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The Annual Report
Company A
of the Great West Light Co.
3rd Street, N.W. Chicago
Ill.
of the Board of Directors
of the Company
for the year ending
Dec 31st 1891

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Filson Historical Society



Filson Historical Society

[January 1863?]

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and that took only about half an hour, why we were kept waiting from two o'clock new years day till two o'clock next morning is more than any of us could surmise unless our commander was drunk or a coward and did not want to overtake Morgan for fear he might get hurt, but at any rate we were compelled to wait and let the rebels get away, well we started forward at two in the morning and reached Columbia about noon next day, and stopped and waited till nearly night when we started forward again over the most abominable roads that I ever saw, we had only gone a few miles when we were met by some cavalry who said it was useless to follow them any farther as we could not overtake them before they reached the Cumberland river, we accordingly returned to Columbia and camped for the night, we had not been allowed to bring any baggage except our blankets, so we eat a few hard crackers ~~with~~ ~~and~~ and water (which was the kind of grub we had subsisted on most of the time since we had started) we spread our blankets on the ground and lay down, worn out with fatigue and want of sleep we ~~were~~

MS. A. 9. 2. 100

did not lay awake many minutes, having slept scarcely any for four nights in succession you may imagine how sound we slept. I was awoke some time in the night by the rain pouring down in torrents in my face. I had laid my rubber down on the ground to sleep on and put my blankets over me and when I awoke I found the water running down on the upper side of the rubber. I felt around to see if I could find a dry place on the rubber, but not finding any I pulled the blankets over my head to keep the rain from beating in my face and was soon sound asleep again. ~~When~~ I awoke in the morning considerably refreshed with my night sleep but feeling a strong inclination to keep near the fire, we did not start next day til nearly noon so we had a pretty good chance to dry our blankets, we reached Cambridgeville late next night, next day our tents and baggage arrived we fixed up our tents and slept in them one or two nights and then started for this place the distance is only about forty miles but it took us nearly four days to come here, the roads were so bad we could scarcely get along at all. I don't ~~know~~ think we will stay here many days, but cannot tell where we will go when we leave.

I received your letter and news and goats yesterday just after we came here. I am sorry my letter made you feel so bad, but I had the blues when I wrote and could not help it. I had a letter from Father yesterday, Julia, one of my oldest sisters was married a short time ago. I sent a list of names in my last letter for you to select one for our little girl if you like any of them. I wish you would try to get Thayer to put one or two boards on the bottom of the fence round the yard and put up a couple of cheap gates to keep hogs out of the yard and charge it on the rent when you was not boarding there. I want to have the hedge kept in good order at any rate if possible. next spring I want a row of choice everants between the peach trees and the house, about two feet from the peach trees, and a row of good berry bushes on the other of the peach trees next the garden so that the two rows will be about four feet apart but if you can't collect any money from my customers you can't do it, you had better find who are owing me and put a few lines in the post office for them. I am glad you are getting better. I hope you won't take any more cold. I feel well except I am not quite so strong as I was before I was sick. I have not time to write more now. The mail leaves in a few minutes. So good bye. Your husband Samuel Patton

[Jan. 1863?]

miscellaneous parts of incomplete letters

and that took only about half an hour, Why we were left waiting from two o'clock new years day P.M. til two o'clock next morning is more than any of us could surmise unless our commander was drunk or a coward and did not want to overtak Morgan for fear he might get hurt, but at any rate we were compelled to wait and let the rebbels get away, well we started forward at two in the morning and reached Columbia about noon next day, and stoped and waited til nearly night when we started forward again over the most abominable roads that I ever saw, we had only gone a few miles when we were met by some cavalry who said it was useless to follow them any further as we could not overtake them before they reached the Cumberland river, we accordingly returned to columbia and camped for the night, we had not been allowed to bring any baggage except our blankets, so we eat a few hard crackers and water (which was the kind of grubwe had subsisted on most of the time since we had started) we spread our blankets on the ground and lay down, worn out with fatigue and want of sleep, we did not lay awake many minutes, haveing slept scarcely abt for four nights in succession you may imagine how sound we slept. I was awoke some time in the night by the rain pouring down in torrents in my face. I had laid my rubber down on the ground to sleep on and put my blankets over me and when I awoke I found the water running down on the upper side of the rubber. I felt around to see if I could find a dry place on the rubber, but not finding any I pulled the blankets over my head to keep the rain from beating in my face and was soon sound asleep again. I awoke in the morning considerably refreshed with my nights sleep but feeling a strong inclination to keep near the fire, we did not start next day til nearly noon so we had a pretty good chance to dry our blankets. we reached Camblesville late next night. next day our tents and baggage arrived we fixed up our tents and slept in them one or two nights and then started for this place the distance is only about forty miles but it took us nearly four days to come here. the roads were so bad we could scarcely get along at all. I dont think we will stay here many days but cannot tell where we will go when we leave.

I received your letter and Ben's and joans yesterday just after we came here. I am sorry my letter made you feel so bad but I had the blues when I wrote and could not help it. I had a letter from Father yesterday. Julia, one of my oldest sisters was married a short time ago. I sent a list of names in my last letter for you to select one for our little girl if you like any of them. I wish you'd try to get Thayer to put one or two boards on the bottom of the fence round the yard and put in a couple of cheap gaiters to keep hogs out of the yard and charge it on the rent when you was not boarding there. I want to have the hedge kept in good order at any rate if possible. next spring I want a row of choice currants between the peach trees and the house about two feet from the peach trees, and a row of gooseberry bushes on the other of the peach trees next the garden so that the two rows will be about four feet apart but if you can't collet any money from my customers you can't do it. you had better find who are oweing me and put a few lines in the post office for them. I am glad you are geting better. I hope you wont take any more cold. I feel well except I am not quite so strong and I was before I was sick. I have not time to write more now. the mail leaves in a few minutes. so good bye Nellie.

Your husband Samuel Patton

004234

Camp near Newhaven ^{Shy} Jan. 17th 1863

Dear Nellie, I believe I will write you a few lines this afternoon, though I don't like to send a letter without a stamp on it, we have not got our pay yet, the captain has gone to Lewisville and perhaps he will make some arrangements to hurry them up, they say there is money in Lewisville to pay the troops here, but there is no Pay-Master to disburse it.

My health is very good, in fact I am getting fat, but not on government rations, when we left Campbellville we were on short rations, and only three days rations were issued when we started and we were four days coming here, we were strictly forbidden from foraging but as we ~~was~~ had no alternative but forage or go hungry, we did not hesitate a moment ~~what~~ what to do. I presume when the citizens who lived near where we camp at night went to their smoke-houses in the morning they formed a very correct opinion of how and where we got our rations, and by the way hen roosts and hog pens were not left ~~in~~ unmolested but received their share of attention, in fact we lived first rate, one place we got a lot of nice sausage put up in corn husks. I think it

of the nest. From the last account of the army
and that is the story the steam advance of the army
thing there is one thing I find a ray of hope on the future
the best way I ever saw them put away,

The corn had been carefully taken out so as to
leave the husk in its natural shape. The place
which had been occupied by the ear was then
filled with the sausage meat and the top of
the husk tied together with a string, a string
was then tied around the stem of the husk
to hang it up by, when hanging up it looked
very much like ears of corn before they are
husked, we had some cornmeal which we
had got at Columbia but had lain to one
side, not being able to make bread of it fit
to eat, but we had only a limited quantity
of hard crackers, and you know necessity is the
mother of invention, so we kept at work
til we got so we could make pretty respectable
corn cakes, since then we have lived on top
of the pile, since we came here we have not
been camped with the infantry and consequent-
ly have had no gard around us, this adds
greatly to our facilities for getting provisions.

We have had some very rough weather
the last few days, it rained half of one
night and all next day it as hard as it could
pour down, it then snowed without intermis-
sion ~~for~~ ^{for} twenty four hours, the snow is
about fifteen inches deep, don't you think
that is a pretty deep snow to fall on a
them selves acknowledge they cannot retake it.

the best way I ever saw them put away,

I think it is scarcely possible for this war to continue
I don't know how long it will last in good health
I don't know how long it will last in good health
I don't know how long it will last in good health
bed of mud and water: the streams
are very much swollen, a great many bridges
have been washed away and the mail has
been stopped for several days. I was out
foraging the night it commenced raining
except from the hours of nine to eleven and
from three to five ^{when I was on guard at the post.} we got some sausage, ~~in~~
cabbage, dry beef, two sholders of pork, some
nice dried apples, and about two bushels of wheat,
next day we got the wheat ground, and also
got a bag of corn meal which we had taken
to the mill the day before, we can have all
the corn meal we want when we are near
a mill, as we get corn for our horses and all
we have to do is to shell it and get it
ground, this with some potatoes and other
thing we had on hand (the fruit of some
previous night work) we are pretty well
provided for at present, we have a small sheet
Iron stove in our tent which adds greatly to
our comfort, the water soaked into our tent
making the straw rather damp, but notwith-
standing this and the ~~the~~ water that leaked
through the tent, we all enjoy very good ^{health.}
in fact we seem to be getting pretty well
toughened, most of our company are near-
ly bare foot, the soles of my boots are near-
ly rived from the uppers, my feet have

... been met almost constantly, ~~for~~ three or four days, but it has not perceptibly affected my health yet.

The country rather a portion of it, is not quite so poor as what we had previously passed through, there seemed to be more of an appearance of comfort about ~~about~~ their dwellings, though they did not appear to care much about appearance, ~~but there is so much~~ I can't write very well, there is so much noise, so good night, Samuel

Sunday morning Jan 1st well. Well, we have a regular winter morning, last night was a pretty cold night, a little too cold for comfort, in a tent. yesterday the infantry got marching orders, but have not started yet, our Blacksmith shod Col. Reed's horse yesterday and he told him the orders were for the infantry to start yesterday and report first at ~~Memphordsville~~ ^{Memphordville} and then at Nashville Tennessee and for us to follow as soon as possible, Col. Reed is acting Brigadier General, and commands this Brigade, or rather what is left of it. there is not more than fifteen hundred effective men in the Brigade, there is three Ohio regiments and one Indiana regiment, one regiment can only muster about two hundred men, the largest can't muster five hundred they were all in the battle of Perryville, the Ohio regiments have lost a great number of men by desertion.

Our Captain has taken some broken down horses to Lewisville to get them exchanged and try to get some boots for us, it don't take long to break down a horse the way we have used them the last two or three weeks when he gets here we will likely move ahead if the ^{roads} are passable, but I don't think we will start very soon if we wait for good roads. Reed told our Blacksmith that the weather was so bad was the reason the Infantry didn't start yesterday.

I think you had better ascertain who are owing us and put a short note in the Post office with a one cent stamp on ~~it~~ it to each of them, and if Wm. Steinsham does not pay up get him out of the shop and have some one take that paper and see that they tools are all returned. I am afraid we won't get our pay now, and if we don't we won't get any very soon, all the money that is coming to us around Chathamworth was due long ago, and most of them promised to pay in a week or two when I left, or when they got the work done, you must talk to them as though you need the money and as if you are out of patience waiting on them. I wish they would pay up as I want you to have all the money you want and I would like to have the yard fixed and if they don't pay, it can't be done. If the trees were planted they can be growing and if they are not planted this spring it will keep them back a year, there may not be more than thirty dollars or perhaps forty but that will help a great deal. I want you still to let me know how our daughter gets along I would like to see you and her, but ~~it is no use~~

between here & Campbellville
I don't want to
home ties
it only makes me
it is no use

Camp near Newhaven, Ky Jan. 17th 1863

Dear Nellie, I believe I will Write you a few lines this afternoon, though I dont like to send a letter without a stamp on it, we have not got our pay yet, the captain has gone to Lewisville and perhaps he will mak some arrangements to hurry them up, they say there is money in Lewisville to pay the troops here, but there is no Pay Master to disburse it. My health is verry good, in fact I am getting fat, but not on government rations. when we left Campbellsville we were on short rations and only three days rations were issued when we started and when we were four days coming here. we were strictly forbidden from foraging but as we had no alternative but forage or go hungry, we did not hesitate a moment what to do. I presume when the citizens who lived near where we camp at night went to there smoke houses in the morning they formed a verry correct opinion of how and where we got our rations, and by the way the hen roost and hog pens werenot left unmolested, but received their share of attention, in fact we lived first rate. one place we got a lot of nice sausage put up in corn husks. I think it the best way I ever saw them put away. the corn husks had been carefully taken out so as to have the husk in its natural shape. the place which had beenocupied by the ear was then filled in with sausage meat and the top of the husk tied together with a string. a string was then tied around the stem of the husk to hang it up by. when hanging up it looks verry much like ears of corn before they are husked. we had some cornmeal which we had gor at Columbia but had lain to one side, not being able to make bread of it fit to eat. but we had only a limited quantity of hard crackers, and you know necessity is the mother of invention, so we kept at work til we could make pretty respectable corn cakes. since then we have lived on top of the pile. since we came here we have not been camped with the infantry and consequently have had no gard around us. this adds greatly to our facilities for geting provisions. We have had some verry rough weather the last few days. it rained half of one night and all next day as hard as it could pour down. it then snowed without intermission for twenty four hours. the snow is about fifteen inches deep. dont you think that is pæetty deep snow to fall on a bed of mud and water? the streamsare verry much swollen. a great many bridges have been washed away and the mail has been stoped for several days. I was out foraging the night it commenced raining except from the hours of nine to eleven and from three to five, when I was on gard at the guns. We got some sausage, cabbage, dried beef, two shoulders of pork, some nice dried apples, and about two bushels of wheat. next day we got the wheat ground and also got a bag of cornmeal whcih we had taken to the mill the day before. We van have all the cornmeal we want ~~when~~ when we are near

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a mill, as we get corn for our horses and all we have to do is to shell it and get it ground. this with some potatoes and other things we had on hand (the fruit of some previous nights work) we are pretty well provided for at present. we have a small sheet Iron stove in our tent which adds greatly to our comfort. the water soaked in to our tent making the straw rather damp, but not withstanding this and the water that leaked through the tent, we all enjoy very good health. in fact we seem to be getting pretty well toughened. most of our company are nearly barefoot. the soles of my boots are nearly ripped from the uppers. my feet have been wet almost constantly for three or four days, but it has not perceptibly affected my health yet. The country, or rather a portion of it is not quite so poor as what we had previously passed through. there seemed to be more of an appearance of comfort about their dwellings, though they did not appear to care much about appearance. I cant write very well, there is so much noise, so good night.

- Samuel. Sunday morning Jan. 18th - well Nellie we have a regular winter morning. last night it was pretty cold, a little too cold for comfort in a tent, yesterday the infantry got marching orders, but have not started yet. Our blacksmith shod Col. Reed's horse yesterday and he told him the orders were for the infantry to start yesterday and report first at Mennfordsville and then at Nashville Tennessee and for us to follow as soon as possible. Col. Reed is acting Brigadier General and commanding this brigade, or rather what is left of it. there is not more than fifteen hundred effective men in the brigade. there is three Ohio regiments and one Indiana regiment. one regiment can only muster about two hundred men. the largest cant muster five hundred. they were all in the battle of Perrysville. the Ohio regiments have lost a great number of men by desertion. Our Captain has taken some broken down horses to Lonsville to get them exchanged and try to get some boots for us. it dont take long to break down a horse the way we have used them the last two or three weeks. when he gets here we will likely move ahead if the roads are passable, but I dont think we will start very soon if we wait for good roads. Reed told our blacksmith that the weather was so bad was the reason the infantry didnt start yesterday. I think you had better ascertain who are owing us and put a short note in the Post Office with a one cent stamp on it to each of them, and if Wm, Hinshaw does not pay up get him out of the shop and have some one take that paper and see that the tools are returned. I am afraid we wont get our pay now and if we dont we wont get any very soon. all the money that is coming to us around Chatsworth was due long ago, and most of them promised to pay in a week or two when I left, or when or when they got the work done. you must talk to them as though you need the money and as if you are out of patience waiting on them. I wish they would pay up as I want you to have all the money you want.

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I would like to have the yard fixed and if they dont pay it cant be done. if the trees were planted they can be growing and if they are not planted this spring it will keep them back a year. there may not be more than thirty dollars or perhaps forty but that will help a great deal. I want you still to let me know how our daughter is getting along. Lik to see you and her but it is no use to think about it as it only makes me homesick. So I must bid you good bye for the present

Your husband Samuel Patton

Tell Ben and Joan Barnum that I will write to them soon . I want you to try and keep in good sperits. I think it is scarcely possible for this war to continue til my term of enlistment has expired. I think there is one \$hing sheds a ray of hope on the future and that is the steady tho slow advance of the armyof the west. from the last account I saw Tennessee, the eastern as well as the western is virtually in our possession and the rebbels themselves acknowledge they cannot retake it.

Filson Historical Society

Whitworth Jan 18th 1863

Your most welcome letter arrived
a couple of days ago & I was very glad to hear from you
again & to learn that you were so well. If you were only
here I would soon cure your cold with a few doses of
red pepper tea. It would not be a good plan to take herb tea
there, even if you could get it, for I suppose you are liable
to be called up any time of the night & you would be apt
to take more cold after drinking warm tea. I am not very well yet
& my eyes have been here for some time past, but
I feel much better, but my pretty well & growing fast.
Some folks think she looks like you, but I think
she resembles her father more than any one. I call
her Minnie, how do you like it? I wish you could come
home & see us, but I suppose I shall have to wait
a long time before I can have the pleasure of seeing
you again. I got a letter from you a few days after
I wrote to you last time, & I would have written
again before now if my eyes had not been here, but
they have been so weak I could hardly see to write.

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They are some better now. The time passed very slowly
for I could neither read, write, or sew. Minnie is lots
of company for me. I should feel very lonesome without
her now. I have not heard from Samuel in two weeks &
I always have got one or two letters from him every week
until now. I feel quite worried about him. Last time
he wrote he was quite sick, had the typhoid
fever. but the last time he wrote he said he was
considerably better. he was then in Campbellsville. It is
its possible that he was in the battle at Murfreesboro & I
am very anxious to hear from him. you havent been
in any battle yet. have you, the Regt that Mrs. Thayers
brother was in was captured somewhere in 1864 were
released in partial allowat. to come home. they have been
home only two weeks & are now ordered to St. Louis to be
exchanged. I received a letter from Jimmy yesterday
they were all well. Mary had not come home yet. he wrote
that Noah Eckler was dead, died of the heart disease. I
am very sorry for this family. he will feel dreadfully.
Bens folks are all well I believe with the exception of caleb.
They were up here when I got your letter, so they
got their share of it. it has been a very warm spring
like weather nearly all winter there's been no snow
at all. it has been getting colder now for a few days.
I hope it will stay so a while. for I am tired of the
wind. you never saw such a looking glass.

our yard & the frogs have roated up most all the
hedge & the sand is nearly knee deep around the
house, every thing is apt to run most, when I wasnt
here to take care of things, even the melodeon is
ruined, the mouse had eaten a great hole through the
flour & you cant make a noise on it now at all. The
cat, and it, should will feel bad about it, & about the
hedge, if I can ever get any money I will have some more
boards put on the fence, so as to keep the frogs out, but
there doesnt appear to be much prospect of ever getting such
a thing as money, for the folks around here that come no
dont pretend to pay & I have got none of Samuels wages
yet. I am boarding at Thegers now have been here most
a month, I dont fancy boarding much, I would rather keep
house by far. Mr Dicks has call'd out, to a man from Cahio,
he has bought a lot adjoining Dr Hunts & is going to
build a small house on it, Mrs Dicks says she is
tired of taking care of such a large house. They are
building another store here, it is between Lenards & Jals
about the size of Edys. I dont know who it belongs to
those big buildings that I write you about are progressing
finely, they have got the work shop built & I believe they
have a part of the sugar manufactory raised, and will
have plenty of sugar to eat by the time you come home
do you have any sugar there.

you want to know where the best girls are this winter, well
the oldest one is in this boarding school, & the others are
attending school at Maunegan. She is now home on a
visit. I think you must have had a splendid Christmas
dinner, bread baked on the stove, we had oyster soup
for dinner & I wished that you & Samuel was here to
have some, it rained here all day Christmas, I didn't
enjoy myself much for I feel very lame.
we are about to organize a soldier aid society here, to
make clothes for the poor soldier. I wish you could
get some of them I don't know where they will be sent,
it was too hot for you to have to leave that place
after getting so fixed so comfortable, wasn't you
proud when you received marching orders,
Abner Jones has moved to Peoria, they are boarding
there at a hotel, he is deputy sheriff again, I don't
know as you can read this letter, for my ink froze
last night & so I have to write with a pencil, as it
is Sunday, I can't go to the store to get any more
ink, so you don't see many gals there, like enough
you will be bringing a darkey home with you, bring
me a little darkey to wash dishes & tend baby, I
be a good boy & write often. I want you, Minnie is
calling me. So I shall have to say good bye for
this time. ever your loving sister

Melba D. Patton

Jan. 20th 1863 New Haven Conn.

Well Nellie we received our first mail yesterday. I left my letter open as I had not an opportunity to send it.

New Haven is situated on what is called the roofing fork. it is considered a stream.

The order to march has been countermanded, our commander sent a dispatch to head quarters that it was impossible to march on account of the condition of the roads, and received an answer to await further orders. if we wait for good roads we will not likely march very soon. It is raining again and the snow is going very fast.

Cap. Miller returned from Ferrisville with a lot of booty for us, the horses are all here. There is thirty four Paymasters

Filson Historical Society

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in Lewisville but there is no money,
they does not agree very well with
the last report we heard, I don't
think there is much prospect of
any pay for some time to come.

I don't like to send letters and have
you pay the postage when you
have so little money and such
a poor prospect for getting more,
but I can't help it, as I have
to do that or not write at all.

I think if we go to Nashville
we will ~~have to go~~ by Rail
Road ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~
will as all the small streams
are so swollen by the late rains
that they cannot cross, we will
likely know in a few days

I have not time to write
more at present as the mail
leaves camp in a few minutes.

So good by my Nellie

your husband

Samuel Patton

Filson Historical Society

Jan 20th 1863 Newhaven Ky

Well Nellie we received our first mail yesterday. I left my letter open as I had not an opportunity to send it. Newhaven is situated on what is called the rooling fork. The order to march has been countermanded. our commander sent a dispatch to head quarters that it was impossible to march on account of the condition of the roads, and received an answer to await further orders. if we wait for good roads we will not likely march verry soon. It is raining again and the snow is going very fast. Cat. Miller returned from Lewisville with a lot of boots for us. the horses are all here. There is thirty four Pay Masters in Lewisville but there is no money. this does not agree very well with the 1st report we heard. Idont think there is much prospect of my pay for some time to come. I dont like to ~~send~~ letters and have you pay the postage when you have so little money and such a poor prospect for geting mor, but I cant help it , as I have to do that or not write atall. I think if we go to Nashville we will have to go by railroad or at least the infantry will as all the small streams are so swollen by the late rain that they cannot cross. we will likely know in a few days. I have not time to write more at present as the mail leaves camp in a few minutes.

So good bye my Nellie

Your husband

Samuel Patton

47-2-700

as there is not room for all below, the state
room is piled nearly full of forage, I sleep on
deck under a tarpaulin (a large piece of canvas
used for covering the guns) it snowed last night
and has not quit snowing yet, and as it is not
very agreeable out of doors I thought I could
not pass the time more agreeably than in writing
to you, tho I shant be able to post it this side of ^{Nashville}

As I told you before we came here yesterday
morning, there had been a battle fought here
the day before between about four thousand
rebels, and the 83 Ill. regiment and Bloody Ill.
BATTERY from Springfield, I think it was one
of the hardest battles of the war, considering the
numbers engaged, I visited the battle field
yesterday morning, I counted thirty eight dead
rebels on a space of ground not more than two
acres in extent, they buried about one hundred
and fifty yesterday, and still continued to find
more, our side lost twelve or fifteen killed and
twenty or thirty wounded, the battle was
fought about a mile above fort Donelson, there
is a 32 pdr. siege gun mounted on top of the hill
which commands the river above, this gun is
enclosed by an earth work, breast high, large
enough to contain the gun which works on
a ~~pivot~~ ^{swivel}, this is the only fortification about
the p^r the rebels surrounded the boys and

attached them from all sides, they thus kept them pretty busy for about three hours, one time during the fight the rebels charged up to the siege gun and an officer rode up to the breast works and shouted to the gunner "God damn you why dont you surrender, dont you know you are whipped?" The only answer he received was a dose of canister that literally tore him to atoms while the fight was in progress the steam tug "Wildcat" with a barge in tow, came in sight, the captain tied the barge to a tree and went back down the river about six miles, where he met the gun boat Lexington, he hieken on to it and assisted it up the river, they reached here about sundown, and found the rebels forming their men to make a final charge, when the Lexington opened on them with shell they immediately shedaddled, the gun boat continued to shell them til they got out of reach of their guns, there was one general and one colonel among the rebel dead, the majority of the rebels that were killed with musket balls were shot in the head and neck, but few that I saw were shot lower than the breast, many of them were shot in one eye and I saw a number shot in the mouth, the most of those that were killed by the artillery were badly mangled, since I commenced to write I have been told that there has been ^{of 2000} ~~eighty~~ more dead rebels found in the woods, many ~~of them~~ were killed by the gun boats, the houses in the country are said to be filled with wounded, one of our boys who conversed with a rebel surgeon who was tending them, said the surgeon said ^{he} thought their loss would not be far short of five hundred, the boys took forty prisoners, the rebels it seems expected to gobble the boys up without much of a fight but in this they were badly disappointed, one of their boys told me that the citizens called them ~~the~~ the sales regiment, I told him it was my opinion that they would not call them by that name any longer, he said they might if they wanted to, the Battery used nearly all their ammunition, we gave them four hundred rounds of extra ammunition that we had with us.

Going up the Cumberland river Feb. 6th

Today promises to be pleasant, at least the sky is clear last night was a very cold night and this morning early there was a very dense fog, I was on guard but the cold did not trouble me much as I had to pass back and forward past the engine fire, our boat was lashed fast to another boat last night, the boats are all lashed two abreast.

There is about thirty steam boats beside six gun boats, there is one gun boat ahead the others are interspersed among the transports, the 125th Ohio is on the boat that is lashed to ours, our brigade is in the advance.

I cannot tell how many troops are on board the fleet, but suppose there is between fifteen and twenty thousand, one of the boys said he counted fifty one boats including the gun boats, there must have so of them arrived after I counted,

Aborn

Feb 7th

we are still on our way up the Cumberland we are about thirty miles from Nashville the weather is fine this morning, this river is very crooked above fort Donnelson as far as we have come, and rocky bluffs rise on either side to the height of a hundred feet or more. I can't see why the rebels abandoned this river which lets our boats into the heart of Tennessee, with out fighting harder for it than they did, they might have fought ~~the~~ the northern army all the way up, and all ways had immensely the advantage in regard to position, the hills are nearly all covered with timber, last evening when the sun was ~~down~~ ^{nearly down}

~~we~~ we passed through a place where the river runs straight from east to west for a considerable distance, as we started around the bend of the river above, we got a magnificent view of the fleet, behind us as far as we could see, the river was covered with boats, the black coal smoke and white steam rising in almost perpendicular columns, and illuminated by the setting sun together with the ~~hull~~ ^{shells} of the boats, presented a scene that would defy the pencil of any artist

yesterday we passed Johnsons green it is a miserable, insignificant place, we also passed a tunnel on the Nashville and Memphis Rail Road that had been blown up by the rebels.

We have ^{lived} first rate since we left Lewisville, ~~but~~ not being in a very good humor on account of not getting our pay, and being naturally inclined to steal, we only awaited an opportunity to give our thieving, ~~and~~ propensities full play, the captain of the boat had incurred our displeasure by some remarks he made when we first came on board, which induced us to believe that he sympathized with the secesh, one of our mess had a key which with the aid of a file I soon fitted to the door lock of the room in which he kept his provisions, the consequence was we had plenty of preserved fruit, cheese, butter, eggs, bakery bread, dried fruit &c.

these were luxuries we had long been unaccustomed to, which enabled us to appreciate them to the fullest extent, in addition to this we were drawing rations for fourteen men when there was only five men in our mess, the rest having been left behind, by the captain of the boat starting ~~the~~ without giving any signal, this tended to confirm our suspicions of his secession proclivities, all of the boys that had been left behind came up on other boats to fort Donnelson except those that had deserted, we lost eighteen by desertion, one of them was from our squad, he was M. J. on the gun, his duty was to ram the load into the gun, I will have to take his place,

John martin has written eleven letters to his wife and received no answer to any of them, he thinks some one else takes them out of the Post Office and keeps them, I told him I would write to you about it, he wants you to ask his wife if she has received any of them, he dont want any thing said to any one else about it, he says his wife thinks he has received money and has not sent any to her, he enlisted to late to get his bounty, and to my certain knowledge has never received a cent of money from the government since he enlisted.

(you may read this to his wife) he is well at present

when you write direct your letters to Co. 5th Artillery 34th Brigade 10th Division Army of the Ohio, via, Nashville Tennessee. ^{Please forward} must draw my letter to a close, I will write again when we reach our destini. so good bye you and the babe, I long for the time when I can see you both at home, but tussing does no good when my ^{husband Samuel Patton} is away, so good bye again your

Going up the Cumberland River - Feb. 6th 1863

Today promises to be pleasant. At least the sky is clear. Last night was a very cold night and this morning early there was a very dense fog. I was on guard, but the cold did not trouble me much, as I had to pass back and forward past the engine fire. Our boat was lashed fast to another boat last night. The boats are all lashed two abreast. There are about thirty steam boats, besides six gun boats. There is one gun boat ahead - the others are interspersed among the transports. The 125th Ohio is on the boat that is lashed to ours. Our brigade is in the advance. I cannot tell how many troops are on board the fleet, but I suppose there are between fifteen and twenty thousand. One of the boys said he counted fifty one boats, including the gun boats. There must have some of them arrived after I counted.

Morning, Feb. 7th

We are still on our way up the Cumberland. We are about thirty miles from Nashville. The weather is fine this morning. This river is very crooked above Fort Donnelson, as far as we have come and rocky cliffs rise on either side to the height of a hundred feet or more. I cannot see why the rebels abandoned this river, which lets our boats into the heart of Tennessee, without fighting harder for it than they did. They might have fought the northern army all the way up and always had immensely the advantage in regard to position. The hills are nearly all covered with timber. Last evening when the sun was nearly down we passed through a place where the river runs straight from east to west for a considerable distance. As we started around the bend of the river above, we got a magnificent view of the fleet. Behind us, as far as we could see, the river was covered with boats. The black coal smoke and the white steam rising in almost perpendicular columns and illuminated by the setting sun, together with the splendid hulls of the boats, presented a picture that would defy the pencil of any artist.

Yesterday we passed Bowling Green. It is a miserable, insignificant place. We also passed a tunnel on the Nashville and Memphis Railroad that had been blown up by the rebels.

We have lived first rate since we left Louisville. Not being in a very good humor on account of not getting our pay and being naturally inclined to steal, we only awaited an opportunity to give our thieving propensities full play. The Captain of the boat had incurred our displeasure by some remarks he made when we first came on board, which induced us to believe that he sympathized with the secesh. One of our men had a key, which with the aid of a file I soon fitted to the door lock of the room in which he kept his provisions. The consequence was that we had plenty of preserved fruit, cheese, butter, eggs, bakers bread, dried fruit, etc. These were luxuries we had long been unaccustomed to, which enabled us to appreciate them to the fullest extent. In addition to this we were drawing rations for fourteen men, when there were only five in our mess, the rest having been left behind by the Captain of the boat starting without giving any signal. This tended to confirm our suspicions of his secession proclivities. All of the boys that had been left behind came up on other boats to Fort Donnelson, except those that had deserted. We lost eighteen by desertion. One of them was from our squad. He was number one on the gun. I will have to take his place.

John Martin has written eleven letters to his wife and received no answer to any of them. He thinks someone else takes them out of the Post Office and keeps them. I told him I would write you about it. He wants you to ask his wife if she has any of them. He does not want anything said to any one else about it. He says his wife thinks he has received money and has not sent any to her. He enlisted too late to get his bounty and to my certain knowledge has never received a cent of money from the government since he enlisted. (You may read this to his wife). He is well at present. I must draw my letter to a close. I will write again when we reach our destination, so good bye to you and the babe. I long for the time when I can see you both at home, but longing does no good when my country needs me away, so good bye again

Your husband
Samuel Patton

002 214

Fort Donnelson, Tenn. - Feb. 5th, 1863

Dear Nellie: We are still on board the boat, laying in the river about a mile above Fort Donnelson. We came here yesterday about five o'clock. Before we left Lewisville, or rather when we came there we were promised our pay before we would leave. We were finally ordered to get on board a boat and we would get our pay as soon as we got on board. This the boys at first refused to do, but finally, reluctantly obeyed. We got our guns and horses on board Thursday. We lay there til Saturday night, when we were told we would have to go down to Portland (about three miles down the river), as that was where they were paying off the troops. We accordingly went down there about dark Saturday. The boat was ordered away in the night. This caused no little swearing among the boys and some deserted. We landed at Candleton Sunday evening. Here some more of the boys deserted. We started down the river again Monday morning and reached the mouth of the Cumberland River some time before daylight. Here the boat took in coal and I sent you a few lines to let you know where we were going. The weather has been cold and disagreeable ever since we left Louisville. A number of the boys have slept on deck as there is not room for all below. The state room is piled nearly full of stores. I sleep on deck under a tarpaulin (a large piece of canvas used for covering the guns). It snowed last night and has not quit snowing yet and as it is not very agreeable out of doors, I thought I could not pass the time more agreeably than in writing to you, though I shant be able to post it this side of Nashville

As I told you before, we came here yesterday morning. There had been a battle fought here the day before, between about four thousand rebels and the 83rd Ill. Regiment and Flood's Ill. Battery from Springfield. I think it was one of the hardest battles of the war, considering the numbers engaged. I visited the battle field yesterday morning. I counted thirty eight dead rebels on a space of ground not more than two acres in extent. They buried about one hundred and fifty yesterday and still continued to find more. Our side lost twelve or fifteen killed and twenty or thirty wounded. The battle was fought about a mile above Fort Donnelson. There is a 32 pdr. siege gun mounted on top of the hill, which commands the river above. This gun is enclosed by an earthwork, breast high - large enough to contain the gun, which works on a swivel. This is the only fortification about the place. The rebels surrounded the boys and attacked them from all sides. They thus kept them pretty busy for about three hours. One time during the fight the rebels charged up the siege gun and an officer rode up to the breast work and shouted to the gunner-"God damn you why dont you surrender. Dont you know you are all whipped?" The only answer he received was a dose of canister that literally tore him to atoms.

While the fight was in progress the steam tug "Wildcat", with a barge in tow, came in sight. The captain tied the barge to a tree and went back down the river about six miles, where he met the gun boat Lexington. He hitched onto it and assisted it up the river. They reached here about sundown and found the rebels forming their men to make a final charge. When the Lexington opened on them with shell, they immediately skedaddled. The gun boat continued to shell them til they got out of reach of their guns. There was one General and one Colonel among the rebel dead. The majority of the rebels that were killed with musket balls were shot in the head and neck, but a few of them that I saw were shot lower than the breast. Many of them were shot in one eye and I saw a number shot in the mouth. The most of those that were killed by the artillery were badly mangled. Since I commenced to write I have been told that there has been eighty more dead rebels found in the woods. Many of them no doubt were killed by the gun boats. The houses in the country are said to be filled with wounded. One of our boys, who conversed with a rebel surgeon who was tending them, said that he thought there loss would not be far short of five hundred. The boys took forty prisoners.

The rebels, it seems, expected to gobble the boys up without much of a fight, but in this they were badly disappointed. One of the boys told me that the citizens called them the Calico Regiment. I told him it was my opinion that they would not call them by that name any longer. He said they might if they wanted to. The Battery used nearly all their ammunition. We gave them four hundred rounds of extra ammunition that we had with us.

42-2200

Father says you had better when
you write home to tell how James
Chane is getting along for his
father is anxious to hear from
him every chance he can
& have written to Elley twice
now and have not received
an answer yet I sent Father's
Picture to her but do not know
whether she got it or not &
suppose the reason she has not
written is because she has been
sick and now I suppose she
has to take care of her baby
I suppose it will be big enough
to run alone when you get to
see it. no more write to us
often Samuel your letters are
always welcome do not be as
long answering as I was

Your affectionate —
Fani — Cal

When you write again
we have got a post office at
Medina Pa
Feb 6th 1860



Medina Pa Feb 6th 1860

Dear Father

Dear & seat
myself to write you a letter and let
you know & have not forgotten you
the reason I did not answer your
letter sooner was because you said
to direct as we had before and I
did not receive your letter until I
went to Medina and then I could
not get the directions
but now I have
come home and will answer my letter
and Father both he says to tell you
he is well but is sorry to hear that
you have been sick you had better

be pretty careful of your self for if
you get sick again you will be
wors off than you were before
& am glad Pelley is well and am
glad to call you Father and am
also happy to call myself Auntey
Father said to day that he would
like to see your little gall he said
to tell you that - he wrote to you and
he does not know whether you got it
or not as you did not say anything
about it in your letter
Oh dear how I wish War was over for
every thing is so dear it seems as
if a person cannot hardly get
their living and another thing they
are killing of our friends so I have
got a pretty good friend in the
Army he is Captain of a company
in the 25th Ohio he will be in the
service two years this spring he
is a licking good fellow

Oh yes Samuel we received a
letter from Unshel Poberd stating
that Harrison Ramsey is Dead
he was in the army he died at
Denville Kentucky on the 19th of Nov-
his disease was Eyphoid fever
There has been another funeral this
week of one that I believe you used
to think a great deal of it was that
of Georg Smith he was killed on
last Saturday and buried this week
Wednesday him and three other men
went hunting and they chased
a Coon up ^a the tree and chopped
the tree down and when it was
falling his Dog rann under it
and trying to save his dog he
killed himself the Tree fell on
his side and knocked his hipps
both in broke his arm and also
his back he onley lived about
an hour after he was struck

Chatham Feb 8th 1863

Dear Bernard

You see I am going to write to you this morning with a pencil, for my ink has frozen so I can't use it & as today is the Sabbath I can't go to the store to get any more. I have received two letters from you since I wrote to you last. I got one last Tuesday & the other yesterday. I was down to Pen's when I got the first one. I was staying there a few days. I was gone when I rec'd your letter dated at Savannah. I wondered why you were back there. It is just as much as it can be that you didn't get paid while there. I don't think they intend to pay you, if as you say the money was there for you, it must seem very hard to be without a cent in your pocket. - but I don't want you to fret yourself about not having any money for as long as I can send the flour I am sure of my bread & butter & I can get along without much money. I take in some sewing & so get a little money by that means. if I didn't have a baby I could support myself very comfortably I think by sewing. but when it takes me a long time to do a little sewing, I have to tend her so much, I have been a couple of weeks making a dress for a girl & I will get six shillings when I get it done it will but make some time for pocket money. I have got some shirts to make for Mr Gennet, the man that is putting up the sugar establishment. I am sorry you can't get any money for yourself, for I know you need it, if I thought you would get it I would try to send you some, but you get so few of my letters

002224

reverted, I hope it will look like our having a Methodist
fraternal meeting of some sort when that comes
this fall of having one here. Do find some on from
we have a soldiers aid society here about thirty members
& seven officers, I am a member, we meet once a
week to sew for the soldiers, we have made them
a lot of shirts, pillows, &c. This week we are going to
box them up & send them to the Chicago sanitary com-
mission & they will forward them wherever they are
most needed. I dont attend the meetings very often
for I dont like to take Minnie out on the evening
so I bring my sewing home to do, I am pretty
busy all the time taking care of Minnie, sewing &
taking care of my horse, I try to keep in good
spirits, & I think I succeed pretty well. I dont
have the blues as much as I used to, though I
presume I should if I didnt have Minnie to
take up my attention, I had to fuss with her
so much that I dont have much time to get
lonely, but sometimes I feel pretty bad when I
get to thinking about you & what bad times you have
wish you were at home here much comfort we could
take this winter, just you & I & little Minnie, but when
you come home we will take comfort enough to make
it all up I hope, I cant say that I like boarding very
much, & I shall be glad when we can get to home
keeping again, it doesnt seem a bit like home here
everything looks so different from what it used to, I
will have to board here whether I want to or not, for
they wont pay money for the rent, or rather they cant
but I guess I can stand it, I hope you will be
home by next summer do you think you will
Sam Reppeger says he thinks the war will last
twenty years, unless they bring it to a close by a
compromise, but I dont agree with him, for
there would be no fighting material at the end of

Filson Historical Society

I would send you some - all in this time

Franklin Tennessee Feb. 17th 1863

Dear Nellie your letter of Jan. 25th reached me at Nashville, or rather in camp three miles out of the city just before we left there. I was glad to hear from you and Minnie there is nothing that does me so much good as a letter from you. that story that Gen. Barnum told you had not a word of truth in it, in the first place if they sent any one to recruit, they would be likely to send an officer, and in the second place there is no such man in company except one that has been in the hospital at Louisville ever since we came there from Camp Douglas, til we started to come here. Elley H. Mercer was in camp Douglas when I first went there, but was not mustered in as his lungs were not considered sound, he left there some time before I saw you in Chicago and I have not seen or heard of him since til you mentioned him in your letter, he helped to build the school house ~~in~~ in Ben's district, at least I suppose that is the man, we have the promise of our pay in a few days but I am tired of promises. Nashville is a desolate looking place, the windows of many of the houses are broken in and

472700

The whole citty lookt dreary, we camped about three miles out of the citty for two or three days and then came to this place which is about eighteen miles from Nashville and is on the extreme right wing of Rosecrans force, we occupy a position that commands the town but if the rebels should attack us they would come in from the opposite side. There is a Rail Road from Nashville to Decatur on the Tennessee river in Alabama runs through this place. The course of the R.R. is due south, the bridges are burned, but are being repaired, ~~and~~ one of the bridges here will be repaired this week, there is a bridge on each side of the town. I have not been in town yet as I cant get over the river, the place seems almost deserted, we are camped on the grounds of a rebel officer. The folks have all left except the niggers.

The country is splendid between here and Ash Grove like hen turkey there appears to be plenty of stone, but the rocks lay deeper than in Ky. we passed miles of stone fence as we came here. It rains more than half the time, we moved our tents the other day during a drenchin rain the ground where we put our tent was verry muddy, three of the boys were tied up to a tree an hour and a half for stealing hay to sleep on, I was just starting for some when

I heard of their arrest, so I did not go

I have not got that letter yet you sent the stamp in. Lieut. Dorton told gen Gilbert yesterday that if he did not pay us he would resign. Lieut. Spencer commands the Battery now. Cap. Miller is sick at Nashville, there is a good many of the boys sick. I am well with the exception of a cold in my head which makes me feel too stupid to write a very interesting letter, some of the boys have the measles. I had then when I was a boy, our company which left Chicago with one hundred and fifty six men ~~now~~ does not now number ninety fit for duty. They have been talking about detaching men from the infantry to fill it up but at present we have scarcely enough of men to drill with. I guess we have seen the last of our good living and will have to come down to soldier's fare, as there appears to be nothing to steal. it is no use to talk about fixing the yard if we can't get more money. if we had a row of currant and one of gooseberry bushes of choice varieties planted and the hedge fixed I would like it, but I don't see any prospect of doing even that unless I get some pay if we do I will write how I would like to have it. ~~if~~ I suppose

4 if we get any pay we will get four months
Stellie I often think of home and the happy
hours spent there and long for the time when
I can return. but then I think, how could
we enjoy home without a country, our country
is struggling for existence and the only way
to keep it in existence is to drive the traitors
from the country, ^{the} only argument we can use
with effect is balls and bayonets, I think
Gen. Rosecrans is the right man in the right place
and seems disposed to use the right means
in the right ~~way~~ ^{way} and I have
strong hopes that it will have the right
effect on the rebels, I suppose you know
more about the progress of the war than I
do as it is verry seldom we get any news

Dec. 18th it has quit raining for the first time in
a couple of days, our camp is a perfect mud-hole
but the mud soon dries up here if it has half a
chance, Gen. Gilbert does not ~~seem~~ seem to care
much for the comfort of his men, the infantry
say he tried to make two regiments ford the
river last night but they refused, the water was
nearly deep enough for a horse to swim, it is
reported that there is a rebel force on the other
side but I dont believe it, when we were two or
three miles from here he heard there was a
small party of them in town and he took
as much precaution advancing, a tho there ~~was~~
a whole army of rebels here, we have to stand
in line of battle ^{every morning} from $\frac{1}{2}$ past five til $\frac{1}{2}$ past six
regardless of weather, he has orders to hold this
place at all hazards, the infantry have commenced
throwing up breast works, they are working today
with their guns stacked beside them, Gilbert evidently
does not mean to be caught napping tho I think if
he was half as careful about the comfort of his men
it would be better for their health and I know they
would like him better, one of the boys remarked ^{that}
that by the time the war was over those that survived

would be so tough they could not tell wet from dry. I hope this kind of weather won't last long. I don't think there is much danger of an engagement here. I think the rebels will keep strictly on the defensive. I think one or two field fights with the rebels in the west will pretty near finish up this part of the job. but if they stay behind fortifications they will give gen. Rosecrans and gen. Grant a pretty tough pull. Rosecrans will be likely to establish permanent posts along the Rail Road to enable him to get supplies from Nashville til he reaches the Tennessee River in Alabama and if he does any thing at all he will have to do it while the water is high as he can't maintain a large army and transport supplies over a very great distance by rail road, and if he waits til summer his men cannot endure much fatigue on account of the heat. if this war lasts more than this summer I don't know what the government will do for men as at the least calculation our army will be reduced to half its present size in one year from now. I think the war will be brought to a close if not sooner, at farthest one more year will so far reduce the south that they will have to come to some terms that the north can accept, the west,

is getting possession of the country from which they draw their supplies and men cannot fight unless they have something to eat. it seems to me that two or three months of active operations should bring the war nearly to a close provided the rebel sympathizers in the north dont get strong enough "to open a fire in our rear" which it seems they would like to do. The rebels are said to be fortifying several places in our front the strongest of which is probably Chatanooga. I dont think Rosecrans can afford to lay still very long as every day adds more strength to the enemys position but I dont think he is a man that will delay an hour longer than is absolutely necessary to complete his arrangements

Dec. 19th I received a letter from Caroline last evening. ~~and my~~ they are all well.

She says she has not got a letter from you since she sent Fathers picture to you and she has written two letters, if you write to her or any of my folks direct to Clayburgh Medina Co. Ohio. they have got a new Post Office with that name within half a mile of where Father lives.

I heard a resolution read last nigh that was said to be brought before the Ill Legis-
-lature lately in regard to emancipation and the conduct of the war. I think it is ill timed tho it contains some striking truths after the war is over is the time for such work. it will do more harm than good.

at present in haste, your husband
Samuel Patton

Franklin Tennessee feb. 17th 1863

Dear Nellie your letter of Jan 25th reached me at Nashville, or rather in camp three miles out of the citty just before we left there. I was glad to hear from you and Minnie there is nothing that does me so much good as a letter from you. that story that Ben Barnum told you had not a word of truth in it. in the first plave if they sent any one to recruit, they would be likely to send an officer, and in the second place there is no such man in company except one that has been in the hospital at Louisville eversince we came there from Camp Douglas til we started to come here. Elles K Mercer was in Camp Douglas when I first went there, but was not mustered in as his lungs were not considered sound. he left there some time before I saw you in Chicago and I have not seen or heard from him since til you mentioned him in your letter. he helped to build the scho@lhouse in Ben's district, at least I suppose that is the man. we have the promise of our pay in a few days but I am tired of promises. Nashville is desolate lookingplace. The windows of many of the houses are broken in andthe whole citty looks dreary. we camped about three miles out of the citty for two or three days and then came to this place which is about eighteen miles from Nashville and is on the extreme right wingof Resecrans forces. we occupy a position that commands the town but if the rebbels should attack us they would come in from the opposite side. there is a Rail Road from Nashville to Decatur on the Tennessee River in Alabama runs through this place. the cours of the Rail Road is due south. the bridges are burned but are being repaired this week. there is a bridge on each side of the town. I have not been in town yetas I cant get over the river. the place seems about deserted. we are camped on the grounds of a rebbel officer. the folks have all left except the niggers. the country is splendid between here and Nashville. like Kentucky there apears to be plenty of stone, but the rocks lay deeper than in Kentucky. we passed miles of stone fences as we came here. it rains more that half the time. we moved our tents the other day during a drenchin rain. the ground where we put up our tent was verry muddy. three of the boys were tied up to a tree an hour and a half for stealing hay to sleep on. I wasjust starting fro some when I heard of their arrest so I did not go. I have not got that letter yet you sent the stamps in. Lieut. Burton told Gen Gilbert yesterday that if he did not pay us he would resign. Lieut. ~~Burton~~ Spencer commands the Battery now. Cap. Miller is sick at Nashville. there is a good many of the boys sick. I am well with the exception of a cold in my head which makes me feel too stupid to write a verry interesting letter. some of the boyd have the measles. I had them wgen I was a boy. our company which left Chicago with one hundred and fifty six men does not now number ninety fit for duty. they have been talking about detailing men from the infantry to fill it up but at present we have

scarcely enough men to drill with. I guess we have seen the last of our good liveing and will have to come down to soldiers fare, as there appears to be nothing to steal. it is no use to talk about fixing the yard, if we cant get more money. if we had a row of currant and some of the goosberry bushes of chaoice varieties planted and the hedge fixed I would like it, but I dont see any prospect of doing even that unless I get some pay. if we do I will write - how I would like to have it. I suppose if we get any pay we will get four months. Nellie I often think of home and the happy hours spent there and long for the time when I can return, but then I think how could we enjoy home without a country. our country is struggeling for existance and the only way to keep it in existance is to drive the traitors from the country. the only arguments we can use with effect is balls and bayonets. I think Gen, Rosecrans is the right man in the right place and seems disposed to use the right means in the right way and I have strong hopes that it will have the right effect on the rebbels. I suppose you know more about the progress of the war than I do as it is verry seldom we get any news. ^{Feb} Dec. 18th - it has quit raining for the first time in a couple of days. our camp is a perfect mud hole but the mud soon dries up here if it has half a chance. Gen Gilbert does not seem to care much for the comfort of his men. the infantry say he tried to make two regiments ford the river last night but they refused. the water was nearly deep enough for a horse to swim. it is reported that there is a rebbel force on the other side but I dont believe it. when we were two or three miles from here he heard there was a small party of them in town and he took as much precaution advancing as tho there was a whole army of rebbels here. we have to stand in line of battle every morning from $\frac{1}{2}$ past five til $\frac{1}{2}$ past six regardless of weather. he has orders to hold this place at all hazzards. the infantry have commenced throwing up breastworks. they are working today with their guns stacked beside them. Gilbert evidently does not mean to be caught naping tho I think if he was half as careful about the comfort of his men it would be better for their health and I know they would like him better. one of the boys remarked this morning that by the time the war was over those that survived would be so tough they could not tell wet from dry. I hope this kind of weather wont last long. I dont think there is much danger of an engagement here. I think the rebbels ~~the~~ will keep strictly on the defencive. I think one or two field fights with the rebbels in the west will pretty near finish up this part of the job, but if they stay behind fortifycations they will give Gen. Grant and Gen. Rosecrans a pretty tough pull. Rosecrans will be likely to establish permanent posts along this Rail Road to ennabele him to get supplies from Nashville til he reaches the Tennessee River in Alabama and if he does anything atall he will have to do it while

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the water is high as he cant maintain a large army and transport supply a very great distance by railroad, and if he waits til summer his men cannot endure much fatigue on account of the heat. if this war lasts more thanthis summer I dont know what the government will do for men as at the least calculation our army will be reduced to half its present size in one year from now. I think the war will be brought to a close if not sooner, at farthest one more year will so reduce the south that they will have to come to some terms that the north can accept. the west is geting possession of the country from which they draw their supplies and men cannot fight unless they have something to eat. it seems to me that two or three months of active operations should bring the war nearly to a close provided the rebbel sympathysers in the north dont get strong enough "to open a fire in eur rear" which it seems they would like to do. the rebbels are said to be fortifying several places in our front the strongest of which is probably Chatanooga. I dont think Rosecrans can afford to lay still verry long as very day adds more strngth to the enemys positions but I dont think he is a man that will delay an hour longer than absolutely nescessary to complete his arrangements. Feb. 19th - I received a letter from Caroline last evening. they are all well. she says she has not got a letter from you since she sent Fathers picture to you and she has written two letters. if you write to her or any of my folks direct to Clayburgh Medina Co. Ohio, they have got a new Post Office with that name within half a mile of where Father lives. I heard a resolution read lst night that was said to be brought before the Ill. Legislature lately in regard to emancipation and the conduct of the war. I think it is ill times tho it contains some strikin truths. after the war is over is time for such work. it will do more harm than good at present.

in haste, your husband

Samuel Patton

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Franklin Tennessee Feb 22nd 1863

Dear Nellie, I send you this time a plot of the yard as I would like to have it fixed when you get the trees, I want you to order nice ones even if they cost considerable more, get the peach trees that are damaged taken up and good ones put in their place, if we dont get money to procure the trees this spring, you can keep the plott til we do, in selecting trees get the best varieties and try and get some that will ripen early and others late, if you can get any money to use in that way you had better get a catalogue of some nursery and you will be better able to select what you want, what I would like most to have done, is the hedge, and if you can get the Currant and Gooseberry bushes they would soon come on so as to be of use to us, the rest would be better to be planted and be growing, but are not of so much importance, unless we get some money from the government I dont think any of it can be done, but I still live in hopes that we will get some in time to procure the trees, as soon as you get them have them put in the cellar and dont have more than one or two

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taken out at a time while ~~while~~ planting
don't if you can help it let them lay an
hour at the station after they come,
that ever green to be planted near the walk
at the well, ^{you can select.} a Box wood would be nice I think
but perhaps you can't get one, there was three
splendid ones here when we come but were destroyed
in making intrenchments, the leaves are of the
brightest deepest green I ever saw, Tient Burton
says they have boxwood in nurseries in J. C.
but not of the same kind, he said they did
not grow so large as these, if I had one like
them and as large in our yard I would not
take a hundred dollars for it, there is one
kind of ever green I don't like and that is cedar
the foliage is too pale, I saw a splendid hedge
of orange orange (the same as ours) the other day
it had been kept trimmed ~~and~~ and looked like it would
trouble a bird to get through it, it looked
well when stripped of its foliage it can't help
but look splendid when the leaves are on.
I have seen a number that had not been
well taken care of and they looked miserable.
you can make a circle around some of the trees
of not more than about two feet in diameter
for flower beds if you like, I think they
will look well and also keep the grass from
growing too close to the trees.

Sept. 23rd Well Nellie I have just received and read your letter of Jan 8th containing a sheet of blank paper and six stamps, you need not send me any paper as I have a good supply on hand which I got at Jewisville when we was there first, the stamps will come very handy as I had none and I hate to send letters without them on. I am sorry to learn that the Mellodeon has been damaged, if the bellows stays compressed together the springs in side are spoiled, it should stay open, when it is open the rubber is stretched, you had not better attempt to fix it, but leave it standing up, I dont think glue will do any good on it, some of the boys saw me drawing the plot for the yard and they asked me if I ever expected to see home again. I told them if I did not my family would be there and I wanted them to have a pleasant place to live, and if I did get back safe I could enjoy it with them, one of them then remarked that if I should be fortunate enough to return I would have something to remember hard times with, I could sit down and say "old fellow I earned you when I was eating sou-belly and hard bread".

one great thing in making a good Hedge is to try and keep the plants all of a size

Feb 24th. We heard yesterday evening that Vicks-
-burgh was taken but the news is too good
to be true, a rebel Captain who was
captured and brought to camp said we
had got it but had lost a great many
men. I suppose we will know more about
it in a few days, one of our boys died last
night with the measles.

When you write again direct your letter
via Lewisville Shewtuckey as there is a dis-
-tributing office there, and there is none
at Nashville. I don't know what number
our Brigade and division is now, but if you
direct them as you used to they will come.

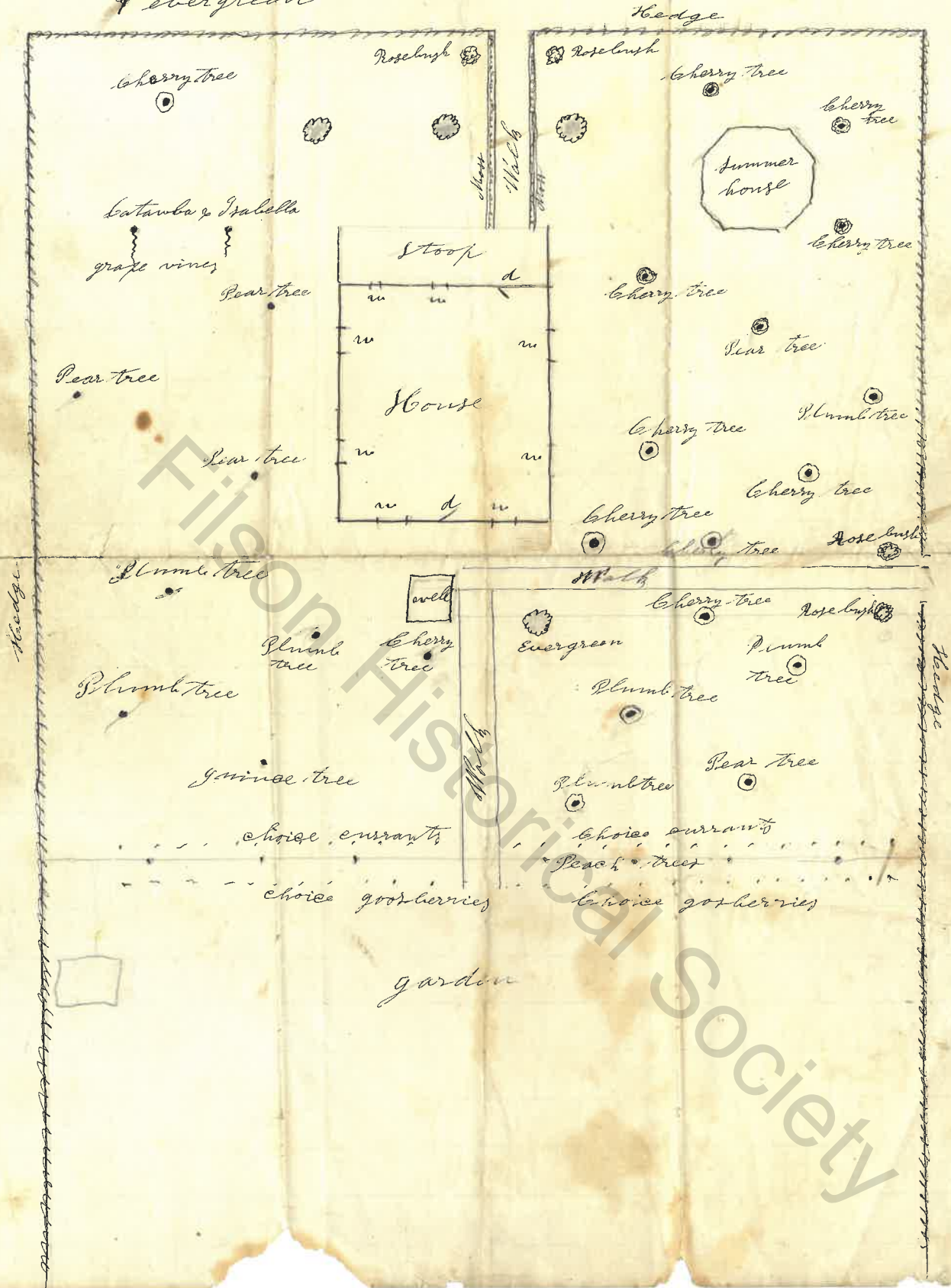
Does Minnie grow much? I would like
to see her, Melie if I should ~~not~~ not live
to get home again I think you had better
not sell our old home as it will afford
you at least some means of support and
if you too should be called away our Minnie
will have something to depend upon for
a living. now dont get the blues and think
I am going to be killed, perhaps I will be
home again this fall if Vicksburgh is taken
and the troops in it. The west will soon
get too hot for Gen. Bragg's army and the
rebel leaders will soon be trying to
get out of the country. So good by.

As if you get the Goody loving Husband
Livingston Co. County you had better Samuel Patton
get Brochway or some one to take up
a piece of County land for the County instead of taking

three or four miles of town
it within three or
you can get
provided you
County order,

- 11 Cherry trees
- 6 Plum trees
- 5 Pear trees
- 1 Guinea tree
- 4 evergreen

- 4 Rose bushes (2 at each gate, both of the same kind at a gate)
- 2 Grape vines



01224

Filson Historical Society

[With letter of 22 Feb. 1863]

Filson Historical Society

Franklin Tennessee Feb 22nd 1863

Dear Nellie, I send you this time a plot of the yard as I would like to have it fixed when you get the trees, I want you to order nice ones even if they cost considerable more. get the peach trees that are damaged taken up and good ones put in their place. if we dont get money to procure the trees this spring you can keep the plot til we do. in selecting trees get the best varieties and try to get some that will ripen early and others late. if you can get any money to use in that way you had better get a catalogue of some Nursery and you will be better able to select what you want. what I would like most to have done is the hedge, and if you can get the Currant and Goosberry bushes they would soon come on so as to be of use to us. the rest would be better to be planted and be growing, but are not of so much importance. unless we get some money from the government I dont think any of it can be done, but I still live in hopes that we will get some in time to procure the trees. as soon as you get them have them put in the cellar and dont have more than one or two taken out at a time while planting. dont if can help it let them lay an hour at the station after they come. that evergreen to be planted near the walk at well, you can select a Box wood would be nice I think but perhaps you can get one. there was three splendid ones here when we come but were destroyed in making intrenchments. the leaves are of the brightest deepest green I ever saw. Lt. Burton says they have boxwood in Nurserys in Ill. but not of the same kind. he said they did not grow so large as these. if I had one like them and as large in our yard I would not take a hundred dollars for it. there is one kind of evergreen I dont like and that is cedar. the foliage is too pale. I saw a splendid hedge of Osage orange (the same as ours) the other day. it had been kept trimmed and looked like it would trouble a bird to get through it. it looked well when striped of its foliage. it cant help but look well when the leaves are on. I have seen a number that had not been well taken care of and they looked miserable. you can make a circle around some of the trees of not more than about two feet in diameter for flower beds if you like. I think they will look well and also keep the grass from growing too close to the trees. Feb. 23rd - Well Nellie I have just received and read your letter of Jan 8th containing a sheet of blank paper and six stamps. you need not send me any paper as I have a good supply on hand which I got at Louisville when we was there first, the stamps will come verry handy as I had none and I hate to send letters without them on. I am sorry to lirn that the Mellodeon has been damaged. if the bellows stays compressed together the springs inside are spoiled. it should stay open. when it is open the rubber is stretched . you had not better attempt to fix it, but leave it standing up. I dont think glue will do any good on it.

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Feb 24th /We heard yesterday evening that Vicksburgh was taken but the news is too good to be true. a rebbel capatain who was captured and brought to camp said we had got it but had lost a great many men. I suppose we will know more about it in a few days. one of our boys died last night with the measles. when you write again direct your letter via Lewisville Kentucky as there is a distributing office there, and there is none at Nashville, I dont know what number our Brigade and division is now, but if you will direct them as you used to they will come. Does Minnie grow much. I would like to see her. Nellie if I should not live to get home again I think you had better not sell our old home as it will afford you at least some means of support and if you too should be called away our Minnie will have something to depend on for a living. now dont get the blues and think I am going to be killed. perhaps I will be home again this fall id Vicksburgh is taken and the troops in it the west will soon get too hot for Gen. Bragg's army and the rebbel leaders will soon be trying to get out of the country. So

goodbye

Your loving Husband

Samuel Patton

P.S. If you can get the Livingston Co. bounty you had better get Brockway or some one to take up a piece of County land for the bounty instead of taking County orders, provided you can get it within three or miles of town.

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Franklin Tennessee Feb. 26th 1863

Mr. Wm Desmond.

Well old fellow I thought I would write to you and let you know that I am alive and in old Tennessee.

I received your letter some time ago but didnot answer it because I had no stamps to pay the postage, if you consider this a sufficiant excuse I will go ahead with my yarn, well we farted around in Shentuckey three or four months, stealing chickens and robing smokehouses when we could do so without being detected but notwithstanding our proficiancy in this kind of buisness we some times had pretty hard fare, we gave Morgan a pretty hard chase when he was in Shentuckey we celebrated a part of New years throwing Shelly at him at Green river bridge between Campbellville and Columbia, we might have captured or cut him to pieces if our General had not been drunk.

We returned to Lewisville about the last of Jan. and a few days after embarked on a steam boat for Nashville, there was fifty one boats in the fleet including six gun boats, we reached fort Donelson early the morning after the battle on Feb 3rd we staid all day, I went over the field

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before the dead was carried.

while on board the boat we managed to fit a key to the door lock of the boat's provision room. I need not tell you that we lived well while on board, as your own experience I suppose has long since taught you that soldiers don't slight good opportunities ^{when} grub is the game, when we got to Nashville I hunted all around for your Regiment but could not find it, so I concluded you had been left behind. we stopt a few days about three miles out of Nashville, and then came to this place, we are on the extreme right wing of Gen. Rosecrans' force, we are fortifying here, one of our boys that was at Murphy'sborough said they were doing the same there. I presume they are fortifying all along the line. Gen. Rosecrans seems to be determined to make a shure thing of it as he goes, it rains here nearly all the time, there probably wout be much fighting here til the weather is more favorable. I received a letter from Alice a few days ago. they are all well.

when you write direct to Company etc
First Ill. Artillery 34th Brigade 10th Division
Army of the Ohio, via Lewisville Shentuekey
we are not in the "Army of the Ohio" now
but a letter directed in that way will
wait as long as I did. your Brother

P.S. give my respects
to the boys
tell John Law to write to me some time when he has nothing else
to do.
Samuel Patton

Franklin, Tennessee - Feb. 26th 1863

Mr. Wm. Desmond

Well, old fellow, I thought I would write to you and let you know that I am alive and in old Tennessee. I received your letter some time ago, but did not answer it because I had no stamps to pay the postage. If you consider this a sufficient excuse I will go ahead with my yarn.

Well, we farted around in Kentucky three or four months, stealing chickens and robbing smoke houses, when we could do so without being detected. But notwithstanding our proficiency in this kind of business, we sometimes had pretty hard fare.

We gave Morgan a pretty hard chase when he was in Kentucky. We celebrated a part of New Years throwing shells at him at Green River Bridge, between Campbellsville and Columbia. We might have captured or cut him to pieces if our General had not been drunk.

We returned to Lewisville about the last of Jan. and a few days after embarked on a steam-boat for Nashville. There were fifty one boats in the fleet, including six gun boats. We reached Fort Donnelson early the morning after the battle on Feb. 3rd. We stayed all day. I went over the field before the dead were buried. While on the boat we managed to fit a key to the door lock of the boat's provision room. I need not tell you that we lived well while on board - as your own experience I suppose has long since taught you - that soldiers dont slight good opportunities when grub is the game.

When we got to Nashville I hunted all around for your Regiment, but could not find it. So I concluded you had been left behind. We stopped a few days about three miles out of Nashville and then came to this place. We are on the extreme right wing of Gen. Rosecrans forces. We are fortifying here. One of our boys who was at Murphysborough said that they were doing the same there. I presume they are fortifying all along the line. Gen. Rosecrans seems to be determined to make a sure thing of it as he goes. It rains here nearly all the time. There probably wont be much fighting here til the weather is more favorable.

I received a letter from Nellie a few days ago. They are all well. When you write direct to Company M, First Ill. Artillery, 34th Brigade, 10th Division, Army of the Ohio, via Lewisville, Kentucky. We are not in the "Army of the Ohio" now, but a letter directed in that way will come. I want you to write soon and not wait as long as I did.

Your Brother
Samuel Patton

P.S. Give my respects to the boys. Tell John Law to write me some time when he has nothing else to do

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