Near Vicksburg, Miss.

Wednesday July 12th 63

Dear wife,

Jours of 1862 came to hand on Monday but as I had written a letter to you the day before I thought I would wait a day or two before answering it. I am sorry to hear that matters is so poor this summer and not looking as off as I hope they will soon get better. You asked me when I thought this place would be taken which is a thing that I have not the least idea of it may be two days or two weeks and it may be as many months it all depends on the amount of feed the rebels have.

I do not think from the action of things...
that it is the intention of Gen. Grant to take it by storm but on the other hand, I think it is the intention to starve them out from the fact they cannot get any more when that is gone and they cannot live long without eating so you see as near as I understand it depends wholly on how much they have got to eat. I do not get any news until it is so old that it is like looking at a last year's bird's nest. To look at the papers that I can borrow or pick up around camp in fact newspapers are scarce articles. I do not know as I will be able to think of enough to fill this sheet or not for one day passes off and another follows, but brings nothing new and it is pretty hard
of the rest of the boys seem to be as well as usual.

The weather is pretty warm here at present. I have not heard from another as some time. I had a letter from George the same time I got yours. He did not write anything of any account except that he was well. I have not had a letter from Nelson in about three
I guess he has forgot that there was such a being in the world as myself. I am nearly run astore for the want of something to write about. You send if I wanted anything to let you know and you would send it well I want a silks hankerschief and a pair of suspenders which I can not get here without paying an awful price, well in fact, every thing is at the very top not the town down here. Keep up good courage and I know you do as well as you can and I will at home some day be it soon or late. I hope of course the time will be short and a little more than two years at the very longest. But I have not the least idea of staying here that long.
Near Vicksburg, Miss,

Saturday July 4, 1863

My dear wife,

Once more, I will try to pen a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting. I would like to be at home long enough to spend the 4th but it is not my lot this year. But I am making the days pass off as well as possible. Yesterday a flag of truce came out and today the final thing has been settled up and Vicksburg is in the hands of our troops. The great Gibraltar of the Mississippi has at last fallen with all its contents. I have not learned the number
of prisoners yet. But probably you will hear of all the particulars long before you get this. I think now our spring campaign ought to be over with now for we have been out ever since the 12th of April and without tents except such as we could construct and we have laid here at this place 44 days. My lameness is getting some better and gaining as fast as I could expect and I shall soon be well if I do not have to exercise too much or do too much marching but if it lays me up some one will have to take care of me. The rest of the boys all seem to be in good health at present. Cotton says
he has not had a letter from home in some time. The last one was dated June 9 while the rest of us had received letters up to the 22nd. He thinks that rather discourages him. He wants his folks to write more regularly.

Send me a few columns in the next letter you send for I have lost mine. I hardly know what to write to fill up the balance of this sheet.

The last news I have received was the 25th when there seemed to be considerable excitement in the Eastern department, but no move on our part to amount to much. How long have we got to wait for the Polish army to make a move that
will prove decisive & I hope soon for as I think it is wearing our men's lives for nothing to keep down in the Southern climate as has been the case for two years past and if everyone felt as I do about it they would all pitch in and put down this rebellion without any further delay. Are they drafting any this summer in Miss. if I shall have to close this for I expect the mail will leave soon.

Yours ever affectionately

Recon
Mrs. Leavina Stens
Waitsville
Jefferson Co
Wisconsin
Dear Mrs.

I will try to pen a few lines to you to still let you know how I am getting along. Vicksburg became ours the 4th and in the following our division (Honey's) with the rest of the troops that were here except like Pherson's Corps were ordered to march at five in the morning in the direction of the Big Black river but from where they will come back how far they will go how long they will stay I could not tell nor could I tell what they meant for this you have had heard the news and the particulars more minutely.
than I have myself and when you answer this letter tell us whether you think the western (Rebel) army being about played out for you can tell more (or some one that keeps posted) about the number of prisoners so that we can here or at least a great while yet. The next morning after the surrender the rebels came over here that is a good many after something to eat for they had eat up everything they had and had began to eat mules and dogs and seemed to be about starved, and all that I talked with seemed anxious to have the war closed up as they were getting of the conflict for they wanted to get home to their families, One that I was talking with
said, "I suppose you are not satisfied with the taking of Pemberton and the garrison. I told him no nor would not be until we had got all the armed force they had but the rest we cared nothing about. The weather is hot but I think shall be able to stand it. The reason I did not go with the Regt was because I had not recovered fully from my lame ness but it seems to be getting slowly. The rest of the boys were all well when they left here. There are quite a number of the Regts that were not able to march so we are left in our old camp until some other arrangements should be made."
Our officers that seemed to be so fast to get into the services are leaving us rather more than I think is right since we have been in the contest. The officers that have resigned are as follows: Col. Lieut.-Col. 2 Captains 3 Lieutenants and 2 Surgeons which makes nine and expect more to follow while a soldier can not go when he pleases I shall have to close this for I can hardly think of nothing more to write.

Good morning to you,

Your ever loving husband

[Signature]
Mrs. Zavina Stens
Waitsville
Jefferson Co
Wisconsin
Dear Mrs. Wicksburg,

Thursday July 9th

My dear wife,

I once more

am seated for the purpose of

penning a few lines to you

to let you know how I am

at present. I am still

in the same old place, that

I have been for some time

past and am about the same

as when I wrote you last which

was the 1st of June. One

thing I had forgotten to tell

you is, that we have received

two months more pay, you

will probably get the allotment

soon. I do not expect to

write much of a letter today

but I thought I write a few

lines as I had a chance of
(as expect if have) sending it out look up. You need not expect letters from me very regular until we either move our camp or join our regt for I can not get a chance to send out letter only once in while now and I can not get any mail at all. (The regt the last heard where they were they were on the road from here to Jackson. The weather continue to be as hot as ever every day the same. Mr. Chartier I understand is going to start for home shortly. William Phelps is dead. He died last Tuesday July 11th. I did not learn this disease expect we will be moved into a convalescent camp before long then we can have a chance.
to send mail and also to get some.

This is a short letter I know but I shall have to close it so good morning.
Your ever loving husband
Respect.
71

July 9/63

Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.
Wisconsin
Near Vicksburg, Miss.

Monday July 13/63

My dear wife,

I am again seated for the purpose of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and am getting better of my lameness as fast as I could expect. I think I shall be able to join the Reg't in a few days more. It was a week yesterday since the boys left here and I had seen no mail for nearly a week before they left and since they have been gone, I have had no opportunity of receiving mail which makes the time begin to seem long.
I heard it reported yesterday that Lee had lost 45,000 of his men and I hope it is so and it may be at least it is possible if not probable. If it is so I shall think that Rebellion is just about played out. I also heard the report that the "reb's" were retreating before Rosecrans and I know that they are played out at this place and it seems if all reports are true that we have got them started generally now if we can keep them going until we get them at the bottom of the hill I think the war will soon come to a close and for my part I should be glad to see the end of it though I need not I am good for two years.
get but at the present you (folks in the north) can get the news more correct and a great deal sooner than we can here so, by the time you get this you will probably have your mind set on some particular time when you think the war will be closed up. As Chartier started for home a few days ago I got me a watch since I have been in the south but jamming through the woods on the march and through the battles I broke it and I sent it home by Chartier and I want you to keep it for it is one that I want myself for it is better than the one I left at home.

The weather is some colder today than it has been.
for a number of days and
I am glad of it for it
is as hot as I like to see
it the most of the time
But the summer is about
half gone and I think I
shall be able to stand it through
at least. I hope I shall
I have been in the city
once since the surrender
and is the roughest ground I ever
see for a city site and with all
the rest the buildings looks as
if they had been torn by the
gunboats.
I shall have to close this
letter and thus I will do by
saying good by for the
present.

Yours ever affectionate husband
H. H. Heman
Mrs. Lavinia U. Sterns
Waitsville
Jefferson Co.,
Wisconsin
Dear Wife,

It has now been about three weeks since I have received any mail whatever, which makes me feel rather anxious. I am now able to join the regt. and I intend to do so as soon as I can. I will tell you what it is makes me feel rather homesick to be away from the boys so long and not getting any mail either. You know I was always pretty good at bearing disappointments and difficulties at home but I have learned to bear them still more since I have been a soldier than ever before.
I hardly know what to write and in fact I do not think I would write at all if it did not seem it my imperative to do so as it is now nearly a week since I have written to you at all which is longer than I have neglected in writing to you when I had chance to send a letter in some time. The weather is quite warm at present but not so warm now as it has been and I hope it will not be any warmer than at present any time through the summer for it is warm enough to quilt me now. The boys here are anticipating a great time at home on New Year's Day and I hope we all shall and I do not see what is to hinder unless
we should meet with some reverses through the neglect of some of our Generals, but for I think myself that the rebellion is about played out and if the Lord's will it will soon be finished. One thing I know is that if I get home by Christmas or New Years I shall have a dish of oysters for I think I am entitled to one good dish after living on Uncle Sam's fodder so long. I teach have just begun to ripen but I have made up my mind to refrain from eating all such greasy stuff at least I calculate I shall not make myself sick eating such stuff for I think too much of my health for that
I am still in camp at the same old place, but as soon as any opportunity offers itself I shall go to the Bay, for the time seems long away from the Co. I have got over my lameness so I think I can stand it now. I am not in much of a mood for writing today for I can think nothing hardly to write but I suppose a letter will do if it is short. I shall have to bring this to a close so good morning for the present.

Your ever loving husband

Reverence

Send me a few stamps.
D. Mrs. Savannah Sterns
Waitsville, Jefferson, Wisconsin
Natchez, Miss
Sunday July 26, 63

My dear wife,

It has now been a week since I wrote to you but since I wrote to you last—the Reg. has returned and we have moved into the city or rather a short distance below town on the bank of the river. The reason why I have not written to you before was that moving and straightening around camp a little which kept my time so much employed that I could not get a chance to write until this morning. I cannot tell how long I shall stay in camp here it may be for some time to come and it may not be for a few days.
They have begun to give some furloughs now in that department and I understand there are three that can leave at a time in our Co. and are to start a day or two and can stay 20 days after leaving Cairo. I should have tried hard to have got one myself if I had got the money by myself to pay my expenses home from Cairo and I can not get any unless you send it to me. I would like to make you the visit very and besides then I think it would better for me to make the trip. I will leave it at your own option whether you send the money or not and if you do send it send "Green Backs" and send it as soon as possible for I understand they are going
e to furlough every month and it may be often and if you send me the money and to get it I shall try hard for on the last of next month the 23rd of this month the day that I joined the reg. again I received 10 letters 4 of which was from you two from mother two from George one from aunt Fuldah and one from Nelson the latest of yours was dated the 13th and it appears by you writing at that time you had not heard the particulars of the surrender of this place but you have before this at least some for I was in sight of the part works 44 days before the surrender I am well at present although the weather is so hot it makes me feel rather especially in the heat of the day.
Nelson says he is going into 'something or other.' Thus he wants me to go in with him when I get free from my present occupation. But he did not tell me what it was. He said he would tell me by and by. His and Mr. Yielt's letters were both well when they mort. It seems to be the opinion of the most of men that the fighting is about done. Not only our soldiers think so, but most of the Rebels. I have talked with them for my part. I hope it is but I have got so sick I eat no time for. I have been disappointed a number of times but when it is done it is done. With these few words I close this letter looking for more in a few days.

The Lord of Heaven add his blessing.

Yours ever loving, Marshall Resnir.
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.

2 letters
July 26/63
Sep 30/62

Mrs. Livinia Fenn
Waitsville
Jeff Cops.
Vicksburg, Miss.
Friday, July 31, 63

Dear Min.

I shall have to tell you about the same old story this time as before. I am trying to write you a letter and can think of nothing to write. It has been nearly 10 weeks since I wrote to you before but I have had some washing to do and some fixing up to do in our tent. Our Co's have all got tents again a thing that we have needed some time. I received a letter from you last night dated the 19th and was happy to hear that you were getting along as well as you are. The weather continues to be pretty warm
but I am in hopes the warm weather will be over but I suppose it will last about a month yet. There seems to be quite an excitement here among some of the boys about enlisting in the regular service for three years the inducements offered are 60 days furlough and $400, to be paid in installments but the notion has not got into my head yet and I think I regular enough now as far as the soldier is concerned. We had a rumor here last night that Mobile was taken but how true it is I do not know. I wrote to you in my last about the furloughs I made one mistake I goes out of our Co every 10 days instead of 30 the first three have gone now and
The next three will go in a few days. By your writing I see the folks still continue to think the war is about drawn to a close and this seems to be the opinion of most—all that I hear say. Everything about it—here and for I think so myself for if everything is true about the success of our armies I do not see how the Rebs can hold out much longer and for my part I hope it is about played out for the weather is rather warmer here than I have been used to having it. You may think I went at this pretty early for I began this before breakfast for I knew that if I put it till the middle of the day it would be too hot and if I put it off
till night—I would not do it—at all. William has just come with a plate of pancakes and I shall have to lay this down and eat I am as well as usual at present and hope that when these few lines reach you they will find you in the same condition. The rest of the boys from our place are the same as myself I do not know as I have anything more to add this time therefore I shall bring this to a close. I received 3 steel pens in this letter and I received. Last but I have not received the suspenders and handkerchief yet but I expect it by next mail.

No more at present so good morning for the present—

Your ever loving husband

Rescma
July 31, 1863

Mrs. Leavina Stevens

Mrs. William Phillips

Waterville, Farmington

Jefferson County

Wisconsin
Wicklub, Mississippi

Sunday Aug. 2, 1863

Dear wife,

Although it was but a few days ago that I wrote to you but I thought I write a few lines this morning to let you know how I am getting along at present. I have but a very few lines to write this morning owing to the shortness of the time since I wrote to you before and another thing I have heard news since that time but a few lines are better than none at all. The weather continues to be about as hot as ever but I guess I shall be able to stand the heat I have stood it well so far.
There has been a rumor about camp that we are going down the river in a few days but how long it is I do not know and if we should go down I expect it be about as far down as Natchez I suppose to garrison the place.

Today is Sunday but it with me it seems no different from any other day of the week but I would like to be where I could go where I make it seem like Sunday for as much as once for I am tired of having all days seem alike but never mind I have stood it so long and am still good and hope I shall be as long as I am in the service. Today we have our guns inspected as it is the rule every Sunday while
in camp and we have to have them looking nice or the rule is if they are not cleaned up right for some one else to do it for us and then we have to forfeit the sum of $1.00 for his services so you see it stands us in hand to have them looking about right as yet I have always have had mine clean and I think most of the Co has the same. I think I am getting to be quite a washerman for last week I washed my shirt-pants & coat and & think they look pretty well but I had no iron to do the ironing. I am as well as usual at present and hope when these few lines reach their destination.
they will find you same as myself the rest of the boys are all well and doing well at present.
We have drills every day and also what we call dress parade then is when a Reg't of soldiers look nice for they come out looking spic and span I tell you.
This is all I have to write this morning therefore I shall bring this to a close so good morning for the present.
Your ever loving husband
Reserve
16
Aug 2/63

Mrs. Savinia Stans
Waitsville, Jefferson, Wisc.
Natchez, Miss.
Wednesday, Aug 12th

Dear Wife,

It has been ten days since I wrote to you but it is not my fault for soon after I wrote last we left Vicksburg for this place and before I could get straightened around we were ordered to march back in the country about twenty miles and since then I have been dodging about hardly staying two nights in one place and did not get back until yesterday so you see this morning is the first chance I have had to write at all since I left Vicksburg.

This place is as pretty a place as I have seen in the
outh and in fact I think it is as nice as any & even saw the location is about as near as I can judge 200 feet above the river. The buildings are costly and handsome generally and the whole town is completely shaded with various kinds of trees and the gardens are filled with the richest kind of shrubbery and carefully cultivated. Prices here range some different from what they do in Wis. milk 10 cents a quart butter generally 40 @ 50 per pound and everything else in proportion.

The weather seems to keep just a steady heat now as it has done for about two or three weeks past but I think that we have pretty near season
ed to the heat by this time and
all the boys seem to stand it
pretty well as I stand it better
than I expected.

I am at present again a
little under the weather on
account of being a little lame
it was caused by my getting
over the day we started to
go back into the country and
started off as soon as the
shower was over with without
having a chance to dry myself
but I am on the gain now
and I thinks in a few days
I shall be all right again.
The rest of the boys here
are all kicking about and
signs of life

Three
of us bought a great ear
of peach brandy last night
which cost us 1.50 and it
proved to be good and
and I think it will do us some good but you need not think I have been to drinking because I have bought this I do not think I have any things more to write this morning so I will bring this to a conclusion. This I will do by saying good morning for the present.

Dear ever loving husband

Kesewa
77 Aug 12/63

Mrs. Lavinia Stans

Waitsville

Jefferson Co.

Wisconsin