Co. noel

Game speech  
"Taprez"

Letter - 11-9-62

to

3-23-63.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nativity</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALLEN, George V.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Promoted Corporal 5-21-65, mustered out 6-6-65 in Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDERSON, Marion</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Mustered 1st Sergeant 8-22-62, promoted to 2nd Lieut. 6-11-63.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER, George W.</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Wounded severely 11-27-63 at Ringgold, Ga., promoted 1st Lieut. 6-12-64.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER, James W</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Mustered out 6-6-65 in Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER, Michael F</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Wounded slightly 5-13-64, wounded slightly 7-28-64 Atlanta, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTON, Benjamin</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Mass.</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. F. 4th Inft. 5-30-65 Atlanta, Ga.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEACH, Jerome</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENNETT, Robert</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. E. 5-20-65 Washington, D. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Nativity</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>BISHOP, Martin L</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>discharged for disease 5-30-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>#BISHOP, Wm. B.</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>died of disease 5-25-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK, John</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>discharged for disability 2-18-63, St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOYER, David A</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>promoted 1st sergeant 6-13-63; wounded 11-27-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURNSIDE, John</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>discharged for promotion as 2nd Lieut. in 1st Miss. Colored infantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURNSIDE, William</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>as 2nd Lieut. in 1st Miss. Colored infantry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>#CAVIT, George T</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>died of disease 6-10-63 on Steamer Nashville</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>#CHERRY, John</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>died 3-24-63 in Young's Point, La.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>#CHERRY, Samuel S.</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>died of disease 2-4-63 in Vicksburg, Miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARY, John</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>wounded severely 1-11-63 Arkansas Post, Ark. transferred to invalid Corps 9-3-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>COCHRAN, Thomas F</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Wounded slightly 5-13-64 Resaca, Ga. Transferred to Co. F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*COON, Elisha</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Died of disease 1-30-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRIE, George</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Wounded severely 3-20-65 Bentonville, N. C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVIDSON, Charles</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps 3-15-64.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEMARGE, Alex L.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Promoted 4th corporal 9-28-64; wounded severely leg amputated 3-20-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEMARGE, Moses</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Bentonville, N. C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENNISON, Martin</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DICK, James M</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Appointed 1st Lieut. 7-20-62; promoted captain 6-11-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>DONAHAY, Alpheus</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Appointed 1st Lieut.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*DUNLAP, Eugene</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Died of disease 7-30-63 Jackson, Miss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
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<td>ELDRIDGE, John</td>
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<td>FAWCETT, Simeon</td>
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<td>Ohio</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHBURN, Henry</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. G. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>FISHBURN, Noah F</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Enlisted 2-1-65. Transferred to Co. G. 4th Infantry 5-30-65. Wounded 7-12-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>HALE, George H</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
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<td>*HAMILTON, John A</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died of disease 4-6-63 Memphis, Tenn.</td>
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<td>*HAMMOND, John A.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARVEY, William</td>
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<td>*HATCHER, Jacob</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
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</tbody>
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| NORTH, Egbert      | 22  | Massachusetts | Died of disease 1-18-63
<p>| *JAYNES, Daniel   | 44  | New York  | Napoleon, Ark.                               |
| JOHNSON, Hugh      | 21  | Penn.    | Discharged for disability 3-3-63, St. Louis, Mo. |
| JONES, James       | 24  | Kentucky | Discharged for disability 9-12-63 Camp Sherman, Miss |
| KAIN, James        | 19  | Ireland  | Discharged for disability 4-10-65, Goldsboro, N. C. |
| KEATING, Mark      | 40  | Ireland  | Discharged for disability 8-1-63, Vicksburg, Miss |
| KILGORE, John C    | 19  | Iowa     | Promoted 2nd Corporal 2-11-63; 5th Sergeant 8-7-63. |
| KILGORE, Joseph.   | 19  | Ohio     | Wounded May, 1863 Vicksburg, Miss.           |
| KIRKPATRICK, Samuel| 21  | Ohio     | Died of disease 5-5-64 Keokuk, Iowa          |
| *KING, Isom        | 41  | Kentucky |                                              |
| KING, Patrick      | 42  | Ireland  | Died of disease 5-1-63 Memphis, Tenn.        |
| KOPP, Jacob        | 31  | Kentucky | Taken prisoner and paroled 11-21-64, Clinton, Georgia. |
| LANE, Alexander    | 22  | Ohio     |                                              |
| *LANE, Joseph B.   | 18  | Ohio     |                                              |
| LEFLER, John       | 19  | Germany  |                                              |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Nativity</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEWIS, Robert P</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Died of disease 9-12-63 Goodrich Landing, Miss</td>
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<tr>
<td>McBRIDÉ, Charles</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Died of disease 8-26-63 Monmouth, Ill.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*McCORKLE, James</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Died 3-16-63 on Steamer <em>Nashville</em></td>
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<td>*McDONELL, George</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Died of disease 5-29-64 Dallas, Ga.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*McDONELL, Matthew</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Wounded slightly 1-11-63 Arkansas Post, Ark.</td>
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<td>*McKEE, James T</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps 3-15-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKEE, Samuel</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. G. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARSHALL, William</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Died of disease 5-30-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*MESSICK, Moses M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died of disease 5-30-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>MILLER, David R</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Discharged for promotion as Lieut. in 1st Miss. Colored Infantry</td>
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<tr>
<td>NASH, Daniel W</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>11-19-63, Vicksburg, Miss Transferred to Co. C. 4th Infantry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NELSON, William</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Appointed Captain 7-28-62 Wounded slightly 1-11-63 Arkansas Post, Ark;</td>
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<tr>
<td>PALMER, Thompson</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. F. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<td>*PATTERSON, James M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Killed in action 5-27-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*PAYNE, Hiram</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died 6-25-63 Vicksburg.</td>
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<td>QUINN, David P</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died of disease 12-3-62 Washington, Iowa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>*ROACH, Richard</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>N. Carolina</td>
<td>Died 10-18-63, Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>ROBERTSON, Hugh</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Killed in action 7-12-63 Jackson, Miss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROYER, John F.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. D. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAUNDERS, Jesse</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Transferred to Co. A. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCOTT, Alexander</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Discharged for disability 2-16-63, St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
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<td>SHANNON, William</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Died of disease 7-5-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<td>SHIELDS, William</td>
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<td>Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHOWALTER, Benjamin</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Wounded 6-4-64 New Hope, Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>SITLER, Lewis E</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Died of disease 8-1-63 St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td>STEEDMAN, William</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>England</td>
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<td>STEVENS, Richard</td>
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<td>STEWART, James M</td>
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<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Died of disease 7-22-63 St. Louis, Mo.</td>
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<td>STEWART, Samuel</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died 11-15-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWIFT, John W</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>THOMPSON, George</td>
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<td>TIPTON, Bazell F</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Nativity</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOWNSEND, Marquis</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Discharged for disability 7-15-64, Columbus, Ohio.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VINCENT, James G</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Wounded slightly 1-11-63 Arkansas Post, Ark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLACE, John L</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Discharged for promotion as 2nd Lieut. of 67th Colored Infantry 5-11-65</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALLACE, Joseph</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died of disease 2-17-63 Camp near Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<td>WARFEL, Benjamin</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Died of disease 6-20-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<td>WERTS, Leonard</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Died of disease 6-20-63 Vicksburg, Miss.</td>
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<td>WHEATLEY, Allen W</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Discharged for disability 7-2-63, Madison, Indiana.</td>
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<td>WHEATLEY, Wright W</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Wounded severely 11-27-63 Ringgold, Ga.</td>
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<td>WHITE, Robert B.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Penn.</td>
<td>Wounded severely 7-11-63 Arkansas Post, Ark.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHITTELL, Hugh B</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>transferred to Co. D. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<td>WILKIN, Ralph</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>transferred to Co. D. 4th Infantry 5-30-65</td>
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<td>WINDERS, John M</td>
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<td>WOODS, Cyrus L.</td>
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<td>Killed in action 7-12-63 Jackson, Miss.</td>
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<td>WORTLEY, Charles</td>
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<td>WRIGHT, John M</td>
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<tr>
<td>YOUNG, John A</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Appointed 2nd Lieut. 8-15-62; promoted 1st Lieut. 6-11-63; wounded slightly 11-27-63, Ringgold, Ga.; wounded severely 5-13-64 Resaca, Ga. Promoted Captain 6-12-64.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents:

I am further in dixie than ever before. We left Mt. Pleasant on Saturday for St. Louis, arrived at St. L. on Tues. with the expectations of getting to stay but no, we were ordered wright along down the River for Hellena so we only had about 24 hours to spend in St. L. I saw the Boys there. they are doing fine & my old friend Jim Hammelton is all wright. I paid him the $5. Gideon is getting along fine, he has a heap to do, but he is able for it. (Sam is getting along fine, he is act. Sargt. Major he is liked well.) I do not know any-thing further in regard to exchange.

We have had rather bad luck coming down. Our Boat is heavy loaded & she run on a sand bar on the night of the 6th & still remains here. Now soon we will get away I do not know, but 3 days is a good streched I think to be in the middle of the Mississippi 20 miles below Island No. 10. Parte of our Reg. was put on another Boat & is I supose at Hellena by this time.

We arrived at Keokuk on sabath. I had not much chance nor time to look round much. But I took time to go to the Hospital & who do you think I saw first? No one but Old Ward Mas. Frey. He knew me & I him. He was as pleasant as you please. He took me all around and showed me all I had time to see. John
Lisenring is still there. I saw several I knew, but had not time to enquire about any particulars. But one thing I must not forget. You mind the fellow called Criss that eat the peaches. He is to my astonishment able for duty & on duty in Hospital.

I shall perhaps write some more before I get this mailed.

No more.

Your son

Dave

Direct to
Capt. D. J. Palmer,
Co. A 25th Iowa Inf't via Cairo.
Nov. 11th still on Board the sand Bar a good prospect of getting off today. I Hope we may. I shall mail this on some Boat going up the River.

I made arrangements that the money for transporting the men from Washington to Camp McLean was to be left at the bank payable to you & want to tell you what to do with it. We ourselves are out a good deal in that expedition the arrangement was the teams were to get 2½ a day and find themselves that they did not do. We had to be accountable for that ourselves. We propose paying each one $3½ a piece for the round trip throwing off $1½ for the trouble of getting the money. We had to get a man to go to Davenport for it which I suppose will cost something. You can arrange it some way to pay the teamsters. I shall send you a list of their names.
List of the names of teamsters.
John Patterson due each man $3.50
James Ball
James Vincent
James N. Stewart
Jonathan Wilson
Old Man Warfile
John Robertson
N. U. Fogg
Alex Brewer - Paid $1.00 due him $2.50
Tom McKee
J. B. Hunter
Jim Cherry
F. T. Townsand
John Palmer
Berry Palmer
Old Mr. Scott.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer
Washington, Iowa.
Dear Mother:

Yours of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} inst. came to hand the night before last. I had just mailed one that day before I rec'd yours. after receiving your letter I found I had not told you near all you wanted to know so I thought I would write you another. I am still getting better of my disease. I will soon be able for duty again. My arm is increasing in strength I think very fast. My fist has got so I can turn it clear back itself & I can shut my fist nearly tight. I believe I am going to get the full use of it, sooner than I expected. I get my washing done by the nigers. I do not do it myself. there are several contribands in the Co. but we have not got any yet. A man by the name of Geo. Thomson cooks for us. We get along finely, there is some talk of our moving from here soon. I do not know what direction. I hope toward Vicksburgh.
You wished to know what I thought of father's coming down. I would like very much to see him come down if you think you can stay alone, if he comes he will see a good deal of secesh country. I believe it will pay him, pretty well, if he comes. Lieut. Young wishes you to let the Young settlement know the time of starting. Lieut. Young wishes you to call & get acquainted with his wife. She lives in Dr. McClelland's house. You spoke of expressing socks & butter. You need not express the socks I do not knead them yet. But you might try a few lb. of butter. It is very dear here & not very good. It rates at from 25 to 40 cts. per lb. according to quality. Try a few lb. anyhow. I believe I have ans. all your inquiries. William Shannon has been sick he is now getting better. Cherry's are getting better. We have two men in Hospital, one in post Hospital in Helena & one in Regimental Hospital. Richard Stopes is in Reg'm'tal Hospital. Pretty bad with the flux. Johnson in Post H., with measles. The neighbor boys are all well. John Black is getting quite stout again. I shall close.

Your Very affectionate son.

David J.
Near Helen Arkansas
Dec. 18 '62

Dear Parents

Thinking I might not have another opportunity of writing for some time, I will address you a few lines. We received marching orders yesterday to be ready to march today. We did not go but we are still under the same orders yet. We do not know the minute we may be ordered to move. We do not know whither we are going, but the general impression is that we are going to Vicksburg "bully for us". I would like it if you were coming down that you had got along before we started. I was afraid I would have to stay on account of not being able to march but I think I will try it. I would not have Co. "A" get into a scrap without "Dave" not for the prettiest $100 gold piece ever was made. The Co. all seem to want me to go & I want to go. I want to command Co A. when they take Vicksburgh.
There are some of the Co. that are a little afraid that D--- will be excited rather much. The Regmt. was called out one night about 9 o'clock on account of the Pickets being fired into & driven in. I being sick D--- commanded the Co. & the boys thought he was a little too much excited for so small a fray, but my opinion is he will do better than they imagine. There is one thing I think certain, that he will be as good grit as ever done it. This with reference to D--- I do not wish to go any farther. I perhaps should not have said this much, but I presume it will be all right. I have not been able yet for duty. I am still improving slowly. We have a good deal of Picket duty to do. It is right tickleish to stand picket here. I understand since I commenced this, that the ambulance was sent in for to bring two men who have been killed since dark. Maj. ---- of the 4 Iowa Cavl. & a capt. of the same Regmt. was wounded yesterday, on a scout. The Gurillies are very bold down here, they attack nearly every forage train that we send out.
Things are carried on rather careless I think. I have been afraid of a surprise like Pittsburgh, if so we are on the outside & we will catch it first. A few mornings ago there was a post of 25 men "(pickets)" taken prisoner without firing a gun a little after daylight & on the same post the next night a guard of 26 men were taken so you may judge the Gurilkes are pretty sharp. From the appearance of things now I think we will go down the river with the fleet to Vicksburgh. I do not think we will go immediately but perhaps have to to take a few places along as we go.

We will have to leave a good man of the boys on account of sickness. Marion B. Anderson is sick the Dr. thinks he is taking the typhoid fever. I do not know who will be left exactly. None of the boys are very bad now except

(The rest of this page cut off. The letter continues) from his pay. he was paid one more dollar than I new of at that time.)

I have nothing more I believe.

Your affectionate son,

David J.
On board the John J. Roe
Dec. 25th '62

Dear Parents:

We are now lying ashore on the Ark. side not far above the Lou. line. There are about 100 boats lying here. I do not know what the programme is. We are under command of Gen. Steele. Some say we are not far from Vicksburgh by land, maybe the idea is to land us here & go across by land. I would liked you had been along it is quite a pleasant trip, it has been nice warm weather. Our reg't. is quartered on the Herucane Deck. besides our reg't. there are on this boat the 4th Iowa Inf't. & 1st Iowa Battery & about 100 cavl. We have met with no obstacle yet. We are no affloat again. Some of the boys were fired at back at the last landing in consequence thereof the boys set fire to the town.
Dec 25th. 4 o'clock P. M. Again we land at the mouth of the Yazoo River on the Lou. side. I do not know whether we are going on shore or not. I can not see why we are going to land on the Lou. side. The word is now we are differently Brigaded & transferred to Grants command. Our brigade is now commanded by Hovey of Ill. Used to be Col. of the Normal (33rd) Reg't. This is rather a funny Christmas. I suppose you are eating your fated turkey while we are living on sow belly & crackers, but still we are as merry as you. (We had to leave some of our boys at Helena on account of sickness. I will mention those that you know. Sergt. M. B. Anderson, John Black, Hiram Payne, Fawcett, Isom King, W. Shannon, Scott, Lyle Wallace. None of these however are very bad. None dangerous at all.) We are now within about 10 miles of Vicksburgh. I presume we will smell powder before long.
The boys we have along are all in good health and good spirits. I tell you ours is a good Co. I think I have the respect of all, at lest they seem to show it. I reported for duty today. I am beginning to feel good again. I guess I will be able to command Co. "A" in the fight yet. Lt. Dick and Young are well & send their respects. Alex Hammond is well. I guess may be we will land soon so I will close may be I will get to say a little more before sending it away.

Your son

David

Direct to
Capt. D. J. Palmer
via Helena, Arkansas.
Dec. 26th: We are now up the Yazoo River about 8 or 10 miles. We are landed. Suppose we go ashore. We are about 6 miles from Vicksburgh. Where we are landed there is a Rebel Picket post. They were seen leaving it as we approached. I do not know anything about how or when the attack will be made. I am now going to mail this. I do not know how soon it will go back, but presume the next you hear of us we will have been in a fight the gun boats are gone down the Miss. R. I suppose we will attack them in the rear while the gun boats shells them in front. I must close & get ready for any emergency.

(Give my respects to all & to Geo. Currie & parents. I understood he was getting better. I was glad to hear it.)

Dave.
Capt. D. J. Palmer's Book
Co. "A" 25th Regiment
Iowa Volunteer Infantry

Residence: Washington, Iowa
Parent's address: S. R. Palmer,
Washington, Iowa

Capt. D. J. Palmer
25th Iowa Inf.
1st Division
15th Army Corps.

Biography of Capt. Palmer commencing
Thursday, January 1st A. D. 1863

Spent the day on the boat, John J. Rose, which
was at the landing above Sidney A. Johnson farm in Miss.
on the Yazoo River near Vicksburg. Did not have any
turkey for New Years dinner. had to be doing on "sow
belly & shingles." Was up very early on the morn of
the first expecting to make a charge on the Reble
fortifications. But by some means the order was
countermanded. A great many rumors were going on
account of the disappointment.
Jan: 1863
2nd. Moved down the River Yazoo to Johnson's Landing.
Went on board the Continental about 1 o'clock in
morning. got all our Baggage. got all the trans-
portation loaded every thing seeming to indicate a
retirement of the army for what reason do not know.
Why they would fight 3 or 4 days lose so many lives
& then leave is hard to tell. Supose the officers
thought it could not be easily taken so call it a
reconicance & retire till plans are better laid.
Came down the Yazoo & up the Miss. as far as Milliken's
Bend" & landed on Louis. side. there the boys got of &
commenced confiscating but was soon stoped by the
Gen.
Saturday Jan 3rd 1863

Still at "Millikens Bend" lay all day expecting to land. Rained the most of the day. Very hard on soldiers. nothing of interest transpired.

Sabath 4th. Still lying at M. B. morning clear, every indication of a good spell of weather. Boys all landed & did cooking & dried their clothes. about noon we were ordered to move up the River. traveled untill night & stoped to wood. lay over night & on the 5th we proceeded on up the river did not know our destination. Stoped to wood Several times. weather pleasant & warm. rather unusual for me to experience such warm weather in January.
On Board the Continental lying at Millikens Bend

On Miss.

Jan 31st '63

Dear Parents,

It has been quite a while since I have written to you. I hear today that all those that have any mail to send can send this day at 4 P.M. So I thought I would take the opportunity. I have not heard anything from home since I left Helena & I presume you have heard nothing from us since.

Well my kind Parents! I have been in another fight & came out with out a scratch, Thank God. One week ago today our Co. (A) had a fight with the Pickets. We had quite a hot time for a while but we drove them into their breastworks. They threw a few shell from the breast works but we being under cover of a piece of timber they did us no damage. I believe I had better comence more at the begining. We came down the Miss. River from Helena as far as the mouth of the Yazoo River, did not have any trouble so far. Took up the Yazoo R. & landed on Sidney Johnson's farm the day after Christmas, there we lay over night & the next morning.
We were ordered on board again & started farther up
the Yazoo R. after going about 5 or 6 miles further
up landed again, we were then supposed to be about
5 miles north of Vicksburgh. There our Regt was
ordered on shore with 2 days rations & no baggage.
Our baggage was all left on the boat & off we went.
We had to form our line of battle in a large cotton
field standing as thick as it could grow with cole
burs as high as a man’s head. After forming our line
of battle, two comp. “B” & “C” were sent out as
skirmishers, after skirmishing an hour or two they
retired & then Co. "A" was sent out, supported by
Co. "F". We passed out of the field & entered a
boddy of timber, passing along a piece of ground
on each side of which ran a byco or wet bog, after
skirmishing the timber about a mile, we came in
sight of a Picket post of Rebels. Probably about
70 or 80 strong. After advancing within shooting
distance we fired on them, they returned the fire very
briskly for a while but we made the place too hot
for them, we followed them up untill they began to
throw shells at us, so we thought it time to stop
until we got something that would throw shell too.
There was some artillery then brought forward & gave them a few, it was then getting near night & we had Pickets put out & lay quiet for the night. I must tell you how our boys, that is my Company, stood fire. Although the balls came among them pretty thick yet there was not a man that flinched, except what it required to dodge the balls. I had to dodge myself several times to keep clear of them. None of the boys were hurt, one of them had his pants cut. The next morning (sabath) the 28th a heavy fire was opened on the right wing (we being on the left) about sunrise our artillery gave them a round which was ans. by them with shell. We could do nothing with them with the infantry. They were fortified on the side of a hill we were on, ready & bayetts fixed at one time to char[e] up the hill onto their Breast works, but as we were starting the order was countermanded. All this time they were shelling us none of our Co. was touched except Joe Kilgore, who was struck with a 12 lb. ball on the hip, not hitting him fair but glancing along his hip & thigh numing his leg for some time, he is over it now, however.
one of Co. "B" was killed by a sharp shooter. Their Co. being sent out that day as sharp shooters on our left. Several of our Reg. was wounded that day. All day the Division on our right kept up a heavy fire "that was Sherman's Division) (we being in Steel's Div.)

I do not know much about the arrangement now, we are lying on the Miss. above the mouth of the Yazoo. Since commencing I understand there has a mail come in for us if I get a letter & have time to wait with this I may write more. I had not time now to write you any more particulars.

Your son

David.

Direct to
Capt. D. J. Palmer,
Co "A" 25th Iowa Vol.
Via Cairo, Ill.
I just rec'd a letter from you dated Dec. 22nd, was glad to hear of your welfare.
Tuesday January 6th 1863

Morning clear & cool making one feel as though he were getting north. boys are in good spirits thinking they were going into camp & would get a good rest.

More Wooding to do. tied up for the night.

7th Morning Clear and pleasant looking very beautiful.

Started up the R. again. evening clear & cool. expect to run the boat all night.

8th Morning wet & cloudy making it disagreeable

Soldiering. boat tied up opposite the mouth of White R. expectations are that we go up W. R. & march on Ark. Post. getting tired of living on water without money. meals on Continental only 50 cts each. hope the war will soon be over & then a person can get home & get something good.
Thursday, Jan A. D. 1863

9th. Still at the mouth of White R. Ark. awaiting orders. night was wet & disagreeable on Soldiers lying on Mericane Deke. Morning foggy. think probably we will go ashore soon. Noon fleet started up White River. do not know how far we are going. near night we were near what was called Ark. Post. went on shore, threwed 2 companies ("H" & "K") out as skirmishers. lay out overnight. rained nearly all night.

10th. Morning clear & beautiful gun boats go up the river a little and fire. presume we will progress forward. it is reported some of our Pickets were shot last night. I know not how true it is. after noon we made a flank movement in rear of the fort. came back before night. made another movement after dark. got possession of part of their camp. lay in it all night. fared well on their provision they seem to be well supplied with provisions beyond our expectations.
Jan'y 1863

11th Sabbath

find the rebels had fled in a hurry from this camp, from the amount of articles they left in camp. they had fine comfortable quarters. commenced on the breastworks about noon. made an infantry charge at 2 O'clock. was repulsed with some loss. do not know exactly how. the 25th Iowa followed the 76th Ohio. of our Co. Vincent Clary & Wilken wounded and several missing. Adjt. wounded. Col. missing. We are now supporting a reg't near the breast works. We are lying in a ravine. do not know what the next order will be. Word came that the Rebels had raised the white flag. We then marched up to the Ft. & demanded their surrender. We took about 6000 Prisoners. a fine haul for one day. lay all night inside the B. W.
January 1863

12th. Spent the day burying the dead and dressing the wounded. Everything looked destructive. Spoilt both their large guns (128th Batt.) got orders to leave our quarters burn the camp. Fortifications & breast-works torn & leveled down, with expectations to evacuate the place.

13th. Went on board the Continental. Rained all last night. Still continues raining. Lay on board the steamer all day doing plenty of fatigue duty.

14th. Ground white with snow. Quite a change in the weather. Continued to snow all day. Left Ark P. came to Napolian, Ark. on Miss R. cleared up cold & frosty.

On Board S. Continental

January 21st, '63

Dear Parents,

It has not been very long since I wrote home but I did not give much of a detail & seeing I am not very throng today I will endeavor to give you a kind of detail of things Generally. We left Helena one month ago today & you may wonder when I tell you that during that time we have not remained 48 hours in one place, nevertheless it be true. we have been on the wing all the time. We wound our way down the Mississippi R. till near the mouth of the Yazoo River a place known on the Map as Milikens Bend. there we made a short pause. We then took course up the Yazoo R. On the 26th (Friday) we landed at what was called Sidney Johnson's farm. there we went on shore lay over night went on board next morn proceeded up the river a few miles landed again this time the 25th was ordered ashore with 2 d'ys rations & no Baggage. I began then "to smell a mice."
We had to form our Battalion in a field. coclé Burs as high as a man's head. I tell you it was some.

(Co. "A" had to break the road) We advanced from the river toward a piece of timber. after reaching the timber we (Co A) were sent out as Skirmishers. supported by Co "P" after advancing our line of Skirmishers about 3 miles we spied a Post of the enemy's Pickets drawn up in line of battle. Probably 80 or 100 in number. this kind of brought us to a halt. We made sure that it was not our own men & then advanced within shooting distance. I told the boys to hold their fire till ordered. when I thought we were close enough I told them to let fly. Dave Boyer fired the first shot. We saw one fellow tumble (but do not pretend to know whether killed or not.)
We were soon ans. by the whizzing of bullets round our ear. A sharp firing was kept up for a few minutes. Finally we routed them & drove them inside their breast works. Killing 2 & wounding several. there was not a man of our Co. hurt. I tell you the boys did well. they did credit to themselves & 25th Iowa. their conduct was praised by Gen. Hovey. there was not a man flinched although the messengers of death came very thick among us. our progress however was soon stopped by a volley of shell from the enemic's R. W. it Being near night, we put out Pickets & remained all night. in the mean time I will tell you where we were placed. We belong to Hovey's Brigade & Steele's Division. Steele's Division occupied the left wing. Morgan's Division was on our right.
Saturday Afternoon Morgan's forces picked in pretty strong & reports came to us that he had gained some of the Heights. But it all proved a "Hoax". I have no doubt but that you have had quite a report of our proceeding by this time in the papers. On Sabbath morning Morgan opened fire on them pretty heavy & it was kept up all day. We opened on them too with our Artillery. we could do nothing with Musketry. We were ordered once to make a charge (Bayonet) on the entrenchments but the order was countermanded. I presume it was a good thing for us for there would have been nothing gained & a great many lives lost. Sabbath evening we fell back to the river. took transports & went down the R. a piece, landed as was reported to replace Morgan's forces which were pretty well cut down.
We there found that they had not advanced near as far into the enemy's lines as was reported. there had been two attempts made to Storm their B. W. by a Bayonet charge & failed both times. with great loss. the 16th Ohio was nearly all cut to Pieces. it went into the charge with 600 & came out with only about 150. The 4th & 9th Iowa also lost heavy. No opinion is that the place can never be taken only by siege. there again we were drawn up for a charge & again countermanded. I was glad of it. Monday night our regt worked all night throwing up Brest works to plan siege guns. it rained pretty hard all night making it very disagreeable to work. next day (Tues) we got to rest in the rear. no firing was kept up on either side. Tues. 30th at night we went out on Picket remained all night & next day (Wed. 31st) till dark when we were ordered to leave in silence. we knew not where but found it was to the boat.
We soon found the whole army was retiring. We (25th Iowa) went on board John J. Roe after we were on board they revealed to us that another project was in view "Another Grand strategic movement" on hand. there was a Ft. up the Yazoo that we had to take & we were going to take it on the sly. that is we were going to go up in the night & make a Bayonet Charge at daylight. it wore toward the morning of the 1st of the new year & all of us ready & expecting as we supposed to take a "New Years Dinner" in Vicksburgh. But alas, some cog in the military wheel flew out. Some Gen. no doubt was afraid he would lose some honor so that was countermanded. We spent our "New Year" on the Steam Boat John J. Roe. It was not much like a New Years day. the boys were all fatigued & worn out having been on the move ever since we left Helena & feeling somewhat discouraged at our failures.
We were then ordered up the Miss. R. again. Why we backed off from the place with doing so little I know not. At any rate my opinion is that it was nothing short of a defeat although I did not tell any of the boys so because they seemed discouraged enough. We got the report that the Cabinet all had resigned & Congress had broke up in a row & Lincoln had gone crazy. I tell you all these things & our being defeated at Richmond taken into consideration I/3/ was enough to make a fellow feel streaked. You would be astonished to hear some of the men talk now. Those who used to be the strongest kind of war men they seem to think it would be better to compromise & let them go most any way so they get home.
I try to encourage them all I can. they got it reported on our way up the R. that Lincoln & Jeff. had come to terms & they were sending us up home & I am shure some of them believed it. I tell you if our leaders do not carry this war on a little different we will loose the day. I tell you a general feeling is arising among the soldiers that the leaders are not the true blue. if that once gets a hold among the men. We are done. A great many of the officers of the 25th are tired of their job. Capt. Russel would like very well to be home. Several are trying to resign. but it is pretty hard to get at.
Well I must tell you about our trip up the river. We made a great many Pauses till finally we reached the mouth of White R. Ark. there we lay for a couple days not knowing what was coming next. next move we took up White R, & down the what is called the "cut off" to the Ark. R. up the Ark R. toward Ark Post. it is I believe about 60 miles from the M'/s R. We got within site of the thing by dark. Our reg't was ordered out on Picket. next morning the troops landed. Gun Boats go up & give them an introduction. they replied pretty fierce. Part of our Division was then ordered out in their rear. We came back to the R. at night scarcely got our supper till we were started again. Gun Boats began to play on the Ft. pretty brisk. We went away round in their rear traveling by moonlight through the woods & over a most terrible road I ever saw. finally came into their camp but it had been deserted by them.
They had fled in such a hurry that they left every thing you could think of meat flour meal & cooking utensels & even sick men were left in their beds without any one to take care of them. they said the Rebels had fled to the Breast Works. We occupied their camp the remainder of the night. next morning (Sabath 11th) We were drawn up in line of Battle. We could see they Enemies works. they did not open on us till we had opened on them. about noon we got our Artillery planted ready to give them "Pit". It was arranged that the gun Boats & artillery would shell them about ½ hour & then the Infantry would charge the B. W. So about one o'clock the cannonading commenced. I tell you you ought to have heard it. for about half an hour it made the woods ring. After the cannonading cease the charge commenced. the 25th supported the 16th Ohio in the charge. they did not succeed in getting in but they got so close that they could lay down & sharp shoot. We (25th) could do nothing but lay down behind them. A sharp fireing was kept up for over an hour when the wound came that the White flag was hoisted by the Rebels. I tell you we were glad. You ought to have heard the cheers of the army. it was awfull. Some of the Rebels looked as though they were glad to get into our hands.
There were 7000 taken that round. But what was the worst now was to know who was killed & wounded in my Co. there were a great many gone that I did not know whether they were killed or wounded. I sent a detail to find out. Oh! how glad I was when I found there were none killed. Because I was almost sure there was. I thought I had seen them fall when we were going through the thickest & how glad I was to find that none was mortally wounded.
Vincent whom I thought was killed was found to be very slightly wounded by a piece of shell. He is now about over it. Alex Hammond whom I had been uneasy about, found with his little finger of his right hand shot off. He is getting along well. They considered his wound too slight to send up the R. with the balance, so he is with this fleet on the hospital boat. Alex is in good spirits & his wound is doing well. I tried to get him a furlough but I have not yet succeeded. I do not know whether I can or not. It would do me good to get him one; he has been a good little soldier. John Clarry was found slightly wounded in the leg. Ralph Wilkins tolerably badly wounded in his, but not dangerous. They are both gone up the R. do not know how far. Sam McKee is about well of his wound.
I will now endeavor to tell you about the sick. those left at Helena I have not heard from lately. I presume you hear from them oftener than we do. there are a great many of the Boys here complaining & sick, but none very bad. the worst are on another Boat Used as a Hospital. I will give you the names of those that you know in Hospital Boat. Joe Kilgore, Hugh Whittle & Uncle Harvey he was pretty bad but is now on the mend. Hugh & Joe are nearly ready to return to the Co. I am sorry to have to inform you of the Death of Mr. Jaynes. he died of Disentary on the 18th while lying at Napoleon Ark. Our Regt. is badly cut down with sickness. It is very hard on men traveling on the river so long. They have no way of cooking & they get poor victuals. Our Co now does not report more than 30 men for duty. None of those reported sick however are bad but simply worn out.
Jan 22nd '63

We are now on our way down the M/s R. again. We are
down near the Yazoo. I do not know what they are going to
do but I think we expect to go into camp some place &
recruit. I think it would be folly to attempt on V. B.
when we could do nothing the other time. I think
probably we will wait till water raises. Probably they
will set us to work on the canal. that is the talk now.
I would like if we could get along as well at V. B. as we
did at Ark. Post. We took I believe 27 field Pieces &
2 128lb. I tell you they were well fixed. it was
said to be stronger than Ft. Donelson. But I tell you
the Gun Boats made smash of every thing. they rocked
3 feet off end of the muzzle of one of them & threwed a
small ball right into the other. When I viewed the Place
next day I thought it no wounder they raised the White
Flag. the place they had plated with iron for their
guns was all torn to smash. You could scarcely find a
place that was not struck with a piece of shell.
I guess I have told you more now than will be
interesting. tell aunt Jane that Uncle is on the mend,
she need not be uneasy about him. I expect she will
wonder why I never mentioned him in my former letters.
Well I should but I never thought of mentioning any one
that was well & he is always in pretty good health till
now. Lts. Dick & Young are well & sends their resp
I came pretty near forgetting to tell you that I was
wounded at Ark. Post but am nearly well. I am able to do
duty. I was struck by a ball on the foot bruising it
considerably. But I am thankful to get off that easy.
Cyrus Woods had a pretty sick spell but he is now with
us. nearly all right. if you see his mother you can
tell her so that she may not be uneasy. I tell you
Cyrus is a good soldier. If you remember when we were
recruiting every body said there was no use in taking
those little fellows they would not stand it. But I
knew better. Len Werts, Cyrus & Alex Hammond and Al
Donyhey stand it better than an average.
You wanted to know about my welfare. Well I have got all right again except the Diarrhea. I have stood this trip trip well. I have gained the use of my arm greatly. You would not know it to be the same. It still lacks a little for strength but I have the use of my wrist & fingers pretty well. I have found out from a fellow on this this boat the name of the Dr. that performed the operation on me. His name is Dr. Henry Azpell. This fellow that told me is the fellow that Acted Hospital Stewart on the Boat going up & after we arived a/f Neocuk. perhaps you remember him he remembered you very well. he is a good looking smooth faced fellow he acted for a couple of weeks & then left. he is now in the Q. M. D. on Gen. Steele's staff.

I believe I will close. Give my Respects to Geo Currie & Parents. I hope he is improving. Remember me to all the Friends & neighbors & believe me your ever affectionate son

David

Direct by way of Helena Ark as usual. We are still in Hovey's Brigade & Steele's Division.
Dear Father:

I read your letter dated Feb. 16th., also one from Mother dated 13th. Feb. Was glad to hear of your safe arrival home. I was truly sorry that you had so much trouble and expense for nothing. I would have been glad you had got down to us, it would have been a satisfaction to you as well as to us.

We are camped still opposite Vicksburgh. We re¿d rather bad news today. Our ram "Queen of the West" & Gunboat "Indianola" are both captured & in the hands of the Rebels. I think I told you about the Ram runing the "Block Aoe" safely. Well the Gunboat "Indianola" did also & they both lay all right below Vicks. The Ram went on down the river reconoitering & up Red river & the pilate being an Infernal traitor run her hard aground right in range of a rebel batery & she was captured. (The crew nearly all escaping in a small tow boat they had taken.)
The Gunboat "Indianola" (one of our best) started in pursuit of her, when she was attacked by 2 Gunboats that the Rebels had up Red. R. & the Ram (now in possessing of Rebels) & was captured after a short fight. Now according to that the Rebels have possession of the River from Vicksburg down to Ft. Hudson. That is to bad, to think that we are doging ourselves to death running after Rebels and we have rebels in our midst. I tell you our leaders are not the true grit. Were they so, it would make a great difference on our victories. I tell you it is discouraging on men to have leaders that they can put no confidence in. I was very fraid awhile that our army would brake up. There was such a dissatisfaction among the men. Some talked as though they would not care what kind of a compromise came so they got out of the service.
A great many of the offices are resigning. Capt. Russell & Lt. Orr of Co. "I" have resigned & Lt. Williams has tendered his. I do not know whether it will be excepted or not. I tell you I don't like to see it, for my part I believe it my duty to remain in the army as much as it was my duty to come & I expect to remain. Our Major is under arrest for acting the coward at Ark. Post. His trial is not through yet but I rather judge he will be cashiered. I tell you what it is. Our Col. has not the grit I expected. My opinion he showed the white feather but our Lt. Col. is what can be tied to. The boys that were sick are improving in health. John Hamelton has gone up the river. Jacob Hatcher died the other day. Joseph Work is the worst in Co., he is runing down with the diarrhea. Unc Wm. is improving. Alex Hammond is getting along well. He is in good spirits & full of fune as though nothing was wrong. I made out discharge papers for him & sent them in. I do not yet know the result.
I also took Wm. Harvy to the Surgeon but he would not give him a discharge. There are a great many dying. I presume Cherrys folks would lament the death of Sam'l. I am afraid John will go the same way, he has no energy at-all & when a man gets down in the mouth he might as well leave. Geo. Covit arrived here a few days ago. He is a poor patern for a soldier. Sergt. Anderson is well, also Lts. Dick & Young and I am exceedingly well. I weigh as much as ever I did.
I am glad to hear of Geo. Currie's welfare. I hope he may be sound again. Remember me to him & parents. I will send his descriptive roll. With reference to W. Richey that descriptive roll will do his family no good. I sent Hugh Johnson's roll to him. At St. Louis I rec'd a letter from Sam Gardner. He stated you had stopped with them. I suppose you would have a pleasant time with the 8th boys. I was in hopes they would be sent down here. The paymaster has come we expect to be payed off soon. I had to get a pair of boots from the Settlers on account of not having money. The price was $12. but now I could get along without money for awhile. I don't want you to send any money by mail unless I send for it. You must not think I am suffering for I never felt better in my life. We get all we can eat from U. S.
March 1st, 1863

Still at the same place. We were mustered yesterday for pay, it being regular muster day. Our pay rolls up to Nov. 1st, 1862 are being examined. We will probably receive pay soon.

I wish you would put in a few stamps now & then for me. After this I will frank the letters I send home you can as well pay there & nothing lost.

Our Regmt is improving in health although we have an unhealthy place to stay.

Well I will close by signing myself,

Your Son,

David.

Remember me to all.
For Henry McFall

Brother Henry:

I received your kind letter. I was glad to get one written by your own hand. I am glad you are learning to write so well. I hope you are learning other branches as fast. I am glad to hear you think well of your teacher. I think from that you will learn well. I hope you may be a good scholar & then you will be fit for any kind of business.

It may be you will have to finish this war before it is over, but I hope it may be over before you are big enough to join the army. You say My Colts are doing well. I am glad to hear it. I want you to keep them well till I get home. I want you to have them broke to run in the buggy & sleigh, for if I get home I expect to have a ride. Tell Jennie I rec'd a letter from her which I will ans. Remember me to all your school mates & teacher & believe me.

Yours affectionately,

Dave

Capt. D. J. Palmer,
25 Iowa.
Kind Parents.

Letter No. 2 was read to night & I take this opportunity of receipting for it. I read a letter from Henry & John D. was glad to hear from you & hear that you are getting along well. I hope you may always get along so well. I hope we may see [each] other again. I will be glad when the war is over & we all get home & enjoy freedom & peace once more. I still live in hopes I believe we will end the war before long. I am down on all compromise, unless on our own terms & I am happy to say the soldiers are in better spirits, than they were & all seem to be determined to take Vicksburgh.
All seem down on the "Copperheads" of the North. I am surprised to think that so many of them are allowed to live. I am in favor of treating them as you would the natural snake, that is to kill them or in other words "let the seed of the woman bruise his head" "being careful that he don't bruise the heel." I would like to have all of them down here a short season. I think they would come to a little. I am in hopes however you can keep them straight. don't for any sake let them get the upper hand of you, & I think before long you will get the news the U. S. troops occupy the Hills of Vicks. B.
2 of Faragut's fleet is below the City & our forces are moving in behind the City & from what we can learn we have them penned in & every thing seem favorably. Deserters come into Camp daily & they report them in a starving condition, but are well fortified & I presume they will be pretty hard to subdue. I think the idea is not to take the place by storm but to lay siege to the city. I am of the opinion our Division will be left here. To day a regiment from each Brigade was ordered out. I don't know what is the object; the 2 boats that came up from below, pitched into a little place below V. called Warrington & flaxed them out. The Reb. are trying to drive us out of the canal. My idea is we don't care much about the canal that it is only a hoax to keep them uneasy, till we make a move on some other point. I am in hopes we may be successful.
I believe should this point be taken that the backbone of the rebellion in the west would be broken.

The health of the troops is increasing, our company has increased rapidly, all that are present are reported for duty except 2 Alex Hammond & Beach. Alex however is in good health but is not fit for duty on account of his hand. John Cherry is sent to the Hospital I presume he will soon be sent up the River. I hope he may for I think he will never do any good unless sent home.

Uncle Wm. is getting along pretty [well] but not very stout yet. I think provided he gets his spirits up & thinks so, he will get well. He is not dangerous at all.
Give my respects to Aunt Jane & children, John Palmer & family Aunt Eliza & family. Tell them Hugh is well. Tell Mary that the news came to our Co. that she was married to old Jimmie Paul. I could hardly believe it because you said nothing about it.

I told you in my other letter we were paid off, paid to the last of Oct. I sent home $100 by W. M. Clark of this Regt. who was going home. We expected to get a couple of months more soon. We have a good time, do not have so much picketing to do now, since the canal broke out the water does the guarding.
You wished to know how we got along with the eating and cooking. Geo. Thompson does our cooking. We have lots to eat, light bread fresh beef & ham or good bacon, potatoes, onions pickled cabbage, dried peaches & apples & generally butter. All can be had reasonable except butter it is 50 cts a lb. We have a regimental Bakery which does our own baking. We have good light bread all the time. I get my washing done. It only costs 5 cts a piece. My arm is gaining strength fast. You would not know anything was wrong with it. I can handle it now nearly as good as ever. The boys boxed up their overcoats & is going to send them home. I put mine in too, in it you will find my tuning fork. They will direct to Martin Kilgore, there you will receive it.
You spoke of receiving a package at the hands of Capt. Andrews. Those black things in the shape of gun caps are caps for large cannon which were used at Ark. Post. Those cartridges are the kind the rebels used, that ball that was bruised is the one the wounded me in the foot. You are to give Ants folks & John's folks a share of those reble caps as part of them were Hughs. You can lay up that ball along with the other one you have in the cupboard.

We have rec'd intelligence that Steele and Blair have been promoted to Major Gen. Well my opinion is they are getting scarce of material. Maybe I am mistaking.
I rec'd the dollar & postage all right in letter No. 1, & postage all right in No. 2. I will be obliged if you send a few all the time as I can not get them down here, but money you need not send as I have money enough to do me a while. If I get out I will let you know. You will keep that $20. & I will make it right with the Lieut's here.

I would advise Geo. Currie to stay at Keokuk & not be in a hurry away as he can get well there & perhaps get well & be of some use in the hospital, but I dont think he will be of use here. Geo. Cavit is well & on duty. Is getting along beyond all expectation. I believe I have nothing interesting. Tell Henry I will ans. his letter soon.

I remain as ever your son,

David

Address:

Capt. D. J. Palmer,

25th Iowa Inft.

Steel Division

near Vicksburgh.
(From the Washington (Iowa) Press. January 3, 1886)

A HERO GONE. — Col. Palmer's "Old Jack" want out with the year, dying on the 31st ult., aged 26 years. Why shouldn't a horse have an obituary, especially if it has earned one? We once heard Grace Greenwood maintain on the authority of the Book of Revelations that horses would be in heaven and we hope it is true. They are nobler than lots of men. Assuming, then, that Old Jack, being a patriot and a dashing soldier, has climbed the golden stairs, let us briefly chronicle his virtues and his amusing vices. Major Taylor of Bloomfield took Jack into the service and rode him a year, when Col. P. bought him and rode him two years more. So he saw three solid years of service, and latched into the Johnny's eyes many a time and oft. He would kneel, when bidden, for the rider to mount, and was not afraid of anything. His neck was clothed with thunder, if ever a horse's neck was, and he delighted to smell the battle either afar off or near by, and he-pawed in the valley and loved the wild music of war.

The drummer boys taught Jack bad tricks. He would "take no sass," and pointing sticks or crooking a finger at him, stirred his martial blood and ire, and he often laid his ears back and chased every son of a gun or drum
in camp into their tents. He would stand no nonsense in war or in peace. He had a notion that gestures in his presence were personal taunts. One day a few years ago, the Colonel dismounted to talk with a man, holding Jack by a halter. The man faced Col. P. who stood with his back to the horse. The man made a gesture or two, which Jack construed as an insult, but lacking discrimination, he seized Col. P. between the shoulder blades and pinched and shook him like Caesar. That was confounded mean but old Jack didn't like modern oratory which is "pretty much" all gestures. The kids in the neighborhood would vex Jack's last years by going into the lot and crooking fingers at him, but he invariably made them dust out of the premises at a 2:10 pace, and when they vaulted over the fence their flamboyant coat-tails looked like the white tails of Jack-rabbits going over the horizon's edge "on business."

Still, on the whole, Jack's last days were peaceful. The Colonel pensioned him with oats and tid-bits, praised his military ardor, his patriotism, his true-blue Unionism, and no doubt promised him an obituary in the PRESS, and perhaps a monument. The gallant Colonel can certainly afford to "keep his grave green," in fact as well as in song. If he will keep Jack's anniversary by getting Sam Lewis to go out and, play an organ accompaniment to the Colonel's own rendition of that ballad, we will all come in strong on the chorus, and there will be "hardly a dry eye" in the audience. Old Jack! hail, and farewell!
REUNION IN MT. PLEASANT, FEB 7, 1887

(From an address by Col. J. W. Garner.)

Mr. Chairman and Comrades of Mt. Pleasant: --

Vividly do we remember our first meeting at this place on the First of September, 1862, now nearly a quarter of a century ago. Once again we find ourselves in your pleasant little city, the Athens of Iowa, and are permitted to renew our acquaintance with your citizens to whom we owe a lasting friendship for the very hospitable and kind treatment we received at their hands during our encampment here.

When I look back to the time of our first meeting and attempt to even briefly refer to the many incidents of interest during our term of service, I am appalled at the undertaking and must only allude to a few of them.

First our muster into the service as a regiment with something over a 1,000 men, and after receiving some 300 recruits while in the service making a regiment of over 1,300 men. Our leaving Mt. Pleasant on that November morning, amidst the cheers and tears of our good citizens, who bade us God speed; our trip to St. Louis, from there to Helena and into camp, our first real army camp. The cold water trip; the ill fated White River expedition; our grand advance with the army on the fleet of steamers down the Mississippi and up the Yazoo; the crossing of Chicasaw bayou and storming Walnut hills where we heard our first guns of war and lost our first member of the
Regiment, Comrade Yount of Company B. Our return to
the Mississippi and to Arkansas Post, where our Regiment
lost so heavily in killed and wounded; among the number
our gallant Adjutant, the lamented S. Kirkwood Clark.
Our return to Young's Point, our desolate camp there
with its discouraging sickness; our march to Hard Times
Landing, and crossing to Grand Gulf, from there to
Raymond; a town our comrade Conrad has occasion to remember;
to Jackson; the siege of Vicksburg in which our Regiment
occupied the post of honor, the extreme right of the army.
We can never forget it with its many hardships and our
severe loss there on the 22nd of May, when so many of
our comrades were killed and wounded.

Our return to Jackson and Canton and again to Vicksburg,
to be transported to Memphis to start on the forced march
to Chatanooga; the battle of Look Out Mountain, the battle
above the clouds; to Ringold; the campaign of Atlanta with
its 120 days fighting; our race after Hood; the march to
the sea; on through the swamps of South Carolina; to
Columbia the capital of South Carolina which surrenders
through its mayor to Gen'l Stone, our brigade commander;
again to Bentonville, the last battle of the war, where
brave old Capt. Allen lost a leg; on to Washington; the
grand review it was. In the language of our grand old
commander, Gen'l Sherman, who said with pardonable pride
as it passed in review, "It is the best army the world
ever saw."
After the review our muster out of service. Our ranks were so reduced that less than 400 of the original 1,300 were left for the final discharge.

I will be pardoned for not referring to any of the incidents of a personal nature as time and space forbid. It would have been a pleasure to have given some notice to the defense of Milliken's Bend and the experience of Capt. Smith at that place and I know all of you would have been pleased with a full and accurate description of "Ft. Bundy" at Vicksburg and of its gallant commanders, Gen'l Stone and Col. Palmer, and a detailed account of their experiences in the artillery arm of the service.
"TAPS"

(From the Washington (Iowa) Evening Journal, November 19, 1928)

Colonel D. J. Palmer died early this morning after a lingering illness. He was eighty-nine years of age the 15th of this month, November, 1928, and that fact explains most comprehensively the cause of his death. His decline was the decline of a strong man who answered the final summons in the manner common to all humanity. The physical machine had run its course and the hour of mortal dissolution was at hand.

And with the colonel's passing there is removed from Washington one of the noblest citizens that the community has ever had. For three score years and ten, a period in itself longer than the average old person's life, Colonel Palmer was an active, aggressive, conspicuously influential citizen of this city, this state and this nation. He was outstandingly useful in church work, in politics, in social life, and in every other useful activity of the community and of the state.

**Active Citizen**

His realms of activity included the church, the choir, the prayer meeting, the congregational gathering, the town caucus, the county convention, the national convention, the G. A. R. meetings, campfires, national encampments, all public meetings to discuss and act in favor of the common good. In all these things he was always foremost in aggressive and constructive endeavor. He was a man among men, brave, charitable, forgiving, sympathetic, and -- contemptuous of criticism when he
saw his duty clear.

As a soldier, the story of Colonel Palmer's experience is an epic. Into the great national emergency of the Civil war the then young Dave Palmer, with many other Washington heroes, threw himself with tremendous patriotic fervor and during his experience as a soldier distinguished himself to such a point as eventually carried him to the highest honor that the old soldiers of the nation could bestow upon a comrade: the Grand Commandership of the National G. A. R. This, however, was but one form of expression of the many fine qualities of citizenship which were foremost in Colonel Palmer's life. He did not fear to fight, and yet at heart he was gentle as a lamb and he would capitulate promptly in the presence of a contrite spirit. He was sacrificially faithful to friends, and considerate of opponents wherever they might be found.

Colonel Palmer's sharply outlined personality will not be forgotten in Washington. Here and there he was, and everywhere, in his active years, which were so many in number! He could deliver a political address that carried force with it, or he could join the smiling group of singers on the platform and lead in the campaign songs. He could be the main show at a public gathering, or he could hold the speaker's hat and lead in the applause when the time for shouting came.

Colonel Palmer belonged to the old school type of religionists. The family altar was never deserted in
his home. The family Bible is one that has stood the
stress of over a half a century of daily use. It is
finger marked and cover torn; it has seen such service
as few other books have ever experienced. The colonel
and his wife, partners of sixty-two years loving
companionship, lived very active but mentally complacent
trustful, contented lives, secure in the faith of their
fathers; ever resigned to the all wise will of him
who "watches over Israel and slumbers not, nor sleeps."

Born in Pennsylvania

Colonel Palmer's full name was David James Palmer. He
was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, November
15th, 1839, and was of Irish lineage in both the paternal
and maternal lines. His grandfather, James Palmer, was
a native of Ireland and was prominent in public affairs
there. He came to America and established himself in
Washington county, Penn., where he died at the age of
seventy-five years. A son, Samuel Robert Palmer, born
in Ireland, came with his parents to this country and
was married in due course to Margaret Munce. They
were the parents of the subject of this sketch, our
Colonel David James Palmer, who was an only child.

David Palmer was sixteen years of age when his parents
moved from Ohio, in 1856, to Washington county and
this was the family home from that date. The father
died in 1866 and the mother in 1891.

Young Dave Palmer began his school life in a log
school house in Ohio and completed it in the old United
Presbyterian college in this city. When not in school
he devoted himself to the cultivation and development of the home farm north of Washington, until his school work and farm work were interrupted by the call to arms with the outbreak of the Civil war. In fact, the old Washington college lost all its male students with the outbreak of the war. They all enlisted, and young Dave enlisted July 10th, 1861, in the 8th Iowa Infantry, Co. C.

Wounded at Shiloh

In the Confederate attack at Shiloh on the early morning of April 6, 1862, he was seriously wounded in the left breast and his comrades left him on the field for dead. After two days of exposure he finally secured hospital attention and his life was saved.

In June of that year he was sent home and later that summer organized a company in the Twenty-fifth Iowa, returning to the war as a captain. He speedily rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and commanded his regiment at the siege of Vicksburg, and also on Sherman's famous march to the sea.

Shortly after Sherman's triumphal march through Georgia which was followed so closely by Lee's surrender at Appomattox court house, the union armies, after four long years of war, were parading in review up Pennsylvania avenue in Washington, D. C. with the indomitable Sherman in the lead.

President Johnson stood watching in his reviewing stand and when the column reached the president's box Sherman dismounted and came up with the president to
review his troops -- leaving a lieutenant colonel, a Washington county boy, to lead the Union army on up the great avenue.

Exactly fifty years afterward that same Washington county boy, Col. David J. Palmer, led the Grand Army of the Republic up Pennsylvania avenue, this time as its Commander in Chief. And when the column reached President Wilson's reviewing stand this time it was the "young" lieutenant colonel from Washington county who, as commander of that army, alighted from his horse and went up in the president's box to review his "troops".

This was a striking coincidence in the life of Colonel Palmer and certainly his selection as commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic was a fitting climax to his career as a soldier of the Union. Incidentally, Colonel Palmer was the youngest Lieutenant Colonel in service in the Union Army at the time he was elevated to that rank.

Washington County Farmer

After the war Colonel Palmer returned to Washington county and to the 200 acre farm just north of town. He was married in 1866, October the 25th, to Letitia Helen Young. Mrs. Palmer was a native of Kentucky and a daughter of James Harvey Young and Margaret M. Henry Young. Mrs. Palmer survives the colonel and has been his constant attendant during his illness.

In the "70's" he served as county auditor for four years, and upon completing his two terms of office, he returned to the farm northeast of town.
Early in the "20's" he was elected as state senator representing Washington and Henry counties in the General Assembly at Des Moines. While still serving in that capacity he was appointed as one of the state railroad commissioners by Governor Leslie M. Shaw, afterwards secretary of the treasury under President Roosevelt. He served the state in this office for almost twenty years, retiring just in time to accept the position of Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. This position was tendered to him at the National Encampment held in Detroit, Michigan, in 1914, and it was at the National Encampment held the year following in Washington, D. C. that he reviewed the armies from President Wilson's box.

Active in His Church

Colonel Palmer was a member of the United Presbyterian church and was for over thirty years the Superintendent of the Sunday School. In addition to his Sunday School work he was a member of the choir and a church official practically all of his years of active life.

During the past twenty-five years Colonel and Mrs. Palmer have made their home in this city and it was in that home at 308 West Washington street that the colonel passed the closing days of his life and there, last night, at 1:30 o'clock the curtain dropped upon the interesting career of this fine citizen and noble Christian man.