious." that I always avoid it. One of our sainted Mother's most beautiful features of character, was her charity towards her fellow beings. She detested gossip and slander. It was seldom that she ever spoke hard of people. Time and again she has said to me "my dear child, suppose your Heavenly Father was as exacting of you as you are of those about you, what chance would you have to be saved." I hope you still daily strive to be like her. I trust you never neglect your religious duties. Remember what I have said to you about piety. Remember that you are only a little girl yet. Don't neglect your studies.

Please don't neglect for one day to improve your handwriting. My confidence in you is as unbounded as is my love for you. Your welfare and happiness is the great care and object of my life. Be a good girl. Guard and shield yourself from the contaminations of the world. O! that I could be with you always.

This conscription bill knocks all my plans to pieces. I can not tell now what I may be able to do on the 15th May. I fear it is very uncertain about my even getting a furlough at that time. I shall do my best to get away so as to be with you awhile. This law creates great dissatisfaction among the men; whether anything serious will grow out of it or not I can not say. The Government is not now in the hands of the people - the people are in the hands of the Government. God bless you my darling child. Love to Pa Willy & mother. I love you all with my whole heart.

...
Sunday 12 June 1864

Cornwall April 25th 1862

My dear & little Sister,

After two days only of pleasant weather, the rain has come again. I heard it last night when it began, and dreaded the discomforts which today I have experienced. It is now late in the afternoon, and a cold penetrating rain is beating on my tent, wetting the poor animals, and rapidly adding to the depth of the mud - already abominable & everywhere. I have been trotting about the camp all day long, and am swained and damp. The sickness does not abate. I am sitting on my bed, writing on the same little board on my lap, which I used before. I am sure letters have been sent me from home, but I have seen none since Pa left. I am very fond of letters, as you know, and I am certain you have not allowed any week to pass without writing to me when you knew where I was. Today our regiment has been partially organized. The Company Officers have been elected, and tomorrow the Staff Officers will be elected. My office is by appointment, and whether I shall be kept with the regiment or be allowed to change my position for a hospital place I do not yet know. I still hope to manage in some way to get off a few weeks from the army. It is however, a matter much involved in doubt and difficulty -

Brother David left here day before yesterday for Jackson Tenn. to see Col. Wickliff who was wounded in the late battle. He had a few days of twelve days, and intended if possible to visit sister Fanny before his return to the army. Every body here is expecting for a battle soon. Brother believes so, and the Generals are all confident of it. It will be the largest battle fought yet, and bloodier than the battle of Shiloh. When Pa was here, we believed there would be no more great battles, but it seems they are not over yet. Will the war ever end. The conscript law produces a great deal of dissatisfaction in the army. It is a hard law, and tries the patience and patriotism of the soldiers. I believe it was a military necessity - and at present, the only way to save the country. At the same time however, I believe it is unconstitutional and despotic. Mr. Davis and our other leaders and statesmen, ought to have had foresight enough to prevent any such military necessity from arising. Not having the foresight, has proved them unfit for the positions which they occupy. They are great men in ordinary times, and have proved themselves ordinary men at the present time. We have numbers of statesmen who were confident in times of peace and prosperity, men of profound wisdom

... and, ~~regretfully~~ ^{regretfully} ~~money~~. It is not for long he will be living.
an immense sentiment as any body here - you people of home, here, we have
on flower are, such my number as well as I see do, and I regret in about
very low spirit and unhappiness. But if you, you are minister. I am a change
from the quarters? How very you will conclude from my letter that I am
The things we shall have content when there are others our freedom
concluded to make our nation? I wonder too, if possibly with justly of private
I wonder if that ever be a spirit for the invitation and hardship which I am
cheerful man with the family, and not have to go out at any long. I like me
This is part the rest of day that one hour to sit by a cheerful fire in a pleasant
over or life quality - compare a complete list of the article typical in my domain,
All clothes, duty clothes, hats, boots, a hand and a back everything
belong of some, keep me from the washer. White washes over every, every Tom
house. My floor is down with much mud on it. Your white cloth with and
is with - a sort of damp with too, which goes against the manner of one
My best to think with much, at that moment - bringing the hair to my eyes. It
with the rest of life, but unfortunately the man is something of a body,
out down is such out even. At the mouth of my a poor wretched fire changed
My best and its surroundings, but a very dismal thing, this afternoon. All I wish
pleasure ~~the~~ my letter will affect you if you never it, dear to me to write so. For on a
my letter for the house, but always one danger, and a consequence of the
out for the last an number I have been generally a liberating group of and the
best and the most are can, I am getting very hot in the best part, cold weather, we were
to flourish is, to bring, so to do as to do but for me, and number to do the
house when make a subject, or as side an article. The only time I ever saw they were
travels by any means. But I am running off with speculation - and I speak - how far
The day of miracle has passed, and I must believe that will contain no more for me
further upon I look for our deliver to rise sooner here in the country, it is not
on revolution, he has made certain men his prominent instruments holding their
got with himself known. I thought it a general kind of things, got with
I have better anxiety over me the war began for our deliver. He has not
I have had more. We have within a Minister, a Bishop, or a Justice, we are
But refer in this revolution not on single part - I am not sure
a better moment they were almost bright and shining light.

Dear

tho. Sunday April 27th Dearest Sally, I had projected thus far with
reality great my letter say before yesterday when I was interrupted, and since then
a fissile none not found time to write till now, when I have but a few
it has not moments to spare. The preparations for the great slaughter are progressing
as yet rapidly. Everything is stir and bustle. The battle is believed to be broken
hats off, & few days off - This afternoon may witness its commencement, &
army, it is not unlikely that tomorrow will. The fight comes upon us at
a poor one an unfortunate time. The bad effect of the conscript law are ap-
and spreads heard in the language and bearing of the men. A week or two longer &
wise course they would get over their resentment towards the law. vast numbers of
to do the our men are sick and we are more poorly provided in every way than
old besides, we ever have been before. If we are attacked by any superior number
giving up and the Federal's fight well, I am very doubtful of the result of
groups of the the battle. I have not time to write more. Be a good girl. Pray
write me for our cause and for me. Give my love to Pa willy & mother. How
on. All I wish I could be with you.

Good by my precious child.

Your devoted brother.

L. P. Jacobitz.

Cincinnati May 3^d 1862

My dear little Sister,

Day before yesterday I received yours and Pa and Willy's letter, by Mr. Rives. The day before I received through Genl. Manny the first letter from home, since Pa left us. Letters were never more charmingly welcome than now. Your letter is a very excellent one, superior to any I ever received from you. The writing was much better, and but one word was misspelled - "February". I hope Willy will not hurry into the Army again till his health is sufficiently sound. Sick men do not add to the strength of an army. They are a unless incubus upon it - in their own way and in every bodies. We should manage by all means to get him to some position where he will not have to do guard duty. I oppose his going together with the Kentucky troops. In addition to ^{the} honor of belonging to a Kentucky regiment, there are other reasons which induce it will for him to go into some division separate from his Brothers. I do not think it well for Brothers to be together in the Army. The natural anxiety and solicitude which one feels for his own blood in time of danger, is liable if not likely, to distract his attention in some measure from his duties to other men under his charge. In marches and in battle a surgeon must give his attention equally to all. He can not with justice, conceal his own feelings or inclinations. I believe also that it is a wise provision of nature which scatters families when they are grown up. Separation of Brothers and sisters promotes peace, and increases fraternal love. I confess that it would be a great gratification to me to be with both my Brothers in the Army, but I feel persuaded that it is best for us all that we are separated. I trust that Pa will never for a moment seriously entertain the idea of going into the Army. His duty, it never clear to me, is at home with you and Mother. If he should enter the Army I should quit it, under some excuse, in order to take care of you. Day before yesterday our regiment was ordered inside of the intrenchments. Everything portends a battle soon. The Generals look for it I believe about Sunday or Monday. All is hurry and preparation for the furious battle. God have mercy on us and defend us. In my letters to you I spoke of having mistaken my calling. I did not have any other calling in my mind when I wrote as doubting my talents for the one I now follow. I do not now think I am any better fitted for any other vocation.

I can for my present one. The times are too uncertain for any one to
make plans for the future - and I have none made. What I may be should
I live through the war, is as uncertain as anything else in the world. I
suppose I shall ever become a minister - I deem it almost certainly im-
probable - and yet nothing is impossible. We are all given, I suppose, to
presentiments, and for years - I do not remember how long - I have had
a vague, shadowy presentiment that I should some day become a preacher.
Some things we think of as impossible, others as possible, others as probable.
My becoming a preacher I have looked upon as not impossible, nor yet
as probable, but as one of a vast multitude of events possible. I have not
time now to treat of a subject so important, as it deserves. Some time I shall
write more fully concerning it. A friend is going to Memphis today and
I shall send this letter by him. I sent you one by mail several days
since. Not having time to write to Pa, Willy, and yourself all, I write a
family letter to you. I have had an opportunity, within the last few days
to draw my pay, but as I hear Confederate money is somewhat depreciated
about Memphis I have not drawn to run to Pa, as I doubted if he would
write it. Tell Mother the pants will be most welcome. I expect I shall need
them before they are ready. Can my blue pants be mended and not look better than
my new ones. I expect I am fixed as surgeon of this regiment again. As soon
as I feel that I can conscientiously leave the regiment for a short time I shall
endeavor to get off to see you. The prospect for getting away now, or soon
is very dim. You will not be more disappointed than I, if I am unable
to see you this month. I have looked forward for months to the 15th of
May, and have counted with eager pleasure the days and weeks as
they passed by, opening the period of my absence from you. Let us be
patient - Thankful for the blessings we enjoy - and not desiring for them we
are deprived of. Be a good girl. I know you are striving nobly to do your
duty, and my heart is filled with joy when I know you are becoming
like our sainted Mother. You will find it a good plan when you go to
write to have a letter of letters, or some lady who writes a good hand,
your eyes, so that when you look up from your writing you will see it. I
consciously you will find yourself imitating the handwriting before you.
I have found in answering letters, that if I have the letter to be answered
I hope

one to be for me, my writing practices in some manner of the dispensance of the ^{divinely} ~~letter~~ of
of he should not letter. If the letter is very badly written my writing is ~~worse~~ than usually
it. I don't know, and vice versa. Never have one of my letters before you when you
to me - get to write. If you are replying to it, read it over and put it out of
oppose, to right. Let not its picture be upon your mind when you write. This
is had is in earnest. I believe that if I wrote a handsome hand, you would
be a better man than I am to write one. I believe also that my letters have been a disadvantage
probable to your penmanship. I dare say this sounds very odd to you, but I assure you
or yet it is no imaginary matter. From reviewing so many letters from Ma and
have not answering them with them before me. I sometimes wrote very much like
the I shall be, somewhat so that I remember once brother David mistook my writing
day and for his. The weather is warm, and the woods are green. Nature seems thankful
l days and smiling. Man alone of all God's creatures is ungrateful. How strange it
I write a does seem that people will go to war? I sometimes find it difficult to read
a few days ago the hard truth that a fine, bloody war is desolating our land -
associated. Conington Mason spent a day and night with me last week. He was looking
if he would for his wife's nephew. I enjoyed his visit exceedingly and I believe he enjoyed
shall not ~~for~~ it too. Mason is a noble fellow and as devoted to me as I am to him. He is looking
a basket better than he has been for a long time. He gained twenty pounds of flesh since he
to room went to Kelly Springs. Mrs. Mason sent me some cakes and other little delicias
the I shall give. Brother David has not yet returned from his visit to sister. By the
or soon papers I see that poor Major Henry is dead. Two of my particular friends, of
an able Louisville, lie in their graves - two noble young men, men killed
The 15th at Shiloh. I lost many friends in that battle. How many friends and
works as arrows have fallen around me since the war began! Am I to be spared
let us be or shall I go soon? Time alone can determine the question. I hope
to me I am prepared for any fate - not through any merits of my own but
to do you by God's mercy. I have always had a sort of presentiment that I should
becoming not die young; that I had some mission to perform in the world. I
can go to felt this when a very little school boy, and it has clung to me. I
, before have never felt what that mission was to be. Presentiments are of
count. ~~the~~ course most unreliable, but yet I have always had them. Without
you attaching much importance to them yet I have often thought of them
and I hope you have received my last letter, though it is doubtful.

I have not time to think of more to write today as this letter
must be sent in a few moments. Give my love to Pa, wish and
mother. I love you all vastly. Hoping we may soon meet in peace
and safety my darling baby

Remain your devoted brother
Lewisford C. Janney

The Filson Historical Society

Louisville Ky. Oct. 6th 1862

My dear Father,

Lieutenant Williamson leaves here tomorrow for your country and offers me an opportunity to let you know where and how your long lost sons are. I imagine you and Sally and Mother have had many sad moments since I saw you. I have heard from you but once by letter (through Whitfield) & once I heard from you through a gentleman from Louisville who reported you all well. Brother David is in excellent health and I am perfectly well. I have not heard from Willy since I saw him at Woodlawn, but if ill had happened to him I should have heard it. Sister and the children are in Chattanooga and well. We will probably have a large battle tomorrow. We will be victorious. You have innumerable friends in this country.

and I met with kindness everywhere.
I need not tell you I am anxious to see
you all. Darling Sally, how she has
longed to see me! Well, a good time
is ahead, and next winter we will
meet. I have been with brother over
Govl. Hardie's staff since I left Col-
umbus Miss where I had an in-
crease hospital. Now I am Medical
Purveyor at this place. Tell Darling
Sally I love her more and more. Bless
the dear child how I do love her. I often
dream of you and her. I could write
a long letter, had I the time but I have
only a few moments to write in.

My dear father good by.

Give my good little sister for me.

Be a noble girl Sally - Study. Be like
our sainted mother. Give my love to
our kind step mother I love her exceedingly
much.

Samuel P. Gaudell Jr

Manila Pa Oct 17th 1813

My dear Frank,

Your most welcome favor of Sep 29th inclosing Mr
Lips and Willys letters came to hand today, for which please accept my
sincere thanks. Through your kindness I received letters from them and
in several weeks since. I enclose a letter to Sally which you will
please forward to her. I am glad to hear such cheerful accounts from
you all. Jim is a noble fellow and I am much attached to him.
Had it not been for poor old Muly, a good hearted man but and Jim
true friend at heart, but an unfortunate example to Jim's interests, he would
now be in a position more worthy of his talents and where he could be
of much more usefulness to his Country. Unintentionally Muly was
the author or rather the cause of all Jim's troubles while in the 4th.
Jim is one of the best officers I have ever known and had we been
blessed with a good Colonel he would by this time have held a high
commission. But the fact is inevitable and it may be all for the best.
I am glad Jim is a Christian. Religion is the richest treasure which
a man can possess. What a consolation it must be to Aunt Ma-
tilda to feel that Jim is pious. I wish that I could say I was a Chris-
tian; sometimes I have almost thought I was one, but alas for
the depravity of human nature, temptations early overcame me
and I find I was mistaken. Even when a man has become
truly pious and has joined the Church - one of the strongest bar-
riers against unbelief, it is difficult to adhere to the path of duty
and difficult to resist the innumerable temptations which
assail him; and it is even more difficult to become a

a Christian. Thus it is to remain one when once in the Church. Co
I did not know when Dave was. How glad I should be to see
re the dear old fellow. I have not heard of you and Jim before
since we lost met. As to the money, I have never needed it, and in
now in no need of it. If you get more money than you want
and can send it to brother or me either it will be all right, but to
don't send it without you have an abundant supply on hand. I
I have been very busy since the battle with the wounded. My
hospital is at Manilla and is called the "Stout Hospital," to
after Dr. Stout, Miss Director of "Brook's" Dr. Bragg, a rather
his men whipped the Yankees at Chickamauga, but like all of
his battles it was incomplete - ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~was~~. We gained only about
ten or twelve miles of territory, but some of our best Officers, and
thousands of splendid men. I am sure our loss was fully as
great if not greater than the enemy's. I fear Bragg will
be held in command of our noble army, much to the detriment
infatuation of all classes, soldiers and citizens, and I must believe
much to the detriment of our cause. If McDowell would be
more Bragg, Hill and Sherman out there it would be a
Go down to the country. Old Polk is here as the bravest and
excellent old gentleman of very fine sense, but he is too slow for
this war. We have twenty better men. Hindman I believe is
incompetent utterly, and has not the recommendation which Polk
certainly has, of being popular with his men. He will never even
conjecture what is to be our next move. I have no faith in our
doing anything decisive so long as that bullet-headed old man, Bragg, is

human comments. It is said that forty thousand men are coming to us
to Virginia. I hope it may be so, but I don't believe we have half that
before many men to spare from there. I can see no end to our struggle for
and independence - can you? But I don't find half so much dependence
now as either among citizens or soldiers as there used to be. War has grown
but to be our normal condition now, and we mind it much less than we
did a year ago. I have heard from home several times during the
day last few months but have had but one opportunity till lately
to write to my dear people. I hope never to send them letters often
than Uncle Bob Wendel and his family at home. He is surgeon in
charge of the Hospital. Aunt Emma and all the children are well
about Uncle David is in Madison Chesville Va, twenty or thirty
miles north of Chattanooga. Willy is in the Transportation Dept
as an agent with Maj. Brainerd. He is very delicate, and I fear
it will never be long. We were all together in Dalton and were
dining very comfortably since Jimmy Wendel received a nice flesh
wound in the side thigh in the late battle, but is doing
very well in Atlanta at the house of Col. Walton.
Aunt Emma's sister Col. M. You know is his uncle by marriage. I think he will
someday go to General Mils. to his uncle so soon as he is well enough
to be moved. Uncle Bob & Aunt Emma went to Atlanta to
see us here to fetch him to their house, but found him so com-
pletely fat that they thought it best not to move him. He is one
of the noblest boys I ever knew, and a great favorite
with his officers. What has become of Lieut. Pills, Capt. Nally, Col.
Pills, Nally and all my old friends? I do wish I could see all our

Frank

folks once more. The two Dallys must be mounted by this
time. Truly they are better job than I am if they can af-
ford to weigh a hundred and fifty pounds each. Bless the dear folks
how I would love to see them all. When you write give my warm
est love to Aunt Matilda and the girls and to sweet cousin Mary.
Congratulate her for me upon her good fortune. Prerent me kindly
to give and say to him I should be delighted to hear from him.

Again accept my thanks, Frank for your kindness in
writing to me

And believe me as ever your affectionate Cousin
Amos J. P. You tell me

The Filson Historical Society

Marietta Ga Oct 19th 1863

My own darling little Sister,

A few weeks since I sent you a letter by Miss Whately who was going to Memphis and kindly offered to take it. Tomorrow I send a letter to Pa by Mrs Jones a daughter of Bishop Otis. I received a few days since a letter from you dated Aug 15th or 18th I forgot which and at the same time letters from Pa and Willy and one from you dated May, June & July. I have had but few opportunities to write you before but hereafter I shall be able to send you letters often. Last winter I spent at Dalton Ga and had charge of the Post Office until spring when the smallest Post disappeared. I attended the citizens with that district also, the citizens being afraid to go near our own patients, and all together I treated about a hundred and fifty cases. Some were very severe and horribly loathsome and others were mild. I lost only ten or eleven cases. While in Dalton I kept brookhairs well. I raised all my own chickens, eggs and vegetables. I kept a cow, two horses, a blooded pig, two or three cornhens, goats (Coff's blood) a lamb ^{and a pointer}. I had twenty or eighty chickens and about thirty ducks. Part of the time I had three employees, but part of the time I carried the establishment on by myself. Living was much cheaper then than now and I lived in capital style. I had some company however, that I found it too expensive and so gave up housekeeping and went to board with uncle Post. I was there about a month before I left Dalton which was about Aug 1st. I have now two beautiful horses, (one belongs to brother) my goats, and the lamb. I wish the goats were at Woodbourn. They are

great beauties. Perfectly white with long silky curly hair. The
Sister and the two children are at Mariani's place. I sent Pa by Mrs. and
Jones one of Maria's letters. She is a great big girl and as good as
sure. I think she is going to be very tall and very pretty. Allison is the
us messengers and most as ever. He reminds me very much of Pa. I
He is nervous and goes at everything like a locomotive on a down grade.
I paid them a visit last fall at Carterville last fall winter and
Allison begged me into a rabbit hunt the first day. So with Bean -
myself & Stonewall Jackson two yellow-curved little boys of his. The
sure eye and a troop of little negroes started off. The dogs and
Allison in a trot. He with an axe on his shoulder. The little boy and
negroes following, and I bringing up the rear. Soon a molly was
started and Allison and the dogs gave tongue. You never saw a
boy so much excited as he was. He jumped over logs like a gun club's
ball, he ~~cut~~ ^{cut} through the bushes like a deer, and all the time he
yelled like a young Sunday. I was convulsed with laughter at the
noble little fellow's actions and had to sit down on a log to lounge. The
The dogs let the rabbit escape, and we went on. Before the hunt was
over I became very tired and had to rest, but not so with Allison for
He went to cutting Hickory clubs to kill the rabbits with and to clear
ing out a spring which he found. We caught two rabbits alive & de
Allison had the pleasure of using his club upon them. Gordon &
Cummings never enjoyed an elephant chase more than Allison did this
hunt. You should have seen his cheeks glow and his eyes flash as
as he mounted to the fair by the incidents of the chase. He was de
ciproon slender and is getting taller but I don't believe will ever be as I

is tall as his Pa. Jane is slender and delicate but does not have
the same neck. They are all as stout as they can be. Sister is taller
than she used to be. Brother has good health but looks much older
than when you saw him. I am constantly taken for his son.
Pa I am much as I used to be. A trifle larger, a shade darker, with a
few crows feet and a few more gray hairs than I used to have.
and I am growing to be quite an old bachelor now I do. You know I never
can stand very much for society, and I am positively fond by it now.
For twelve months I have been but very little in the company of
men and ladies, but there are many nice people here from Aunt Mary
and and I intend to break up, as I have almost grown to be a
was brother. I think it is very well for you to visit Aunt Martha whenever
you can she is a dear noble woman and the girls I respect are very in-
teresting. Kate certainly has that reputation. Your letters show great im-
provement in you. Continue to write much and carefully and to us
the gentlemen except your relations. Study hard and make yourself
large thoroughly accomplished and upon yourself to support yourself should that
unfortunate ever overtake you. Charlotte Brontë's life is a good book
for you to read. Get "Timothy, Titcomb's Sister to Young Persons" and
to read study the book. All his works are excellent. Finish novels as best
you can don't read them. Don't read many novels and only the standard ones.
Gods name to cook. Learn to sew. Be careful in your conversation to speak
of this correctly and to me no slang. Be diligent in all things. Be polite to
all persons and at all times. Be amiable and gentle. Be like our
dear darling Mother who is in Heaven and you will be perfect.
I am proud of you now my dear but I shall never be satisfied until

Jally

you are perfect. Now neglect your religion. It is a great source of pleasure
to me that you are a Christian and that your neighbors pray for you
nightly to God in my behalf. I would give anything in the world
almost to see you. Never forget that you belong to me and that I belong
to you my darling. You know my wishes, and I am sure nothing gives
you more pleasure than to oblige me. How thankful I am to God that
Papa's life was spared to us. How kind God has been to us! Look around upon
hundreds of other families within your knowledge and compare their
lots to ours. Have we not indeed been blessed? I pray that we may all be
shards to unite once more. I've no mind yet to the war but it will end after
a while. The Yankees will never subjugate us. There is no dependence on
among our people within our lines. Provisions are very high and rather scarce
but no one is suffering from actual want anywhere that I can hear of.
The prices with us for clothing are tremendous. Shirts are worth 60¢ to \$1.00 a
piece. I have a large supply however. Colies is 75¢ a yard & the
Boots are 2.00 a pair. Hats 75¢ a piece. A suit of clothes is worth from 4.00
to 7.00 etc etc. Some of the boys get things from Memphis constantly.
John Phelanby got boots & hats from Memphis lately. If you could
send me a pair of good Yankee Cowley boots and a hat it would be a
most acceptable present. Tell dear Willy not to grow up a country
bumpkin with round shoulders, his hands in his pockets, and with a
muzzler. I want him to be a polished gentleman and to marry an elegant
woman. Give mother much love for me and tell her I think of her
every after. Give much love to Pa & Willy & remember me to the women
they prize, but I love you with my whole soul. Affectionately
your brother Jimmy.

To Mr. Sally and Mother for me and give our dear father my love

I am your affectionate daughter

Jessie Ford

Marista Ga Sept 22 1853

My dear Witty,

Though upon my word I do not see how I am to fill up this sheet of paper, yet I know you will all be glad to hear from me, and I have an opportunity to send a letter by a gentleman who is going, I am told, right into Pa's neighborhood. Some weeks since I wrote to Pa by Shipwherry and a few days since I wrote to Witty by the Jones, and sent another letter to ^{Witty} the next day by mail directing it to Frank Ten trap at Belmont that he having promised to send it through. I have not received two or three letters from your side the Tex Campaign, but I am till lately have had no opportunity to write to you. Brother, Peter & the sweet children are all well. Dear from them frequently though they are down in Mexico. The best wife & the children are, Brother Peter is with the Girl Johnson. Maria has written me two letters one of which went to Pa in my last letter to him. I am wearing a nice home spun muslin shirt which Maria made with her own hands. Maria is as stout and as good as ever and is a great student. She is passionately fond of book making. Allison likes some other things better than books but he is a very pretty good student and a noble little man. He is growing slender and I think will make a good sized man. Little Maggie, that most little within angel is still delicate, but she grows rapidly and I hope will become stout as he grows older. She is very smart, very stout, and very quaint. ^{and} She reminds me very much of Sally at her age. How I wish they could all be with Pa. He would enjoy their society somewhat, and they would be as happy at Woodlawn. Mr. Butler is very anxious to have some more

the children go to Nashville but brother will not hear to it and I think
very wisely. I don't know if sister would be willing to leave brother Co
even if he were willing for her to go into the Yankee lines. We whip
ped the Yankees very badly in the Chickamauga battle, but our loss were
very severe. There is no telling when we shall have another battle, though
we may have one at any time. There is less despondency in the Army now
than there was two years ago. The people are more united and deter-
mined than ever, and we still have plenty to eat though everything is
exorbitantly high. The price of clothing is awful. I paid the other day
one hundred and thirty or forty dollars for a coat and pants. Boots are from
one hundred & twenty five to two
two hundred dollars a pair, and hats from sixty to seventy five dollars.
If you ever have an opportunity, send me a fine pair of gaiters, a
pair of boots and a fine hat. Jimmy Wadell received a flesh wound in the
thigh at the late battle. He is doing well and in no danger. Jim Dumas
was wounded slightly in the shoulder. John Gardner was not hurt. One
of Singleton has been ordered to Congress. Corinn Eliza is living in Col. The
number 30. I suppose you know old Mr. Elder had left Col. Singleton
about half a million dollars worth of property about a year ago. Mr.
Elder was an old Scotchman living in Miss. whom you have heard of
Corinn Eliza speak of. I must close for your old friends about every
week and they inquire very affectionately after you. Sherman and
Fountain were out to see me the other day and make many inquiries
after you. Bud Jones says you would have been a lieutenant long ago
had you not been discharged. Poor Billy Carson was killed at Chickamauga
Colonel Tom Stecker's wife was wounded. Col. Vandana was killed. Col. Newkirk

think Jim Paine was killed at Mansfield. Geo Burnley was killed at Mansfield
then Col Frank Tyson was killed there also. Gen. Elletts and Gen. Wheeler were
killed at Galena Jim Smith was killed in one of Morgan's fights.
Dr. William Miller did here not long since of company with Tom Clapp
they were ⁱⁿ Atlanta a week since with the same disease. I have that Sam McKing
I know not but winter with fever in the army. Poor fellows! They have given their
lives to their country. May God have mercy on their souls. There are only
a few of our old friends who have fallen. Genl. Mearns fought a duel
a month or so ago with Dr. Pillsbury of Mansfield and that brain is the
same. He is now well. Billy Paul lost fought me with Bob Wooley
in the last fall. They find three times with that same matter were hurt. Paul Jones
has fought me a two duels wounding me adversely both times. Wilson Yar-
dley of Indiana shot my Yankee Army was taken prisoner last fall at
the Mansfield. He is here in the place. I did not possess the matter.
Uncle David David is here on a visit looking very well, though he has never
recovered entirely from his wounds. Uncle Bob's Aunt Emma and
her children are here and well. I have laid the interest in the war to
my sister Clementine up to the present time and shall continue to do so when
ever it is possible. Though she is now in the Federal line. I expect
and a great many things in my letters on account of the uncertainty of
my things reaching their destination. Should you at any time think it
best and should be advise you to join service again, brother or sister
mine, get you a place in a hospital. I hope you are improving your mind
ago by reading and study. Do not be idle Willy. Pursue yourself to make
damage your own reputation. You may also have to support Sally in case of
wishes your brothers or maybe Pa and mother one of these days. There is no

telling what may occur before this war is over. I can see no end to our struggle. Without it please Heaven to stop it, it will never end during our lifetime. In God alone is our hope, and after we have been sufficiently chastised and humbled by affliction I believe He will give us peace. It is very sad to be separated from you all so long but I bear it with patience and am full of hope. We all have much more cause to be thankful than to regret. We have been blessed with health and have but little affliction. I pray that God may continue to have mercy upon us. I how I should love to walk into Wood Brown some fine morning! I see you all and as I reach the front gate Sally comes flying down the walk with a playful run, almost screaming with delight. Ma and Mother have me around the neck. I am smothered with kisses and bedewed with tears of joy. You and Pa have hold of me too. I am filled with raptures. I am bewildered with joy. The negroes run out to me what is the matter, and welcome me. We all go into the house. Sally still has hold of me. Everything is bustle, confusion, delight we are in a delirium of pleasure. Well this good time will soon after awhile. Be a good boy Willy. I mean a man for you have become a man and only has promise to be a woman since I saw you. See darling little sister (she is still our little sister though she does weigh 150 lbs) tells me many good things of my noble brother Willy. Ma and Pa always thought you were the best child they ever had Willy, and you must never give them cause to think time and years have changed you. Do you think often of our sainted Mother? I do constantly, and many is the bitter tear that I have shed for her loss every year since her death. But I am thankful that she is not here now to suffer. I feel that it was good of God to take her to Heaven