

Two Tenn Regts under Genl Carter, left our Camps on the  
three days out, for a reconnaissance of the Rebel fortifi-  
cations, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. He made a long march  
that day, going round to the left of the Gaps, &  
in camp on the side of a mountain. Genl Carter's  
brigade took a right hand road, coming in on the  
right. — I slipped upon the mountain side on the open  
side. — He started at daylight in the direction of the  
Gaps, by eight o'clock we had ascended the main  
Cumberland mountain, and were surrounded by a dense  
fog. — the 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio in advance. — He remained upon  
the mountain in place for fully two hours, when the  
fog cleared away, and the sun shone out, warming  
our chilled bodies, we were then two miles from the  
Gaps. — He were ordered forward, and soon came to  
the highest part of the mountain. — I was surprised to  
find so fine a Country to the south of the mountains,  
a low level country, stretched away on the ends from  
the Powell River that washed the base of the  
mountain, could see several roads all pointing to  
the Gaps. — the left hand road, from where I stood  
facing southward, was the dividing line between the  
gives & Tennessee. While taking a survey of the  
Valley, crack, crack, went some snail's to my right,  
in the direction of the Gaps, and upon a high moun-  
tain, as high as the one I was on, a ravine dividing  
or separating the two. "double quick" was the order  
and down the mountain side we went, onto the  
ravine. I have since learned that this Gaps  
is called the "black Gaps". we ascended the opposite  
mountain side, and were found into Alum of Camp-  
-ains. — still hearing nothing in the distance, in  
the direction of the Gaps. I learned that two

Camp de Courcy Tenn. Co. Ky.  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mr John Means

Dear John:

It is a good while since  
I wrote to you, and I do not now remember from what point  
my last was written. After leaving Crab Orchard, we  
found our troubles commencing, found the roads in an  
almost impassable condition. From Crab Orchard, we <sup>came</sup> ~~went~~  
through the Mt Vernon Rockcastle County, London, Laramie County,  
Coburnsville Knox County, and are now within two miles  
of Cumberland Ford, six ten miles from the Gaps, thir-  
teen from Carbonville. The position of Rockcastle  
upon Rockcastle river is one of the roughest, and  
least inviting parts of the state, about three miles  
from that river we passed over the wild cat battle  
ground, it is in Laramie County. — Laramie although  
rough, is by no means as bad as Rockcastle. —  
The road leads upon a wide mountain plateau, which  
is for many miles level, so much that the  
shallow creeks did not carry off the heavy rains  
but covered the <sup>low</sup> banks in many places a mile  
in extent. — our road crossed little and big Laramie  
creeks, the last first. — how the water covered  
the road for half a mile, we came to it while  
the 33<sup>rd</sup> Indiana were crossing, many of them  
rolling up their breeches and wading, in one  
place was it over four deep, except in the cuts  
and chink holes made by the waggons, many of  
them waist deep, and were to the poor soldier who  
made a man's step. — the waggons were covered with  
corn, and all rode through that corn. I got  
into ambulance, thinking myself very fortunate, but



I recounted that idea before we had got to the distance and would gladly get out and made, even had it been true as dup, I would not attempt to describe the passage of that creek, but such a jostling and bumping as the four occupants had was although annoying to any who saw us, it was quite another affair to us. A wagon stalled and of course we had to stop until it would get out of the way. I noticed that the crowd was to come, so I determined to get out, - fortunately for us by getting into mud we could avoid the crowd of the road, and get onto the bridge, and to the land upon the side of the creek. - I watched the long train of teams coming for some time, and saw many at other times laughable accidents, but a sense of our own misery, prevented me from showing it. - My Company was scattered for a long distance upon the road, and I did not find but few of them until I got into our Camp. - The remainder in Camp next day made to get across the largest creek, the next day we took the road again and made 14 1/2 miles, and encamped in a place where we could scarcely get level ground to set a tent. That day we passed through Bartonville & encamped six miles this side, near to a Tennessee Regiment, which had then 450 men, and rapidly filling up. A son of Andy Johnson is the Colonel. I was introduced to him, he is small in stature, & I judge about 46 or 47 years of age. A son of Paxon Brown is a Captain in the same Regiment, he is about 19 or 20 years, I was much interested in these Tennesseans, who are as a body a fine looking set of men, many of them well to do in the world, and of more intelli-

gence than the Kentucky volunteers. They have left their homes to prevent their being drafted into the Rebel Army. Several hundreds of them started together for Kentucky to join our Army, a small portion of whom were armed, and many of them with worthless squirrel rifles that had been hidden for months, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Rebels, who would have destroyed them. - This body of men were attacked by Rebel Cavalry, and scattered to the mountains, a few were killed, and about sixty men taken prisoner. - Of the number that started together (about one thousand) probably eight hundred have arrived, and they come in in squads, of four, five, ten, twenty, thirty and fifty, during the time we were encamped near them, I could often hear cheering and rejoicing upon the arrival of squads of these fugitives. There are in the 7<sup>th</sup> Division of the Army of the Ohio, seven Regiments of Tennesseeans, two of which were formed at Camp Dick Robinson, and are now at the Ford, under and in Genl Carter's Brigade, four others are at Shiloh's Ferry, Whitley County, and Col Johnson's Regt, & Col Horst's, which has been encamped near to Leavelle, the latter Regiment numbered when we came by their Camp about 900. - Both of these Regiments passed up to the Ford yesterday. - The Kentucky Regts are the 7<sup>th</sup> Col Gamard, 14<sup>th</sup> Col Cochran, 19<sup>th</sup> Col 22<sup>nd</sup> Col Lindsey, - Ohio Regts 16<sup>th</sup> Col De Conroy 42<sup>nd</sup> Col Sheldon - The 14<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> & 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio constitute our Brigade, Col De Conroy commanding, Ordnance 3000 & 49<sup>th</sup> - fifteen Regiments & 2 Battalions of Artillery, & 5 Companies of Cavalry, is the force now here. - The 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio, & 19<sup>th</sup> Col under Col De Conroy



Companies of the 11<sup>th</sup> were forward as this order. —  
The remainder of the 11<sup>th</sup> & two Companies were ordered  
forward, leaving eight upon the mountain side.  
It was not long after this force had left as much  
cannon shots were heard, and then constantly. Co  
was on the reserve, and thought from the amount of  
shooting that our boys had engaged the enemy in  
force, we remained for an hour or a half, listen-  
ing to the rattling of musketry without knowing what  
was going on, when two more companies of the 14<sup>th</sup> <sup>regiment</sup>  
being one of them, were ordered forward, when we ar-  
rived upon the top of the mountain, I could then  
understand the position of affairs, — found our men  
lying down behind logs, stumps, rocks, behind trees, upon  
the top of a point or ridge facing the enemy for half  
a mile, not over three hundred yards distant. — We  
were ordered to give lead down upon the extreme left,  
and turned to the right down the ridge, keeping below  
the top of the ridge as much as possible, out of the way  
of the Rebel bullets, that were whistling over our heads.  
When we had got down to where our carbines were  
we were halted, and told to commence firing. — I went  
to the top of the ridge to find out if possible the  
location of the enemy, at first sight, not one was to  
be seen, but upon looking a little longer, I could see  
a head pop up and then another, above the combes-  
tant thorns of around the top of the mountain. —  
Our boys would crawl up to the top of the ridge, lay flat on the  
ground and the next cool would wait until they could get  
sight, and then fire, but some of them might as well have fired  
into the air. — It made it too warm for the Rebels to stand  
by their cannon, and it was completely silenced. We were not  
allowed to remain long, but were ordered to retire after



knowing could long enough to understand the position  
of their guns. — When we were acting, they let a  
valley of musketry after us for the balls passing  
over our heads. — Some of the Ohio boys were wounded  
on seriously. — Two distances from the gap report their  
held at four points and a Captain killed & eight  
wounded. — He ordered that coming to where we  
had encamped the night before, the night was cold  
and I slept but little. — We started early next morning for  
Camp. — On Sunday a force of the Rebels, I cannot  
tell how many, as they are variously estimated at from five  
hundred to three thousand ventured down and drove in  
our pickets stationed five miles distant. Our whole  
force was in arms all night waiting for their coming, as  
it was expected that they had been reinforced by five thousand  
from Knoxville, and our number from eight to ten thousand.  
Our superior officers act as if they believed it, and may have  
reliable information of the fact. — If such is the case we  
are not likely to have an engagement for some time to  
come, as we must have more cannon, and heavier arms too  
than we have now, and a larger force to support the cannon.  
There is no doubt but there are three or four hundred  
Indians at the Gap, but I am of opinion they will  
not come on any very much. — A telegraph wire  
is up in front of our Camp, and continues to the Gap.  
We have the information now perhaps as soon as you do,  
but get me details. — To-day we hear that Mr. Lellan  
has forced the Rebels to retire from York town. —  
Orlando Bower, formerly Adjutant of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regt  
has been appointed Major of this Regiment, and is  
now acting in that capacity. — G. W. Gallups was nomi-  
nated to the Military Board for the position, and was  
confident of getting it. — Lt. Col. Bower is still

at Lexington sick. — The 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio is encamped  
within a short distance of us. — The 22<sup>nd</sup> Regt moves up  
to-day, and encamp just below us. — The Regiments that  
have been encamped upon the opposite side of the river are  
moving over into this, all of which leads me to think  
that perhaps safety demands our being close to each other.  
Provisions are very scarce, not a day passing without  
our being entirely out of or more of the necessaries of  
life. — We are mostly out of hard bread, and this  
country affords nothing, there are occasionally a crew  
of small fox in one or other of the Regiments, now  
yet in the 11<sup>th</sup> Capt. Thomas is still at Lexington  
has not been with his Company since we were there. —

I have not got had time to make out another allotment  
roll, but all the men are anxious to have it done, I have  
notified Sherman to continue upon the old roll, until  
further orders from me. — They will I think increase  
the amount for months to \$10,000. — Please send word  
if you have an opportunity to Perry Pitt, George Dwyer  
and James Murray that John O'Brien has been sent  
back after all the dear tea, and if they are able to come  
when he returns, they can come with him with out cost to  
themselves. James Robinson and Dricks have seen Lt.  
John my Son to Hutton and the little fellow, and  
account me to all enquiring friends. — Address  
all Communications, to the 11<sup>th</sup> Regt, Cumberland  
I ord.

Yours truly  
A. S. Mearns



May 5<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dear John,

This note up by Hooker it will be due about the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month I think. I had a letter from Jackie - Saturday, he said he would write to you as soon as he had time. He has been trudging over terrible roads, ~~every day~~ they have been marching every day since they left Springfield, and the more they got to the front the worse the roads became. Some times they could scarcely get enough level ground for them all to camp on. All of the provisions for ten thousand men have to be hauled over the road they tramped from Springfield. The letter was written Saturday week ago. Jim Paine joined them on that day. John Martin, Thornton Sampson are sick in Springfield, and he left four others at the Hospital in Loudon. The trip

Belle 27<sup>th</sup> May 1862



has been very hard on the men, they all  
having to sleep on the wet ground they  
could not get any, about they have had  
a great deal of hard rain, the women are  
also in a very bad condition, The 14<sup>th</sup> is  
in Dr. Conroy's Brigade he was the Col  
of the 16<sup>th</sup> Ohio Regt. The 16<sup>th</sup> is encamped  
one mile from the 14<sup>th</sup>, And Salkin  
says from what he can learn it is  
one of the best drilled regiments in  
and discipline  
the service, the Colonel is an English  
educated military man, and is very  
strict, Does not drill by Horder, he has  
not seen him yet, General Morgan  
has his head quarters about two miles  
from them, The last he heard from  
Lieut. Col. Brown, he was not expected  
to live



and hope she will not get cold & will now do well - I am looking for the four children to leave them now every day - as they were with Biddy all the time at first I can't possibly expect them to escape - They are said to be a light kind & the season I am told is favorable - I had my summer house contracted for today to be a six sided one - I hope it will be finished before summer but the work men here are provokingly slow - Our hospital soldiers are must all getting well - but our head surgeon Dr. Elder has gone home to die with consumption brought on or increased by being overworked here at the first - Give my love to Charlie & Mrs. Sarah & Sophia - and write me soon if Charlie has any advice to give and much oblige yours Father -

I am happy to say that Dr. Elder's  
 time appears to be long in the first time  
 being long Charles first term is a pleasure  
 affair - I would like to get to see some  
 of his own business

He has been advised by Jack J. Langston  
 General of the 1st Regt. to get the  
 out of them - but I don't know the  
 + the fact not get any out - great  
 for an also recommended to wear his arm

Ashland May 7<sup>th</sup> 1862.

My Dear Mother

I received your letter last night and am glad that you are well enough to go on your travels - I write to you sooner than I would, as I hope the letter will reach you in Sandville and I want you to get Charles's opinion for me, about Bessie's arm - It still continues very stiff & perhaps he could recommend some kind of oil or ointment to rub it with that might help remove the stiffness - Tell him the external condyle was the bone that was broken off & the arm was kept in straight splints seven weeks & not bent during that time - it is now three weeks since it was taken out of the splints - Dr. Spaulding but it advises



binding it & rubbing it every day & trying  
to make her use it - But she hates so  
bad to have us touch it & won't use  
it much besides so we have not gained  
much on it the last week - I wish  
Charlie or George could have set it & had  
the care of it. I think it would then have  
done well - As far as I can learn there  
never has been a bone set properly in  
Ashland. Dr. Wise has done no better  
than Dr. Van - I think they both ought  
to be sued for the crooked legs they have  
set - & Mrs. Wilson's little girl's arm is  
set worse than Bessie's. I was very sorry  
we had not tried the Hospital Surgeons  
though as they were strangers we don't  
know as they would have done better.  
I often wish we lived in a town large  
enough to have a good physician &  
dentist. My teeth need some repairs  
but I suppose I shall have to let  
them ache till I go to Manetta if  
I don't get there till next winter.

I am surprised Mary Ross gave up  
her visit to Tamsville. I didn't suppose  
she could be coaxed out of it - I enjoyed  
Douglas Putnam's visit very much -  
He saw Joe Lovell in Nashville (and as  
Mary Ross won't read this letter to report  
to the boys - I can safely mention I  
suppose) that he says "Joe Lovell is  
a perfect wreck not much more  
mind than a child & the most bitter  
secessionist he ever saw - he thinks  
drinking & tobacco are what has injured  
him" he don't think he was anxious for  
Sarah to come down - was not expecting  
her when he saw him - I pity Sarah  
very much she will have a hard  
time with him -  
The last day Douglas was here Biddy  
broke out full with the measles & had  
to go to bed - I fortunately got another  
gub for a week & today is the first  
day Biddy has done the work  
I suppose she had them pretty light



Camp Dr Conroy Ky.  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mr John Means

Dr John

Enclosed I send you a letter addressed to James O'Brien, whom I suppose you do not know, but who you will likely hear of at Sahlands or at Callittsburg. — His business is of hunting up deer. — You will oblige me by getting this to him. I would have addressed the letter to him, but I suspect he is the kind of man not likely to visit a post office —

Yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> just received — I notice what you say in regard to the money falling short of \$500 — If I have an opportunity I will send it to you shortly. — I have not time to write more at present, as the mail leaves in a little while, and I am anxious the letter should get to O'Brien as soon as possible —

Mr Killian, Collins and Hughes left this morning. It will take them two or three days to get back near Sahlands, if they should succeed in getting through our line and escaping the Rebels. I am well. — Col. Cochran has just received a despatch that Col. Brown died this morning at 8 o'clock.

Yours

Asch,

Irmy Still and Jas Morn arrived to-day.





Ohio Divorce May 9-1862

Mr. Geo. Means

Dear John

We have re-weighed the clay bot of Thomas and find that Abbl. and all weigh 4757 - and taking off 200<sup>lb</sup> for 10 bbls. leaves 4557 clay -

I wrote you a few days ago to have some one go on board a raft at your place and buy 50000 shingles - and limited you to 2.50 per M. - If you can get 80000 on as good terms please do so - And if they cannot be had at that price more but not over 3<sup>00</sup> per M. - I think sawed shingles will answer our purpose best - Try and get some one to negotiate for them who is a judge of the article - I requested father to attend to the matter some time ago, but he has neglected it, and we shall soon need them -

Yours truly  
G. Means



Auckland N.Z. 20th May 1862

Dear

Mother

Yours of inst  
came duly to hand.

Hattie asks me to reply for  
her; she having given birth  
yesterday morning to "nine  
pounder" boy. Both are  
getting along very well.

The joint in Bessie's arm  
was now entirely stiffened,  
but she could only bend it  
a little, when we removed  
the splints. After finding this  
to be so I took her to see  
Dr. Spaulding at Greenup  
who bent the arm with  
force enough to break up  
the adhesions to the bone,  
and since that, I



have every day bent the joint and gain with it gradually. She can put her hand below the ear, back of her head, and could now unfasten her clothes on the back excepting just at the top of her dress. Dr. Spaulding says (as does Dr. C. C. H. in your letter) that she will never the use entirely, and that the knot on her arm will not be noticeable in a few years. We have been rubbing the arm with some olive oil also Linet of Anicaea, tablets from someone, but depend on the use, to effect a cure. Our thanks to Dr. Lee for his recommendations and for

to Mr. H. - will keep you advised of Mattie's condition. Rose has just recovered from the measles (very light) and we are daily expecting the others to take them.

Yours most obedient son  
John Meant



Canton Ohio May 26 1862  
Mr John Means

Dear Sir I received yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> inst on the subject of the Steam Boat Boston and shown the same to Mr Barton and after consultation with him concluded to advise you to take the stock of the Bank and then offer it to the Company at the price paid if they do not accept Mr Barton and my self will take what you do not wish to hold this you will not of course advise them of as Boston has but 3 to our 4 shares each we should let him have half of it.

Yours  
Thomas Means

P.S. Sent 1000 of our thousand  
dollars to Galesburg for Means Hall & Co  
Y W M



Arlaud Ky. May 20th 1862

Dear Mother

Since writing to you  
last week Katie and son  
have been getting along  
finely. Katie is gaining  
strength fast, and the  
young Kentuckian looks  
about him as brightly  
as though he were  
one or two months  
old is pretty quiet and  
amuses himself generally  
by sleeping.

We have a very good  
nurse, same we had  
when Rose Lily was  
born. Katie wants  
Mary Ross to send  
a long list of names  
for us to make



choice of one for him  
There is the usual variety  
of opinion as to whom  
the spryest bear must  
resemble. He has  
blue eyes like Tommy and  
hair like Berie.

The children have very  
different degrees of ad-  
miration for him.

Tom thinks we had better  
swap him off and  
has made proposals  
to several parties to  
exchange for him,  
larger boys, girls, mules  
horns, wagon &c &c.

Berie is <sup>not</sup> very much  
concerned, about him  
but the Lins are  
very proud & fond of  
him. Ben has had  
The Meaker and

entirely secured. Therefore  
none of the others have taken  
them. Berie's arm is  
about as when I wrote  
last if she is gaining any  
now we do not notice it  
so much as at first  
There is not much soreness  
in the joint now.

Platter joins in love  
to all. Say to tell Mary  
that the summer house is  
finished and she can  
use it. her next visit

Your most  
obedient son  
John Stewart



1862

Union Landing May 28<sup>th</sup>  
My dear John -

I was very glad to receive  
yours this evening. We have quite satisfied  
land glad to hear about your boys -  
hope Healtie has some goodly woman with  
her. Mother went to Ohio Monday and came  
up to day. Boy little Willie he flew came home  
- he has been sick some four or six weeks  
was sent down Cincinnati to let the pilot of St  
Louis. He came all the way from St Louis  
by himself was very glad to see Mother on the  
boat. could not get to her in engine - had  
to be carried off the boat and left the house  
some of us knew him at first - he will remain  
with us to night - his affairs have been to  
see mine that afternoon - Mr Collins had heard  
of his sickness and was going to stay if I did  
not see him this evening. Willie says why home  
Wash thinks so much of me that he - that

Mother says he sent a thousand dollars  
to Dublin and thinks will have some  
mine - says he would like for that  
through London he sent - as if you  
got - some call - he would like  
to get - see by thousand - from the  
talks in the morning in front of  
to know them better - he got 2000



would not have had him spend his money.  
Of course Mother saw a great many people  
and things when she was gone. I was much  
surprised but she was pleasantly by a visit  
from my friend Mrs. - Monday afternoon  
she left us - in a ship in presence of visiting  
Mrs. M. - It was a hot day - and  
her little son rode with her within a  
mile of here, then walked home quickly  
she, at the same time she had to stay  
she said would be conscience told her she  
was sick she neither feared for or cared for  
myself or beast - was anxious for me to come to  
her house and see Tommie - He had remem-  
bered to give her Sister's school and  
from the La Bosh school - afraid they  
might say something about me to home -  
I found out from her - she said the  
black man told C. - that I - wanted  
to see his Grandfather one day when he was  
over - but he told him he should not see old  
"Tom Means" that he said well he is my  
grandfather - I rec'd a letter from Mr. Dublin

yesterday - by post one from Mrs. - I mean  
she called Mrs. H. - she is consoling with  
Mr. Dublin about my going to see him -  
I think of some things about writing to  
Mrs. M. about my going - she is still boarding  
at the Biggs Boarding - I think I will get together  
see Mr. Richards get him to visit - I  
have been making flower frames think I will  
get out a patent right - I wish we had some  
in Tennessee - we now tell that it is better  
think they would stay pretty well contented  
should like to head Boston all last time about  
the baby - but those the Irish are very much  
pleased - Give my love to Mother - How do  
your boxes do - mine are looking very pretty  
especially the Grandfather - I believe I want  
to know if Uncle Thomas has got the pay for  
his best boots, if not you you get it for him  
there she rec'd a letter from him last evening  
Postage stamps and paper were in great dem-  
and at the shop - Yours affec. M. H.  
Musing Willie back last night -



There is a good deal of sickness in my Company, only one or two are however much sick - O'Leary Callahan is sick at the Post with Dysentery, and is very low. - He was better yesterday, and I have not heard from him to-day. - He does not receive proper attention. - The number of about a present sick is twenty one. - The days are very warm and the nights very cool. - We are now pretty well fixed in our Camp, but it has taken a good deal of work to dig out places in the mountain for our tents, for several days and nights I found miserably, but since I have got all my baggage I get along as well as I could expect. I am in good health, but for two or three days after we stopped here, I was afraid I was going to be laid up with rheumatism. Hugh Derby is on the sick list, he has been complaining for a month, - part of that time he has been for duty. He says that John Wells formerly lived in Wascas County Penn. but does not know the Post Office address. - But thinks that it is either Greenwells or Georgetown, He says that they live near to both of these towns. John H. Johnson says that Pinkens has \$600 of his money, and John Cuddepp says that his family had not received the \$400. - Give my love to Mattie and the little folks. - Let me hear from you often.

Yours truly  
John W. Means

Camp Concordia Va.  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mr John Means

Dear John:

I received your letter some days ago, and have been prevented by circumstances from writing sooner. This day week ago we left Camp de Conway, intending to march to Big Cocks Gap to cut off a force of rebels, who had possession of that Gap. We had not proceeded on three miles, when we were halted, being learned from an scout that that force had left there, and <sup>had</sup> come to Cumberland Gap. We are determined to go ahead, and not return to our old Camp, where we had left nearly all of our baggage. We are now encamped on the north side of the Cumberland River, and two miles from the Gap, and have brought up all of our tents and baggage, all of which looks to me as if a change had been made in our movements, and it seems to me that the papers received yesterday explain the reason of the change. The orders we receive from Halleck, but are really acting or intended to cooperate with Genl Fremont. I assure as long as we are in Kentucky that we are in Genl Halleck's command, but after we cross into Tennessee we will receive our orders from Genl Fremont direct. We have never no rumour about the strength of the Rebels at the Gap, and our movements and the orders received from Sigel quite indicate that they are stronger than they are, when we first came here. In my opinion we are in a much stronger position for defence than at Camp de Conway, fortifications



being daily made, and the timber of on both sides  
of both roads leading to the Gap has been  
cut down, and cannon are in position upon  
all the approaches to our Camp. — The force  
here is composed of 33<sup>rd</sup> Ind. 16<sup>th</sup> & 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio, 33<sup>rd</sup> & 112<sup>th</sup>  
Regts, 3 Battalies, & 5 Companies of Cavalry. — Two  
of the Guns are 30<sup>th</sup> Parrotts, and two 20<sup>th</sup> Parrotts. — Last  
night we had orders to be ready for an attack. —  
An extra Guard Guard detailed for the outposts, the  
the artillery & muzzles rolled over the roads for  
the same time, getting their guns into the positions  
assigned them. I read my paper until late in the  
night, and went to bed fully satisfied that I  
would not be outdone by an attack before day-  
light. To-day I can hear of no immediate cause of  
the alarm. I have no idea that the Rebels will  
attack us, and would rather they would than we  
attack them. — Two Semmes & two the Turkey  
Regiments are at Boston, or near that place, on  
the road leading from Big Creek Gap to Barbours-  
ville. — I can form no idea how long we will  
remain here, it may be that we will move in  
a week, and we may stay here all summer. —  
We have got over the news about the danger  
of the Capital, but the action of Congress is  
causing a good deal of talk among the Vir-  
ginia Regiments. I think the 14<sup>th</sup> is right on  
confiscation, with the exceptions perhaps of Col.  
Cochran & Major Brown. — The Colonel talks  
too much to suit my views. — The "niggers" trouble  
him a good deal. I expect that your folks  
are not so much annoyed and excited as the  
Blue Grass region — Major Brown informs me that

the Union men about Frankfort are a good deal exci-  
ted, and the Secessionists hold their own. —  
Lake Moore talks right on Confiscation when he  
was with us. — He has gone to Frankfort. —  
He intended waiting until the fight came  
off, as we were making preparations when he came.  
But he <sup>was</sup> found out that there was no talking  
when we would move again. Lake will get the  
position of St. Paul if he will accept. If he does  
not want it, I do not know will receive the  
appointment. He will probably use his influence for  
Gallup. Capt Shreve is an aspirant. He is now  
Senior Captain. There is a good deal of discon-  
fidence in this Regiment among the officers. I  
believe nearly every Company officer in the Regi-  
ment has or is talking of resigning, but confiden-  
tially for there no resignations will be accepted.  
We have just heard that Combs has been  
taken, — and each showing the 33<sup>rd</sup> Indiana  
boys did give for the success. I have to  
think some of the enemy's tents can be seen to-  
day at the Gap. We have fired into a  
high mountain who could see the enemy's tents  
and this Camp fires up to bed night, but  
to-day neither men or tents can be seen. They  
may be trying to draw us off there, and  
Cavalry are out on the road to-day, and we may  
learn to-night what it means. — The Gap is  
about forty miles from the Virginia & Semmes-  
see Railroads, and I think they will keep  
a strong force to prevent us from getting pos-  
sessed of it. — Without it I do not see  
how they can get out of Virginia.



Arlaud Ky 9th June 1862

Dear

Mother

Yours of the 4th just  
came to hand on the 7th having  
traveled pretty fast in Uncle  
Sam's Coach. We are very  
glad to hear of your safe  
return home again and  
that you had a pleasant visit  
Nattie would like very  
much to see Mr. C. & Co.  
on their way down the river  
but the Ohio does not stop  
long enough for her to expect  
to see them, - The W. S. A.  
hospital is being moved today  
from this place - And our  
own is empty all having recover-  
ed from the measles after  
a very light attack



and Hattie was able to  
go out into the kitchen  
yesterday to see how things  
looked, and she waked  
us all up early in the  
morning so that Mary can  
get some breakfast for her  
she has been drinking bottled  
ale, and trying her hand  
at making Beer in place  
of the "Barnells of Lee" —

The baby has not taken  
meat yet and most people  
tell us that he will not

Our trees are very full of  
peaches, the grapes are setting  
and water melon vines growing  
all preparing for your visit

Our love to all,

Your obedient son  
John Means



5/862

Union Landing June 16<sup>th</sup>

My dear John

Thinking you and  
Hattie would like to hear from Belle  
I will write a few lines - Belle has been  
very sick for several days was taken about  
Friday - and the babe was not born till  
yesterday Monday evening - It was not  
living - Dr. H. - thinks if had been dead  
some four or five days - The babe was a  
little girl with black hair - looked quite  
natural and think would have been  
very pretty - Belle has not felt well for  
some time, or mother or mine would have  
been up to see your little boy - Mrs. Jumbo  
and the two Mrs. Kellogg were here -  
We buried it to day in the grave yard  
is mother's little one - Belle is better to  
day than we expected she would be -  
She and mother send their love to you  
and Hattie - Love - M - L -  
How does little Sam come on -



<sup>Mr. Rice I will write to his son</sup>  
I find that they keep me pretty busy  
the whole year - some bring yet  
able to dress or undress themselves  
I would like a visit from you  
my much but I fear the noise  
will deafen you - The older ones  
stay out doors in their new summer  
house a great deal -

The baby name is not yet decided  
on - John will be the first name  
& the middle name I shall call  
him by I like Otto or Harold -  
Harriet I don't like for a girl but  
Honey sounds very well - & it is the nick  
name of Harold - The baby don't look  
like any of the other children - its head  
is shaped like John's - it has light hair &  
deep blue eyes & is a good looking child but  
not as handsome as the twins were at his  
age - it did not take the measles - I was  
sorry - as the other children had them so  
early - If you can get company down to see  
it - The new baby & I will gallant you home  
& the rest of them can keep house - Tell Mary  
Ross she can have lots of fun in dressing  
the children & Biddy is making great  
calculations on her visit - Love to Father  
George & Mary yours affly Hattie

other city - she looks lovely with it  
I have some to some folks but  
Ashland June 25/82

My Dear Mother

I will try and  
write you a few lines this morning  
though my eyes are still so weak  
I cannot write much at a time -  
I am getting well about as fast  
as usual - I have not walked any  
farther than the garden yet -  
Baby will be six weeks old next  
Monday - John has been away  
from home a week attending a  
law suit at Mt Sterling - I look  
for him home tonight -

I suffered a good deal at the  
birth of my child - Labour was  
long & tedious Dr. Van thought I  
suffered more than I did with  
any of the other children that he  
was with me - I had a



dreadful toothache and was obliged  
to have the tooth pulled, three days  
before the baby was born. I did not  
feel well afterwards + I think the  
child was born about four weeks  
too soon + as his teething were not  
grown until now - I think I am  
right in my belief - He was a very  
good size though - nine pounds +  
still continues to grow - he has had  
+ still has the thrush on his mouth  
my nurse did not wash his mouth  
well I suppose was the cause - + he  
has had a bad summer complaint  
last week but is now some better  
I fear I shall have trouble in getting  
him through the summer - I still  
drink tea - varied with beer +  
but as soon as the cool weather comes  
I intend to feed him more + then  
shall not feel so weak -  
I tell the ladies I am disappointed

in not having twin boys - I think  
twins with a good wet nurse to  
assist are not half the trouble  
of that one is where you take  
nurse it yourself - and another  
objection to one + a boy is that it can't  
wear out all the time old clothes  
if it had only been a girl I more  
should have had to make it any  
new clothes they bear such a  
supply of good ones, outgrown  
+ I'd rather don't hear much after  
him - I console myself thinking  
I will make it wear out as  
long as possible - I think  
myself the smartest woman of your  
family now, inasmuch as I have  
had as many children as my  
mother - three boys + three girls! -  
As Bonaparte said "the greatest  
woman, was the one that had the  
most children" -

Mrs Means

Be so kind, as to ask, your Father to give me  
a Crocus Bulb +, oblige your Friend

E. H. Sampson

Loose Item



Askland June 27<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Mother

I received your letter yesterday shortly after I had finished writing to you & will write again today to tell you that I am very much pleased to think you may visit me so soon - I shall not be able to go to Manitowish until late in the fall but if you wish, John will accompany you home - so you & Mary can come on your favorite boat the Ohio - before she quits running as she would be cooler than a steam wheel boat -



My house is cool + comfortable is canots - & they are more useful  
the only suffering from heat you than ornamental - though I think  
would have would be on the Mr. P. liked things generally best  
boat - Give my love to Prescott of that kind -  
I should be happy to have him Biddy sends love to Mary &  
come with you - Love to Father Sarah & says to tell Mary  
& George ~~and~~ and I should that she is going wild, No cause  
be much pleased to have one she is coming down -  
of them come - Tell Mary Ross Good aff  
Biddy is making great Hattie -  
calculations on her visit -  
~~If you can~~ I will send John  
down to the Ohio now every time  
she comes, until you get here  
I think she generally gets here  
by or dark on Tuesday -  
Sam Humpsteads boat the  
Letta runs to Parkersburg -  
I am sorry I have no choice  
flour seeds to send - the only  
flour I have that goes to send



doing as the paper would not have said so. —  
Give my Love to Hattie and the little ones.  
Write soon. I must close. Yours  
to Ann Ireland & Jeff  
Jas. M.

Camp David, Tenn.

July 8<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mr John Means

Dear John

I am here with, by Mr. James Carters \$1000.00, which I have collected upon the Allotment Roll, and for distribution to our families. He I endeavored to get home upon this business, but could not succeed, we are doing nothing but drilling a couple of hours in the morning, and about the same time in the evening, the balance of the day we try to keep cool. From all appearance I would not be surprised if we remained here all summer. — Genl Davis however tells me this morning, that the present state of affairs could not exist much longer in East Tennessee, I think however, that Quill will have all to do in the changing of the existing state of affairs. — From what I can learn, Quill is comparing the Carters as he does us. We have all had the blues wonderfully, and the first ones from Richmond, but the best day or two, we begin to think that the Rebels were about as badly need of us as we are. — The Rebels out here, say they had a great victory. M. Latham wounded a few of our, our General killed 2000, — but then they



are much given to lying, and <sup>are</sup> not disturbed but  
omit for the fact. I have Genl. Canale telegraphs  
operator boarding with me, & generally get all his news  
tells consistently. Our Mail arrangements are miserable.  
I have had no letters for eight days, some times  
we do not receive a mail for three days at a time.  
I send \$100.00 to Belle to be placed, to her credit  
at the Iron Bank of Sumter. I want you how-  
ever to pray yourself for any thing you may have  
paid for me, & report to her, sending her the bal-  
ance. Our Paymaster has been ordered to report to  
Huntington City, make charges & deliver of disbursements.  
Something is evidently wrong or we would have been  
paid some time ago. — The men have over two  
months due them, and since the stoppage of the allot-  
ment my company cannot well remain so long again  
without their pay. I have succeeded better in  
collecting the allotment. <sup>than I expected</sup> David Smith is a deserter,  
but upon stating the case to the Paymaster he paid  
me his money. I suppose it is all that will  
we be get. Jas Collins send upon allotment,  
but I did not get his. I think Mr. will  
pay it anyway. I've written that he will come  
back if he could get transportation. I have  
made out Discharges for <sup>more</sup> three of my men, old  
Tom Bowling one of them. I have been trying  
to get clear of him for a long time.

I have sent a discharge to the Post Surgeon at Alex-  
ington for St. H. Bailey. He is of no account, and if  
I succeed in getting his discharge, I think I can get  
his allotment. There is Trickett's discharge is made  
for him. I think I will get the \$12.00 he owes this  
week. — There is evidently something wrong in  
Mr. Wilson's case at Winchester. He ~~was~~ not here  
to send any money. I suppose you have heard  
that Bright's Co. Liffingwell is now <sup>23</sup> Lieutenant  
in Company D — the Company that Sol Davis  
& David Worthington started out with, out one  
of the first officers are connected with the Company  
now. Jacob M. Poage takes Bright's place  
as orderly Sergeant. How suddenly bright in place  
of Clayton Callahan who died at the Old Field  
Hospital. C. Patterson Baker is now another of the  
Sergeants. Lt. Col. Gallups and Lieut. Bonafede  
are out at Saywell with a flag of <sup>two</sup> ~~two~~ <sup>to-day</sup>  
a number of these flags have been sent out by  
us since we have been here. I don't know what  
the object is. — Col. Nabby has plenty of good  
Whiskey as report says, and is very hospitable to  
our officers. The privates get well acquainted and  
trade skins, and other articles of Country acquirements.  
The Cross miller Regis's says that Kirby Smith has  
40,000 under his command, and that he intends  
retaking the Gap. — I think if they intended



He spoke to her about driving for a few days since - but she gave him an earnest charge by no means to go, feeling especially reluctant to presume since the death of his cousin Frank Munro - last winter - in Kentucky. He is with his Grandmother on the farm - assisting her in various ways - & remaining a part of each day under her inspection in the prosecution of his studies - for which I am sorry to say he has no especial attachment. This summer thus far with us - has been unusually healthy - very few cases of ague having occurred so far as I am aware in the Community.

The Candidate for whom I cast my vote as Mayor of Dresden was elected, & immediately after assuming the duties of his office I gave him an especial charge to see to it that the ponds in the back of the Town - which have been neglected for some years - were thoroughly drained. He promised they should receive his attention & perhaps our health ~~is~~ this summer is due to that fact.

Sophia sends her love  
Yours Affectionately  
S.P. Holcomb

Dresden, Muskingum County, Ohio. July 24, 1862

Dear Mother -

The journey home was safely made - Hannsville being reached in the night & having slept on the Steamboat we went up to brother Charles' house in the morning. We reached home on Saturday evening - the little pilgrims of Minnie waiting for her & setting up a good shout on her arrival. My garden I found had come forward immensely in the way of weeds during my absence. My corn was about two feet high & in tassel; it is now in ear nearly ready for roasting. My peas - that I left in full bearing - I found withered & dead; my strawberries



that I had cleaned carefully just before starting, was out of sight in weeds, & the grass had grown so high over my garden path that I mowed it away with my scythe. Cherries, raspberries, & now blackberries we have had brought to our door, by children offering them for sale, in great abundance.

My door knocker, I discovered on unwrapping it, from long & hard usage in the store - had the upper iron for fastening through the door broken short off, & at first I imagined it useless. Taking it to the Blacksmith at our Carriage-makers - I had him bore a hole through the upper end & inserting a large screw, fastened it on my front door very firmly. When the children have amused themselves greatly, with the sound it produces. The weather for a few days past has been warm enough

for ice. which I procure at our Confectioners. Cooling the water & milk which we use to a very delicious temperature.

I was thinking of you today & wishing that you had a limp. I find that I can buy all I wish to use for about one third what it cost me to put up ice when I attempted to saw it in the ice-house at Mrs Munros.

By the treatment which she received from brother Charles. Mrs Munro was greatly benefited & was surprised as well gratified at finding that he declined receiving any payment for his services. She has returned to her home & has been down once to spend a day with us since her return. Arrangements are on foot for enlisting a new Regiment of Soldiers - under the recent Call from the President - & Sophia has been quite uneasy lest Turner would go.



them now - Love to Father, George  
& May hoping to see you soon  
The end of the month  
Father -

Mr Kirkwood ~~is~~ will go up for his  
wife in a week - Biddy sends love to May  
& Sarah - & says for May to come right down  
& tell Sarah she was bridesmaid the  
other day -

I have just rec'd to Cincinnati & got  
nothing & put it down in the sitting  
room for your father's benefit

Ashland July 29<sup>th</sup> 1852

My Dear Mother -

I write you a few  
lines this morning to let you know  
we are all well & disappointed  
in not seeing you & Mary Ross sooner.  
I just heard last night that  
Mrs. Kirkwood & Miss Haskell  
had gone to Hamar to make a  
visit so I thought if I wrote  
immediately, Father or George &  
Mary Ross might hunt them up  
& you have them call to see you  
if you are not able to call on  
them - They probably will return  
in two weeks & if you could  
stand the weather <sup>hot</sup> enough to  
come with them they would  
be good company for you on the



boat - they are daughters of Mrs.  
Haskell whom perhaps you remember  
seeing - I think they are visiting at  
Mrs. ~~Smith~~ <sup>Gilsons</sup> in Kannah <sup>he manages the Packet</sup> - I do <sup>hope</sup> <sup>factory</sup>  
you will get to see them - I did not  
know they were going or I should  
have sent them word to be sure &  
call on you - The river is falling  
so fast I am very fearful you  
will get cheated out of your visit  
I suppose the Ohio will hardly  
be down again & the Inetta is to  
take the Boston place - We watched  
the Ohio very carefully till we found  
from your letters it was no use  
If there was any way of getting May  
Ross home again she might come  
down with Mrs. Kirkland if the  
weather is too warm for you & you  
come when it is cooler - Still I would  
prefer be much disappointed if you  
could not come too - Our  
garden feels the dry weather very

onion crop wont be near as large  
as I expected - only two hills came  
up from the seed you & Maria W. sent  
me - Our peaches are doing well  
and we have fifteen "Hildroth" pears  
and some "Summer Sweetings" -  
I suppose you will miss your  
own garden but we have half  
a field of Corn which will suit  
Mary, if she gets here in time for it -  
I put up two bushels & three quarters  
of Blackberries - a bushel & a half in  
Lam & a bushel & a quarter in Jelly -  
They sold for ten cents a gallon down  
here & some sold for 3 + 5 cents a  
gallon - The baby keeps well  
& grows very fast - his name is yet undecided  
Bessie's arm is better - Tell Mary the  
rag dolls she sent last winter are  
kissed with great care - taken to the  
table & to bed with the twins - they  
begin to look very dirty & dilapidated -  
I think she would laugh to see



before sitting and brought suit against  
the judges of the election for \$10000  
damages because they would not let  
them vote without taking the oath -  
John was one of the judges - They were  
arrested by the Provost Marshall who  
sent his soldiers down from Castlebury  
for them - They were very angry with the  
Provost Marshall would not speak to him when he  
left - As they are the first were arrested  
here, it made quite a sensation in town -  
As the soldiers were marching them off - Meis  
ward his hand to Mr Biggs & requested  
him not to let "these dirty dogs destroy  
his property" - I suppose Uncle Hugh & John  
& some of the rest of the Union men were the  
dirty dogs & we plague them a good deal about it -  
Biddy is afraid the white men will all be  
drafted off & killed & she will have to  
mang a cigger at last! She says she feels  
down headed enough about it to cut her throat  
with a butcher knife - The baby  
grows very fat & is very good day & night  
I have not been to church yet have not tried  
to walk that far - Give my love to Father  
George & Mary & hope you may yet  
get here in time to eat peaches -  
Love off if true

Ashland Aug 13<sup>th</sup> 1862 -

My Dear Mother,

I think every time I  
write, that it aint much use, for  
maybe you & Mary will be here  
before you get the letter - but as she  
aunt gets down & lower my hopes  
of a visit grow fainter - Still I keep  
hoping that Mary may come  
with Mrs. Kirkhead who is now  
daily expected - We have had  
some horridly warm weather  
for two days the thermometer has  
reached 100 - and almost every day  
it is over 92 - for the last two weeks -  
No rain of any account has fallen  
here for some time - our garden  
looks baked - the potato peated is  
as dusty when you dig it as the  
street - Cucumber Squash & melon



vines all died up - There are no  
melons here for sale this year  
and we are going to ~~have~~ <sup>raise</sup> but very few  
They are very sweet but so small - If you  
eat any very large, nice ones, please  
save me the seed - also the seed  
of any nice nutmeg melons - I had  
one of the dwarf water melons this week  
of the seed Mr. Matthews gave Father  
it was very nice & I think you might  
raise them in your own garden - The  
boys have not collected them though  
they were in plain sight - next year  
I shall plant them <sup>all</sup> on with the sweet  
potato vines & the boys cannot then see  
them - Only two nutmeg melon vines came  
up of the seed you & Beta both sent  
me - Please save me some ~~Prudie~~  
Prudie Squash seed - mine did not  
do well - also please save me some  
Manowhat Squash seed ours are  
ripening too soon - Our tomatoes are  
fairly baked on one side in the sun

and our dahlias are about a foot high  
& then all drying up - We had some  
of the Goldsmith pears this week but I  
am afraid the tree is not the kind Father  
thought it was - The pear is not juicy but  
mealy - & it does not taste like the sickle  
as I supposed it would - I fear some  
of our shrubby in the front yard will die  
Belle is still sick - Arch is home on a  
visit - Write me where Sam & Doug & Ben  
Putnam are now & Frank Ross - I hope  
they will not have to draft in Kentucky  
for John might take a fancy to go, if  
he was drafted and that would  
not suit me - The Hospital is moved  
away from here now - They still get  
up a little Decatur pear about here  
occasionally - Lucretia & Cattletown  
both have been expecting Jenkins this  
week - Capt Gris <sup>or</sup> Bagby were both  
arrested & sent to Louisville last  
week because at the election on  
Monday they refused to take the <sup>v</sup> oath



Since your invitation to Biddy to come  
& catch a train at Manetta she has  
been very anxious for me to go & take  
all the children - John thinks he would  
not dare to leave the house alone as  
there are so many thieves about lately -  
So if I take any of the children besides  
the baby I shall have to bring them all  
which I am afraid will be more than  
you can stand - Though the three girls  
are tolerably well behaved - Master Tom  
Hildaugh being the most noisy in the  
crowd - He is very anxious though to see  
his Grandma & Mary Ross - I would  
like the family subgeons to see Bessie's  
arm as it does not get the stiffness out  
of the joint as fast as I could wish -  
I wish I could take her to Charlie - I  
begin to fear it never will be entirely well  
again - The baby weighs fifteen pounds &  
is the prettiest child I have - & very good  
natured - I have written this letter with  
him in my lap & he takes a kicking  
spell every five minutes which accounts  
for the bad writing - Love to Father  
George & Mary & hoping to see you  
some time before winter I am yours  
Hattie

One of our friends says nearly 12  
thousand + we have some larger ones -  
Do get in here from no other place  
+ in the afternoon as I like the white  
+ keep to put up - I think in an hour or so

Ashland Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Mother

I suppose you  
think by this time that the Secesh  
have run off with me I am so long  
about writing - They have not arrived  
yet though this is the day in which  
it was announced, that Seven thousand  
were to come - Biddy is very anxious  
to see a Secesh army and since they  
are having such a fine time in  
Frankfort & Lexington they might  
see fit to make us a call if we  
had enough to tempt them - but  
the gentlemen seem to think that  
there are such poor farms here  
that they would not look enough  
to pay them for the trouble of  
coming - I suppose we can tell better



Do write me the news about the Pittman boys  
about it after a while - Our  
Fair comes off next this month the  
17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> - + 19<sup>th</sup> + there might be some fine  
horses perhaps to tempt them -  
I called on a lady yesterday who has  
just moved here from Pikeville - whose  
husband a good Union man was  
taken prisoner to Richmond for  
some months, after being released from  
there and returning home - was again  
obliged to fly for his life + robbed of  
some \$2000 worth of property  
so the family have moved here for  
safety - he had a store and five  
farms and the rebels helped  
themselves to all they wanted, to eat  
drink + wear + she said it did  
make her right angry to see them  
throw off their old caps in her yard  
+ come out of her store dressed all  
up like new men in the new goods  
her husband had just bought -  
One of her neighbors had ten children

and the rebels took everything  
but, what the children had on  
+ the leather beds - Wouldn't it be in  
a pretty fix if they should carry off  
my stock of dry goods in that  
way - as they all have families at  
home nothing comes amiss to them -  
There will be a great deal of suffering  
this winter - people stripped of everything  
and so many men killed in the army  
leaving their families destitute - I am  
glad I don't live in a larger place to see  
the suffering there is no fund here for the  
families of volunteers - so when they don't  
send money home their wives + children  
have to suffer - Arch Means is home  
on a furlough + has been for four weeks  
his company are at Cumberland Gap +  
he can't get to them but he thinks  
he will go to Louisville, Monday -  
Belle is getting better - The river is now  
so low that I suppose no visiting  
is to be thought of at present -



Caroleys with a prisoner, who near to them, the  
prisoner hollered out "how are you Captain" I  
spoke to him and passed on to the Hotel I  
knew the face, but could not tell who he was.  
When I returned to H<sup>d</sup> Q<sup>r</sup>s I found him here with  
his escort - It proved to be a young fellow by  
the name of Garbell a cousin of Henry's, who  
had been in the Sutters department of the 14<sup>th</sup>  
He left the Gap on the 18<sup>th</sup> and came the direct  
main road to Lexington & from there here, says  
he took dinner at the same Hotel with Kirby  
Smith at Lexington - He says that the men  
are in good health and spirits at the Gap,  
they were out of Bread when he left, and were  
upon half rations of Bacon, Beans &c. Col Dr  
Conroy was at Manchester getting a supply of  
Bread & meat - was running two mills day and  
night grinding. I did not get to talk with him  
but a minute or two, for after Genl Smith asked  
him a few questions, he was sent over to Genl  
Wright. I have no news from Williams  
Army but what you will get in the papers -  
I heard a staff officer say to night that the news  
was good, but I will wait for the "detail" -  
I could see joy in the countenances of every body in  
Anti yesterday and last night, but I did not  
read a newspaper to tell me this morning when  
I came down stairs, that the news was not as favorable  
as was reported. - Garbell says that  
Morgan is having ten days rations of crackers.  
I suppose that means "he intends trying to  
force his way out of relief is not afforded  
him, I think he would have no difficulty  
in getting out now if it was necessary for  
him to do so. - The Richmond (Va) battle was a  
much more serious affair than the newspapers report-  
ed - I hear that there are about 2000 paroled prisoners  
at Camp Chase, our loss in killed and wounded  
was fully 1000. I see great numbers of our men, as I  
passed through Indiana, Morgan's army An. Ch.

Head-Quarters, U. S. Forces.

Covington, Ky., Sept 20 1862.

Mr. John Means

Dear John:

When I arrived  
at Anti it was reported that the Ohio River  
was blockaded 12 miles below the City, so I  
took the Cars that night for Louisville, where  
I arrived about daylight next morning. I re-  
ported myself to Genl Simmell, who advised  
me to let details alone, and also paroled  
prisoners, and to report to Genl Gilbert  
Commanding the Forces at that point, as I  
had never heard of Genl Gilbert before, &  
not knowing any of the officers, & but few  
citizens of the place I concluded I would  
come back to Anti. Genl Simmell said it  
would make no difference which of the two  
points I would report at. I went to the  
Postmaster Marshall for a pass, said he had  
no authority to give passes to officers, sent  
me to Major Granger, who said the same  
thing - was referred to Genl Boyle, I went  
to his H<sup>d</sup> Quarters, reported my self, & received  
the same satisfaction from his Adjutant.



but after a full explanation of my case, I was ordered officially to report to Genl Lewis Halleck at Irvington, with the documents in my pocket, (which were sufficient to intelligent Genrals) I went back to the Provost Marshall for a Pass out of City, and succeeded in getting it. I left the City that night for <sup>Philadelphia</sup> ~~Paris~~, where I arrived about 9 o'clock <sup>morning</sup>. I saw by the papers that Genl. Halleck had been ~~ordered~~ ordered to Columbus, but concluded to deliver my papers at H<sup>q</sup> ~~Quarters~~, I presented my papers to his Chief of Staff, & was informed that "Genl. Halleck was not in command," I asked who was, "nobody" was the answer, but I concluded to wait awhile & perhaps I would find out something afterwards. I waited until 10 o'clock, when I concluded to go back to the City, and come back this morning. I found Brig Genl A. J. Smith occupying these H<sup>q</sup> ~~Quarters~~, & was told by him to remain here in the office and assist him for a few days, when he would likely be able to find something for me to do, and here I am at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, have slept none yet, and don't expect to sleep any

to-night. Genl Smith is taking short dozes on a chair, waiting for something, and I am waiting on him. I was informed this evening that I would be officially assigned to duty in the morning, as Aid de Camp. Genl Smith is a Regular, a man of 40 years of age, gray haired and heavy beard also gray, is a very sociable gentleman. Genl. Halleck I learn from good authority was gaining the friendship of the Secessionists, & I suspect that the real Union men of Paris had something to do with his transfer. A Division of the Army about 10,000 men left yesterday & last night by rail & steam boats for Louis ville, there is still sufficient force to protect Paris, when we know that not more than 6,000 of the enemy ~~can~~ at any time threaten the City. - at this time there is no force within 20 miles of the City, other than Guerrillas, & I do not think there is any force this side of Paris. The Louis ville people are now about as much excited as the Abolitionists were, and all the new Regiments are going to that place, none coming here. I was walking up one of the streets to-day, when I met a squad of



parla & thought if the seers came  
they could carry them off very easily  
for blankets & I felt quite relieved <sup>when</sup> they  
were all well shaken & tacked down  
tight again - Some of the rebel companies  
carry off everything even childrens clothes  
& womens under clothes - Some of our men  
chants are pretty well scared - Haskell  
Carried off his goods two weeks ago to  
Boston & they are there yet & we have  
not had any brown sugar in town for  
two or three weeks & have <sup>nothing</sup> else almost  
leave given out - between the  
low water & the rebels the town is in  
a poor way - not even any corn meal  
to feed the chickens - I dont think  
the rebels would hardly get enough  
to pay them for coming & in that  
we think consists our safety - As  
the old woman said "Blessed be nothing"  
I am delighted with the Presidents  
proclamation & intend to write Pres  
a congratulatory letter the first of  
January - Write soon to yours aff  
Hattie

Love to all & Bidly desires love  
to Mary & Sarah -

Ashland Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Mother

I have been  
trying to get time to write to you for  
some time but I have been so busy  
getting my house & family ready for  
winter that I have not found  
time a spare moment until today -  
I have had a woman here sewing  
for two weeks and we have made up  
all the old <sup>delaine</sup> dresses and one new  
one for <sup>each of</sup> the three so they will have  
turtle-dresses four ~~new~~ apiece  
which with what Bessie has left of old  
ones will make out the winter I hope  
I was wishing I could get into your  
pile of old ones & May Ross for maybe  
I could find some good pickings -  
You remember I have the promise  
of the purple merino - I am putting



Delaine on the twines instead of flannel  
this winter as there is no pretty flannel  
in town - The baby can have their old  
flannel dresses as I shall put him  
in short clothes by long <sup>with gaiters</sup> - ~~And~~  
a splendid new overcoat - and three pair  
of jeans breeches lined with flannel some  
of them and I intend to make him some  
more don't you think he will be warm?  
It is no small undertaking to get the  
fire all dressed for the winter and  
I thought I would begin in time and  
if there should be such a thing as  
a rise in the river I could easily pack  
my trunks + start for Manitoba - as I  
believe it will not be possible for me  
to get a housekeeper, both of the  
women who I had thought of being  
engaged elsewhere and Belle's health  
being yet too poor for Mary Anne to  
leave her - Biddy says she is crazy  
to come - She is praying daily for the  
river to raise + says she always gets

what she prays for - We have had  
another Grayson fresh fight this week -  
Thursday they had news there were  
fifty Seesh Cavalry at Grayson + coming  
in to Ashland - and Friday they  
went away and fifteen hundred came  
in to Grayson - John thought he would  
go + pay his father a visit that  
more don't you think he will be warm?  
midnight + came in to Ashland  
to avoid being taken prisoner + then went  
on to Stanton - I tell John "turn about  
is fair play" last year he was out  
to Grayson chasing the Seesh + this  
year he is running away from them  
he came home again yesterday to see  
us + went back again last night  
The Cumberland Gap army came to  
Greenup yesterday - so the Rebel at  
Grayson left again - All day Friday  
Thursday I was looking for the rebels  
I had taken all my upstairs  
+ down stairs carpets up except the



Philadelphia so I suppose we  
shall learn the fashions -  
You have not had any recent  
scarcely lately - The Merchants are  
bringing back their goods + peace  
seems once more restored -

Tell Duncanson I am very much  
obliged to him for an offer of my  
<sup>home</sup> ~~accommodation~~ for the winter - but think  
I shall try to fight it out in old  
Kentucky - Give my love to Father  
George + Mary + Hoping I may yet  
soon be able to see you face to face I  
am yours aff<sup>ly</sup> Hattie -

Ashland Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1862 -

My Dear Mother

I must write you  
a few lines to let you know of the  
great disappointment I have had  
this week in not visiting you -  
Last Monday afternoon John  
came in + said he had business  
to Cincinnati + if I would be ready  
by Wednesday he would take me  
with him as far as Homperden  
and then I could come the rest  
of the way by myself - so I packed  
my trunks and Wednesday there  
was no boat - Thursday a fine  
little boat came up + we supposed  
would go right back to Portsmouth  
from Catlettsburg so I sent down  
the trunks dressed the children +



was all ready but to our sorrow  
the boat went on to Pomeroy & has  
not yet returned - ~~Thursday~~  
Friday the "Effort" a little boat made  
out of a flat boat and came up to  
Cattletown & said she would be  
back to Ashland & would get us  
to Portsmouth by ten o'clock that  
night - we watched & waited but the  
Effort did not come till Saturday  
& then John thought we would have  
to stay in Portsmouth over Sunday  
& we might as well wait till  
Monday & then the "Victor" would  
come up - Monday came - & the  
"Victor" reached Canton but for some  
unknown reason did not come  
any farther - So then John concluded  
that I might as well stay at home  
& he would go by land to Portsmouth  
So here we are - & are likely to be for  
some time to come - There is a  
report of a rise in the river at Pittsburg

and John thinks by the time he  
gets back from Cincinnati where he  
expects to stay a week - The boats  
may be running so I can go home  
that way - So I have not yet unpacked  
the trunks but will leave them  
awhile in the Hall until further  
notice - Biddy & the children are quite  
disappointed - and I am considerably  
so - simply as the weather is to day so  
pleasant I think I could enjoy visiting  
very well - We had a heavy snow  
on Sunday - it seemed strange to  
see the trees so green & all covered  
with snow - A regiment of soldiers  
has just marched in & camped in  
the Park - no one knew they were  
coming till they arrived they are the  
117<sup>th</sup> Ohio from Portsmouth -  
I hear they steal everything so I  
suppose the old hens & chickens  
will suffer tonight -  
Dessie Nicholls has arrived from



Ashtland Ky Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1862

Mr. John Means

Dear Sir

Your father  
is here. He thinks you had better go  
to Pittsburgh and look after his Pig Iron  
And if after surveying the whole ground  
you think it expedient sell out  
He is afraid to trust Moorhead and  
thinks you had better go up and post  
yourself as well as you can and act  
on your judgement. He thinks there  
is no objections to selling on time  
provided the men are good - and in  
Pittsburgh most men are good  
If you think best sell part and leave a  
part - govern yourself according to circumstances

Respectfully

Henry Means



Pittsburgh Nov 21. 1862  
The W. Means Esq  
Hanging Rock O Dear Sir

In accordance with your Son's instructions when here yesterday, I sold Zug & Panters 500 tons of your metal at 40¢ of  $\frac{1}{2}$  + 6 mo. time, and today I closed out the balance of the lot to Lewis Galzell & Co. at same price less 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % for cash. I shall be glad if you will instruct me as early as possible, how you want me to remit the proceeds. In case you should prefer New York Exchange to Pittsburgh Bank notes I will furnish it at  $\frac{1}{4}$ % premium. In case you want Zug & Panters paper discounted I can have it done for you at 6% premium.

Very Truly yours  
John Moorhead  
J. M.



Union Landing December 1<sup>st</sup> 1862

Mr John Means

Dear Son

I received a letter from John Moorehead Pittsburg which I intended sending you but cannot lay my hand on it. He states that the day after you left he sold 500 tons of the Pigeon for (40) forty dollars per stone ~~at 5% 6 mo~~ The balance at (40) forty cash less 2 1/2 percent off and wished to know how to remit that he would choose 1/4 per cent premium for one charge on New York or would remit in Pittsburg funds that he would get the remainder discounted at the rate of six per cent per annum if I wished it I advised him by today's mail to remit to Means Hall Ho by express (5000) five thousand dollars in Pittsburg bills of denomination less than (5) five dollars the balance in legal tender notes Ohio Indiana or Ky bank notes if he could get them said nothing about discounting the 4-5- or 6 mo paper from the manner or terms of his letter for some they would be discounted without my orders meant. I since writing the above I have found Moorehead's letter which I send you I would be glad if you could come down I do not intend much of or more than half of the first or cash sale for Means Hall and Ho out of it we must pay of our Mayville debt and that of the Ashland Bank and if Means Hall Ho wish they can get discounts by having some cash here I can reduce the amount of interest I am paying from 6 per cent to 5 per cent and those if any would not take five per cent pay off they commence falling due to day I reduced one from six per cent I wish you would check out the balance if any to my credit



In the Bank of Ashland bank and bring it down  
so that I can offer to pay up or renew at present  
I don't believe it would reduce the amount I have  
left with me if I wished think I could increase  
it as business increases the demand for money will  
increase All the Furnaces on this side of the river  
are going to fresh business and have credit at present  
but I would consider it un safe to discount for  
them unless they held good business pay take no made  
paper or notes all though Pigeon is not higher than  
on their productions I am very fearful that present  
prices cannot be sustained. The bank of Ashland should  
have out as many small notes as possible they will  
not be returned for redemption, and if issued as I  
have no doubt they will be think it will be more than  
after the law takes effect those in circulation will  
not be lost unless re issued I think as small notes are  
very much wanted for change they will not many  
come home in a hurry

Come down and put up and  
consult about matters and things in general you  
can show this and consult with brother Fough

Your Harther  
Thomas W. Meard

You will enquire if we want any of the paper of  
J. G. Pamel taken by Moore had discounted  
it can be done at the Ashland Bank as it is no  
doubt no one it would be as well to discount them  
if we should need it as it were

T. W. M.



Ashland Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 1862-

Dearest Mother,

I was glad to hear from you all again, on Loh's return and find you were still well. What a dreadful thing Aunt Jane's sudden death was. I cannot realize it, at all. She seemed in such good spirits the day I saw her, on Tuesday - and to think that she only lived two days after that - Mr. Newton & the boys will miss her so much - and indeed her death will be regretted by all her friends for every one liked her, that was acquainted with her both in Marquette & Chontow. Don Belle is no better but seems to be failing slowly - She now does



not leave her room - except  
when she is carried out to ride -  
She still has her cough & is getting  
waken all the time - Arch has got  
nearly well again - <sup>if I suppose</sup>  
John gave you an account of our  
trip down - Mrs. Dunlavy's small boy  
named after Gen. Don Carlos Buell, had  
a great propensity for biting & pulling  
hair - he bit Hiland very chance he  
could get & one bite was so bad  
that it made his hand so sore, it  
has not got well yet & the poor turn  
liked to have reached home bald  
as he pulled their hair out in great  
handfuls & bit them besides - I  
was very glad to get them off the  
boat & get away from him - The  
house was so cold it has hardly  
got warm yet - it took two days  
before we could feel at all  
comfortable - I had a small  
tea party for Drusly Nichols on

Saturday - she is going back to  
Philadelphia on Thursday -  
We still have the soldiers here they  
killed me twenty five chickens out of the  
fifty - An Irish friend of mine has  
made me a present of a Goose for  
Christmas - Everything is so scarce  
& dear here butter is 30 cents a pound  
eggs 25 cents a dozen - It seems like  
coming from a land of plenty to one of  
famine to come from Manitoba to  
Ashland - John is going to send to  
Cincinnati for Potatoes Apples &c  
&c I live in hopes that we may yet  
find something to eat - I wish you  
all a ~~very~~ merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year - Give my love to  
Father, George & Mary - Yours &c  
Hattie -

Tell George that the baby's vaccination  
took in all three places - and old Jan is  
craving to get the kids as at Bellefonte Lancaster  
three miles from here there are twenty seven cases  
of small pox & they can't get any good matter



## Funeral Notice.

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*The funeral of Miss Jennie Scott  
will take place from the Railroad, at  
intersection of Fourth street, in Trenton,  
on Thursday, June 19th, 1862, at 11  
o'clock, A. M.*

*Friends are invited to attend.*