

Ashland Jan 1st 1862

My Dear Mother

I will write you a few lines to let you know, that we were all very much rejoiced this morning at receiving a box of elegant presents from Manila. I think Mary Ross must have been at work about a month getting ready such a great assortment. The babies are delighted with the rag dolls - as they have not had any to play with for some time. The little rabbits are very pretty and I will put them away to keep carefully for them - Hilda with
Love he will shoot recessing with

of letters
Shawmut 11/11/61

Mrs. Westcott

By Hilda with

Shawmut 11/11/61

Shawmut 11/11/61

Shawmut

his gun - The little wrappers are
very nice - but I still think I can't
get along without washing the babies
every day - as they would be too dirty
to go longer without scrubbing -
I am very much obliged to Mary
for the Cups they are stitched so
nicely they are very nice - Hildreth
wears his riddle for a comforter -
the Cakes & nuts are very acceptable
& the Candy, Uncle George, must
receive the thanks of the means
race - The dog arrived New Year
day so it came just in time -
and we were all very much
pleased - Mrs. James presents
are beautiful - I was just wishing
the other day for just such a
pin cushion - I send a note to
see in this letter which Mary
can deliver - I suppose you

are having New Years call to day
I intended to have gone into the
Park to see how our Soldiers looked
there - as there is a regiment
encamped there who came here on
Sunday - but it is so windy today I
dare not give it up - They have the
measles & mumps and are living in
tents - I pity them very much -
I had a large tea party Christmas
eve - I gave out 45 invitations &
most of them came - I had a
very nice supper - at least
they all said so - and they had
at my birth time - the sweetest
party I ever had - I was invited
to two dinner parties Christmas
& dined at Mrs. Nicholls -
Biddy sends her love to you all
& many thanks to Mary & Sarah
for their presents - With much love
and many thanks I am yours aff
love to Father George & Mary - Father

Marietta January 11 - 1862.

My dear Mother,

I received your letter of the 4th. a few days since: was happy to hear that you are all well; & was pleased to hear that the Box had arrived after a weeks journey as it left here on Christmas day: please inform me whether it took a trip to Cincinnati. I was anxious to send it by Capt. Burch thinking he would deliver it safely.

I suppose you are constantly in fear of the Measles and Mumps now from your Soldiers; it is said that about every other one in Parkersburg have their faces tied up. The Home News will give you all the particulars of our Movements here.

When Gen. Childers made his great event. O wasn't it distressing to have one man killed in a few hours after leaving here; I pity his family very much though Strangers to me; such things are very sad.

Benjamin Putnam has arrived; your father saw them this morning at the point on their way to Newport.

I expect that we shall feel quite lonely
here as Col. Craig has had marching orders, his
Regiment wasn't full, but several Companies came in
from Chellicotte to join him & they will be off soon

We shall miss them very much, we shall have
no one to depend on for protection but the Silver
Grays, Capt. D. Bassett's Company.

We have about 40 sick Soldiers in our Hospital
belonging to Col. Hord's Regiment, they are left in the
care of Dr. J. Cooke who is their Surgeon.

I suppose that you have heard of the death of
Poussel Cook who died about two weeks since;
I pity his wife very much left with 3 little Children.

Mr. Dawson has gone to Lancaster to take charge
of a Church so they will have full business in
going to & fro as they all like to be moving about.

We have recently had a letter from G. P. they
are all well, Joseph Trice is very feeble but
able to go about some, poor fellow how sad it seems.

Do write me how the Children progress in talking

Mary Boop is engaged in school, has written you
some recipes & done so badly that I have copied one.

We all join in kind love

yours,
Ever
Geo. H.

I believe the official Report will say the loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was 2000 — I did not visit the battle ground, next morning, as my feet were very sore, and I supposed we would follow the enemy, — yet I hardly knew how it could be done without giving the men some thing to eat — many of whom had nothing since the morning before, — but every one who visited the ground, said that in the heads of the Parms between the 20's, — there was unmistakable signs of great slaughter, and those found dead were nearest to our men, — the Successors say they lost 2000 killed and wounded and that we lost 400. — Our loss was 1000 killed, of the 14th Regt, — and eleven wounded, two have since died and were buried here this evening, — I think the enemy's force numbered about 2600 or 2800, — ours engaged 2500, but only about 800 engaged at any one time — The Cavalry did not come up until in the night after the battle. — We all regretted that Col Dallas Cavalry had not staid ^{two} or three days longer, — for I think we could have bagged the whole force. — We had 200 Ohio Cavalry, and 400 Col Hufferd's Regt, which with the force Col Dallas had here, — would have made a force of 1400 or 1500. — (We have a great deal of sickness in Camp here, and if we are to remain in this place, the mortality must be fearful) — We were ordered to Petersburg the next morning after the battle, and were furnished accounts to take by the Renger and the Canal boat

Camp Dallas,
Petersville Jan'y 14th 1862

Mr John Means

Dear John,

I rec'd your letter the day after the Battle of Middle Creek, and I wanted to write to you by Albin Martin, and give you as correct an account of the fight as I could, — In doing so I have thought that a sketch even by one of the ground, would give you a better idea of the position than I otherwise could do. — We had been doing pretty hard service all the week, and on Thursday morning, a detail of thirty men from each Company in each Regiment was made for the purpose of finding the Rebels. — I did not feel any well that morning, and detailed Lieut Hornack & Poirer to go with the men, — That night about 10 o'clock a messenger arrived from Genl Garfield calling for 1000 reinforcement — We were ordered to get ready then, — but the night was very bad cloudy and rainy, so we were ordered to be prepared to march at daylight Friday morning — Before daylight all our available force (about 1400) were across Point Creek, and on the march. — I need not say that we had a hard march — We arrived at Abbott Hill about 1 1/2 o'clock p.m., ten miles from here, in sight of Petersburg — We were resting and speculating about where the Rebels were, and where our men — The 1100 we had sent out the day before, — when suddenly the appearance of a cannon was ordered through the hills suddenly from the direction to the right of

that town, and there or four miles distant from us, the whole of our force sprang to their feet, and started down the hills in the direction of the Report of the Cannon - we hurried on as fast as our overladen feet could carry us, but that was slow. - Before we got in sight of our boys the Battle had evidently commenced - When we turned a point of the hill and came in sight of our boys, - the soldiers of the 40th Ohio preceded us, - they went up cheer upon cheer, that made the hills ring again, - they hurried on as fast as fast as we could, and came onto what I have mentioned as Ridge No 1 - on the right hand side of the Creek, as we ascended the Creek - I was so thick that I could not for some time take a view of the position of our forces or of the enemy, - Spelling up on the point, I found the firing was on the opposite of the Creek, - and could see a large body of men on Ridge No 2 and 3 - and on the head of the Ravine between these two Ridges, - these were Rebels. At the time I got around on the ground, about two of our men under Col. Cramer of the 40th Ohio were upon the point of Ridge No 2 or 3 - the greater portion on Ridge No 2, and I could see the Rebels falling back towards the highest point of the Ridge, or where Ridge 3 or 2 met - where there was a number of large rocks apparently just upon the top of hill, - here was the hardest and hottest point of the battle, - A reinforced unit of about 200 men were sent up Ridge No 2 - the distance from the point of the hill to C - the highest point of the Ridge was a half

a mile, - the distance from the point of Ridge No 2 to C, was over a quarter of a mile, - Lt Col A. was a Battery of 2 guns - one 12 pounder and one 6 pounder coming along the Road by which we were expected to advance, Lt Col B. was another battery of 2 - 6 pounder guns bearing on Battery A - and was on the hill side just back of their Camp after we had gotten onto Ridge No 1 - Battery A kept up a constant firing, at what I could not exactly tell, except that occasionally a shot or shot would be heard in the air near to us, and above our heads, - evidently intended for us, but so far as I can learn, these guns did us ^{no} ~~any~~ damage whatever - a Regiment of Rebels was stationed near Battery A, - numbering probably 800 men - a force of our men of about 400 was sent across the Creek at the foot of Ridge 3 - intending to draw the fire of Battery A, while a force was to go around upon Ridge No 1, and attack the Battery from that side, - but it was getting dark, and the force was recalled - we had got possession of Ridge No 2 or 3, - all but two companies were withdrawn from the opposite side of the Creek, and we all made ourselves as comfortable as possible upon Ridge No 1 for the night - a counter attack came in in the night and took as the enemy had gone - burning a great deal of Camp equipage &c - a light was seen in the direction of the enemy's Camp just about dark, but the darkness was not fully over until morning, when a rumor - some thought that they had gone, telling with them a great many of their dead, and all their wounded - leaving at 21 I think on the field, -

- a great proportion will be unfit for duty. —
We are doing nothing but lay around Camp. — I went
into town to-day to hear the news, but my legs did not
pay. — Col. Garfield does not know where we are
going, and is waiting orders. — So ten days must
elapse before we know our destination — Col. Branch
of the 42nd says he will resign, rather than
stay here, and I believe others will do the same. —
It is safe to not believe any story going the
rounds in Camp, and one is very apt to lose
all confidence in mankind. — Col. Garfield
is a good man, and I am content to remain
in his Brigade — The officers of the 42nd are
far superior to ours, and I believe that one-half
the privates would compare with the officers of
this Regiment. — I have not become ac-
quainted with the 42nd, but from appearance
I do not think it as good a Regiment. —

Remember me to Hattie and the little folks
Yours Truly
Arch^d McLean

P. S. — I forgot to reply to your enquiry
about paying Stearns for the Register —
I owe him for two papers, and it ought to have
been paid before this time. — you will oblige
me by paying him. —

Yours Truly
Arch^d McLean

(2)

How we managed to quarter in that town I do
not know. — I got my supper at Mrs. J. P. Martin's —
staid all night, and slept in a bed, the first time since
the night of 20th December at another Seced house.
This factoring is the district, one must hold I have
yet seen, that bears the name of a town, and one would
very naturally think that treason would reign supreme.
How the enemy had their Hospital, in which they
left some of their sick who were unable and unwilling
to get away. — Humphrey Marshall was undoubtedly
my friend to all the people having Rebel sym-
-this, but the Union folks, or those of Union feeling
suffered. — There were two Colonies from Virginia
with parts of Regiments — Col. Brigg with 800
men, Col. Moore 450, — & Col. Sanborn (or Stone)
with 300 or 400 Cavalry — the battery was Virginian
800 men — The Kentuckians were commanded by
Jas S. Williams, and numbered about 1000, —
although many claim they had 1600 or 2000, —
There was anything but an agreeable feeling exist-
-ing between the Virginians and Kentuckians, and
the citizens of this section, hated the Virginians
and showed them more attention than they did
the Sky Rebels. — The Virginians wanted to re-
-turn home, and said publicly, that if Marshall
or Williams allowed them to be surrounded and
taken prisoners, all they asked of the Government
troops, was to allow them to shoot both of them.
The prisoners say that the whole for a is demoral-
-ized, and desertions are frequent, — as Roll Quirk
which we got possession in forms and to be the
case, — and many took advantage of the confusion
of their retreat, and have left them — Some

have come in, and give themselves up - John
Rice is now in our hands a prisoner. - The
examination of the battle ground, showed that
the enemy had lost several officers - one Staff
officer and one Captain. - The great possession
of a good deal of clothing. - 1000 Shrapnel
Tons or two pairs of Shoes, 3 Boxes of Lead, Co-6
canon balls - the Lead & balls were buried in a
mud hole in the road, about three miles from
Painville. - The men ordered on Sunday morn-
ing to return to this place. - I was so fond soon
and soon out that it was impossible for me to
walk, and my only chance for riding was on board
the Canal Boat, - and I found that the men
were in as bad condition as myself. - I however
maintained a place in the boat, with a half dozen
of my own. - The passed soldiers on all sorts
of craft. - The whole brigade is now encamped
here, and we are all anxious to know our dis-
tination - all want to get out of the Sandy
Valley. - the 14th is nearly demoralized, &
if we are not sent into some Camp of Antisemo-
tism, I have but little hopes of our doing
any good hereafter. - Our Staff officers
are badly deficient. - Col. Moore is not here
and rumor says his resignation has been
accepted, and that Col. Phelps will be Colonel
of our Regiment. - Our Quartermaster
does as he pleases, and thinks nobody his super-
ior - He want a man, a head, to this Regi-
ment, and I am not particular who he is, so
that he knows his business, and makes his
superior attend to this business.

What I believed and feared, when going into this
Regiment, is actually happening to-day. - The
great portion of the officers are as ignorant as
the men, and in many of the Companies, an officers
must coach his men to do their duty. - I feel
very much like resigning, but in justice to my
command am constrained to work on, hoping
that the end of this confusion is not far off. -
The Quartermaster of the 14th this, is at work
below the mouth of Paint Creek, ditching and
draining for a Camp, having lumber hauled
and stowed for flooring for tents, and is sparing
no pains to get that Regiment in comfortable
quarters. - Our Quartermaster thinks it no
part of his business, and wants our Lieut Col.
to attend to his own business and not interfere
his. - Perhaps if Col. Moore resigns, we
will get somebody who knows what he is to
do. - for in our position that Department is the
most important belonging to a Regiment. -
I am encamped back of Painville, in an
orchard, nearly a quarter from the town, a
low, wet piece of ground intervening. -
I do not go into the place except when compelled
to do so, in business, and have not seen any
of our Staff for some days - Most of the
14th Regt is encamped here. - The 12th is
encamped on Sandy River 1/4 of a mile from
us - there are only 4 Companies of it here - the
balance are at Louisa. - The 40th is encamp-
ed in the low ground, to our left as we go
into town. - It is a miserable place for a
Camp. - and if this wet weather continues

Battle Ground on Middle Creek. 3 miles from
 Parsonsburg, + ^{fought} Jan'y 10th 1862 — lasting 3 hours
 + 20 minutes



- Ridge No. 1 - Where the ^{our} Reserve was stationed
- 3 - The point where our first advance was made,
 - 2 - - - - - the position of the 142th Ky advanced
 - 4 - - - - - the Rebels came from their Camps
 - A - Point of hills where two cannons were placed, bearing on the road
 - B - Battery 2 guns bearing on Battery A.
 - C - the highest point of Ridge upon which ^{our} from Ridge No. 2
 - 3 + 2 - the Rebels nearest to C made the fight. —

know something about military matters -
Of course our Lieut. Col. or Major could not
see any cause for their resigning. - &
our former the Colonel, was known to have sent
in his letter of resignation, have been cau-
tiously awaiting for a further advancement.
But fortunately for the Regiment, for the cause,
and for all concerned, a new man has made
his appearance, with his Commission in his
pocket, and takes charge of the affairs of
the Regiment, without for the enemy.
Already things are moving a different shape
- the Quartermaster and Commissary Depart-
ment is likely to make amendments, and I am
in hopes for the future will be more abundant.
Col. Cochran is a man of perhaps thirty three
or thirty five years, and is undoubtedly an intelli-
gent - looks the gentleman. - He is very
anxious to get the Regiment out of this mud,
prefers being upon the Ohio River, - says he
would like to get to Ashland, which I am
opposed to, but am willing to go any way
except up the River. - I have been under
the weather for several days, and many
of my men are in the same condition, with
the same complaint - diarrhoea. - I am better
to-day, but have been nothing but hard work
- and drinking tea for two days. - I think
is the cause of it. I do not know, unless it is
the water. - The last we heard from Marshall
for a week was that the Virginians were on their way
to Virginia. - the Kentuckians were going into
County for winter quarters. - many of them are however
deserting and going home
of our's. -

I send you enclosed a portion of a Circulated
Report of Col. J. S. Williams Regiment - notice the
details.

Permit me to say
Yours 24th 1862

Mr. John Means

Dear John:

Both your letters for
Alex. Martin were received; I am not surprised
that you did not understand the meaning of
the package. - My object was to have my
Commission & Warrant - in - Rolls in safe keeping,
and I instructed David Thomas to deliver the
package to you, and tell you to keep it
until I called for it. I requested Lieut
Stomach to call and get the package, and
bring it to me again. - He no doubt explained
the matter. - I was not so sanguine of
success against the force under Humphreys
Marshall, after learning his strength, and
knowing the very great advantage which a
mountainous country like this gave him,
if he should be forced into a battle. -
I had now that the battle has been fought
and I more fully understand the position
of his force, and his strength, I think that
we were fortunate, rather than any military
knowledge or as displayed.

The allotment Roll which I sent to James Bartlett is correct, and the one I sent you has no effect. James A. Moore intends that you send the money to his family. I suppose they will come and get it of you, if notified. — A. M. Curtis has been here superintending Allotment Rolls, and I have made some changes, but not in respect to amounts or Assignees, — the money will be sent to James Bartlett, John Means and James Downing for distribution. — My Company was much dissatisfied and grieved a good deal when they found that neither you or Uncle Hugh's name was used as Trustees, as was the case in the former Roll, and I have taken the liberty of inserting your name. — Another change was made. — the length of time for which the men are to draw pay from that Roll or rolls that the Assignees should draw pay — in the complete one, the time is put for six months commencing Nov. 15th 1862. I was advised by the officers to do so, but I can see no reason for it except that if no time was stated, it would be taken for granted that the Roll as it Roll was intended for the whole time, or until discharged, and

the allotment officers would not have any further duties to discharge, but if the time were put in at three or six months he would have something to draw upon Uncle Sam's pockets. — Now several of my men are from Ohio, Jamaica, and their families would like to have it so arranged that they could get the money or provisions &c without coming to Oakland for it. — An order from any of the Assignees in favor of a good man from Ohio, Jamaica, I think would be all that would be required. — When you see the Roll that will accompany the check from the Farmers Bank upon the Oakland Bank, you can judge what will be required to fill the law. We are expecting the Paymaster here in a short time, and the money for the men's families will be sent to Oakland, before the Paymaster comes here. You have doubtless heard that Col. Moore has resigned. He made his Resignation speech last Sunday, and introduced John C. Cochran of Illinois being as our Colonel — Col. Moore was satisfied that it was necessary for the good of the Regiment, and of the cause, that within the Col. Lieut Colonel or Major

early - at 2 1/2 miles we crossed the river, & by 4 o'clock the
bells were very noticeable at having got into that
performance country, the people are all thin and are
militaristic, as great numbers are in General's Regiment. -
We marched 10 miles that day, and encamped in the woods
on the mountain side, - Col de Conroy's Brigade, composed
of the 16th & 42nd Chas. & 22nd Regt were in the advance, and
were encamped at the foot of the Pin Mountain, had fired
a few shots at some Cavalry pickets, and fired some in
return, - nobody hurt on either side - the road over the
mountain had been blockaded by timber, this detained
them a day to remove, and repair the roads - they
remained in our Camp until about yesterday night,
when we moved towards the mountain, the night was
beautiful, the moon shining full, at 12 o'clock we had
reached the top of the mountain, our march being
very slow, and tedious, owing to the number of logs
and cutting all of which required considerable
time to accomplish the steep part of the mountain - we
commenced descending the mountain, the moonlight
began to fade, moon was low, and we came out onto
mountain side facing south west, and we found
that the moon was being eclipsed, our progress down
this mountain was very slow, owing to roughness
steeper in many places, and the zigzag course, and
the moon had set, - by this time we had reached
nearly the foot the valley was total, and it was very
dark, - de Conroy's Brigade was in camp at the
foot of the mountain, - Our Genl Dand's, composed
of the 53rd and 59th Regts & 12th (Chas 19th Regt was with
Genl's Cavalry & Artillery, but Big Creek, Gap). The 53rd
was in advance of us, and encamped near the 42nd Chas, we
went to the 53rd, - this was laid down, on the 10th,
it was not long before about a dozen shots were fired
out in the valley, and to our left, - we had a strong
picket out in that direction, and from what I can
learn were expecting some Rebel Regiment to pass down
the road that night, on their way to Big Creek Gap.

Cumberland Gap, Claiborne Co Tenn
June 27th 1862

Mr John Means

Dear John:

Yours of the 9th inst was received
yesterday the 26th I have also received one other letter
from you over two weeks ago, to which I have had no
time or opportunity of replying. You are no doubt aware
that I wrote to Washburn telling him to stop supplying
families upon the Allegement Roll. It was causing me a
good deal of trouble, and I believe no body thanked
me for the trouble I had already taken upon myself
to have these families supplied. When I wrote to Wash-
burn that I had ascertained that the Regiments would have
passed us for April and May in a few days, and all
the more would have sent some money to their families
beside sending the amount due upon the Allegement Roll.
Ever since the 5th inst. we have been occupied in some
manner or other in the expedition against Cumberland Gap,
the success of which you have learned. On the 8th (Sun-
day) we left Camp Donadeo, at the foot of Pin Mountain,
(a range of the Cumberland Mountains running parallel with
them, from N.E. to S.W. or nearly so) and upon the banks of the
River where it runs through a gorge of the Pin Mountain
range. The range is nearly as high, and rough as the
Cumberland. - The slope of the Pin Mountain is to the S.E.
that of the Cumberland to the N.W. - the bluffs and peaks

pieces of the Pine Mt. face to the W. W. — the bluffs of Con-
-necticut to the S. E. — I have never seen a country where
there is such confusion in the strata of rocks. — I do
not know that I can give you a better illustration of this
irregularity than by a row of bricks set upon ends, with
the end one against the next one, and all go down, making
a succession of ravines and terraces upon between the strata,
So ascent the mountain in every place, a person will ascend
abruptly for 150 or 200 feet, then descend down a rocky precipice
40 or fifty feet accomplished, ascend again, and thus over a
precipice, as it is called to the top. — On Sunday morning
of the 1st inst. we left Camp Providence, with two days rations in our
Kamracks, and 4 days in our ^{50 pounds of cartridges} baggage, and had with us three
teams for the men & one team for each Officer of each Company. —
I had been sent out on Sunday before with 40 men upon
mules on the direct road to the Gaps, occupying a Gape
in Big Mountain Mt., about 7 miles from the Gaps, a portion
of the men were stationed upon the high points on either
side of the Gaps in view of the enemy's Camps and fortifica-
-tions. — With the aid of a good glass, I had a fine
view of the positions of the enemy, — upon the left, (and
highest point) of the Gaps a long line of tents and huts could
be seen stretching from the highest point half way down the
mountain, eight forts enclosed the whole encampment. — Upon
the right great numbers of tents were clustered upon a detached
rugged and rocky knoll, — it was about the best for-
-tification of on the mountain, and I judged from what I
saw that had upon examination proved true, that it

was the most formidable of any of their fortifications. —
undoubtedly the weakest point was where we approached
upon the reconnaissance of which I wrote you. — they had
strongly fortified that point after that time. Before I was relieved
upon Saturday about 150 men came out with axes, from our
Camps, and commenced felling trees right and left into the
road, blockading it completely, for more than a mile.
Capt. Lyon, whom you will remember is connected with the
geological Survey of Kentucky, was engaged with a com-
-pany of men, below our Camp in the Gaps, cutting down the
timber, and drilling large holes in the rocks upon the
tops of the mountains on each side of the river, pre-
-paratory to blasting off rocks and making so im-
-possible to the Rebels should they attempt to
get out that way. — On Sunday we marched 12
miles in nearly a day that evening, the roads on the
mountain show marks had been scarcely anything but a
badly rutted, but was over a fineable wagon road. —
the Country was wild, mountainous, and had little settled
the population the poorest I have yet seen, distance and
road are plainly visible upon the countenance, — my first
view are to be seen, nearly all in that part belonging
as they say to Governor's Regiment. — the next day
at 12 o'clock we got into a road leading from Bear-
-creekville to Shiloh's Creek, ^{Gaps} Rogers, and a road bear-
-ing more South ^{west} to Big Creek Gaps, — we took
the road towards Rogers Gaps, or as we thought
to Shiloh's Creek, — after two miles marching we
encamped for the night, — next morning we started

miles, bringing our supplies to the Rebel farmers
some of whom, happened to be at home, — the most
of the people profess to be Union. We got back to our
starting point about 3 o'clock in the afternoon,
and at once received orders to report at Williams
-burg, — that was a sore blow to us all, and great
were the murmurings and curses, among the most
about Concordia DC. I have never seen so much
dissatisfaction exhibited since I have been in the
Army. The more soon, ^{on} our way up the mountains
the afternoon was I took the wheel of the sea-
-saw, and what a task it was for us, who had
had no sleep the night before, and were of course
fatigued with the trip down the valley. — She
arrived at dark, at the Camp we had left
the night before at about the same hour. —
Our waggon men gone, had left about noon
on double quick. — I puzzled my brain as
little to invent some reason for all this, —
The men wanted to know, what was wrong? what
the matter? Was Spens been whipped at Big
Creek? and the questions no doubt gave rise to
the Camp story that Spens had been out to
pieces, — all we did know was that we were
ordered to Williamsburg, — Jethro Page and
Wm. Swadby offered me a place to sleep in
their tent, alongside of a lounge bag, — with
a blanket covering to keep off the dew, I had
no blanket, but accidentally found a shawl on

the road, that proved to belong to negro Dennis
with my own coat and the shawl wrapped around
me, I laid down, was soon asleep and did
not wake until daylight, — the men were on
the road again, — at 2 o'clock we had halted
for a rest about 2 miles from where we re-
-turned to Camp that night, where we learned that
we were ordered back across the mountains, —
Genl Morgan came along on a little mule, he
said that he had been ordered back on the
first place by Genl Smith, he told me he
felt bound to obey, but since we had started
back, he had learned that Commodore Gage
was evacuated, and he felt bound to go ahead
and occupy it. — Our six days rations were
cut, and were thus reduced it was evidently
a serious matter to get them. Although
the men were tired, they all evinced a desire
to go back into Powell's Valley where they could
get something from the Rebels to eat, the en-
-camped men where we had received the order
and the waggon coming up pitched our tents.
The night was very cold, we started back
again next morning, but it was evident de-
-ciding the day, that this constant marching
and exposure, with the want of whole some food,
and Coffee particularly, was telling seriously
upon the men. — Saturday night, 14th we
were encamped at the foot of the mountain, some

to the Gap, — Some one heard that the Gap had
also been evacuated the night before, we continued
— and our march, during the afternoon, we had two
or three very heavy showers of rain, and we could
do nothing but take them, I was met to the extent
still we continued on, — the roads were now very
muddy and the walking severe upon tired limbs,
The camp in sight of the tents on this side
of the mountain, when some miles distant, — The people
were more open in their expressions of loyalty, — Several
Stars and Stripes were exhibited upon the road,
that the owners said were hid for one year, —
They all show that the Gap had been evacuated
I am informed that the Rebels lasted just one
day of occupying the place one year, they ar-
— rived at the Gap just about sundown, when Col
de Curcy's Brigade were cheering, and the artillery
thundering forth a salute, — I can give no description
of the appearance of the Gap and surrounding mountains,
Behrens sent Qeller a rough sketch of it, which will
give more correct ideas of it than by verbal description,
The right mountain is I judge 1200 feet in height,
and presents a bold rocky precipitous front,
The left mountain is perhaps 1000 feet in height, —
The Gap where the road ~~is~~ passes through
is 300 or 400 feet above the level of the rest of
the basin formed between the two mountains, at the
foot of the right mountain, stands an old furnace, and a
mill, these have been run by the water from a large
spring above, — the found here over 500 tons
weight of which were cut into shovels, — Those large
cannon were left spiked in the forts, — the carriage wheels
were cut down, — these other guns, one of them the
largest they had, were all spiked and thrown over
the precipices on this side, — Flour, Bacon Rice Beans
or were scattered everywhere, the large Commissary House
upon the mountain was destroyed by fire, — near to it
was a large pit filled with Bacon, that the flour

It however proved to be a false alarm, on Tuesday, we received orders to have our tents struck at dark, and baggage loaded up. - This done, we were ordered to be ready to march at one o'clock that night, I did not get any sleep, - at one the Regiment was formed but it was nearly daylight when we got out into the Valley road. It was known to us that the 3 Rebel Regiments, apart from officers, were upon the road to this Gap, & had six pieces of artillery. The expectation they would make a stand or at least, we were prepared for it. It was said that they were busy throwing up entrenchments, and a Camp story is current that one of General Morgan's Aids, had a draft of these works, a complete map of them. - The order of the Battle was, Genl Evans upon the left, securing the valley, Genl de Courcy in the center, Genl Carter upon the right, Genl Baird as reserve. The citizens along the road were communicative, but knew nothing about the Rebels except that they heard that a force was at the point we expected, on the coming before, we continued our march, without any interruption to the point stated, but soon enough they had left the night before, going it was believed in the direction of Knoxville, after passing by the place where they had been stationed, we came to a halt, and remained some time, until 12 o'clock, we had come 9 miles, it was 10 more to

down. Now Martin, a brother of John P. Martin
of Pocomtong and five others, all of whom have
been given parole, - a Methodist preacher is
busy bringing in his friends, all these are from
Virginia - The wheat harvest is about over,
here, and the crop is considered very good, in
places however I would say it was very poor. -
Oats are not worth cutting. Corn looks well,
and a great deal of the valley is cultivated
in Corn, - the valley is very broken, Lime stone
rocks cropping out, and in many places covering
the ground surface for acres, - The dwellings
in the Valley as far as I have seen are very poor
old and dilapidated, some of them vacant. But
few men are to be seen, but every house has sev-
-eral rooms, some as many as five and six,
all are non-combatants, they say, - we learn how-
-ever that many men are skulking through the
woods near to home, - We are informed that a
considerable force is now at work fortifying
the Pass through the Cheat Mountains, to pre-
-vent us from getting to Morris town, forty miles
distant, upon the Railroad. - We learn now that
we are to fortify here, and will remain some
time, - a strong force will no doubt be left here
a Brigade anyway, should an advance be made,
It seems to be understood, that our Brigade will
be the one that will stay, - We are encamped
about one mile from the Gap near the road to Sag-
-well, - a ridge being between us and the Gap, so
that we do not see the other Camp, We are in a
very comfortable place, the 19th Ky close by, and I would
much prefer remaining here, - Tell John, I have written
something of a letter in length if not in materials, and
yet thro' several things I think would interest you
if I can make myself fully understood, - There are
one or two things I must speak of,

4

4

presented from destruction. It is a fortunate
circumstance that so much good provision ^{was} ~~was~~
to be had. — Fifty or two Bells of Iron were evidently
rolled off the top of the mountain in one place. —
An 8 inch short gun (Howitzer) bears the date 1861
and was evidently made by them, the outside appear-
-ance is very rough. There are two of that size,
the another 6 inch is an old U. S. Navy gun I think,
the largest one thrown over the rocks. I have not seen,
but I judge from what is said of it, that it is
a 10 inch. — Since we have been here our Quis-
-gado has been up the Valley upon a foraging
-expedition, we were out three days, returned yes-
-terday, and I am never used up than ever
before upon a march. I slept in a waggon
one night, out of the rain, and done very well,
but the next day the waggon was sent off the
road after a load of Corn, and that night I
slept under an oak tree, that is what sleeping
I did, I done there. — The night was very
cold, and every body complained of cold. —
The Rebels have taken all the Corn and every
thing else of eatable kind, for 40 miles up
the Valley. Some of our Cavalry however, went
up beyond Jonesville, brought in all their waggons
loaded with Corn, & Bacon, captured 4 teams
loaded, one with arms, — brought in about a dozen
mules. — they were delighted when they passed
us, I do not know the particulars, — brought

the names of Commissioners, — I did not take a few
other medals, sufficient at least to look up the corner,
other hand stones are to be found in the valley to
direct indicate the corner, — Give my love to Willie
and the little one, — Let me hear from you.

Yours truly
Archd McLean

I am sorry to announce ^{of} the death of Clifton and
Otha Callahan. — Clifton died on the 18th inst
at Flat Rock Hospital, — Otha died at Barbour-
ville Hospital on the 19th, Clifton had not
been well since we left Louis ville, but for a
long time he continued with the Company, — on
the 1st of May he was sent to the Flat Rock
Hospital, a miserably conducted institution, which
we saw at Camp de Campy, Otha stayed with him
the greater part of the time, — Otha getting sick
was admitted in Camp at the Regimental Hospital
at my request. I sent James Moore to visit upon
Clifton, I applied to Surgeons and Clerks to grant
me permission to send a man there for that purpose,
both said they could not do it, I sent him
on my responsibility, I also told Jim Moore to
remove him from the Hospital to a widow woman's
house near by, where he would have a better bed,
and more attention, — he did so, — Clifton was very
low, when on the 17th the Surgeon for some cause
or other had him removed from the Hospital,
the woman insisting that he should not be removed,
and that he would die if removed, he died on
the 18th at 12 o'clock M. — Jim Moore thinks he
might have got well if he had not been removed
from down everything he possibly could, to gain
him a decent burial, — Otha was sent to Bar-
bourville, at the time we commenced our march, I
thought that he would join his Company in a few
days; he improved after he went to Barbourville

and was going round. — Hugh Darby, and several others of my Company were taken down at the same time. Hugh was able to wait upon the other after he was taken down, and did everything he could for him. — He died of inflammation of the bowels. He was buried gently, and funeral services by a minister performed, a rail fence built around his grave to prevent the place from obliquation. — Now, you may think that all this was done as a matter of course, but I am very sorry to say that the poor soldiers at this Hospital, have hitherto received different treatment, many of them have been put in the ground with the same clothes on, in which they died, and had nothing more than a blanket around them, and the place left without protection. On my return from the foraging expeditions up the Valley I was glad to find all of my sick returned except, Thomas Sampson and Effort Freeman, who were improving when the others left. A new order of things had been instituted in this Hospital or Hospitals, for one half of the town is devoted to that purpose. — From Cantonville to the Gap, is 30 miles. — I confidently expected some letters and papers, when I got back to Camp, as I had not received any for three weeks, during all that time the mail had been accumulating, and had been ordered to Williamsburg, some of it had been retained at London. — The latest mail arrived just — the old mail was received

yesterday afternoon, and to-day have received several parcels of it, so that I am nearly up, with my papers. — I received two letters this afternoon from Mary Anne, on the 10th the other 13th, yesterday I received one from Belle dated April 22th — only two more on the way. — The Gazette of 22th is received to-day. — I have not received any letter from Westhead, stating the amount of each one's indebtedness. I would like to have it, or suppose it will be along in course of time. I don't know how Mrs St. Aubrey got home, he was sent to the Hospital at Lexington, and I did not know when he was sent, so I hear of him at home. — He should not get a cent, — David Parley, Richard and James Robinson, Jim Hughes, Joe Collins and Jim McAllister are discharged. — George Darby and John Martin are so considered by a general order. I have not reported either so. — Col de Courcy's Brigade have moved to the Kentucky side of the mountain, to-day that looks like staying here awhile. — Lt Col Gallups is acting Provost Marshall at this post, is very busy hearing the stories of repentant Rebels, who are anxious to remain at home, gives paroles and passes to all who apply. — Mrs Martin is released upon parole. — I have always heard that Va. Term & Co all covered upon a rock upon the road side, — a square rock is to be found just on the Gap, but now it is cut 5, 28° 14' West, 1200 feet to top and down from it, with

him of it I wish you would let
one know - Whipping + coaxing
don't seem to do much good to him
he talked badly enough before but
now Mary Ross would go distracted
over him - Bessie don't talk any
better than she did in Maiville - I think
the babies talk about as well if not
better than any of the rest of them -
Tell Mary Ross I am much obliged
to her for the recipes - Biddy begs
I won't learn any of the Ashland
Ladies how to make Boston Tea cake
so we can have all the glory of it
ourselves - I wish you would tell
Peta Woodbridge to answer my letter
I expect she writes often enough to
Lucy to not forget how to write -
Give my love to Father - George
& Mary - Yours aff. Hattie -



Ashland Jan 18th 1862 -

My Dear Mother

I have not been
in any great hurry in answering your
last letter as the creek + river have
run so high I supposed most
likely the mails would be delayed
I hear Maiville has been inundated
but I cannot hear as to what extent
I don't suppose you had it in your
house but most likely you had the
usual trouble of carrying things out of
the cellar, old kitchen, office &c - When
you write, give me the full particulars -
It was higher here than it ever has
been since I lived in Kentucky - It
came into Cattleburg - but did not
come over the banks at Ashland -
We had a fine view of the Steamboats

from our house - I saw the ^{the} Telegraph
a ^{very large} Tomerville boat but missed seeing
the "Jacob Steader" the largest boat on
the river - they were carrying troops to
Parkersburg - Are your ladies as busy
as we with the sick soldiers? - The
sick ones are all better now and
will soon leave unless the regiment
comes back again to stay the winter
The Boston made a \$500 trip Saturday
carrying provisions up to Louisa for
them - never before had so large a
boat visited Louisa + the whole
town came out to see her - Arch
(Bills husband) is still at Paintsville
he was not in the fight - but he +
his men came up yelling like so
many Indians + the rebels got
word there were 2500 of them ^{coming}
+ they took to their heels with a
perfect Bulls run panic - they burnt
up two hogheads of rice + one of sugar
to keep the Union men from getting

them - but they got ^{some of} their uniforms made
of blue drilling - + 400 pair of shoes
tents &c - Arch is quite tired of the
Big Sandy region + thinks they have
completely broken up that bank of rebels
The soldiers in town make it very
lively for the Irish girls - Biddy has
been to a dance once a week for four
weeks - as she stays generally till
three o'clock in the morning she
dont work quite so well the next
day - so I will be glad when the soldiers
are gone - You want to know
how the children are getting along
talking - The towns are progressing
rapidly but Bub talks horribly
he has taken to stuttering lately
in a most distressing manner
I suppose he does it for fun but
I am in great fear lest the
habit should be confirmed +
as to last him for life - If you
can think of any way to break

Ohio Furnace Jan. 29-1862

John Means Esq. John

rec'd yours of 17th on the 24th

I was somewhat disappointed
in not getting your Steamship,
but have since been supplied
with one nearer home - I have
heard a good deal about Mr.
Jones and don't think he would
suit the vacancy here - I have
sent for my former Store keeper
and intend that he and I
shall do the business here this
year. Prof. Black of Buena V.
was over about two weeks ago
to get a job in Black Smith Shop.
Is he a good Smith? How
much did you pay him at Buena

Vista? We have had to pay consid-
erable Cash for work in shop
heretofore & would like a man
who would take something out
of the store - Yours truly
W. Meard

I have been thinking of getting to Ashland this month, but as the Paymaster should defer his visit I shall not do so. — I am interested in a bill presented Congress by Sherman, concerning the pay of officers, — the part relating to the Captain's pay particularly. — I do not get to see any papers unless you send them to me, and also made as short a stay at Ashland this last time, you did not get to see him. — If you know what has been done in Congress about this pay, please let me know. —

Give my love to Hattie and the little folks

Yours Truly
A. A. Phelps

Camp Grell, July 5 - 1862

Dear John

We moved over Camp to-day, and we are now encamped on the upper side of Paint Creek, near where it empties into Sandy River, upon a sloping, and sodded piece of ground. The change is altogether satisfactory, and I am in hopes I have left Paintville for ever. — We are still in sight of the place, if we choose to look ^{that} direction — We are out of the mud for the present at least, and are in sight, and near to the Ohio Regiment, and are close to the steamboat landing, — Paint Creek in the evening. I think we will go to work, if the weather permits drilling. — The 22nd Regt started up the River by boat yesterday evening — destination said to be Pittsville — The side wheel boat Capitola, arrived here this evening, having in tow a large wharf boat for the use of the Brigade. I hear (not believe) that two more wharf boats are to be brought up here. — I do not consider any thing reliable I hear, unless I get it myself from the head quarters myself.

We have a great deal of sickness, in all of the Regiments. — I have had several recruits in my Company, and I was afraid yesterday that Jim Elton was going to die, I went into the Hospital this morning when coming through the town, to see him, — he was asleep, and Surg. Milton told me he was better. — Frank Jones, Paterson Bates, George M. Cameron, and William Wallace, are all in the Hospital. — I don't think there is much the matter with Frank. — Bates is much better, and wanted to come over with me, but I would not let him. — W. Cameron looks badly, but is getting better, but is still very weak. — I had but little hopes of him once. — He is a good boy — Wallace is about well. — William Stanbur-ship is right sick in his tent. — he was taken bad to-day. — The worst cases can only get into the Hospital, not having sufficient room for all that should be there. — James Clute is in the Hospital too. — He is contrary, and don't take any care of himself, nor pay any attention to anything is said to him. — Lieut Hornack is sick, and if he don't take better care of himself hereafter will not be able to stand the Campaign. — He thinks so himself to-night — He is here in my tent. — I was affected like nearly all of those now sick, and was thinking very strongly of getting down

Sandy. — Coradefo is complaining again. — I don't think he has been drinking. — I have got stores for all but one of my Company tents, and I think there will be an improvement in the general health of the Company. — The stores will dry the tents, and keep out dampness. — besides the men will not stand around Camp fires during a rain. — I do not travel around through the mud, if I can avoid it, — staying in the dry in my tent.

Some of the 40th Ohio officers are very jealous of those of the 42nd. — The 42nd is altogether the best Regiment, and has a better class of men for officers — The officers of the 40th don't get along well together — The Col and Lieut Col don't speak to each other — the Major and Surgeon don't speak, and the staff generally manage to make their positions anything but agreeable. — Col. Brown of the 40th holds Commis-sions over Col. Fairfield, but the latter was appointed Col. Commanding Brigade, and I suppose will be made Brigadier General. — I am for Fairfield all the time. He is energetic, and endeavours to take care of his men. — Some of the 14th Regt officers complain however, but I think our com-mands try to cover their own deficiency by throwing the blame on some body else.

Ohio Ferris Feb. 10 - '62
Jno. Means Esq. Dr. John

As this is an exceedingly unhealthy season in this vicinity I expect my wife to be sick in a very few weeks. I would like to inquire of you, whether the seamstress we have been speaking of would be a good nurse on such an occasion, your wife could get the desired information — If so & willing to serve I would like to have her come soon, and she could serve for us until the Epidemic reaches here. We have a young lady serving for us, but she is no nurse — Is Benj. Black a good Smith —

Yours truly
W. Means

about - Will is ^{sent} for dinner I must get home
and see how the folks come in at
the furnace - Nothing new out there yet -
With much love In A -



Union Landing Feb 10th 1850

Dear Mother

Some of the 7th was received
Saturday evening, but there was only one
copy of these to Dr. Miller. I am much obliged
to you for attending to the matter.
If any letters come from Boston to me in
your care please send them by the
Boston. I had thought I would have been
up before this, and wrote to him
to direct his letters in your care, but the
banks have been and are so muddy
that I can not get ~~it~~ down at home.
They have been stopping from for the
two last trips, and are going ~~at~~ ship 50 or
55 tons to day. Coach William Ellison
was here Thursday. The Manchester friends
were all well, with the exception of little
Andrew, he still gets weaker. They were
not expecting uncle William, so home
in two weeks. Your note to Will will be

go out this afternoon by the man that
is hauling the down Amanda
Kelly moved up to Toronto last week
The high water took away nearly all of the
fences about here, it was nearly a foot
higher than the ground, and the
up the Court in the town, I cannot
with a sure belief as nothing can happen
here, all days are just alike, I will be
up as soon as the mud dries up
Give my love to Willie, Tommy, Bessie,
Lily, and Rosa

Yours affectionately B.M.

All our love

My dear Walter

We have often thought
and as often talked about going to see
you this winter but, inconstant weather,
one thing and another has prevented us -
We have been spending a very quiet winter
the roads being almost impassable so that

we've felt more than ever indebted to
Uncle Sam for mail privileges; after one
evening walk we are read like the Madams
in the Arabian nights, we wait for the next
evening. Although I was, somewhat troubled
during the high water about my roses, the
water fell without doing any damage
except some severe frost you & the
matters of care - In which notwithstanding
they bring 2 or 3 this winter I can say that
I felt thankful knowing so well as I do
their propensity to setback - We have plenty
left - Jane has been obliged to stay from
school this winter in account of colds
and disagreeable weather. I wish you
could seem to display it self in the beyond
and useful occupation of learning. I can
not think but like Mr. Rice certainly
something will turn up that will suit
him. May very often dream of the
Babies and that they be by the following day
for them - Belle is afraid the Boys will

since Christmas day, — I humored him awhile
but I have quit that. — I think he wants
to get into some place outside the Company
organization, but they are all full, yet he
had got the notion in his head that he belonged
to Gallops, and of course Gallops would
keep him about him, if he had not anything
for him to do. — Col. Cochrane has straggled
the Lieutenant considerably. Remember me
to Hattie and the little folks.

Yours truly
Abel

Camp Bull. Reg.
February 21st 1862

Mr. John Means

Dear John:

Yours by Mrs. Stanton
is received. I am very glad to learn that the
Army business is looking up, and I am grate-
fied at the recent news from the Army — the
some heard of here from Roanoke, & Fort
Donaldson, but have not the particulars of either.
We all think that Secession is on its last
legs, and are encouraged at the prospect
of getting back to our homes some time during
the Summer. — I suppose that the last act
of the Secession Drama will be to sell out, right
till, interest 'nigri' and all to the West Indies of
the Sea. It will be a tempting bait for Eng-
land, and it remains to be seen, whether she
will bite or not. I do not know that I can
assign any good reason for my belief, that
we will get into a star with England, grow-
ing out of this Rebellion, but I do think
so, notwithstanding the papers say the news from
Europe is favorable, and that England and
Englishmen have modified their views very
much of late.

The Paymaster has arrived in the
Sandy Valley, and will pay us all up to
the 1st of January. — He has gone to Pittston
and will return here about the middle of next
week and pay the Regiment, led by Gen. G. F. G.

has gone to Pittsburg, and Col. Osborn is now
in command at this post. - Col. Genfield
started off this morning on the Capt. Co., having
but two companies of the 42nd there, - they
will follow on the next boat. - They should
be taking advantage of this view of Sandy to
get up a large quantity of provisions. - Hay
& Corn can be bought here much cheaper than
at Cincinnati. - The Quartermaster at Cincinnati
has sent a large amount of Hay, Corn & oats
up here against the wishes of Col. Genfield
who notified him he could get Hay here
for \$13⁰⁰ or \$14⁰⁰ per ton, while what comes
from Ohio costs the Government over \$20⁰⁰. -
He is offered Corn here every day in lots de-
-livered here and at Pittsburg, at half price
than it can be bought in Ohio. - We are getting
short of provisions before this view, and had
barges loaded with forage, - as it is, Uncle
Sam gets worried everywhere. - Col. Genfield
has reported the matter to the Brig Gen, and
I suppose this thing will be stopped. - The
feeling does not abate between the 40th &
42nd, or rather the 40th show a good deal of
it towards the 42nd, but it seems to me that
the 42nd fears the corn tax of their own.
In speaking of the 40th & 42nd Regiments I have
reference to the Officers. - The Paymaster
says he has not received any allotment
Rolls, or been notified that one has been made
out each Roll. - I intend having the
Paymaster pay the amount to me, if I
can, and if he does not do it, I will collect

the money from the men, and take it to Cash-
-land myself, - provided above I can get
leave of at once.

Capt. John Stanton, ^{formerly} of Morgan County Regt.
of Col. Williams' Rebel Regiment, who was
in the Battle of Middle Creek came in to our
Camp a few days ago, took the oath of alle-
-giance, gave bonds for his future loyalty, and
has been released. He said that they headed
off the battle field three wagon loads of
dead, he did not know how many bodies
were in them. - A. Sim of Dick Stanton
of Waverly is a Lieutenant in his Company
as I hear. - he is sick and is very anxious
to go home. Stanton says that his whole
Company would return home, if they were not
afraid of being arrested and treated as persons.
I have seen this Stanton in Oakland, he has been
in the habit of buying goods of Casey, and
at one time, I think Jim Cross was his security
for the payment of the debt. - He is said
to be a notorious liar, so Lake says.

I am much obliged to you for having
that article put in paper shape. I suppose
the Dr is no longer afraid of being driven out
of the State by the Rebels. - My response you
think necessary, I will pay you that pro-
-perty I will pay.

John Foster is now acting Commissary
Sergeant, and has been transferred ^{from} to my Com-
-pany. Jacob W. Poage would rather
be doing something else, than his duty. -
He has not been with his Company one day

Ohio Furnace Feb. 22-1862

Dear John

I have your two favours of 13th inst. with Mrs. Belton's order for allotment enclosed. I have concluded to advance m^{ds}. to Mrs. Belton Mrs. Sampson and Mrs. Lacy, all living here and having husbands in Aech's Company. You will therefore remit to me such aunts, as may be paid you for wives of C. P. Sampson Alvin Belton and — Lacy —
~~Mr.~~ Reynolds has not yet reached here having gone across the river from the Ldg. and not returned on Thursday when sent for. I will send for her again today. I have the pleasure also to announce the birth of a son on Thursday at 2³/₄ P.M. Dr. Spalding officiated and the affair came off in good style. All are doing well so far. My wife sends her

regards to all -

I enclose the dollar
for fare advanced Mr. Reynolds

Yours truly
N. Means

Marion Feb. 24. - 1862.

My dear Hattie,

I was quite astonished to receive a letter from you in four days from the date, what in world has got into the Mails to go so fast; it must be war times.

I took it for granted that you were all well as you didn't say a word about one of the children; I hope in your next to hear something about them, & how Tommy gets on.

We feel quite desolate here as all left us, even taken all the things they couldn't bear.

The ladies

Soldiers, as the

Episcopal

but last week

expect it is

She has been

a fresh, she

She has atten

is said that

We want for

gone & we have

I am much oblig'd to you for your friendly invitation
to visit you, I will take it into consideration as you
requested. as I visited you last I thought if I went any
where this Spring I must go to Lanesville & Dresden, but
I will decide when the time comes.

I took a very bad cold about three weeks ago in attending
Church & have been very unwell ever since not confin'd to my
bed, but I am now much better & am in hopes to be out again
when the weather becomes settled.

as Putnam spent the afternoon with me
the babe are at Newport little Douglas
I do not see them here I was
his way to Fort

Nashville &

to giv'nies to
me to rejoice.
our side & we will
many poor soldiers
sacrific'd.

Hope among the Numbers.
Geo. Hildreth

Ande - 8th March 1862

Camp Duell Ky.
March 8 1862

Mr John Wear

Dear John: -

There is nothing
more going on up here I believe. - the general
impression is that we will shortly leave
the Sandy Valley. - Genl. Garfield in
a recent despatch to Genl. Bull says -
"The Campaign is over in the Sandy Valley
and it is almost impossible to keep up a
supply of provisions. - His forces have been
as far as Round Gap. - they report a por-
tion of Humphrey Marshall's forces at Ab-
ington, the balance still further east. -
He asks to be transferred to some other
locality. - His forces at Pitkin are in a
bad condition. - the recent floods drove
them out of their tents, and destroyed much
of their Camp equipage. - the 2^d reports
only 350 fit duty. when they left Columbus
they reported over 1000. This Regiment is in
a good condition, reports about the same,
yet we number less aggregate.

I am glad to hear that Jim Moore is getting better. I was afraid that he would not get well. - None of my sick men shall be transferred to the Shalhand Hospital hereafter with my consent, as I think we have a better Surgeon than at Shalhand - I have not lost a man yet. Capt. Sel. Davis has lost fifteen, - if he had been the first one, the Regiment would have lost nothing.

Capt. Thomas has resigned - because C. J. Roberts was made Adjutant. Roberts was acting Adjutant during the absence of Ballitt, - and kept the Regimental Books in excellent order and style, and was always up to time. The Colonel was pleased with his ^{work}, and when Ballitt returned, he made him Captain of Stillinger's Company. Captain Thomas talked through Camp that he would resign if Roberts was made Adjutant. The Colonel heard of it - The Captain asked the Colonel if he had appointed Major Roberts Adjutant. - The Colonel told him he had. The Captain then said "Will you accept my resignation," the Colonel promptly replied "yes sir," and so the Captain was in for it. - He was mistaken in his own

I expect to be in Shalhand, during the coming week, - can't say what day, as my getting away from Camp, depends upon the coming of the Paymaster, who appears to be a uncertain individual. - I think we will be paid on Monday. our pay rolls are in his hands, and the 1st Company will get one and a half months pay to the 1st January.

Remember me to all, - Yours M^{rs}
Albion was sentenced by Court Martial to forfeit two months pay, - five days in the guard house on bread and water, and be reprimanded before the whole Regiment.

Yours truly
A. C.

and I suppose next the children will
all leave them - I got up a sewing
society for the hospital & they sent
to Cincinnati & bought 175 yards of
muslin to make into bed shirts for
the sick - So tomorrow we are to meet
at Mrs Martin's & go to work on it -
This would be a fine time for you to
visit us now as Dr. Lee & plenty Dr. Elden
& Dr. Kalle - Dr. Cox & Dr. Cook of Springfield
are the hospital Drs - Dr. Cook is acquainted
with father - Mr. Harry the 18th Kentucky
Regiment stationed here for several
weeks - they drill every day where we
can see them from our window & it is
a great amusement to the children to watch
them - so we don't do much but talk about
& look at the soldiers - Belle came up this
morning to make us a visit & brought up a
supply of nice things from the ladies of her
neighborhood for the hospital - fifty more
sick came today & about seventy are well
enough to leave - I do hope you & Mary
Ross will make us a visit in April & I
think you might come to see me first & Charlie
& then afterwards - I'll do my best to make
the visit agreeable - Give my love to father
George & Mary & write soon to your mother

Dear Mother
I have been thinking
of you & how I come
to be so far from home
I hope to hear from you
soon & in case it is
not possible to write
I will hope to hear
from you in some
other way - I hope to
hear from you soon
I am your affectionate
son
John

Ashland March 12th 1862

My Dear Mother

I was happy to
receive your last letter, but sorry
to find you have not been as well
as usual - I was hoping you would
be able to get through the winter
without any sickness but I suppose
that would be an impossible thing
You said in your last letter that
I did not say anything about the
children when I last wrote -
they were well then - but since that
I had been having a private hospital
of my own - three weeks ago today
Aunt fell over the high fence
against the gate & burned her
leg awfully - for two weeks nearly
she could not walk scarcely at all -
and I had to nurse her most
of the time - or else let her lay

in her crib - and she was most
terribly cross - first we poulticed her
leg & then dressed it with salve
of Dr. Dan's manufacture twice a day
and have kept it bandaged till
yesterday it seemed perfectly healed -
A week ago yesterday - I thought
I would wash some paint in the
sitting room and told Biddy to
bring me in the high steps - & while
I went into the kitchen to get a pan
of water - Bessie & Bub both jumped
up the steps & he pushed her off
& broke her arm - she came to
me crying very hard and wanted
me to take off her dress - I did so
& saw in a minute that her arm was
broken or out of place - John wasn't
at home & I was scared half to death
but started Biddy in the crib for the
Doctor & John - she fortunately met
the Dr on the street & he came right
up & set it before it had time to
swell any - she cried most of
the time for two or three days &

nights - we hardly got any sleep
with her for two nights - and I kept
John at home for several days as
she had to be lifted on off the bed & the
chair &c - she wasn't eddy five minutes
in a place - her arm was broken
about an inch below the elbow in the
small bone fortunately the large bone
was not injured - she had to hold
it most of the time in a horizontal
position when she let it fall it made
her hand swell - it was very tiresome
to her - we had a chair fixed with a
big board on it for her to rest her
arm on & she sits in it most of the
time she had been quite a sufferer -
but I hope now that the worst is over
and if she meets with no accidents
that she will do well - for have to watch
her very carefully & it is very hard to
keep the children away from her &
to keep her from falling down - Dr. Van
has dressed her arm several times
& it looks now to be doing well -
The miracles are very prevalent in town

Union Landing March 22^d 1862

John Meam Esq.
Ashland Ky.

Dear John

I enclose my check on Bank of Ashland for credit of Thos. W. Meam \$64⁰⁰ according to your statement of allotments of 18th inst. My family are doing well enough - Please to hear of the accident to my niece Bep and hope it is not serious - Will you be kind enough to go across the river and examine Mr. P. Israel's small brick - I am of the opinion that the clay is not of a good quality - the bricks on the outside present too smooth an appearance for first rate fire brick and you will please break one and see if the grain is coarse as it should be - The best clay is very hard to grind fine. Mr. Israel himself saying that his machine would not do it - If you think the brick will answer please purchase sufficient clay in Ashland to lay an in-wall and ship to us - My love to your family -

Yours truly
W. Meam

John Meaus
By Astland
Arch Meaus }

W. A. Meaus - 22 March
1862

on Saturday - Today (Monday) he started
with her again and took her to Union
to keep her there a few days as Dr Spalding
can come over there easily to see her if
bring only four miles from Greensburgh
The poor child had it very patiently
but she has a good deal to suffer yet I am
afraid - I was quite surprised to hear of
Doug Putnam being in the Pittsburgh fight
I thought he was not in the service for that
Ihu wants to know if Doug thinks Gen
Grant was drunk all the time of the
battle as it is reported in Cincinnati - I
should like to hear his account of it -
The papers compliment Jesse Hildebrands
Brigade for their gallantry & bravery I
don't think Manetta people need to be
ashamed of them - I should like to see
Mrs Perkins' biography if Mary Ross can get
it or copy it off for some time - as to
the hardship of her doing her own washing
she always did it out of choice in Manetta
as far as I can remember - & when Mr Perkins
first saw her & fell in love with her she was at
the wash tub. Do you must have seen something
else that killed her - Has Dis. any more home yet?
Please write me the reports about ~~that you speak~~
of but don't tell what they were - I hope you will
get down to see me this summer but putting
it off till Peach time seems a long time I
was much obliged for the melon seeds -
Love to Father & Mary your sister

order much
Borden - her name is a little like her
Saturday John has returned tonight with
Monday
Ashland April 1882 -
My Dear Mother -
I was happy to get
your letter and find you were in
better health than when you wrote
last - I expected you would be
on your way to Lakeside by this
time - you have forgotten how
warm Charles' house is in the
summer time or you would hurry
yourself to get there before it
gets late in the season - I suppose
Mary Ross is all excitement about
going and is having all her finery
arranged in style - I hope you
will both have a good time you must
give my love to Charles & Prescott -
Sarah & Sophia and tell Pres to
send me the daguerstypes of his little
girls - I wish very much I could
have you up to see Charli' myself
and take Bessie to consult him

him about her arm - I have nearly
cried myself sick over it - it had been
set so badly & so badly managed that
she had nearly lost the use of it -
I did not know that there was any
danger of keeping it in the splints too
long & was so afraid of her getting it
broke over that I did not take them
off soon enough - when we took them
off the arm looked so crooked & stiff
that I thought it was ruined forever
John started with her as soon as he
could to Greensburgh to consult Dr
Spaulding who is the best Surgeon in this
part of the County - he looked at it &
worked with it for about an hour &
then came to the conclusion that
it was not broken when old Dr. Van
thought, it was (an inch below the
elbow joint) but was broken right on
the edge of the upper bone where it
joins the joint, as Van had not
tried to set it there, the only thing
that saved it was ^{his} making the splint
pretty long, which pushed it into shape
without his knowing it though it is not

very well together one edge sticking
out too much - and it ought to have
been taken out of the splints long ago
and almost from the first - should
have been taken out & braced every day -
he thinks she will get the use of it
though by binding it twice a day &
wrapping it in a shing at night & most
of the day & making her bend it often -
I don't think old Van will not get
any more bone letting to do in my family
or among my acquaintances if I can
help it I don't see how he could have
missed it so far if he was here to
doon after it was broken that it was
not swelled at all - The poor child has
to suffer so much it nearly takes her
life when John tries to band it
and I suppose it will be a long time
before she gets to use it again well -
I have not had anything wrong one so much
for a long time I was sure she never
could use it again unless it was broken
over & it seemed as if it would almost
kill her to do that - I felt quite relieved
when John came back from Dr. Spaulding

Camp Prentiss,
Prestons Woods, Louisville Ky
April 5th 1862

Dear John:

I send you per Mr Hugh Means
\$1,009⁰⁰ — \$420⁰⁰ of which is upon the allotment
Roll. — the balance is principally sent home by
me in my Company. You will find
that there are a number of those who have
assigned upon the allotment Roll, who do
not appear in this statement, they are absent-
ees, and I could not draw their pay,
even with the power of attorney. — Please
send Belle the amount I have sent you for
her, — perhaps she may not want to use all
of it, but it is at her disposal. — I have
been very busy since we came here, the
are encamped in as nice a place as is pos-
sible. — The men have all received the Spring-
field gifts, the best gun in the service, a
dress coat, new Tents — Sibbys patent — The
Sandy boys dont want to go back on Sandy-
the weather has been fine since we left Ashlands
and we are drilling every day. — The have

a very respectable looking Regiment and the boys take a good deal of pride in their general appearance - The 22nd Kentucky left for Lexington to-day. - the 42nd Ohio is here. - we will leave here on Monday or Tuesday I think for Lexington. We have lost Genl Geo. Field, - he has gone to Nashville to take a command there. we are now under a Genl Morgan of Ohio. - the Indiana Regiment is at Lexington. - the 19th Ky will be in our Brigade the 42nd Ohio, or a Ohio co in battery. We will very likely stay at Lexington two or three weeks. - The men are in excellent spirits, and the health of the Regiment has greatly improved. Some are sick with Diarrhea, owing to the Limestone water. Give my Love to all your family. I am in first rate health. Col Cochran joined us this morning. he looks very badly. - I will write again when I have more time Yours Truly
Arch^d Means

Direct to the 14th Ky Regiment, Louisville Ky. Letters will be forwarded by the Postmaster after we leave here.

sick rooms which was as much as
 I cared about - The beds looked very
 comfortable - sheets - pillow cases & plenty of nice
 blankets on them - The ladies of Ashland have
 been meeting for nearly six weeks sewing
 two afternoons a week for the Hospital - we
 have made fifty shirts & fixed over 30 old
 shirts making 80 shirts - 37 pair of drawers
 & pair of slippers &c which I think is
 doing pretty well considering we could
 hardly get out more than fourteen
 of an afternoon I have attended all
 the meetings but one and every Saturday
 they have met at my house - so it
 has kept me pretty busy I suppose
 we will finish up this week making
 up all the washing & so will most
 likely not meet any more -
 The children are all well I still keep
 the splints on Bessie's arm though I
 suppose they might have come off some
 time ago but she gets so many falls
 & knocks that I was afraid to take them
 off - we have about forty peaches here in
 bloom - Hyacinths Crown Imperials &c
 I still hope you may visit me this summer
 but would rather you would come here first

Your very true friend
 Mrs. Frank who's husband has a garden etc
 to her side against the back they will live
 1450 pass & cross \$70 - the medical man
 out of pocket & ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~money~~ ^{money}
 for books & ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~money~~ ^{money}

Ashland April 7th 1862
 My Dear Mother
 I have been wanting
 for some time to write to you - but
 I have been so busy that I could
 hardly find time - ever since I received
 your last letter - I have had such
 a house full of company - Belle &
 Arch were here nearly three weeks
 and Mary Anne was here more
 than a week and Father means
 Mr. Lampton &c occasionally I seemed
 some of the time like I was keeping
 hotel - there were so many coming
 in & out to see them and such a fuss
 all the time - Arch has gone back
 to his regiment and is now stationed
 at Bardstown a little town back of
 Louisville where they will stay
 I wish you could send our friends out
 and see how they are - I wish you
 could see how they are - I wish you

Three months they suppose -
Of course I had to stop my house
cleaning and as soon as they were
gone Biddy & I began again - and
nearly finished last week - So if
you were only coming in April
we would be all clean & ready
for you - I am very much disappointed
that you are going to visit Louisville
first - for it will be due to get to
Miami by the time you are through
your visit there that you won't feel
like leaving home again - As to the
Hospital that need not trouble
you any - there are not near as
many sick there as there have been
and as there are but two regiments
up Sandy now it is not likely there
will be as many sick as there have
been - there ~~are~~ ^{are} about 150 there now
counting nurses & all - I went down

to see the Hospital the other day -
They have just put up a wash house
& bakery at a cost of 7 or 800 dollars -
it looked very nice indeed - There were
a hundred loaves in baking at once
They have a baker from Houston and the
bread looked very nice - They had the
most miserable bread I ever made by the
Ashland baker he made it so soft &
heavy that they could scarcely use it
at all - they gave him a pound of flour for a
pound of bread so he put potatoes in his
bread & made it heavy on purpose -
I think the doctors will blame for not
getting bread some where else sooner -
The wash room has six great iron
boilers & very thing nice & convenient - they
hire women by the day to go there & wash -
Their cooking stove is as big as a big
bedstead - & all the cooking on it is
done by steam - which is very nice
for soup - rice - quail &c - as nothing can
burn on it - I went into one of the

Regiment without increasing the amount. — Pickle
 & James Robinson, both of whom I have drawn out my
 Company at Lexington, and are now no
 doubt on their way to Front. — Chittie
 with eight of my men caught up with us at
 Lexington. Poole has not yet arrived. —
 Captains Davis & McKeen have assigned,
 and I have gone home to-morrow. — Col
 Cochran is at Lexington, his health is im-
 proved, and he will join us on Monday
 at Crab Orchard. Lt Col Coon is sick
 in Lexington, but is improving, and I expect
 will join us with Col Cochran. — I left
 one of my men in a Hospital at Lexing-
 ton. — he was sick when we left Shelburne.
 Two or three others are sick, but are not
 taking any medicine, and keep up with
 us on the march. — From Crab Orchard
 to Cumberland Ford, we will have to repair
 the road, taking alternate sections of five
 miles with the 22nd Ohio. — the 22nd Ohio and
 30th Indiana do the same upon the other
 road. I believe it is 106 miles from Lexington
 to the Ford, and 66 miles from Crab Orchard
 to the Ford. The road crosses Kentucky
 River eight miles from here. — Give my love
 to Hattie and the little folks. I received
 your letter, and one by mail from Dally. —
 Direct to Lexington Oh. as we have made
 arrangements to pour our letters forwarded
 to us from there. Yours
 Archie

14 Miles south of Lexington by
 " " " " " Nicholasville
 April 11th 1862

Mr John Meane

Dear John:

You will
 discern from the heading of this letter, that
 I was mistaken about our staying two
 or three weeks at or near Lexington. —
 We arrived in Lexington on some day even-
 ing about 4 1/2 o'clock, and quartered in
 the Railroad Depot for the night. —
 It rained during the whole of the next
 day, and snowed too, and we could not
 get into a Camp. — On Thursday morn-
 ing we received orders to draw four days
 rations, and be prepared to march at
 2 o'clock. We got started from Lexing-
 ton about 2 o'clock, and took the
 road towards Crab Orchard, through
 Nicholasville, Jessamine County. — We en-
 camped last night three miles from Lexing-
 ton. — to-day we marched eleven miles and
 encamped at 2 1/2 o'clock. We left the 22nd
 Oh. encamped near Lexington, although they
 had orders to march, before we got to

Lexington, they go another road, with the
33rd Indiana through Richmond, — the
42nd Ohio Regt. and one Battery (either of
the 1st or 2nd Michigan Batteries) — One Battery
go each road. — The 10th Kentucky Regt-
-ment is guarding the Railroad from Cr-
-ington, as far as Nicholasville, and perhaps
further, but I am not advised whether the
road extends any further, except upon paper.
The Maps show a railroad to Danville.
We are 12 or 13 miles from Camp Dick Rob-
-inson, where we will doubtless camp or to-
-morrow night. — I learn that the force
of the 16th Ohio, ^{of the Kentucky, or 1st or 2nd Tennessee} Regiments, one Battery of Artillery, and three
Companies of Cavalry (Ky.). — I saw other
Regiments are being formed of fugitive
Tennesseans. — the Volunteers are said to be
coming in rapidly. — one Regt. has now lost
another 400, and another three hundred. — I
saw a son of Parson Brown at Lexington.
He is on his way to join one of these new
Regiments, of which he is Lt. Col. — that is, to
be. — He looks to be about twenty years
of age. — He bears a good many stor-
-ies about the force at Cumberland Gap. — The Rebels have undoubtedly a
strong position, and a good many heavy

guns, some of them 64^{lb} — He hears that
they will not make much resistance, but
at this distance, I do not pretend to give
you very reliable information. — He has heard
the news from Island No. 10, and Pottsville
Landing, and now if if M. Lellan, would
maintain the high reputation which he has
-into give him, he would resign or do some
-thing. — The hour of the coming conflict
at Yorktown, and are of course anxious to
know the result. —

The Union men through here
are as strong as anybody. — The Union
people are either Union or Rebel on the
extreme. — Farm Courtland here is a
fine country, and is highly cultivated &
improved. It is a pleasing sight to me
to look over such a country as this, as
far as the eye can reach in many places
the fine loads, fine houses and the finest
Stock can be seen. — The Union men
refuse pay for anything we want to buy
to eat. I took supper at the house of
a Mr. Sims with a dozen officers of the Reg-
-iment. He refused pay and invited us
back for breakfast. — I did not go, back,
but would have done so, if he had not re-
-fused pay. — Judging from the surroundings
I have no doubt he could have fed the



Ohio Democrat Apr. 14th 1862 -

Bro. Means Esq.

Dear Bro.

I would like to have you ship us a ton of ground fire clay at your convenience - Do you know of a good Carpenter we can get in a few weeks to do some framing for us - I have heard of a man, Geo. Clear or Clare living in the vicinity of Bellefonte who is reputed to be a good & fast workman, at low prices Do you know anything of him? Please inquire of Bro. Ansell - All well -

Yours truly
W. Means

I received by
April 23rd

Mr. J. Means
for you

1863

I was called
away on Tuesday to
perform a very operation
He detained me until
Wednesday morning & dur-
ing the night the water
got so high in Sandy
that I was unable to
get home till after
the Boston had gone
up, or I should have
been at your fathers
Wednesday morning.

Your little daughter
is requiring the
use of arms I think
you may rest satisfied
that she will entirely
recover it. I should say

feel at all uneasy about
her, or think she was
was not doing right
in any way, please
write me if I will
endeavour to see her

Yours truly
A. Appalling