WARTIME LETTERS: 1861-1864 OF PERRY MAYO CORPORAL-COMPANY C SECOND INFANTRY BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

Detroit City - June 5th, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

Your note came to hand yesterday but owing to the intense rain I could not get to the city to send the trunk until this morning. It send in all the clothes which I am not allowed to carry. It contains also a package belonging to Mr. Finley S. Kinsley to be left at Manchester's store. I had the promise of coming home today so as to bring it myself but last evening we received orders to pack our things and held ourselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice for the seat of war. Everything is now ready but when we shall go I know not.

The key to the trunk you will find in my right vest pocket, the trunk is not locked. The likeness for Aunt Charlotte you will find enclosed. Give her my best respects, perhaps some time during the war I can get leave to come up there.

In regard to your coming to the fort, be sure to come if you can get here before we leave.

In regard to the small pox, there is not any danger now. There was but one case and owing to the prompt measures taken by the surgeons it was checked in the bud. There has been one death in the Fort since I came. The rest, as well as myself, are all well at present.

You can find out in the city whether we are gone. If we are not, take the ferry boat and come down and see us. You can get passage down the lake if you happen to be here when lake Superior Steamer is going down. There is no regular line from here down the lake and I do not know what days they go.

You speak of not being able to read my letters but you do not know how I have to write. My table is a drum head or a saw log and there is noise enough to drown Niagara Falls. I guess, however, you will make out somehow or other to get at my meaning.

I presume in my hurry this morning I have forgotten half the things I want to send but if anything is left worthwhile I will send it in the general bundle going to Battle Creek.

I do not know of anything more at present. The next letter you get from me will probably be from Washington or thereabouts. If I do not see you before you go, give my best respects to all my old playmates and relations, especially to grandmother, Uncle Perry and family and any others who may feel an interest in my welfare.

Nothing more at present so good-bye.

I remain as ever, your dutiful see

Perry Mayo

There was a Fenton Kingsley in Company C. A. A. Regard Market and Any.

Washington - June 10th, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

I again take my pen in hand to send you a few lines. We arrived here this morning at three o'clock after a journey of about 800 miles in as good health and spirits as could be expected after so long a journey. We left Detroit on Thursday afternoon after marching through the city for about three hours. We were greeted with the utmost enthusiasm. The girls were stationed at the windows waving flags and firing revolvers to cheer the men on to the great duty they had to perform.

We then left on two steamboas and arrived in Cleveland at sunrise, we then left on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. We arrived at Pittsburgh at dark. We were nearly fed to death on the road through Ohio with pies, cakes, lemonade and compliments. Flowers were showered on us at every station. The country is rather poor. I saw no good farms on the road. At Pittsburgh we took the cars for Harrisburg. This road runs through one of the most rough and mountainous countries I ever saw. We arrived at the Great Tunnel at ten o'clock in the morning. This tunnel is 7/8 of a mile right through an iron mountain.

One of the men lost an arm here. There was a small station here. He was waving his handkerchief to some ladies on the platform and looking back when his arm struck a post. We got to Harrisburg at noon. Here we struck up our tents and stayed all night. There is about 4,500 men in camp here, some from Wayne County, Part I had no chance to see them. We left there yesterday morning for this place. Our route here lay through one of the most beautiful countries I ever saw. The wheat here looks very fine and will be ready to harvest in a week or ten days. In the afternoon we crossed the Maryland line. Here we saw lots of slaves all along the line. Nearly every bridge has been burned on this side of the line and they are now guarded by armed men.

We stopped about six miles from Baltimore and loaded our guns and got ready for action. We got in the city just at dark and formed in line and marched about three miles through the city. The rowdies were out as usual, hooting and insulting the men. When we had got nearly through one of them commenced throwing stones into the company. Mext behind us, After three or four had been thrown, the Captain told his first sergeant to fire which he did so shooting the rowdy dead on the spot. This ended the muss. Everything here looks like war. The city is full of troops marching in every direction.

I understand 20,000 more were sent to Harpers Ferry last night and more are going this morning. There will be a bloody battle there no doubt. I expect we will go up but do not know. I have been up to see 'Old Abe's Shanty (the White House) this morning and like the looks of the establishment pretty well. The latch string, however, did not hang on the outside, and I did not go in to see him. I went through most of the principal streets this morning early and alone and enjoyed the scene very much. We shall stay here a day or two to get rest and when I write again I will tell you more about it.

Perry Mayo Washington - June 10th, 1861

Stephen Manchester is sick here in the Hospital but not dangerous. He was able to walk through Baltimore last night. I suppose when you get this father will be in Pennsylvania but I intend to write to Grandmother so he will hear from me there.

The weather here now is very hot indeed. The sun comes straight down here.

There is nearly everything in market here now, green corn, etc.

Nothing more at present.

Direct to me; Company C 2nd Regiment Michigan Volunteers Washington

I remain, yours in haste.

Perry Mayo

2 Stephan menchaten wer in the many of head afecting. He was discharged of turgeon certaficate of discharge of u. S. Horpetel, Mench, N. J.

Dear Father and Mother:

I again take up my pen to send you a few lines, having written two letters home and received no answer. I hope you will think enough of my communications to answer them as I feel just as much anxiety to hear from home as you do to hear from me.

We are now in camp about eight miles from the City of Washington which place we left after staying two days to rest. I had an opportunity of visiting the Senate Chamber and Halls of Congress, also the President's Mansion where we saw "Old Abe" and Lady, General Scott and many more distinguished persons, the patent office and Smithsonian Institute are places worthy of note. I saw the clothes and sword worn by General Washington, together with all the presents ever made to the Presidents of the U.S. and all the machines patented here.

We have been building forts here for the defense of the Capitol. They are now done and the men are shooting down an old stone factory on the other side of the Potomac to try their cannon. They have about twen 20 large guns and make the stones fly some.

There is nothing of importance going on here now in the fighting line,

However, we are doing something on a small scale. I have been on several scouting excursions into Virginia, in one of which we took one rebel soldier, three horses, cloth for eighty uniforms and lots of other stuff. Yesterday another party took a Sharps rifle and several muskets and revolvers. We take prisoners nearly every night. There is now six in camp. One spy caught in the act of making light signals to the enumy at night, and one of the members of Company G in this camp the broke into a private house at night, drew his revolver on two women (the only occupants) and robbed the house of 119.00 dollars in money after which he shot at a sentinel in order to get into camp. The sentinels gun was loaded but he dared not fire back. The guard then ran up and he drew his revolver on them but seeing four muskets aimed at his breast he caved in. They are both on trial now at fieadquarters and will most likely be shot at sunrise tomorrow morning.

We have soldiers fare now, except when we go out scouting when we fare as we can. The Colonel gave orders last night on parade, not to milk any more cows inside the camp without special orders.

The woods here are full of better cherries than you can raise at home. They are now ripe and come first rate. We have plenty to live on, such as it is. We have plenty of bakers bread and all the pork, fresh beef, coffee and beans we can eat, with rice twice a week. The men are in good spirits.

There is a good many sick now mostly caused by imprudence. That fellow (Hollman) that you told to see after me at the depot the day we left mattle Creek finds enough to do to take care of himself. He has been caught in bad company and is so bad off he has been on duty since we have been here and stands a good chance to be discharged and sent home.

3 long at the Hottenan was a for death to at alleaden Vigener on Oct 2, 1862.

Perry Mayo Camp Winfield Scott June 20, 1861

I never enjoyed better health in my life. I sleep just as sound here on the ground as I did at home in bed and come out right side up every time.

You know more perhaps of the movements of things around here than I do except just around this camp, we are under the immediate command of General Scott who visits us quite frequently. He keeps eight regiments here for the defense of the Capital during the campaign and I understand, on good authority, that we are to be one of the number. So our cake is dough for seeing any fighting, for if they are invaded they will never come in here. Our principal duty will be picket guards and sentinels.

The season here is quite forward. The farmers here are busy now cutting their hay and rye which is a first rate crop. We go out every day to practice shooting and have shot down ten acres of grass for one wan. We expect extra pay for this.

I am a kind of jack of all trades in this camp. I have worked part of the time as helper in the blacksmith shop, part laying stone on the forts and making rakes for cleaning up the camp. For this duty I get forty cents per day extra pay. We never have to work more than six hours in a day and unless on extra duty, not more than three.

Last Sunday, the Third Michigan Regiment came up to our camp and the Fourth is expected soon. We are all together now except the First & which is ten wiles from here. I am going over to see Con Nickerson in a day or two, one of them was over here today. He says one of their men was killed last night by accident.

ERIDAY MORNING - 21st. 5 A.M.

Those wen on trial for their lives have not received their sentence

The news was brought here last night that fighting was going at Alexandra, but as we heard no cannons we do not believe the report. The men, however, slept on their arms, ready to march. Our arms are Harpers Ferry Rifles and muskets, Southern arms with Northern principles.

Old potatoes are worth \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel, Butter 25¢ or 30¢ per pound, Corn ei8ht to to shillings and other things in proportion. Vegetables are plenty and cheap. I was out fishing till 9 o'clock last night and caught a fine lot of cels. The Potomac River is full of fine fish, and it is no trouble to catch them.

I am going on another scouting excursion into Virginia today. to go towards, Fairfax Courthouse and may be gone two or three days. Dana Bostwick wants you to stop and give his folks his address (the same as mine). He is well and, Dow Moore also.

I do not think of anything more to write at present.

Don't forget to answer as soon as you get this as I have not heard from home since we lest Detroit. I have written to Henry Bordine & of the Michen on Michen on the Boshnek was in Company to Second Reported making Infectors & Probably refer in Possesson Moore who was in Company to Second Reputy of Frobably a friend in michigan

Perry Mayo Page Three Camp Winfield Scott June 20, 1861

and Mary H. Bryant from here. Also to Grandmother and Steadman Lincoln.

My address will be - Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry near Washington, O.C., and don't forget to put the Michigan in as it may go to the 2nd Regiment of some other state. All the Eastern and Middle, and some of the Western states have from four to follow Regiments ments here now. Several from Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut, are in camp with us here now.

Give all my love to my brothers, sisters, and friends in Michigan, and if you wish to know anything from here that I do not write, inquire and I will answer.

I remain as ever, your obedient son

Camp Winfield Scott - June 30, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

Again I take up my pen to send a few lines home but I have long since given up the idea of hearing anything from you. You either neglect to write or else they are miscarried. I have received but one letter from Michigan since we left. I heard by way of Manchester's that you got my first letter from the Capitol. I have writer three home.

We are still in camp at the Chain Bridge. There is nothing of special importance going on here now. Troops continue to arrive here at the rate of from 150 to sight regiments per day. I see by the Washington papers that our Regiment is going into the Navy Yard on the 21st of July, but we are just as liable to be called into the field in 24 hours.

We had a grand mistater this (Sunday) morning, and all the sick were sent to George with. This looks like marching somewhere but no one knows, but I presume we go to the Capitol.

There will not be any fighting of any amount here until after Congress meets unless we are attacked. After the fourth, unless the matter is settled, fighting must commence in good earnest here as the pickets are almost in sight of each other.

There was a Secession Officer shot on Thursday might by one of the Texas Rangers. The officer tried to shoot the horseman with a revolver but it missed fire and before he could turn it, the Ranger shot him twice through with his Sharps Rifle. His body was brought down next morning to Camp.

I went to the city Friday with the Colonel and went through the private rooms of the Capitol. I intend to go down again on the fourth when Congress weets.

We had quite a treat last night for supper wush. You may laugh perhaps but to us, even without sugar or molasses, it was a rarity.

I do not think of anything of importance to write at present. My health is good and I enjoy myself first rate, but I should just like to happen up home now for the or 14r weeks to help hustle that wheat in, but you must do the best you can with it.

I expect we will get our pay tomorrow and I have more money than I want to carry with me. I guess I will send about 20 or 25 dollars home to you, and you can use it as circumstances may require. As the mail just now is very uncertain, I shall send by Adams Express Company.

We have been furnished with good suits of linen clothing and straw hats. We have our hair cut off close to our heads on account of the intense heat and to save combing.

All the boys of your acquaintence are well now and able to do duty. Stephen Manchester was very sick but is well now and enjoys bimself first rate.

11 Colored Grant B. Roberton of Proton Marly

Perry Maye Camp Winfield Scott June 30, 1861

We have all been out picking berries which are more plentiful here than in any other place I ever saw. They are mostly cherries, blackberries, raspberries, huckleberries and any amount of mulberries.

It commenced raining here about ten A.M. this morning and has been raining hard ever since but we are perfectly dry. Our tents are large (20 men) and of the best kind. We are the best provided for of any regiment in Washington. General Scott has taken two of our best officers for the regular army, viz, the Lieutenant Colonel and Major. The Colonel was offered an honorable position but he says he will never leave his regiment unless he goes to the next world.

Nothing more at present, but now don't neglect to write or get Addison to do it and tell me how my wheat looks and how the other crops and matters get along.

I gave my address but to avoid mistake I will give it again.

Company C - 2nd Regiment Michigan Infantry Washington, D.C.

From your son,

Perry Mayo

12 At Colonel, Heyon L. Chapman of Defroit was apported a capture the regular army fort of several comment of the regional.

Dear Father and Mother:

I again take my pen in hand to send a few lines in haste as this is the last opportunity Ishall have of writing from here and maybe the last you will hear from me in some time, and Before you hear from me again we shall have an engagement as we are under orders to march into Virginia immediately, and As our orders are sealed, no one knows where we are going but I presume it is Fairfax Court House. All the troops here are moving forward now with the utmost dispatch except just enough for the defense of the Capital.

There was an attack on the picket guards last night and two were killed. I saw their bodies this morning.

I wrote to you yesterday, but I thought I would let you know we were gone. My health and spirits are first rate and I feel able to do my duty in action any moment but I guess Dana Bostwick will be sick when the pinch comes.

Nothing more at present. I shall write again just as soon as there is any chance of getting anything through.

P. Mayo

P.S. I received a letter from grandmother this afternoon. They are all well. I have also received one from S. Lincoln in Mancock. He desires me to give his best respects to you and Mother. Nothing more at present but my love and best respects to you all for the present. Us [tendman]

I remain yours in haste.

Georgetown, July 23, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I still live. I have just arrived from that terrible battlefield and am now safe again in the land of freedom. I was in the field during both the engagements and escaped with no other injury than a sprained ankle and two ball holes in my clothes, one in my cap and the other in my blanket which was done up in a roll and passed over my right shoulder. This was done on the first day in the engagement at Bull Run.

We left Camp Scott on the 16th and marched to Vienna (the town where the cars were fired into sometime since) where we slept in a marsh, and I caught a very heavy cold. The next day we marched within four miles of Centreville, and after our days march I was so overcome that the doctor was called. The next morning I got a ride and kept along with the company until noon when I stopped to rest and got about a mile and a half behind when I heard the cannonading commence and hurried up as fast as I could and got up so as to go into action with the N.Y. 12th which was next to us in the same brigade.

We marched down a long hill through a wheat field and attacked them in a piece of woods where they had a masked battery and some 20,000 men hid in the scrub pines like so many "ingins". At the first fire we rushed in, I supposing all the time that our boys were in ahead of us which did not prove to be the fact as they had gone farther along out of our sight and laid down. After the first volley we got behind trees and took them at their own game and fired four rounds when we retreated over a small knell under cover of our cannon. In the retreat my ankle was hurt so I could scarcely walk, but when my company came around, got off with a little help out of danger. We then went back some two miles and camped to await that terrible Sunday, long to be remembered.

On the morning of the 21st we were called out at sunrise expecting to go into the hottest part of the engagement and the Captain told me, as I was too lame to make a quick movement, to remain, but, as I did not like the notion of having anyone else fill my place, I formed in and marched on the field where we were held from morning till night in a suspense that can not be described. We imagined the fight was raging in the most terrible manner on our right, with a volley every few minutes on our left, and a heavy cannonade from four of our batteries within eighty rods of our front. The smoke would frequently settle over the knoll on our lines. We were formed three lines in line of battle but did not get near enough to fire a shot.

Our brigade and Colonel Richardson were complimented for saving the whole army, after our forces gave way on the right and were retreating in the utmost confusion. The enemy made an attempt to break our left and cut off our retreat but the Colonel withdrew his brigade and threw it into a field and formed us all behind a large stone wall. The enemy came to the edge of the woods just out of range of our guns and as they did not like the looks of our bayonets sticking over the wall they very prudently retreated. Had they come out we would have shown them some tall specimens of Michigan markmanship.

Page Two Perry Mayo Georgetown, July 23, 1861

After their retreat we formed in line along a piece of woods when our men slept on their arms until midnight and then the division retreated toward Washington (the rest of the army had all left unbeknown to the Captain or ourselves). As the exertion of the day was too much for me I was soon left behind to fall a prisoner in the hands of the enemy. After getting along for about two miles, I fell in with a member of one of the Connecticut Regiment who was wounded in the head, and we made out to find an old horse which carried us both safe through to Arlington Heights. I do not know where the Regiment or Division is but presume I shall find it in time. There was two or three of Company C sick down there and I do not know what became of them. The rest were together. None of them were hurt. I am able to walk around a little by using my gun for a crutch and will not probably be able to get around much for some time. My health otherwise is better than could be expected. Our loss in the first engagement was about side, killed and wounded, but I can form no estimation of our loss in the last battle.

I saw Con Nickerson the day before the last fight but have not heard from the regiment since I understand they are badly cut up and their colonel killed. I received your letter of July 5th just before starting.

The manner of disposing of my money that you spoke of suits me well enough as I suppose it safe there and hereafter, in regard to any of my business there, act to the best of your judgement and you may depend on its going satisfaction on my part.

I would write more but do not feel able so I must close for the present by sending my love and best wishes to you all while I remain your son

Perry Mayo

This was the first Battle of Bull Rup. Col. Richardson sensed the disaster which had befallen the Federal Army, so he formed his Brigade as a rear guard. These were the only organized troops between the Confederates and the Capital, and the only troops to march back to Washington in good order and ready to fight.

Washington City - August 2, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

I received your very welcome letter of July 26th yesterday and was very glad to hear from you as I had began to think you were all dead or had forgotten to write.

I wrote home the next day after the retreat from the field of Bull Run. In a few moments after writing to you I found one of our baggage wagons and was carried to our camp where I have been lying for the past ten days in the hospital receiving treatment for my ankle which had by that time become very much swollen and somewhat painful. I am happy to inform you that I am now much better and was discharged from the hospital yesterday. I can get around now very well with a cane but cannot do duty yet. When I arrived in camp I found the company had counted me among the prisoners and that Captain Byington had sent a company back fifteen miles in hopes of finding me but as they went on a different road from the one I came they did not arrive in camp until sometime after I did.

The resiment retreated to Alexandria, some ten miles from our camp at the Chain Bridge and afterwards moved to Arlington Heights where our camp now is.

We are all in first rate health and spirits once again, and the boys have some lively games of ball in which I hope soon to be able to take a part.

I am very glad to hear that you have the wheat in safe but I am sorry to hear of the damage done by Gordon's stock and as to damages, I know him so well that I never expect the first cent in that line. I send you, however, by this letter full power of attorney and you must do the best you can in the premises.

In regard to the expenses of harvesting my wheat, I expect you to take a sufficient amount from any money belonging to me which may come into your hands to indemnify you against all loss. I sent home \$25 of my wages by express which you will get of A. Noble of Hattle Creek. This is my U.S. pay from the 25th of May to the 25th of June, together with my mileage. There is now over a month's pay due me beside my state money. I can send it all home as soon as I get it.

You wish me to state a few of the particulars of the fight but you have no doubt seen more correct and elaborate accounts than I can possibly give you. You seem to doubt the reports of their loss being equal to or greater than ours. Of this you need have no doubt as from a hill just in front of our lines, we could see the whole battle. At one time, about 1 P.M., the enemy sent a very strong force of infantry up a long lane to attack our center, and Major Hunt's Battery of Flying Artillery was sent from our side to intercept them. The Battery kept concealed behind a small hill in the road until the rebel columns had advanced nearly within pistol shot. When the guns were moved up as quick as lightning to the top of the hill and before the enemy could form in line, they received such a shower of grape and cannister that

Costain from the comment of the Control of the Control Right make what y

Page Two Perry Mayo Washington City August 2, 1861

it seemed as though their whole column was struck to the ground as by one stroke from the hand of the Almighty.

This Battery (Hunt's) consists of six pieces of brass cannon, 12 pounders, and in this engagement they were assisted by two 32 pounders from another Battery. What few was left after the first two rounds from the Battery made good their escape to the woods, but their number was few.

There was partial successes on both sides during the day but our men had the field fairly gained and had driven the enemy in nearly every point, but owing to some bungle and an affright amongst our teamsters, caused by a charge from their Cavalry, we were obliged to stand and see the whole lost without firing a gun. Our loss was perhaps 1,000 killed and wounded and their lost must have been much greater. They were too much crippled to make an attempt to follow up the retreat.

I do not think of anything were of interest just now.

I am in receipt of a letter from Grandmother, also one from Aunt Charlotte and S. Lincoln of Hancock. The desires me to send his respects to you and mother. They are all well.

Write as often as you can, and next time write me a good long letter if you can find time.

Nothing more at present from your son

Perry Mayo

*Probably Hancock, N.Y., from which the Mayo's had emmigrated twelve years before.

Dear Father and Mother:

As I am lying here in the hospital with nothing else to do, I thought I would write home again although I have heard nothing from my last as yet.

You need not imply that I am sick because I am in the hospital. They keep me in here for fear I will be. I have been having the numps for the past week andmy face is very much swollen now, but I feel as well as ever. My ankle is almost entirely well.

There is nothing of importance going on here now to write about. There is a continual fire kept up almost every night between our pickets and the enemy. Two men in one of the NY Regiments were killed last night in this way. Some of the boys who have been as far as our outside pickets say that they can see one Regiment of Rebel Cavalry and several of infantry out on drill every afternoon. They can be seen with the naked eye.

I had my chin and upper lip shaved for the first time since leaving home in order to have this taken. I send you my picture but I suppose you will hamily recognize me in this uniform. It is, however, a good representation on a small scale. It was taken before I was taken with the mumps. My face is full because I was never so fleshy as now. My lameness did not cause me to lose any flesh. My general health was never as good as at present. I weigh, at present, 170 lbs. My average at this season of the year at home was about 155-165.

There was a mutiny in one of the NY Regimed So Thursday. They refused to drill so our Colonel took the Michigan 2nd down there and made them load their guns. He then told the New Yorkers to fall in which they did on short notice.

I have just received a letter from Aunt Charlotte, also one from S. Lincoln. They are all well.

There has been quite a perceptible difference in our rations since the exit of Jo Barton, Jr. We now have plenty of good bread, fresh beef, pork, beans, peas, sugar, vinegar, etc. and in the past four weeks we have sold \$45 worth of pover rations. This looks some water the like living.

I would have written sooner, but, since the new regulations, it is almost impossible for any one to get across to the City so we could get no stamps. They are very strict now about letting persons across in order to prevent communication with the enemy.

I don't think Mother need give herself any uneasiness on my account.

I am as much interested in this matter as anyone, and I don't allow such small things to trouble me in the least. I have become so accustomed to this life that I don't let anything disturb me. I sometimes wake up in the night and hear continual discharges of musketry Perhaps I may get up and go out of the tent to listen, but I am more likely to roll over and go to sleep again.

18 First It to the State was the Regardal Questosmarter for the Level Regard, making defactory.

Page Two Perry Mayo Arlington Heights August 18, 1861

The hospital is almost deserted now, only ten patients and no one much sick, so you see for 1,000 men this is a very small ratio of sick.

Nothing more at present. I remain as ever, your obedient son

Perry Mayo

Arlington Heights, August 24, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

Yours of August 11th I was very happy to receive next day after writing my last. I was very sorry to hear of your loss but don't see how it can be helped unless by using more care in the future.

The horse that brought me from Centreville has gone to Alexandria, it being contraband of war. I had no claim to it.

In regard to my killing so many rebels as Mr. Percy tells of, I think he might be mistaken. He was not within nearly half a mile of me, and I never told of killing anyone. The fact is I could not tell myself. I could not see the enemy except occasionally between the volleys of their musketry when the smoke would clear off a little. I fired four rounds and had to guess about the right height and fire away trusting to providence for the effect but I didn't shoot over, the fifth charge exploded just as I was turning it in, blowing the cartridge off close to the ball, Some of the powder is in my right hand yet.

In regard to my school money, I don't believe in your running after it too much for nothing. It is now two months over due and if they will not get it now, sue them as I took part of my pay in uncurrent money, I don't feel like fooling with them much over the rest. In regard to my wheat, you may do the best you can in the matter.

In your next, write what wheat is worth now and what the prospect is of selling it this Fall.

The weather has been very hot here, the thermometer running as high as 135 degrees. But for the past two weeks it has been quite cool and pleasant. We got new blankets yesterday having lost our others at Bull Run, also a new suit of clothes all round. I have clothes enough now to last me a year and am going to meeting tomorrow in some kind of style.

We are going to get our two months pay again in a few days and I shall send some \$20, more home.

I am out of the hospital again and my health is now first rate again. There is quite a number of our men sick now with mumps and measles, and as we have nothing but a large tent for a Hospital, it is a bad place to have such diseases. This shows you the necessity of a family having them at home because you don't know where they will be thrown when they leave and then is the time they are sure to be exposed to such diseases, but I got along with mine first rate.

In regard to war news, I don't know of anything of importance. Just now, we have had a grand parade and inspection this forenoon by General McClellan, President Lincoln and W. H. Seward. Troops continue to arrive daily and there is now more men here than when the battle was fought. The government is concentrating any amount of

¹⁹ the Kentral Benja me challen B Co. C. Served Regnet muchigas defeating

²⁷ William H. Lewerd . Secretary of State

Page Two Perry Mayo Arlington Heights, August 24, 1861

flying artillery and cavalry here now and things are fixing for another break, but next time we are bound to go the whole hog or none.

Our pickets were driven in last night by rebel infantry and a battery of artillery. Several men were injured, none killed. This is our first general alarm here. Most of the Resiments were kept under arms all night and the garrisons of forts and batteries kept the guns in motion all night in order to be ready at a moment's warning. Their object however, was not to attack but simply to annoy us. I see, however, several batteries going out with the pickets this afternoon, and I guess they will run against a snubbing post if they try it again tonight.

I regret to hear of the death of Mr. Cook and Mrs. Callender, but it is only a matter as to time. Perhaps it will be mine next.

The smoke is so thick around here just now that I can not see three rods and the jars so I can not write. The forts are firing a salute in honor of our distinguished visitors so I will chose with my respects to all.

Dear Father and Mother:

It is with pleasure that I find myself able to write you a few lines this Sunday afternoon, Same paragraph !!!

of sickness. I had been discharged from the hospital about a week and began to feel first rate. I was appointed one of the General's bodyguards and entered upon my duties. The second day the enemy made an advance on our lines at about 5 PM and I was sent to carry dispatches to the different brigade commanders and was on this duty nearly all night amid a tremendous thunder storm. I went to Washington and to nearly every brigade on this side of the Potomac. The consequence was that I got thoroughly drench and caught a very heavy cold which brought on a relapse of my former disease together with the bilious fever, and for about two weeks I was unable to sit up in bed. But owing to our excellent physicians, my fever was broken up on the start, and I now feel pretty well again and shall report myself at my post for duty again tomorrow morning.

I don't know whether I shall lose my position in consequence of my sickness or not. I did not write to you that I was sick because I thought you would be more concerned about me if you knew I was sick.

Our company has been out on the lines as pickets. It is some five miles out to the Phony Sof these enemy from here and about eight from the City. I went out to the lines yesterday afternoon on horseback to carry dispatches II found our boys in a cornfield blazing away at the enemy the best licks, and they in return firing into the corn_ by guess. The boys have rifle pits dug in the field and being mostly good shots rather take the advantage, in this mode of warfare.

The enemy's forts are in plain sight, and we could plainly see them mounting guard, drilling [etc]. I should judge they were poorly clothed, as with a field glass we saw four of them come out and go round the fort, all of them having holes in the seat of their pants and in a ragged condition generally. Several men in our Regiment have been shot while on picket but none of our company. One of Company K's men was shot through the shoulder with a common sporting rifle. He is doing well. A couple of Company G's men were going through with the manual of arms. One was giving orders and the other going through with the exercise (not thinking the gun was loaded), when the orders were given, ready - aim - fire. The gun was aimed at the breast of the person giving orders and the whole charge went through him killing him instantly but such things are so common here that I hardly ever make note of them.

Since I have been able to get around, I have been to Washington and visited the Navy Yard again. The amount of cannon making here now is almost incredible. They are mostly rifled and of large size. The manner of making musket and rifle balls too is novel and interesting. They are no longer run in moulds after the old method but the whole

Page Two Perry Mayo Arlington Heights September 8, 1861

thing is done by machinery. The lead comes in rods the right size. They are fed in a machine like wheat, and the balls come out like bail.

The cartriges too are all filled by machinery. The famous Minnie, which most of the troops here use, are just like the long balls belonging to your rifle with the exception of the large end which is hollowed in the same shape as the point. When the gun explodes, this thin shell spreads and fills the bore, thereby gaining all the strength of the charge.

The Pensacola, a new man-of-war building here is well worth a visit. She is just finished and will make her trial trip this week. She is built in the strongest manner possible. She is marked for 36 guns and will have about 50. They are all rifle cannon and bomb howitzers. She looks like a floating battery.

Things begin to look like fight around here. The pickets are in hailing distance all along the lines for a distance of ngue or ton miles and keep shooting at each other for fun. Our professor is watching their movements every day from his balloon. The rebels, to keep up the excitement, have been shooting down a couple of private houses with their artillery. No one hurt. I don't think they made it pay. They may want their ammunition yet.

Both sides are watching each other and any move may bring on a general engagement, but, if they will come here to fight us, we are on our own ground.

We have a regiment of Cavalry in our brigade. They are regulars who have served in Texas and are fully armed and drilled to perfection.

I am glad to hear that there were some boys left in that section willing to culist. I wish they were in our company. I Think the boys missed it in joining a Cavalry Company, and they will find that out in time. You could not get one of our company to join the Cavalry now for we know how it is.

I think we have just about the best times out when we feel well. I enjoy myself in the best manner imaginable, and we all laugh and grow fat.

I have not heard from you since my last, but I intend to make it a practice to write about once a week when I am well, and will send you papers when I can get them.

[1]do not think of anything more at present so I will close by sending my leve and best respects to you all.

Perry Mayo

You must excuse the ink on this sheet as it is the best I have.

Headquarters, 4th Brigade Arlington - September 21, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

Yours of September 15th has just come to hand, and I was very glad to hear from home again. I received those two letters you mailed at Bellevue several days since and have delayed the answer until now in hopes of getting my pay so I could send some money home, but "Uncle Sam" is like some other paymasters, good enough but rather slow sometimes. There is now three months pay due us but we shall get only two months pay now. Our pay rolls have been made out sometime and now we expect to get it on Monday next. We get all this payment \$23.66, and as I have been sick quite a good deal, it has cost me more than usual to live, and I can not send home more than \$20 very well as I want to keep enough with me for any emergency. I guess I will send the next by draft on N.Y. I can get Treasury notes but they are not entirely safe by mail.

I am happy to inform you that I am now entirely well again and as tough as ever. I took my post in a few days after my last to you and have been on duty since. I like my position first rate. Our duty at present is very light, only two hours on duty in twenty-four unless something unusual takes place. Disservick is a member of the guard and will get along well enough unless he happens to get into a tight place. His promotion was solely on account of his pride in dress, and this is a material item in this position.

In regard to the settlement of damages between myself and Gordon, I am willing to abide by any settlement you make as I, of course, can tell nothing about it as I know nothing about the amount of damage done but should think the basis of settlement which he proposed would be much better than to have any trouble about it. As I understand the terms, he is to give me 30 bushels from his share after the wheat is divided and If the damages was not more than \$60, I think this will do pretty well. I think prospect for wheat is brighter and have no doubt that it will bring a good round price yet before Spring.

In one of your former letters you wished me to tell you who was in Jo Barton's place but I forgot to tell you. Our 2nd Lieutenant Gilman was premoted to his position and 2nd Sergeant Hodskin' (a nephew of the Deacon's) was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. The Company had no say in the matter. Captain Byington remembers your favors to him at the Marshall Convention last Fall. He did not like my leaving the Company but couldn't help himself, and I am not under his authority now, only I have to get my pay and mail from the Company. Still he has always used me well, and now I don't have to look to him for promotion if any such thing is deserved.

As I am writing quite a long letter, perhaps a short description of our General would not come out of place. He is a man some 55 or 50 years and, in proportions, much resembles Scott. He is over six feet high and will weigh about 220 lbs. His countenance is stern and when he gives an order, he means it but he is a man, every inch of him. He never puts on any extra airs or style but delights to be around amongst his men in citizens dress, And now I will relate a circumstance illustrative of his character.

Page Two
Perry Mayo
Headquarters, 4th Brigade
Arlington, September 21, 1861

There was a man here who owned a large peach orchard containing over 1,000 bushels of peaches, and when the troops came here the General placed a guard over it to protect his fruit. In a few days the General happened along dressed in his citizens clothes with his old straw hat over his eyes. He strayed into the orchard and picked up half a dozen peaches, and in coming out he met the proprietor who demanded pay. The General asked the damage and was told 50 cents which he paid. Then turning to the guards he told them their services were no longer needed there. The boys all took the hint and in a week there was not one left.

I see there is great excitement around there in regard to enlisting. I supposed when Arad and Charley Fitch enlisted something would turn up but this being an engineer sounds you know. But, by the time they have been in the service as long as I have, they will know all about this engineering business. We have plenty of them here, and we call them sappers and miners or pontopiers.

I see the B.C. Journal doesn't know what they are going to be armed with, but I can tell him they will each carry an ax and a shovel. They are told they are not wanted for the fight and are led to suppose all they will have to do is to make figures and write love letters, but our engineers have to make reconnaissances, mend bridges and roads, cut out new roads for the transmission of artillery, cut the bushes in front of masked batteries etc. They are always in advance of the main army and are generally covered by a body of skirmishers, but all I have to say to the boys is to go in. They've got to learn to take a joke.

If any more of the boys are going to enlist, advise them to join infantry. It is the best arm in the service. In your next I wish you to state whether you ever got the likeness I sent also whether you get the papers. I sent one to Addison and generally send one home per week. The story here is that they are burned at the P.O. in Washington but after the postage is paid I should think they might as well burn any other mail matter.

Palmer Shepard arrived here last Monday night right from B. Creek. He said he saw you there when he left. There when he left that none were wanted for Cort., but since then we have lost two men. One died and the other had his arm shot off while in a row caused by gambling for money. I hope this will be a timely warning for some of the rest. If our company without two of the recruits and the rest made a good deal of fuss because they were obliged to go into other Companies.

In regard to war matters here, there is nothing of importance going on except active preparations and the arrival of troops by thousands daily from all parts of the country. The 5th Michigan came here night before last. The 7th has gone to Harpers Ferry and the 6th is in Baltimore.

Our Company is out on picket at Balies Crossroads, & mile from the enemies fortifications on Munson's Hill which the papers make such a blow about. These works don't amount to shucks and we have a

of all book

to the of the Younger

the dependence of manter of Co. Co. State of the Co. Stat

Page Three Perry Mayo Headquarters, 4th Brigade Arlington, September 21, 1861

fort here (Richardson) which although four miles off commands the whole thing and with those heavy guns can silence the whole thing in half an hours firing any time. It would be no trouble to drive the enemy farther back any time, but there is no use in it. It would only extend our line of pickets over more country and consequently take more men for guard and be of no advantage.

I think there will be some fighting here but not right away unless they attack us. I think the policy is to invade some Southern State, and thus oblige them to come in here and fight us or divide their force, and then we can very easily go out and fight them. I see the government contemplates sending 25,000 men to Texas, and there is some talk of our brigade going. This would just suit me as I don't care a cent where we go now, and I want to see some of the world.

I see you must be out of a horse team now but if you here you might easily buy one. I saw the condemned government horses sold a few days since. They brought from 37% to \$15. Some of these cost \$150 not two months ago and with good usage would be just as good as ever in two months to come. But when this war is ever, there will be a chance to get horses here. There will be over 100,000 horses which must be sold for what they will bring.

I have run ashore and must quit,

Your affectionate son,

Dear Father and Mother:

Yours of September 27th came to hand in due time and found me in good health and sprits, and I hope this will find you the same.

We are still at Arlington although in my last to you I said we were going to leave here the next morning but we didn't go. We have been under marching orders ever since but no one knows when we will start. The orders last night were to keep two days rations cooked till further orders. If think we will go the fore part of this week. We are going to Hunting Creek some 20 or 30 miles down the viver from here.

The enemy continues to fall back from here, and our troops are advancing slowly but surely. Small fights are of almost daily occurrence but nothing of any magnitude. The regiment is here in camp today they have been engaged for the past week in chopping and building fortifications on the famous Annison's Hill.

They have had a new Colonel appointed. His name is Poe? He is from the regular army. The boys don't like him much. He puts on too many airs to take with Volunteers and he will find out ere long that he is not in the regular army.

I was in the City yesterday. I Saw BBrodhead's Cavalry and the famous Berdan Sharp Shooters.

There was a drove of some 3,000 head of beef cattle came in for the supply of the immense army now here. So you see we eat some meat here.

I received a Chicago Tribune from some one. The letter Addison sent I never received but I think yours have come regular.

I sent home \$20 of my wages to Noble's. I forget to mention it in my last so I suppose you have got it ere this time.

I heard some time ago that you threshing your wheat and should like to know how it turned out and how much you had.

One of our Corporals has gone home on a recruiting mission for the 2nd. He lives in Bedford. His name is Bert ? Perhaps you may see him.

I received a letter this week from the boys in Missouri, also one from Aunt Charlotte, Wothing of importance in either, All well.

I do not think of anything more to write just now and state in your next whether you received the picture which I sent home some time since.

Please preserve the letters that I write home from the seat of war unless you have already destroyed them as they may be interesting some day.

Nothing more from your son,

Coloncho Polanda

our wife

Camp Poe - October 14, 1861

Mr. Mayo Sur:

I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you for Perry to inform you that he is sick. He was taken down October 10. He has been very sick ever since. He has got the intermittent fever, he has yomited every 20 minutes since yesterday morning. He is a little energy this morning.

He has been with me all the time. We are chumbs. We sleep together, but he will go the the hospital today.

We left Camp Arlington on Saturday. Perry thought he would get a little better so he would not go to the hospital till we got moved. I will do all that is in my power to make him comfortable.

Perry wishes me to say to you that he has wrote two letters and has not received so answer yet from you.

We are nine miles from Washington. Seven miles from our old Camp, camp ground, one and one half miles from Alexandria.

There is nothing new here. All spears to be quite.

Mr. Mayo, if there is anything that you wish to know, and Perry is not well so as to bring, let me know and I will do the best that I can to inform you.

I must close my letter. Excuse my poor writing.

Yours truly,

Danag Bostwick

byreet to Washington the same as before.

Camp Poe - October 18, 1861

Dear Brother [Addison];

Your kind and welcome letter of September 22 came to hand. Since I have been here sick, and, as I feel able to set up a few moments this afternoon, I will answer it the best I can. I am a good deal better than I was when Dana wrote for me. I have been yery sick and can set up now for a few moments at a time.

I did not go to the hospital. I occupy one of the General's tents, and the doctors come here twice every day. The doctors do not consider my disease dangerous at present i hope I shall soon be out again.

There is nothing going on here. There is any amount of force, why

I never felt the need of home and a mother's care as since my last sickness. When I am well I enjoy myself well. Weighed 170 lbs. the day I was taken.

I redeived a letter from George Hicks stating that Henry Bordine was discharged from the Army.

I don't feel able to write more.

Answer soon.

I remain as ever, your affectionate brother

Perry Mayo

37 Storge Wills

Fort Lyon, Virginia - October 23, 1861

Dear Father:

Yours of the 13th has just come to hand. I was very happy indeed to hear from home once more as it had been some time since I had any news from home.

I am a little better than when I wrote home last. I can get around camp a little but don't gain strength any.

We are all back to our companies again now. The bodyguard is all disbanded. We had some hard cases in the guard from Detroit and other towns, and they stole; and cut up so that the whole guard was disbanded for their doings. There is no bodyguard now at all.

There is nothing going on here. The rebels have two batteries on the river a few miles below here on the river and we can hear their constant cannonade at our vessels as they try to pass up and down the river.

Our Regiment and the 3rd were out on a scouting excursion the other night. They went some 12 miles and found three rebel camps, and, after stirring them up, all came back to camp without firing a gun.

We are 12 miles from Washington and 3 from Alexandria and are the extreme left of the lines. There is men enough here now seems to me to do something if we are going to make any pretentions to put down the rebellion at all. I am getting out of patience with this do nothing palicy.

It rains all the time here, and as the country is very clayey, it is mud, mud, mud. A person's shoes provered an inch deep and everything looks growy enough.

I was surprised to hear of Henry Bordine's discharge as I was in receipt of letters from him every week stating his excellent health and what glorious times they had.

I want you to take good care of that boat we built last Spring as I expect to come home to go fishing in that again.

I will send you in this letter a fig leaf which will likely be a new thing up there. There is not quite ripe fruit and blossoms on the same tree, but there is fruit from the size of a pea up to ripe fruit which is about as large as a black walnut.

Dana Bostwick has got the rheumaticks very much in his ankle lately. [I]

I do not seehow you can possible get along on the farm with one horse I should think that would be only an aggravation.

I do not think of anything more at present but remain as ever, your son

November 6th - 1861

1

Partial Letter of Perry Mayo to his brother, Addison Mayo.

I have just received a letter from father. I guess I am as well posted in regard to the young folks in our neighborhood as he is for I knew all the news contained in his letter some month or more ago.

I am very sorry to hear of the illness of Jane Markham. If she dies society will lose a very worthy member.

Tell father the bodyguard is disbanded on account, I suppose, of their not being wanted any more at present as we are likely to remain some time in camp and the men would be of more use on duty in their companies.

Now I have written you a very long letter and you must be sure and answer. Your letters are very good, and I could not believe at first that it was your writing. It is first rate. The only desk I have to write on is my knee and my pen is more like a crowbar than an instrument to write with.

I must close by remaining as ever, your brother

24 1- -- 11-

Mayo

Fort Lyon, Virginia November 15th, 1861

Dear Father:

Yours came to hand sometime since and I take this opportunity of sending a few lines home.

I wrote a long letter to Addison wave got no answer as yet but I

I have nothing of interest to write. I am as well as could be expected. Have been having the ague for some time, but it is now broken up with quinine and feel pretty well.

The weather here is quite cool. There has been no ice or snow as yet but we have had some very hard storms.

There is nothing going on here and consequently, no news to write. The fort is getting along pretty well. There is now some forty guns in it.

This brigade was out on a reconnaissance in force a few days since took one prisoner and one stand of arms, Quite a few flor fifteen thousand men. I do not think this Army will move soon. I think the plan is to keep enough here to defend Washington and do the fighting in some other parts.

In regard to affairs at home, If you can keep my wheat till winter or Spring, I think the prospect is for better prices. I expect to get my pay on the 26th of this month. I Shall send \$20 home. I Shall most likely send it by express the same as the rest. You will probably get it the first of next month.

Nothing more at present from your affectionate son,

PE Mayo

Fort Lyon, Virginia - November 24, 1861

Dear Father and Mother:

I again take up my pen to send a few lines home. I have ment two letters home and have received no answer to either as yet, but I suppose, of course, you are very busy which, of course, is sufficient to account for the delay.

We are still in camp at the fort and engaged in mounting the guns. A part of the regiment is on picket duty some seven miles from camp. They have pretty hard times out there as the weather continues to be stormy and cold. They take no tents and have to take the weather as it comes.

We are all well at present except Dana Bostwick. He has the rheumatism, lameness, hypo and almost all the other diseases that flesh is heir to. He says they may as well send him home first as last as he won't get well if they keep him lying around here all winter. He brought in a cane one day but the boys whooted him so that he threw it away. I think he will live some time yet unless he is taken worse. My ague is broken up, and I feel first rate again I kave been on duty for sometime past.

We were all out on the grand review by Gen McClellan and the President this week. It was one of the most sublime sights I ever witnessed. This was the largest amount of men ever brought together in one army on this continent. I should think the men, horses and cannon would cover a quarter section of land when formed in close column. When formed in division, the width of which was the length of two companies in line, the length of the column was nearly four miles in length.

I do not think there is any sight for a fight here. There is some stir here just at present on account of the troops leaving for the South. The Lincoln Cavalry left here last Sunday morning and the 28th N.Y. The to leave this camp tomorrow morning. They go to Baltimore and from there to Beaufort, South Carolina. I understand on good authority that Gent Richardson has sent in a petition to have his brigade sent there, but I do not think there is any sight for going Think we will stay here or in the town of Alexandria this winter.

We received our pay day before yesterday. I have sent home \$20 the same as the rest. I suppose it will get there as soon as you get this. I have just got a letter from George Markham informing me of Jane's death.

I send you with this letter a Sunday Morning Chronicle. Since the boys got their pay we can get papers. Before money was so scarce that it would not pay for the newsboys to bring them here.

I do not think of anything more at present. She boys are raising cain in the tent, and they make so much noise that half the time I write something else but what I intend to.

With my love to all, I remain as ever your son

Fort Lyon - November 29th, 1861

Dear Father:

Yours of the 25th came to hand last evening. It found me in first rate health and enjoying myself first rate, but there is quite a good deal of sickness in this camp at present. There is four from our company pretty sick now with typhoid fever which is the prevalent disease.

It has only been four days since I wrote home, but I have to answer this now or else wait some time as I am going to the lines on picket tomorrow and do not expect to get in camp again till some time next week.

There is no news now for me to write. Everyling goes on after the old sort.

The money I sent last will not get home as soon as I expected as it is in Capto Byington's hands and he is sick and has not been able to get to town to send it.

In regard to the contract between me and Gordon, he was to clear the ground fit for the plow. I was to get the ground in good order. He was to furnish half the seed. I was to harvest and stack the grain after which he was to hear half the expense, that is, furnish half the help, team work, etc., and pay for threshing his own half. The contract was made one evening in Gordon's front kitchen in the presence of Griffin McRale and several more of his hands. I do not suppose you can collect anything against him if you sue him and get judgement. Had I been there, I should have taken the amount from the machine by his leave or without it and he might sue me if there was any of that to be done. I do not suppose you can get a judgement at all unless you can prove his agreement to give me 30 bushels, as the damages were not legally appropried You may do just as you choose but I had rather give him the amount than to be \$25 or \$30 cost and then get beat. But withe way the matter is, I would be willing to take five dollars for all the damages I get clear of expenses. The wheat turned out full better than I expected. I thought if my share was 300 bushels it was doing pretty well.

I have received some presents from my friends in Battle Creek, among the rest a beautiful needle book or as we call them a Housewife. Like the original it is a nice thing in a family but it doesn't sew on the buttons.

When you write, state whether you got the Sunday Morning Chronicle I sent home last Sunday morning as I put it in the office and forgot to put on a stamp.

As I have nothing more at present, I will subscribe myself, your son



Camp Michigan - January 8, 1862

Dear Father & Mother

1

Yours came to hand last night, and I take the first opportunity of answering as it seems to take some time for an exchange of communication.

I am well at present, so are all the rest of the boys that you know. I should like to come home well enough but I don't think I shall until the thing is closed up. If there is any prospect of its being done, but it seems to go mighty slow. You see I cannot get a furlough for more than twenty days. This would leave me only twelve to spend at home, and after an entire change of diet, it would come pretty hard to go into camp again.

Perhaps you would like to know what I had for my New Years dinner. Well it was a cup of coffee and an chunk of boiled beef, no bread, Our bill of fare at present is for breakfast, a slice of fried pork or bacon, two slices of bread and a pint of coffee without milk of course and sometimes without sugar, for dinner, bean soup and bread, if we have it, and for supper it is the same as breakfast. Sometimes we get split peas in place of beans. We can get rice but cannot cook it so as to make it eatable. Once in a while we get a mess of potatoes. You may think this is pretty hard fare, but we don't eat it till it tastes good, and it makes the healthiest looking lot of men you ever saw, and everyone seems to enjoy himself first rate.

I went to a ball a few nights since. I hardly knew how to act. It was got up by the overseer of a plantation near our camp, and a couple of us got an invitation. The family was from the state of New York. We had a good time. There was quite a number of Virginia girls present. One novelty of the thing was begro slave waiters.

You speak of it Hodskin not being able to see common folks at home. I guess he was thought as muchof at home as he is here. You zee the company have any thing to say about who their officers shall be and to tell the truth, the company is going down hill. The Captain is dead drunk more than half his time. He company get out of his tent to take command of the company more than two days in the week. This is a pretty rough charge but I am prepared to substantiate the truth of the statement.

Corporal Burt arrived safe in camp some time since. We have not moved since I wrote home last and are not likely to soon.

I suppose you have heard by way of Peter Bordine of the skirmish we had so I will not tell it again.

Nothing more at present, I remain as ever, your affectionate son

Perry Mayo

P.S. If it comes handy, you may just send along a good bundle of straw to sleep on.

Camp Michigan - January 22, 1862

Dear Father and Mother:

Yours came to hand last might and I was glad to hear from home once more. I do not see why it takes my letters so long to get to bettle creek as yours always come from there in three or four days. We get a daily mail here.

You got the wrong version of that skirmish from the Detroit papers but is about as straight as they generally get the news. The Lieu transfer spoken of was Benson not Denison. He was not wounded, neither was he in the action. A company of N. Jersey Cavalry went scouting supported by two companies of the Michigan 5th. They were fired on by a company of rebels. One of our men was killed and one wounded. The enemies loss is unknown. Our pickets rallied to support the rest, but the rebels left for safer quarters before they arrived.

This was not the one I spoke of. We were on picket on the Colchester Turnpike. Our pickets are posted about 40 rods apart and five men on a post. We had cabins built of pine boughs to hide our fires. Everything went on well till nearly morning. We were all awake on my post. We made a kettle of coffee. It then came my watch. I had been on but a short time when the sentinel on the next post gave a command halt, and the next moment a perfect shower of rifle balls came whizzing through our cabin. I fired and jumped into a gully made by the road. The rest, who were telling stories inside got out in due time. We ran some 80 rods and took shelter behind some houses but, they did not follow us, and after waiting a short time, we deployed as skirmishers and went back to our posts.

We found one robbed of all the blankets, provisions etc. but I lost nothing. There was two men hit but the one seriously injured. They crept up through some pine woods like so many indians and fired on three posts. We saw them after daylight in a field but were not allowed to open fire on them. We have just returned from picket. Have been out four days and it has raised all the time. Yesterday morning the captain sent two of us scouting outside the lines. It was very dark and after traveling some time we ran into a Penn picket post. We got our course again here and went within two miles of the enemies camp at Colchester Wedde not see anything on account of the dense fog.

I suppose you are all looking for some big thing from the Army of the Potomac soon, but you need not till spring. The roads are so bad that it is impossible to move artillery, and we can do nothing without it.

We have just received news from Kentucky. Palmer Shepard wishes you to send this note to Calvin. He also wishes to know his address. I should like to know what he is doing. You can tell him where I am, I suppose you hear nothing from George yet.

I received a letter from Jared Knapp. He says the school broke up and Thomas Bartrum was teaching it. I got a letter from St Lincoln yesterday. He received yours I have not heard from Monroe County a week or ten days.

Nothing more at present so I will subscribe myself, your son

him and was been brother who can away from

Mason's Plantation - Fairfax County, Virginia February 11, 1862

Dear Parents:

As it is now nearly a month since I have received any news from home, I will try to write you a few lines. You seem to think I am dilatory about writing but I wrote Addison more than six weeks ago and have got no answer yet. So the last I have from home is yours of January 14th.

There is no news at all to write from here. Our restant is out on picket and myself and three others (a corporal's guard) have been here for a week to protect the property. The proprietor (Mason) is overseer of a foundry somewhere down in Dixie and his son is a lieutenement in first Virginia (rebel) Cavalry so I expect the whole concern will belong to Uncle Sam one of these days.

It is a valuable estate. There some 20 slaves remaining here.
Last night after they came in from work, we went around to visit their cabins. We found them nearly all engaged in learning to read and spell and the energy and perseverance they show in this is well worthy of initation by those who have an opportunity of learning. They learn very fast. Some of them can read quite well already. I suppose you are aware that according to the law of the state it is a state prison offense for anyone to instruct them, but the laws do not amount to much here just now.

The weather just now is very fine, but this is only the signal for another storm. There is quite a number of our men sick at present but all are well that you know. One man was taken from the regiment hospital this week sick with the small pox, and, as quite a number were exposed it stands quite a chance to apread.

If you have not taken up that note of Manchesters as soon as it runs a year, it might be well to figure the interest and get a new note. If he does not wish to give another on demand, it will do me just as well on six months time. I sent \$20 of my last two months pay to Nobles as usual. Please write if received.

Nothing more at present.

I remain as ever, your son

Camp Michigan - February 27, 1862

Dear Father and Mother:

I take my pen in hand this morning in haste to write you a few lines as this is probably the only opportunity I shall have to write for some time to come.

My health is first rate and most likely before this reaches you we shall be some ways on our march into Dixie. We have been expecting it for some time past and last night after bed time we got positive orders to pack up everything and be in readiness to march at a moments notice. We are all ready and a company of 200 men been sent out to repair the roads (which are a perfect sea of mud) in order to facilitate in the transportation of artillery.

The men are all in good spirits at the prospect of doing something, we have been lying in camp in this mud long enough. Heretofore we have been doing all the yelling while someone else done the fighting, but there is no certainity of our doing anything yet. We are to carry our knapsacks and two days cooked rations. Speculations are rife as to where we are going. I do not know what my opinion is. We may move our camp some 15 or 20 miles and then halt again, but the general opinion is that we are going to move on the right flank of Mannassas.

I am almost inclined to think the move is to get the men far enough from the city to prevent their getting whiskey but time will tell. The next you hear from me may be in Richmond or "some other place" but I shall take my materials with me and shall write you again as soon as I get a chance to get a letter through.

Three batteries of field artillery came up to our camp this morning. One is the 6th RV Island. I don't know the name of the other. It takes twice as many horses as usual to move them, and their appearance reminds me of the story of emigrants to Michigan 30 years ago.

I have never grippin answer from my letter to Addison. I guess when I get it, I will bring the answer home with me. I got a letter from Arad stating that he was going to California. If it comes handy send me Calvin's letters. They may be of use to me, for my return to Michigan after the war will be owing to circumstances. There is a company of us who talk of going from here to California or Oregon, but we may have to come home to be disbanded.

Nothing more at present so in haste I will bid you good-bye.

Your son

Dear Parents:

Your last came to me a few days since but I had just written to you and I have delayed answering for a few days. I wrote you in my last that we were just on the point of leaving this camp. Well we are here yet but there is no certainty that we will be in two hours from now. Everything is ready for a long march. We have six days rations on hand and have been furnished with a new rubber patent tents which we carry on our backs. We have all got new Minnie rifles (perhaps I told you of it). We can hit a barrel head 120 rods twice out of three times. They are a beautiful gun. The colonel said this morning there was not a better armed Regiment in the service.

All the sick have been sent to Philadelphia, thus making room in Alexandria and Washington for 10,000 wounded soldiers. I was in our hospital today. It looked like a machine shop. They were packing up their instruments for transportation. Everything is kept so secret that I have been unable to learn what movements have been made in the troops here but the move is general. A battery of twelve 32 guns came here from the arsenal yesterday, also one of six field pieces from Baltimore. This makes 40 Guns to go with us. Perhaps we will have more.

The weather is fair, and the roads are getting quite good for week.

Our first fighting will be at Occoquan Village some fifteen miles from here unless the enemy evacuates it. The enemy said to have 15,000 men there. I went in company with ten others within 80 rods of their lines scouting in plain daylight. We found one of their men at a house. His legs made good time, He left his cartridge box and haversack. We brought them in as trophies.

Our company has been promoted from 3rd to 1st company in the restaurant. The first Regiment in the brigade and the first brigade in the division. General Heintzelman commands this division. The troops in this brigade are the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Michigan and 37th New York. With the artillery we expect to have the hardest fight at Cockpit Point batteries on the Potomac. They have been reconnoitered from a balloon. I can hear the guns from there while I am writing this. They are firing away in earnest at some of our boats.

I received Addison's letter also one from Aunt Charlotte. They are all well there.

In regard to my money, do the best you can with it. I suppose Manchester is good, If he does break, you will most likely get it some time. There is \$26 overdue me now, but we will not get our pay till the first of May, then if I live through (and I am strong in the faith that I shall), I shall get \$52. But if I should not, I want you to give anything that belongs to me to Josephine and Charlotte, equally between them, when, in your judgement, they need it.

I shall write you again as soon as anything transpires. I do not think of any more at present, so good bye.

I remain as ever, your son

3 Graphy a Chalite was his sates

Fortress Monroe - April 2nd, 1862

Dear Parents:

Yours of the 21st is at hand. I was sorry to hear that any of you were sick but hope to hear of your recovery soon as the measles are not as fatal at home as they are in camp. The 5th Michigan Regiment. lost over 60 men this winter with it.

I have just received a letter from grandmother. She never says anything to me about coming to visit.

But In regard to the war. You surprise me by your remarks. You fear McClellan is not the man for the place. Why? You will remember at the time he took command (August) there was scarcely men enough in the field to defend Washington. He had to organize and arm an army of 600,000 men. This took till winter, so it was impossible to bring the war to a close in the Fall, and in this country it is impossible to carry on a winter campaign. You think he might have found out what month they left Mannassas, and the escape of 200,000 men. One of the greatest blunders ever committed by any general since history began.

In answer to the first, everyone here knew they were leaving long before any move was made but how could he help it? All the horses in the army couldn't move a battery five miles while they could go off by railroad. In regard to the blunder, any military man will see that it was a great piece of Generalship to arrange his forces so as to make them leave their extensive fortifications without losing a man. There is no other place where the rebel army would fight as well as there, and they cannot fortify a place where we would have to fight at a greater disdayarage.

You seem to have fallen in with Greeley's policy. He uses all the influence in his power to make the Army Down all confidence in their commander well knowing that if this is accomplished it is sure of defeat. He is a greater traitor this day than Jeff Davis. You seem to forget that - McClellan - managed all the movements of the whole army. You see in Burnside's report of the capture of Newberne that he had carried out, all through, exactly the instructions given him at Annapolis. But, I am happy to say the men as yet have unbounded confidence in their commander but, he may well say: "Deliver me from my friends and I will take care of my enemies".

We have received an article from the pen of Col. Wednough of the B.C. Journal in regard to the management of the war, and it is well for him that he was not in camp for the boys would have given him a coat of tar and feathers.

I suppose you have heard before this where I am and of my journey here. There is nothing of interest going on. Troops continue to arrive every day. 15,000 came in yesterday, and there we so many here now that I will not try to estimate the number. The bay is full of vessels unloading night and day. I suppose we shall move as soon as they all get here but it takes some time to unload a large army with their equipment and provisions.

MAN

Perry Mayo Page Two Fortress Monroe - April 2nd, 1862

There is a division review this afternoon by Genked Heintzelman.

We are all well at present, and the weather is fine. We drill four hours a day and play ball the rest of the time.

If you can not read this pencil marking, write me.

No more at present,

P Emy

Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown - April 25, 1862

Dear Parents:

Yours of the 17th came to hand last night in four days after mailing, and I take this; my first opportunity of answering. I want you to answer my letters sooner, if you wish me to write often, as it has now been a month since I received anything from you (till now), and I have written you several without waiting for an answer.

You do not say anything about the wheat. In your next please inform me whether you have sold it or not. If you have, how much was there of it net, the price per bushel, the amount, etc. I inferfed from what you said in regard to buying a mortgage that you had sold it. I suppose wheat is not worth quite as much now as it was.

We have not received any pay as yet but we expect to get two months pay in a day or two. The 3rd as getting the today. There will be four months due us in five days more. I shall send you \$20 or more. I shall send it to Nobles as usual if there is any company fund sent, if not I shall send it by Adams Express, if they have any agent here (and I understand they have) and If there is no other way, I shall risk it by mail, but these regimental mails are very unsafe to send money in.

You say P.F. Bordine is married but you do not say to whom. He told me that he was going to be married, and I learned from another source that the lucky one was going to be a Miss Bailey from near Bellevue. Is it the young lady who used to dance in Bailey's show?

I am sorry to inform you of the death of Palmer Shepherd but perhaps you have heard before this. The story may be false as we got news from the General Hospital that one of our company was dead and buried the other morning and at night we returned from work and found him in camp fit for duty. But, our Surgeon told me that he thought there was no doubt of Palmer's death as he had received direct information of the fact he died four or five days ago with the small pox. He was taken with it the 13rd day after we came here. I have been directly exposed to the small pox several times since I came from home but I am well protected by vaccination.

When you write me again I want you to send me 25 three cent por stamps, and I will send you the money to pay for them. We cannot buy them here without paying the Sutlers from 75 to 100 per cent share on them in money, and I don't propose to do this if I can get them from home.

I see you are dissatisfied with things here. You say the progress here is anything but flattering as far as you can learn but I beg leave to think you can't learn anything about it. I know there was quite a pressure against McClellan in Congress by a political clique with I chandler at their head but my opinion is all those who had most to say about the matter were better judges of good whiskey than they are of military operations. I know this is the case with Chandler as I have seen him viewing troops when it took a man on each side of him to keep him on his feet. He made a motion to put Progress in Commander in Chief but he failed in this. I see Freemont has Michigan in his department. The boys say his headquarters are at Whiskey Run and at last accounts he was fortifying Verona. I think he has a good place to fortify and if the rebels come up there no doubt he will fight them to kill. I see he has sent a dispatch to the Secretary of War stating

(*a sarcastic joke: Porona is a suburb of Battle Creek)

Page Two Perry Mayo Camp Winfield Scott April 25, 1862

that he had taken one prisoner, a notorious character. Bully for him. But I am satisfied with McClellan as long as he makes no mistakes and Generals Scott, Halleck, Burnside and those who ought to know what is right, are satisfied with his movements. But there is no use of our arguing as each one will think just as he has a mind to after all.

Politics has more to do with the popularity of our generals than any fighting qualities. It was political jealousy that removed Fremonit from his first position, and the same thing will remove McClellan. I see the people at home think there is nothing doing here, but, if they were obliged to work night and day, hail, rain or shine, in range of from five to six hundred guns, scarcely ever getting more than two or three hours sleep in twenty-four, if they could see the men as soon as they are off duty a few moments sitting up against tree stumps or anything else that will furnish support and keep them out of the water on the ground, sound asleep, and the rain pouring down in torrents, wet as rats, and not allowed the use of a fire as the enemy could see it from their works through the pines and fire on us, they would see more how it is and then to have the community at home keep crying, "You are not doing anything", is almost enough to discourage anyone.

I think the military roads are all finished now. They had to be built for miles through a rough country. They had to be graded as nice as a railroad in order to transport guns over them that will weigh from 17 to 20 tons. I think the attack on their first line of works will not be delayed much longer. Forts from number 1 up to 7, counting from the right are finished and most of the guns in them. The enemy left all the woods standing before their works and these forts are built within rifle shot of them, hid by thick pine woods. Our Fort number 1 has five - one hundred pound rifle guns and some 200 lb. It will command any fort on their right wing. The rest are armed accordingly, some with 13-inch mortars. (I do not know anything about the works on the left)

It will take us some time yet to get their whole works but they must come down unless it is the policy to fight slow and make the enemy keep a large share of their force here while Banks and McDowell take Richmond. Then they will have to leave this of course. We worked on a fort (No. 8) yesterday. The enemy found out where we were and threw shat and shell into us right smart. We kept in the ditch and no one was hurt. We see that picket on the 16th during the general cannonade. The balls and shells from both sides flew over our heads and we laid low. We heard the charge of the Vermont regiments but could not see it for the woods. One of our Sergeants could be to the cannon ball.

We got our pay this afternoon, but if I keep on writing I shall not stop at all so I close and remain as ever, your son

PE Mayo

Enclosed in this I send you one dollar for stamps. I shall send \$20 more tomorrow by Company as usual. Our paymaster will express it from Washington.

the Highest

I suppose you will be anxious to hear from me so I take this poor opportunity to inform you that I am still slive and well and able to do any duty.

I suppose you will hear ere this reaches you that we have passed through to battle much wore terrific than Bull Run or any thing we have seen since our enlistment. We passed through Yorktown on the 4th and camped some two miles this side. Our company was on picket. It commenced raining towards morning. As soon as it became light the cannonading commenced some eight or nine miles in front. We started immediately, but the roads were so bad that it took us till noon to get six miles.

Here we commenced meeting the wounded and pretty soon some men came back on foot after ammunition. One of the General's aides came to us here with orders to leave everything but our arms and hurry up as fast as possible. We left our knapsacks and took the double quick through the mud for the scene of action. We arrived just in time as the men in front were out of ammunition, but still holding their ground. The first scene we met after we came under fire was one of our batteries in the middle of the road where the mud was from one to three feet deep and veryythin. Every horse was killed, and the gunners lay killed or wounded amongst them, in some places all that was to be seen was a foot, leg or hand sticking out.

The enemy was making a desperate effort to get possession of this battery. Our Company was thrown to the right of the road in the woods. A company of volunteers jumped in and manned the guns that remained whole. The 5th Michigae and 37th N.Y. charged on the enemies rifle pits and drove them out with their bayonet. Three companies of our Regiment, ledd by Gent Kearny Charged in front up the road but they were overpowered and fell back to the line of battle.

Meanwhile our Company engaged the enemy on the right as skirmishers and the first platoon were in reserve 6 or 8 rods in rear. We held our position from two P M. till dark but the only miracle to me is that we only lost one man, (William Fox) wounded in leg. He will get well soon. There was hundreds of narrow escapes. We were in almost as much danger from the trees which were shot off as from the bullets.

At night the firing ceased and we were relieved and fell back some half a mile and built some fires and eat our suppers. It continued raining all day and all night. Next morning we fell in to renew the engagement, but the enemy had gone leaving their dead and wounded on the field. The loss is very heavy on both sides. Our Camp is 80 rods from the battlefield. I went all over it yesterday. There at several acres where you could scarcely step without stepping on the dead. They are not buried yet. Some of our company have gone out to bury the dead this morning. The enemy loss is equal to or greater than ours. All the houses here are full of their wounded. Our Regiment lost 16 killed, 37 wounded and 16 missing. I might give you many more particulars but you will get them in the papers.

No more at present.

Yours in haste.

William t

Perry Mayo

Camp on the Pomunkey River, Varginia

Dear Father:

Yours of the 4th is received and I take a few leisure moments to answer. My health continues first rate although we are exposed to almost everything and I believe I can stand anything now but cold lead and I can stand that well enough as long as it does not hit me. When I speak of our camp, I mean the spot where we lie down to spend the night in some marsh or muddy cornfield as we have had no tents since the 11th of March.

The reason that I spoke about my letters was I get letters from some of my corespondents who live as far from town as you do much more punctually than I do from home, and I take more interest in my home correspondence than any other. But write as often as you can, and I won't find fault. In regard to my wheat, you can sell when you think best and draw it off when most convenient. I think the prospect is good for a rise and not much probability of its falling. You speak of its raining all the time in Michigan, but it can't beat this seacoast country. It rains here from Monday morning till Saturday night, and when it correct rain, the fog is so thick you can cut it with a knife.

There is no news of moment to write you from here. The fact is, nothing is news nowadays unless it is an account of some great battle. We are now 25 miles from Richmond and moving on slowly but surely and if the enemy shows fight this side of the Capitol, it must come in a few days. Note and Our occupation of the city is only a question of time. Since we left Williamsburg, we have passed over some of the best country I ever saw in Virginia. The wheat looks first rate and is just commencing to head out. It furnishes good feed for our droves of beef cattle. The roads were strewn with everything in the war line. Several field pieces and cassions were left and any amount of wagons, among them quite a number that our army lost at Bull Run. All the cannons and cassions had all the spokes cut out and the ammunition destroyed but the wagons were mostly perfect.

A great many deserters come into our lines every day. They are a hard of set. They are not dressed in any particular uniform, and most of them are dressed in citizens clothes. They frequently hide in the woods to pick off our officers. One of them fired at our brigade quartermaster at a distance of 20 feet. The ball struck him in the arm but did not hurt it much. The rebel was immediately taken care of. Two more of them fired on a squad of our cavalry killing one man. They then threw down their arms and offered to surrender but the cavalrymen refused to make prisoners of any such men. They cut one fine enough for mince pies. The other was brought in minus one ear and part of his scalp.

I think there is no use of arguing McClellan's merits. He answers our turn pretty well. You seem to think he ought to have seen to the issuing of rations to his troops. This would be something of a job when the wings of the Army are from five to forty miles apart. Set we never suffered much from hunger till we came before Yorktown, and then it was impossible to get provisions enough to us, and I think if you read the history of Napoleon's Campaigns, you will find where his men suffered frequently from the same cause, especially in his Russian Campaign.

But the reason why I said anything about it was, almost every letter and paper received from Michigan praised up Fremont and ran down McClellan. I was not discussing the question publically mor on your

account, but everyone else there is just, so now I can't see anything that Fremont has done deserving of great praise. He bought a great quantity of perfectly worthless arms for the government at an extravagent price. The 5th Michigan was armed with them at first. Half of them could not be fired at all, and a man was in no danger at ten rods distant if they did go. This is not the only outlay of this kind he has made, I should think he would be too expensive for the government. I do not speak from hearsay in regard to this because I know, but I hope the war will soon close and then the matter will be settled.

I think our armies are striking blow after blow, just as fast as possible. Notwithstanding the Tribune says our leader is in league with the rebels.

In regards to those quaker guns, I can send any amount of them if you will pay the freight. There is plenty of them at Yorktown and Williamsburg. That is, I suppose they are quakers, they made the ground quake when they went off and if I mistake not, some of Uncle Sam's soldiers partook slightly of the epidemic. I thought myself that an advance toward Canada would have been a safe investment when the men were falling all around and the grapeshot was mowing all the limbs off the trees.

In regard to Palmer Shepard, I can gain no additional information as he did not die in the regimental hospital. Our surgeon told me today that he was certainly dead. He died of small pox at the Church Hospital, some two miles from Yorktown and is buried near there. He died about the 20th of April. There must have been some \$50 pay due him unless he owed the sutler. I suppose his wife will get it from the Captain of his Company will did not go to see him owing to the nature of his disease.

Your son,

Mayo

I again take an opportunity of informing you that I am still alive and well having passed safely through the fiery ordeal in the shape of one of the bloodiest battles ever fought. Our negiment is very badly cut up, as you are aware before this. After the battles we have fought and the sickness occasioned by the hardships of camp life, the Michigan 2nd can not raise more than 300 men now, fit for duty, out of the 1040 that came to Washington with us one year ago, and besides our original complement we have had quite a lot of recruits. I think by the time we fight a couple more battles there will be none left to tell the tale of our adventure. But the strangest thing of all is that Company C is so lucky. We only lost one man in this battle, Sergeant George Hayes 3 in the thigh, very badly. The bone is broken and it may prove fatal.

The battle commenced on the 31st of May at sunrise. Our regiment was on picket by the side of the White Oak Swamp. We called in and arrived at the scene of action at 4 P.M. and found this part of our army, in this part of the field, pretty badly whipped. We were thrown in at first as a support for another regiment and the battle raged for 15 or 20 minutes terribly. But the regiment was overpowered and fell back on us and we were all ordered to retreat which was done in perfect order for 80 or 100 rods.

The rebels followed us to the edge of a piece of woods, but they would not come out. Finally Colonel Foe was ordered to advance on the woods with five companies (all he had with him) across the open. Company C was on the right of this line. He refused for some time, saying it was no use to take a few men up there to be slaughtered. Finally a positive order came from General Jameson to do it and rather than be arrested for disobeying orders he gave the word forward and the little band moved forward. As soon as we came in range, they opened a terrible volley on us. We returned it and advanced to within 20 rods of the woods. When the order came to halt. We stood there and fought for 10 or 15 minutes while they poured volley after volley into our ranks from behind trees, and I believe the men would have stood till the last man was down but we were called off and the enemy did not follow us.

As we came out the Colonel said it was not his wish to have us slaughtered. He said he had obeyed orders this time against his judgement but he dowled be d--d if he would do it again. His horse was that and killed under him. If I live to get home, I can tell you all about it, but it takes too much time to write it. We are now about 40 rods from the battlefield acting as a kind of support for our working parties. Hundreds of the dead of both sides are still unburied. I have been all over the field this morning, but I forbear to tell of the horrible sights I waw.

I have been taking care of the wounded since the battle till this morning. I am now in the company again. I was at the depot where the wounded were sent off on the cars and helped load three trains with wounded men and the piles of arms and legs around the operating stands was enough to sicken anyone not used to such sights. The enemy had left in somewhat of a hurry as they left all the arms and knapsacks of our men undisturbed.

5) The Hayer of the form was a company on the

Perry Mayo Page Two Seven Point Mills, Va. June 2nd, 1862

There has been a constant fire of camon to our right and in front all day. The fight is still going on in some parts of the lines. I suppose the enemy will claim this as another of splendid victories but I must close this as I only intended to write a few lines to let you know that I was alive.

Chery Mayo

P.S. I do not know the loss of our Regiment as yet, but it is heavy. I have not heard from home in a long time as we do not get our mail regular. [SIC.]

Plerry Mayo

* Harper, or Hayes, George H.

I again take my pen in hand to send you a few lines. We have received two months pay, and as I do not wish to keep my money with me and as there is no way of sending it by express, I shall have to risk \$20 in the mail, although it is very uncertain as almost everyone handles our mail here. But we are liable to be called into battle any moment and beside my chances there, I am very hable to lose it out of my pockets lying around here on the ground. But I shall keep \$6 for any emergency.

There is no news of interest since I wrote you the day after the battle. We were under arms all day yesterday. The enemy drove in some of our pickets, killing and wounding several. I do not think it will be long before the final battle is fought here but the result is not doubtful. I think this will end the campaign and most likely the war. The day I wrote you last we passed the battlefield just at night on a reconnaisance. We went near enough to the enemys lines to exchange shots with them as we returned, the sight on the field was truly sickening. In one spot, 56 horses lay with their harnesseon just as they were killed by the guns, and all over the field lay the dead of both friend and foe (mostly the latter) already exposed to the hot sun for two days. Many of the dead remained on the field the feighth day unburied. Hundreds were just covered up as they lay without any graves at all.

In one spot on the field where the rebels charged on our men who were hid in some fallen timber, the ground for a space 60 rods long by 20 wide was covered so thick with the dead that they would touch each other and there was not room enough on the ground to bury them. You may judge from this something of the character of the fight.

Their loss must be nearly double ours as they left two dead on the field to our one all through. I know this is so as I was on every part of the field several times after the fight. I told you in my last that our regiment would not number more than 300 men for duty, but now some have returned from the hospitals and the stragglers are all in, we number 413 men. Our brigade (Berrys), four regiments, numbers 1376 men. This brigade has done more fighting and lost more men in battle than any other brigade in the Army of the Potomac.

I have heard nothing from home in more than a month. Our mail is so very slow but I look anxiously for something every mail. I have not heard as yet whether you got the money I sent from Yorktown. If you get this letter in B C. please drop me a line before you go home as I am anxious to know at the earliest possible opportunity whether you get this or not, so that I can tell whether it is best to send any more money by mail in case we get any more pay.

My health continues first rate and all the boys you know are well. I received a letter from our wounded this morning. Serge Hayes is likely to lose his life from his wound. It continues to rain most of the time here and with a will, too. The other night we were laying on a side hill. I was dreaming of a stormy sea voyage when a clap of thunder awoke me and I found myself going down stream at a rapid rate.

30 Berts

Perry Mayo Page Two Fair Oaks

Fair Oaks June 10, 1862

The rain had worn a gully under me, and that is the way I was carried off. Had the stream run toward Michigan I don't think I should have been in much of a hurry to crawl out. Don't ask me any questions in regard to this yarn.

I do not think of any more news or nonsense at present, so I will close this by sending my love to my brothers, sisters, father and mother, and all inquiring friends.

From your son,

Perry Mayo

THIS IS A PARTIAL LETTER AND IS NOT DATED BUT WAS WRITTEN AFTER
THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG AND FAIR OAKS Profit between June 10 and 5,1862

Most of the troops here are engaged in building forts and trenches, and you need not be surprised if Richmond does not fall in some time yet. The repulse of Fremont, Banks and Shields has evidently delayed our operations against the city. You blame the Commander in Chief (the President) for this but I think it will come around right in time. But you must be aware that McClellan has no more to do with the troops in the Valley of the Shenandoah than Halleck has. It is not in his department. You blame McClellan for putting raw troops in front. Now these troops were not raw, they were well drilled in camps of instruction and had seen some service, but had not been under fire. If they were kept out of danger, they never would be and it is the policy of any general to keep his trusty and tried troops in reserve for any emergency. Our division (Kearnyss, including Berrys Brigade to which the Michigan 2nd belongs) were in reserve at Williamsburg and Fair Caks, and we bore the brunt of both battles. Our brigade of four Regiments losing alone 1,385 men killed and wounded in the two engagements. But, I hope the rebels will stand here and fight a general engagement, so as to decide the thing one way or the other. But if the troops are discharged in one year from this date, it will be fullwas soon as I expect. Still we hope for the best and are sure of winning this battle when all is ready.

My health could not possibly be better, and my face is tanned to the color of a copper boiler by the sun and weather. It is very hot here now, and we suffer some for water in our present camp.

I do not think of any more news now, and if anything of interest turns up, I will write you immediately.

I do not think much of the language Calvin S. uses toward his parents. I think he is a Shepard, too.

My love to you all,

Perry

It gives me pleasure to be able once more to send you a few lines. Of course, you heard ere this time how we "didn't take Richmond" and I suppose you are anxious to hear from me. Our regiment has not suffered much in the fights of the past few days, only four killed and several slightly wounded. None of Company C here, hurt. I am in the hospital now having been completely worried out.

I was in the fight on the first and second days at the time the left took possession of Tavern Hill, four miles from the rebel capitol. This position would have commanded the whole city and works had our right wing held its ground. But their falling back, of course, made our position untenable. During the advance I acted as scout and guide for the left wing of our division. We had not gone far before Hooker's main line and ours became disconnected and the ends lost in the swamp. I was sent to the right to find the left of his (Hooker's) line as soon as possible, but the line had been broken some time and our line was nearly half a mile in advance of theirs, so I did not find it and in going to the right was entirely outside the lines. The firing soon commenced very heavy and rapid near Hooker's center, and knowing there was a line of battle here my object was to go to it and follow it down to find the left and join our line to it.

As I neared the action (still supposing myself inside of the Union lines) I came to an open field 30 rods wide by 80 long and started up the fence toward the farther end. I soon discovered a Regiment of men hidtin a peach orchard. Supposing them to be our men I gave them the signal, but no one answered. Supposing they did not see me I kept on towards them and soon saw Hooker's men lying in line to my right behind a fence. They answered the signal, but as I turned to go to them, the men in the orchard, who proved to be rebels, opened their whole fire on me, and I was obliged to run for 30 rods across an open field amid a shower of balls to which all my previous battles were not a circumstance. But still the one that was to kill me was not among the number.

Two of Hooker's men were wounded where I got over the fence and one killed in the next panel. Hooker's men commenced returning the fire before I reached the fence compelling me to lie down and crawl some piece to avoid the fire of our men. When I reached the fence, I fired my gum in return and went on about my business and finished my errand none the worse for my adventure. When I came back, my stay had caused some uneasiness and another man had been sent on the same errand. He went just the same route I did but discovered his mistake just in time to save himself.

After Hooker's men took the enemys works on the hill they charged on it solen times and were as often repulsed. The ground in front was piled full of the enemys dead and wounded. Our regiment was not engaged but we could hear every command on both sides and the groans of the wounded in the still night was awful. I was in a severe skirmish on the second day near the same spot but on the second day I was obliged to knock under having been on duty as guide and scout for six days and nights in succession with scarce six hours sleep in the whole time. I was brought here in an ambulance being unable to walk.

35 Hoster

Page Two
Perry Mayo
Harrison's Landing July 5, 1862

I am so as to be up around a little now and shall soon be on duty again. The regiment was in one engagement during the retreat. They fought behind a breastwork and were safe. The enemy tried three times to take it under fire of grape and cannister from 50 guns but were driven back leaving thousands of their dead on the open field.

No more at present.

Perry

Dear Father:

As our mail facilities are again open, I improve the opportunity of sending you a few lines to inform you that I am well and getting along as well as could be expected. I did not write for the first week or ten days after yours came because I expected some money to send home and since then there has been no chance. There is four months pay due us now and no prospect of getting any soon. We have all lost our knapsacks twice this summer. The first time they were in a store on the Chickahominy and burned on the retreat, and when we left Harrison's Landing our new ones, containing everything we had, were put on board a schooner for transportation and the vessel sank. I lost all my stamps and writing materials except this envelope which was in my part pocket.

Since leaving James River we have had some hard marches but we get along very well as we could get plenty of fruit and green corn. It would have done you good to see the army go into the cornfields and orchards on the route. They carried every ear of corn out of one fifty acre lot in half an hour and it was good corn too. After a five day march in the dust so thick we could not see the man in front of us we reached Yorktown where we all had a good swim in salt water.

We embarked here and had a pleasant trip to Alexandria. Quite a laughable incident occurred on our way up; the boat was crowded some and most of our boys slept on the hurricane deck. During the night the engineer blew the whistle. The men who were asleep thought the boat had blown up, and three of them jumped into the river and were picked up by the boats. The captain of the boat was very slow in lowering the boats. General Kearnyy came up and told him, if he let those men drown by negligence he would be tied to the stern post and shot without trial or jury. That's the way they do business here.

At Alexandria we took the cars and came here by way of Mannassas Junction passing our famous battlefield of July, 1861. We are about 20 miles from Mannassas now and ten from the Rapahannock River where our front now is. The enemy occupy one side and our forces the other. We can hear the cannon all the time and may move up at any moment.

We are in a first rate country now. Fruit and vegetables are plenty. I saw a citizen shot here vesterday. I was after water at the house and one of the first N.Y. Cavalry went in for something and the man tried to put him out. A scuffle ensued when the soldier shot him through the head with his carbine. He was a wealthy man and a very prominent secesh.

We got our first mail last night. I see some of our B.C. Afriends were very indignant because Barnes Company had to lie out the first night at Jackson. By the time they have laid out seven months as we have without a mouthful of soft bread, it will not be such a terrible thing.

I do not think of any more to write at present. I will close hoping, if convenient, you will answer this in less than two months.

Camp near Ft. Lyon, Virginia

Dear Father:

I again set down to send you a few lines hoping to hear from you again sometime, but when I do not know. I wrote you from Warrenton Junction but have received no answer as yet.

William Moore was here and took supper with us this afternoon, and he coaxed me to write again. He looks first rate.

The 20th Regiment is here with us now and it seems almost like going home to get with so many of my old friends. All the Cenvis and Battle Creek boys are here now. Nate Parker has been here all day. He is Sergeout in the Marshall Company.

Since my last to you we have some hard times. Two hard battles and another Bull Run, but, as usual, our regiment has been very lucky. No one hurt in Company C. One of our corporals was taken prisoner at the time General Kearny was killed and released on his parole. He is now in Baltimpre. Our position in the first days of fight was at the ford where Coly Stone crossed to make the attack of the 21st of July (1861). We were deployed as skirmishers and marched up within rifle shot of a battery and lay for half an hour behind a fence and the rebels knocking all the slivers off the rails with grapeshot and canister. You may guess we laid low. We could have killed every man and horse in the battery but we were not allowed to fire. Finally one of our batteries got in position behind us and drove the enemy off and we were ordered back without firing a shot. You may guess the boys swore some.

On the day of the defeat, our regiment covered the retreat on the left. Two squadrons of Stuarts rebel cavalry made two desperate charges on us in order to get into the flying mass who were throwing away their guns and equipments and running for dear life. They were repulsed both times, and the last time a lot of the Harris, No Jersey Catalry came to our support and captured the whole lot. I am sorry to have to record such news as another Bull Run but it is no fault of ours. Troops never have nor will fight better but there is mismanagement somewhere.

You are probably anxious to know when I am coming home. Well? I think Jackson will drive us up there in about two months unless there is different management somewhere. I suppose there is a great deal of excitement at home now in regard to drafting. I should like to be at home for a couple of weeks just now. I think I could get a good position in one of the new Regiments now raising. I can get a recommend for any line office from officers high in position here, and I can get my discharge from here if I can get a commission in one of the new Regiments, but there is no chance to get home to forward the matter just now. There must be quite a number of men to come from our section yet, whether they will be drafted or volunteers is a question as yet. I suppose there is quite a number of my friends in the 17th Regiment, but

I have not seen them as yet. They are at the Chain Bridge some 10 miles from us.

My health is first rate and I am willing to fight as long as there is a man left in the 2nd Regiment before I will see the North invaded. We have not received any pay as yet. We expect four months pay this week.

Page Two
Parry Mayo
Ft. Lyon, Va. September 7, 1862

Ishall try to send \$45 home by express.

Give my love to mother, brothers and sisters.

I do not think of any more at present.

From your son,

Perry

P.S. Please write just as soon as possible as it seems as though I should never get any more news from home.

Henry Percy wishes me to tell you to tell his folks that he is well if you have any chance as he does not know when he can write. We have no money, paper or stamps. I have a great many letters due my friends at home and shall write as soon as possible.

Camp near Munson's Hill September 26, 1862

Dear Father:

Your very welcome letter of the 6th is at hand but as usual it has been a long time on the way. There must be some mismanagement in the lost office department as I do not get more than half your letters and they are delayed sometimes a month or more. I received the one containing the stamps and lost them all in my knapsack.

In regard to military affairs, I freely admit that there has been mismanagement but still I think McClellan does about as well as the best of them and with all respect for your opinions, I shall continue his supporter a while yet as I firmly believe he will come out all right.

In regard to the rebels fighting, I never argued that they would not fight with desperation and the only way to close this war is to completely overpower them in point of numbers.

You speak of trying to get me a position in a new regiment and wish me to write how it would suit me but you will get my wishes in regard to that in a letter I wrote you some three weeks since. Of course, a commission would be of great advantage to me but I think the prospect is very poor at present, as there is not likely to be any more new regiments formed in the state. The remainder of the quota will probably be made up of recruits for the old regiments. I am Sergeant of the guard today. I am a corporal in the company acting as Sergeant as there is only two more Sergeants in the company now for duty.

You wish me to state why it is that we have another Captain Byington. He (Byington) has been made Major of this Regiment in place of Major Dillman who was made Lt. Colonel in place of Williams promoted to Colonel of the 17th.

It is thought here that Captain Byington is coming back as the order dismissing offecers from the service on account of absence does not apply to him.

I wrote you in my last that the 20th Regiment was here. They left the next day for Leesburgh.

I do not think of much wore to write at present but firmly hope that such steps may be taken as to bring the war to a speedy close, and I firmly believe it can be done in ninety days.

Your son,

Pery Mayo

* Should ABAD - You wish me to state why it is that we have another Captain in place of Captain by ington.

of Walis

As I have a few leisure moments this morning, I will try to improve them by writing you a few lines as I think there will be a chance to send them off before we leave here. We have had no mail in two weeks, and you may guess we are anxious to get one. We have had only one chance to send letters since crossing the Potomac, so you must not think strange because you do not hear from me oftener. I am writing this letter in the loft of an old horse stable and think myself lucky to get any shelter at all. We are on picket and the rain has been pouring down in torrents for two days and mights without ceasing. The roads are almost impassable and the weather is cold enough for snow. I presume we shall get it before night.

We have been on the move ever since I wrote you last but have seen no enemy and are very little nearer our destination. We are now encamped on the Canada side of the river from the city which the rebels occupy as yet but not in force. They will probably leave as soon as our men commence crossing. Our artillerists amused themselves yesterday by firing at the cars as they passed in and out of the town. Our guns command the city and we can lay it in ashes at any time if they try to show fight here. I do not think we will move any farther toward Richmond just at present, and you need not be surprised if we go into winter quarters at or near here. Still there is nothing to indicate such a move as yet except the position of the army, and I hope the campaign will go on as I want to do my share as soon as possible.

This wintering men on army rations to get them killed in the Spring is poor business. The command of the army has been changed for the sake of getting a man who will rush things, and now let him "go in". The change caused some disaffection, but most of the men are willing to fight under any man who can close the war, but the war is prolonged more by politicians than by the fault of any general in the field.

The health of our Regiment was never better than it is now, but the exposure and hard marches take off lots of the new troops every day.

Snow fell three inches deep while we were crossing the Bull Run Mountains and the weather was as cold as Greenland.

Our regiment has been changed from our old division (Kearnys) into Burn's. We are now with the 8th, 17th and 20th Michigan Regiments and our Colonel (Poe) commands the Brigade.

William Moore stayed with me night before last. He sends his respects to you all and in speaking of him reminds me of how much I lost by not becoming a member of the lodge before I left home. Had I taken this step, I might just as well had commission now as the position I now hold. It makes more difference here than you can imagine. I should have taken the step (if not rejected) had it not been for mother opposition and I can now see that my failure to do so was one of the

GB Paplan

Fredericksburg - November 21, 1862 Page Two Perry Mayo

most important missteps of my life. But by the time a man lives one life he will just know how to commence.

Bob, Vanness, Jo, Cooley and all the rest of the boys from our section are here with us and well. I heard that Julia Palmiter and Dan were married by way of them.

When you write state something of the matters around the farm, whether the house is finished, and how much wheat you have in this Fall.

I got a letter from Grandmother by last mail, also one from Sarah Price. They are all well. Uncle Joseph was drafted and furnished a substitute. Some of the young men are coming by the draft. I

I suppose you all have enough to eat at home am that is more than they have in Virginia. Flour is \$20 per back, Sugar \$1.00 per point, etc.

But I must close this for want of room.

Write as soon and often as you can and don't wait for me as I will write as often as I can send them off.

Perry

lmter

Yours of November 10th is received and I will try to answer but you must be content with a short letter as there is nothing going on here just now and consequently no news to write. We are in nearly the same position as when I wrote you before with no prospect of moving soon. Still there is no arrangements made for a permanent camp, and we may move at any moment so there will be no chance yet to send those things I wrote for and as I am very much in need of the gloves and wish you to send them to me by mail, and I will risk their coming through. Roll them up nicely inside of two newspapers (one glove in each) so that they will not be seen. Seal them nicely, leaving the ends open and stick the wrapper fast to the paper. Put on a one cent stamp and direct them to me. Our boys have had mittens and socks sent in this way and they came all right. I would have them sent in this way, but I can not get any here and can hardly get along without them now. We shall get to some place so that you can send the rest one of these days, and even if it is not till Spring they will not come awiss as we use woolen shirts here the year round, and those furnished by the Government are the poorest things imaginable.

I suppose you would like to know how I spent Thanksgiving so I will tell you what myself and a partner (HPPercy) had for dinner - one cup of coffee each (which is the staff of life for a soldier), two pieces of fried pork (the last we had) and four crackers a piece and each cracker contained from ten to thirty worms varying in length from 1/8 to 1/2 an inch. When do you suppose we will have this Thanksgiving dinner? We do not have such crackers all the time but we had "Hob's choice" then, those or none. We broke them into our coffee to scald them and dipped them out with a spoon as they came squirming to the top.

Some of the boys who came out in the new regiments are sick. Nate Parker is in the hospital and Bob Vanness is complaining some. They can't stand this kind of fare as well as old troops. The weather is quite warm here for the season of the year, and our boys are all well.

They say I am too fat to see. I weigh 190 lbs and if I keep on will come up to 200 in a short time.

Write if you get the allotment roll of \$40 that I sent from Munson's Hill.

From your son,

TO TRANSPORT OF FRANCES

Perryl

Dear Father:

Your short but ever welcome note of December 14th was received yesterday and also the gloves which I needed very much. So I will try to answer hoping that next time you will try to send a little more news.

You do not say how you made out in your hunting excursion up North. When you write again please give particulars.

I wrote a letter to Addison and have received no answer as yet. In regard to news, there is none of any kind to write.

The weather is quite warm and the ground dry enough to plough. There is some prospect of our moving again as the sick have all been sent off and there is seven days rations ordered, three is haversacks and four in the wagons.

In regard to military moves, I think about two more under our present commander will use the ormy up entirely. At any rate, the men have lost all confidence in him and the sooner he is removed the better. I think our prospects in regard to a speedy peace are gloomy enough, and I do not see how we are going to move here except towards Washington as our pontion bridges have all been sent there.

In regard to the allotment roll I spoke of, the amount in Treasury notes is all right of course, but it is not what I sent. The matter is like this. The President sent an agent to the army according to an act of Congress with the power to take allotments of soldiers pay to their families or friends so I made an allotment of \$10 per month of my pay payable to myself (so that I could get it in case of necessity). So at the pay table, I only get \$3.00 per month in money and the rest in a soldiers allotment roll payable at the office of the United States. Assistant Treasurer at NTV I suppose they keep it and pay you the notes because there is a premium on the draft. We are going to be mustered tomorrow for four months pay, but there are going to be our getting any, and there is no chance to send it home by express from here. So, I think if we get our pay, I shall let mine run over till next time as I do not like to risk it by mail. One of our boys lost \$50.00 in the mail last pay day.

I have just a letter from Uncle Perry's folks. They are all well, and Matthias Price who was in the 4th A Reserve Regiment died of consumption. He was taken home from the hospital in Philadelphia. Aunt Sophia writes me that Uncles Frederick and William Arnold had gone to war and almost all the drafted men from that section did the same. I do not think of any more to write this time so I will close by sending respects, etc. to you all.

Perry

P.S. The box of express sent to myself and Porter will be all right if it comes, but I have never heard anything from the first box you sent as yet, and there is a good chance for this to go the same way. Burnside has issued an order that all articles sent to

64 from Lamande

Camp opposite Fredericksburg
Page Two
Perry Mayo December 20, 1862

soldiers in the dray should be received by the Provost Marshalls of their respective divisions and by them delivered to the owners on their signing a certificate that the package contained articles for their own individual use. This will facilitate our getting it but I suppose we will have to get the express receipt in order to indentify the box.

P.M.

January 20, 1863

Camp Opposite Fredericksburg

Dear Father:

Yours of January 14, came to hand last night and I will try to answer. It is just two months and five days now since I heard anything from home except about a dozen lines that you sent by Major Byington, although I have written two letters to you and one to Addison in that time. I think if my letters are not worth answering, they are not worth my trouble to write them and shall act accordingly in the future.

In regard to getting a commission, I did not know what position to get recommended for nor in what company or regiment. If I should ask an officer here to recommend me his first question would be, what position do you wish to be recommendefor; and in what branch of the service, and company? The first place is to get a chance for a position, and I would have no trouble to get a recommend for it. G.W. Freeman would have helped me to get a recommend from General Berry last fall if there had been a vacant position for me. There has been quite a number of commissions sent to privates in this regiment, without any help from here. The fact is they had friends at home who were not afraid to give a little time and trouble for their benefit, most of them were obtained by getting a sufficient number of men to entitle them to a commission and then giving it to some one here. I should like to know who they is in Detroit who have so many commissions to give away that they have to urge Mr. Bordine to take one. "It's a big thing but I can't see it."

The army here is almost in a state of mutiny. All our best men have gone into the regular army and I think of going into a regular battery. I can get a good chance there to learn the blacksmith trade and if I was a private here, I would go in a minute.

I do not think much of Stephen's choice of a partner for life and if the one that is left for me waits till I come to Michigan after her, she will see a good old age.

We are under orders to march and I hope the drmy will go to Richmond this time or to Hell, and I don't care much which.

05 CW Freeman

Perry

Dear Father:

Yours of January 30th came to hand last night, and I improve the present opportunity of answering as it will be sometime before you hear from me again. We are under orders to embark on board transports at six P.M., and it is now two.

In regard to my last letter to you, I told the boys in the tent after it had gone that I had written a letter home that any man ought to be ashamed of, but the fact is I was entirely out of patience and wrote just as I felt. I had been looking for something from home for nearly a month and had two letters due from you and one from Addison.

I can not say, of course, that my letters home are not answered as soon as convenient but one thing is sure, I get letters from other correspondents there much more punctually than from home, and in several instances you make one letter answer two of mine. I know this by the contents, but there is no use of talking of this.

In regard to the box you spoke of, I do not know how I can get it so you had better keep it at home till you get a better chance to get it to me. There is a man who acts as express agent for Michigan Soldiers. I think his name is Harris. He charges a little extra and comes with it himself. He lives in Ann Arbor. I think you can find how to send by him by inquiring of someone in town. Perhaps Himmans or Manchester will know. It will be safe with him but you must send me the receipt if you send it. I presume the first box you sent is in the express office at Wahington but I could not send for it without the receipt. If you send it and have not boxed it up yet, please put in a can of fresh butter if convenient.

We have been paid two months pay and my captain drew mine while I was absent with a guard on special duty, at I have more money than I wish to carry with me, so enclose \$20 to you is this letter.

In regard to our destination, you can tell as well as I where we are going, but it is most likely somewhere South. The army is loading at four different points. Rumor says we are going to Fort Monroe. If this is so (and it looks reasonable) they are going back on McClellans plans after all. If this is the plan and we can get vessels enough to embark the whole army at once, Richmond is sure to fall as we can land within 17 miles of Richmond in 48 hours. It will take them at least ten days to get there with one line of railroad and a sea of mud to march in and then they would be in no trim to fight. In fact it will be next to impossible for them to move by land at all. But we man going still farther South and strike for Weldon, NCC where they have two million worth of army stores. If we can get this it will be better than the capture of Richmond. At any rate, I look on the move with favor if it is made quickly and the army has more confidence in Hooker than any man except McClellan.

The weather is warm and the mud knee deep. We have had about ten inches of snow, but it is all gone now. There is no use of talking about getting a furlough now, and I do not think there will be any chance this winter.

I just received a letter from Aunt Sophia. Grandmother is sick.

Page Two Perry Mayo February 7, 1863

Sophia makes an awful fuss because her sister's son (Labar I think his name is) was drafted.

Nothing More.

Perry

Newport News, Virginia

Dear Parents:

Yours of the 15th is received much sooner than expected.

In regard to my letters, I did not say that any particular person answered my letters more promptly than you but my correspondents did. But you seem to be anxious to make a handle of some particular one. This is nothing unusual, however, you must be aware that I never had anything to say to any girl yet. Someone in the family took more interest in the affair than myself.

I received Josephine's letter and answered it sometime since giving directions where to send that box, but it is not time to get an answer yet.

There is nothing of interest going on here consequently there is nothing to write.

The weather is quite warm. It has been raining for the past twenty four hours, and I suppose this storm will be snow in Washington and Fredericksburg. There is no prospect of any move from here soon, unless the rebels make some move on the Blackwater or Norfolk.

The river opposite our camp is getting to be quite a navy yard, As soon as one of the new monitors is far enough along to take the guns aboard, she is brought here to finish. Two more of them are expected here tomorrow, One left for the South yesterday, and there is one here now with fifteen blacksmiths at work on her.

Our routine of camp duty is as follows: at 6 A.M., reverle, (morning roll call), half past six, breakfast, half past seven, guard mounting. From half past 8 to half past 9, company drill, ten to eleven, battalion drill, dinner at noon, and to the company drill, half past 3 to half past 4, battalion drill, \$150, dress parade (roll call), \$60, supper. Half past seven, tattoo (soll call) and the call of the call o

I am going to Fort Monroe this week on the steamer to see my friend George Hayes who was wounded at Fair Caks. He is not able to sit up any yet, and I think it a great chance if he ever gets out of the hospital. He was one of the best men in Company C. He fell by my side in battle. Percy and myself carried him off the field on a blanket through a perfect storm of bullets, and I sat up with him all night in the woods after the fight. General C.M. Poe has promised me a free pass to go see him.

In regard to the Army of the Potomac, I wish it all success, but one thing is sure. If he (the prosident) removes all the croakers or all those who are dissatisfied at McClellans removal, they will send the whole army home.

There is no use of our arguing this question but I would like to debate it with you at some future time. [I] think I could convince you that McClellan is not a traitor after all and that Fremon's victories have not been more fruitful than McClellan's. Burnside at Fredericksburg is an example of those Generals who rush matters. But I must close this for the present and remain as ever, your son.

Louisville, Kentucky March 27, 1863

Dear Parents:

I improve a few spare moments to let you know that we are still alive and well as usual. We arrived here yesterday after a long and tedious journey of about one thousand miles and are now encamped in the suburbs of this great city. I do not think much of this town. some like Pittsburgh. All the streets but one are narrow and dirty, and the inhabitants are so Dutch that the whole city smells of sauer kraut

We have had a cold stormy time to travel in. Just as we broke up camp at Newport News ,it commenced snowing and blowing so we had our equinoctial storm on the Chesapeake Bay. We three days and nights getting to Baltimore, a distance of about one hundred miles. From Baltimore we game to Parkersburg on the Chiq River over the Baltimore and Ohio N. R. via Harpers Ferry. There 27 tunnels on this road, and one of them is a mile in length. As we came out of one of these holes in the ground, we found some obstructions on the track that threw three cars off and spilled all the soldiers out. We work running so slow that no one was hurt. We passed the Great Kanawha coal oil works and saw the machinery that gives light to the world.

My ink is so poor that I fear you cannot read it, so the shorter it is the less trouble you will have to make it out.

We have not had any mail in two weeks but expect some soon. I have not received yours containing the receipt for that box of express, but I met the box at Baltimore and it came just in time. Those strawberries and apples were just the thing after a three days trial of seasickness. Everything came in perfect order. The cake was whole and just as nice as when it was made. I saw gob on the boat coming down the river and gave him his share of the things. I found a note from H. Bordine in the socks stating that they were for Bob and also part of the fruit.

I do not think of any more now so I remain as ever, your son

Direct to: Company C-2nd Michigan Infantry Louisville, Kentucky

Your kind letter of the 5th came to hand last night: glad to hear from home, of course, and improve the first opportunity of answering.

In regard to money matters at home, there must be a great reaction:
If we crush the rebellion (and we will surely do it some time) the
currency will be just as good as it ever was and men who run in debt
now in flush times may have it to pay by hard knocks. But good real
estate is a safe investment now, even at high figures, as it will not be
affected much no matter what changes may take place in the government.
If you wish to invest any money that belongs to me in real estate with a
good chain of title, it will meet my approbation.

I did not suppose you could get the Tracy land as I heard that someone had bought fifty acres of it and commenced improvements, so I thought you would not want any without the whole. In your next please say how much they ask for it and what land can be bought to it, the price, etc. I should like to see any of my friends here now on a visit and should think you might come, as you can come from B.C. here in 36 hours if you make all connections right. And you might make us good visit and get home again in one week. I do not know the cost exactly but a soldier can go from here home and return for \$15 but If anyone gets a furlough, it is some slink who is of no use here. Any man who is always at his post is sure to be kept there.

I suppose there will soon be a great deal of sickness in Michigan on account of the draft and it is surely cowing. There has been a grand muster of all forces in the U.S. service to find the number required to fill them up to their full complement and if they try to resist it by force of arms you ought to have a few companies of old soldiers to "show them a trick with a hole in it", and if the hole wasn't there we could show them how to make a few. You ought to impress every one of the gang. We want about 600 just such fellows to fill this regiment, and we know how to manage such chaps if you can only get them to us. It the people at home will let a few such rowdies scare them they never ought to enjoy the name of American citizens. I would bayonet such men sooner than rebels in the open field. We have a right to expect those at home to protect us from a fire in the rear.

I am just as enthusiastic in the cause now as when the first gun was fired on the Sumpear. Sometimes, of course, it almost goes against human nature but on reflection everyone sees that the war must be fought out. Last winter many in the army thought that by making concessions such as giving slavery a certain limit and granting pardon to those in rebellion, that the war might be closed. But after it was found that they would accept no terms, everyone resolved to fight it out. The war must last sometime yet. No one fight will lose it but still they are losing ground every day and time will tell the story; if we have any kind of success at all. But we do not expect the war will close this summer, but we are as anxious for it to close as anyone, for we are more immediately interested in

Your last came to hand about a week since, but I have had no opportunity of answering till now as we have been on duty constantly since then, scouting around the crountry day times and sleeping on our arms nights. The 20th Michigan and 9th Kentucky Cavalry were south of the Cumberland River and about sixty miles from us when they were attacked by the rebel Morgan's Torces and they sent a telegram for us to come to their support. So we left our work and marched sixteen miles in five hours when we received news that our men were on this side of the river and coming in. So we went into camp and they came in the next day. The 20th lost 8 killed and 20 wounded. The rebels sent in a flag of truce to our men to come and take care of the wounded, and our surgeon went out yesterday after them. We expect him back tomorrow.

There is no enemy North of the river, but we have to use the greatest caution to prevent a surprise. There is a story in circulation now that we are going to be mounted, but I do not think it is reliable. One thing is sure, however, we cannot follow these gangs of guerrillas successfully on foot.

In regard to my correspondence with Aunt Sophia, I shall not write because her letters were not agreeable. They were simply a tirade against the Government and the draft. In her last to me she said she wished all her friends was harboring and screening a deserter by the name of Labar, and I found on inquiry that my suspicions were well founded. The letter I sent Grandmother was not intended for publication, but I am not ashamed of it as it contained no sentiments that could not be endorsed by every loyal person in the land. If any person in this section would openly use such language as Sophia did in her letters to me, they would be sent over the lines into Dixie.

Addison said in his letter that, "We had a great rejoicing over the return of Eudge Pratt of Marshall." I thought of course, that he was one of them but if there was no one in the crowd but the supporters of McClellan's policy it was all right as has always been in for the most vigorous prosecution of the war until the rebellion is crushed.

I have not seen the whole of the report of the committee on the conduct of the war but have seen the principal portions of it. The chairman of the commission was McClellan's bitterest enemy, and the whole thing was a partisan concern as anyone can see. Some of the Generals wished to injure him as much as Chandler and one of them was Hooker. And now we shall see what he will do, his army is twice as large as McClellan ever had while the rebel army probably is not as strong as when they invaded Maryland. I believe now that Lee will whip him before he gets to Richmond. Hooker is gifted with that least of all qualifications for a commander — self conceit. But we must await events. I am willing to hurrah for the man what wins no matter who he is, but I think some influence will remove any man who seems likely to win and gain the confidence of the army. I think Benjamin F. Butler is our second Andrew Jackson, but they are afraid he will make himself popular.

We are all well and in a good healthy country.

No more this time, as ever, your son

(2

v

As I now have a few spare moments, I will send you a few lines to inform you that I am still alive and well. We came here this morning after a long and tedious journey of ten days, in good health and spirits. We are now in full view of the city on the Louisiana shore and expect to take an active part in the reduction of the place. The mortar boats lie a few rods below us and keep humming away into the city. We can see our lines in the rear of the town from here but I can write you no news, only Vicksburg isn't taken yet but it surely will be. I hear that they tried to cut their way into the interior but were repulsed, also that they tried twice to cross the river. Rumor says that Grant has given them till tomorrow morning to surrender.

I might write you a thousand flying stories but there is no truth in them. We had a mighty lively time coming down the river. The guerrillas gave us warm reception, and the old steamer looks as though she had been through a hail storm. But they made such awful wild shooting that it did not amount to much. Two men of the 20th were wounded and one horse. We had about 200 riflemen on deck behind the posts and railing and they made it pretty lively sometimes.

I sent you \$20 from Cairo but had no time to write as I had to run away to get time to send it at all. I did pay the express as we could not make the change.

The weather here is very warm and we have to use the river water. This looks like muddy coffee with a little milk in it. This is a very unhealthy country, but we lived on the Peninsula and we are going to try it here for a while, at any rate.

There is quite a number of Negro negiments on the river, and they look odd enough. They had a fight last Sunday 25 miles above here and drove the rebs off.

When I wrote to Josephine, I forgot to tell her to send me the picture cards of her and Charlotte. If they get them I shuld like to get them as I can keep them in that form.

I do not think of anymore to write now so will close with my best respects to you all.

Address my letters via Cairo as I suppose the Vicksburg P.O. is closed for the present but we may get a pass to go into the town one of these days. I can see just as well from here but if the crowd is going to town, I'm one of 'em.

Perry

69 Front

As I now have a few spare moments, I will improve them in writing a few lines to you, not knowing when I can send them as we have "changed our base" of operations since I wrote you last. Whave had only one mail since the 4th and no chance at all to send off letters, even if we had the material for writing them, for we left everything behind except a backload of cartridges and our rations.

I think I wrote you last on the 28th of June so I will try to give you a history of our doings since that time. After the 28th, the Fourth of July soon came, you can better imagine our joy at the accomplishment of the great object for which we had been working so many nights and days, than I can describe it to you. The firing commenced heavy about 4 A.M. and lasted about two hours and then suddenly ceased. A few minutes later a mounted officer came riding through the camps at full gallop crying the news that the whole rebel army had surrendered and such a time you never saw. The joy of the men knew no bounds. The camps wouldn't hold them and the whole state was hardly large enough. Such a Fourth of July as that only comes once in a lifetime!

In the afternoon we marched to the Big Black River on the road to Jackson. Here we had a slight skirmish and stayed two days to build bridges. The army crossed on these without opposition and nothing more of importance occurred till we came within about three miles of Jackson when the 79th North and 8th Michigan were sent forward as skirmishers, with our regiment and the 20th in line of battle in their rear as a support. Skiralshing continued all the afternoon lightly without any loss to speak of and we slept on our arms in front of the enemy. Next morning at daylight our regiment was sent in as skirmishers with orders to drive the enemy into his works. As soon as we were fairly deployed and commenced advancing, the rebs opened a heavy fire of musketry on us with very little effect, and As soon as their guns were empty, we rushed in quickly and gave them a volley at short rauge killing and wounding about a dozen and driving them in rapidly. The fighting was all in the woods among heavy timber. kept pressing them in by heavy skirmishing for half a mile, killing several and losing some of our men in return when our company came suddenly on a line of rifle pits or holes for riflemen. Here they gave us a volley, wounding Charley Porter badly in thigh and giving some of the rest of us close calls. The captain drew his revolver and gave the command, "Forward double quick", there was no time to fix bayonets so we took the butts of our muskets and made a clean sweep, killing two, wounding four, and taking two prisoners. Here I shot my first man that I am sure of. When we came up I saw one of them making good time for safe quarters and fired. The shot went through his right ankle. When we came up I asked him if he wanted any water. He said his canteen was full and remarked that I made a "d----d good line shot but a little too low for comfort".

We drove two rebel regiments (12th Louisiana and 19th Mississippi) over a mile and into their main works. Then we were ordered to make a charge which we did in the face of a terrible fire of grape and canister and a musketry fire from three regiments of work nridge's Kentuckians.

16 plante de la ge

Page Two - Perry Mayo Madison Station, Mississippi - July 18, 1863

We reached their works, and some of our company jumped in the ditch, we I went up to it and saw that it was impossible to get out either way, so I did not jump in but laid flat on the ground for a moment, when orders came for us to come out if there was any left, so we fell back, and they did not fire a shot at us after we commenced retreating nor follow us an inch. I think they were reserving their fire expecting a heavier charge from the woods. Our company lost six men. Our first sergeant is a prisoner. The first man on the left of me (Corporal A.W. Smith) was shot dead and the first man on my right (A.A. Jawes) was shot through the head and badly wounded. Almost all the men had more or less holes in their clothes. The loss in the regiment since we left Vicksburg is just sixty men.

We have been on the lines night and day till yesterday morning, when the rebs were obliged to leave or get surrounded. There was some guns left and lots of ammunitions of all kinds. This great town - Jackson - is about half as large as Braceek. There is nothing left but a few private residences and the State Capitol. This would have been burned, but it is of stone fire-proof. The country here is the finest I ever saw in my life. It is the "corn-federacy" sure enough. As far as the eye can reach in any direction is one vast sea of corn, and itsis good corn too.

We passed the plantation of Jeff Davis, and some of the soldiers had turned all of his furniture out of doors and were treading the keys of the piano with the toes of their shoes.

We are now at work on the railroad, not exactly at a "dollar and a half a day"and no grumbling at the beard, but for thirteen dollars a month. This is the great Northern rest, and the boys say northern railroads in southern states are "played out" and I must say they have a peculiar way of fixing them up. They get the men along the track as thick as they can stand, and at the word all take hold and ever goes the track for half a mile or more. The ties are then piled up and the rails laid across them and burned. This twists them up till they are of no use for a road even in Pennsylvania. The road has been used in this way for thirty miles. We burned a large station house here this morning and a lot of stores. We kept two little of sugar and one of molasses, several of corn meal and 1,000 points of hams and shoulders for our own use. There was one case of army shoes and a lot of arms that we kept. We have picked up about 100 good mules here besides any amount of good beef cattle, so you see this gray is almost a self supporting institution.

July 19th - Marched into Jackson last night, heard distant cannon from the main body of Grant's Army in pursuit of Johnston some 25 miles from here. The whole drmy has gone on except two regiments left to guard the place.

July 23rd - Arrived at Snyder's Bluff on the Yazoo after a hard march of 60 miles, with the thermometer at 147 degrees in the shade at noon. This is what you might call warm in Michigan but we suffered more for water than anything else. The transports are all here to take us, and we shall probably get to Cairo nearly as soon as this letter. The general impression here is that we are going to our former position in Kentucky. At any rate we shall soon bid farewell to Mississippi, and I have no anxiety to stay here. I received a letter yesterday from Addison, also one from Josephine and will answer at some future time. It seems Rachel is having her share of this world's troubles. If there

WY

74 Manyon to

Page Three - Perry Mayo Madison Station, Mississippi - July 18, 1863

is really any danger of her husband shooting her, I will send some cotton bales for breastworks. That Sis what we use, and they are generally considered hard to take (if properly defended)

All the boys that you know are well. I saw Andrew Cleveland this morning. He is all right.

I can think of enough to keep me writing for a week, but I am getting tired so you must imagine enough to fill this sheet out.

Write as soon as you can. Send me a few stamps and believe me, as ever, your son

Perry

Warter elector

Dear Parents, Brothers, Sisters and to whom it may concern:

I improve a few spare moments to write you again hoping to receive an answer some time. I have not heard anything from home direct since the 18th of July, but Mr. Hodskins says be brought a letter for me but lost it somewhere on the road.

I have been sick ever since we came from Mississippi but I am getting along first rate now. I had the best kind of care. I was first taken sick while on duty at the house of a wealthy planter about a mile from our camp. They were good Union people and you may be sure I did not want for anything for every morning found one of their hegroes at my tent with lots of nice things, more than I could make use of, and they refused to see a cent in return. I sent them a note this morning acknowledging the kindness. Our captain also has been very kind to me throughout. I feel first rate now, but I look like a skeleton and feel very weak. But the march of 12 miles this forenoon did not hurt me any, and with cool weather and good water, I shall soon weigh 200 again.

Messrs. Hodskins and Beach found the soldiers here in the enjoyment of all the luxuries of the land, plenty of money and everything as cheap as it is in Michigan, no enemy near and nothing at all to do. They will go home, of course, with the impression that soldiers are just the happiest creatures on earth. And I think myself they are, on all such times they are, but the fact is they know very little of a soldiers life from their observations here. Mr. Hodskins came to my tent several times, but I did not get time to talk with him over fifteen minutes in all, for as soon as he came he would have to answer a thousand questions for almost every man in the company. It occupied all his time, and his stay was very short on account of our orders to march.

Andrew had a couple of pictures taken and gave me one which you will get from Mr. H. Also \$20 in money and a receipt for \$20 more that I sent from Cairo. I have written several letters almost on purpose to send the receipt, but was sure to forget to put it in every time. But I suppose you have received it or I should have heard something of it before this. I wish however, that you would try and acknowledge the receipt of all money as soon as it comes, for then I know all about it.

Our brigade was put two days as a military escort for the remains of General Nelson. It saw the procession pass our camp. It was a military funeral on a grand scale, but some of the boys could not see the propriety of following the bones of a man who was killed in a fray more than a year since, so they slipped out of the ranks and came to camp. They were compelled to carry a knapsack six hours per day for five days as punishment and our visitors found five of Company C on this unpleasant duty.

I will now tell you a little about this camp which you have all heard so much about since this war broke out. It takes its name from an old rebel by the name of Robinson who once lived here. It is a level grassy plain with plenty of water for a large dray. It has been the camp of both armies at different times. When Bragg's Army was here it was called Camp Breckenridge. It is in the blue grass region, so called from a luxurious kind of grass that grows about two feet high and furnishes good feed for the horses and other stock. There is

77 De Carry

no camp here now except as troops that are passing stop here, there we a few balls and broken gun carriages lying promiscously around. We leave here in the morning and it will take us two days yet to reach our present destination and then I will try and give you a short description of the Crab Orchard.

I forgot to mention the natural wells at this place. There two of them. The one I was in was about 25 feet deep and about six in diameter we went down a ladder, then along a kind of alley till we came to a running stream of clear water. It is very dark in there and requires great care to keep from falling.

I visited Boone's cave on the Kentucky River. This was once a favorite retreat for that famous hunter, but it does not look much like comfort now. I did not go in far because we had no light. There is a large tree near here with Boone's name cut in the bark. It is quite an object of curiosity, but I have not seen it yet, but it is thought by the inhabitants to be the work of his own hands. I have forgotten the date.

CAMP NEAR CRAB ORCHARD, KY. SEPT. 1, 1863

This is a town about as large as Bellevue. It contains some half a dozen hotels and any amount of "nigger" shanties. It is noted for its mineral springs and used to be a great resort for invalids. It has a very pretty location at the foot of the mountains in a fertile valley, and in any northern state, it would soon be a city.

We have laid out regular camps with a fair prospect of staying sometime. There is no soldiers here except our division, about 3,000 men in all. The rest of the dray has gone on and the advance is about 120 miles from here.

I saw Henry Barden and Erwin Ellis of the 8th Cavalry. Erwin is sick yet, three miles from Nicholsville at a private house and I suppose Henry is now on the advance with his regiment.

I would like to hear from home as soon as convenient, and I am almost out of stamps, so no more at present.

P. Mayo

WW Sales

Hospital, 2nd Michigan Convalescent Camp Crab Orchard, Kentucky September 15, 1863

Dear Parents:

I will try again to send you a few lines although I have been unable to hear from home. I suppose you are all anxious to hear from me so I will continue to write once in a while to let you know how and where I am.

My mail goes to the Regiment now if I have any (for I have not had a letter from any person in more than two months), and it is hard telling when it will find me. I can not have it sent here for we may not stay for any length of time but if you continue to write as often as you can they will come to me sometime.

I have been quite sick since our arrival here and have been in the hospital all the time. The march here used me up, for I was not strong enough to stand it. I feel quite well again now considering all things. I am able to be up around the camp almost all the time. My disease has been general debility, and he is the worst General I ever served under. It is the effects of the Yazoo River country and our Mississippi Campaign.

The Regiment is about 80 miles from here now and going on toward Tennessee. I had a good chance to go to them tomorrow. There is a Color of Cavalry here with about 100 horses and equipment and 50 men and he offered to give me a ride out but the surgeon says he will take care of me for a while yet; and as he is a good fellow and keeps me well, I have no objection to staying a while yet. This is the first time the Regiment ever left me behind, and as long as I am well cared for here, I am going to stay till I am well enough to stand it. And I cannot go if I would, without the surgeon's consent.

Mr. Hodskins said you wished me to come home on furlough but our time is so near out that I hardly think it would pay the expenses. I think I can make better use of the money it would cost me after I come home. I do not get any pay this time. The regiment has been paid since I left them. My clothing account this year is \$66.26 including my overcoat, two blankets, a pair of pants, etc., amounting to some \$25 that were left in store at Lebanon by order of Gengi Welgh 88 when we went south and burned by John Morgan's men. We have to settle up this time for the whole amount which takes \$24.06 out of my pay this time. But we will draw again for the amount lost or get pay for it, if our Officers take the right course. If not, I suppose we will lose it. Some of the boys are \$50 behind. I have all the money I need now. I do not wish you to entertain any idea of coming to see me now, for I may be a hundred miles from here in a week from now. If we get home next Spring, all right, as I surely expect to now, I am going to spend the ensuing Winter in hunting and trapping up the river from Tawas Bay in northern Michagan and shall only want business from the first of June till the first of October.

Won't you go? I can't be content to settle down in one place after three years of bumming around the country.

No more at present, as ever your son

Mary Mary

Perry

October 1st, 1863

KNoxville, Tennessee

Dear Brents:

I will again improve the opportunity of sending you a few lines. You must be content with this and not look for anything more from me until I get one from you, as I am out of stamps and cannot get them here at all, besides it is poor consolation for me to write ten or fifteen letters to you and get no answer. I do not accuse you of not answering my letters, but they fail to reach me. You must excuse me if I do get out of patience when I write home every two weeks regular, and mail after mail comes for three long months bringing no answer.

October 2nd. Your long looked for letter came last night containing the 25 stamps and the cheering news that you are all well. I am with the Regiment now on duty although I am not entirely well. I came through with a wagon train and had all my baggage carried and rode myself most of the time. We came through Cumberland Gap and over the most mountainous country I ever saw. Nothing of interest occurred on the journey. We came about 20 miles per day and were elded days on the road. I found the boys all well in good spirits. The country is healthy but I cannot tell how long we will stay here. The news now is that Rosecrans is getting thrashed out and that we are going to Chattanooga. The 8th Michigan Cavalry had a skirmish about 20 miles from here in the vicinity of Lowdon. They lost about 50 men.

In regard to your coming to see us. There is no use of talking about that now, and you cannot send me anything with any prospect of my getting it. So if I want anything I must make want my master for a man cannot buy things here. Shoes are worth \$20 to \$30 per pair. A box of common G.D. gun caps is \$2.50 and everything else in proportion. The town is built on the hills so steep that we had to lock the wagon wheels on main street. It looks some like Vicksburg. I saw Parson Brownlow's residence, but he is not here yet but is coming to publish his paper. There is any amount of Union flags here and a good set of inhabitants.

I received a letter from Aunt Charlotte dated September 7 in answer to one of wine. I have written three to Uncle Perry and get no answer. You do not say anything about that land so I suppose you have not bought it yet. But I think it would be a good investment and might better be secured while it is in the market. If all my interest at home will amount to \$50000 and the balance could run three years at 7 per cent, I should not hesitate to buy it in my own name, for I can pay \$100 from my wages by the first of June, 1864, and then I will get \$100 bounty and that would leave \$300 to pay, which I could make in the time very easily. But you know my ideas in regard to the matter, and you can act to the best of your judgement. But you know the best time to buy a thing is when it is for sale.

I saw William Moore this morning. He is quite well and sends regards to all.

I do not think of any more now so will close with my love to you all, and sign myself, as ever, your son

Perry

P.S. When you write I should like to know something about the farmhow much stock you have and how much wheat you are sowing, how much corn, and is the house finished yet?

WWW.

November 9, 1863

Camp 2nd Michigan Lensir, Tennessee

Dear Parents:

Your ever welcome letter of October 17 came to hand about a week since but I have been unable to answer till now for two reasons. First, we have been busy almost night and day building our winter quarters, but they are finished now, and they are nice ones too. My house is of longs, left by lift inside for four of us, Bostwick, Percy, White of Bi Creek and myself. The body is about 8ft high and covered with our shelter tents. This makes it light enough without windows. We have a good brick fireplace with plenty of wood and water handy, dishes, cooking utensils and everything to make a soldier comfortable if the rebels are only civil enough to let us occupy them.

The next reason why I did not write sooner is I have been almost crazy with a felon on my left thumb. The surgeon thought best to amputate it at one time between the hand and middle joint but I argued him out of the notion, and the consequence is, I shall save it entirely. It is open now and doing well but will probably make a stiff joint.

The regiment is not here now. Gen. Will cox with the Third Division of this Corps is at Greenville on the religious about 100 miles from here. The rebels attacked him and captured two guns so our Brigade has gone up on the cars to see about it. I am left behind in charge of the camp and baggage. I shall look for them back in five or six days, but they may be gone longer. Our camp is 21 miles from Knoxville toward Chattanooga, on the Holston River. We get our bread now regular from the Government bakeries at Knoxville.

Parson Brownlow starts his world renowned paper this week Thursday. I will try to send you a copy, and if you have anything in the paper line that we can read, send me one once in a while. We have subscribed for the <u>Detroit Weekly Tribune and Advertiser</u>, but anything in the paper line will come good.

The government is making every effort to get us to resentist. We have an order from the War Department offering \$402.00 bounty and 30 days furlough. I have been offered a sergeancy with \$17 per month beside the bounty. This bounty does not include the \$100 that we get on our discharge from this regiment.

In regard to my pay, there is no chance to send it home from here except by mail over the mountains, and I do not like to send it that way, So I will let it remain in the Paymaster's hands. It will be perfectly safe there, and it will not draw any interest if I send it home. We will get our pay in a few days. I have \$7 owing to me and that will be enough to last me till payday again. We will not be likely to get pay but once more beside this, till we are discharged, and I do not intend to draw any. (My pay is due now from the first of July). I have \$31.50 allowance for clothing for this fractional year, and I have enough to last me through (lacking about \$3.50) on hand now, So if we get pay for lost clothing, I shall be some ahead on that. I have given you a good history of my monetary affairs, and I can think of nothing else to write. If you wish to know about anything that I do not write, you must ask questions.

So with my compliments to you all, I remain as ever, your son

17 Chatallox

Knoxville, Tennessee December 5, 1863

Dear Parents:

I will again improve a few spare moments to inform you that I am still alive.

I should like to give you a full history of all our doings since my last to you, but must forbear at present as I expect orders to march before this is finished. On the morning of the 14th of November we were surprised to hear the bugle sound the call to "Pack Up". So we tumbled out of our comfortable winter quarters in one of the worst rain storms of the season and marched twelve miles down the river where it was reported that the rebels were crossing in force. We arrived after dark and found an Illinois regiment skirmishing with them.

We lay on our arms all night in the rain and marched back again to our quarters without fighting any. But the enemy followed us closely so we had to form line of battle about 3 P.M. and stayed in that position till an hour before day when we fell back again, after destroying about two hundred wagons that we could not get off. Our brigade was rear guard and they came up with us about ten A.M. and commenced skirmishing in earnest. We deployed as skirmishers in the woods and took it "Injin" fashion. (Our captain was wounded here, almost the first shot that was fired) They pressed us pretty hard for half a mile or more, when the whole brigade formed and fought them about half an hour.

The order was then given for two men from each company to advance, so we all gave a yell and the rebs ran nearly half a mile without stopping to look around. This gave us time to reach Campbell Station where we found the whole Army in line in a good position where they would not get to us without crossing a large cleared plain. Our regiment took a position on the right, concealed in some tall weeds. The rebels came up in some disorder from our artillery fire till they came in range of our rifles. When we rose up and just "gave em fits". We would lie down to load in order to be out of sight. The man behind me was shot through the shoulders and fell across me like a log. Our company lost three men here but we held our ground and repulsed them nicely.

Skirmishing continued all day but as we were out of ammunition, we were relieved by some fresh men and went to the rear as support for the batteries. That night we marched all night and reached Knoxville about an hour before day, as near used up as any lot of men you ever saw. After a few hours sleep and some breakfast we commenced entrenching, and before sunset, there was a line of rifle pits nearly around the town, said in a couple of days we were well fortified. Nothing of importance occurred till the 24th when the enemy built an earthwork in an open field in front of a piece of woods about a quarter of a mile from our works. As soon as it was light our regiment was called out to charge and capture it. We did so but could not hold it after we had it, and after about ten minutes fighting at the works. Major Byington ordered us to get back the best way we could. This charge almost annihilated the 2nd Regiment. Out of 16 men in our Company that went into the fight, 11 were among the killed and wounded, and I was one of the number. My partner, Henry Percy, was shot through the thigh cutting an artery so that he was likely to bleed to death in a few minutes. I caught ham before he fell and corded his leg with a handkerchief

Dear Parents:

I will improve the present opportunity of writing you a few lines as it probably is the last chance we shall have for sending mail in some time. We are under orders to march tomorrow morning at seven o'clock in light marching orders, with five days rations in our haversacks. I think we are going up the property farther toward Virginia. Longstreet? is reported to be at Greenville, some 21 miles from here, but I think he will fall back as soon as we advance, for he has sent all his wagons off to Richmond on the cars. We have no cavalry with us on account of the impossibility of getting forage, so the rebel cavalry have it all their own way. They keep hovering about our lines, picking up anyone who is foolish enough to leave camp.

Zebulon Doty arrived in camp last night from home. He says the report was that you had the smallpox, and I have heard the same report from other sources, but I sincerely hope it may prove untrue. Still I do not have the fear of the disease that some do, and if you took the precaution in regard to vaccination that I sent you from Detroit, I think you will come out all right. There is some six or seven hundred cases of it in Knoxville all the time, and it is no uncommon thing to meet children in the street before the scabs are off their faces. I have not heard of a single case in the army owing to the precautions taken to prevent it. I have been directly exposed some half dozen times this winter.

I wish now to say a few words to you in regard to the order of F.A.M. The order is well represented in this company. The Captain and First Sergent belong to the order, and Andrew Cleveland has sent a petition to J.F. Averill to become a member of the Society with a view of coming home on furlough to get intlated if accepted. I think he would make a faithful member and reflect honor upon the order. I think, therefore, that you would confer a favor on the cause to use your influence in getting the petition through. I have been more firmly impressed with the good of the order since leaving home than ever before, and it is my earnest wish to become a member of the order. if I can prove myself worthy of the honor. But my time is so near out now that I do not think it would be to my advantage to make any move in regard to the matter "till I get home". Nothing prevented my making application long before I left home, but my respect for Mother's feelings in regard to the matter, but I thinkI have seen enough now to be my own judge in matters of this kind.

I wish you to answer this as soon as you can conveniently, and let me know what you think it will be best for me to go to work at when I get home. I can hire out here to work for the Government on the bridges or as blacksmith's helper at \$2 per day, on the ten hour system with double wages for all extra time. This, including board, makes pretty good wages. My time will expire on the 25th of May, but I do not expect to get out of the service before the middle of June, as I cannot leave till properly mustered out, and the officers whose duty it is to attend to these things are never in a hurry in getting men out of the service.

All well. Weather warm and pleasant. No more at present, from your son

WY.

Perry

Annapolis, Maryland April 9, 1864

Dear Parents:

Yours of March 4th was received at Knoxville as we were on our way north from East Tennessee, and This is the first time I have had any spare time to answer!

We had a rough time coming across the mountains. The weather was severe, and we had to scrape the snow off the ground every night in order to make our beds. But after all, we made a march of 225 miles in 12 days, and carried all our baggage, clothing, and rations.

We came by rail from Nicholasville, he to Baltimore and from there by steamboat. We arrived here day before yesterday stayed in Baltimore one night. I had a pass, went to the theater, and had a first rate time. I have had no pay yet. The officers were paid in Tennessee, but they would not pay the men for fear they would get drunk. Michigans General Wilcox must have a good idea of the men who have went naked and starved through the hardest campaign of this war, to keep them out of their hard earned wages after they had signed the pay roll which is the Paymaster's receipt for the money. Michigan soldiers have a reckoning for him after the war, and some ofthem may get a chance to settle it before. I have had money enough, for my face is good for greenbacks (while the officers have money)

They are all short of their full complement of officers. I can get a commission in one of them just as easy as rolling off a log but "can't see the point".

The 2nd arrived last night. I saw them this morning. I suppose I shall go back to the Cagain as there is an order from Washington to that effect, but I would much rather remain here now as this is a first rate place. But it is only six weeks, so it can't make much difference. I think the corps will get off from here about the first of May. If suppose they will take us if we have only a week to serve for that is military, but it will be like riding downhill. If we get discharged in the field, as we probably will, I shall go to Monroe County on my way home I shall stay a week or ten days. I might go to N.Y. and see Tracy in regard to that land, but don't see how anything can be done about it till the question is settled as to who the owner is.

In regard to renting Mr. Sharpsteen's farm, you know best of course. I want to go into some kind of business to make a living but the management of such a farm looks like a pretty heavy business to commence on, But I will be home in a few weeks now and can probably find business enough, such times as these.

I received a few lines from Josephine at Cincinnati. Direct yours to the 20th as usual and believe me, as ever, your son

Perry Probably Monroe County, N.Y. where his mother's family was located.

Dear Parents:

Your letter of the 10th just came to hand yesterday, and I hasten a reply. We are all well as usual and having first rate times for a soldier. Our quarters and rations are good and we drill just enough for exercise.

I am back in my old company and regiment again, returned this morning. I do not see the policy of sending us all back to our companies again unless it is to get rid of the duty of making out our discharge papers.

There is no immediate prospect of the corps leaving here, they are giving furloughs for ten days to go to Michigan. The veterans are the sorriest lot of men I ever saw. The prospect is that the regiment will break up entirely, as they cannot hold their organization with only 180 men on their rolls. There is some talk of making four companies of the old members and making six new companies of recruits now in the state. This will fool the noncommissioned officers who enlisted to get shoulder straps out of their positions. The line officers are almost all trying to resign after using all their influence to get the men in.

In regard to my bringing a horse home of the kind you speak, my opportunities for getting one are not very good almost any thing that will do for army use has been bought up, besides, if I get my discharge here I shall probably go home via Niagara Falls.

There is nothing of any importance going on. Dan Rice's Circus has been here for a week but it amount to much. We can get any amount of dysters at from 50 to 75 cents per gallon, but almost everything else is very high. Weather cold, stormy and backward.

I think of no more at present, so with kind regards for you all. I remain, your son

Perry

Battle Field of Chancellorsville, ("The Wilderness")
May 8, 1864

Dear Parents:

As I have an opportunity of sending a few lines to Washington by the wounded, I hasten to let you know that I am alive and getting along pretty well. I feel more anxious to write because my name will probably be published among the wounded again.

The facts of the case are as follows. As our kegiment was going up an old road I met a chunk of lead coming down. It hit me in the mouth but was so far spent that it only loosened a couple of teeth, and they bled pretty freely 180. I kept on and soon caught another in the left foot that smashed up two of my toes some. But I have been able to keep around with the Regiment and I calculate to see the thing through. The regiment lost 8 killed and 30 wounded. Company C lost one killed from favor so far, we hold Fredericksburg and followsk Heights in the rear and all the old battleground of a year ago.

The fight is going on yet, and the army is confident of success. Our loss estimated at 15,000 so far. The Colonel of the 8th is prisoner to Lt. Colone of 17th killed. Both lost heavy.

Isaw one of the Price boys today. He is in our Corps.

Getting quite dark, so I will sign myself, your son

Perry

*Probably almouth Heights

This is Perry Mayo's last letter in the tin bo. He was wounder at the battle of the Wilderness twelve days before his enistment was to expire. I don't know if he was hospitalized or whether his enlistment was extended for the Campaig to include Cold Harbor and Petersburg. He was discharged in Detroit, July 21, 1864. Perhaps he obtained a 30 day furlough en route to visit relatives in Monroe County, ***T., and see the sights of Niagara Falls.

PA.

A.S.M.

There was a Fenton Kingsley in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He was later killed in action in the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia on May 6, 1864.

Stephan Manchester was in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He was discharged on Surgeon's certificate of disability at the Uni-

ted_States Hospital, Newark, New Jersey, on October 9, 1862.

3 General Winfield Scott was, at that time, General-in-Chief of the

Army of the United States.

4 John H. Hollman was a Sergeant in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He was later discharged for disability at Alexandria, Virginia

on October 2, 1862 and Company I, lst Regiment, Michigan Infantry on April 22, 1861 for 3 months. He was mustered out at Detroit,

Michigan on August 7, 1861.

Dana Bostwick was in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He later died at Knoxville, Tennessee on December 9, 1863 from wounds received on November 24, 1863.

7 Darwin Moore was in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry and

served his full 3 year term of service.

Nonny Bordine was a friend in Calhoun County. Semuel F. Bordine who was a Son of Mary H. Bryant later became Perry's wife on April 19, 1865. was protestly the new Perry Steadman Lincoln was a friend who lived in Hancock, New York. This was referred to

the town from which the Mayos had emigrated 12 years before.
The Colonel of the Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry, was Israel B. Richardson of Pontiac, Michigan. He was a career army officer and had fought in the Mexican War. After beconing a General, he later died of wounds received in the Battle of Antietam, Maryland on November 3, 1862.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry L. Chipman of Detroit was appointed a captain

in the regular army for the Eleventh U.S. Infantry.
Mayor Adolphus W. Williams of Lansing did not go in the regular army at this time.

Addison was one of Perry Mayo's younger brothers.

15 Captain Cornelius Byington was Company C's commander. He died on Dec-

ember 11, 1863 from wounds received in action at Knoxville, Tennessee.

In Gordon was a neighbor of the Mayos, and his livestock had damaged their where Calexander Bordon owned over 2000 acres of land in Pennfeld + Convis Townships Major Henry Jackson Hunt commanded the artillery on the extreme left in

the 1st Battle of Bull Run.
Lieutenant Joseph M. Barton was the Regimental Quartermaster for the

Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He resigned on July 21, 1861.

Private Henry H. Percy was from Battle Creek and was an old friend of Perry Mayo. Perry was wounded at Knoxville, Tennessee on November 24, 1863, returned to fight again, and then was discharged for disability at Detroit,

Michigan on April 16, 1864.

General George McClellan was a West Point graduate who had served with distinction in the Mexican War and as a military observor in the Crimean War. At the beginning of the Civil War, he was given the rank of Major General and was put in command of the "Military Repartment of the Ohio". After Bull Run, he took over the command of General Irvin McDowell. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Union armies but was demoted mainly because of his military inaction.

William Henry Seward was President Lincoln's Secretary of State.

23 Second Lieutenant Joseph F. Gilman was from Battle Creek. He resigned and

was ponorably discharged for disability on November 6, 1861.

Sergeant Charles H, Hodskin was from Battle Greek. He later rose in rank to Acting Assistant Inspector General before he was honorably discharged on September 30, 1864.

25 General variet Tyler commanded the Division at the Battles of Blackburn's Ford and The first Bull Run 26 Charles Fitch was the owner of a farm in Convis Township, Calhoun County, Muchigan. The farm was made up of 75 acres and was valued at \$1400 in 1860. Palmer Shepard was a member of Company G, Secon Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He later died of disease at Camp Winfield Scott near Yorktown, Virginia on April 21, 1862. 20 Colonel Orlando M. Poe was a career army man who was in numerous battles during the war. After the war he was in charge of many engineering projects including the building of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie. The Poe Lockwas named after him. Brodhead's Cavalry was the First Regiment, Michigan Cavalry commanded by Colonel Thornton F. Brodhead of Grosse Isle, Michigan. The Berdan Sharp Shooters consisted of 2 special regiments who were restricted to men who could put 10 consecutive bullets within a 10 inch circte at 200 yards range. They were equipped with breech@loading Sharps rifles. 3 Corporal Marcela Burt was a corporal from Battle Creek. He was mustered out at the experation of his term of service at Detroit on July 21, 1864.

This letter is the only one not written by Perry Mayo. In its composition and grammar, it is quite a contrast from Perry's letters. 33George B. Hicks was from Battle Creek. He later enlisted in Company C, Twentieth Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He rose to become a 1st Lieutenant and was killed in action near Petersburg, Virginia on June 18, 1864. Captain Cornelius Byington.

The feter course was the son of Samuel F. Bordine who had an So acre farm in Pennfeld Township, Cathour County muchyan. 38 5 George refers to George Mayo, Perry's brother. He ran away from home and was never heard from again. 39 36 sand comed a farm in Clarendar Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. The farm was Major General Samuel P, Heintzelman was appointed one of the 4 corp commanders when President Lincoln divided the 12 divisions of the Army of the Potomac into 4 corps on March 8, 1862. Josephine and Charlotte were Perry's sisters.
Horace Greeley was the editor of the New York Tribune. He was a strong Unionist, but he was also critical of the North's conduct of the war. 43 🗝 Brigadier General Ambrose E. Burnside had captured the area around New Berne, North Carolina by an amphibious attack in February 1862. Buttle Creek where he first published The Western Citizen then the Michigan Torbide and the Libet, Press.

45 From 1851 to 1863 he was eleter + published to The Buttle Creek Journal During the war years he was a Regul
Senator Zachariah Chandler of Michigan was a radical Republican and a prominent member of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. This committee put pressure on General McClellan to go into action. General John Charles Fremont was given command of the newly erected Mountain Department on March 11, 1862. This was located in Western Virginia and Eastern Perry was making a sarcastic joke as Verona was located in Calhoun County Michigan. Major General Henry W. Halleck was at this time Commander of the Federal forces in the West. In July 1862, he became Lincoln's advisor and General-in-Chief of the Union Armies. Major General Nathaniel P Banks was given command of a 5th Corps around Harper's Ferry by Lincoln's General War Order No. 2 in March 1862. He was a former member of Congress and a former governor of Massachusetts,but he was untested militarily.

General Irvino McDowell had been in command of the ill-fated Union armies in the first battle of Bull Run. By Lincoln's War Order No. 2 in March 1862, be was given command of one of the 4 corps of the Army of the Potomac. Major General Philip Kearny, who was an excellent combat soldier, was later killed at Chantilly on September 1, 1862.

52 William Fox recovered and was discharged from the army on account of disability on December 6, 1862.

George W. Hayes (or George Harper) was discharged for disability after being

wounded for the second time at Fair Oaks on May 31, 1862.

Brigadier General Charles Davis Jameson originally led the 2nd Maine Regiment at the 1st Bull Run and protected the retreat to Centreville. Because of this he was appointed Brigadier General. He was in command at Fair Oaks but caught camp fever and returned home to die on November 6, 1862.

Brigadier Hiram Gregory Berry (Berry's Brigade) was in command of a brigade in Kearny's division during the Peninsula campaign. He was later killed at

Chancellorsville on May 3, 1863.

56 Brigadier General James Shields commanded one of the divisions in the Shenandoah Valley. Perry referred to the battle in the Shenandoah Valley in which Stonewall Jackson defeated Banks' forces and escaped from the attempts of Fremont, Banks, and Shields to surround and destroy him. This destroyed the Union strategic plan in Virginia.

General Joseph Hooker was a division commander in the Pennsula campaign. On James succeeded General Burnside as Commander of the Army of the Potomac 🥌 January 25, 1865. He was replaced after the Battle of Chancellorsville by

General George Gordon Meade on June 28, 1863.
William Moore was a member of Company C, 20th Regiment, Michigan Infantry. Nate(Nathan P.) Parker enlisted in Company I, 20th Regiment, Michigan Infantry, on August 8, 1862 as Sergeant. He died of disease at Ealmouth, Virginia on December 1, 1862.

Colonel (Charles P. Stone - this was in the 1st Battle of Bull Run. 61 Major General James Ewell Brown Stuart was a Confederate Cavalry commander. His raids behind Union lines made hin famous. He later died of wounds after the

Battle of Yellow Tavern on May 12, 1864.

Major General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson played an important part in defeating the Union forces under General Pope in the Second Battle of Bull Run. He was later killed at Chancellors Ville on May 10, 1863 after being state accidentally by his own men.

Generally the men in the Union Army had great confidence in General McClellan. He was removed from command on November 5, 1862 in favor of General Ambrose E. Burnside. Perry's complaint proved to be rather prophetic in view of the later

Battle of Fredericksburg.

General (William Wallace) Burns commanded the division until after the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862. Then he was appointed Chief Commissary of the

Department of the Northwest.

Bob Vanness enlisted in Company G, Seventeenth Regiment, Michigan Infantry on August 11, 1862. He was wounded at South Mountain, Maryland on September 14, 1862. He was mustered out at Delaney House, District of Columbia June 3, 1865. 70 The referred to General Ambrose E. Burnside who had taken over command of the Army of the Potomac on November 5, 1862 from General George McClellan. This was an unpopular move for the soldiers. General Burngides blunders in the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862 caused President Lincoln to replace him with General Joseph Hooker on January 25, 1863.

11 George (H or W) Freeman enlisted in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry as a sergeant on May 10, 1861. He rose in rank to an Acting Assistant Adjutant General Artillery Brigade, Eleventh Corps until he was

discharged at the expiration of his term of service on May 25, 1864.

Ceneral John Morgan was a Confederate Cavalry commander make later trained the North and got as far as Indiana and Ohio before being captured. He was killed at Greensville, Tennessee on September 4, 1864.

General Robert E. Lee was the Confederate Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He is generally considered to have been the ablest commander of either side in the Civil War.

Major General Benjamin F. Butler had been the military commander of the Union forces occupying New Orleans. He was relieved of his command on December 17, 1862. He had strong support from the radical Republicans and was probably the man whom Southerners hated most because of his administration in New Orleans.

General Ulysses Simpson Grant's victory at Vicksburg was an early step on his journey in becoming commanding General of the Union armies and finally

President of the U.S.A.

Infantry. He recovered from his wound, rejoined his regiment, and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and was discharged at the expiration of his term of service or live and live

79 Corporal Albert W. Smith was from Calhoun County. He enlisted in Company C, Second Regiment, Michigan Infantry on May 10, 1861. He was a corporal when he died of wounds received in action at Jackson, Mississippi on July 11,

Perry may have been referring to Corporal Arestine (or Austin) Jones who

Jefferson Davis was the President of the Confederate States.

Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston was formerly an officer in the United States Army in both the Indian Wars and the Mexican War. In 1863 he held a somewhat vague control over the western armies of the Confederacy. Andrew H. Cleveland was from ConVIS, Michigan. He was in Company I,

Twentieth Regiment, Michigan Infantry. He was later killed at Spottsylvania,

Virginia on May 12, 1864.

34 Brigadier General William Nelson was the Union commander at Louisville when that city was threatened by General Braxton Bragg. He lost his life when he was shot by General Jefferson C. Davis at Galt House in Louisville on September 29, 1862. Davis was arrested are released without trial returned to his

General Braxton Bragg (was a West Point graduate who fought in the Seminole Wars and the Mexican War. In the Civil he was a Confederate Gen-

eral in charge of the Army of Tennessee.

Henry P. Borden was from Eckford, Michigan. He enlisted in Company A, Eighth Regiment, Michigan Cavalry as a corporal on December 19, 1862. He was captured at New Market, Tennessee on December 25, 1863 but returned to his regiment on February 20, 1864. He later became a Second Lieutenant for the

U.S. Colored Troops.
87 Erwin Ellis enlisted in Company A, Eighth Regiment, Michigan Cavalry as a Second Lieutenant. He became a Captain in 1864 and was discharged after the war

was over.
Thomas Welsh was commissioned as Brigadier General of volunteers on March 13, 1863. He was with the 9th Army Corps in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

He gied of malaria on August 14, 1863.

John Morgan was a Major General in the Confederate Army who led a ser He was captured in 1863 but scaped in November. Minally, in September 1864, surrounded and kalled while attempting to escape.

General William S. Rosecrans had just been defeated by General Braxton at Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863. A gap in his line allowed the Confederates to

pour through and drive him and part of his army back to Chattanooga.

 Parson Brownlow (William G.) was a Methodist minister and an Unionist newspaper editor from Tennessee. He later was governor of Tennessee and thenaU.S. Senator.

orlando B. Willcox was a Brigadier General at this time. He was a West Point

graduate from Detroit, Michigan.

93 General James Longstreet was the Confederate General who was in charge of the Confederate army in Tennessee at that time. He was a West Point graduate who had served in the Mexican War before joining the Confederates in 1861.

2 Zebulon Doty enlisted in Company I, Twentieth Regiment, Michigan Infantry on August 12, 1862. He was wounded in action three times before being discharged at Satterlee Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on June 13, 1865.

We He referred to Monroe County, Pennsylvania where his mother's family was locoley cated 97 -> Sharpsteen There were too many Cooks in Calhana County to determine who this particular cooks was, but more Callendar was probably the write of Edwin Callendar a farmer who lived in convis Township. * 34 Jane markham was the daughter of Joseph P. Markham and lived in Perinfield Township, Calhound County. 35 Heorge markham was Jane markhami brother, # 63 major Lewis Dellman entered the service on Company A, Second Regiment, muchyan Infantry as a Captain on april 18, 1861. He was commissioned a major on march 6, 1862 and Lieutenant Colonel on July 26, 1862. He resigned and was honorably discharged on July 30, 1863. Colonel adolphus W. Williams was made colonel of the Twenteth Regement, michigan Infantry on July 26, 1862 not the Seventeenth Regiment, # 68 Joseph Cooley was from Convis Township in Calhoun County. He ealisted in Company K, Seventeenth Regiment, Mushigan Infantry as a musician on august 13, 1862. He was mustered out of the army at Delaney House, District of Colombia, on June 3, 1865.

69 Julia Palmiter was probably the daughter of John B. Palmiter of Pennshield Townships Colombia. of Fennfield Township, Calhoun County. Judge abner Pratt of marchall, michigan was a self taught man who had been a circuit Judge in Calhorn County from 1852-1857. In 1858, he went to Honolula as United States Consul. He died on march 27, 1863. Since he was always a staunch Democrat, The reference to a "great rejoicing" may be a sacastic comment on his death. 78 The referents confederate major General John C. Breckinnige # 91 Charles D. White of Battle creek enlisted in Company (, Second Regiment, muchigan Infantry as a corporal on may 10, 1861. He was a sergeant when he was discharged at the end of history of service on July 21, 1864. # 95 Warren M. Cooley of Convis enlisted in Company I, Eleventh Regiment, muchygan Cavalry on October 21, 1863. He was mustered out at nashville, Tennessee on deptember 22, 1865. # of These were many Sherpsteene in Calhoun County but Perry probably referred to Daniel Sharpsteen who owned a 525 acre form in Cours Township.