Received February 9th, 1859 of W.A. Rigby
Aocket and papers pertaining to the office of Justice of the Peace of Red Oak Township
Cedar County

February 9th, 1859
Kept of W. H. Brey 93 cents in full of his tax for the year 1838 and 39 this 10
of Sept. 1839
G. McKay, Sheriff
Cedar Co.

Kept of John Ferguson Two
dollars and 50 cts in full for his tax for
the year 1838 and 39 this 10 the day
of Sept. 1839
George McKay
Sheriff
Cedar Co.

Kept of John and Peter Jarroon one
dollar and 50 cts in full for their tax for
the year 1838 this 10 of Sept. 1839.
G. McKay
Sheriff
Cedar Co.

Kept of Isaac Carl Thirty five cents in full
of his tax for the year 1839 this 10
of Sept. 1839
George McKay
Sheriff
Cedar Co.
ST. TIPTON, IOWA
MAY 22

Ms. Rhoda Rigby
Mt. Vernon
Iowa

1981 Oct 2
Red Oak Apr 1861

Dear Mother,

The sun is shining out of doors as it only does on Sabbath mornings. The young grass & wheat vie with each other in bestaying the brightest green. Sure by such a day is most pleasantly spent out of doors & yet I willingly take enough of its time to write you a letter.

I should have written last Sunday & would have done so but Allen took up all my time & thought so far that reason you must forgive me. We have been very busy & holding as I expect you will by and always are. But then we are getting well along unusually with our work. We have our corn ground all ploughed & marked out one way while most of our neighbors have nearly all of theirs. We will get our corn in about the middle of next week & about the last of next week I hope to come up and see you.
[Handwritten text not legible]
I need not write you any thing about your studies as I know you will do your best without it. Rather I suppose they will be about well. They want to see you very much. I can hardly do so until they go up to Beantown. Will be about a week after next. The only thing we talk of now is the news from the South. Perhaps you would like to know what we are doing to put down the traitors and county that raised the company & is raising another. We intend to keep up our defenses at a meeting held in Topsham on Wednesday last $1200 was raised for that purpose. Brother gave them $20 instead of letting me go. I guess that is more than I am worth to the company. Does not lose any thing. When good writes tell me whether or not Allen went with the company as we do not yet know. Write soon as you receive this. Only love to uncle, aunt & all of you.

Your Brother

G. J. R.
Collectors Office, Tipton, Iowa, July 4, 1862.

Received of W. J. Wiley $83.00 Dollars in full of the following Taxes, for the year 1861, on the following described property:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Lot</th>
<th>Blk</th>
<th>Sec</th>
<th>Tp</th>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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</table>

Total, $83.00

Personalty, $1394

Deputy: G.P. Dingman

Treasurer of Cedar County.
JULY 1, 1862

Mrs. Washington Byng

Lipton Power
Camp Strongbury

Dear Mother, I have time this Sunday to have a few minutes to talk with you. to let you know how I passed the time in camp. Week Days & Sunday I have just returned from preaching by the Rev. Mr. Pinkin, one of the Capt. in the Reg. of the man who has received the nomination for Chaplain. I think ours is the first Reg. which can furnish a Chaplain from among the Capt's. We could fare rich Chaplains for 1 or 2 Regiments & then not go out of line of Capt's & 2nd Lieutenants could do nearly as well. The sermon this morning was very good & I wish we could have another man for Chaplain. I am afraid I will get tired of him.
but I will go to hear him if possible for he has a great influence in the meeting and I believe in him. The men are drawn up around the square with the minister in the center to-day about 10 o'clock. Present last Sunday the crowd was larger. It seems to one that if a man could ever talk well he could do it under these circumstances. We have prayers every night after the roll call. Mr. Clark of the company shew a good deal of respect during their absence. I think we will keep up the practice as long as we remain here. If the last gives his influence in favor of it we will I think he will. The Capt. came into camp for the first time last Friday. He has improved greatly in his looks since then so I judge that Capt. Smith will agree with him though as yet he has not tried the camp.
He fenced in town at the Eckel
songer house it comes down to seeing
every day it will be over a week before
he can stay in camp with us
we have had a good deal of sport
about our letter in the reg. last friday
word came that we were to receive part of
our pay next day to the the reg. must be let
tered before we could know it. the col
was away to the of pleen command.
Capt. Henderson called a conference of the
Capt to letter the reg. the Capt.&not
yet come to camp & the 5th peus was in
town so I had to represent the company
my company had supposed all along that
we shot a good chance & of if we lost
that were certain of & but when I went in
to the conference I found that all the
rest of the Capts. thought as I did that
they ought to have it. but if not it
then they must have it. I represented our
claims as strongly as possible
Washington, Hotby, Egy.

Dipton Iowa

Spt 841/1862

(by the Witteman)

Wm. Bayley
Cape St. George Sept 8th 1862

To Father I have an opportunity to send you this note direct by Mr. Bagley.  I forgot to mention in my letter to mother last night the health of the boys.  They are mostly well there is to say about 6 on the dock list, that is about a quarter ago all of it is caused by eating trash.  I am quite well myself though I have not been up to carful exercise in writing as to tell you not to pay Gillmore until a certain time.  I guess I will have to get another coat if I am not well and it will come to your advantage & seem to talk to Gill about it at any rate do not pay him until I tell you or write.

W. C. Hunt
Your son W. H. Hay}
but not one of them would yield anything to me finally as the only to settle the matter it was resolved but without my consent to decide by drawing for the letter. I would have been more willing to settle the matter in this way but Capt Henderson claimed that he was sure if letter No 1 refused to let his letter go in with the rest of the rest of the letters had felt as I did they would never have consented to this but the rest agreed to it I could not help my self besides to request consent to it as all the other states were to prevent the leaving of the regiment at no place so out of their way in two months the word if it was we are at got & to the best of it is that when the paymaster came he telegraphed to better what had been done to the old fellow sent back that he
did not recognize any such proceeding as legal & sent back a list of the boat lettered by himself. in his arrangement we were given to Capt. Johnston & the 1st Vermont boat which had drawn I were put down to. you will then know that this new turn in of affairs pleased us considerably.

Yesterday the boys received a month's pay of $13. as commissioned officers receive nothing & what is worse we are told that we will receive nothing for two months & I do not believe it. we will know some time this week when the boys are to get their bounty the $13 that they were led to expect as I understand it is their mouth's pay in advance & they will this week get their $25. & I presume but some of the officers say that we received a month's pay all around from the state no matter when we enlist & that we will get $25.
I expect to come home about next Friday or Saturday if you can I wish you would come down for me about Thursday and bring me home if you can write to me so I will know how to make my arrangements it might be better to let me come home at then bring me down just which will suit you and home the best but let me know when you will do—now mother—I think there were kept my promise to you I have answered in all the time I can be with Camp I think I have not found it half as difficult as I expected and—have now established a character among the boys which will help me to keep my resolutions my love to all the folks to you in paricular so good bye.

Your son

T. J. Riggs
Living Strong Oct 15th

Dear Father & Mother,

I am meant to keep my promise to write to you, though I have Sunday school
enough to do. Here is a
A large check for 10.

I was very happy about
my yesterday. The picnic
went better. The Sun provided to the
one looking to V. W. and I
drove. My complexion is
pretty close for a sick man.

I shot 15 myself at the
Large targets. The 6th was not
there, but I met him this
morning at the house. Nothing
that would make you laugh.
he was out of bounds or the
contrary he seemed very
absent at the moment to ad
I have been told him
I did not think the one
would be displaced but I had
asked one to write just what
you wrote there are more of the
boys sick than when I went
when I got my letter
he wanted to go back to me.
I said we can not get
enough for him. The
War Department is unaware though,
not correct to write him to
the War Department. I told you
oral quite good last week
but we were up only now
the whole thing from the grim
line we all were we hope several
other days联系电话.
Attacks the case of Mr. H. 4th in this man.
I will get along well, I trust. At least, I am strong, but in him, Mr. H. is weak.
I go. Richmond is in mind to-day. He visited all the barracks. The President
was accompanied by the 6th (Major). When he came in, all barracks as he
was introduced to the office of the 6th. When he took his seat, I talked with the
owning about such and such.
I am with the 6th. Then
a communication to him. Am
the main barracks. Marched
the court-martial. When I look
his home, the whole surrounding
about 5 minutes.
This afternoon I went to the Hall to meet our parade. I've not been able to go to the game this coming week, but if we play B and if we go up before things are out of shape our chances are very good. I've been held up by the sweat of the sheep. Such as Knapp, or Harewood, or whatever. I hope you get them. I came the lake to go see. We'll go next week with caution. I think if it was not for election next week I think we would go this week. It may be we will do better in the state to call.
I believe I am improving nice I left home I went to town last night I shipped at the landing house
I suppose I ought to come I keep as well here but I do not feel like trying it I think I would go to bed tomorrow I after that day in the quarter I catch on Mr More yesterday as soon as I get into town he is quite sure that uncle

F. R. Smith a 5 dollar bill he received a note from uncle the same day uncle paid him as soon as he received it he went to his store and I found that there was one to do call fell in it so there was no price left in it he then asked him
Clark if he remembered what kind of a Bill Mr. Rigby took from him, the bank clerk did not know. There was then such a life in the Union. This seems strange, my uncle will have to lose the money, I have not yet seen that money from Berston. I have the Bill at eight o'clock. As I hated to have it run for any longer I think I had better try to sell all the 1912. I think I'll try to. Write me. I hope you think of me. Your true brother.

F. Rigby
Camp Argus Oct 13 1862

Dear Brother,

I received your letter to night about 11 o'clock to night. I do not know if I will be able to get my letter in the office in the morning in time for the morning mail but I will try & if you do not get it to know you will next day. I hardly know what to write to you about coming down here & I do not know myself anything definite about going we are due to go neither do I think the bill does. I can only tell you what I think about it. I do not think we will go before Friday morning.
though the entire camp expected to go Wednesday or Thursday, I would advise you to let Father and Mother come down to see me on Tuesday. If you come down on Thursday as early as you can it would be best to have you come in this evening and I am quite sure you will get to see me on Thursday. I think we will start on Friday, I would like to have you here when we start, I think you will be safe in waiting until Thursday, but I would like to see you here by noon. We are busy getting ready to go now. On Saturday we received our arms and most of our equipment. We were busy unloading and mid-night distributing the different articles as we knew.
them from the Post Office.

The next day I received but little like Sunday to me especially it was no Sunday. I was glad of the spared kept busy enough all day I did not get to bed until 11/2 o'clock but to make up I am off duty to day, not exactly all day but in the forenoon I took the liberty to use the entire day for myself. I was up to take one if you had sent you letter by mail would have got it by now our arms are the long enfield rifle the best arm I suppose in the service if you were not coming home I would tell you what all the boys hard to carry but it H. I must shut I hope to see you all before I start on the long trip your brother W. P.
OCT 13 4862

Mr. J. W. Rigby
Sipton
Iowa
On Board the Steamer

Empress

Thursday Oct. 23, 1862

To the Friends at Home

As you see by my reading we have changed Boats and arrived in St. Louis about 10 o'clock Wednesday morning about 1 o'clock A.M. We there moved into the Empress. I about 9 o'clock at night we started and June again we did not run more than an hour last night but see day light this morning and had been publishing steadily at a rapid pace down that muddy river to ward our destination Helena Arkansas. We will reach Cairo about 10 o'clock to night where we will tie up until
morning from here we will go under the protection of 2 gun boats I will probably try to every my best. It is not yet entirely safe to navigate our great vessel the boat we are on was overcrowded in her last trip up but not serious ly injured. The boat that came behind her was struck in the bow by a shell it went en firely tearing the walls and the hold but fortunately did not explode the luck that it is would strike one of the boilers would probably kill every man on board. Our gun boats will hopefully protect us from any accident. Our tents, knapsacks, haversacks, another blanket, a piece of beef and a wagon. Our ambulances are coming down in the boat which leaves St. Louis tonight. Three of our companies are also coming down in the same
As there was not room for them with us. In all probability we are going into an active campaign under Gen. Curtis. You know when my feelings are as well as I could tell you but I know I represent the unanimous feeling of our men when I say we are of all of it.

I saw nothing of interest the first day—after reaching Muscatine I was tired & went to bed. My room was close to the wheel & the noise kept me awake for a while but I was too sleepy to allow anything to keep me awake long. We reached Montrose at the head of the Rapids about 2 o'clock so that I missed seeing Burlington & Fond du Lac. We lay at Montrose till daylight as it is not safe now to go over the Rapids after night.
farms, then again there will be a mile or two of bluffs, which look rather romantically around Harrold Mt. in particular.

I can tell you the scenery particularly interesting I can scarcely give you any idea of our landing as St. Louis you can imagine the St. Louis as well as I can tell you we left to our best of St. Louis Edgerton, Franklin Ford and Willard and all the inhabitants to see a good deal of the city. I went up into the Court House, sat around where I could see the entire city, which was not much a place but in St. Louis was told by the Assistant that I could get them for half of the money when we got into the field I got a trunk for $5. That just suits me I have got all my things snugly packed and I am not going to tell you the rest of my travels.
I would scarcely have known that we were on the rapids if the 1st had not told me. The boat touched the bottom. But once but the pilot crossed the river almost every quarter of a mile. We lost 5 of our sick boys in the hospital at Beecher. They were just given water. They call the new yellow hot to leave us. When I think hands with them after they got into the bus, most of them had tears in their eyes. Stated will not join us again he will be discharged. Probably Carl will go with him. I did not go to the hospital. I did not see John made or John yet. I saw Gage Wright. John Bens as the boat. Both of them will have to be discharged. Betts has a disease in his stomach.
will kill him some time & it is doubtful if gake's arm ever gets to he can use it as he should gake does not look as well as when he was home. he took the gam case away a month ago & it has reduced him considerably. he says he is getting better but his eyes look yellow enough. yet the thanks he will be home in about a month. I was disappointed ill in the Desehines. I shall look to be quite a river after reading so much about the Demon River improvement. the only thing that annoys me about it was the little town of Charleston right in the corner between the 2 rivers. our first stop below Rock was at Quincy Ill, where we took in hyal. I did not have time to run up & see the town as it is said to be the nicest town in Ill. I from what I saw of it I can easily believe it.
We were like ordered to get up from Jancy the wind was blowing
us right into the shore of the river
and being so thin I had ever seen it the Waves could not take us up
if we were obliged to throw but
an anchor & draw the end of the
boat off with a little line
for around Jancy are a number
of Indian mounds they are the first
I have ever seen & there quite a cur
osity one of them is decorated on the
ground it is about 10 feet high
& 3 feet & is covered with green grass
under the circumstances it look
a rather pretty. The scenery
along the river is generally most
beautiful generally but banks
on both sides Careful with trees
occasionally it is broken by some
more attractive occasionally
for a mile or two there will be not
It is the worst case and they are cheek the entire way cost one $33.00. The steamboat Emerald was lying at anchor with her rebel soldiers on board. She started with us in the evening and will accompany us all the way down. She is to be sent them to Yorktown to exchange them. They were good looking set of men much better than I expected to see dressed in uniforms they would compare favorably with our own boys. Those are informed in the matter so that they are above the average of rebel crews. Before we started their boats came close up to ours so that our men could talk with them. The rebels to a man expressed a desire to get back into the service and when their boat pleased away gave three cheers for Jeff Davis. And it was most of their enthusiasm ever reigned.
Oct 23rd 1862

Mr. H. A. Rigby

P Might

Gray Co., Iowa
On Board the Steamer
Memphis, Saturday, Oct 23rd 1862

At the 2nd at home

In my last letter I told you of all that had happened to us until our departure from St. Louis, we are now several miles below New Madrid. With our head shall turn in the right direction since I wrote to you we have made slow time. We do not run as fast as at night to run but slow in the day time. We have been frequently over boat and over the present lead 7½ feet of water. She is the largest boat ever run on the Mississippi being 3 ½ feet away.
With a 3rd crew the crewed 12 ft of water, on Thursday afternoon we neat Grandcaul.

We had rode for the night you will remember that the deck was on fry last Monday we rode by the Rebel, at last as the rebel reached 3 miles the gun Boat Lexington was sent up, she came just in time for as she came in sight of the town the rebels were coming back to see if anything worth carrying away had been left at sight of the old Boat they broke ranks in a hurry.

It was with a good deal of respect that I listened to the beat, that sum the battle of Pittsburg, for the union cause.

And as the Boat stopped at the landed we got an overburn, the St. Butler Comp B 2 dail in
Under Arms, during the afternoon we had distributed 10 rounds of Cartridge 0 to each of the boys & our by them about 10 we were going to have a little short after a good deal of commotion the line was formed when after a little the vanguard and not anticipated that we should go anywhere, but only to try how quick we would form under such circumstances we reached that Cairo about 10 of the morning. I was asleep somewhat in the body of the place it is severely at large as a sign. I walked as black as Claire until 11 P.M. during the time I was ashore I bought a colts revolver & 200 cartridges & felt that Smith did not get a good revolver on the archy without having its full value.
the two which we passed are merely artwork. I do not know
that I can describe them any better
you can imagine they are merely
long rows of curtilage both
which the cannon are placed on
four of them not having holes the rest
of them must have and braced to the
rest the men but I could not see
them from the boat
I have nothing else of interest
to write
as ever yours
O.S.R.
Sunday Oct 26th 1862

We stopped at Columbus, Friday night. I shall not get to Ammicut the works at the place but from as far as I could tell from the boat I judge that it deserves to name the gateway of the west.

The town is situated on a notch in the hills, just above it is a bluff 200 high rising right perpendicular from the edge of the water. On the back the deep waters were filled & the river is so narrow that no boat could escape destruction in passing. I merely make a guess at the height of the bluff it may be much higher. The water in which the town lies is but shallow & back of it in all sides are high strong hills so close to the river that it is not near.
About on the further side of the river I do not understand why the Rebels evacuated it without a fight. It will be interesting to come here. I noted about the weather with us at home Saturday I found almost the whole day with us at night I think the snow was two inches deep. I think the day was as cold as our ever home in Iowa at this time of year we passed Island D to to during the storm I could not get a good view of the works as I wished to do not under though that some boats were to come in taking it you will see on the map here the Island is situated on the bend of the river so that the boats could not come in sight of it without running into a rack my view from the shore of Island...
In addition to this the fact that the
road is not more than a quarter mile
and you will readily understand how
strong the place is. If the rebels were
well supplied with provisions & am-
munition there would not be much need
of cowardice. New Madrid is an in-
dependent town not worth mentioning
at all. The people are quartered here at
all the places along the river
I've stopped just neat to wood at a
plantation on the Old Kansas side
owned by a Mr. Brawley, he has
5oo hundred acres of level land & about
80 acres. He has been in the Rebel
army since last Christmas. His negroes
say that the work is in the fields &
at night & Fellow yet our Boos
are having his overseer 8oo arrows per
head, it would be hard to get it up
out & the headed to Wright & Rendell to go
James & carpenter not will ever hardly reach
when this is found.
The Concord Ark, Thursday, Oct. 30th.

Folks at Home

My last letter was mailed at Memphis; I think I gave you an account of everything. Nothing has happened to me since then. A little incident has been revealed to me in Memphis. It was that I was left behind when the boat started. We reached Memphis about 8 o'clock Sunday night. I did not gather that night but after breakfast in the morning I started out to see the town. It is the prettiest town I was ever in. I strolled about as long as Charley long leg left us here.
were about two minutes to late when the boat started. We were
fortunate enough to find a boat leaving for Helena at 3 o'clock
in the afternoon. We reached Helena at 9 at night. The only dam-
age sustained was the loss of $75.00 worth of ice for our hotel.

We had a little bun for the boat back to the town. We made the most of our time in
inspecting the town. The town was built with an evident intention of
producing the best effect.
The largest place we have seen generally with
marble or stone fronts. The private
residences are also built with a
great deal of taste. We felt struck
one as remarkable here is a very small
proportion of the mean class of

buildings usually found in large
cities but the best feature of the
place is its shade trees which
are found in every street & in front
of all houses & parks
right in the center of the town
by this is the first I ever saw a
park I have ever seen I am sure to
name to rate it to highly
but if I named nearly perfect to me
the old fir trees were best standing
just thick enough to out to shade
the grass & them the shade
even though are filled with small
trees & evergreen of every kind
& these latter grew here in away
they do not at the north
forever laid out the park had
the good taste to introduce our
common large timber squirrels
there must be over a hundred
in the park now
they are tame enough let a hen
lay everything else get hold of
them. All together the city reminds
me of what they have really of Southern
Life I could not help thinking
that I could have seen the place 5
years ago. The stores are much better
filled than I expected to find them.
but the prices are just three or
they are with us for instance I
thought I would get me a little
butter. it was 40 cts a pound v 2
less for 75 cts & I did not get any
talked with two or three business men
about there business & thus wound
while the result was not as I expected
they all told me that they sold more
business before the red flag came
than since one thing surprised
me a little. I feel good money has as
readily in the city & than you can
change any amount of it for green
backs & capital for dollar
But if the banks are as well secured
that they will be able to redeem all their notes
I wrote you the first night I slept alone in the tent with the rest of the officers and I thought that the trench around us made it near impossible to make any written letter and I would have to try to do it mentally. I am writing these notes to you as the sun sets and I hope they will find their way to you. The men are all talking well and we are all happy here. Will write again soon.
Monday Oct 31st

I could not finish my letter last night. I felt so dull I did not feel much better to day but I must finish it in time for the mail tomorrow, we have here a mail every other day & the boys who have been here say that the mails are reliable. You will be as glad as I am to know that. I do not feel like writing a description of our Army at Helena it was funny & bustling. You can imagine it as well as I can tell you of it. I will mention one fact however that after we were marched as far as we had to wait 2 hours before getting orders to march to our Camp this is what they call soldiers. We have reached our Camp a little before noon. It is about 2 miles below Helena.
right on the bank of the river
the ground is perfectly level &
is overgrown by the weed every spring
the slate has constructed a levee
all along the river but the between
it & the river. Our camp was once
occupied by the Rebels & more lately
a cave in. It occupied the same place
when we came the ground was covered
all kinds of rubbish such as a Reel
cane & all. By the time this was done our
bank was in the ground ready to be
used. We drew 17 tents for the men
2 officers tents. The men's tents are inten
ded to accommodate 5 men, but the men
who cut them out fail to put in cloth
enough to make them comfortable for the
men. The officers' tents are 13.1 square
the design of government is for the Capt
to use in & the 2 Leets the other but
our Capt insisted that the 1st Leet
must go with them so I have a tent
to myself. It is surprising how carefully Gov. has provided every thing necessary to put up one of these tents. Everything even the mashes to fasten it down with is furnished so that when our boys get used to it they can put up their tents in 15 min. I will make you a little plan of our camp so you can have an idea of our situation.

Breastwork is made of earth and is yet unfinished. Probably we will get a chance to work in it. The tents are situated in the rear of ours. The Breastwork is made of earth and is yet unfinished. Probably we will get a chance to work in it. The tents are making such good time that when you come down the river we will have them extend from the river to the Levee. I told you of I are about 1/2 mile apart.
Oct. 31, 1862
Mr. W.A. Bigby
Tipton Buffaloe Co.
Iowa
Helen Aske
Friday night, Nov. 6th, 1862

Friends at Home.

I received a letter from Brother Dock this morning, and assure you it was a welcome sheet. I have written 3 letters home since I left Muscatine. My letter today is the first I have got. I believe I have written every week so far, and intend to do so as long as I can get anything to write on. I hope the folks at the other end of the line will do the same. I am well off for paper just now. To-night I drew my quarterly allowance from the Q.M. store. I got 3/4s of a yard of paper, 1/2 yard of graph paper, 12 envelopes, and steel pens. I am writing my letter on one of the envelopes on a sheet of the paper. I will send it in one of the envelopes.

Everything is going on here about as in camp. We have something a little more exciting than anything we had ever happened to us in town—standing break-boat guard has been excitement about it, but not so much as you probably supposed. There is a chain of forts all around the place, the river almost below town the line includes all the troops here except the 9th Iowa and about 3 other Reg. 1
that are camped 2 miles beyond the line. Each Reg. inside our line helps to keep up the guard. Our reg. has 6 posts in the line. Every morning there are 50 privates, 2 Sergeants, 5 corporals and 1 Lieut. detailed from the reg. to make the guard after guard mounting. The officer matches the men to our part of the line & relieves the old guard. As we have 6 posts with 3 men in a post there are 12 of the men left as a reserve. I was officer of the guard last Monday Night. Birthday gun fired. It was a quiet day & a quiet night, the only thing kept during the time was a once 2 years old the boys called calls. But two days afterward when Lieut. Jones was officer of the guard one of his men had the two first fingers on his right hand shot through by some sneaking cowardly Guerilla. There is no one of Rebels near us on this side of the river but the country is full of guerrillas. Blind thrown by Rebels at this line. One man that was wounded belongs to us. He was about a quarter of a mile outside of the line when he was shot. If he had stayed near the line it would not have happened as the rebels never came near the line. The surgeon was obliged to amputate both his fingers. Our Reg. has sent out two dragging parties this week one on Tuesday and one on Friday yesterday by Brice.
I went with the Kent's yesterday out as an officer but as a private, with a private
suit on excepting the pants, we went out about 10 miles in a Southwesterly direction.
Along the road I saw for the first time something of the effects of the war. A train belonging to me
of the Cavalry Regt. was captured about 3 weeks ago near where we got the brick at the Reg. in
Petalhum burned all the houses in the neigh-
tboorhood. I have been in the house in Arkansas I took my attention nothing but the chimneys were left standing
but they showed that the house had been large.
The shrubbery around the house was as nice as any I have ever been in. Everything showed how to
have been a man of great taste in many circ-
stances. Even his negro quarters were through
the chimneys. I think he once owned two hundred slaves. We got new
back out a Baln in one of the planted lands
in the very back the days secured a large herd
as much as twenty burs. Sucks & the cattle were
passed to pell of these last in the road
of one of the officers in command. Capt.
Henderson allowed the train to stop to mind
The 1st Lieut. I myself are trying together ne-
the orderly & the Capt. We have no stove in our
tent yet though the nights are as cold as in
Pine.
Whitman Camp,
Wednesday Night, Nov. 12th 1862

Folks at Home,

It has been a cloudy day & is likely to be a gloomy night hereafter, we have had that eleganter sort of weather got a little of rain from the time we reached Helena till last night. But now the change has ended we may look for a long turn of rainy dismal weather. November the knowing ones tell us is the rainy month. Now I present a appearance look as though we would not be disappointed this year. We are not very well prepared for such weather as far as our sleds are concerned we can get alone very well for have put our two tents to together & put the 2 beds in one & use the other for an office it gives us more room than we had before. We are boarding in our sleds & have will have to look for but the one can not but suffer if we have a spell of wet cold weather then are crowded together 4 & 5 in a little bit of at least 15' not large enough for 3 men to lie down in & when it rains the two men in the outside can hardly get out without getting wet to close are the cruel winds against the sides of the tent.
if we could only know how long we will stay here we could make our arrangements accordingly. If the men were likely that we could remain here two months they would all have winter quarters built in a week but out of firewood rather intimate that we will move our camps before long & the men do not feel like doing anything done of them are wearing a wide dress that about the bottom of the tent & fastening the tent to the top of it this will keep them warm getting out at night when it rains. It is almost enough to make a man sick of the war to go along the tents & look into one every now & then & see one or two sick men in it lying on the ground with nothing done for them but to give them the medicine which the doctor prescribes every morning. We have had 2 men with the measles in one tent with two other men to sleep in the same tent we have three or balls of meat in the lot since we came to this place one of them is the captain they are all getting along pretty well but Alex Montgomery & Wes. Stahl lived if these two do not have enough care we will have the Montgomery is in the hospital lying in his tent until the week likely to die when the doctor crossed him to the hospital. Shipley is in his tent yet he had help in addition to the measles a hard turn of this disease
he is badly reduced but as he has a good constitution he may get up.

Some one is greatly to blame for our hospital arrangements - we have but a small tent to hold our 1 men when crowded to their utmost. I men for the whole 607, the grannister blames the surgeon the surgeon the grannister. We have no red cases of measles at it is fortunate we have cut - if the shell of a pleasant hill has come in due to a week ago. Some of our men in spite of all that we could have done for them are beginning to die. The worst feature of the case is to see your men dropping around you. One of them severely ignorant of what aids them. But having plenty enough that they are in the road to their last resting place we have several men in this case and we can neither get them away from here or do anything for them. Some Bets is no one of them.

I am as much as anyone in the camp and agree he will go the same way. Crooked - his flowers are out longest to do him any good. He is getting thinner every day.

I think No. Betts must be it for. I do not think Grist has written to him yet about it. The boys from the garrison are all getting along well. Will Puck is visited by last week's part.

A week ago he had a hard back till last - I underline but is getting along well now.
I will be able for duty in a few days.
Jimmie Smith is a little unwell but nothing worse than a cold or a sore throat.
There are all well here.
John and John are going to take the buggy.
The Smalls are quite well.

Yesterday by finishing our own regular Dutch confection we have made a change for the better.
In exchange for our bread and flour.

My health is not very good; I can scarcely tell you what the trouble is exactly.

The doctors do not agree with me.

I am trying to take good care of myself.

I hope to get in the crew soon.

You can do for me is to write often.

I have not yet gone off duty.

I generally write home when I feel a little better.

I will write to you every time I can.

The only thing I can do for one is to write often.

I do not think I will.

I have tried to write you.

I generally write home when I feel a little better.

I think you will like me.

I generally write home when I feel a little better.

If you hear me, send me your address by return.
Mr. W. A. Rigby
Clyston. Illinois
Power
I have written to you exactly what I did. What the luck
left to me. I do not want you to tell any one outside of the family
let the letter + do not say anything about it

Young near Helena 1862

Sunday Nov. 23rd 1862

Dear folks at home,

I continue the account
of our trip from this letter. I am not quite
you must when his letter I read it.
I brought the account to the close of the 3rd
day in his letter. We stopped in White river that
night. The next morning we raised anchor
allowed ourselves to float into the river
again cause why. It had been discovered that there
had guns above where we stopped for the night.
Lands which our boats could not float
after waiting until about noon the boats all went
back to Montgomery. meant I will up again.

The occurrences of this afternoon are very
un - disagreeable to me. I sincerely wish that the
history read differently. But I will give you an ex-
tact account of my doings & let you judge for
yourselves. I have told you that this stopped
at this place before & that the boys helped
themselves liberally to the property of there-
abouts I did not go off at that time & from
what I have heard felt a good deal of curiosity
with the woman & the others also
As soon as our boat stopped the orderly and myself went ashore and went up to the house which was about ten rods from where we landed. We shut the door of the woman and took a little time to come away. A good deal had been said by some of our officers about the woman being a Northerner and her feelings being with the North. She said this much to every officer who came into the house. But as soon as I saw her I heard her talk. I was convinced that every word she said was true, but this did not matter. As we were going back to the boat we met a few of our officers going to the house. We were foolish enough to go back with them. It is singular how easy will lead one away when I was first there I would have burned my fingers sooner than touched anything in the house but when I went back with the crowd I saw the rest turning over things and helping themselves to what they wanted. I was foolish enough to pick up 2 or 3 little articles myself. There were none of them on the woman's household thing you think. From the next room we heard. I felt all the time that I was in back camp. When I came away I left everything that I had picked up so that I did not take a thing worth with me. As I was leaving the house someone told me that it was on fire. I turned around and found that it was true. I have never seen it to fire it.
but it was not more on ten or ten o'clock when I had made a start to go back to the boat. I was nearly half way back when I met one or two officers who insisted that we should go and carry out some of the woman's things. We went back and carried out about all of her bedding, some of her furniture, clothing, &c. I worked as long as I could late to go into the house & then went back to the boat. I was feeling badly at what I had just seen. But much worse was waiting for me. I may as well state it once Jimmie Smith had a platoon on board & we &c. &c. went down to the lower deck to file his casket. We had filled it & I was walking along the edge of the boat towards the stairs which go to the upper deck when a man fell & balanced & fell back towards to the water, he could not swim & did not help himself in the least, some one was standing near him when he fell & cast down or tried to reach him over the side of the boat & he became in reaching one of his hands but could not get a hold of him. Nine of our men began to stand by near him but several of them said I was not all they could to save him. the current was very strong & if cursed him directly under the boat. John Sallie &c. cousins to Jerome. I went behind & under the
the boat in a fit, but Jimmie could not have
seen after he went under the boat.

The cap alone came up & was caught by Ed. Cousins,
I can not yet realize that all this is true.

Jim was a favorite with the entire Camp & his cold, caustic
appearance all brought home in the eyes of most all who
were when they were told of his death.

He was one of the best friends I had in the Camp. His
conduct bore the stamp that he had been fulfilled all that I
expected of him. Of course prompt to the minute,
never complaining of anything he was told by all the
Tramps. I thought he had already had enough. I
for one day but it seemed once was inste the
for me. At last after I had been told of Jimmies death, the Sergeant
Major came to my room & told me that the Col.
Wished to see me. The first word the Col. said was,
"What was it was at that burning house sir. I tried to
explain to him but the Col. was so excited to
listen to anything he stormed away. While I
left the room. A few moments afterwards I went into the
room back of the cabin. There were several officers
& privates in the room. The Col. was there & asked as
soon as I came in told me loud enough for everyone to
hear that tonight consider myself under arrest & confined
to that until further orders. I remained in the room
about half an hour when the Col. to lead the boys to release
me, but said that 1 was not to take Command in
the Camp till we came to Helena.
Nov 28th 1862

Mr. J. H. Tiffany

Shipton Bedal Co.

Pone
Camp near Helena Ark  
Tuesday night- Oct 25th 1862

Dear Father & Mother:

I received your letter yesterday. I am always very glad to hear from home. I had been released them unusual to get a letter written by yourself. I mailed a letter to Brother only yesterday morning. But find time to night to write another to you. We received orders this afternoon to have 3 days cooked rations prepared & in our haversacks be two weeks tomorrow. It means that we are going on an other tramp a different one from the last. I hope.

I know nothing as yet about our destination except that we are going on board boats to go down the river.
you will probably know our distant
when as soon as I do. We are to take
all the well men in the company as
before to leave the camp with the Inva-
dists we will probably raise a company
of 30 men near rank 7 pile perhaps not
so many. The Capt. says he is going
with 7 I am going of course I believe
I am fully better than when we started
before. Cousin Martin is going this time
there are some of the boys who went
before but are not able to go. New
german part. The Stratton & perhaps Will
Collins are among the old german & will
are only slightly less well. She is a good
deal reduced with the Darrheez
Will Bell & Henry Carl have joined
us lately. Will will go with us
but Henry can not & will never do
any good in the army.
Undergo such a great need of a new model of...
Mr. W.A. Rugby
Tipton, Bella Co.
Iowa
I believe you will think the same of this transaction as I do. I am sorry that I went into the house. It will be a good lesson for me. After this we will leave plundering houses to others. What I saw opened my eyes to the fact that it is not only stealing. But I think the Col. did me great injustice. I was led into it by the example of officers higher in rank and older in years than myself. So he took a great deal more than I agreed to get and singled out to bear the whole blame.

I think the reason of this is that the Col. first learned that I was there and got into such a hurry that he did not know what he was doing. I saved the dignity and most of the officers in the reg. Many of them go in for confiscation I think. Something wrong was done even in burning the house. One of the Colonels went green from gorge to tell me that I had added a feather to my cap in his opinion. Most others think as do that I did nothing to deserve such a proceeding in the part of the Col. I think a great others did more than I. Nothing more will be done in the matter. The Col. told our 1st lieut. to tell me to assume my duties on getting back to Belview. So that the matter would be dropped.

Do not like that way of doing it. I will talk to the Col. about it some time when I get a chance. Notting done happened to us worth writing about. After feeling about until everybody was tired to death we started for Helvans Friday evening to get there the same evening.
There is something ridiculous in the idea of starting a fleet of 13 steamers to go up a little river with
but knowing whether they could get a mile up it
we could not get up the river & theatrographs
at that we could not march across the country so
we had nothing to do but to come home
the health of my boys was good. During the trip better
then is would have been at home. The two last clays three
of them were a little off welle. I was a little unwell
my self these days & do not feel quite well yet. But I think
in the whole my health is improving. I am getting heavier
at any rate. While we were gone the Reg. lost 2 men
beside Jimmie one out of 60, 4 & one from 60. If the 6th plans
to day preached a funeral sermon for all three his
life was in Luke 23:66 whereas the sermon
was a very good one. Alex. Montgomery is very low, he may
never get up the rest of our sick are all improving.
Cousin Martin did not go with us on our trip but he is getting
much better. Will Jess is not very well I did not go until
the rest of the boys from the 7th are well. I want you to write
often to me you scarcely know how valuable a Letter is here
to read one. I have only postage stamps enough but
this small postage curreny will of buy them here & I cannot
get that I want to send me a Tribune will tell me in your
next letter how long it is coming to see me & if not
able to hurry send & give to know the time after this every time
you write say something about Bill. He is friendly & I will
do him so much good. Good night to you all, Mr. S.
The ground is firmer & dryer & the a great part of the timber is dead. I saw a very fine fir tree the first time the house and ship oak growing. Also the holly, we passed to-day on the large manitun the largest & apparent by the best management I have yet seen. The corn crop in the place is all gathered a large portion of the corn is yet in the field I should think the crop was away good this year. We stopped for thought a 3/4 block at the mouth of Coldwater 15 yrs from the starting place 46 miles from where we left the river our cavalry came through the 15 day they went so far our cavalry this side of Coldwater they charged in them & killed 4 & at the time captured 6 all together they captured 20 prisoners it is reported that there is a large force of rebels 60 miles away on the other side of the river a rebel says we will be
Probably we will soon have an opportunity of getting the matter to days march has been
harder on the boys than at the army is good many
who carried their knapsacks all day yesterday
day threw them on to the wagons. To-day
most all our boys have the feet and some of
them them crept along as though they
were badly wounded nothing else could be
expected from marching our troops to far the
1st day though we are as well off as stand it
as well or better than the old ones they have
been lying in camp doing nothing for some
we had almost every mile one or more men
who have fainted out or dropped behind. They
will come up some time in the night the 1st
day. Now Babbage dropped back in the afternoon
I did not get up until 9 hours after we slept
I stand is better than I expect I rode about
two miles yesterday come today I am not
much better I am awfully troubled with the
piles however they hurt me so at night that
I can not sleep well we have not ever been
only a basket piece
Order of Sailing

1. Gun Boat

2. Gladiator

3. City Belle

4. Satan

5. -

Order of Sailing

1. Gun Boat

2. Bri' with

3. Gladiato

4. City Belle

5. Satan

6. Meteor

7. Ohir Belle

8. Imperial

9. Tecumseh

10. Double R

11. Rocket

12. Key West

13. Evansville

14. Decatur

15. - G. Williams
Nov. 28. - Notes taken at 1 o'clock P.O.M.

Nov. 28th after a march of 25 miles

Bivouacked at 4 o'clock in the morning.

Breakfast a little after 5.

Was formed at 1/2 Camp about 7 o'clock.

Marched 13 1/2 miles.

Stopped an hour to start.

Again marched 13 miles.

Stopped for the night a little before 7 o'clock under lamps

At Dunk Thicket.

Nov. 28. - Rode all night again started

A little after 7. The country today is

Much better looking than yesterday.

Yesterday the country through which

Travelled is very clean by the river at high

Water. To-day we seem to have got

Above high water mark.
Dec 5, a rainy disagreeable day like a November day at home. I was out the whole day doing what I could. We lost the entire day to the rain. The Faulk is right at the depot of the 1st Ind. The 7th was relieved to day at 11 a.m. It is a pretty day clear overhead & the warmest of any October day we are still lying in camp.
Next time we will bring more as we get them. Some of our boys have walked all the way I carried theirs Knapsacks though most of them have got a little rest in one way or other. Bell and West Sutton have stored it as well as off and on in the case they are only 18 Co. men. A lot of the time cousin Martin has out passed it as well as off the Red Oak boys have stored it very well they have all walked all the time but Belle Bill Lusk and Johnson bean got their Knapsacks hauled. John Bradley was lucky enough to get his hauled through the roads. Able to carry it yesterday there was a great deal of bording done by the boys. Chickens honey & sweet potatoes were the article most sought after. Last night we had some hard talk from the God about it & another that no man should be allowed to leader ranks without permission Commissioned officers were to enforce the war
under penalty of being cashiered. To-day the
march was much better conducted. There
was still a little dusting out at the houses.
Nov. 30th, Sunday morning, though you would not
think of it unless you were told we are not moving
early as we expected it is to six are yet here.
Some of the Regiments whistles behind us have
Come upon camp near us the 37th Indiana.
Some battery are in front between us and the river.
The rest is welcome to the boys on the left among the
rest are do not run round much among the other
Regiments no news from the enemy that we are almost to
Know some of the boys think the command is expeeting
an attack. I do believe we are still here.
I have been talking with a negro who came
into camp. The Tilling is in a plantation
10 miles back on the road are Camp. His
master Thomas Hale died 3 weeks ago.
By his will to the negro says he left the entire
property in the hands of the Negroes. It is the
large plantation which I notice yesterday
there is in it 32 field hands they planted
last year 32 acres of cotton.
This man with ten others from the same place was forced by the rebels to assist in blockading the railroad behind us but in front of us but before they had done anything our cavalry came in to the aid of our men. The rebels I took the places with them. He is the most intelligent man I ever saw. He says that he was a kind of bus in the place I met him with him about the crops which they raised. I found that he is as well informed of his business as the most of farmers with us. He is employed at present with the Penn. but tells the truth. He has a good place at home but I could tell some idea of going with us was getting in to his head. The idea of the proclamation so that every man is they were all to be alike every man was to live by the sweat of his own brow. He did not know whether the time was the 1st of November or of April Dec. 1st we are still camped in the same place. Last night we experienced a new feature in soldiering. Sleeping on the ground in a rain storm.
Nov. 28, 1862

Mrs. Lydia Rigby
Pipton Cedar Co.
Iowa
Camp near Helena Monday Dec. 7th 1862

Friends at Home.

We returned yesterday from our trip into Mississippi. We done some hard marching both on the ground and on the road. A good many nights when it was raining without anything over us but our blankets. I have all returned as well as when we went away for my part. I improved in health during the trip. I was rather poorly when we started, but began to feel better as soon as the walking began. With the exception of a little cold I took sleeping on the ground when it rained have improved ever since.

I send you the notes I took on the way. I beg them as a present to mother. I want her to keep them until I get back. I guess you will be able to read them though most of them were under unfavorable circumstances. They will give you a pretty good idea of our doings as far as they go. We left camp to start on our trip at 6 o'clock in the morning close to 25th so that we were gone 17 days for all we left camp so early.

We did not get in the boat until 10 o'clock. I then the boat did not start until after sundown. We finally got started I went down the river about 8.
to where was once a little town called Delta. Though there is now nothing left to show where it stood but ashes and some charred timbers.

The force with us consisted of 3,000Inf. & 3,000 Essex with a good many batteries Iowa was well presented in the 21st, 22nd, 26th, 28th, 30th & 31st Regiments of Infantry were with us. It was a relief that night before we left the road we camped in a cotton field beside the river. It was the first time I had ever seen so many men camped close together. The camp fires were a novelty as well as pretty sight to me. Our reg. had a rail fence to make camp with & they used it with out plant as we did every time when we got the chance. We started next morning just about dawn on our destination west the Mouth of Cold water river 40 miles away. The Coldwater is a little river that empties into the Tallahatchie this last into the Yazoo. Our instructions as near as I can now learn were to go the mouth of Coldwater & camp there while the cavalry & a part of the infantry went on to destroy all of the Memphis & Dickson Railroad. These orders were given only to Gen. Hovey and not when we started. I think is nothing more of his intentions than I did. If these were Gen. Hovey's orders, the expedition accomplished all I was sent out to do. The cavalry went through the first day, they fought a force of rebels just across the river which they killed
our Captain is very unwell; he has inflammation of the bowels & dysentery, the sequel of measles. I think he will come home in lieu of absence he will never get well unless he does in my opinion. A leave of absence is very difficult to get. The last made application for one but it has been returned to him by the Division surgeon before an officer can leave he must make application & get a certificate from the regimental surgeon this must be approved by the Col. by the Brigadier Commanding our Brigade & by the Surgeon General of the post & by the Division Surgeon. It must then go to Maj. Gen. & get the approval of Gen. Cuvitts. By this time it is thought the officer will be either dead or entirely recovered.

I am done now with the heavy news I can write about your own matter something that will interest you more.

I received your letter of Nov. 22nd last night on coming back. I got 3 other letters before yours. You can scarcely tell how much good these letters do me. During our trip the boys were every day talking about the letters they would get whereby got to camp. Your last was a long one just the kind I want you to write. I also received [illegible] letter mailed at Ft.绿色发展

With the Nixing nuts in it. I hope father will be successful in organizing his funds. There is a good deal of money in the fleet of Kings. I want you to make the most of them you can.
you know that as a general thing I am opposed to sending help to Chicago but if you do it this time I hope you will make a hit. I want you by all means to come down & see me this winter rather. When you come there are a good many little things I want you to bring to me I will tell you before you come what they are. You may send my books by Jimmie D. I do not think of anything else I want. I wish you would send me a paper now & then if you can. I will write to you that you have sent such papers I will let you know if I receive them. I have been told that papers do not come as securely yet letters. I think I have received every letter you have sent me. You may send the Tribune & Commercial. I wish you would also send me a copy of the Tribune. Commerce as soon as you can get one. This is all about myself except that I am feeling well & might say also that the trouble with the col & wrote you about has been entirely cured. I am on as good terms with them all as ever with him now. You want me to write you now the boys all and. Martin Alfred & geese are all right geese was not able to get both on the trip but it entirely well now. Good luck of going & he is all right except with a stone it well 60 bowling was unwell when he started with us but the trip cured him entirely. Will wish is not very well. His eyes are very bad decided I am afraid he will not stand. Soldiers very well. Both well— & I except his leg or whatever that will get him a hospital yet he has been getting around a little for 2 days.
shelled out. The rebels had not been expected to show up to dam, they had erected a large fort of log and to blockade the road before us but they had neglected to do so. The infantry came through on the wings, we marched 25 miles the first 15 the second, we got to our stopping place at 31/2 o'clock the ice had deep, I was here for the first time a pontoon bridge a company of tappers wade in. The cavalry had built such a bridge over the river. They brought a lot of lumber and several large canoes with them, but the most of the bridge was made of flat boat which they got along the river and the whole was fastened together and fastened to a tight rope stretched across the river. A little while later we got into camp the bridge was finished and the cavalry added the same evening. They went across the country to the Railroad and the went several bridges were up the track was damaged the road as much as they could. For our own part my notes will tell you what we were doing. With the exception of the tramp of 2 miles on an Monday night catching unusual happenings to us we had fresh meat about all the time taken from the planters in the neighborhood of course. Thursday night, after Massy received orders to bring the entire force back to Helena we started Friday morning & got to Helena Sunday night with out any accident save the loss of a previous team horses & wagons & someTaken prisoners. Three of the men afterwards got away
The country we passed over is all overflowed by the
Miss. We were about 30 miles from the Miss at the mouth
of Cold Water. The country here is all heavily timbered
for 15 miles further back. The country is all heavily timbered
near the river. Near the river almost entirely with big trees.
But as you get back there is a good deal of oak and other
hard timber. The soil is very rich. I am sure such a rich
cultivation as we gave to our field under the steady healthy
management of our men would be a good one if left alone.
Along the river was over 100 big springs by our troops.
The whole country inundated, the river did not go down in time to plant Corn we saw but one field of Cotton
on the road. The field on the highest ground in the country
and I am afraid that my letter so far has been as connected
as you can. I have a good deal on my mind to write to you but could not get it in to make the post due.
I have written the good news first I have had news to write now.
The soldier died this morning at 4 o'clock. His name was
Chamlie) Dear where he was acting when we went away but
got to him bad only 2 days before he died. We treated all day
to get a coffin for him but did not succeed until just at night he will be buried tomorrow at 7 o'clock with military
honors. Our dead will after this be buried in a regimental
burial. Selected today when we leave here it will be ten each
tomorrow. 8 men will be layed in it. One of our men, a member
of Co H. One of our best men is dying in the Hospital. Without
any hope of recovery, it is E. B. Robinson. He has the same
Complaint Horrible Disease.
Mr. J. C. Rigby
Tipton, Decatur Co.
Owen
Camp near Helena
Saturday Dec 13th 1862

Dear Foster,

It is not yet a week since I wrote to the folks at home, but I have time to write to day though to write to make a respectable letter. It is a very disagreeable day. Cloudy & misty all the time with occasional dashes of rain, but the air is very warm that it is not necessary to have a fire in our tent. It is rather quiet in our Co. to day the first guard went to town this morning with almost all the effects men in the Co. to embark provisions stores of the Steamer Emma & our Division. This is a job that must be done once in ten days some of the regiments in the Div. as we draw sick & pay days at one time it is our turn to do it to day. It is an unfortunate day for us. I would have gone myself if I had been well. I have taken a pretty severe cold, with a cough & sore throat & did not like to go out yesterday was such a day to day only worse it rained nearly all the time. It was the day for the review of our Regt. by some of the Generals in Command. I was Gen. Steele I think. It was the hour for the review. I guess about that time it began to rain of course everyone in the Regt. disliked to walk a mile in the rain. Some go through with a review but such was the order & we had nothing to do but obey. The Regt. was formed & we marched to the place for the review fully 3 miles from our camp.
but when we got there we found that our officers had determined not to have the review so we had nothing to do but about face & come back to camp. Some of us in no very good humor. Since my last letter we have lost another man out of our Co & one of the best we had; Mr. E.R. Patterson. He lived near Clarence & leaves a wife & one child behind him in our circumstances & am told. His disease was the same as the Straton's chronic disease. Before he died he gave so much money that his wife would scarcely have known him. 

Do, will remember when he was & that I told him he was one of the best friends I had in the boy. He is the first man we have lost & one out of the Hospital at Mecatonic & Gillet the corporal was given at the hospital at St. Louis. James Smith, drowned. The President Mr. Wilson who died in the hospital here. The loss has fallen severely on our camp & must produce a strong sensation with you. The Capt. is quite sick very sick a month & say he has been sick a long time & is badly reduced with diarrhea. He is almost discouraged about getting well. I had tried to get a leave of absence to go home. But that it seems is impossible. I think I told you in my last that an application for a leave must go to St. Louis & return. Since then here has been a meeting at St. Louis stating that leaves could be granted by the Commander of the district Gen. Gorman. But before a leave is granted the application must be approved by the post Medical Director. It is here that the Capt. Application was balked. Our sick boys are all improving without exception & the health of the Co. is decidedly better than it was a month ago. We reported back to camp this morning & one of them
Dec 13-1862

Mr. Or A Bigly

Pittston Cedar Co.

Iowa
Sunday Dec. 14th

Dear Father: I received your letter enclosed in one from Doc. last night. The letter also contained the package Stamped wrote for which are a very welcome present to me. You may be sure it is very glad to hear from you all. Since I came here I have become almost greedy for letters. I am disappointed if I do not receive one at least every mail.

Do not let you to think of getting up Company down to see one. I will never consent to it under any circumstances. We all and myself in particular have been flattering ourselves with the prospect of your visit and you must not disappoint us. If I think of there, made it strong enough this time but will continue to write in the same style until you come. It is now understood in camp that the paymaster will not be here until some time next month when we will probably receive a double check. Want of funds is said to be the reason of the delay in his coming.

Here understood from the Bank that you have got an extension of time on that note at the bank while I am on financial matters. I will ask you to send one ten dollars in money. I can not get along until the paymaster comes. Without the money of some kind as the other officers are in about the same fix as myself.

I am well able to make a draft on home if the money can be shared. I hope to be able to commence repaying you some of the money. You have expended for one since I left.
On the 18th of this month the gov. will owe me one 3/13. I'll probably receive pay on next pay day to the 1st of Jan when there will be 26. I 35 coming to one of my difficulty with the Col. is entirely blown over. We are apparently on as good terms as ever you may be sure. Rather than I will never be borne in a private house under such circumstances again. Out that I feel conscience

stick about any conduct before but I do not wish to see such a sight again. I shall arrive at by staying away altogether. I see from your letters that my letters have quite a large circulation. If this is the case I must take more pains in writing them. Here to fore I have written merely to let you know how my affairs were getting along what we ever disagree in any regard to the correct construction of my sentences if they are to be seen by eyes outside of the intimate circle. I must be more careful.

We are at last permanently brigaded. I can give you our idea of our situation. The entire piece of infantry here is divided into three divisions the whole is under command of Gen. Gurney. Gen. Shep. is in the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Div. The Div. is commanded by Gen. Steele & the Brigade by Gen. Ironsby Col. Hamblett. Our Brigade is composed of the 9th, 24th, 23rd & 31st Iowa Regs. The other Brigade in the Div. consists also 4 Regiments so that the Div. is composed of 12 Regiments. This is the strength of the other divisions the entire infantry force in the entire "36 Rigs but this is much lower than we have calculated the face the other Iowa troops are in another Div.
There is also a Regt of cavalry here under command of Gen. Washbourne but I do not know there the 8th. I think our Capt. has made up his mind to resign & go home he is very much reduced. With the care which we are able to give him here it might not recover or if he should it would be after many months before he could resume his duties in the Co. I even then the first exposure might throw him completely back again. Under such circumstances justice to himself & to the Co requires him to resign. I know there is a feeling at home against officers who do so, but it does not exist in the Army or among those who are intrusted in the matter. This part of my letter is confidential. If you must write let it be read outside of our home circle. If the Capt. does come home those who are informed in the matter will praise rather than censure him. I do not wish to write much about it if the Capt. had been a very true friend to me. I am being sorry to tell him. I think I have no selfish feelings in the matter but if he leaves us of course there will be a change in all our officers. I think I will get the 1st Lieutenantcy with the promotion of all our Boys. The promotions are made in the recommend of the Capt. I told the Gov. but it gratifying to know that the boys concurred the other officers will. I think go up in regular succession. This not a pleasant subject for me to write about & I assure you it is difficult for the Capt to make up his mind to leave us. Has been an unfortunate under taking for him. He has been sick a great part of the time since the Co. was organized.
I am now compelled to leave as before the Regt has accomplished nothing that will live in history.

I have never told you how we manage the forwarding affair here. The 3 Commissioner officers & the orderly need to get together & I will leave books for us. The orderly will draw their ration from the Co. if we furnish the remainder of the material required. I think it is costing us about two dollars a week. Most of the articles we use are got at the post by buying the money for them. Officers have this privilege & we got the articles of the post at cost price. Thus flour costs us $1 a barrel. Apple apples 6 c to a pound. Peaches & molasses 6 to 7 1/2 cents a gallon. Potatoes I have a ton.

But for anything we get of the grocer in town we buy at 2 or 3 times the prices. But that is the only article we buy regularly from them. It costs us 30 to a pound. You will think that with such material we might live very comfortably & we could if the meals were cooked at home, but our man is a poor ex-case for a cook. I do not know of anyone in the Co. who would be an improvement on him.

I think I have finished my press list entirely this time.

I send my love to you all & to everyone in particular. I hope you will try to do the same.

Your love F. T. X.
Dear Mother:

I have not received a letter from any of the folks since my last. But it is time for you to have a letter from me. No 3 Commence one to day, but as there will be no mail going out till Monday, I will probably not finish it until tomorrow. I have not been as well as usual for the last week, as hard cold has been my trouble. I think it is a little easier yesterday I did not think that I am sick at all the kind I have been able for duty all the time. I will be until something a good deal worse happens to me. The weather here is perfectly delightful to day & indeed it is most of the time we have occasionally a rainy day or perhaps two in succession then it will clear up till a little cool for two days. The ground will be frozen in the morning but has as yet thawed but by noon in every case. Then until the next rainy spell it is as pleasant as October weather in Iowa. The ground was jelling in the last of night.
from what the old residents here tell us I think we are having less rain this winter than common.
The mail has just been distributed.
I did not get anything. I certainly expected to get a letter from home. The mail to day was a very large one as we have had none since December all mail every boy in the Co. got a letter except myself.

Sund. Dec. 31

Dear mother: just at dark last night there was a piece of mail came in & received. The cotton advertiser from home dated Dec. 28. It was a welcome sheet but not at much as a letter would have been. I am on duty as officer of the guard to day. It is a light duty the Conduct of 11 men their duty is to keep the camp clean.

It seems that we are to be left behind while the expedition which is to capture Petersburg is leaving.
The Wharf at Hatteras is crowded with 11 days & new ones constantly coming in from above several have all ready gone down the river all of them loaded with troops & know but little about the movement here but it is rumored that all the troops are to leave this post but a piece of 5000 for guard duty. I suppose we are among the unfortunate Oh! who are to remain here. Since my last letter our position in Brigade has been changed the 9th took our position in the 9th Brigade of the 11th Div.
We are now in the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Div.
Gen. Meyer is our Dep. & Lt. Kemey of the 56th
Ohio—our Brigade Com. The Brigade consists of the
36th Ohio—27th Wt 28th Ore. & our own Reg.

you will remember that the 36th Ohio disgraced its
self at the Battle of Shiloh by running off the field.
The inspection of which I wrote in my last
letter came off last Thursday. The inspecting officer
gave the Reg. a good deal of praise for their general
good appearance. The Capt. has sent in his resigna-
tion & it will probably be accepted. It has been ap-
proved by the authorities here & has been sent to St Louis
for the approval of Gen. Butler which will be fin-
ished if the Gen. approves he will send the Capt. a discharge
he will not start for home until he hears from St Louis
which will be about the 1st of next week.

His health is improving. He has been walking about a little
for several days & is able to sit up all day with the atten-
tion of home. I think he will soon recover.

I think now as when I wrote to you before that the promotion
will be in regular order. There has been some talk by part of
the boys of having Wash. Edginton for orderly but the promotion
will be by appointment & I feel Wash. will get it if it
should go to an election. Wash. would probably get it
as he is the most popular among the boys, but it would not
be fair to him to fill that as he has done a great deal for
the Co. in the way of willingness & will make a good
orderly. The only thing in which he is deficient is his
knowledge of drill.
I am afraid that letter will not be very interesting.
I do not feel in good trim for writing & have been broken
off several times by a call to attend to some kind of
business. The health of our Co. is improving. We have but
one man who is dangerously sick & the poor fellow
will never get well it is Alex. Montgomery. I have wrote
to you of him before he had been in the hospital a long
time. The boys from the Grove are all well except
hurably will live he is a good deal discouraged of
probably home sick. He did not recover well from
the measles & thinks that his lungs are so much affected
that he will have to have a discharge. The bums had
been out in the Co. Will Bedell was the first to have
them. Themed Harrison took them from both of them
are about well & no one else had as yet taken them.
There is nothing else for me to write my love to you
all & a good night to another. Write often to one
it is the best medicine in the world to get a letter
from home.

Your Son

Dr. V. F.
Mrs. Lydia Rigby

McKenzie Cedar Co.

Powell

Dec. 20, 1902
Camp near Welena  
Monday Dec. 22nd 1862

Dear Father:

In my letter to mother yesterday, I forgot one thing which is of vital importance to me. I may as well tell you at once what it is. It is then that you would send me $15. in addition to the $10 I wrote for before. It is uncertain when our paymaster will come. I have been out of money for some time & our first check is now in a like situation. He spent almost his last dollar for provisions the other day. He has been putting the bill for some time & it is now my turn & I can get the money from no place but home.
before this I must have a new pr. of pants my black ones are worn so that they are no longer respectable is it not by careful cleaning that I get them to hold together clothing is not as dear here as I expected to find it I can get a very good pr. of cloth pants in town for $5 if I should not get the money from home the paymaster does not come for some time I believe we would have to quit eating for we make no provisions for officers who are out of service we can not even get a bony of breakfast without paying for it if you can lend me the money I would advice you after lending ten dollars to lend the other 10 in turns if so you can lend me 20
A week in the way if a letter should fail to reach me the loss would not be so great—yesterday we lost two boys out of the Co. one by death, the other George Fleming had enlisted as clerk in the office of our Dr. Quartermaster. J. E. B. Bunn as planter at Gen. Grant's head quarter they will each get 20 days extra making their wages 75 - a month & board besides there is no further news in camp except that Col. Bryan appeared in arrest parade last night for the first time. Write often to one all of you & further write to me yourself frequently. A good bye to all yours W. P. Rigby
Mr. W. A. Rigby
Upton Cedar, Ga.
Jena, 22nd 1862
Iowa
Camp near Helena Ark  
Christmas - 1862

Dear Brother:

A merry, happy Christmas to you all. I know you will enjoy such a one if kind providence only gives you all good health to enjoy the day. We here will make Christmas as merry as possible. There is drill this forenoon at which the boys complain a good deal, and am not quite well enough to drill & improve the quiet by writing to you.

I do not think there is anything serious wrong with me. I have had a bad cold for some time & play before yesterday. I had something like an ague chill followed by fever yesterday. I felt quite well but this forenoon I feel a little chilly again but not near so badly as I did 2 days ago. I think with care I will get along without taking any medicine.

Last night we received the best Christmas present they could have been sent to us. It came in the shape of a large mail the first we have received since last Saturday. To-day is a much merrier Christmas than it would have had the mail not come in.
I received a letter from yourself one written in your schoolroom & dated Dec. 12th, one from Jack Don Rodgers dated the 14th & one from James P. Davidson. Your letter was doubly welcome, I have not heard from any of you for more than a week besides the letter is just such a one as I like to get from home it seemed like half an hour chat with your hand grasping hand. I have no doubt of your success in teaching nor ever had I wished you to keep me posted in each week until the little incidents that happen between your & the scholars will be as interesting news as I can hear. I can not answer your question in regard to Annie Moore & Earl, & I received a good many letters from home but I have never received any of them except two from Big Brother Jimmie, you must know that I am somewhat interested in Mary Barns progress, you must keep me posted in regard to the matter along with the rest of the news. I got up earlier this morning than usual & the round of the toast wishing the boys a merry Christmas & we were as hearty about it as though we had been at home. Most all the boys are getting up some luxury for the day. Our & our selves are intended to have for dinner one large green apple boiled & a pint of milk & apple the milk & Lent. After got this morning at home Ogro quarter after half a mile from here I got the apples at the store & Charley & myself can
Will make the Esfer for us. I take it in the or. oven. I think when it is done it would make
some of you at home look for a while, if you could see it.
Charley got up a batch of Bread last Tuesday for the
first time in 4 weeks. The boys are all glad enough to
see him getting at work again. They live quite as
well when they have left Bread. I do wish, with
while Charley was sick we drew half flour & half
hard Breakers. Part of the time, change the flour in
town for Bread getting $10, 1/2 y., and for a barrel of flour
& part of the time, she allowed the boys to draw the flour
I took it for themselves. Both of ways are extravagant. The first way we were shorted out of half our
flour. The Bread we hagreed that the boys bake for
themselves was anything but healthy. Therefore
Charley will bake the flour & a Bread ration will be
issued to the men. The health of the Co. is still improving
none of our men are badly sick, but Alex O. Montgomery
he can not live a great while longer, for one Thurs.
troubled with Diarrhea. He is not confined to his bed but
is unfit for duty. Will Collins can be put on the same list.
Archie Patterson is unable to draw in account of deaf
ness although he is at hearing a man at it in the Co.
We lost two of our men out of the 6 last Sunday, and in
death this time. George Fleming our Clerk is detailed
as clerk in quartermaster's department of the 2nd Div.
J. E. F. Brown is detailed as printer at gen. gradman's
head quarters. His business will be to let up orders.
Both of them will get 40c a day extra making their way. If so a month there is nothing of importance going on in the Army today. Our position in Brigade is to be changed today again. It is reported that we are going in with the 13th. Well, the best Regt. here I hope the report may prove true. The grand fleet which we suppose is to take Richmond has all passed. It made an splendid sight for us. Boats were continually arriving and leaving Norfolk for three days and nights. I think L-lo Boats must have gone down. I am sorry to be left behind, but perhaps some time is coming our Batt. fails to get a leave of absence to go home. He will not start until he hears from his father at St. Louis where they will be finally approved. If approved he will start for home if not he will remain here. I am getting along much better than any of us expected. I hope to father all that I have about his coming to see me. I have let my heart on a visit from you but you must not disappoint me. I shall look for you every day after the first of January until you come.

I think I have written a letter made up of small items. I hope it may be somewhere near as interesting to all of you as you read to me.

My best wishes to you all. A happy New Year.

Yours,

W. T. R.
Mr. J. H. Rigby
Fitzton, Cedar Co.,
Iowa
Camp near Helena Ok.
Sunday night Dec. 28th

Sisters Rhoda & Ella,

I have to everything in the family but you tonight. I am going to write to you. It has been but three days since I wrote a long letter to Brother, but I get impatient to write to some of you before the week gets round. It seems as if I would get a letter soon after writing one hand. I have not received any letters since I wrote last, but expect one by next mail. There was a mail came into the Reg. on Friday & Cousin got a letter from home which stated that it was reported there that P. had been wounded & taken prisoner.
in the Co. Christmas night we took with
a little incident which broke the usual
monotony of camp & gave us something
to talk about for several days. The long
roll was sounded & the Regt Called out
in to line about 10 Midnight.

Lieut. & Co were waked up about this same
time by the drum but it was the first
notice that it was the Long Roll they
were beating. We jumped out of bed all
once & commenced dressing. The Lieut got
the start of me & run out in his shirt &
sleeves called out to the Co. to fall in
Dressed one but in my over coat & overalls &
went out just at the first bug was yet to
report of his tent. Weak as the Cpl. was
he put in his word & came out with us.
The Co. was formed in a few moments &
we marched to the Regimental Parade
ground & formed into line. Our Co was in
front among the first. We remained in line
about 15 min. When the Govt. dismissed us to
3

roll call in the morning.
The letter did not say how the news came to the grove. I am very anxious to hear more about the matter. I have written to Gladd twice before since we came here. I was writing to him when Ed received it. Of course I finished my letter & mailed it. I will believe the news untrue until it is well confirmed.

To day was an unusually still day in our Co. It is our day to go on Picket guard & Lieut. Robes is out with nearly all the able-bodied men. The Col. called for one, Lieut. & Sergeant 3 corporals & to privates. This took nearly all the able men in the Co. To private is the very best we could do in case all were called for. The rest of us about 23 in Co. are to work to do hard duty but none of them are very sick. We have about 6 men
Who ought to be discharged. They
will never do the Gov a particle of
done. I would have went with the
Co myself to.day if I had been quit
well. I have improved however since
I wrote to Docks so you need not be
uneasy about me.
To morrow will be a busy day with
me. I will commence work soon
muster & Pay Rolls for the last 2
months. As our clerk is gone I will
have most of the writing to do myself.
We are mustered for pay once in two
months when a complete set of rolls
must be made out. 4 in our Co. Since
our last muster we have lost five
men. Alex Montgomery made the
birth he died last Friday.
One of our men Levi Dillah was sent
for one of the Northern Hospitals
to die. He was the weakest man
The disturbance was caused by a slight brush on our outside pipes—line in which wise men got the best of it. Such alarms as this try the temper of men as effectually as anything but a real fight. Our men were quite cool more so than I expected to find them one or two of them among them.

Cousin Martin commenced to load before any order to that effect was given. I asked them what they were doing. When they thought about it, it seemed to bother them a good deal.

I have received two letters from Ella since we came here but none from Rhode. I do not think this is as it should be. I know you are writing to cousin Alfred, as I have seen two of your letters. If you can not find time to write to both of us.
Write half the letters to me
You must allow me to make
a little criticism on your letters
to Cousin Alfred. It is this you
emphasize to many of your words.
It is something I tell him do I then
never more than one line under a word.
I hope you will both get along well
in school this winter.
When you write to me I shall tell
one how your legs are getting.
None of the letters I have received
have said anything about them.
I can think of nothing else worth
writing. After sending my love

to you

from your brother

G. W.
Camp near Helena. Oct. 26th 1863

Dear Brother,

If I write to you again this year it must be to-night to night it is. I received your letter of Dec. 23rd to-day. It had been a week since I heard from you & I was getting impatient for a letter. I had perfectly looked for you to see food &c. I want you to fill the sheet every time I am anxious to write you a good long letter to-night, I do not know where to find a pen to fill the sheet.

Our life here is somewhat monotonous. It consists of drill & guard duty. This letter is pretty heavy now, a little extra company, but companies from the city go on guard every day. Sometimes there is that our turn comes round at least once in 5 days. The guards here are posted in the following manner. There is what is called the chain guard which extends completely around the camp & town, touching the river at both ends. It is over 3 miles long. The line is made of pikes with three men on each placed so that the men in the rear can see the men on both sides of them. The details from each Co. is about 4 privates & corporals 2 sergeants & 1 officer from a Co. or but at one. Half the men will be posted as I told you as what we called the small posts. The other with the officers.
The officer in charge of the reserve.-The officer in charge of all the men from his own troops, visit them several times during the day. On this day the entire line is formed. Besides this, on all the roads leading from town there is placed a cavalry guard. Called the outpost about a mile from the chain guard. There will be quite a face of cavalry. Still farther out on the road there will be a small force. Perhaps another will further out there. Last two posts come from the men on them. It is here the danger is found of attack. There is no large face of the Rebels near us but there are parties of guerrillas hanging around us. Last week there had been some trouble in the outposts & a Corporal is our friend & in each detail to support the cavalry. Only day before yesterday 25 men out of the 38th were taken prisoners while on this kind of duty. It was through their own negligence however they went away from their arms some distance to cook breakfast & were surprised & Captured by 20 of the enemy's cavalry. The Capt. is with us yet--his Father got here last Monday night. The Drums were so much excited when he came into our tent that he could scarcely talk. I could not help thinking how I would like to see my mother come in in the tent. I got my books & things & thought for them. They came just as I was reading them, my old lines are just beginning.
to have holes in them. I will take them for any
other years present from Mother instead of the pres-
ent. The rest of you will get in your store things
I have been very busy for the last three days our
shirt is gone & I am doing the last. Writing we are on
order for pay the last day of every other month when there
is your large roll to make out. It takes about a day
to make out one of them. We were mustered this morning
before dinner there was an inspection after the regular
form. The men at such occasions go out with their
arms & their haversacks on their backs. Their havers-
acks are to contain their overcoats & clean under-
clothes. The bell complimented our company highly
on their appearance. The condition of their arms he said
plainly that we made the best appearance of any Co.
in the Reg. Such remarks are very encouraging to the
men I am very acceptable to the company of friends
I think we will receive at least a part of our pay in
about 2 weeks. At present money is a scarce article with
us & hope Father send me the money I wrote for &
that know here I will get along until payday
without it. I want you to send me some more stamps
in your next letter. I wrote a good many letters & have been
obliged to loan a good many after mailing this letter I
will have but 3 left. I have heard of the death of Cousin
Titus before I received your letter.
It was indeed heavy news to me. As you say if
I could only have seen him once before he died it would
not have seemed to hurt me as it is true not a great
distance from his Regt but for all purposes of communication
I am nearer you than him. I would like to see the new
kind of wire of which you wrote. If you think it will
make a fence I would say that is out. I am looking
forward to coming home soon now. I want you to send
every thing at next possible against the time. It
will be pleasant to notice changes in the letter about
the Horse farm when I come back. The fence in
front of the house I wish you would finish. I paint it.
It would do me good to have you write that it was done.
I received a letter from Miss Carrie Vansyke to say
It was characteristic of the girl. Lucky as a day
of feathers perhaps that is a little severe as I know
the girl wrote under unfavorable circumstances. We are
good enough acquainted to make a correspondence interesting
but I shall answer her letter. You may tell Mary
Earl that I enclose a letter to her this evening direct
ed to Tipton. I forgot that the December 4th at the
Grave until the letter was mailed. I am free writing about
the health of our Co. but it is unnecessary as we are all improving. The health of the Co. is much better than it was
twelve weeks ago. Not one of our men is confined to his
Bunk & the weakly ones are gaining strength.
My own health is now quite good & I have improved greatly the last week. The improvement in the health of the Co. is greatly owing to the good bread Charlie Bokes for us besides the boys have new adroit fires places in their tent & can live quite comfortably.

I have great faith that you will succeed in your school. I heard this week from Mary girl that you were prospering. I think that is from some authority. I think with me about your school & scholars frequently. I wish father & mother & all of you a Merry Christmas as though I was at home. I am feeling feel hearted to ought. I hope you & all of you at home have no reason to feel other wise. May live to all

Your Brother

[Signature]
Dear Brother,

It is nine days this night since I wrote to you. This is the first time I have allowed myself to pass without writing to you, and if Mother will forgive me this time I will be more prompt for the future. But if I have not written to you, neither have I received anything from you during this time, I will not consider it to which of us miss the usual letter most, but I know that it was a great disappointment to you when the last mail failed to bring me any thing from you. Since my last letter, nothing unusual has transpired with us. We are at the old place going through with the usual round of duties. There has been a good deal of business to do in our Co. during the time. The Captain of the 3rd line of the 85th has the duties of the Co., a letter some of the enemy have been getting them straight. I have had some large amounts of clothing to the men since the 1st of Jan., all this has taken a large amount of writing. I have not written before the great war, but as yet we have not received anything to do with the duties of the Co. and finally that the expedition had returned to Napoleon at the mouth of the Osages. The report of a Yager as to the result of the attack on the 2nd of Jan., is not yet confirmed, our forces have been increased. Since the 6th of Jan., the regiment has been in line of battle and we have been in discipline on the 2nd of Jan., some way that the remaining help of the regiment since the 6th came they are being trained through before the 6th, and our Americans were a perfect discipline. My diet and health are much better than ever.
but we are in areas where the men have been compelled to practice every day to turn out to a parade. The result is we have a good band. The men are now practicing the article in the Regulation against dashing. I have some of the men course him heartily for his pains. The men are also restless as they should be near their own camps. We are not used to them. The passes are extremely hard to get. We have given up trying to get them for our men. The Gen. ordered guards regularly once in five days. I have put with the 60 a week ago to Aug. and it required nearly all night. Of course our situation could not be called comfortable. Sent 200 pickets to the border. Went to see the Judge last night and had a pleasant talk. There are foremen in it. We have received a letter from him before he was relieved. We are happy at you will inform us of the weather about the 6th or 7th as we have rain. The health of the men continues good. Mr. Jeremey Bent will let you know the facts. The men are all very healthy. I have sent to some of the men in the military. The health is good. Yesterday expressed to place a box of clothing belonging to three of our men. The above is all necessary to read it to some of the men at home. I have seen one who would be more willing to take the trouble than others. I wish them in the box my black pants. There are worn out. I have a pair of gray pants. Edmunson also sends some boots, of which the remainder of the clothing belonged to some of the men. Bt. take care of the 2 boxes and see that the boxes are sent. I received you in the letter of date which will tell you to whom the different articles belong. I will accompany the receipt of the present letter. I will have to send the money by old Blane. You must consider the charge among the parties as you think fair. Old Blane is near Clarenburg. Mr. Blane this.
Camp near Helena Jan 1st 1862

Dear Father,

I send you in this note the receipt from the express agent here for the Bag of clothing I sent to you. The Bag has not left here yet. I expect it not for nearly a week. The express agent waits until there is quite an amount of property in the office before he sends a man with it to go to it. As I write to you last night, I paid one dollar for the charges here. You can settle it with the party when you get the Bag. I have not time to write you much of a letter, but entire Div. has orders to move by 6 p.m. to-day as yet we know nothing about our destination but it will be somewhere down the river. I am glad to have the opportunity to serve again anything but laying in Camp doing nothing but guard duty especially when other regiments are in the field. I will probably not have an opportunity to write to you for some time. But you will know the reason I will not be uneasy about me. I am sorry to go away without a letter from you. It has been so long since I have been expecting some money from home but it has not come. I have not a cent with me. I have been in that fix for a month. I will write to stop writing. Go to get the ready for the start. You affectionate son W. Wright.
W. A. Rigby, Esq.
Tipton & Co.
Power
On Board the Steamer J. B. Elder
Monday afternoon, Dec. 12

Dear Brother,

I propose to write to you as a final opportunity. Whatever of interest happened to us from day to day, it may be some time before I have an opportunity to send a letter. I will write something in the form of a journal. I wrote to you last night telling you of our going above the boats. So, but I have not written the letter with me yet. We are now in White River about 15 miles from its mouth and making good time up the river. We started from Helena at dusk last night. Lent, Dr. Holmes and myself slept in the shanty, I believe we could not get a room. This morning we woke up to find ourselves two steps up to where a little above the mouth of White River we had made a good night's run for government boats. The little river is much higher than when we were here before. It looks more like a navigable stream. As yet we have had no difficulty in going up. We had our last night's rest just above the mouth of the river. It would have been a kind of dissatisfaction to me to have seen the place we have at the mouth of the river until now. I have made one stop since we started. It is hard to tell why we are going in this way. Probably no one but the Commander of the expedition knows our commander. The time is Gen. Hovey. He had been in command of the post at Helena for some time. Our Dr. Commanded Gen. Hovey is also along about 60 miles from the mouth of the river is a channel connecting it with the Arkansas. Some of our men suppose we are going through this channel into the river. Otherwise think we will go up this river to a place called Carroll. If Charles I will write you the truth in the matter. I know it.
Wednesday, Jan. 12th, 1862.

We are still on board the Steamer. It is a rainy day, only rains in this country a Continous one hour after noon. Recent fortune, our boys are comfortably situated. The boat is not crowded. There is room under shelter for all. But in heavy rain, our boys have had to occupy the hurricane deck in dry weather. It is the pleasantest place on the boat. But when the rain commenced last night, they came below all but some who found it to be welcomed by it.

Monday night, the fleet tied up at a place called Port Horseshoe. Landing 20 miles from the mouth of the river. There is an inferior frame house standing at the Landing. It is 18 miles from this place to the mouth of the river. We learned here that the post was taken yesterday by a force but nothing in regard to the loss or the particulars of the fight. If our force had not taken the place, we would have marched across the river and reinforced them as it is we go to Port Charles in the river. 18 miles from its mouth.

Clothing of any interest occurred yesterday. We have not seen a single improvement of any kind on the river, indeed improvement is out the question as at high water the river overflows its banks. The mark on the trees shows that the water has been 10 feet deep in the valley of the river. The river is very crooked in the current, and that is sometimes difficult to navigate the boat. Yesterday in making one of the turns, the current got the better of the pilot and carried the boat against some large willows that were growing on the bank. It leaned over towards the stream the next day, imagine her off but the railing around the boat was considerably broken.
Last night the fleet attempted to run after dark but as the pilot on our boat died, no one knew the stream he was going to proceed to tie up the 1st boat. We fell behind and the same time we are behind the rest of the fleet. There is no pilot in our squadron who has navigated the river before and there ignorance led them into a curious mistake. There is a stream called the 'black Bayou' emptying into the river a few miles above where we stopped last night.

The pilot of the leading boat put into the Bayou. Of course all the rest followed. We went up about 8 miles before the mistake was discovered. As night was falling we were close to clear Charles. We are in sight of two gun boats & the rest of the fleet can not be agreed upon.

Thursday the 15th at 9 A.M. 

We are lying at the landing of St Charles but we will start soon I think. We are having a snow storm such as is rarely known in this country. The snow is now 6 inches deep & will it Ames. The air is cold altogether & our situation can not be called comfortable. It is very cold, as Supply we have only in pocket. There is a small fire in the cabin & one thing we have to complain of is that there is hardly standing room. I am writing in a room with my feet full of ice on my knee. The town is an inferior place before the war it probably contained 500 inhabitants. At present there are but three families in the place. The rest have moved away. There are several store rooms in the place but nothing in them.

Last summer there was a large force of rebels here. They have strongly fortified the place. There is a pot house of the town I understand.
Along the rivers. But the troops have all been taken away but about 500 I say left at Sen as the leaders of our approach. There are two regiments of Federals 1st of Infantry left but the rest of the force is going further up the river. The 21st and 29th Penn are the regiments which stay I suppose to hold. I am glad that we go ahead. My health remains good. Our boys are getting along remarkably well. They are all improving in health although some of them were quite ailing when we started.

Wednesday the 19th

Yesterday morning I was put on a boat near one of the levees. The air is cold & clear & has that invigorating feeling to common in Iowa. Yesterday I scarce by train. Am I this morning the Thermometer must have stood close to zero. But the sun is warming the air & this afternoon will be quite comfortable by tomorrow night the snow will be gone.

Last night before last we lay at Clareendon 50 miles by river above St. Charles. Before the war it was a thriving little place but it is now entirely deserted. The streets were there last summer & I struck the stores of everything they contained & they have not been robbed of a cent. It is the County seat of Johnson County & contains an unfinished Court House which is completed would be a handsome building.

I wrote to you that the river was very crooked as an illustration. it is 7 miles in a straight line from Clareendon to Dollar Bluff where we are now lying by river it is called Little Rock.

From this latter place there is a railroad to Little Rock. It forms a part of the chief line from Memphis to Little Rock. It was reported that the rebels were in considerable force here & that they were strongly fortified. We were in hopes that they would stay to receive us but we were disappointed they went off to Little Rock before we got up.
They were constantly hurled off, as they left two splendid bt's behind their loaded onto a platform car, without damaging them in the least. The guns were brought up from St. Charles on our approach to that place, as it was the intention of the Rebels to mount them here. As we did not give them time for this they undertook to get them off to St. Louis, but were talked in this act. Our forces captured about 20 prisoners in the woods around the place. It seems that the Rebels thought very slyly, yesterday but the two large guns; that they left a small force with orders to load the guns of they could before our arrival. If once they had accomplished this two locomotives were coming down to take things. The men seem to have worked all the guns until they have our fire boat & then to have broke for the woods. The Regiment which were sent out to reconnoiter picked up a boat of them.

The fortifications are on a hill which commands the river for about a mile they cover about two acres. There is an embankment about a mile on the river side & completely cut to pieces with rifle pits, on the river bank. There is two large gun pits of the Rebels had succeeded in getting the two guns mounted. I had to do to their works. It could have been. As they worked to discharge them. I believe I have not told you that we arrived here at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon to day. The boat are taking in wood as they are about out of coal. Our command has been put down the river & a mile of the house are making wood of two log cabins that stand in the woods. There are a plantation close by, & the boys are getting a supply of fresh meat of both pork & beef. I have not been to the house my self but am told that some of the boys from a boat which arrived yesterday visited it & helped themselves to whatever they wanted. I hope it will not be ordered to stay & go in for getting all the meat we can, but for plundering houses. I cannot even guess the course which events will take tomorrow. Sunday the 18th, 3 P.M.

We are on our way back to the Memphis. We got our boat started early this morning in accordance of
Most of the field we have passed to Louisiana, I must close on to St. Charles. The expedition to White River is thus nearing. I have given you an account of all our doings, that you can judge for yourself. As to our success is our fault not accomplishing great things, it is because the Rebels gave us no opportunity. Yesterday our bo, myself among the rest got out on foot. The day was pleasant enough, but about 8 o'clock it commenced to rain. I from that time until the morning the water poured down without interruption. If I stay in the service three years I do not expect to see a more disagreeable night. We had not a particle of shelter but what we carried on our backs. Before the rain there was at least six inches of snow on the ground so that you can form an idea of our condition. It fell about the yard, froze all night. But before morning the mud was three inches deep around them. Of course sleeping out of the question. I have my rubber blanket kit with me which kept my shoulders dry but my legs and feet were completely frozen. We were called in at daylight this morning to take the boat. I took a bath and changed my underwear, clothes, rubber boots, etc. Thoroughly wet, I do not now feel any the worse for wear.

Tuesday the 20th P.M.

Dear Brother: we are going to St. Charles. We reached the place about 11 o'clock yesterday. I have been here since then. We are about to start again for Helena if it is said, but I will not believe it, until I am forced to do so. We received a mail from Home this morning. It came in a boat from Helena, we are at that place yesterday. I received three letters, two from home. H. rid yourself of any letters brother and one from Mr. Smith. The letter from brother contained $10.00, which I was in great need of. We have not yet seen the Pay Master.
I never received a letter in my life which gave me as much pleasure as these two did. You must remember how we are isolated away from home of course & without any mail for two weeks. When here when we are not in camp I often write to you from home.

It is a poor comparison to say they came like 'sun beams in a chasms.' It is as if through a peep hole completely lost in a dark night & slowly recognize the light shining in your own home. Your style & manner of writing exactly suits me.

It is a great pleasure to hear of everything that is going on with you. Reading your letters almost carries me back home. They bring up home seemed so quickly. I often a letter was on the postage paid & that your long letter to me was, you may be sure no apology was needed in account of its length. I want you rather to write to one as often as he can.

It is a great pleasure to remain here even if I am not well.

Wednesday the 31st. P.M.

We are in the Melville again. I am writing from Helena as fast as the boat can take us.

I thought when we left the place that we were done with it & of course our commander thought the same. But things have turned out differently. There was no expected. She feels in the Chittenango was not able to get up to Little Rock on account of low water & there was nothing for us to do in the other river our country between. I think we will wait at Helena until another expedition is ready to move on St. Louis, when we will go along. The boys would be greatly disappointed at staying back but for an idea they have that we will find this pay matter here of course that would reconcile us to wait anything. Everything we left in camp will be carried off by the soldiers & officers. We left a great many articles which we will need badly & which we might have bought with us if we had known the thing.
would turn out. They have had to be good during the entire trip. I took some cold from standing in the rain, that might, but aside from that I feel all right. The boys try to keep their health better than I expect. Except staying on the boat so long with not exercise is not to make one of the boys sick. But this time they have come up very well. One or three of them are complaining of a head ache or feverish but that is all. We have had plenty of fresh meat for two or three days which was counted for part of it.

Capt. Rathburn will not be particular with his men, but you must not say that I told you so. The Capt. is as kind to his two or any man in the Co but he was cruel to the boys when anything was going wrong with him. If I should he would not be got rid of. I would the men when they were out in fault and this will make any poor unpopular as them as anything can.

Our new Commanding have and come to us yet but I expect we will get them here already. The boys have commenced calling Rastin Capt. and the orderly sent out as I told you once before. I think I have the good will of all the boys and they will all be quiet with the promtine. Our Sergeants will go up in regular succession which will make a Capt. Ed. J. or Robert Rathburn will be 2nd Sergeant. I do not yet know how the Corporals will stand. We will have 3 vacancies to fill. John Clay will be one of them probably. 1st one Roberts place he is one of the best volunteers in the Co. & is my choice for that place. It was to the interest of the Co for Capt. Rathburn to resign to 2nd to take his place. Grants is better suited to Command and the Co will be better disciplined than I would have been under Capt. My sheet is full. I must think I will write to you soon after we get to Hobe Sound. Tell them Good Bye your Brother W. J. Royce.
Camp near Helena Ark Jan 25th 1863

Dear Brother,

I have received two letters from you since I wrote last to you. They were both long ones & good ones & I thank you for writing to me. I would have answered them before but we have been making a new camp & I have had but little leisure. I suppose I have scarcely had anything to write, even now I do not know that I have news enough to fill this sheet—

we came off the boat last Friday morning I went at once to making our camp. It is situated back of the town & about 3/4 of a mile from the River.

It is a very different camping ground from the old one the ground is so rough it was impossible to place the Companies in their proper order. The Regt. had not yet been formed in line. As we came here I have not yet seen a place about Camp where it could be formed We had a disagreeable time for making a new camp it required a good part of the time for several days after we came off the boat. The Con
cence quite a lot of the boys have taken cold I have a slight one myself. By tomorrow night our Boys will be very comfortably fixed again we are camped on quite a steep side hill of the boys dig into the hill far enough
to make the plan of the tent level, they can then cut a fireplace in the back side with a hole for a chimney. It makes a very comfortable house for this climate.

I was out on Pickets again last Sunday. I had no idea there were any such huts in this part of Ark. At any rate back of our Barracks, they are fully equal to anything around Vicksburg. On my other letter I gave you the names of the men we left behind us back. They were quartered in what is called the Winstead House, the residence of Gen. Winstead just back of your I a very handsome building. Some of them have improved while we were away others did not.

Wanted is much better I will soon be able for duty again. I think the same might have been said of Will Link if he had taken the same care of himself as Jerome as it is he is not but little better. John Beeler is our worst case, he will die if he is not discharged in sent to a Northern Hospital. All the sick from the Depot quartered there are to be sent back to Vicksburg quite a few of them are scarcely able to sit up. Sending them away from the Hospital will be almost equal to murdering. It is the Dr. Surgeon who is doing it. He told our own Surgeon that there was not a lost
tal case in the House if this is the case
there is no need of a Hospital. The two
bunks I the grave would answer for all our
men. I am glad that our Surgeon does not
approve of the plan but that makes two
letters to the boys. I do not think we will stay
here a great while. We have been placed in a
new Div. since coming back Gen. Frie is our
Div. Com. He had but recently received com-
mand of a Div. I have not yet arranged his Brigade
so I cannot tell you who will command our
Brigade. The Div. is to be placed in Gen. Grant's
army. I am very well pleased with the change
to. Bonney and our old Commanded is nothing of
a military man & I think he is this Div. will keep
here to do garrison duty. We when the next
move in Richmond is made I think you will hear
that the Twenty fourth is along. By going in to
Grant's army we get both our friends 5th 11th
& 13th. These Regiments have all gone down the
River. We passed the 11th 13th & 16th as we were
coming up from White River at the 5th & 2nd. Our
Cavalry have ridden along since I did not
know they were passing. I did not get to seeing
of the boys. It is stated that we are only waiting
to be held off when our Div will go down the
River to join them. Two of the pay masters have
been here & it cannot be long before that
I do not think we will get but two months pay at present. I have concluded to send home 40. - a month. Do you think I can spare that much. The officers of the Regt. were paid to the 18th of Sept. if the Enrique get but two months pay we will be paid only to the 14th of Oct. in that case I will send Father 100.

As for me I need not be concerned in the least about my health it is in the whole better than when I was at home. I feel that I have great reason to be thankful for it. I can say I feel able for anything of my weight. When the East started for home I was not feeling very well but I have improved every since and I would meet with some accident I feel quite confident of seeing you all again. I will try to mention my health in every letter but if I forget it it will be from the fact that I am feeling uncommonly well. It is very difficult to get postage stamps here and when we go below it will be impossible. I would like after this to get all I use from home.

I write about 5 letters a week. You had better send them a few at a time. I have received 120. from father.

His last letter stated that he had sent 4 cent base money. There has been none lost. If money ever came at the right moment it would be of use. I hardly know what we would have done without it.
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J W Denmpa
US Surgeon
Wash Battery