Camp Randall, Madison, Wis.
Sept 27. 1862

Dear wife,

I take the
pleasure of writing a few
lines to you to let you
know how things are here
in camp. We arrived
here last Saturday about
8 o'clock in the evening.

After we arrived, each
one ate his allowance and
went to repose on our
bunks, as they are called,
are just wide enough
for two to sleep in, in
which is just about a handful
of straw and then we spread
down a blanket and crawl
on that and spread another over us and in this we start for the land of dreams

After we arrived here on Saturday night we ate our supper and the next morning we had our breakfast about noon. I have a headache today caused from the loss of sleep being on guard duty last night but when I get my regular sleep again I shall be all right.

My duty was last night when on guard was 15 guard prisoners that is men from our regiment that got drunk and were shut up in the guard house. We had three last night but one from our company, I told Mr. E Parsons that if she take the blanket back again I will much obliged as I drew a new one and shall
not want more than one. I merely speak of it for she will be looking for the money for it. I cannot get a furlough until we are mustered in U.S. service which we expect to be this week and if we are I think I can get home next week and when I come I shall bring home all of my old clothes for I expect to get my uniform as soon as we are mustered into U.S. service.

The 29th is all here in camp now. We are quartered in new barracks. For breakfast we have bread, meat, and tea or coffee for dinner coffee, bread, and meat for supper meat, bread, and coffee sometimes we have
in addition to the above potatoes or beano.

I suppose you have heard what there has been & have not heard much & all I have heard is the President has issued a proclamation declaring all slaves free after the first of Jan and alter for 400,000 more troops.

Every body that wants to hear from me must write me a letter & I will answer it for if I have any more regular correspondents than I have got some of them will get neglected & I shall have five regular correspondents they are yourself mother George aunt Huldah and Bethia. I have not time no space to write much more this time next time I'll try to write something about this field as I have not seen much of it yet. Write as soon as you get this for I shall want to hear from home soon if I should get home next week it would be lonesome. If I should not hear from you soon so the little boy. No more at present so good by direct yours to From your Husband Camp Madison Wis..
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.
Camp Randall
Sept 30, 1862

Dear wife

As there is a chance of sending home a line rather quicker than by mail I thought I would write a few words.

Mr. Smith (Jo Cleveland's father-in-law) is here today and so is Mr. Chastain. It is rather wet and rainy now.

We have not received any clothes except shoes with socks and blankets we expect to get more before long.

Love from your husband,

All the boys are well.
except Henry Devenow he has been very sick but he is getting better now. It is a great wonder that more of them are not sick for they expose themselves rather too much. Last night there was about 300 out from the camp nobody knows what they were about. If you our our folks have any idea coming here you had better fill I have been home for if you should come there would be no place for me to get home. There is a case of that kind on hand to-day Isaac Rue's family was here this morning and on that account I is doubtful.
about his getting home
at all which if they had
stood away he could have
gone home tonight.
I can not tell you when
exactly I can come but probably
in next Friday morning or
in a week from that time but
I cannot exactly tell which.

If you want to come
and see a regiment of
soldiers await till I give
the word as I want to
give you home first.

I have received no
money yet from the
government but expect
I will in a few days.

It may be you will
think this letter is not
half got together and may
be one thing in two or
three times but I can not

help is for there so much noise that you could hear yourself think. There are about fifty within 30 feet of me some are talking some are yelling some one thing some another and you think it is not very still. Since I wrote the above I've been on hard urging your letter to start for home. I do not think up any thing more to write at present and therefore I close by saying good bye for the present

Writer and as often as you can.

From your affectionate husband

Reagan

S.S. Our Company is lettered. I received the order & directions to Co. & Co. 29th W. P. Madison Wisc.
Mrs. Lavinia Stearns
Watertown, Wisconsin
Camp Randall, Madison,
Oct. 6, 1862,

Dear wife,

I received your welcome letter last and was very glad to hear from home being the first that I had heard from that part of the country since I have been here.

I was some sick yesterday, the first that I have felt unwell since the time I was on guard duty. I went to see the doctor, he said that I was bilious and gave me some medicine, and I am better now.

Katherine, Deen, and David Bennett are going to night, and it may be possible that...
(away)
I be home one from tomorrow (Sunday) morning. But I cannot tell for certain yet, but you not look very strong any time for if I can I will let you know before I leave.

I have received one month pay $13, from the government of which I will send in this letter $6, the five dollar note you lay up for that one that I spent of George's money and if you want any more so sue I will try to send you more. Before long we expect $25 more this week. I would send you more soon but when I get a furlough I want money enough to carry me home if I should not.
There is a five cent piece of Uncle Sandy's money I send to see what kind of thing he can manufacture.

With all the rest I send to your landlord is a box of gum with my likeness in it for my part it is the only that have found that suited me & does not know whether it will suit you or not but I think it will.

There is a man in this Co. that enlisted when his wife as it was supposed lay at the point of death her disease was a miscarriage, but I have not heard whether she has got any better since or no. The rules are pretty strict.
that we have to live under if any one de as anything and the officers can cast them they either shet them the guard house or put them to drilling 10 hours in a day and there is quite that come to this every day I do not know of any thing more to write today If you wish to use any money you can use this that I send today if not you can with as R Reive said before no more at present write soon and often This is from your affectionate husband

Respectfully

Co. F 29th Wis
Camp Randall
Madison
Wis
Mrs. Savine Sternal
Maitzville
Wisc.
Camp Randall Wis
Oct 15 1862

My dear wife,

I received your kind letter by the hand of a man yesterday and was very glad to hear from you once more, but was sorry to hear that the baby was sick. Be in hopes he will get better soon.

I am well as present. I hastened to my bank and got some money and am well now and good as the best.

Don't say them thieves are in something of a hurry for their money. But I cannot get anything more from the
government until they have a mind to pay it, and I do not expect they will pay us any more till the first of next month and I do not know as they will then there no dependence about any such thing on these head men.

The best thing I know to do is, if father has got the time to take a load of wheat for me and pay them out of that or if he has not the time to spend at present why you will have to pay them out of George's money and as soon as I get my bounty I will replace it. These are the only ways that I can get them paid very soon for I have not money enough by me to pay them and I shall keep what I have got.
in case of necessity for if I do not get any more in a month or two I shall have to use some for there is quite a number of things I cannot get along without very well I wrote a letter to Mary a few days ago and I do not think there is any use to write till I receive an answer to that letter from him.

There is one in our company that is what I call homesick and I would not be in his boat for a considerable but I am troubled with this disease at present and hope I shall not be at all.

I would like to have you see a regiment on battalion drill for it looks quite nice to see about nine hundred men marching in column.
I do think of any thing more to write at present but I will write again if don't much as a rule.

Below I will give you the position of a regiment in the lines of battle.


A is called the right of the column and B the left. The right column has command of the right flank which consists of the fire line companies, the Adjutant acting as his aid and the Major has command of the left flank. The Sergeant major acting as his aid and the Colonel has the general command of whole thing. By the above you will see that our company comes next to the head of column.

I will give you a better description of it when I get home.

You need not look for me home until I tell you to look for me

You may - disappoint you I have waited this very poorly but the reason of it is there is so many scuffling and wrestling. We keep me up all the while but if you can't read it keep it till I get home and I will read it for you.

No more at present - a good morning.

Yours your loving husband
Camp Randall
Oct. 13, 1863

My dear wife

Once more I take the pleasure of writing a few lines to you. William Webb is going home to-night, and I am going to send him a letter. I wrote a letter to you last Friday morning and I spoke in your last letter about praying the thrash, and I told you as near as I could what I did in the letter that I wrote last Friday.

I am perfectly well at present and hope that all at home are in the state of health. I hope the baby is as well as ever. There is but little sickness in camp.
considering all things I believe there is but seven sick ones now in our company and they are able to be around. One man died this morning in our company he was a German. He is the only one that has died in the Regiment thus far or been dangerously sick. His disease was the Dysentery, fever and the diphtheria. I think that it is most probable that we shall go south if we go anywhere very soon but there is not a man in the Regiment knows for certain when or where we are going.

We have not yet our full uniform yet we have received one shirt, one pair of drawers...
one pair of pants, one overcoat,
one pair of shoes and two pair
of socks and one back one
pair of drawers, one coar-a-ee
and some shirts I do not know
how many. There is five
going home tonight on
furloughs or will be any
Turn by and bye
I have received no letter
from any one except those
that you have sent to me
I would like to and shall
come home soon but I can
not tell how soon and if
I can not come any other way
I shall take a French pass
and come home on the
I can not think of any
thing more to write today
We have just come in from regimental drill and my hand is somewhat unh\nbut you can see this without my telling you by the looks of this scrawling.

Write soon and often.

No more at present so touch afternoon.

From your ever loving husband.

Kesam

Co. C 2nd Reg. W. V.
Camp Randall
Oct. 18, 1862

My dear wife,

I will write to you every I get a chance to send one home. Ralph starts for home this night at Rockford and 45 minutes the same time the ship leaves this place. It should have been my chance to go to night if being promised to me about a week ago but the Captain informed me this morning that I could not go this morning. Willis Cotton had a chance to go today but said he should wait till he could come for he wanted to go when I did, and as he gave his chance to Bob.
John Eldridge Cotton
and I have a certain
promise of going next
Tuesday night for the
Captain said that we should
go then so next Wednesday
morning if nothing happens
I shall see you
I'd it was not exposing
so much to the night air
I would like to have you
and our folks meet with
a team at Jefferson at
12 o'clock in the morning
on Wednesday next
but you can do as you
wish about that
The boys are all well at present
that came from our place
except David Linnon he
has been sick for a number
of days but he is so as to be
about but not very well
by any means I am not much acquainted with diseases but my opinion is that if he does not get better before long he will be down entirely for a spell. We have got our uniform as you will see when you see Dolph Nothing more at present.

See good afternoon.

From your ever affectionate & loving husband

Rassamy

Capt. H 29th Reg. W. V.

Madison Wisconsin

Oct. 18, 1862

Saturday afternoon about 4 o'clock.
Camp Randall
Sunday Oct 26th 63

I arrived

Dear wife,

I arrived here safe and sound, on Friday evening about five o'clock. It was some cold, you had better make yourself believe and it has been cold ever since. I tell you I have not got entirely well from my cold yet though I think it is some better.

David Linnan is yet in the hospital though I have not seen him for they will let no one in except they have particular business. But Heiman says that he thinks he is now better.
I received a letter from aunt. I should take the night I arrived here, which I send by as you & wrote one to her today which I also send along for you write some.

I had a great deal rather be home today than to write than to you. But it is to be so at present.

The draft comes off after election and the calculation is now to keep this Regiment here & put the draft in there. There are 800 and more to be drafted in Washington Co. and it is feared that they will not suffer to be drafted unless they are close to it and I suppose that we will have to drive them to it which of course they ought
Charles Stowe has got to be second lieutenant in the 24th Regt. and the first you will hear of me I will be captain of some thing or another. The fifteenth of our Regt. died last Friday morning the enlisted in this Co. I received a letter from George yesterday he seemed to well as usual. I wish that this was an end so that I could talk to you without the end of a thing as this that I am using at present but as it is but I close this hoping for better times soon.

No more at present write soon and often.

From your affectionate husband

[Signature]
Camp Randall
Tuesday Oct 25

My dear wife
I received your line by Wm. Green this morning which I did not expect so soon
I have been on guard duty for the last 24 hours and I feel rather sleepy
My cold has gained some but not a great deal yet but I think I will get the better of it soon
The prospects are now that our regiment is to stay here in this camp the evening winter but it is not exactly settled yet but for my part I think we will stay here but I do not know for certain of course nor can I tell.
I would say about the store I do not think I could think for it might be such a thing that we might want to use before that time and you see if we were to sell it in that way it would be laying without the use of the above and money two and if I should come back in the spring I should want all these got to start with and another reason is that he is a slow pay master but if he or any one else can pay the money for it why you can sell it.

Another man died in our Co. the day I started from home his sickness commenced with the dysentery and run into a fever.

Mr. Charter has got a situation in the hospital in this Regi-
David Ransom is yet in the hospital. We have another man from our Co. in the hospital. There was notTaken with the typhoid fever. and after the fever was broken up he was taken crazy and has been so ever since.

I sent you a letter yesterday not thinking about Gipps coming here but you will get it probably about the time you get this.

I send you some pictures in this letter put one in the letter that I sent to you to send to aunt Huldah and the rest you can do with as you please. I will send to another with you would get yours and the baby's as soon as you can and send to me. I intend to have mine taken in case it should send to you as soon
as I can I feel some sleepy and my eyes are some swollen or I would have it done today. All the boys are well except David of whom I have spoken before whom all the boys I miss all that live about our place.

I am sorry about Fred Webb’s cutting for I suppose he has cut it bad. He more at present.

Write soon and often.

From your affectionate and ever loving husband,

Receun,

Mrs. Harma Sterns
Nitroville, W.Va.
Since I closed this letter, there is a rumor that we shall leave here in about two or three weeks, but we do not know anything about that. For one we have had no orders.
Camp Randall
Oct. 31st, 1862

My dear wife,

I take the pains to write a few lines to you to let you know how I get along.

The calculation is now that we leave this place for Dixie but what time I do not know nor can I tell you where we shall go but the first place that we shall go to is Chicago but where we shall go from there I am not able to tell at present.

It is late in the evening now but I thought I would not put off writing till tomorrow for fear I would not have time.
We have received our bounty that is $25. Today I will put in this letter the amount of $20 and maybe the whole amount I have not described yet which but I shall before I close this letter and I will tell the very last thing in this letter which I have decided but I shall send all that I can spare for I do not go great deal with me after I leave the state.

Governor Lagrange

Ex-Governor Randall was on the ground today and took and made a speech.

Matters here took a

And then here a few days ago in the morning, the room was that we were going
To stay here all winter and before night we were under marching orders to go Saturday that is tomorrow. You may think we were surprised or you may think we were not but I know that we were all surprised more or less.

I have had my picture taken, which I will send with this letter. You may think what you have heard is but I sit as careless as I could and my hair was all over my head and my face and clothes were all dust but it looks natural for all that which if had fixed up nice it would not have looked have so well.
The boy from our place all well except David but he is gaining some but slowly. Mrs. Webb says that another was down in that neighborhood till her May I have wrote two letters to her since I have been here and have received none from her till here lately. I am well and wish that the same.

I will finish this in the morning.

I enclose $25 in U.S. Treasury notes which is all I received. If would keep $5 but father wishes to use these and other money is just as good for me. You need not write to me again till I write for you do not know where I shall be but keep a little money so if I should send to you post some that you would have it. If 50c send all & receive I shall want you to send me some when I want it.

No more a present. I wish you all well.

Your loving husband

Rea m.
Mrs. Lavinia Stevens
Witzville, Wisconsin
My dear wife,

Although it was but Sunday that I wrote to you but I only called those but a part of a letter I thought I would try to finish it now. I had a dream a few nights ago which seemed just as I wished it could be. It was like this. I thought I was at home with you. Though too that she was had closed and that George and I came home together. I dreamed that peace was fully restored to our country and the rebels cleaned out completely. This was not all but I have forgotten the rest of it but if it would come true I would not care for the rest. You need not think by this that I am homesick for I am not at all now.
my hopes of you and your returning again. It may be, perhaps, I am neither am I a coward by any means but I would feel a little safer and would rather be at home but as I have said some body must endure the hardships of this war and if I cannot stand it well I shall get discharged but I have stood better than the most of our company for a good share of them have been sick little or much I saw David yesterday he says that he does not gain any for the last two or three days. He also said that his liver and kidneys were affected now you see and know that I am no physician but my opinion is that he will never get well if he stays here but you need not say anything to that affect if it so it will get to his folks for he can write for himself.

We had some fun a few nights ago
I will tell you what it was our picket may be you know what pickets are well they are guards that are stationed about 5 miles or more or may be less just as the case may be I got started at a mule which they supposed to be guerrillas and fired the alarm and so we had to form a line of battle to defend ourselves and some of the boys were so scared that they didn't load their guns until this scare was over there was one fellow that had two loads in his gun maybe you think I was just fool enough to be caught out of my pants but that was not so We soldiers had a chance to on election day which we did a Cairo on the bank of the Ohio there were 70 voters in our Co only 16 being Dem which left the Republicans 5 4 majority pretty good for us
Oh! yes a few words about our fare as I told you in my other letter our breast is principally crackers of a day or two ago. Delph had been to dinner eating crackers of course we found one which were marked 1801 and another the date being still earlier it being made in Nazareth 13th C. 36th. You may judge whether they are old and hard or not. You need not be afraid of my getting killed by the enemy's bullets for this reason. Just before I go into battle of which may be the case I shall fill myself as full as possible with those crackers which of course are hard and then I shall pull my bally and of course if the bullet should get in then glance as though they had struck an ironclad gunboat. We would not be a soldier for 1813 a month a plenty of hard crackers to eat and a chance to shoot rebels. I forgot to send you these locust seeds well here they are and also some cotton there are some beans that grow here the pods grow at the length of 9 inches they of 7 beans in one pod.

This letter is not yet finished but I will write another volume soon and always will love you. Write soon.
Camp Salomon, N.H.
Nov 23, 1862

Dear wife,

Once more Pemberton to scratch a few lines to you to let you know how I am getting along. I have been out every day since we came here and to proceed up the N.H. river but the water was too low and we could not get up the White as we turned about and came back and did so while we were on our way to this place that is our home. I foraged (on a talk) some from the planters on the banks of the river. At one place we got in some of the boys killed a quite a number of beef cattle and also they burned a number of buildings and destroyed enough property to make more than one man sick on hari-which is not in addition
to this I must add that some of the soldiers in the old Regt. (for there were from 8,000 to 10,000 besides our men or those from our Regt.) acted more like barbarians than like anything else it is someth.

that I will not write but I will tell you when I get home if I do not forget it and I know I shall not. There were 14 transports loaded with soldiers that was on their great expedition and what did they accomplish? I never to wait for an answer from the hills across the river or from the swamp that lays near by and what do they say you can judge as well as I to be sure they destroyed some prize but what is that for 10,000 men in seven days. Now they meet for high water and when it begins to rain here it goes beyond reason that is it rains so much
that it makes so much mud that there can not be anything done there and so it goes. You can not tell how anxious all the soldiers here are to get through with this war so as to get home once more. (There are now soldiers coming in the dress and four or five steamers came in yesterday loaded with troops.) While we were going down the river on our excursion, one of the boats were fired into from the shore by the guerrillas, but doing no damage in particular. Two bullets going through the pilot-house and one going through the cabin tender but the big. So the crew damaged. When we were coming back we were fired on by guerrillas, one bullet struck the deck and glanced then one of the boys in Co. D, in the back but it was a spent-ball and
therefore did not break any bones
but it is merely a flesh wound another
fallment directly over my head whistling
spice and there were one or two rods
over another part of the head.
On hearing the guns fired I looked
around and saw an merchant standing
on the shore with a gun in his hand
and there was quite an number of
guns fired at them some of the balls
striking the water and some shooting
in an entirely different direction
from where the men were.
I do not think there were more
than five or six guns fired in the
right direction. I took up a gun
and fired. and I looked deliberate
away and it was quite a distance
probably half a mile. I do
not tell you this to boast of it
but to tell you that I am not
afraid and furthermore the
bullets-the shot-was not because
they are not-shot-straight
enough to do that little thing.
Now I will tell you that
since I have written three letters
this makes that number
and have not heard from you at all and we have been here three weeks coming Thursday and I have not heard from mother since I saw her at one hour you may judge whether I am disappointed or not I have had one letter from George since I have been here he was rather rum well when he wrote

David is sick yet and any opinion as to how he will convalesce get any better under he can get discharged for I think he is failing but you need not tell bis of this what I write for he can tell the sisters

The rest of the boys from our way are all well and kicking and full of fight I have not seen but six white women since we left Cairo they were on the boat I shall get 20
used to not seeing them that I shall not care anything about when I get home so you had better look out for some away with a black one for there is plenty of them here. When I said six I meant six besides those that are in the our regiment but I can see lots of blacks here every day. I had a dream one night on the steamer I thought that I was at home with you and it seemed so natural that it awoke me out of a sound sleep and I looked around for you but the nearest friend I could find was my gun which lay close by me. But I soon forgot out where I was and lay down again but could not get a sleep any more for a spell. I am sorry and still I
I am very sorry they the draft had been made and that they drafted the ones they have. E. B. Bell & M. Potter have been drafted I am sorry but still they are no better than those that have gone but I had rather go with my own free will than to be forced to go and they will think as soon I do not feel sorry for them at all but for their wives they are what I feel sorry for but they will have to be found as well as you or any one else. For my part I would like to have a tent & cover of more the same sort and end to it cover so then we could get home in the spring. We are now under the Command of Gen. Steele probably you know.
him the same man that commands the first Cadets so I think we will stand
a chance to get a sight of
Lena & the water bye & bye
You hear more of the news
than we do for our paper
gets here some time after date
and we have no other means
of hearing the news & thought
when I was at home I knew
something but I have found
out different now but I do
know anything at all

This letter on the opposite page is
one from James on the receipt
of the money I sent to him.
You George please keep it
This will have to do this
Time I will write us soon
as may 1 week Write soon
and let me hear from you
May God bless his family
From one loves you
Resum
Johnstown Nov 1861

Friend. Sium,
yours of the 8th
containing 20 dollars
and note came to
hand last week.
I have been very busy
threshing and have
neglected to write
give our respects
to all the boys.

H. S. Finn
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.

12
Nov 23/62

Mrs. Harinia Stein
Waitsville
Jeff. Co.,
Wis.
April 28, 1862

Dear wife,

Received your letter this morning. You may think I was in your stead, but I will let you judge for yourself. I cannot tell you whether I was or not. I should have made my letters so much behind for I wrote as soon as I could after arriving here. Cooper wrote while we were coming down on the boat and he said he would write that the boys were all well so I did not write till after we landed. I told me to take care of myself but I will warrant you that I will do that every time as well as I can.

I have not been sick but two days since I enlisted and this was in camp. Randall before I went home.
I think and that is the opinion of almost every body that the fighting part of this war is about done over.

The Col. told us the other day that the rebels were on the retreat everywhere and that his opinion was that the war would be over before long. But at the least I calculate we will not see home less than six months, but there will be of no use of setting any time for we may be disappointed.

Dolph's himself took a regular time at washing last Sunday (that is we call it) when we are at home but here we have no Sunday, we washed our pair of drawers, shirts & five pair of socks that we had a regular time at it now I tell you and I think we can beat any women I ever see.

There is another thing that is our Co. has divided in what we call mepes the mepes of our mep are Dolph Heieran Cotton.
his brother William, Henry, Queen, Francis, Jolliff, Jesse, Riggle, Francis D., Dias, Edgefield, John, Edridge, John E. Thomas, I myself and we have our regular time at cooking and I think after a while we can beat the best of everybody cooking washing or anything else.

I received those Patagonia stamps and I shall want you to send me some more about two weeks or about every other time you write just in a box.

Have you received the Watertown Republic yet; if not I would send again I would stick them to their work. You will have to a photograph to each of my uncles, for by mistake I sent home the 10 that I saved for their purpose in their letters that you wrote.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving and we got an excellent dinner composed of them crackers I told you about.
Coffee tomorrow apple dance went.

You say it is now I tell you what it is I was worth a half a dollar.

I could not have got up such a dinner to save your soul from liberty.

You tell mother that she is more forgetful.

I was never vaccinated for I was vaccinated when I was about nine years old and I can show the scar any time and to any body I think you likeness of it. I also look well and natural and they were very acceptable to me.

The so-called Southern Confederacy where I cannot see a white woman one in & do not know how long I have seen but six besides the three that are with our Regt. If I am sick I will do as you requested. I will let you know just how it is and you can come if you wish but not to stay a great while for it is no place for a white woman.

Except the wife of one of the high officers of the army who I would have had to write the letter before I received mine but I did receive the letter till I had mine done & as I supposed so then I had none to write one up while I was at home.

I have not heard a word from mother since I was at home.

If I should send to you for some money I want you to tell Cather[nie] money. They be money and it does very well here but you need not send no more.

Write soon and often. Good night.
Mrs. Lavinia Steins
Waitsville
Jeff Co
Wis.
Camp Palermo
Coahoma Co. Miss
Dec. 3, 1862

My dear wife,

According to promise that I would write to you as often as I could, I now take the pains to write a few lines to let you know how I am although I have written one letter to you since I received a letter from you.

We have been building a house since I wrote to you before. The dimensions are as near as I can guess without getting up to measure, about 10 feet long and about 6 feet wide and about 12 feet high at the eaves which of course is divided into apartments such as dining rooms, bedrooms, sitting rooms. We Be Be our beds are situated in one and one above the other which constitutes our
bed worms and the rest are divided as I have stated before now the
that I hear you ask is how many of
you stay or live in such a house
and the answer that I shall give
you is six is the number of our
family and we live as happy as a
shrink in a hens nest plenty to
eat and drink we have our regular
coffee here three times or as often
as we wish it may be you would
like to know the names of our great
family and they are as follows Dolph
Hiram Francis Volliffes William Meek
Henry Freeman 1 myself
I would like to tell you where
we are and the distance to different
places but cannot for I do not know
any thing at all since I left
Camp Randall But you can take the
map and find the city of
Helena in Arkansas on the
Mississippi river and look exactly opposite of that place across the river and you will see where we live at present and probably where we will stay a spell to come.

One little thing I would say about the body guard (body line I mean) some of the soldiers have got them trained so well that they make a very handsome appearance when they bring them out on drill in fact they make a better show with with their body guard them over Col. can with his whole Regt the only fault is they cannot handle their arms.

You may think as you have a mind whether I am healthy here or not but can tell you what it is I weigh now than I ever did before my weight is now 176 lbs. that is about 10 or 15 lbs more than my common weight.
just think how I have gained since I have been here

At present there are about 26,000 soldiers here and across the river a few days ago 15,000 went down the river some place but where I do not know which made 40,000 that were here

There are some hopes of this war coming to an end how for McClelen has been kicked out of his command and I think they have got some one in his place that is not afraid that he will hunt the rebels but on the other hand will make them smell powder if he has not before this time

I had a letter from George and one from mother since I wrote to you before. You tell Byron or any one else that wants to hear from me to write for I can not afford to sit down on the ground and take my paper on my knee to write for anything.

The next time you write tell one kind of weather you have up there we have had one or two little rains here for the last two weeks but the rest of the time it has been very dry. Most of the time it is as warm as May except nights they are cool. I have not seen any yet of any sort kind or clap.

This will do for the present so good morning and from me soon

Write soon and often

Your loving husband, Bussie
Dec 8 612

My dear wife

Once more

I sit down to pen a few words to you to keep as well posted as I can about myself and how I get along. I am well at present except a slight cold but I will be better of this in a few days.

We have had quite a storm here lately. It rained some on Friday last and continued through the night at intervals and again on Saturday it rained some during the day and also through the night till early in the morning when it commenced to snow and kept it up till about 9 o'clock in the morning then it cleared up and has been
the best of weather since
today has been as warm as
any day in May and so is most
any day that the sun shines.
There is one thing that I have
not told you about. There is a kind
of vine that grows here as large
as a good sized shrub and
sometimes ran to the height of
about sixty or seventy feet up
these large cottonwoods but I
have not felt the effects of it
yet. I have been cook today
and had a regular time at it. Bob
has been my partners we had—
potatoes, beef, pork, bacon (may be
you want to know what that is well
it is nothing more nor less than
droadside pork smoked with sulphur,
I should judge) coffee, tea, crackers,
beef, but the rice sick was
did not have the time to cook
Now I tell you I can tell beat any white woman in the north and can nearly equal any black one that I have seen yet.

There are plenty of wild ducks here and cranes are flying by here every day nearly two or three days. I believe I saw and that without stretching the truth about 500 in the space of about fifteen minutes. Some of ours spring birds such as wrens & phobes. I have seen here.

Some say these are parrots here but I have not seen any.

Have you got that money yet from the Treasures in the district where I taught last winter.

I borrowed $1 of Ed. last summer and I have forgotten whether I have paid it or not but if I have not you pay it for me.
You tell Ed, I have been shooting at a target and have perfected myself so well in that line of business that I can shoot 9 rounds at the distance of 1/2 mile and behind a tree at that distance if any body should doubt this just come to me and I will convince them that I am telling the truth.

We are all well at present but David he does not seem to gain any scarcely. What is the latest news we get of the Sentinel but it is too much behind to do us much good.

I would like to have you write as often as once a week whether you get one from me or not. It may be so that I cannot send a letter any time but I have made every week about two except the time I went up White river and then I could send one. Will I get back. As yet I have not rec'd one letter from you but I look for another the next mail.

How is all the folks big and little is what kind of weather do you have now. How do you think of spending Christmas and New Year? I think of passing some on the 2nd and the shore of the Rip.

Expect more from me soon. Love husband.
Mrs. J. C. Stens
Waitsville
Jeff Co.
Wis.
Camp Salmon, Coahoma, Co.

Wednesday Dec 10 1862

To my dear wife,

I received your letter yesterday dated Nov. 27 which was some time on the road as you can see by the date of this letter. There was about 20 of our division started on a scouting party this morning (300 artillery & 400 infantry) not accompanied by about 50 wagons the pick of them being Confederate teams. If you had seen the train you would have thought they could reach one point in a few minutes. Our Regiment is transferred from Steele's division into Pleasonton's.
I come a little sooner, for I like to have seen her as well as my sister as long as she would come, but tell her to come after I get home and, then we will have a long visit.

There is some better here in camp about the time that we will be at home, but Pigeon will settle my mind on anything in particular until I see the President's Message on the doings in Congress and what the army of Northern I am about—when I see that I can make an estimate to the time.

You spoke about my keeping up good courage, but you need not worry about that; you may. My courage is good enough for (I think) to kill everything.
very lucky I came across but I have not had the chance to try my luck but once at search and that you will hear of before you get to which this is which was on our famous White mini tis. I call it if I do not believe there heard the bullet whistle to my gun as well as I from Mint is coming out in his old age but he had better to run his principles to match his words. I am writing to Mr. Matthews that we have other use for ours besides eating them we use them for breast and sometimes we wear one for a breast plate when we are on picket duty, I wished one to send you the seed of the cotton plant but could not in a letter and also
the leaves. But they are all dead. You wished to tell me whether I played cards or used tobacco. But I can tell you that cards have nothing to do with our rends at all whatsoever and as for using tobacco of course that does not belong to my principles. I will tell you this much for asking such foolish things. I shall next for I calculate to sustain bad habits any more than if I was at home and if anything I am more with I will tell you our programme for the day and if so every day except something happens to our drill drill at six o'clock. Then we have to get up to suit the call then get our breakfast of half past 11 drill then prepare our dinner half past 3 drill 3 drafts parades than our supper 8 o'clock we have to make ourselves scarce that is to get into bed or into the girl tents and if we wish to fix our clothes or water or wash or anything else. But I have to do that at ten o'clock things are very different. I don't know what that was at least I can't find.
The union of lakes—the union of hands—The union of State; none can Sever—
The union of hearts—the union of hands—the Flag of our Union Forever.
My Dear one,

As usual, I will try to scratch a few lines to you to keep you from being in suspense as much as possible. It makes me feel rather guilty (being that we live on a sand bar) to think how things are going on here and so it does the generality of the mess that is as far as I know. How interesting (as near as I get the story) there about 10,000 soldiers at this depotment that about here besides five gun-boats that I counted this morning. The question now is what to do. How done are going to do here we are doing still and doing nothing except guard action. That is bought and sold by the officers for speculation. To live
their pockets, the only thing that (in my opinion) is the prolongation of this war, but soon. That will be played in this part, for I should think they had got about all the cotton there was to be got within reach of here. Another reason is why our soldiers do not do more fighting as this our Lincoln has a particular way of fighting to save life and I believe them in that respect. But stop! The question is whose lives are they saving in those of the rebels, or the rebellious. It is my private opinion and publicly expressed that I think they are saving those of the rebels for if they should keep our mother troops in this southern climate two years, there would be more killed by disease than they would lose by the bullets of their own men. The rebels of course are accustomed to this climate and can stand it and eat our soldiers...
I am so happy to hear from you and to find out that your study is progressing well. I hope to write more and see you soon.

The news from your country is received with much interest. The development of your government and the progress of your culture are admired by many.

Please convey my regards to your family and friends. I look forward to your next letter.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
We are having good times here at present, being comfortable in our mansion eating three times a day. So, at evening we sit around our fire spinning yarns or employ ourselves in reading newspapers when we can get them and sometimes we take to reading story books which lie by here.

I have made up my mind that novel reading was the least of bad habits. I have bought two books and intend to send one of them to you at the same time I send this letter. I think (for both kinds equally) it is a very good story.

This writing is miserable from the fact that I have to sit on my bunk, take my paper on my knees, and write in that way which is not very easy, now I assure you but howsoever if you can't read it bring it to me and I will try to read it for you if I do not forget how to read my own writing.
The news you know very well
than I do and probably know better
where we are than I do myself for
that is something I scarce like to know.
When Lords at home I thought I
knew something but I have
given up that notion altogether
and if I should stay here one
year I should become a perfect fool.
I believe. If I get a newspaper
the news is so old that it does me
no good scarcely but I have to
content myself with it.

You may possibly think
company writing that I am down
sick and homesick but if you
do you are greatly mistaken for
I have not seen a homesick day
since I enlisted. If I had it
do over again I believe I should
do the same. As if you should listen to
the idea that I am sick in any.
respect, banish that at once for

As healthy and more healthy

than I ever was before, but there is

something peculiar about me after

all for I am not so strong as I was

at home but the reason I think is

that I do not get a chance to

exercise any strength now than

I do. Since I was at home I have

pained about 20, or 25 lbs. I weigh

now, that is about two days ago

178 lbs. that is some for one now & I tell

you. This moving seemed like

spring in one respect the birds

such blue birds phoebes & a number

of other kinds were singing so

sweetly as they do in April where

you are.

It was four months

ago that I enlisted & O how

fast the time has glided away.

since that for it does not seem half

that time and it continues to fly
as it has done. I am writing presently so are the rest. Of course, David William & Priscilla Riggle David is no better or not much William is sick but not very, he is getting better Priscilla has taken a very bad cold and is quite sick but we are doing the best we can with them. I have seen but two letters from you yet but look for another the next mail write often as you can and I will do the same. Give the general is news about things and also about the weather. Here are a few lines that come rolling across my mind. They express my sentiments but they are not grammatical. I have left my home all that is dear, Do aid our country's calling So rush to the field where goes on near Where we our dear friends are falling
I am in the ranks of Union men.

There you'll surely find me

In all its peril and return.

To those I left behind me.

For what have we all left our homes
And our dear friends bereaving.

It is to save Jeff. Davis
And all those who believe him.

While we are fighting in the south.

In winter cold or storms.

A lingering thought will curse my mind

Of those I left behind me.

But soon this dreadful war will end.

And peace will crown our nation.

Then we will go to our homes return.

To friends and kind relations.

I have often thought in solitude.

When there were none to find me

Of those dear and loving ones.

That I love left behind me.

This will have to close my

career for today but expect more

from me above now be sure to

write often.

Yours affectionately,

Husband.
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.

Mrs. Harriet sterns
Waitsville, p.h., co.
Camp Salomon Dec 21/62

My dear wife,

I received your letter dated Dec 7 last night, and it was with the greatest pleasure that I read it over and found that you were all well. This is the third letter I have received from you since I have been at this place and you don't know the anxiety with which I look for your letters.

It has been rumored (as I understand) that the 19th has been badly cut up and a good share of us taken prisoners but now that it's all a lie from beginning to end and another thing is the gallant 10th. I don't want to be served in that way again as we carry forty shots in our carbine and for a Bergsche on our guns. There is a large number of prisoners and transports
here that arrived this morning loaded with soldiers and munitions of war and also some provisions. They came down from above here somewhere but where it is going I cannot tell but cannot whereas they will strike an any blow in my opinion for there are soldiers enough to eat up almost anything the rebels have got.

There is quite a number of troops that joined the expedition from this place but as bad luck would have it we do not join with them but probably we will be left to guard this place but you will hear of all this before you get this letter.

With all the good I want to write something that I did not expect to write about it in vain. In the last letter I said to you before this letter you shall have...
Riggle was in the hospital but since then he has died. He had taken a bad cold and then the camps witnessed fever and carried from us to his everlasting rest.

A military funeral is the most solemn thing that I ever saw — first with muffled drums. The martial marches in first then follows the escort (right men with guns reversed). Then the corpse leads the procession of soldiers in general. Though the Co., to which the deceased belongs, takes the lead. After the corpse reaches the grave the chaplin reads a portion of the Big Book. Then the corpse is lowered into the grave then the chaplin makes a few remarks then makes a few remarks then makes a few remarks then makes a few remarks then dismissions with the last salutation after this is done the shots are fired by the escort.
departed soldier. Jesse was a very good boy, but for all that we had to part with him, and this loss is much lamented by the Co., generally. I think I have wrote to you about everything I can think of here before now. I have written ten letters to you, and if I have not written about everything it is my foolishness for. We have not seen enough to write a page in a newspaper and you would think as if you were here. The place opposite of us is called Plateau, but if you leave off the last three letters you will have it rightly named.

I received a letter from mother the same time I received yours which a fellow wrote from this Regt. Washington that we were all starving down but if you lay not for our Co., alone have sold into barrels of flour for 75 cents since we have been here and besides we have about $1,500 worth of coffee in our mess which is only twelve men per part and we have all the time and friends you'd like in addition to this and have rice, commissary, sugar and those other things I told you about. The last dispatch we have rec. was dated Nov. 19 and if you have received you may send me one once a month which is the state times 30 dollars, but I do not get that neither so you see we are rather short of news. I am as bad off as the steam and I have just heard our 2nd complete drove up with all the beefs we are all well at present David says you're quite just dear brother.
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.

Mrs. H. A. Steers
Waitaville
J.J. Co., Wisconsin
My dear wife,

Since I wrote to you last our Regt. has been a very little on the move. we left camp at Selmon on the 23rd for Helena that is directly across the river and we arrived there that evening and such a camping place you never saw. Well it was something like this. It was quite rough and bluffy a hill and then a ravine a ridge then a gully. These hills well in fact the whole ground is timbered with white beech, oak, dog wood, cypress, sassafras, and others that I did not know the names of.

I said the country was rather rough and so it was and our Co. camped near the top of a quite large
hill and I should judge from the foot up to where we lay was about 1/4 of a mile. It was so much of a side hill where we pitched our tent that it almost impossible to keep our own sleeping place some of the boys had quite a idea of tying a rope around their neck then the two other end to a stake above them & some thought of tying another way that is to drive a stake in the ground and lay it at the side of it but how many of these experiments I do not know at least I did not but I awoke quite a number of times during the night and found myself about my length out of the tent every now I would awake would slide and further down the hill until I would get so far that my pants would work up till my legs would get chilled which would wake me then I would have to crawl back and so I managed to spend
The morning came and it put much me mind of a spring morning in Mis, and about nine o'clock (it might have been after) just as we had begun to fix our tents so as to be comfortable we received marching orders and went to work immediately at work packing up our knapsacks and tents for another move which we began as soon as possible when every thing was in readiness we slung our knapsacks and marched down to the river then from there on the boat and by the time we were all loaded it was some time after dark then our mail matters came and brought me a letter from you which of course did not come amiss though it has been some time on the way and seemed some thing like an old letter dated Dec. 3.

We spent that night on board the boat the next day Christmas.
we arrived at this place (Parris' Point) It is not a very large place though I should from the looks of things it had been once a business place. We landed here about noon and the first thing I was detailed to help unload the boat and to do work generally and kept me at it till about dark then I went camp and then to my tent and laid down to repose just as we came in sight we saw three men on horse back shedding some of our men fired after them but it was too long a range for our guns the artillery that were with us fired two shells after them but I think did no damage. There was a portion of the Regulars selected as pickets they loaded their pieces and started in advance that is across the levee and as they came upon the levee they saw about a dozen guerrillas and fired on them but the distance was too great but they killed one horse.
A part of our Co have new tents which will not admit but four. They are called wedge tents. Herron, Dolph, Williams, & myself live in one of that kind now. Well for the first—we lay down to repose under our new tent and on our new-campin ground to close our Christmas and such a Christmas I never spent before. Our sheikhanie and skating no snow no no nothing the day was something like April considerable cloudy but not cold no raining until night—when it rained some but it looks like clearing up now. About two o'clock &c. (a little after) our Captain came to our tent and awoke us out of a sound sleep and told us to strap on our accouterments and be ready at a moment's calling so we dressed ourselves put on our
cartridge boxes & belts and lay down with our guns by our sides, and hugging them a close as we would our wives, in this way we went to sleep again and did not wake again until roll call about six o'clock. We had spoken a day or two beforehand about having a dinner for Christmas but our Gen. kicked that all over by giving us marching orders and whether we will get anything for New year or not. I do not know yet but I think not anything extra. You asked when I would get paid but you know that just as well as I do and if we get paid off before spring or even before we get to Camp Kendall I shall be disappointed as you see by this I do not expect it very soon. When you send me any money one kind just about
as good as another for what I want to use unless I should want to buy postage stamps then I should have to have the change and another thing is we have got where I do not think we could get them at all for we have got pretty much where there is nobody so what stamps I have I shall have to depend on you. So far I have received 16 P. thinks from you and if you want me to write to often you will have to send them faster for the time I have written two letters a week to you and the rest of the time not a week and besides I have to write to mother, George and probably once a while a scattering letter to other places. I cannot give you much of a description of the country here nor anything else for I have not had a chance e
To take a view but from where our tent stands I can take a fair view of the "father of waters," the river here is some more than a mile wide and I think nearly a mile and a half wide. We are still in old Miss. and about 120 miles further south than we were at camp Salomon so you see the 24th is working their way to the Gulf.

The news you know more about than I do but to learn that Burnside is raising fun in Va. The next you write tell me about the weather and how the school goes along. I have not seen but one snow storm since I left Miss. and didn't amount to anything.

This morning up to the time of writing my parents have brought in the streets what they will do with them I do not know. Though this place so small there are quite a number of women here and they were nearly scared to death when we landed here. I am getting just about tired of writing and have to sit down for a minute and take my paper across my left arm and write in that way which is no easy position. Can you tell you when we left Helena a number of our sick but none that you know David is so bad that he is at work this morning fixing his sleeping place and is still gaining and the rest of us are all well.

I have written all I can think of at present and I think I have given you a long letter this time. Direct yours as before except leave out "Hym Salomon" I shall have to close for want of room.

Good morning dear wife. I will write you another letter.
I, Mrs. Savina Steins
Waiteville
Jeff. Co.
Wisconsin
Scriars Fort Mejas,  
Sunday Dec 28/62

Dear wife,

Although I wrote a letter to you but two days ago, I now sit down to pen a few more as I expect that we can send our mail tomorrow.

We are situated about 25 miles below Helena and have but there is a no regular mail boat that runs from this place to Helena which carries our mail but it has to be overhauled there and like as any way is put back a day or two.

The reason why I write this so soon is because I am going on picket tomorrow and shall have to stay 24 hours and the boat goes back before I shall come to camp again. I have but little to write and therefore I will soon.
I feel as gritty as a well I shun to tell what - but the fact of the business is we are moved down here to guard another cotton post or to guard the rebels or our officers while they speculate on the cotton. Of course I do not know what is going on any where else but at this one post but if things go on everywhere else just as it does here this war will never end until Uncle Sam's money to credit has gone to the four winds of Heaven and the cotton in the hands of the speculators but still the negroes the cotton but why don't they go to work on war principles and take without paying the rebels for it. The old saying is there is reason in all things and policy in war but is there reason or policy in
This & I wait for an answer from some of these cottonwoods.

There was a large fleet passed here last Sunday & Monday but I have not heard from it since but you have most likely.

We cannot get any news that we can rely on unless by accident we get hold of a paper for we do not get the Sentinel any more and if you have a mind send me a paper of anything more than the War Rep. We are waiting patiently till after the 1st of Jan. then think things will take a turn. I shall expect them to hear something from the Eastern department and also from the fleet I spoke about.

Night before last our pickets or some of them got somewhat scared and said the next was of course was ‘Fall in men’ and
we were soon in "Line of Battle" and loaded our guns with the snap of a dead husks tail in fly times and after we had stood in the mud long enough we marched to our quarters again. Oh, I wish you merry Christmas! & a happy New Year.

When we came on dress parade there was a negro woman that said we did not look as ugly and meanly as their soldiers but we looked as if we were going courting.

I told you that I had need much to write and I think I have wrote it and I think you will think so when you come to read it for it is the poorest letter I have written to you that I must confess.

We are all well at present and I hope you are the same. But I must a stop so good for the present. Write soon and often.

Your loving husband,

Resc.

Co F, 29th Reg Wis Vol

Helena Sinkerman

via Cairo
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.

25

Mrs. Lavinia Sterns
Waitsville
Jeff. Les
Wis
Childhood.

BY GEO. D. PRENTICE.

'Tis sad, yet sweet to listen
To the soft wind's gentle swell,
And think we hear the music
Our childhood loved so well.

To gaze out on the even,
And the boundless fields of air,
And feel again our boyhood's wish
To roam like angels there.

There are many dreams of gladness
That cling around the past,
And from the tomb of feeling
Old thoughts come thronging fast.

The forms we loved so dearly,
In the happy days now gone,
The beautiful and lovely,
So fair to look upon.

Those bright and gentle maidens,
Who seemed so formed for bliss,
Too glorious and too heavenly
For such a world as this!

Whose dark, soft eyes seemed swimming
In a sea of liquid light,
And whose locks of gold were streaming
O'er brows so sunny bright.

Like the brightest buds of summer,
They have fallen from the stem;
Yet, oh! it is a lovely dream
To fade from earth like them!

And yet the thought is saddening
To muse on such as they,
And feel that all the beautiful
Are passing swift away.

That the fair ones whom we love
Grow to each loving breast,
Like tendrils of the clinging vine,
And perish where they rest.
support of the war, were voted down by a large majority. Not only was this done, but the conduct of these traitorous congressmen was openly justified!

George Hyer, of the *Patriot*, being the Secretary of the Convention, discreetly omitted this part of the proceedings.—*Madison Journal.*

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**Assembly District Convention.**

At a Republican convention, of the 2d Assembly district, comprising the towns of Lake Mills, Milford, Oakland, Waterloo and Azitan, held at Manning’s Exchange in the village of Lake Mills, on Saturday, Oct. 11th, N. S. Greene, of Milford, was unanimously nominated for Assembly.

The following resolutions were presented and read, and on motion adopted.

Resolved, That the perils in which our political institutions are involved, call for the exercise of the highest patriotism of every true friend of the Republic. That this patriotism can find opportunity to exercise itself in the coming election. That we believe there is still an influence at work in political circles in the Northern States, which if successful in carrying out its purposes at the pending election will have a tendency to embarrass the present administration, protract the evils of our present war, by giving aid and comfort to the traitors, who are fully bent on the utter overthrow of our Government; and therefore that it is the duty of every man who loves his country, with whatever class of politicians he may have heretofore associated, to see to it that he casts his vote for none other, than such men as are known to be true, on the great issues involved in this war and who will yield a willing service for the suppression of the rebellious spirit.