

### Calendar of Correspondence

#### **Folder 1 Aug. – Sept. 1862 (22 items)**

Isaac Little, Camp Wayne, Richmond, Ind., to Sally Little, Aug. 23, 1862.

They recently arrived at Camp Wayne. They had some peaches yesterday. He got a pass to go to town. Some of the officers will go to Salem to fetch some boys. Their quarters are in the roundhouse. The boys get along well. One man shot another by accident yesterday. There are so many accidents that he is thinking of selling his revolver and sending it home. Sam Little is recovering from the ague. He bought a bible for 35 cents. He hasn't played any cards in camp yet.

Isaac Little, Camp Wayne, Richmond, Ind. to Sally Little, Aug. 25, 1862.

Most of the soldiers are married men. Many have left home with a bad fix (hogs running around, children to raise etc.). He hopes to get a furlough but may not. Lots of women come to see the soldiers. He may sell his pistol or send it home if she wants it

Isaac Little, Camp Wayne, Richmond, Ind., to Sally Little, Sept. 2, 1862

Several of the boys are sick. He thinks the bread makes them sick. A man came to examine the boys and refused 2 or 3 of them. He had heard the 69<sup>th</sup> Rgt. got cut up pretty badly (in KY?). He had sold his revolver for \$15. He bought a soldier shirt for \$1.35. One man deserted from the 79<sup>th</sup> Rgt. to go home to get married, but he was caught and brought back. He heard that Cincinnati is in danger from the rebels and there was talk of going there to help guard it.

Isaac Little, Richmond, Ind., to Sally Little, Sept. 3, 1862.

Lewis Coats and others came into camp tonight. We will be mustered into service in the morning. He expects to go to Cincinnati in a few days. Richmond (Ind.) is under martial law. There were 200 men drilling in town.

Isaac Little, to Sally Little, Sept. 6, 1862.

They were mustered in last Thursday [Sept. 3] and got their \$25 bounty. Andrew J. Neff was promoted to Major. The Lt. Col. is [Samuel] Orr. The regiment had marched downtown last night to meet him at the train but he didn't arrive. The peddling women have a hard time here. He is going to town to get a pistol. Demps. Coats is not very well. He is sending her \$20.

Isaac Little, to Sally Little (c/o James Coats), Sept. 8, 1862.

He got his photograph taken today. He is sending one to her and one for his father. They have packed 2 days rations. They are supposed to go tonight to Cincinnati. He saw a man yesterday from the 69<sup>th</sup> who had been shot in the arm; The ball was still there and had raised a lump.

Isaac Little, Camp Mitchell, Kenton Co., Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 9, 1862.

He has seen 5 large cannon on a fort 100 yards away. They are on property owned by someone in the rebel army. The soldiers are cutting down all the timber, digging trenches, 5 miles SW of Cincinnati. They arrived in Cincinnati and then marched over the river on a pontoon bridge to Covington. They are hauling in ammunition. They are digging a magazine in the fort. A man was shot dead for not halting. The water is very bad. They don't have their guns yet. They haven't got shoes nor caps nor shirts. They just got nice coats.

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Isaac Little, Camp Mitchell, Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 12, 1862.

They have dug several rifle pits. The rebels are reported to be 1 mile away. There are some 40,000 troops here. The army is destroying everything here. Land is not good for raising crops. He has seen 25 or 30 ambulance wagons going by. Some have gone out skirmishing. Our regiment will probably be kept in reserve.

Isaac Little, Camp Mitchell, Ky. to Sally Little, Sept. 14, 1862.

He had gone over to Cincinnati last evening and saw 2 or 3 regiments, one of Negroes [Black Brigade]. Most were citizens that were enlisted for a few days. Their bunks are covered with corn fodder and hay on the inside to lay on.

Isaac Little, Camp Wallace, Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 17, 1862.

They are 8-10 miles from Florence, where the rebels are thought to be. They got caps and knapsacks yesterday. A lieutenant was drunk and rode past the guard and wouldn't halt. He was shot and his horse killed. They went swimming in the Ohio River.

Isaac Little, Camp Wallace, Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 24, 1862

They were out 2 days on picket duty. They had found a house owned by a rebel who had left. They had ransacked the house. He is sending her some ribbon from the house. They took 22 lbs of butter from a dairy house. They are to be paid \$13 today. A fellow soldier went off to shoot a goose but shot two fingers off his right hand instead. The men say they think the war will be settled before winter is over.

Isaac Little, Camp Wallace, Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 27, 1862.

He had gone to Covington yesterday and got his profile taken. He is wondering why his letters are not answered. Some say all the letters are opened at the office and if there is anything about the army that the rebels would find useful, the letters don't go. He doesn't plan to shoot himself in order to go home. There has been a stop put to women coming in to sell pies. One woman got real upset when some of the boys stole a pair of socks from her. He is sending her \$5 Confederate money.

Isaac Little, Camp Wallace, Ky., to Sally Little, Sept. 29, 1862

He is sending her a total of \$10. He can sell his watch for \$10 if he needs more money.

## **Folder 2 Oct., 1862 (24 items)**

Isaac Little, Hamden Station, Vinton County, Oh., to Sally Little, Oct. 2, 1862

They are stationed about 125 miles east of Cincinnati. He had finally gotten a letter from her. They are on their way to Point Pleasant en route to Virginia. They left some of the boys at the hospital (including Dempsey Coats). He has sent her a book he got from a Sesesh house. He hates to run off and go home. It is too much like deserting. He looks at her likeness every day.

Isaac Little, Camp Gallipolis, Gallia Co., Oh., to Sally Little, Oct. 5, 1862

We arrived here yesterday evening. They are camped on the bank of the river. Virginia is just across the river. They had left Cincinnati 4 days ago, changed cars at Hamden and went to

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Portland, Oh. and then marched 28 miles in two days. He has gotten only 4 or 5 letters from her. He has heard that there is a wagonload of letters in Covington belonging to their regiment.

Isaac Little, Camp Cranor, Gallipolis, Gallia Co., Ohio, to Sally Little, Oct. 9, 1862.

He plans to get his likeness taken in every town they visit and send them home. He describes a typical day: roll call at daylight, breakfast, **2 darkies cook for them** at \$15 apiece. (8¢ apiece per week); drill for 3 hours; dinner; 3:00: battalion drill for 2 hours, supper, 9:00 roll call, bed. They have straw to lay on. 127 soldiers in the Regt have a bad disease (women?). He doesn't care if the town of Covington were burned because he believes it is full of Sessech.

Isaac Little, Gallipolis, Gallia Co. Ohio, to Sally Little, Harrisville, Randolph Co., Ind. Undated letter [Oct., 1862?]

Boats don't come down from Gallipolis very often unless they have particular business. Thus mail is infrequent. He would like to be at home picking hickory nuts. He has seen chestnuts and some persimmons. There are 10 men in their tent. Two are selected to cook every day. He eats well. He reads her letters 2 or 3 times. Charley and Sarah Jane are pretty names

Isaac Little to Sally Little, Undated letter [Oct., 1862?] (Placed just before Oct.17 letter) They had to leave Dempsey at Gallipolis. He has seen men taking cans of peaches out of the rebel's house. If she had a place to put a little rock, he could send her one. I saw some yesterday about a ¼ mile long and 100 feet high.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Virginia to Sally Little, Oct. 17, 1862.

They had left Gallipolis Oct. 13. We are about 37 miles from Gallipolis. Some of the scouts say there are about 8,000 rebels about 12 miles from here. There is a secessionist who lives near them who shot a Union man that was crippled. The Union men burned his house some time ago. This morning they found 300 bushels of apples he had gathered and put in his cellar. The whole regt. has plenty of apples. Bully for the drafted Quakers. He is glad they were drafted. The Regt. is called the traveling 84<sup>th</sup> because they have been on the march so much. He drew a map of their camp along the Big Sandy River in Kentucky. He asks how George W. Little is getting along. Some of them have made up their minds that when they get paid, they will tell the captain they are going home and risk a court martial. They may take some of their wages.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va., to James Coats, Randolph Co., Ind., Oct. 18, 1862.

They left a few sick men at Gallipolis and marched 40 miles in 3 days. The men had found about 300 bushels of apples in the cellar of a house where an old Sesesh lived who had shot a wounded Union soldier. The men were carrying apples to camp all day; every mess got ½ to 2 bushels. They also took cans of peaches and crocks of apple butter and hogs and chickens. The citizens of the town had coaxed a squad of Union men to come and get a dinner. Just as they were eating, the rebels fired on them and killed most of them. The old Sesesh complained to Col. Cranor to have the men punished for taking his things. Cranor replied that the boys ought not to go beyond the guard lines. The boys were really mad and could hardly keep from shooting him. His age is all that saved him. Since the river is so low, they have to march instead of going on boats. He's eaten more paw paws since he left Gallipolis than he had ever eaten in his life. There are hundreds of bushels of paw paws along the river. They camped one night on the rebel Jenkins farm and burned a lot of his rails to cook with and ate his hog. Col. Cranor , as

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rumor has it, had a \$500 bet that peace would be made in 60 days. The contrasts on the two sides of the river are striking. On the Virginia side, everyone looks sore at us and in Ohio, they wave handkerchiefs and shake hands with us. The farms and orchards look better. Most of the men in Virginia are in the army or have left. They have 60-75 cavalry with them and a battery of 6 pieces of cannon. Postage stamps are hard to find. They call their regiment the traveling 84<sup>th</sup>. He says to write and tell me who is on my place and how he has it rented.

Isaac Little, Camp Cranor, to Sally Little, Oct. 19, 1862.

Everyone is making rings out of mussel shells. They expect to go downriver 30 miles to guard ammunition boats. The officers have shut down on giving furloughs. He was in Virginia yesterday morning and got some paw paws. They have 2 darkeys to cook for them. They pay them \$30. That is about 8 or 10 cents a week each. He would pay 20 cents rather than cook for himself.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va., to Sally Little, Oct. 22, 1862.

34 men from Co. H. (including Little) went up the Ohio River to capture some boats which were supplying rebels with whiskey and groceries. 12 rebels and one boat were captured. Seven more men were taken by Lt. Focht back down to the camp, 6 miles downriver. No guns were fired (the first battle they have had). He has made a pair of ear drops (earrings) out of mussel shells and sent them to her. He has heard that men from his regiment are going to be recruited to serve for 2 years, but he's not interested. He is sending her a book he got at the Secesh house in Kentucky. He is making and selling rings to soldiers for their wives the men captured yesterday are to be set free.

Oct. 23: He tells about a soldier who got a letter from his sick wife. He asked for a furlough but couldn't get it. He got mad and they put him in the guard house. He was still mad and he was bright to camp to cut would. He wouldn't do it so they bucked and gagged him. They are leaving the next day for Barboursville on a scouting trip. They had bought a stove for their tent. The 84<sup>th</sup> Regt. had put 1200 letters in the Office last Sunday for mailing. He has heard that the war will be over in 60 days, or at least by spring. A lot of houses were burned in this town last spring (actually Nov. 1861, in retaliation of a rebel attack).

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va., to Sally Little, Oct. 25, 1862.

Instead of Barboursville, they had gone on a scouting trip to Catlettsburg, Ky. The rebel cavalry there learned they were coming and skedaddled in a hurry. They were called back to Guyandotte that night because of report that rebels were moving toward their camp. There was no attack. He had heard the war may be over in 3-4 months because the Democrats got the majority.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va., to Sally Little, Oct. 26, 1862.

They have burned 5-6,000 rails for heat and are quite comfortable. Dempsey is still at Gallipolis. He had heard that he had something like consumption. He doesn't think that Col. Cranor wants to fight much.

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**Folder 3 Nov., 1862 (14 items + 5 photocopies)**

Isaac Little to George Coats, undated [Nov. 1862?]

He plans to come home at Christmas and go quail hunting. He wants to get a pass to go and get some sassafras this evening. He has a name for his son. [First indication that Sally had had a baby boy]. He likes the names George B.M. Little, after McClellan, or Franze Sigel Little or some big name because he knows he will make a soldier.

Isaac Little to George Coats, undated [Nov. 1862?]

He doesn't think that George would last long as a soldier. He would do OK until it got to raining and you had to march and carry a big knapsack through the mud ankle deep and lay down to sleep with your clothes all wet and have to carry all you eat for 3 days. As a general thing, a soldier's life is a hard life. George, you can do your share raising stuff to sell to feed the soldiers. Raise lots of potatoes for they are the best thing a soldier can get.

Charity Wright, New London, Howard Co., Ind., to Sally Little (cousin), Nov. 4, 1862.

She acknowledges and congratulates Sally on her recent marriage to Isaac. She had last seen Sally one year ago today.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va. to Sally Little, Nov. 11, 1862.

He expects only 1 month's pay, instead of 2. He wants to buy a pair of boots and gloves and a hat. Their caps don't do any good when it rains. Dempsey is here. The measles are in camp. Co. K got them from Camp Wayne. He hopes to be home at Christmas. What do you think of Francis Sigel Little for a name or George B. M. Little.

Isaac Little, Guyandotte, Va., to Sally Little, Nov. 13, 1862.

He expects to leave the camp the next day on a march somewhere. 5 boatloads of soldiers went down the river today.

Nov. 14: they are now in Catlettsburg. Dan Keys had told him that she had had a boy. He is sending her some silk string, a breast pin and a ring. Dempsey is getting better. He wants a pair of boots and a vest.

Isaac Little, Northwest Corner of Va.(close to Catlettsburg), to Sally Little, Nov. 16, 1862.

Rations he drew for Mess #5: 7 pts. coffee, 2 candles, 1 bar of soap, 8 pts. each of beans, hominy, sugar (all is consumed in 3 days). Another man shot himself accidentally in the wrist. They might have to cut his hand off.

Continuation: he has been making more pins. Dempsey is making a ring for Rachel. He got a piece of silk from Butterworth who got it in the rebel house where he got the book. He thinks there will be some hard fighting at Richmond Va. and the war will be over. Contrary to what she heard, the 84<sup>th</sup> has not been in a battle and cut to pieces. There is no danger of them getting in a fight while they are with the Ohio 40<sup>th</sup>.

Continuation: Nov. 17, 1862.

He now weighs 179 lbs. He had weighed 165 at Camp Wayne.

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Isaac Little to Sally Little, Nov. 21, 1862.

Measles and mumps are in the camp. Several of the boys are at the hospital. They are at where the Big Sandy enters the Ohio River. He is going to ask for a furlough.

Isaac Little, Catlettsburg, Ky. to Sally Little, undated [probably Nov. 1862]

40<sup>th</sup> Ohio has gone up Big Sandy to Louisa. He doesn't know whether he will get home for Christmas or not. He heard that they might be furloughed in alphabetical order. He had been on guard on a wharf boat that had ammunition on it. He didn't catch any fish. 25 of the men in Company H went to Catlettsburg to tear down a house because there were 3 women there who had been whoring with soldiers. There were some little children there and they decided not to turn them out, but they moved in a few days (photocopy of letter is in folder (there is no original).

Isaac Little, Catlettsburg, Ky, to Sally Little, Nov. 30, 1862.

They had a practice call to a line of battle one night when everyone was asleep in bed. It was done to see how quick they could do it. It was reported that there were 1200 rebels in Guyandotte and the cavalry was sent out get them. The infantry was held in case they were needed. Apparently, they were not. Hen Bradford is going to move off their place. Ed Brown wanted to move in this winter.

Continuation, Dec. 1: Silas Coats wants their boy named Fremont or Abraham. Isaac likes Fremont, but "suit yourself". This letter and the previous one were mailed in the same envelope.

#### **Folder 4 Dec., 1862 (22 items)**

Isaac Little, Catlettsburg, Ky., to Sally Little, Dec. 6, 1862.

He guesses that it is impossible to get a furlough. He is going to try to get a leave of absence and go home. He thinks that they can't get furloughs either because the war will end soon or they expect hard fighting in the near future. Some push boats went up the Big Sandy [toward Pikeville] with \$75,000 worth of provisions, guns, etc. and 200 men to guard them. 600 rebel cavalry [under Col. John Clarkson] attacked them and they had to give up all the boats and provisions (clothing, food, guns etc.). Our men threw the ammunition into the river. [Battle of Wireman's Shoals; official records say Confederates captured 7,000 rounds of ammunition]. (son's name is George Washington Little?)

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Cassville, Va., to Sally Little, Dec. 7, 1862

Nate Ellis was detailed to go home and take 2 or 3 corpses home that died in the hospital at Ashland. The guard house is full of deserters who came back. They were court-martialed and sentenced to the guard house for 2 weeks and fined \$26. Capt. Carter has a court martial trial today. A little after sunset he had seen a blue streak in the southern sky. Some men say it is a sign of a big battle and some say it is a sign of peace. He has no idea. He is sending her a bunch of little cedars.

Isaac Little, Hampton City, Ky., to Sally Little, Dec. 11, 1862.

They are about 1 mile south of Catlettsburg. They had just buried a man killed in the Battle of Wireman's Shoals. He plans to go see Tom Little with the measles in the hospital. He had seen a lot of Kentucky women today but they are not as good looking as the Randolph women.

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Isaac Little, near Louisa, Ky. (on Va. shore)., to Sally Little, Dec. 15, 1862

After setting up camp here last night, they went back 1 mile to a farm house and 4 of us took a bee hive a piece and filled our buckets with honey. On the way back, they were challenged by pickets who asked for the countersign. We told them it was honey. They told us to advance and we gave them some honey. The night before last we took chickens and geese. The Col. had told them that they should not starve, but they should not steal, but they might take all that belongs to them. "Now the truth is everything that is to eat belongs to us if we can get it". Col. Cranor had told the citizens of a small town to pack up their things. Our men went and tore down a lot of houses and got the plans to floor our tents. The best and largest houses are kept for the hospital, the stable for the horses. Here, the people are stripped of everything the army wants; They are promised pay but it is a long time coming. There are only 32 of Co. H here. The rest are not well enough to travel. He believes that there are 100s of women in Va. & Ky. without anything to live on. Some didn't know that there was a war. He describes a steam mill. They grind 4-6 bushels of corn a day.

Isaac Little, near Cassville (Ft. Gay, Va.), opposite Louisa, Ky. to Sally Little, Dec. 18, 1862. He had lost her likeness while hauling wood for the camp. He wants her to have a new one taken with their little boy. The night before last the home guard had come in and reported that rebel cavalry were advancing, some 9 miles from there and that the road was full for 2 miles.

Isaac Little, near Cassville, Va., to Sally Little, Dec. 19, 1862.

They went to a house. 1 or 2 of us went in to get some bread but they refused. So they went back about a mile and took 4 bee hives. It was the first time I had stole anything (see Dec. 15 letter). He doesn't like the fact that officers go home but won't let them go. Col. has ordered that anyone caught ¼ of a mile from camp without a pass or on duty is considered a deserter and punished as such.

Isaac Little, Louisa, Va. (Ky.?), to Sally Little, Dec. 23, 1862.

They are due 4 months pay on Jan. 1, but they keep us 2 months behind. Sam Frazee had got a letter from a woman who said Sally had the prettiest boy she ever seen  
Accompanying map: hand-drawn map on back page shows location of camp near Louisa, near the intersection of Tug Fork with the Big Sandy River and also the location of the camp near Guyandotte

Isaac Little, Cassville, Va., to Sally Little, Dec. 25, 1862.

There is a possibility of 5 men in each company getting furloughs for 12 days. They are selected in alphabetical order. Last night, somebody fired 3 times on the pickets and that resulted in a general alarm. Companies A and H were sent out. Nothing was found. 3 of Company E's men's wives came yesterday. If the captain doesn't return soon, he will be put through (they will cashier him, take all his wages and send him home in disgrace.

Isaac Little, Louisa, Ky., to Sally Little, Dec. 27, 1862

Reen [Irene] had written, saying that our boy was as ugly as the devil, so I give her a big....

Isaac Little, Louisa, Ky. to Sally Little, Dec. 28, 1862.

He dreamed about going home last night, but didn't get to see her. He's still waiting to get paid.

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**Folder 5 Jan. – Feb., 1863 (28 items)**

Isaac Little, Louisa, Ky., to Sally Little, Jan. 1, 1863.

He is on picket today. Two men from his company have been sent home because of sickness in their families. He has sent home 15 cedar for replanting by Sally's father. He can keep half. Ten men went out this morning [foraging] and came back with 19 chickens, 1 turkey and 4 buckets and a tub of honey. They are having turkey for dinner today. There is a report that 800 rebel cavalry is watching them. The other day he and another soldier went out and got 2 buckets of persimmons. Two others got 6 chickens. There is talk of suspending hostilities for 60 days. He thinks some men will go home after they get paid (desertion?). He doesn't like the idea since he would lose his pay.

Isaac Little to Sally Little, undated partial letter [early Jan. 1863?]

He had received the beef she had sent him. He had lost her photograph. He had bought a pipe for her as a present. Although it wasn't as nice a one as he wanted, he thought it was the best one for a woman. She should tell her father to sell his hogs for as much as he can. He discusses debts that he owes and who owes him money. There is talk that they will return to Camp Wallace in Covington, Ky. There is talk that the rebels are in Kentucky again.

Isaac Little, Louisa, Ky., to Sally Little, Jan. 3, 1863.

He got one box full of stuff when the boats came up yesterday. They are trying to get furloughs. He just got paid \$19.90. The citizens are cutting down trees around there so they can shoot. Old Gov. Morton is here. He told the Captain not to move until they got guns because he didn't want any more Ind. Regts. cut up like the 69<sup>th</sup>.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., near Cassville, to Sally Little, Jan. 9, 1863.

He had received Sally and G.W.'s photographs. He thinks G.W. is saucy and fat. The captain won't send his men home when they get sick because he doesn't have the power to do it. Col. Cranor has to do that and he has to go by what Gen. Wright says. They got passes today and went out rabbit hunting. He had heard that there were arrangements to furlough 5 men for 20 days until all went, but he thinks it is uncertain. He is going to send some candy home to her and little G.W.

Continued Jan. 10, 1863. He is sending some candy he bought in Louisa, Ky., home with some crackers that is the kind they eat. The mud is deep and plenty.

Attached letter to Father Coats: He can do what he wants with the hogs. He expects they had better be sold because it will cost something to feed them. If there is one that would do for a breeder, he would like to have a sow and pigs when he gets home. They had an auction tonight. He sold a ring for 50 cents.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Jan. 18, 1863.

She has moved. He had got their likenesses. George W. looks cute.

The 117<sup>th</sup> Ohio Inf. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ky Cavalry are coming. He thinks they will move up to Pikeville, about 75 miles up the river. They probably won't get mail as often as they do here.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to George Coats, (included in above letter).

He wasn't able to get a pass to go rabbit hunting. He plans to sell his watch today for \$12.



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Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Jan. 19, 1863.

The mail is going to be stopped for 30 days.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Jan. 20, 1863.

He is sending her a number of items (box, his likeness, letters, a book ("...The Forest Rose"), some biscuits. He is going to sell his watch for \$19. It doesn't run good.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Jan. 24, 1863.

He had sent his dress coat to her. She can wash and take care of it until he comes home.

Enclosed letter to Geroge Coats, Sally's younger brother. He had gotten a pass and a revolver and he went rabbit hunting.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Cassville, Va., to Sally Little, Feb. 1, 1863.

Two soldiers have died since they came here. He and 7 of his fellow soldiers went out foraging after roll call one night. They were looking for fresh hog meat and garden produce at a nearby house. Three of them dug up potatoes in the garden. The smoke house was empty. They went to the stable and got 6 chickens and an armful of tobacco and got home at 1:00 a.m. and went to bed. Dinner consisted of beans and old salty pork "which is enough to kill a niger". He has made more rings and sold some of them. He made two rings for his daughters [from his first wife]Rebecca Jane and Thursa. He has been put in as a Corporal.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Feb. 4, 1863.

He says that if he does not get a furlough by next harvest, he will go home anyhow. He doesn't think he will stay longer than the next corn planting. Col. Cranor has resigned. (replaced by Gen. White from Chicago?). 8 of them had gone out on a little scout. They went to a garden and got potatoes and tobacco hanging up in the smoke house and 6 chickens in the barn. On the way back 3 men couldn't find any chickens so they took a pole and pushed the top of the chimney off. The Col. told them that if a man couldn't kill a pig without getting caught deserved to be in the guard house. He is now a corporal. He thinks there might be a detail sent out to go after some of the men that have run off.

Isaac Little, Camp Neff, Va., to Sally Little, Feb. 6, 1863.

Isaac Little, Louisville, Ky., to Sally Little, Feb. 14, 1863.

He is on the steamer *Boston* at the landing in Louisville. They may go to Nashville. He can see the penitentiary in Jeffersonville, Ind. Dempsey has gone home.

Isaac Little, Nashville, Tenn. to Sally Little, Feb. 20, 1863.

They had sent their overcoats home yesterday. That may be why some of the boys aren't feeling well, since it was cool last night. He had gotten coal oil on his coat: He had walked into a store in Catlettsburg one day with his gun on his shoulder and there was a big lamp that his gun struck. It broke and the oil fell over his coat. The man wanted a dollar for the lamp but Isaac only offered him 25 cents which the man refused. So he didn't pay him anything. Nashville is full of officers, wounded soldiers, conmen and "nigars". Most of the men wounded at Murfreesboro are at Nashville. Lots of them have their arms and hands in slings. One had his underlip and teeth shot off. He is impressed with the countryside. He will take his bounty land in Tennessee. There

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is some of the finest houses here he had ever seen. He knows she would like to live here, but it is a slave state.

He has seen a lot of cotton in Nashville. He had seen a field of cotton up the river. He saw two darky women plowing. They were breaking it up with mules. He had seen 12 dead mules and horses along the road .

Isaac Little, camp near Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, Feb. 23, 1863.

They have been in Nashville for a week. He wants to see her and G.W. He reckons that G. W. doesn't grow very fast if he doesn't weigh more than 12 ½ lbs. He had heard that there would be furloughs granted to 1/5 of the company for 30 days at a time. He doesn't believe it is true.

Some have run off but will have to pay well for their trip. It is counted as a disgrace and they are court-martialed and fined \$13 and must pay their way back and then go on double duty for 30 days. He plans to keep on the good side of the officers and company. Some men went out and killed a calf and brought it to camp. The Brig. Gen. saw them and made them take it back. He thinks they had a trial today. He heard cannons in the west this evening. He guesses there is a fight pending the other side of Murfreesboro. Some of the 96<sup>th</sup> Ind. Regt. was in town to get some boats that are to go on wagons to make pontoon bridges. They are big skiffs hauled on wagons until the army comes to a river. Then they take the boats off and put them in the water, side by side and put planks across them and soldiers can walk over them safe. He asks here to find out what their taxes on their land are. He bought a watch for \$6 but broke the spring and got another for \$1.

#### **Folder 6 March, 1863 (21 items + 2 photocopies)**

Isaac Little to Sally Little, March 4, 1863.

Tomorrow is his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is going to buy a can of peaches and have a treat. He had found a bomb shell out in the woods yesterday. He brought it into camp. They are going to set it on fire and hear it crack on Saturday. He thinks he might want to come and live here after the war. There are big peach trees here. He gives prices of items for sale by the sutler. Several men have diarrhea. One man is going to have his finger cut off because it is dead and stiff up to his hand.

**[n.b.]** Included in this letter is a piece of decorative cloth which is not mentioned in the letter. However, it may be the "piece of silk" referred to in a previous letter to Sally, dated Nov. 16, 1862].

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 6, 1863.

Yesterday (March 5) was his birthday. 29 years old. They arrived here yesterday by train. It took 7 hours to go 15 miles (old engine and heavy load). He describe the aftermath of a battle 8 miles from there (Battle of Thompson's Station). Two regiments were taken prisoner (33<sup>rd</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> Ind. ) He heard that there were 2,000 killed. The 84<sup>th</sup> is camped in the tents of the 85<sup>th</sup>. They had left their tents, knapsacks and cooking utensils in Nashville. Went to house where wounded were brought. He didn't go in but saw the clothing that had been removed (covered with blood). Gen. Rosecrans is running men around the rebels to hem them in and take prisoners.

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Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 8, 1863.

It is reported that Gen. Rosecrans is in the rear of the rebels. If they don't leave they will all be captured. He is on duty guarding commissary stores. He has heard that some of them will get furloughs.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 13, 1863.

They got back last night from Duck River, 20 miles away. They started out for the rebels on March 9 but didn't get to them. That night it rained and they had no tents. The next morning it was still raining and that marched a mile into some woods. They marched all day until they came within a mile of where the rebel pickets were. The next morning their cannon opened on the rebels. One shell went through the house where the rebel Gen. was in; they said he ran out and left his hat, coat, and a bottle of whiskey on a table. That night the rebels left. [Gen. Granger was the Union commander during these skirmishes]. As they returned to Franklin, they passed the battleground [Thompson's Station] where some of the regiments were taking up the dead and moving because rebels had not buried them well. They put 25 in one grave and stripped all their clothes except underwear and shirts. He saw lots of bullet holes in the trees and fences. He encloses some printed resolutions passed by the officers and soldiers of the 84<sup>th</sup> and other regiments. He lists the troops who were out ready to fight: 72 regts. of infantry, 14 regts. of cavalry and 108 pieces of cannon (all under the command of Gen. Granger).

Printed on the back of this letter: Preamble and Resolutions adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Gen. Baird's Div., in camp near Nashville, Tenn. March 2, 1863:

Brigade is composed of the 84<sup>th</sup> Ind., 92<sup>nd</sup> Ill., 96<sup>th</sup> Ill., 115<sup>th</sup> Ill. Infantry and 9<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery. Refers to a number of demagogues at home that are trying to create disaffection among the troops and to baffle all earnest efforts to conquer the rebels. They are to be regarded as enemies to the country. We assure all traitors at home that we will not cease this contest. We are utterly opposed to any armistice or cessation of hostilities until our glorious land of 34 stars waves triumphantly from the dome of every capitol in our land. Agreed to by commanding officers of all regiments.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 15, 1863.

They had a Grand Review yesterday. Gen. Baird rode up and down the lines.

They now belong to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Div., Army of Ky. He expects that they will move to Ky. if the rumor that the rebels had taken Louisa is true. Ed Brown wants to buy their place, but he's not interested in selling it. He asks if she wants him to sell.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn. to Sally Little, March 23, 1863.

He would rather fight than stay out of battle. If he does get hurt, it would be to defend his home and country. He heard that two nights ago our cavalry captured a train of rebels and brought it in. He heard they got 200 prisoners. The officers think the rebels will attack Franklin and if so, they want all the force here and no furloughs. If they attack the army will burn Franklin because it is a grand Sesech hole.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 26, 1863.

The railroad had been torn up by the rebels two nights ago and they have not had any mail. They took 400 of our men prisoners.

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Isaac Little, to Sally Little, March 28, 1863.

He has made 6 pipes from sweet brier root. He sold 5 of them for 10 cents. The 96<sup>th</sup> Ill. left here yesterday and started back to Brentwood, where the rebs made a dash on the railroad. He thinks this is one of the best and prettiest countrys he ever saw (peach and plum trees out in bloom).

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 29, 1863.

She apparently doesn't care for the name G.W. She can pick a name she likes and he will go along with her decision. [n.b. see June 21, 1863 letter]. Their taxes seem pretty high, probably because of the war. He is due 5 months pay. He heard that the rebels captured some of their mail. They can't get furloughs until things get settled a little. They have to get up at 4:00 am because the rebels most always attack about daylight.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 30, 1863.

They usually have plenty to eat. He doesn't think he will sell his land. If the railroad goes through, we might as well be in a nice place as anybody. As for Queen, I won't take less than \$100 for her and I am not keen to sell her. He would rather be here for a fight, instead of missing it by going home on furlough.

#### **Folder 7 April – June, 1863 (26 items)**

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 9, 1863.

He has been gone now 7 months. He is afraid it will be longer before he sees her again. The officers think there will be a rebel attack. He heard the pickets firing last night. The paymaster is here. He can't send her any money now because the express company can't guarantee it between Nashville and Louisville.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn. to Sally Little, April 11, 1863.

He saw the **elephant's tail** yesterday. The 40<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regt. skirmished with the rebels at noon. At 2:00 the rebels pushed the 40<sup>th</sup> into town. The rebels stayed in town a few minutes and then broke back. The 40<sup>th</sup> rallied and killed a good many horses and men. At 3:00, the 84<sup>th</sup> Ind. started out on the pike that the rebels were on. He saw a lot of dead horses and 7 dead rebels and 2 40<sup>th</sup> boys. The faces of the rebels were covered with blood and dust. At 4 miles out their pickets started skirmishing with the rebels. The firing ceased about dark. The dead rebels looked scary in the dark. They returned to camp about midnight. He went over to the 40<sup>th</sup> camp this morning. There were 3 dead men in camp. Five of the 40<sup>th</sup> were dead and 15 more were missing. He thinks they fired 15 shots with the 3ir siege guns. They had no eggs for Easter. You should see how the rebels live and see how the 84<sup>th</sup> are dressed and our grub. You would be glad to see me here in the Union army. I don't see how the rebels do hold out as long as they do.

Brief letter to George:

Isaac Little to James Coats

He had seen some dead rebels lying on the ground but he's not sure if he felt any different than if they had been horses. He felt his blood boil when he saw two dead soldiers from the 40<sup>th</sup> Ohio. He does not expect to come home soon because the rebels want this post badly. If things quieted down, they might get furloughs. But he thinks the war will be over in a few months and then he can go home for good. The boys that went home said it was harder for them to leave than it was the first time. He will send some money in the next letter to pay his taxes.

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Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 17, 1863.

They were paid off a few days ago. He got \$52. He mentions a soldier got a slight wound in his arm and some think it will kill him. He and Dempsy went to a home yesterday and got some apple pies and a sweet potato pie. He will send \$5 with this letter.

Isaac Little, camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 19, 1863.

He is going to send \$30 more via a man from Farmland. 3 men have died in their company. He wants her to braid some of her hair for a wristlet for him. She needn't worry about them being in a fight because the 84<sup>th</sup> doesn't go out until the enemy runs. Soldiers don't fear getting killed in a fight; it is getting sick and dying that a soldier dreads.

Isaac Little, Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 23, 1863.

They have been issued smaller tents ("dog tents"). They are in two pieces and buttoned together. Two men carry 4 yards each. He has sent her a new coat. They have new high crowned hats. He has sent her a copy of the *Nashville Union* paper.

Isaac Little, Camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 30, 1863.

He weighs 172 lbs. He is in good health. They have to get up at 4:00 am and stand to arms until sun-up, to be ready if the rebels make a dash. They still can get furloughs. Some think their time will be up when 9 months are up, but they were sworn in for 3 years and he thinks they will hold them for that long.

Isaac Little, Camp near Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 5, 1863.

He wants their taxes paid out of the \$30 he sent her. She can lend the rest, if she wants to. She thought they had been taken prisoners. She had sent him the hair wrist braid he requested (April 19). The Illinois boys think everybody's time will be up at 9 months. He doesn't think so. He thinks he can do more good serving in the army than if he were at home. ("Our country needs all the help it can get.")

Isaac Little, Franklin, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 20, 1863.

They have been out on picket, brigade drill, on guard at the fort, more brigade drill, regimental inspection etc. They have been issued an order that they are allowed to carry only one blanket, 1 pair of pants, 2 shirts, 2 drawers, 2 pr. socks. The rest of their clothes can be bundled up, with their names and sent to Nashville. He would rather send his things home. Many boys still think their time will be up at 9 months. He doesn't believe a word of it. He does think they will get a furlough at 9 months. The weather is very hot. Wheat harvest will be pretty soon. He is sending her some railroad tickets he found at the depot.

Isaac Little, Triune, Tenn., to Sally Little, June 4, 1863.

They left Franklin last Tues. (June 2) and arrive here, 12 miles away. The major thinks they are going to Shelbyville. Gen. Bragg and his rebel army are there. They are camped on the previous site of the rebel pickets at the time of the battle at Murfreesboro.

Isaac Little, Triune, Tenn., to Sally Little, June 7, 1863.

They had a big fire last night. The owner of a big barn belongs to a rebel who has taken the oath. There is a rebel major buried in his garden. Some of the boys burned the barn that was fixed to hold 80 horses. He mentions a fight at Franklin on June 2 (could be at Thompson's Station?).

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They stripped bark from a poplar tree to make a floor for their tent. He thinks the 9 months talk has played out.

Isaac Little, Triune, Tenn., to Sally Little, June 12, 1863.

Yesterday the pickets were fired on by rebels. Both sides shot artillery shells. The cavalry and artillery ran them off for 5 miles. Several 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind. cavalry were killed and wounded. Last Sunday (June 9) there was a skirmish. Co. H has not been in the fight yet. Two rebel spies were hung at Franklin. They had forged passes and wore Union uniforms. They went there as officers from Rosecrans to examine the fortifications, but Col. Beard of the 85<sup>th</sup> Ind. Was suspicious and telegraphed Rosecrans via the signal corps (men on high hills with flags). Rosecrans sent word back to hang them as spies. Some of the boys think they will go home in a few weeks but he doesn't. He had gotten 2 months pay (\$26). After purchasing his watch, stamps and paper and debts, he has \$11 left. Shells make a real noise as they go. They squeal most like a pig. They can tell when there is going to be a fight because the "nigars begin to run". They came by yesterday in a drove in a run.

Isaac Little, camp near Triune, Tenn., to Sally and Alistus Little, June 21, 1863.

He is sending his likeness in this letter. He had read that they want 6 months men in Indiana. They don't get any fruit, except for what they buy or steal. He mentions, cherries, peaches, apples, mulberries ("give a fellow the trots") and blackberries. He is glad he is not at Vicksburg for it is sickly there.

Isaac Little, 8 miles from Murfreesboro, Tenn., to Sally Little, June 29, 1863.

They left Triune last Tues. (June 23). They marched for 4 days to this camp, mostly in the rain. They could hear the cannon from a fight at Middleton. They whipped the rebels and burned the town (start of Rosecrans' Tullahoma campaign). On June 27, they got orders to go to Hoover's Gap towards Shelbyville. They saw signs of a fight all along the road. They stopped at the gap and ate supper and slept. The cavalry brought in 480 prisoners and 28 commissioned officers. Shelbyville was taken and the rebels were routed. His regiment was ordered to guard the prisoners. They got 3 brass cannons from the rebels. The prisoners were mostly Georgia and Alabama troops. They won't be carrying their knapsacks anymore.

### **Folder 8 July – Sept. 1863 (30 items)**

Isaac Little, camp near Shelbyville, Tenn., to Sally Little, July 1, 1863.

At 3:00 they started for the Gap again. They marched for 14 miles. They are 1½ miles north of Shelbyville on the pike. Several rebels are surrendering all the time and want to join the Federal Tenn. cavalry. He hopes that their knapsacks will be hauled so they won't have to carry them. Rosecrans has ordered that no mail is go out for 10 days, for fear it would get captured by the rebels for information.

Isaac Little, camp near Shelbyville, to Sally Little, July 2, 1863.

They have moved 2 miles further south. Shelbyville is mostly a Union town. Lots of girls came out with flowers. The people looked more like civilized people. They are camped on Duck River. A lot of the rebels were drowned in the fight on the (27<sup>th</sup>). 7 were hauled out by the boys. He describes the appearance of one rebel (he looks awful). There are lots of dead horses.

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9 more rebels came and gave themselves up and want to join the Federal army. They had started with 80 men in their company but now there was only 28. He thinks they will be moving to Chattanooga. He is going on picket tonight. He went up to the bridge today where the rebels had thrown in guns, pistols, swords and saddle bags and clothes and saddles to keep the Federal troops from getting them.

Isaac Little, camp at Wartrace, Tenn., to Sally Little, July 6, 1863.

They are now damped 20 miles SE of the Murfreesboro at a railroad junction. He wouldn't mind staying here for a while since there are lots of blackberries here. She had sent him cinnamon bark. He had heard that all troops what enlisted under the last call should be mustered out. Those that reenlist could get 30 days furlough and \$400 bounty. He doesn't believe a word of it. He thinks they will have to stay in the 3 years. He had heard that the brigade is to be mounted. If they stay in the army, he would rather ride. He got a little gun he wants to send to Alistus J. Don't let him shoot anybody with it or bayonet anyone. He weighed 172 ½ lbs. He has heard that Rosecrans has captured Chattanooga.

Isaac Little, camp near Wartrace, Tenn., to Sally Little, July 11, 1863.

He thinks they will stay here for some time, maybe to guard the railroad. He thinks there will be only one mounted regiment in the brigade, probably the 92<sup>nd</sup> Ill. He thinks the rebellion is nearly played out in this state. The trains are running to Tullahoma. They brought 340 rebel prisoners the other evening. The Tennessee rebels would rather fight in the Union army than to leave the state to fight. He was in a cave today. He was going to send a copy of a Sesech letter to her father. She must not read it out. It was found at the Murfreesboro fight.

July 12: Last night a sutler who did not belong there who got mad at some of the boys and ordered them away. They returned and tore his tent down and stole lots of things. Co. C had to go and guard there last night. They are arresting all of them they know. They are mostly 93<sup>rd</sup> Ill. boys. He hopes that our boys in Indiana will take Old Morgan in (John Hunt Morgan raid?).

Isaac Little, Wartrace, Tenn., to Sally Little, July 15, 1863

Fort Hudson has surrendered with 18,000 prisoners and Richmond is surrounded. They hear that Morgan is still going ahead in Indiana and Ohio. He thinks the raid will open the eyes of some of the Copperheads. Morgan will surely be captured before he gets out of there. He hopes Lee will be captured. He thinks the war will be over by Christmas. He will send her some plum seeds. Another man from his company has died. He thinks they have the meanest doctors. They will let a man roll before they take him in. He thinks if the doctors had sent him to the hospital sooner, he would have been nearly well by now. He thinks they are going to split up the whole regiment. They say that all the volunteers will be put in other regiments. If they are put in another regiment our time will be out when the war is over anyhow. If we volunteer we have to stay 3 years. I he ever goes in again he wants to go in the artillery which is the easiest service. Several of the boys are sick. The springs are not good.

Isaac Little, Wartrace, Tenn. to Sally Little, July 26, 1863.

If he doesn't get home in time to sow wheat this fall, he want to hire someone to sow 5 or 6 acres for me. Some say they will go out by the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept. In which case, he can sow the wheat himself.

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Isaac Little, Wartrace, Tenn. to Sally Little, July 29, 1863.

She had told him not to enlist again. In any case, he is going to go home before he enlists again. One man in his company is getting out now. His whole family is sick and some of his property is under execution. They had heard that Morgan was taken a week ago. But the next day the paper states that he is marching north. Yesterday the papers states that he and his staff are prisoners. They are tired of army rations. They buy chickens etc. He had bought a Daily Union yesterday that said the rebs were murdering the Union men. He will send it to her father. He expects she will think they ought to kill every rebel we take.

Isaac Little, Wartrace, Tenn. to Sally Little, Aug. 4, 1863.

He is sending her a soldier's certificate that he filled out. When he goes home, he will frame it and put a glass over it. Rosecrans visited them. He said that their brigade was one of the best he had seen. If all the generals were like him, this war would have been over by now. Most of the sick are furloughed home. Those who aren't fit for service will be discharged. Some of the boys who have gone home say they would just as soon not go home because they hated to come back so soon and leave home again. He will risk it if they give him the chance. He thinks they will go to Alabama or to Kentucky. The word is that their regiment and all the rest will be filled up with drafted men.

Isaac Little, Wartrace, Tenn. to Sally Little, Aug. 8, 1863.

He has got a new kind of pen. He can fill the stalk with ink and write 2 or 3 sheets. They are having an easy time. There is a great deal of talk about them going home soon. If they reenlist as veterans, he wants to stay in the 84<sup>th</sup>. If they give the boys furloughs first, then they would reenlist in the Veterans. He describes what they had for dinner: hominy, boiled shoulder, butter, molasses honey, light bread, cucumbers. The citizens are coming in to trade something to the soldiers every day. They trade butter etc. for coffee and such things. There are no stores here. His clothing bill is \$58. They are allowed \$42 worth of clothing. The first outfit cost nearly \$30.

Isaac Little, camp on Elk River, Tenn. to Sally Little, Aug. 17, 1863.

They had left Wartrace last Wednesday (Aug. 12) and marched to Tullahoma. The captain and some of the boys (including Isaac) went to the fort that the rebels had made. He thinks that if they had stood and fought there they could have held the place a good while. They had a clear range for 2 miles and breastworks for batteries all about on the field and rifle pits all around the fort and works. He saw 2 large siege guns, 24 lb and one 6 pd. Rifle gun. The rebels had burned the carriages. Rosecrans had gotten between them and Chattanooga and they got scared and thought their retreat was cut off. So they left all the works that they thought the Yankees could not take. They had marched to Estill Station and then crossed the Elk River and camped for a day or two. They are now camped on the north bank of the river close to the railroad from Chattanooga to Nashville. They can see the range of Smoky Mountains., 8 or 10 miles off. All the forces in the front have moved or are going to soon. The 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan engineers left yesterday after they build a couple of bridges across the river. The railroad is about 50 feet from the water. Some of the boys have sent their names to get offices in a 'nigger' regiment. Several men wanted him to put his name in, but he doesn't think he would like to go with a "darky regiment" There is one darky regiment camped close by. They learn to drill fast. He is going to see if Nate can sow a little patch of wheat for him.



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Isaac Little, Manchester, Tenn., to Sally Little, Aug. 30, 1863.

His company and Co. I are guarding a small bridge on the McMinnville railroad. They are having a good time there. He has heard that they would start home in 8 days. Their bunk is floored and looks like a house. It is weather boarded and has 2 beds. They muster for pay tomorrow. He had heard that a man in Ind. was harboring a deserter from the regiment. He found an old overcoat that will do him for he thinks the war won't last longer than Christmas. There are only a few families in town. Most have run off when the rebel soldiers left. He had heard that the deserter had escaped. He would just as soon be dead as to keep hidden all the time.

Isaac Little, Manchester, Tenn., to Sally Little, Sept. 4, 1863.

The 84<sup>th</sup> has not been discharged yet. If they aren't out by Sept. 25, he will give up getting out. They have to go out on duty more often now. Their captain was told by an old citizen that Forrest and Wheeler were going to clear them out. The Captain put on more pickets. About 100 prisoners on trains came by last night. He has been selling papers for a few mornings. More women are coming into camp to sell stuff (pies, butter, beans). The camp looks like a lot of smoke houses. He got sick from eating too much plum pie. He wants her to send him some knitted socks. The ones they are issued are too thin. After Sept. 25, the regiments in for 3 years can enlist. Then they might have a chance to go out. If they don't get out, he thinks they will get furloughs this winter.

Isaac Little, Bridgeport, Ala., to Sally Little, Sept. 11, 1863.

They are camped about a mile from the Tenn. River where the railroad crosses the river. There is no town, just a lot of fortifications that the rebels made. Five days ago they left Manchester. Two days ago they camped at Stevenson. Gen. Rosecrans may have taken Chattanooga. They are in the 1st Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Reserve Army Corps [n.b. Gen. Granger commanding]. There was a commotion while they were at Manchester. Two Ohio soldiers had been left at a hospital. They decided to leave and join their regiments. It was further away than expected and turned back. That night they were attacked by bushwackers who searched them for money. They were marched away and then shot them, hitting one in the back. The other one ran away. The first soldier was shot in the face. The one who ran away went to a citizen's house and told him about it. The citizen went to Little's camp and told the captain what had happened. 20 men went out and arrested a lot of the bushwackers and brought 4 back to camp. They were taken to Tullahoma and then sent to Murfreesboro to be tried. He expects some of them will be hung or shot. They found the soldier who was shot and gave him a proper burial. He expects that they will be going through Alabama. A year ago yesterday they were in Covington, Ky. A year ago today they were digging trenches at Camp Wallace. He guesses that the 9 month term was not true. He thinks they well go for 3 years or until the war is over. He thinks they will get furloughs this winter.

A paper states that Gen. Lee was waiting to see how Gens. Rosecrans, Grant and Gillmore got along. If they were successful, he would surrender his whole army to Gen. Meade.

Isaac Little, camp near Chattanooga, to Sally Little, Sept. 16, 1863.

They are camped 4 miles south of Chattanooga (in Georgia). Rosecrans' army has been skirmishing with Gen. Bragg's rear guard. They could see the smoke of the guns from the top of Lookout Mt. 2 days ago, 15 miles away. They had arrived with 10 days rations, that were about

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to give out. The boys were ordered to go out and catch hogs and get meat. However, some went out to shooting. Gen. Granger sent out a lot cavalry to bring them back. About 100 men were taken to headquarters. Some said that Granger was going to have them whipped. About 1000 men went up to headquarters. Excitement got pretty high. All the men in camp were mad and if the men had been whipped, it would have been quite a time. The officers in the regiments got uneasy so the boys were released. Someone threw a rock at Granger and came near hitting Gen. Steadman. He saw a train of wagons that had 400 deserters from Bragg's army. There are about a regiment of citizens from Alabama & Tennessee going into the U.S. service at Stevenson. He is sending her some passion flower seed to plant next spring.

Isaac Little, camped on the mountain, one mile west of Chattanooga, to Sally Little, Sept. 23, 1863.

Last Friday they went out scouting and were fired on. It was quite a skirmish. The next day they had a pretty hard fight [Battle of Chickamauga]. Sunday was the hardest fight he had been in. His regiment made 6 or 8 charges. They had to fall back. He mentions several men who were killed or wounded. He didn't get a scratch. Co. E suffered a good deal. It is reported that the regiment suffered between 125 and 150 in missing, killed or wounded. He heard that the Brigade lost 1,100 men. They had been in the line of battle for 4 days. Nearly ½ of the company's officers have been killed or wounded. This fight is not over yet. The rebels say this is the last fight if they get whipped here. He saw some of the rebel deserters helping the Union wounded off the field. They were under Gen. Whitaker.

Isaac Little, camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Sally Little, Sept. 24, 1863.

They are cutting timber on the side of the mountain and are making breastworks. At daybreak their men began shelling about 5 miles to the right. The cavalry has been sent out to see where the rebels are going, since they had not made a dash forward since yesterday. The men say this was the hardest fight since Stone River. On Sept. 17, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of their division went out toward Ringgold (Ga.) and was attacked by the rebels, forcing them to fall back. On Friday (Sept. 18), the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade went out and the first thing they knew, the rebel pickets fired on the 96<sup>th</sup> Ill. Reg. and killed two men and wounded some more. They sent out skirmishers and formed a line in the woods. They advanced but had to lay down as the rebels were throwing shells all around them. They lay on the ground all night. The next morning (Sept. 19) they fell back a few miles and had breakfast. They went back to the line around noon but had a hard time. Several of the 84<sup>th</sup> men were killed. They were on the extreme right, lying behind a fence, waiting for a chance to shoot. The rebels got around them and were firing on their line, down the fence. They were ordered to fall back in quick time. The 115<sup>th</sup> Ill. was sent up to give them a heavy round. That night they lay about 2 miles from the field. It was very cold and many of the men suffered. His pant legs were wet from wading across a creek and he slept with the captain who had a woolen blanket. The next morning (Sept. 20), they heard firing on their right, 5 or 6 miles away. They started off in that direction and about noon came up close to the rebels. The rebels saw the dust and started shooting at them. One shell struck 10 feet in front of him and bounced over the men. He saw lots of dead men. They marched down a hill into a hollow and commenced to fight. He fired at 3 or 4 men close together and then at a man holding a flag. The 121<sup>st</sup> Ohio got the flag, he heard. It had 15 holes in it. He thought he would hate to fire at a man, but when the bullets started whizzing around him, he did his best. He fired 20 times when the fighting commenced. George Spera had his gun up ready to fire and the end of his thumb

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was shot off. He fired his gun anyway, loaded and gave them another. A rebel battery firing on them as they went down the hill shot a lot of grape and canister but didn't kill very many. They fell back and moved to the right to support a battery and saved it. Shortly after, he saw the rebel deserters helping Union wounded off the field. They made the last rally near sunset. About 150 of the men got together and went back to camp. Two of his closest comrades were shot and supposedly dead. There were only 3 men missing. They returned to the camp about 10:00 that night. His company had the least loss of any in the 84<sup>th</sup>. He describes and names the many officers who were killed or wounded. "The rebs had a sight of sharpshooters that killed many officers". It is reported that some of Burnside's and Grant's men are there. The rebels sent word that Rosecrans should surrender Chattanooga or they would burn the town down at 4:00 yesterday, but it still stands. Gen. Whitaker is quartered about 20 steps in front of Co. H. They are on slim rations now. They have to be hauled from Bridgeport, 80 miles away over the mountains.

Isaac Little, camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Sally Little, Sept. 29, 1863.

They are on picket duty along the Tennessee River on the north side. They had evacuated Lookout Mountain and the rebels hold it now. Both sides are shooting at each other. Co. H and C and the rebs have decided not to fire on each other unless they try to cross the river. Some men had been sent down the river with a ferry boat to take some wagons across. The rebels fired on them, killed some and some swam out. The rest were taken prisoner. They are having fun talking with the rebels. One rebel said not to shoot until he shot and the other not until he smoked. He heard the rebels hold a church service Saturday night. He expects that there will be a big artillery fight soon. The company was on duty through the night and they sleep in the daytime. They haven't been under their tents for 18 days. The tents are still at Bridgeport. There is a cave just across the river and some women live in it. One of the women hollared not to shoot them. They don't shoot at women with lead so she need not be uneasy.

#### **Folder 9 Oct. 1863 – Jan. 1864 (21 items)**

Isaac Little, camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Sally Little, Oct. 15, 1863.

He's had diarrhea for a few days. He is going to try for a furlough as soon as they get paid off. It probably won't be for more than 20 days which means he won't be able to stay at home very long. They have built shanties and covered them with boards. They don't leak much. He describes the missing, wounded and killed in Co. H. The reason he thinks he can get a furlough is because of some notes that need to be renewed.

Oct. 16: If she sends any socks or anything via Dave Pogue, she should leave it at the depot in Winchester for him to get. They learned today that (John) Brough got 30,000 majority for governor of Ohio. There was a lot of cheering.

Isaac Little to Sally Little, undated [mid October, 1863?]

The election was in the 40th Ohio and Valandingham got 2 votes. Brough got 304. You can see the soldiers don't think much of a Butternut. There is talk of a regiment to be raised for veteran pioneers to build bridges and cut roads etc. They won't have to fight any unless they are attacked. Privates get \$17 a month, corporal gets 20, sergeant 22 and then \$4.02 bounty. He guesses it is for 3 years or the war. He doesn't like the idea of going in for a longer time but he likes the kind of work better than fighting. He got enough of that on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> (Chickamauga).

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The bullets came as thick as a handful of beans thrown against a house. He can't see how so many got out safe. There is talk of his regiment being taken out of the reserve and put in the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> division, 4th Army Corps. There are hundreds of families in this state that will suffer, if not starve, if the war lasts all winter. Everything is gone that was raised here and no stock; only a few poor cows.

Isaac Little, camp near Chattanooga, Tenn., to Sally Little, Oct. 19, 1863.

He doesn't like being in battles. (There is not much fun but a heap of hard work). He had plenty of food in the battle but his haversack came off and he didn't have time to get. He believes there were more men killed when they were falling back than when they were advancing. The rebels were hid behind trees and when they saw them fall back, they would come out and fire a volley at them. He heard yesterday that Bragg had sent Rosecrans word that he would give him until 10:00 today to surrender Chattanooga. If he didn't, he would shell it. It is 11:00 and not a gun was fired yet. Rosecrans sent Bragg a note that he had some sick and lazy men and did not think he could get them out and for him to go ahead when he got ready. Their knapsacks arrived a few days ago. He thinks they will get new blankets and tents in a few days in place of those that got burned. They were allowed \$42 for clothing for the year but got \$52 more so he expects to come out all right (he has drawn clothing worth \$66.48).

Isaac Little to Sally Little, Oct. 31, 1863.

While he was on picket around 4 in the morning, 55 pontoon boats came down the river with 1200 men. They landed 2 miles below Lookout Mt. on the other side and took possession of the river. His regiment was sent down river to support the pickets for two days. He thinks they will have the railroad in operation in a few weeks. There has been artillery fighting almost every day. The captain is going to try and get furloughs for 2 or 3 of Co. H. He is owed \$56 in back pay. The rebels abandoned a lot of corn across the river. He helped load 2 wagons with corn. The rebels had just shot a shell from Lookout Mt. at their camp. Nobody was hurt. They are two miles from the top of the mountain.

Isaac Little, Shell Mound Station, Tenn., to Sally Little, Nov. 3, 1863.

They left their camp near Chattanooga on Nov. 1. They had crossed the river 3 miles below Lookout Mt. on a pontoon bridge. The rebels saw them and tried to shell them but didn't hurt anybody. They had plenty of food now, but they had been down to ¼ rations at Chattanooga. Sometimes they drew 9 crackers for 2 ½ days and a little bit of meat. ¾ lb of crackers is a ration of bread. When he was on picket along the river, he and the other men would pick up corn in a field where the horses had shelled it off. He bet there isn't a hatful of shelled corn on the field which was 100 acres or more. Gen. Hooker is there now with a lot of the Potomac army. They now hold the river between Bridgeport to the pontoon bridge below Lookout Mt.. There is a big cave here (John A. Murel's Cave). [Murel was a notorious river pirate on the Mississippi]. The rebels had a furnace to boil water that comes out of it to make saltpeter. He had heard that a man had gone in the cave with 5 days rations and candles. He went in to hunt for 3 or 4 soldiers who had gone in and got lost. He guesses he'll stay out of the blamed hole. They had a dress parade last night for the first time since they left Wartrace.

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Isaac Little, Shell Mound Station, Tenn. to Sally Little, Nov. 9, 1863.

There is some talk of them going to Kentucky this winter. Gen. Whitaker is a member of the Ky. legislature and will have to attend this winter. He will either have to take his brigade there or resign. He doesn't want to give his brigade up. He can draw clothing much cheaper from the army. All sutler goods are higher. Gen. Grant has issued orders for no sutler to cross the river to this side because forage is so scarce.

Isaac Little, Shell Mound Station, Tenn. to Sally Little, Nov. 28, 1863.

There has been more fighting in front of Chattanooga. [Battle of Chattanooga] The Union soldiers have driven the rebels over the Chickamauga battleground and back almost to Pigeon Gap. Gen. Sheridan is there so the rebels are cutoff and hemmed in. A lot of prisoners have been taken. Two nights ago, 1150 prisoners went by on foot on the railroad. 206 went by this morning. It is said that 10,000 were yet to come. Some say there are 14,000 to come. The 18<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery and the 10<sup>th</sup> Ind. Battery fired shells at the rebels on Lookout Mt, but the shells fell in the Union ranks and killed several. (Battle of Lookout Mt.) Gen. Whitaker has his headquarters on top of the mountain. He asks her how much money they have. He has forgotten. There is more talk about being able to enlist in the Veterans and stay in the company until the regiment's time is out. If the war isn't over, then they will have to stay 3 years and get \$402. He doesn't know what he'll do yet. Veterans are promised a furlough as soon as they enlist.

Letter to George Coats: He would like to be home and kill muskrats. He drew a good pair of boots the other day which cost @2.87. The sutlers sell worse boots for \$8.

Letter to Margaret Coats: He asks if she saw the eclipse of the moon the other morning. It was on the 25<sup>th</sup>, about 4:00 in the morning. It was about ¾ covered. He is sending her a piece of telegraph wire used by Gen. Rosecrans. The telegraph was from Bridgeport to Chattanooga. He had had it thrown up on bushes, rock and logs. Nobody would know what it was if they were to see it in the woods. [A piece of the wire is attached in a page protector].

Isaac Little, Shell Mound, Tenn., to Sally Little, Dec. 7, 1863.

He has a paper (*Nashville Union*) describing the Battle of Lookout Mt. which he is sending her. The 84<sup>th</sup> Ind. and the 115<sup>th</sup> Ill. were not there but the rest of the brigade was.

Isaac Little, Shell Mound, Tenn. to Sally Little, Dec. 15, 1863.

He weighs 188 lbs. 6 regiments of the brigade were in the Battle of Lookout Mt. His regt and the 115<sup>th</sup> Ill. stayed in camp because they had no blankets. They have built a good frame house, 10 x 18 ft. with a fireplace, a table, 3 beds, 5 stools, a pot bench, a cupboard, a bookcase, 2 mantle pieces and a broom. He hasn't tried to get a furlough yet. He is going to submit his request in about 10 days. It will take 10 days to process. If he doesn't get it, he will stay until the war is over or until his time is out.. Then he won't have to come back. He has got a New York Illustrated that has Lookout Mountain and Browns Ferry. The 18<sup>th</sup> Ohio Battery was on a ridge called moccasin point. Our camp was in the hollow between two ridges. The white house on the mountain is where Bragg has his headquarters. The Chickamauga fight was on the left of the mountain. They were crossing on the pontoon bridge when the rebels tried to shell them. A shell burst up in the air half way to them (as the picture shows). They crossed the river and went around on the right side of the mountain where the rebels tried to shell them again. He sends her a pattern of corporal chevrons [drawn on a separate enclosed sheet]. He want her to cut a piece

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of black velvet or cloth and put blue tape or velvet in the shape of the pencil marks and leave about 1/3 inch between the stripes and to leave an inch to put on another stripe for a sgt. She can make a pair for each arm and then send them to him. The sutler asks 80 cents for sgts. and 40 for corporals.

Isaac Little, Tenn., to Sally Little, Jan. 31, 1864.

They are going to stay there for a while until the cars run up here. The railroad is nearly done to Chattanooga. It will be finished in a week or two. Send letters to Chattanooga instead of Nashville.

**Folder 10 April – July, 1864 (24 items + 2 photocopies)**

Isaac Little, Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 30, 1864.

[nb. He had been on leave since April 10 and had gone home on furlough]

He had gone back to Indianapolis and then got on the train at 9:00 to go to Jeffersonville. He got across the river and then to the depot on the Nashville road. At the depot, he missed his watch, pocketbook which had his furlough papers, \$13 and his pen. He thinks someone stole it right after he paid the hackman who had brought him across the river. He had to go to Barracks #1 and wait. He spent the next day and night in Louisville. He doesn't know when they leave Nashville for Chattanooga.

Isaac Little, Cleveland, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 4, 1864.

Apparently, he had burned his arm while at home in Ind., but it is healing fast. His regiment has moved towards Dalton. He wants to get to them by tomorrow. All of their camp equipage has been sent to Bridgeport.

Isaac Little, Tunnel Hill, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 8, 1864.

His arm is almost well. He had finally caught up with his regiment. He describes Catoosa Springs. There are 27 kinds of water inside a 10 acre area. There are a lot of big houses. It is fixed up for a water cure. It is one of the best places for a hospital he had ever seen. Yesterday morning they started out for Tunnel Hill. This morning (Sunday) they had driven the rebels out of a gap between here and Dalton. Tomorrow they will move on towards Dalton. There are over a hundred thousand in their army. He wants her to send him a likeness of her and Alistus.

Isaac Little, 4 miles south of Kingston, Ga., to Sally Little, May 20, 1864.

They have been skirmishing several days with the rear of Gen. Johnson's retreating army. They have a skirmish with them every evening. He doesn't think they will make a stand until they get to Atlanta. They must keep the rebels going so they can't fortify. Calhoun is one of the best fortified towns I ever saw. His new shirts are nice and cool and the graybacks (lice) can't stay in them like they do in the others.

Isaac Little, camp near Kingston, Ga., to Sally Little, May 22, 1864.

The rebels are fixing up for a stand 20 miles from here towards near some river. His corps (the 4<sup>th</sup>) and the 14<sup>th</sup> corps are to start in a few days on a raid to get in the rear of Atlanta and cut the railroads from there to Charleston, SC. He had just heard a good sermon at church.

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Isaac Little, camp near Dallas, Ga., to Sally Little, June 5, 1864.

They have to keep behind breast works part of the time. It has rained for 2-3 days and there is mud in the ditches. This morning they learned that the rebels had abandoned their breastworks. He thinks they have gone to Atlanta. No men in Co. H have been hurt yet. He thinks the Col. favors their company. They don't have half as hard a time as they did at Moccasin Point last fall. They can forage some here. It has been 2 weeks since he had shaved. He got shaved and made 15cents shaving others. 1/3 of each company had to stay awake at night on guard. The rebels charged 7 times. Their men repulsed them every time. They took Dallas and found 2,500 wounded. It is estimated the rebels lost 2,800 killed and wounded. He thinks the rebel soldiers have been told that they had surrounded the Union soldiers. But they are in the shape of a horseshoe with the rebels inside. The rebels shoot at our skirmishers and some of the balls come scattering around them. Once in a while one gets hit. That is why they have to lay behind breast works. He had heard that Union men took Marietta, so they have a railroad close to their lines.

Isaac Little, camp near Acworth, Ga., to Sally Little, June 8, 1864.

They have not been in any regular fight yet, but have been on skirmish line several times. The 124<sup>th</sup> Ill. Regt. (several family members and acquaintances were in it) is camped about 1 mile from here. The men from the 124<sup>th</sup> can visit any time they want, but the men from the Ind. 84<sup>th</sup> have to get a pass to go any distance. They are trying to get Henry rifles. They shoot 16 times and cost \$30. The colonel is trying to get them or Spencer rifles. It shoots 7 times and they are furnished by the government. If they were sharpshooters, they would not have to go into battle (sharpshooters stay back behind the front lines. They may have to keep their Enfields if the men do not agree. They get diarrhea from the warm weather if they are not carefully how they eat the fresh beef and salt. They have heard that Jeff Davis offers to come back in the Union and abolish slavery. He doesn't believe a word of it. They are considerably in the rear. Their men hold Marietta, 11 miles from here and Atlanta is 20 miles from there. They have 2 dress parades in a day and 5 roll calls.

Isaac Little, breastworks near Kennesaw Mt., Ga., to Sally Little, June 22, 1864.

They have been building breastworks while under fire from rebel skirmishers. No one in Co. H has been hurt yet in this campaign. They had a bad shelling from the rebels last night. Their men are shelling the mountain.

Isaac Little, camp near Chattahoochee, Ga., to Sally Little, July 9, 1864.

He has seen Atlanta from a high hill close by. With a telescope, he can see the windows in the houses. It is about 11 miles off. He could see rebel campfires scattered over the country. Night before last, 6 Union batteries opened on the rebels, 36 pieces. He never heard such a racket in his life. The rebels must think the Union had another revolving cannon. He looks at her likeness often. [Photocopy; no original]

Isaac Little, camp near Chattahoochee, Ga., to Sally Little, July 11, 1864.

They had moved 8 miles from the railroad where they had been 2 days ago. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps is in front of them across the river. Things are very quiet now. When he gets home, he thinks he will start anew and will join the Quakers at Jericho if they will have him.

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Isaac Little, camp on the Chattahoochee, to Sally Little, July 14, 1864.

They are now camped on the south side of the river, about a mile from the Ill. 124<sup>th</sup>. He has not been in a regular fight yet, but has been in some heavy skirmishes. No one in Co. H has been hurt yet. Atlanta will be theirs soon. It is very hot. He gets a little money by shaving the boys. Paper is very expensive (60 cents a quire). Corporals now get \$18 a month (\$5 more than they used to get). He is due \$88. He owes \$37. He wants to sell his watch. The men have been fishing.

Isaac Little to Sally Little, July 29, 1864.

They are now guarding the rear. They have sharp stakes in their breastworks, so the rebels could hardly get over, let alone in a hurry. The rebels won't try to charge the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps ("they must be afraid of us"). Gen. Oliver Howard has command of their Corps and the 15, 16, 17 Corps (since the death of Gen. McPherson). He asks her if she had heard anything about the soldier of Indiana going home to vote this fall. He has subscribed to a religious paper called *The Witness*.

### **Folder 11 Aug – Dec. 1864 (27 items)**

Isaac Little, near Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Aug. 3, 1864.

They are now east of Atlanta and can see some of the houses. They can see the rebels on their works about a mile from them. They have heard that his regiment and all the Indiana troops will get to go home this fall to vote. If they don't let the soldiers vote, he thinks that Indiana will go Butternut. Both Gov. Morton and Lincoln are interested. He visited the 124<sup>th</sup> Ill. the other evening. There are more boys and old men in that regiment than he ever saw. He believes his regiment would do as much fighting as two such regiments. They had gone to a chair factory near their previous camp. He and another soldier went out to get some chairs for the colonel. They got 5 chairs.

Isaac Little, camp near Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Aug. 15, 1864.

His regiment has been transferred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, commanded by Col. Grose. The night before last all of their artillery shelled the city all night. The rebels shoot into their camp at night. Two years ago yesterday (Aug. 14, 1862), he had enlisted. If they get to go home to vote, they will be there for almost a month to vote in both the state and Presidential elections.

Isaac Little, resting on rebel works, south of Atlanta, near East Point, Ga., to Sally Little, Aug. 31, 1864.

They are a little SE of Atlanta near the Macon RR. They had cut the Mobile & Atlanta RR for miles, it is torn up. It is believed the rebels are evacuating the city. His regiment was in the front line of battle.

Isaac Little, 9 miles SE of Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Sept. 7, 1864.

12 days ago, Gen. Sherman had taken his army from around Atlanta and struck out. The rebels thought Sherman had gone to the rear. They celebrated with dances, dinners etc and put out an Extra paper. In a day or two, Gen. Hood found out that Sherman was on the Macon RR and then cut to head them. His brigade struck the RR at Rough and Ready station and began tearing up the track and burning ties and heating the rails and bending them. They tore up 10 miles of track. They got in a fight no night near Jonesboro Station and killed a lot of rebels. On Sept. 3



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they got in another fight near Lovejoy Station. The 84<sup>th</sup> Ind. and the 84<sup>th</sup> Ill. were on the front line. His regt. got 23 prisoners. They are now about 9 miles from Atlanta. Now that they have got Atlanta, he thinks they stand some chance of going home to vote.

Isaac Little, camp, 1 mile east of Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Sept. 8, 1864.

They had got to Atlanta about 11:00 this morning and marched through the City and out on the East side. He guesses it is about the size of Dayton. It is a sight to see the ruins of the trains that the rebels burned when they left. He guesses there was about 100 cars burned and 3 engines. They got a report that there were 80 carloads of ammunition burned. Ditches at the sides of the track are nearly full of shells and balls. And several hundred gun barrels.

Isaac Little, Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Sept. 10, 1864.

They have gone into camp to rest for a while. They have been on the campaign for 4 months. He thinks it is getting too late for a regular fall campaign. He is afraid they will not get to go home to vote. He has \$5 booked now for shaves at 5 cents apiece. He had heard that Gen. Sherman had issued an order for all Secesh women to go South through our lines. He guesses there are too many to feed.

Isaac Little, camp near Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Sept. 16, 1864.

Col. Neff has resigned and is starting home. They have a nice camp and light duty. The Colonel thinks they will get to go home to vote. They had a straw vote in the regiment. The 9<sup>th</sup> Ind. all went for Lincoln and Morton, but one. In 4 days it will be a year since the Battle of Chickamauga. 84<sup>th</sup> Ind. vote totals: Lincoln: 216; McClellan: 36; Gov: Morton 239; McDonald: 4

Isaac Little, Atlanta, Ga., to Sally Little, Sept. 25, 1864.

Isaac Little, Pine Mountain, Ga., to Sally Little, Oct. 8, 1864.

They had left Atlanta on Oct. 3 and marched back to this point. The rebels had torn up the RR from Big Shanty to near Acworth but Gen. Thomas gave them a thrashing at Altoona. They thought they heard their ammunition train being blown up. He thinks Gen. Hood is trying to get back to Alabama. He thinks they would have gotten to the election if this trouble had not come around. Gen. Polk was killed about a ¼ mile from here. They can see as far as 50 miles some places.

Isaac Little, camp near Galesville, Cherokee Co., Ala., to Sally Little, Oct 25, 1864.

They have been raiding around Georgia and Alabama, driving Hood out of here. They are 59 miles SW of Chattanooga and 25 miles west of Rome, Ga. They had been out foraging and killed 2 sheep and 2 hogs. They also have molasses and dried peaches. They are getting ready to make hominy. He had sold his watch for \$22.50 in greenbacks. He wants to know the woman's name who wanted to rent their house. He thinks they will winter near Rome, Ga. this winter and he wants to learn the watch trade.

Isaac Little, Pulaski, Tenn., to Sally Little, Nov. 4, 1864.

They had gotten to Chattanooga and camped at Rossville. Then they camped at the foot of Lookout Mt. They left for Decatur, but stopped in Athens., Ga. They went out to the fort that

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had been evacuated by Hood's army. They found a lot of rations there. The rebels had captured a lot of their men and a lot of Negroes a while back. Two days ago they left for Pulaski. They are 78 or 80 miles south of Nashville. He thinks they will get paid soon. He is owed \$160 by the government. He wants to send \$150 home. They will be out 10 months from yesterday.

Isaac Little, Pulaski, Tenn., to Sally Little, Nov. 14, 1864.

Frank had brought back a pair of socks, a towel and a can of butter. They did not get to go home to vote. He isn't going to try to go home this winter because some of the other men who want to go have not been able to yet, so he guesses he'll wait.

Isaac Little, camp near Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, Dec. 2, 1864.

They are camped 2 miles south of Nashville. He had put 2 50-cent pieces in a previous letter along with 6 buttons for a coat for Alistus, but the mail sack was lost. He doesn't know when she will get them. They had left Columbia, Tenn. on Nov. 29 and got to Franklin the next morning. At 3:00 in the afternoon, their skirmishers were driven back and then began one of the hardest fights he knew of. [Battle of Franklin, Tenn.] The 23<sup>rd</sup> Corps was the left. The rebels charged them 9 times and were repulsed every time. It was reported that the Union took 2-4 thousand prisoners. The fight lasted until 10 or 11 o'clock. They were SW of town and were not in the fight much. About midnight, they left their works and fell back to Brentwood. Then they moved to their present camp. He thinks Hood will try to go around here and try to get into Kentucky. He had sent \$125 home.

#### **Folder 12 Jan. – March, 1865 (23 items)**

Isaac Little, camp near Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Jan. 29, 1865.

He hopes to get 4 months pay (\$72). He will send her \$50. He has been making and selling rings.

Isaac Little, camp near Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Jan. 30, 1865.

He thanks the women who are recruiting men for the army. He had heard that Gen. Stanley had said they would stay here for 2 or 3 months. He likes it here. The citizens are civil and friendly and the streets are lined with fine ladies. They look like Indiana ladies. He likes Gen. Stanley but hates Gen. Wood. He had command while Stanley was gone and he will get drunk. Stanley doesn't drink and doesn't let his officers do so, if he can help it. He is going to order lots of photographs of generals and women to sell. He can get them at 50 cents a hundred and sell them for 1-20 cents apiece.

Isaac Little, camp near Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Feb. 5, 1865.

He had gotten a book describing the Battle of Chickamauga with a map showing the route of march of the different Corps. He is sending it to her. He wants to read it when he gets home. This was the first fight they were in. He wants a small box of apple butter from Mother Coffin. He had bought a gold pen for \$1.50. He has a new pair of boots. He had gotten letters from two of his daughters from his first wife who are living with their grandmother [Charity Coats Coffin, Sally Coats Little's aunt].

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Isaac Little, camp near Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Feb. 11, 1865.

He asks her how much their tax was. He made \$8.75 yesterday for 9 rings. He has sold \$21.75 worth of rings since they left Nashville. They will head for home in 6 months, a month before their time is out. He is sending her another book called "Bob Brant, Patriot and Spy: A tale of the War in the West".

Isaac Little, Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Feb. 19, 1865.

They have new colors and banners. He carries the banner. The color guards and color bearers have to build quarters near the Colonel's headquarters. He made 24 rings last week. There is talk that his regiment would be detailed to guard corps headquarters.

Isaac Little, Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, Feb. 22, 1865.

The rain had dampened the Washington's birthday celebration. They did not have their Grand Review. He doesn't think he will want their house until Sept. 1. There is some talk of taxing the soldiers' property to raise money to pay the big bounty to get volunteers now. He won't pay any such tax. New volunteers are not better than they were and they only got \$100 gov't. bounty and \$30 County bounty. He thinks it will be like the old revolution soldiers who died beggars or nearly so. As soon as the war is over a common soldier will not be thought of as much as some coward that stayed at home and made war speeches. He made 24 rings last week. He wants her to make him 2 shirts. The ones they draw are so short they won't cover his gun cock and the lice are not half so bad on cotton shirts as those they draw.

Isaac Little, Huntsville, Ala. to Sally Little, Feb. 25, 1865.

He thinks they will start home in about 5 months.

Isaac Little, Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, March 9, 1865.

They had heard that Gen. Sheridan had captured Gen. Early and his army. He hopes that nobody reads his letters. He keeps one of hers until he gets another one and then he burns the old one. He has made over \$50 making rings. He wants her to buy a sow and pigs if she can. He is still in the color guard. He corrects himself from a previous letter. Color guards have to go in a battle like everyone else. Guards at Corps headquarters would not go in battle.

Isaac Little, Huntsville, Ala., to Sally Little, March 12, 1865.

They are expecting to move tomorrow to Knoxville, Tenn., then to Bulls Gap 4 miles beyond. He thinks they will guard the Cumberland and Pound and Bulls Gaps to keep Lee from coming in there if he leaves Richmond. They will be leaving by train. They won't let anybody in to visit Harrison Hickman in the hospital unless they have had smallpox.

Isaac Little, camp near Strawberry Plains, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 17, 1865.

The railroad car that they were riding on ran off the track near Larkinsville, Ala. One man tried to raise the car up and it broke loose and he fell under the car and was killed instantly. Other men were injured badly. Isaac was riding on top of the car but didn't get hurt. They are now camped on the Holston River. They have heard that Lee had evacuated Richmond. He might try to come through here. If so, they will give him a warm reception.

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Isaac Little, Strawberry Plains, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 23, 1865.

He thinks there are more women in the county than there are at home. They say there are 15 houses on the other side of the river and the boys say every one is a whore house. He is not going over there. He is going to wait until he gets home. He is going fishing this evening.

Isaac Little, Bulls Gap, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 27, 1865.

They arrived here this morning via New Market, Mossy Creek and Russelville. He asks her to have her father keep an eye on Hugh Chamness who has married the woman living on their place. To make sure he doesn't do devilment. The captain told him he would be promoted to sgt.

Isaac Little, camp near Shields Mills, Tenn., to Sally Little, March 30, 1865.

They are camped 70 miles east of Knoxville on the railroad. She should take care and not get small pox. As they traveled, they passed several houses that had paper stuck upon the gate posts ("small pox here"). They did not get close.

### **Folder 13, April – June, 1865 (18 items)**

Isaac Little, Camp of the 84<sup>th</sup> Ind., at Corps headquarters, to Sally Little, April 4, 1865.

Yesterday they went about ½ mile to clear off a new campground because the old one was muddy. Then they returned to the old camp to hear a dispatch regarding Grant's taking Richmond. They are relieving the 90<sup>th</sup> Ohio for picket duty. A group of guerrillas came in the other day, after one had gotten a pass as a Union man. One tried to steal Gen. Wood's horse but he got caught, shot in the thigh. The General told the surgeon that if amputating his leg did not kill him, he would have him hung when he got well. He would like to get some money to buy back the land he had sold.

Isaac Little, camp near Bulls Gap Tenn., to Sally Little, April 10, 1865.

They had received the box of food she had sent. Most of it was spoiled, except for the apple butter, preserves and molasses. He thinks the box was left out in the sun and got wet. Some men in Company I got a box with whiskey in it. 6 or 8 of them got tight and kept a noise until midnight and kept the whole regiment awake. They have not been in any fight since Dec. 16 at Nashville. He tells her to hold off about buying a sow and pigs. Things will be cheaper in the future. But if she sees a good bargain, she should take it. They had just heard a dispatch saying that Grant has got Lee going towards Lynchburg. Grant is looking for Lee to surrender his whole army soon. One year ago today he was on the road from Nashville to Louisville going home. He thinks they will be home again in about 125 days. He wants to meet her at Winchester instead of Indianapolis because there might be a lot of drunk fellows going home from there.

Isaac Little, camp 6 miles west of Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, April 24, 1865.

They had gotten on the train to go to Knoxville, but didn't get there until midnight because the engine of another train jumped off the track into a pond; 4 or 5 cars rolled off and one man was killed and 3 or 4 hurt badly. They got back to Nashville last night and finally to their present camp this morning. He had ridden on top of the cars and the smoke and cinders made his eyes sore. He doesn't think the government would send them to Texas when they have only 4 months

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to serve. They had just gotten orders to draw 36 feet of lumber to fix up their bunds. He thinks they will start home around Aug. 1, if not sooner. Her cow has had a calf. Another man had gone to a battleground after the fight and found a man laying dead that he thought was Isaac. He had come close to writing home about finding Isaac dead.

Isaac Little, camp near Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 1, 1865.

He thinks he will be home by first of June. He had seen a War Dept. order instructing chiefs of commissaries to contract for rations for troops in the field until June 1. He doesn't think they will be paid until they get to Indianapolis. He is going to send her some quartz rocks he had gotten at Bulls Gap. They will cut glass.

Isaac Little, camp Harker near Nashville, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 7, 1865.

They are having a Grand Review tomorrow. Gen. Thomas will review them. He thinks they will get home by June 1. He had gone over the battleground of Dec. 16. He saw places where the rebels were buried in the ditches, some with their bones sticking out and he could see the ribs. He doesn't see why the citizen around there didn't bury them right, but it shows what is thought of a rebel. He thinks that people in the north ought to have hung all rebel sympathizers that rejoice that Lincoln is dead. There were several shot in Nashville for doing that. He mentions that Henry Carver has come back to the Company. He had deserted at Louisa the first winter they were out and went to Canada. He has returned under the last order of the President for deserters to come back and be pardoned. He saw an acquaintance in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ohio Cavalry who was wounded at Lovejoy station last fall. Two pieces of his ribs came out and he has them set in a ring. He has heard that they were to be mustered out tomorrow.

Isaac Little, camp Harker, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 14, 1865.

When some recruits are told to load in 9 times, they mistakenly put down 9 loads when it means there are 9 different distinct motions in loading a gun. He urges her again to not let anybody see "these naughty letters" he sends her. [n.b. this letter had 2 rather risqué sentences.]

Isaac Little, to Sally Little, partial letter, (probably written May 23 or May 24, 1865).

Will Smith had his trial yesterday but has not been sentenced yet. Isaac guesses that he will be sentenced from 1-3 years in the military prison and losing his pay.

Isaac Little, Camp Harker, Tenn., to Sally Little, May 27, 1865.

He is sending her a picture of Lookout Mt. The deserter, Willis Smith, had left the camp without permission? When he returned, he was arrested and kept under guard all night. He was sent to Div. headquarters under 2 guards. He had returned to find out what his sentence was and if he didn't like it, he would leave for good. Co. H. thought otherwise. Although there is no fighting to do and he is getting \$20 a month doing nothing, he would rather be at home at work.

Isaac Little, Camp Harker, Tenn., to Sally Little, June 5, 1865.

The officers are working on the muster rolls for 2-3 days but couldn't get them right. He hears that they may have to stay until Sept 3 unless there is a special order from the War Dept. He thinks Gov. Morton can get them out before then. He is getting \$20 a month. He mentions various pets that the soldiers keep: squirrels, raccoons, ground hogs, pole cats, red birds, snakes. He doesn't regret his time in the army but he is ready to come home. Will Amith tried to get

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away the other night. He was caught and taken back had they tied him with his legs around a little tree.

Isaac Little to Sally Little, June 10, 1865.

Gen. Stanley has ordered their regiment to be mustered out and they will be inspected next Monday (June 12). He thinks they will arrive in Indianapolis in week. All the pack mules and wagons were turned over yesterday. The Ill. 84<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> have left.

[n.b. Isaac Little was mustered out on June 14, 1865, as a sergeant.]

#### **Folder 14, 1880-1900, undated documents (9 items)**

Isaac Little, Winchester, Ind., to Howe Machine Co., Indianapolis, Ind. Aug. 16, 1880.

The heirs of N.A. Little [may be his brother, Nathan who died between 1870 and 1880] estate are grumbling for their inheritance. His bondmen are urging him to settle it some way. He had gotten a letter from J. Heisen Holder of First Mortgage wanting his money. He asks the Howe Co. what to do: pay off the other mortgage and keep the land. What would be the least they would take in money and let I. Little be released from the mortgage held against him. This option would cost him almost everything he has in the land to pay for it. There is nothing in it for him but if Isaac can borrow the money and he doesn't ask too much, he will try and do something.

Isaac Little, Winchester, Ind., to Ed Olin, March 7, 1881.

He thinks that he has made him the best offer he can. His daughter [either Clara Jane or Minerva] has died and the funeral expenses are to be paid soon. This year, the taxes are much higher and are not paid. If he wants the money that Isaac offered and will release him and his land, Ed can have it. If you don't want to do that, let me know and I can pay the taxes etc. out of the money. I can't pay it out and keep my land. It is drawing interest and as fast as I could make it, it would take a long time.

Reunion Committee, 84<sup>th</sup> Ind. Vol. Regt., Hartford City, Ind., to Comrade, Aug. 20, 1892

Printed invitation to the 20<sup>th</sup> annual reunion to be held at Hartford City., Sept. 16, 1892.

Attendees are to report to the Headquarters of the association at the Van Cleve opera house.

Arrangements have been made for transportation via the Pennsylvania Lines on Sept. 17 to the National Encampment at Washington D.C. Fare for round trip is \$13.

J.J. Brown, Jordan, Ind. to Isaac Little, Dec. 18, 1900.

Brown is a former comrade from the army. He asks Isaac to do him a favor with regard to him getting his pension increased. He needs a testimonial stating when and where he left doing duty in the company. He wants information about the time they left Shelbyville, Tenn., and went to Wartrace, Tenn. At that time his legs gave out and he did no duty from that time on. He was sent back from Bridgeport, Ala. If Isaac can help him, Brown will come down to see him.

Office of Indiana Allotment Commissioner, T.A. Goodwin, Indianapolis, Ind. undated

Printed document: This office was responsible for sending payments to soldiers. Due to many complaints of exorbitant charges by express companies, he has adopted the original Government system of sending money by check on New York. Those receiving the check will be able to cash

Little, Isaac, 1834-1907. Papers, 1862-1900. .66 cu. ft.

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it at the nearest merchant or banker at par by properly endorsing it. They do not require revenue stamps.

Pension application form filled out by Isaac Little, undated