Dear Wife:

Once more I am engaged in writing a few lines to you not knowing when they will reach you.

As we have been here we have had no regular mail. We are at Briar’s Point, but we expect to leave here soon to guard another cotton stand. I see a letter from you a week ago last night and expect another the next time we see any mail.

Yesterday morning our pickets were fired on from a plantation close by. But as soon as our Col. heard of it he ordered a squad of men to go and burn every building to ashes which was done in short order or in one turn.
and two motions. There was one 
which was fired with all the rest of the cannon 
that had some cotton in front. It was 
all on fire yesterday morning about 
nine o'clock, and 
about eleven. 
One of our friends 
were hurt—however.

I am rather short of subjects 
this morning, therefore you may be 

thankful if you get a short letter this 
time. But this is the only way that I 
can spend New Year in this "The 
Sunny South." But I hope I shall be 
at home to spend next New Year or even 
4th of July, for it is rather odd 
way of passing holidays for the days 
are all alike here sundays with the rest. 

The river is wider than I told in 
my last, instead of being 1 1/4 it is 
1 1/2 miles wide. It has been 
rather cool for a few days back, but—
Some of our Regt have been sent to the St. Lewis Hospital four were from our Co. James Moteling, Henry Bonnicourt, Joseph Matto & John Swayne. We have not heard anything from the fleet yet that I spoke about but shall expect to soon and also that Vicksburg is taken for there is where I expected to have gone. Some of the darkeys tell us that when the was first broke out the Seecsh barreled up some of the Union men and rolled them into the river and some they hung on a tree that is somewhere in our camp. A part of our Regt has gone out on a foraging party what they will bring in is more than I can tell. I am what you may call nearly on shore and shall have to close soon. We are all well as present and hope that
those we hope left behind are
as well off as we are ourselves

I perceive you have worried
come about me but I say unto
you I am doing and another thing
cy to thee believe me flying
reports but wait for the official gun
as I understand there has been
all sorts of rumors in the north
about us and there may be a
great many more

I shall have to close
this poor letter

Good bye for the present
but expect more from me soon

Gone ever affectionately

Respect

Co. B. 29th, Reg., Wis. Vol.
Via

Paris
Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Watsville
Jeff. Co.
Wisconsin
Camp Comanche, S.C.
Saturday, Jan. 3, '63

My dear wife,

I received your welcome letter on New Year's day which of course had to answer for a gift. I have been on picket duty for the last 2 1/2 hours and a nice time we have had of it. Too Deolph, Henry, Freeman and I stood on post together. It began to rain. The forepart of the night and it stopped about 11 o'clock and commenced again about 1 and continued till about 8 in the morning. With the rain came thunder & lightning and wished we had a little shelter than we laid under when we were not on the match. But one had to stand in the rain and keep a lookout.
for a spell then another would have to take his place and so one kept the thing going without fire till the rain drove us from our shelter entirely about this time it was daylight and we made a rousing fire and kept ourselves from being wet to our hide. But we have caught an cold on received my injury as yet or at least I haven't but most of the fun was to clean our guns after we had come to camp.

This is the first letter I have received from you since I have been in the South but I do not think you could have read all of mine for I have written 12 besides this one. I sent you a letter about the 18 of Dec. Have you received it?
put one in the office to send to you. There were two or three buildings burned in this place (Frieda's Point) last night and one the night before. We have plenty down here now but the blue coats are more so. They are having a battle at Vicksburg down below. But as yet I hear no particulars. You need not send me the War Re-.

Keep, for we have subscribed for it and have received one copy and probably we will get it actually afterwards. We have had good times so far this winter but it does not seem much like winter it is some like to in the warmest part of summer.

I am almost entirely unlearned right here for I cannot think of hardly thing to write.
We are in good health generally and hope that all at home are in the same condition. Tell Ed to come over some Sunday and see how we get along, and I will show him how to soldier in one line and three motions.

I was somewhat surprised when I came into camp this morning to find that the Reg. had been drawn out in line of battle owing to the fact that a gun was fired, the sound of which was heard by the bees feeding and took it to be the sound of a wedding and that the guerrillas were driving in our pickets. No more at present—more soon.

Your own loving husband

Recon.
Although we are not allowed to take our gun apart—every time we clean it—but I will give you the parts of it.

Stock plates 3
Stock 1
Barrel 1
 guarda 2
Lock 1
Band 3
Strap Corp 2
Bank springs 3
Sight 3
Breech 1
Recesses 2
Screws 10
Trigger 1 part
Making in all 81 parts besides the <br>tools and have to clean them with
Camp Gorman, Mississippi
Monday, Jan. 5th, 63

My dear wife,

I have just received your letter dated Dec 25th, and also one from Nelson, which were both gladly read for I feel rather guilty as in other words angry for it is nearly the whole truth that I can scarcely contain myself to see how things are progressing here, but I have told you before what we were used to. We are still encamped on the eastern shore of the "Father of Waters" at Friars Point and alone except about 100 cavalry and two pieces of artillery.

For the past few days we have
had orders one day leave the next
they would be countermanded till
finally we have new orders to stay
until further orders which will
most likely last a whole day and
when we do move we expect to go
to Columbus Ky.
You asked
my opinion when I thought it
would be at home you have asked
a rather of @ hard question but
I will answer it as far as I can
in the first place as I understand
"Brenton" is to take charge of the
Army of the U.S. and X Butler
to be Sec. of War now if this be
so I shall expect to see home
by next June another thing done
quite favorable that is Vicksburg
is in danger. Our forces have
waded through about 3 miles
of batteries \\ entrenchments
and are now within 3 miles.
of the main part of the City.
That was the news I had three days ago probably it is taken before this time I think after Pickering & Richmond are taken the war must turn.
If Fremont takes charge of the army he will either run under or clear thing out and that pretty soon. The fact of the business is there has got to be a new policy adopted for two years we have tried waiting feeding the rebels and speculating on cotton & if we try this much longer the north might as well stop where they are for the soldiers in general are getting somewhat discouraged and some of them has said if something does not take place before long they will lay down.
Their arms and breast, rank
Do so they will. I have only
told you what I know personally
and have not guessed at the last
I have written at all.

Just for a moment reflect
upon what has passed for the
last two years where was our
army when the war commenced?

where is it now? I can tell
where a part of it is very at
least 60,000 that lay in
their graves before Yorktown
& Richmond. The Western
departments to be sure have not
suffered quite so much.

You may think I'm getting wild
but I have retained my senses
so far neither am I domestic,
more am I tottering at random
but it's my private opinion expressed
publicly and candidly
But enough of war. I can sympathize with you for I know all about things as well as you can tell me. But as soon as God permits we will lay ourselves where both of us can table more comfort than we do at present. To be sure we are deprived of friends, home and the company of those I have enjoyed so many times. But I have a stout heart which I hope will never fail me so that some day I may return to you but I feel disgusted sometimes but something or other will soon be played out thank Heaven. I have received the thread but I had forgotten that I had written it to you for some and thought some
a few days ago but it will come in play. I have thrown away the flowers you mended for me and also one pair of government socks and the other goes after the first ones the next time. I take them on and after they are gone I have them that I got of Mrs. Matthews get one pair I have not had on my feet yet and the other pair I have worn only once. I have see the paper and will send the verses back in my next letter which will follow this one in about four days. You spoke about writing often but I think I have far from I almost invariably written twice a week and sometimes three times a week.

There are two of us writing in our little town. I am writing...
To you E Win is writing to his wife and that by candlelight.

I would like to hear about the Emancipation Proclamation what effect it has and also what the latest news from Eastern department but when we get the news here it is so late that it is good nothing as you might say. I brought 1 dollars or money with me and I have some left yet but when we get paid off I could not tell but expect some when we get to camp Randall to be mustered out of service. I told you some expected to see home next June but it may and hope it may be such a thing that I shall be at home before but do not be discouraged or down hearted but hope for better times for I have about the same to get mad about.
One little circumstance I remember.

Once when we were on dress parade
our Co. were coming into line
and because some of our boys did
dress up to suit our adjutant he
spoke to one of our
sergeants, "punch them if they
don't get up." I might name
more circumstances than this but
I have not the room. But I
made up my mind that man
ever punched me I would punch
him back again as sure as I
had a bayonet on my gun for
you can't think how quickly
it raised my Irish. This
will have to pass for this time.

We are as well as usual.

The weather is fair at present.
So more so good evening for
this time.

Yours own loving husband

Reserve
Mrs. Savannah Sterns
Waitsville
Jeff Co.
Wisconsin
Helena Arkansas
Sat Jan 10, 1863

Dear wife,

I wrote a letter to last monday and received one from you on Tuesday but I have had no time to answer it till now. We have finally arrived back to Helena this old place. We have as you might say been under marching orders constantly and even now we are again ordered to march. This is one reason why I write this with a pencil. We arrived here last night but onestand on board the boat till this morning. Then we landed commenced moving towards the camp and got about half of our things at the camping
ground and came marching orders and to be ready at 7 I'd come to this evening and at that I drew the paper from my knapsack for this purpose. If I could tell you where we were going it wouldn't hurt. I do not but now likely there is another cotton post in view for that is all we have been used for so far at any rate we have been used so much for that we have received the name of the Cotton Guard by other soldiers. I have told you before what a trying place this was to camp or I would tell you now. It rained yesterday but it is as warm today as some days in June. Those sick soldiers I spoke about in my other letter
did not go to the General Hospital as I told you they are at this place two of them are getting better.

The river has been raining rapidly for the past week or ten days.

I told you in my last about how I thought I would be at home now. Tell me your opinion for I think you ought to know better about it then I do. Don't you get all the news about two weeks before I can get it or at least get anything that I can believe.

This letter will be rather short for want of subject to write about but I thought you would rather have a short one than none at all. I wrote a letter to Colonel a few days ago.

We are all as well as usual end hope to continue the same.
I hope also these few short lines will find you in the same condition. Those verses you spoke about—I will send in this letter. This will have to come to a close but—I will write again in a few days.

No more at present—so good bye for this time.

Your own loving husband.

Resum

Direct as before
Via
Cairo, Ill.
Mrs. Savinia Stevens,
Waitsville,
Jeff., Co.
Wisconsin
Jan 18, 63

Dear Wife,

I have no time to write anything this morning or more than to let you think I am well as usual.

We are now up at the whaling station at a place called Dr. Roll's landing but expect to leave here soon as we are still on board the boat. We have taken a number of persons since we have been here.

I have no more time now as the mail boat leaves if I had known there would have been a chance to send I would have written before.

We have had no mail for 2 days now.

Your loving husband

Rena
Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Whitsville
Jeff Co
Wisconsin
Thursday Jan. 20/63

Dear wife,

I received two letters from you yesterday dated Jan. 18 stating that you were enjoying good health except your back and I think you had better have that looked to and have something done for it. I wrote a short letter a few days ago to let you know where we were but I did not have time to tell any particulars. We got on board the boat at Helena on Saturday the 10. and tied up at that place the next morning. We crossed the river and tied up and I got off there to visit our old camping ground (Camp Balmer) and from there I visited the grave.
Of Jesse and at night the flees
started down the river and arrived
at the mouth of white river on Monday
morning some time in the afternoon
we entered the mouth river and went
as far as was possible and at night we tied
up our boat and waited till morning
and started on and arrived at
St. Charles on Wednesday Jan 14
here again we laid up for the night
and started on our journey the next
day and about this time we had
a snow storm and has been quite
cold ever since with a snow
every two or three days until
went on till we came to a place called
Clarendon here we stayed all night
and arrived at De Jones landing on
Friday Jan 16 here I was called
on to go on pikes and stood in
the snow all night and the frost
conched one of my feet - a very
little. We calculated to have a little brush with Leech but they "retired in good order."


a short time before we reached the place probably about two days they left two large guns which we took possession of and some of our cavalry took about 50 prisoners. After we had stood here long enough we started back again on the 18th (this day I was 24 years of age) and are still on our way. We have stood every night on this boat except the night I stood in the stern. I understand now that we are thirty for Kilmer late if they get track of any cotton they will send us after and as good luck would have it they have found none on this excursion yet and if they do I will fire it if I can get a chance if no one else does
I have now given you a brief sketch of our journey as far as
my mind can in a few words about matters & things. I read in a newspaper yesterday as I heard it that the soldiers were all in good spirit but I say that is not so as I can bring 9 out of every 10 certainly to the same thing not but what their patriotism is just as strong as it ever was not but what we would fight for the Union as hard and see it restored as good as ever but to see the principles and as to what is shown by our officers in the department. There is not one out of ten of our officers higher than a Col but what is speculating in cotton and nothing else. Just for one instant call your attention to a little phrase uttered by General Curtiss under whose command we
we at present he has also the whole command of this department.

He says if he can get two bales of cotton for every man’s life he
loses it is doing well enough now who can have the heart to
serve through the war in this way but there has got to be some
thing different done within two months and if there is not there
will be many that will lay down their arms and she daddle for
they grant begin to get their eyes open as if I am allowed the express
they have got the cotton pulled off their eyes I did not hear
the Sen utter that sentence for if I
had I would have shown him what
our guns were made for but the rest
that I have written I would take
oath on a stack of bibles as high
as St. Paul's Cathedral and I have
plenty of witnesses all around
here so if anyone doubts what
I say all they have got to do is
to write to almost any one in
this department.

Speaking
about our being under arrest I can
say that I was never under arrest
at all but the cause and the whole
thing put in a nut shell would
amount to just this One night
there was much that had been
insulted and it was laid to the
guards and so I was on guard
that night and received among
the number. In the morning
the Chaplain was going to raise
a muss about it and so pray as
take the names of all the guards
and there was where it ended.
but if it had not ended here we would have wound it up shortly for there were 70 guards to deal with and I reckon the Chaplain would have had a sweet-time.

Don't worry so much about my being sick for I am going to keep my heart & head if my tail drags on the ground.

There was one of our Ca. down in the Mig. he was a German. There were quite a number died out of the Reg't but I do not know how many.

Dolph received the letter you spoke about the same time I got this. We are still going, going and if you want to see just where we are look on the maps and you can tell as well as I can. Tell you for it is not
the time I know where I am myself I am completely wound up right here.

John Eldridge wishes you to hand this slip to Lucinda.

If you have a mind you may send me a little money in your next—send Eastern money for
Mls. money is good for nothing only what one can get of the seller
and I understand he is going to leave us. I am nearly out
of stamps. I also received

A letter from George whom
I receive yours. I shall
have to your soon but I will
write as soon as I can

Direct your letters in
this way.


Ira. Cairo, Ill.

Your husband, Reaka.
Dear wife,

I now occupy the present time in answering the letters I received from you yesterday.

I received two from you and two from mother. We have at last arrived back to Helena once more. This is the third time we have tried to camp at this place once we stayed all night. The next time we stayed about six hours and we thought we would try it once more but we have selected a new camp which is not quite so much on a side hill as the other but how long we shall stay here is not...
for me to learn one may stay
four months and nine may not
stay 3 days. That bullet I sent
to you was one of our own. A Springfield
rifle ball and by looking at then
you will see what one send towards
the rebels when we get a chance.
I drew out of my gun with
a ball screw. You not send
any more papers for our Sentinel
comes again and we take the War.
Rep. also therefore you need not.
Send any more bullet you should
get some different ones.
I am sitting under the cover of
Heaven my paper laying on a box
and my self seated on my back
writing with a pencil in stead
of a pen scratching these few
lines.olph is writing also
though he is not in the same shape
he is seated on a log with his paper
Cotton is doing the same as myself. John Eldridge is in the same fix except he is sitting on a camp kettle instead of a knee pack. Heirman is fixing a place to put our tent. William is cooking beans for dinner. The 16th Regt. passed this place last Tuesday for Vicksburg I suppose. Since we started from Cairo I have been about 24 days on boats which is not a very desirable job. I notice I went you 25 yds. the goltes to understand generally that you have been on another White river trip and have accomplished what nothing as you might say. I will send you a small branch of the mistletoe and also a leaf of it could not tell what you asked for my opinion when I should be at home I think I have told you before but probably you
have not received the letter yet
but I think your judgment ought
better than mine for you can
hear what is going on a great deal
sooner than I can and therefore
your judgment ought to better than
mine, but it will be as soon as all
the cotton has been bought & sold and
as soon as we get a set of decent
officers and there has got to be some
thing done soon for the soldiers will
not stand it much longer for they
are getting perfectly disgusted to see
how the thing is carried on. I
do not know when this letter will
have a chance to go, it may go today
and it may not. I can not think
of anything at present for I have
completely run ashore but I will
write again in a few days

Your own loving husband
Rescue
THE THEATRE, THE CIRCUS, AND THE HORSE RACE.

EIGHT REASONS FOR NOT GOING TO THEM.

1. **Because I expose myself to evil, and can get no good there.**

2. **Because I should employ my time better.**
   See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time. Eph. 5: 15.

3. **Because it is throwing my money away.**
   Use this world as not abusing it, for the fashion of this world passeth away. 1 Cor. 7: 31.

4. **Because I do not wish to be seen in bad company.**
   If sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Prov. 1: 10.
   Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men: avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. Prov. 4: 14, 15.

5. **Because I will not encourage idleness and vice.**
   He that biddeth him God speed, is partaker of his evil deeds. 2 John, 11.

6. **Because I should set a bad example.**
   Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Josh. 24: 15.

7. **Because God has forbidden it.**
   Abstain from all appearance of evil. 1 Thess. 5: 22.

8. **Because I must soon die.**
   So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psa. 90: 12. It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. Heb. 9: 27.

   God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3: 16.

No. 37. AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.
A STRANGE THING.

By many it is confidently said that there is no hell except in this world, and that all men at death go immediately to heaven. Were it so, I could rejoice in the happiness of my fellow-creatures; but it is a doctrine involving several strange things, which I will briefly suggest.

It is strange that the sinners of the antediluvian world, that the guilty Sodomites, and heaven-daring Pharaoh with his host, were speedily translated to heaven, by fire and flood, as a reward of their wickedness; while Noah, Lot, and Moses, with the Israelites, as a judgment on their piety, were doomed to a continuance of their trials in this world of sorrow.

It is strange that the apostles, knowing that no man's soul is in danger, should have felt such solicitude and made such painful exertions for the salvation of men.

It is strange that the persons whom they addressed were often so deeply alarmed under the soothing doctrines of universal salvation.

It is strange, that if Christ and the apostles held such doctrines, they should have employed language such as the preachers of future punishment would choose to employ to express their sentiments—language which has actually led seven-eighths of all who ever read the New Testament to believe that they taught the future eternal damnation of all who die without conversion.

It is strange that a just God should make so little distinction between the righteous and the wicked in this life, if he intends to make none in futurity.

It is strange that the man who dies in the very act of iniquity, as the suicide, should have no punishment either in this world or the next.

It is strange that all who believe in Universalism, when involved in distress, do not make their escape by self-destruction, and enter at once upon the joys of heaven.

It is strange that a system of religion, designed by its Author to promote the reformation and holiness of men, should tend to loosen their obligations and relax their morals and piety, as Universalism is known to do.

These are some of the strange things involved in the doctrine of universal salvation. Having attentively considered them, will you not deem it a strange thing that any man, having the Bible in his hand, reason in his head, or grace in his heart, should be a Universalist?

No. 30. AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.
The union of lakes—the union of lands—The union of States none can Sever—
The union of hearts—the union of hands—the Flag of our Union Forever.

J. Mrs. Gavina Stewart
Whitevillle
Jeff. Co.
Wisconsin
Wednesday Jan 28/63
Camp about five miles from Helena

My own dear wife

Once more I take
the pleasure of writing a few lines to you to let you know where we are and
how we are getting along. We are
camped in the most God forsaken
country that is or ever was on the face
of the globe. As much as I dislike
tobacco I would not give a piece
an inch square for the whole country
[Arkansas] I have seen and be obliged to stay here. I have been on guard for the last 24 hours
and feel sleepy & tired so you need not
wonder if this letter is a little slurry
but the snow goes out--commissary and
I thought it would not be right to let
it go without--taking something for
you be it--ever so little
I received the letter you sent these stamps & David's letter a few days ago. I had a letter from George the same day.

I received yours last day. He see a letter from John Lively a day or two before he was then in the hospital at

Sherwood City in Ill. He trim up. White river we lost a few of our boats as follows one from Leo & at one landing 7. from Leo & at another 17 & of Leo & at another one was drowned of Leo & one was drowned of Leo. 6. one died of Leo. 7 & in all 20 men. We suppose that most of these were left on purpose yesterday 2 more of Leo & left this morning and have not been heard of since.

So you see that deserting has begun already. Oh! yes, one deserted of Leo & while we were at Priar's Point. Me have bust by death since we have
been here than I know of six of Co. V
one of Co. G (2nd) 2 of Co. E
one has been drowned of Co. I making
in all by deserters 6 by death 3 of
these 2 C deserted 8 were drowned
6 7 died by natural death
Richard S. Field is in the hospital
and I understand he has got the fever
The rest of us are as spry as usual.
The country round about here is hilly
sandy and muddy and is very well wooded
with Beech, Oak, Cucumber Pepperage
and various other kinds
The river is raising fast I understand and almost overflowed the
banks now. It has finally ceased
raining and cleared off quite cold but
very quiet and hard last night
regular now and you need not send
them any more If you see
Byron then I have received his
letter and will answer it as soon as I can. I can't do it today, and I
am getting so sleepy that I can hardly finish this. I would like
to tell you some yarns about soldiering but I can't today. There
is that letter you wanted me to send to you.

We have something to eat called mixed vegetables. It is com-
prised of almost all kinds of vegetables. Mixed pressed dried we use it
for making soup, which of course is poor living for me. I am
sorry I could not make a letter of this but I will write again in a
few days and by that time I will get some of the stokes out of my
eyes. No more this time so good bye for the present.

Your ever loving husband

Reedame
25

Mrs. Lydia S. Squires
Waitsville
Jeff Co.
Wisconsin
Helena, Arkansas
Friday Jan 30, 1863.

My dear wife

Once more I will try to scratch a few lines to you to give you some idea how I am getting along. This day is like one in spring. I took a stroll outside the camp today and the blooms of Wisconsin and those that are come across my mind it seemed a great deal like taking a walk through the woods while the birds were singing their praises as if they thought themselves happy and I presume they were but I was not quite so happy as they for I have had the dear cher for a few days past and of course felt a little under the weather but it is somewhat moderated and I shall all right tomorrow.

At present there are quota number in the station condition
as my self owing to the change of water as I suppose. We are still encamped about five miles from Helena back in the timber. It is a very pretty camping it being dry except in time of rain and snow. The water is plenty also hard crackers some of which I will send you as soon as I get a chance.

If you have not before this year may send me D. in Eastern money for I am nearly out and no sight of getting paid off yet.

Our Col. made a short speech at dress parade day before yesterday he said we would all be home to spend next winter by our own firesides and furthermore he said we came here to see the end of this rebellion and if we work we still Hell froze over and작고 go home.
I think there will be something done for Burnside's on the march long before this and in this department they are moving toward Wicker's Mill and I think with a force large enough to reduce it— but I think that we will not join the great enterprise for I think now we have gone into winter quarters or at least will stay here for a spell. William W. Hosman is reeading. If Dolph is mending his clothes.

I had to leave this till after dress parade (but I will try to finish it now) in fact I don't know but—it is about finished now for I can not think of much more to write but the mail goes out tomorrow morning and I must send a letter to have if it is not much
I wrote a letter to Nelson while I was at Friends Point but I have not received an answer yet.

The health of the Reg. is improving some. A short time ago we had 31 on the sick list some were in the hospital and the rest were in camp. For a change we had pancakes for breakfast also for dinner which went very well. I do not expect there will be much if anything interesting in this letter but I have done the best I can with your this time.

I hope the next time I write I can make our letter longer.

This is all I can mention at present & I will close this by saying good evening.

Your ever loving husband

[Signature]
Camp about 3 miles from Helena

Sunday Feb 1. 1863

My dear wife:

I am about to write but I am still to think of something if it begins quite to pray.

The rain started yesterday and last night and left it somewhat muddy but it looks like parting off again. I hope it will.

There seems to be quite a number of our boys that are remarked some well the last of the business is when we landed it commenced to rain and kept it up pretty well the whole time we were marching from Wheelers to camp. Where we reached here it was nearly night. There were many of us without tents, some built a fire and stood by it till afternoon some lay down in the brush and had somewhat to sleep
well the way I worked it was this I got under a thing of a tent-light a candle and read till about twelve o’clock, when I became so sleepy that I spread my blanket down and went to sleep. I, when I awoke it was after daylight. The rest of our tents arrived and we have found better since. I have had the diarrheah for a few days but not so bad as what I have been on duty two or three times but I think in a few days more I shall feel as well as ever.olph J. Williams are about the same as myself well, the fact is might name over your name Theres Frank Lofflfer, David B. Henry Pearse are all about the same. I have not heard any news in this department to speak of the Cotton
question but I understand that is about played out. If it is I am glad of it. Gen. Rossman (the one that we are under at present) can't find a name bad enough to call us since we grumbled about quantity cotton. The name seems to be "\textbf{The One Hundred Dollar Concepts}" but never mind all this. I long to think I have got near the house. This is not written very good for I have to write on my hand which of course is an unhandy way of writing. As soon as you can get it I wish you would send me one ounce of Cayenne pepper you consented to by mail. By doing it up in a strong piece of paper and put up tight now do not forget it for I shall need it when it comes warm.
weather and that we will begin to have next month. I would like to stop up to old Wis and sleep on a good bed one might just to see how it would seem. But I do not think I could sleep on the bed at all. I believe I should have to get out of the bed on the floor and repose there. Dick Seufitz is still in the Hospital but I have not heard from him since he went there.

There was a man died here in the Hospital this morning of Co. 11.

Rothelam Blanchard is in the Hospital again. I believe I have written all I can think of at present but a few lines are better than none at all. Therefore I will close this by saying good by for the present.

Your own affectionate son,

Reserve.
The union of lakes—the union of lands—The union of States none can Sever—
The union of hearts—the union of hands—the Flag of our Union Forever.

29
30

Mrs. Spavinia Steins
Waitsville
Jeff. Co.
Wisconsin

Sold by Bliss, Eberhard & Festner, Madison.
H. C. A. Arkansas
Wednesday Feb 4/63

My dear wife,

Once more I am trying to scratch a few lines to give you an idea how I am getting along. The mail goes out tomorrow and I thought it would be right for me to let it go without dropping in my smile. We are having a pretty hard snowstorm today and it is quite cold with all the rest. Two more men deserted from our Reg. a few days ago; they belonged to Co. G. You see that deserting has commenced and as soon as it comes warmer weather there will more I am afraid they will join in the saddle. The old proverb is, 'the darkest hour is just before daylight.'
I think, if that is the case we will see day soon for it is as dark as it can possibly be at the present time or else I cannot find out any thing that is going on. I believe something matter would not come a miss for I think it is about ten days since I have received any but I guess I will get some tomorrow. I will tell you what we have to do at present nearly every day our Co. has to furnish sixteen for guard for 10 do work and sometimes more than once in every 10 days the whole Co. for picket duty except those that are sick and those that were on guard the day before but how long we shall have to do this I do not know but I hope not long.
I am well at present except a bad headache. Dolf B. William seems to be a little under the weather. Cotton has a very sore back. David is quite smart but is not entirely well yet.

Frank's fellow's health is quite poor. The rest of the boys seem to be kicking about. Our army seems to be nearly at a dead set but for all that it does seem to that the war was nearly at an end. I don't know what makes one think so nor can I help it. Well the thing of it is there has got to be something done soon. It is getting quite dark and I don't but I shall have to close this soon.

I received those stamps you sent in your last.
I would say a word or two on the cotton question but that I understand is played out. I suppose that is one reason why the war is coming to a close soon, another reason is as I understand the army is getting somewhat demoralized.

The time of the two years men will be out in June which there are quite a number. I have 28 Regiments how many more I do not know.

It is getting so dark I can hardly see therefore I shall have to close this.

From your ever affectionate & loving husband

Resum
J. Mrs. Lavinia Stevens
Whitnville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
Helena, Arkansas
Sunday Feb. 8, 63

My dear wife,

I am once more trying to write a few lines to you to suggest to you a few thoughts which occur in my mind. It seems to me a slow and long way of talking and a way of talking that is not so pleasant as talking face to face.

If I live I calculate to talk to you instead of writing now. I will give you my reasons. The fact of the business of the war cannot last a great while longer unless our Generals calculate to give the rebels every possible advantage and it will do to do that under the present circumstances of our army for the soldiers will not stand it for deserting is quite frequent already.
There was a camp rumor in circulation a few days ago that the President had called for 300,000 more men which I doubt very much. Now if he has done that I would advise every one that has a notion to enlist to just hold on dry up their mouths & be as if we just there now if they can't do something with what they have got there is no use of having more and another thing is they have got enough here to waste away their lives to linger & die by disease. I enlisted to come down here to put down the rebellion and restore peace to our country and if that was what they were getting at I would say one word if I had to stay the regular three years but it is all a humbug and the press in the north don't know anything or else they withhold the truth.
If "Hell," if I may be allowed the expression, ain't full of liars now is (or soon after this) the time for the "Devil" to fill his den - if I owed him lies enough to fill the whole bottomless pit - and he would not take what liars he could find in our army for pay I would runaway and cheat nine out of the whole debt.

Since I wrote to you there has five died of our Reg., but none of our Co., but I cannot designate the companies.

Five have deserted from Co. C. since I wrote to you. I cannot say that I blame them at all and as soon as proper paid off there will be many more follow in their tracks especially when the weather gets warmer and if they send me after them you may rest assured that I would not chase them a great distance nor very fast.
We are all in excellent condition at present and I hope that when these few lines reach your hands they will find you the same.

The boys have just got dinner they have coffee, pancakes, waffles, crackers.

The Poet has grown so old since he has been here that he got to be quite childlike.

It is about time I think were paid off the boys are out of money nearly for my part I am entirely out.

I have not received a letter from you in some time but I probably they are delayed somewhere I look for one at least the next mail. The last letter we received was Jan 21.

We got a Rep. half sheet the 28th.

I shall have to bring this to a close I will write again soon.

Write soon & as often as possible.

From your loving husband

[Signature]
The union of lakes— the union of lands— The union of States none can sever— The union of hearts— the union of hands— the Flag of our Union forever.

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U.S. Postage 3

Mrs. Lavinia Herr
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.,
Wisconsin
Helen, Arkansas
Wednesday Feb. 11, 1863

My dear wife,

I received a very dear letter dated Jan. 25, 1863 before last, which was the first I had received from you in about two weeks owing perhaps to the getting delayed somewhere.

I was somewhat anxious today but it is quite temperate with all the rest, spring will soon open down here. I hardly know what to write for I write so often that I can hardly think of enough to fill up one of these small sheets of paper.

I received a letter from George the same time I got your last. He was enjoying good health at that time. There has been more dirt since then. I told you about before one of our Cio by the name of John, Charles and James Bolser of Co. K. V. I of two others. Yes James Bolser is
sleeping the sleep that never knows no waking, and will lay there until the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall arise and to appear before the judgment bar. This diseases were the Typhoid & Fevers combined
The measles seems to be the most fatal disease that gets into the army. A great many say they are more dangerous than the small pox and I begin to think so myself for if a man gets the measles here and gets the least bit of cold he is about sure to be a dead man.

I am well as usual & so are the rest of the boys though Dolph and David feel a little under the weather. Lie. Scoggin is in the hospital at St. Louis yet. I see by the Sentinel of Jan. 28 that it comes out in strong terms against war & various places of any kind except by hard fighting and to fight.
It out in that way now if that paper don't know anything it ought to be taught by somebody. I like to hear preaching very well till I hear something preached up that can't be done and then I get tired of it now I say that this thing can't be done by hard fighting unless all of our generals take hold of it and some life and work together but they don't do it one wants to gain a great name so he will pitch in and make a little dash while the rest stands by looking on and if he can't do anything he will either resign or they will turn him out and so the thing goes on with the most of them unless some wants cotton and then the one that can steal the most is the one that man and is thought the most of now you see we soldiers don't always stand this for as the old
saying is it is a long road that has no turn to it and if it don't turn pretty soon, then I am no judge for a great many of our soldiers are getting tired of the way this war is carried on and I heard a great many of them in our key that they would spend the 4th of July at home if they had to desert but I think that we will all be home by that time or nearly without running away so keep up good courage don't get down hearted or worry about me for I think I shall keep on my feet yet a spell for I have been blessed so far with good health and what I take to be the sickly season is about over will, though there may be another such season the July 10th I shall have to bring my letter to a close by saying good morning to you from your loving husband
Mrs. Sparrow Stetts
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
Helena Sunday Feb 13

My dear wife I received three letters from you last week and they seemed to come somewhere in the next written between Jan 25th and 1 that I have not got. You asked me about Charley coming home in the spring. I asked him a few days ago of he was going home in the spring he said he should go some time in April he thought. It seems that you do not get all my letters but I have written to you as often as once a week with the exceptions of twice only and they were when I was on those expeditions which times I could not send a letter under 8 days with the exceptions of those times only I have written three times and sometimes three.
Dec 28th which you had received a few days before; I have been looking over my memorandum and I find I have written 12 since that time besides the one I am working on now. I had a letter from mother this morning she said they were all well I had also one from aunt Huldah they were all in good condition.

Since I wrote to you before two more has died one of whom was one of our acquaintances Jasper Blanchard died this morning at two o'clock in the hospital he had the typhoid fever he seemed to be around and was not considered dangerously sick until he was nearly dead. The great trouble of a great many is the keep around too much in the damp air.

I am at present as tough as possible and out of four days.
passed. I have performed picket duty two days which seems a very little like work, but I think I shall rest a couple days before I go on picket again.

I have been reckoning up how much our Regiment has decreased since it was organized and as near as I can reckon it it is as follows: deserted 21, discharged 20 and died 33 which makes in all 84 and I think 20 would come nearer the mark. If I knew the whole but probably there has been more discharged & died than I know of I would touch the other question but I have preached so much on that before now it would be so old that it would do no good to read it Therefore I will not mention it in this letter. The health of the Regiment I think is improving a very little though we have had
quite a sickly time. The boys from our place are keeping around as much as possible. Soldiers, I hear, have resigned their offices and have started homeward, and I understand there is quite a number of our officers going to resign as soon as they get paid off but nobody knows when this will be. I have just about run up a swamp right here for I can hardly think of anything to write for I write so often that I can not think of anything new when I sit down to write but if you do the best I can you must not scold. I will write again in three or four days and if any thing new transpires I will try to give you an inkling of it. More this time, therefore I will close this by saying good-afternoon. From your own husband.
Mrs. Lavinia Stevens
Necsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
Helena, Arkansas
Tuesday Feb. 17, 1863

My dear wife,

Once more I am sated for the purpose of writing a few lines to you. I am one day ahead of my time about writing this letter but I shall have to go on picket tomorrow and I should have no more time till after the next mail and so I thought I would write this afternoon. You said you let Bullwinkle have that $10 order but did you take a writing of one kind to show that you had. Let him have it if you did not. I think you should have asked me if your stamps a week was as much as I wanted to give an answer to this I would say that it is and sometimes more but on an average it is
I received another letter from you today, dated Feb. 8. I did not expect it this time for I had received one the last mail though it was quite an early date at 29 but I am glad to get letters from you at any time whether long or short. I received in this letter $1.00 in money and four postage stamps. I was glad to get the money for it was our entire bill but I think now that last me only. I am afraid off for the rumors are around camp that we are going in a few days, but how true it is I do not know. You said that father spoke about me getting my affidavit and sending it home to get that money of Remskan but I could not do it for there is no justice if the person and another thing is I have not yet the bill...
but wait till I get home and I will make him work over if it is a possible thing.

I think, I have given you the number of deserters that have left our Regt, but if I have not, I will now as near as I can. 31 have disgraced themselves as much as these. But you will find I have not gone yet nor do not calculate to do so long as there is a hair or a grain left of the whole Regt (since I wrote to you before two more have died but who I do not know one of them belonged to Co K to which we called the unlucky Co for they have lost more than any other Co in the Regt, I got typhus and answered it a spell ago.

I am well at present so are the rest of the boys with a few exceptions. Hiram has a bad
cold & William has a lame back
the rest are as well as common.
You wrote as if we were going
to Vicksburg but I have no idea
of getting any nearer them nor
are but I cant what will happen
I shall look for a great snow
after the Potomac and givin
g the mud then I think there
will be a grand snow but what it
will amount to I do not know.
I have written just about all
I can think of today but I will
write again in a few days and
if there is any thing I have forgot
I will write in my next
I shall have to close this
and will do so by having good
afternoon for the present.
Your loving husband
Keziah
Good afternoon dear wife
Mrs. Fannia F. Dennis
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
March 2, 1863

My dear wife,

The last letter I wrote to you was Tuesday, Feb. 17, and left this place on Thursday, and I should have written on Sunday and sent it out by mail the next day, but on Saturday, Feb. 21, about 11 o'clock, there came an order from the General to be ready for a march within two hours time with two days rations, that is all of those that could stand a pretty rough time and now many, nearly do you think of our Co. answered to the call out of 16 men that were drawn, rations for 31 men, all that were able except 6 that were on picket at that time do you see the condition of our Company at the present time we went into
Camp Randall with 12 men and now all our arms are for duty is 18 men less than half with whom we commenced with but the health of our Coo is improving I think quite fast as the weather becomes settled. We started from this place on the day I have spoken of before and proceeded down the valley five or six miles and thence into what is called the Sayoso pass a sort of a stream or cut off which in high water is navigable for boats. This pass eventually empties into the Sayoso river after first emptying into the cold water river well you say you have got a map if you have look on it and it will have some words explaining. Well after this you wondered if I was going to tell you what we were taken down there for we were placed down the pass some ways to guard a point to keep the guerillas
from stopping up the stream while
the fleet ran through, finally the
rear of the fleet had got past
us and started back for this place
yesterday, and arrived here last
night. The fleet consisted of two
scow loaded gun boats and two heavy rams
four magazine all classed as
mounts making 8 besides two
mortars and quite a number of
Transports loaded with soldiers
The destinations being Vicksburg and
I begin to think that that place will
fall. You told me to be careful when
I did, but if you could see what we
have sometimes you would not think
any thing for we do not think getting
thing that will give us the cont
Since I have written to you we
have moved our Rgts occupy only
a place no larger than 3 feet by 6
and about four feet below the surface
of the ground. Two of them
belonged to our Cee. Their names are A. C. Penning & B. J. Thorne. The first died with the typhoid fever the last I think with the dropsy.

I received a letter from Nelson yesterday as well as two from you but how long they had been here I could not tell. Nelson & Seydler were well he is teaching school at Palmetto Corners and further says it will commence work for George Smith company. I am not much acquainted with a year for $175, with as good a 25% of profits besides.

I suppose by the time you get this letter you will be into the sugar making all over but I think for my part I will try to get along without making sugar this year but if I am not able to make some next year you may have my head for a fast ball.

I shall have more to lose this but I will try to write again in a very few days.

Yours truly, Emery, Husband.

Reservoir.
I had a letter from you about two weeks ago and he was then in the Chicago City hospital, Illinois.

Edona Aikens

Wednesday March 7, 1863

Although it was but a few days since I wrote to you, still I think it my imperative duty to write you a few lines today to let you know something about how things are in this part of the country. I received your letter yesterday, dated Feb 22, and was glad to hear that you were as well as you were.

I see by your letter that Elder Kendal was as patriotic as ever and as anxious to be in the service. Now tell the Elder from me that if he could only answer his duty and mean saving his country to offer himself as a private and I will assure him that he will be
accepted, but to offer himself for anything else would be as vanity for he is not fit what I meant by this he is not the right kind of a man. The health of our Regt. continues to improve some, though some are sick yet.

I am well at present. Dolph and William seem to be a little under the weather yet.

Old Mr. Chaucey told me this morning that he should start post here the last of this month or the very first of April he seemed to be well and healthy.

Since I wrote to you there has been one died which I think is some on the decline.

A brother of the came here this morning which I think will be the only means of saving his life. Sergt. Doe has been sick some time and
has been continually failing for two months or more and has finally got so low that he cannot get up. The Surgeon had got so set against him some way that they would not give him his discharge but now his brother has come here. I think he will get up for him on the other hand if he stays here in my opinion he will be a dead man unless in less than ten days. On my last I told you I saw peach trees in blossom on the 22 of last month now if you do not believe it just look at these some that I picked today also here is a few kernels of online corn that I got at the plantation of the rebel Gen. Alvarez on my last trip that I told you about in my last letter.
Piece of postage stamps from you in every other letter regular which it as much as I want and more than I have used lately. I have not heard from George in some time. I think nearly three weeks ago, but since then I learned by the Sentinel that the Regt had marched to Fort Donelson but arrived there too late for the battle. I hope that I am getting homesick for anything of that kind but I am getting of having my letters sealed for this scratching ideas on paper is something not so pleasant especially to dearest friends and is something that I do not think I shall have to do a great while for I think the war will end by and by. By the time you get this I suppose you will be into the sugar clear up to your ears but a little warm sugar soon...
J. Mrs. Lavinia Sterling
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
My dear wife,

Once more I am trying to the best of my abilities to scribble a few short lines to you in order to keep you as well posted as I can on matters and things in general. You may imagine how a person feels when he is separated from friends near and dear also acquaintances. I have in a few cases only and that many hundreds of miles from home without the chance of getting anywhere and at present a gloomy looking future before him and you might say without the least ray of day-light to brighten the prospects of the future and you will know the true state of feeling of myself.

Although I like the business
of being a soldier very well but the part of being one is not at all. I am grumbling but to see them and hear me the field and all being still doing nothing as one might say the Potomac army stuck in them the Tennessee army doing nothing to do with division I can not account for but I suppose it's down near Richmond but enough of this. I am still in the same good health that has blessed me nearly all the time since I have been in the army. Dolph has been in the hospital for some time past but I saw him today and he thinks he is gaining quite fast. Since I wrote to you before three more of our boys have given up soldiering and said themselves down to rest one of whom was Isaac Roe died last Friday night between the hours of ten & eleven and our boy.
provided their last respect to his mortal remains by sending a
part of their number to escort his body to the wharf at which it was then
put on board of the steamer Benton to be sent in the care of his brother
(Joseph) to be sent to his friends and probably are you get this his corpse
will have reached its destination.

I have no doubt but that had the
power of his own mind eventually
caused his own death so now
I have come to the conclusion that
a man can kill himself if he
takes the right way for I think he
might have been alive at the presen
day if he had been discharged two
months ago which he should have
been. The fact of the business
is he was taken sick and continued
to grow worse and our surgeon
did not care or seem to care whether
he done anything for him or not.
on account of a spite which seemed to owe him some would be consent to give him his discharge until Brentwood made its appearance and had selected him (Ray) for its victim.

There is one thing I can say and that the truth there is Spalding has murdered this man now he may be satisfied but a question to this.

Is there a punishment for murderers if so our first surgeon will receive it should receive his doom. I have preached enough on this—will send the peach blossoms in this for I forgot to send them in my last.

I received a letter from George last week he did not write anything of my note except a brief account of the battle at Fredericksburg which came out in the sentinel a few weeks ago.

The river is rising gradually it is overflawed the banked in some places.

You spoke about sending me some currants because you thought we could not get anything soon but we have vinegar all the time on hand but if you wish to send anything you can do it by express as there is an express office here in the care of Capt. Hollick.
Mrs. Gravina Stevens
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
Helena, Arkansas  
Wednesday March 11, 1843

My dear wife,

Once more I am trying to write a few lines to you to let you know something how I am getting along at present--

I would give you a few details on matters and things but as you know my mind pretty well as I have expressed to you before as freely as possible on matters and things that that past will be of little use. We have received a very small bit of pay I do not know but I told you the last but I have forgotten it but we are only paid to the 1st of Nov, last and probably you my allotment--for one month $100 before long the winter is
now that we will receive two months pay in addition to what we have already had but how true such a story may be I do not know. There has been snow since I wrote to you before but as you are very sick yet but of course you know how to find me that is I am all sound and the rest of the boys seem to be in kicking condition except Dolph he seems to be somewhat under the weather yet but so much so but that he is around. We have got a stove in our tent now which is not uncomfortable now I can tell you soon you see we can sit by the fire evenings instead of sitting in the cold. I bought two books a day or two ago entitled the Prairie Flower and Jesse Lee the latter being the sequel to the first. I will send the first who
I send this letter I think it is quite a yarn but you will think of probably you know as well as I.

We have had considerable rain here for the past two weeks so that it is somewhat muddy at present. I have been thinking some of leaving my face pulled off to send to you but have not as yet come to any conclusion but if I conclude to I will speak of it in my next which will be next Sunday. I hardly know what to write from the fact that nothing has passed of any note since I wrote to you before and nor having received any from you since that time which leaves me pretty near wound up.

I am writing this in the evening and the drum has just beat for roll call and after that we have to extinguish our
lights, and the mail goes out in the morning and so you see I have got to stop right here but what is not in this will try to make up next time. Therefore good night dear wife. From your loving husband.

[Signature]
Helena, Arkansas
Sunday March 15/63

My dear wife,

I am once more trying to scratch a few lines to you for the same purpose that I have done the same before. We are still encamped within a short distance of the awful city of Helena and it may be such a thing that we shall stay here this coming summer but I cannot tell as to that thing if we leave here. I hope we shall go further north say for instance into Kentucky or Tennessee but we cannot have our choice for we have to go where are ordered.

We are having pretty good easy times considering the circumstances the health of the Regiment is slowly improving and since I have given you the last accounts but one bus
Dad, Ralph is in the hospital. The doctors say his disease is the inflammatory rheumatism. The rest of us are all in fighting.

John Eldridge shot his finger a few minutes ago with a revolver, but as good luck would have it, it did him little or no damage for the ball passed through the flesh part of his finger without injuring the bone in the least.

I have had my picture taken which you will find in this letter and you can see by it that I have not fell away at all.

deal by being exposed to the southern climate. I think it is pretty good for one that was taken down here where all arts seem not yet to found their way though I think the hair & whiskers are rather dark.

I received a letter from you yesterday dated March 5.
a week ago yesterday dated Feb 26th. I think if you have written regular twice a week (and I suppose you have of course) there must be one between the two somewhere on the road. I received a letter from mother the same time I got yours yesterday and by her writing I see the Copperheads are making themselves into a club to resist the draft should there be one made but just send for the 2 Yrs and we will clean them out in one time and two motions.

I would like to have been in that part of the country with about fifty of our Co. with their guns to give Mrs. Moore those volleys just as she launched herself into Eternity. There seems to be a little something going on down towards Vicksburg but how much or what I am unable to tel.
I think the turning of the point in the war will be soon if it ever is in fact. I do not see how it can be otherwise if the will of the Generals are as good as their men. Heiram had a letter from his uncle and he says that Mr. Potter has reached and found his camp. I do not see why he did not stop to see an old friend as he passed this place.

I have written about all I know this time and therefore I shall have to close this soon. The boys from our place have about made up our minds to send home our overcoats this week, but have concluded where we should then whether to Watertown or to Peaberson, but I will tell you in my next.

This is all so good afternoon to you my own loving wife

From your husband

Reiram
Mrs. Lavinia Stevens
Waitsville
Jefferson Co., Wisc.
Helena Arkansas

Wednesday March 1863

Dear Wife,

I will try again to write a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along at present. There is nothing of any note passed since I wrote to you before and therefore you need not look for a very long letter this time. They seem to be working slowly at Nielson get and I hope they will keep at work till that place falls into our hands which I think will before long. There is quite a number of us that are going to send home our overcoats tomorrow as there is a boat leaves this place to go to Memphis but how soon they will get home I do not know we shall send them to Watertown
By express and I think by the time you get this letter they will be at the express office at Waterford.

We have weather as warm here now as you have in the north. The most of the time we have and it makes one sweat, some to go out to drill but one do not have to drill but three hours in a day except when we go out on Brigade drill, which occupies two hours extra. Our guarding is lighter now than it has ever been before for we have to furnish only five a day which is some different from 24 so you see we are having easy times to what we have had.

I have one thing going on in the north which makes the soldiers feel rather gritty that is the Copperhead clubs and the rebel sympathizers in the north. We have come here to save our country and to
here our northern men work against us is rather provoking. If it should come their turn to fight for their country they ought to do it—rather than to fight against it for they are no better than we are. But if they do not close their mouths soon we will give them a wipe and finish up this war and then we will come and serve the copperheads at the worse end. I think we are able of our generals would let us go to work.

The river is high now it has overflowed its banks and although we are half a mile from it the water comes within a very few rods of our camp and still keeps raising slowly. Dolph is still in the hospital but he thinks he is on the gain but he does not look to me as if he was gaining much. I am well and hearty yet and hope to stay so.
The rest of the boys seem to be in pretty good condition at present & I am nearly wound up for the want of a subject to write about. I see our Regt. has not got rid of the last White River trip yet for since I have given you any accounts three more have died. That trip was hard on the men for it was a rough time now I can tell you. This will have to wind up this letter and this I will do by saying good morning.

From your loving husband

[Signature]
Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Waitsville
Jefferson Co., Wisconisn
Helena, Arkansas
Friday March 20/63

My dear wife,

Once more I will try to communicate to you by the way of writing to give you some idea how I am getting along. I am still the same as usual that is well as usual and continue to live by eating my regular rations of hard crackers. We sent our overcoats yesterday but instead of sending them to Watertown as I told you in my last one express them to Mrs. Green, Jefferson, Mrs. Miller. There are seven coats and two vests in the box and belong to the following named persons: David, Dolph, Herman Williams, Will's & Melvin Colter.
and myself one next belongs to me. Of the other do not guess much as the blacker one short I bought last fall and the other they paid the express as far as Memphis. I received one letter from you today and one day or two ago you wanted to know where we got our sour milk to make our pancakes well as to that we think. That is a god bless question and you would think the same if you knew just how things were here for cows are scarce as punk bugs in June, so what sour milk we have we make ourselves. You thought the fleet passing along must have looked nice, but to me it did not look like anything ever for I have so much of that kind of thing that I do not notice it. But for one that never saw such a thing it would would well.
Tell Allie Pa is coming home some of these days and he must learn to talk just so that he can talk to him.

I also received a letter from aunt Rhoda today which I will send to you in this if I do not forget it. The last letter I received from George was dated Feb. 6, and I think none of his letters have been miscarried for that letter that I got--I did not get--till the 15th of March.

It is now in the evening and some what--is a hurry to get this wrote for I shall have no time in the morning for the mail goes out tomorrow and I am going on guard and I shall have to finish this in a hurry and it may be that I shall forget...
something but if I can I will try to put it in the next letter I write. The boys are in pretty good health generally.olph has left the hospital and came to his tent again and I hope he will soon get better or well as I should have said.

One man died in Co A yesterday before yesterday every sudden he had been as a quite a long time and it was thought he was getting better and was walking around and was near the edge of the water a few steps from his camp he fell backwards and expired immediately. But I shall have to bring this letter to a close. I will write again soon.

From your ever affectionate husband

[Signature]
March 20/63

I Mrs. Lavinia Sterns

Waukesha

Jefferson Co., Wisconsin
Helena Arkansas
Sunday March 2 1863

My dear wife:

Although I wrote to you a letter but a day or two ago, I thought it an imperative duty to write again, but a few lines, and I do not think it will be more than a few lines, for I am considerably puzzled today to know what to write for there is nothing going on here of any note and I can hear no news from anywhere else. I have been out in one of the grave yards and saw one of the graves was an iron plate spread over the top and on it was the following inscription:

Sacred
To the memory of Frances Hanks, consort of S. Hanks, who departed this life Dec. 31st, 1834 in the 24th year of her age. Also the infant daughter of S. & S. E. Hanks who was interred in her arms.

In addition to this there was a verse that I could not make what or how it read. I stood a long time trying to read but I could not. I came to the conclusion that this place was quite an old settled place, that is as judged from the date I saw another date still older that was 1828.
at present and the rest of the boys are about the same as when I wrote to before. Spring is upon us the fruit trees are in full bloom. The grass is growing finely the trees are putting forth their green foliage the little birds are singing their song from morning till night the little violets are blossoming by the wayside and everything that spring brings with her except cultivation for there seems to be no farming no making of garden nor anything else that pertains to civilization going on within sight or hearing of this place. I have about come to the conclusion that there is no war from the fact that we hear of nothing going
on that pertains to that line of business and yet I know there's war if not here in the south the class in the the north called copperheads or making war but there is a day of reckoning coming for them.

I hope that when these few lines come to hand they will find you enjoying good health and hope also that you will try to keep up good courage for I calculate that the war will close up soon then I hope to be with you to address the but next time I hope I can write a more interesting letter than this. So good evening for the present.

From yourself affectionate loving husband

[Signature]
Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.,
Wisconsin
Helena, Arkansas
Saturday Evening May 28

It is now

Dear wife,

It is now about seven o'clock and although the mail does not go up the river again until next Tuesday, I thought it would be just as well to write tonight as any other time for I am alone tonight - Dolph being in the hospital, William off and Horace being on picket duty which of course leaves me. As myself and to my own reflection, but for all that you need not look for a very large letter this time unless my thoughts carry me farther than I think they will now but be as it was, you will get at that my brains can spare for it neither or little.
I saw Dolph again today and he does seem to be much better if any. He is grown frow and looks quite pale. He has not applied for a discharge yet, nor do I know whether he calculates to or not, but I think that if I were in his place I should do my best to get one for I do not think that he will get so as to soldiery any more very soon if at all. I hope he will apply for and get his discharge before long for the very reasons I have just given. The last I have heard from George was a letter written to Edward Houck by S. A. Fish dated March 1 and said that George had been very sick but was convalescent that he is getting better when he wrote he also said that there were more in the 13th that were dangerously sick and
but a few in the hospital
I have been busy nearly all
day about one thing or another
sometimes I walked upon the
hill (which is close by) and take
a view of things in general
I could see steamboats coming
up I suppose after supplies for
the soldiers that are below here
by then I saw a very few coming
down from up the river somewheres
with more soldiers which of
course passed on down the river
and towards Vicksburg.
The 29th is at present in the brigade
with the 11th 23rd and 33rd
Indiana Regiments under the
command of Brigadier General
McLemore and the
Brigade is assigned to the 12th
division of the 13th Army Corps
of the army of the Tennessee
which actually belongs to Gen.
There are but I do not think we will be moved in that direction but on the contrary will stay at this place for some time to come. Since I have given you any account which I think was about a week ago or more) some of our Red have gone to their long homes from which they never will return. There are still a few sick in the hospital but I think these are not so many as there has been.

Pam is still as well as usual and continues to live by eating my regular ration of crackers but we do not have quite as many of them lately as we used to have from the fact we get part flours than we got the hard made into bread which goes some better than all hard crackers. There is something else I have done to-day that is I have been at work at a pair of pants a few days ago although they were new I went at work and fixed the pockets and sewed on some buttons and fixed up in style. But I will lay away my best for it is getting near dressing time.
Monday March 30

It was so cold yesterday I did not write but it was not exactly that after all it was this there are but a few streets that have stores in and ours have and for that reason we were so much crowded with visitors that there was room to hardly stir but today I am bound to finish this letter if I have to put a guard at the door to keep spectators out. I guess you have forgotten to send me any more pepper from the fact I have not received any but once and in that letter you said you send me some more when you wrote again.

Another thing I wish you to send to me there is a few large pins these that I have
got are most all gone
We have had for two to day past different kinds of weather it has blowed a heavy gale from the north almost continually the whole time then it rains daily if snows alternately.

Sue spoke about those peach blossoms to the corn if it is true I forgot to put them in this letter but I sent the blossoms in the next letter and the corn you will find in my vest pocket which is in the box of coat that we sent home probably you have got it before this.

The news (if true) is very encouraging that we get here for the past few days and it is a general feeling among the officers that the war will come to latter end
before long. I hope the news is all true, and the promises of the officers will prove to be the same but since I have been here I have learned to not to credit anything unless I see the official myself.

As you are my own private opinion publicly expressed I do not see how the war can last much longer if our leaders will stand at the back for all our men want is good Generals to lead them and they will do the work themselves. Our scouts bring in a few guerrillas every few days. There was quite a number of Cavalry went out as scouts yesterday morning to be gone a few days and I hope they will do good execution for any part I would rather they
would kill the "Killer Whales" 
Then to take them prisoners 
for then we know they are out 
of the way. I know it looks 
hard to walk up to a man and 
cut him down with a sword 
or shoot him, but that is just 
the way I feel on the subject 
which proves this statement 
of the old adage, I say can 
be educated to anything!

My thoughts have carried me 
greater detail further than I 
expected they would when I 
began this letter and as I have 
completely scoured my brain 
pen and have robbed it of all it 
contains, I will close these 
few unbroken marks by 
bidding you good day for this 
time.

From your own dear husband

P.S. Speaking of the number 
you received from me I would 
tell you this is letter No. 57 
that I have wrote to you since 
I have arrived at Camp Salomon