

**Lincoln & Grant:
Experiences of Illinois Soldiers
in the Western Theater of the Civil War**

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Letter, James F. Drish to Delly Drish, 11 February 1862, SC 421, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Written from Fort Henry)

“...there are Barracks here for about two thousand men about the number of secesh that wer[e] here when the fort was attacked by our Gunn Boats but they all run like cowards”

Letter, James F. Drish to Delly Drish, 16 February 1862, SC 421, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I Expect the Battle of Fort Donaldson [*sic*] was the hardest fought Battle that Ever occur[r]ed on this continent. It lasted for three days & nights a constant roar of can[n]on & musketry the Slaughter is terrible”

Letter, James F. Drish to Delly Drish, 21 February 1862, SC 421, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(re: Donelson)

“It was the hardest Battle Ever fought on the American Continent the Endurance of the me[n] is wonderfull [*sic*] they fought for three days with scarsley [*sic*] any thing to Eat and they had to lay down on thier [*sic*] armes [*sic*] in the snows for three nights in sucesion [*sic*] without blankets”

“...this is truly a[n] Illinois victory for allmost [*sic*] all the troops Engaged were from Illinois”

“General Grant has issued strict orders to prevent any commissioned officers leaving camp I dont [*sic*] expect to get home any moor [*sic*] untill [*sic*] the End of the war if I Ever do.”

**Letter, James F. Drish to Delly Drish, 12 October 1862, SC 421, Folder 1,
Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

(Written from Trenton, Tennessee)

“We made a fine appearence [*sic*] as we marched throug[h] the streets with all the company flags flying one of the citizens said that is the finest Regiment I Ever saw they don[’]t look like Yankees they look like Southern men another one wanted to know where we were from and after we told him he said **Great God is all Illinois coming down here** we told him that this was the third Regiment raised in one county and that their [*sic*] would be four more along soon and that the state wanted to send a hundred thousand more than the government would Except [*sic*] he opened his Eyes and said **it was no use for the Rebls [*sic*] to hold out any longer**”

**Letter, James F. Drish to Delly Drish, 22 October 1862, SC 421, Folder 1,
Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

(Written from Trenton, Tennessee)

“...there is another fight going on at Corinth I am in hopes it is a mistake for I am affraid [*sic*] we haven[’]t a sufficient force there to whip them again”

“Our Regiment has made a verry [*sic*] favorable Impression on the minds of the citizens of this place they can[’]t say Enough in our praise”

“...another man has shot himself in the hand and lost two fingers he shot himself on purpose to get a discharge”

**Letter, Charles H. Floyd to Mr. Turner, 6 July 1862, SC 504, Manuscript Division,
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

(Written from Corinth)

“Corinth was once a pretty nice town But was nearly destroyed by Beaurigard [*sic*] when He evacuated the place. There are some few Respectable looking houses standing yet, but they Burned all the stores and provisions that was left. Thousands of barrels of flour mollasses [*sic*] & sugar & pickled Meals were burned.... **I think the rebles [*sic*] are about done In this section of the country** although they have held Out A great deal longer than I expected they would There is no knowing what they will do, but **I am in Hopes that if McClellan is successful at Richmond that They will soon lay down there [*sic*] arms and come back To the old standard. They are such a stubern [*sic*] set That I expect they will hold out untill [*sic*] the last.”**

Letter, Charles H. Floyd to Mrs. Tuner, 13 September 1862, SC 504, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Genl Grant is concentrating his forces at Corinth for some purpose which is I sup[p]ose for some active operations [*sic*] in this section. Affairs have taken quite A reverse In our army in Virginia. I think if our Genls would look more to the interest of the Union than they do to self Interest The rebellion would be put down A great deal Sooner but our Genls do not agree. Some of them Think they are more able than the ones they are placed Under and therefor [*sic*] will not fight under them. I think they ought to have let McClellan alone A While longer and see what he would accomplish.”

Letter, David R. Gregg to Sarah Gregg, 24 April 1862, SC 600, Folder 3, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“... we have not yet fell in with Genl Grant nor Genl Buel yet, if there should be a Battle fought any where in this vicinity we will likely get together, tho I understand that he is Rather Censured for being caught napping at the time he was attacked...”
(Re: Grant’s unpreparedness at Shiloh)

Newspaper, The Morning News, Cairo, IL, 1 June 1863, SC 600, Folder 3, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Not a day has passed since Grant chased the lion to his lair, but what there has been more or less frightening, and the list of casualties must be very great.”
(Re: Vicksburg Campaign)

“At this writing the situation in Vicksburg is not yet over, and we are assured by those just from the battlefield that the situation is much the same that it has been for several days. We think, however, there are less grounds for serious apprehensions than there were a week ago.”

“Grant can take Vicksburg at any time by storm, but he does not do it because he knows it would be at a great sacrifice of life, and he is equally sure that Pemberton must soon make an unconditional surrender. He thinks it better to wait a few days sand save the lives of his men, and we think in doing so he is both wise and humane. The entire army, we are assured, are perfectly satisfied that Vicksburg will be ours in a few days, and that with it we will not take less than 25,000 prisoners. And the rebels are of about the same opinion. Civilians who have come across to Young’s Point say that every non-combatant in the city has long since ceased to hope for succor or escape. They consider the result a foregone conclusion. Patience and time will bring all things right.”

Letter, M. D. Leggett to John A. Logan, 21 September 1885, SC 934A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“My Dear General:

I presume you have read the Century for September, and General Grant’s article on ‘The Siege of Vicksburg.’ I cannot comprehend how **Genl Grant, with his well known character for accuracy**, could have made the mistake he has made in relation to the mining and blowing up of Fort Hill on the Jacksons road. He locates Ransom’s Brigade on the Jackson road and Fort Hill in his Ransoms front and by implication at least, leaves the public to infer that the fighting at Fort Hill after the explosion, was by General Ransom’s command. He also puts General Ransoms command in your Division.

Now in all this, General Grant is in error. Gen Ransom was not on the Jackson Road. Fort Hill was not in his front, he was not in your command and he took no part whatever in mining or blowing up Fort hill, nor in holding the crater thereafter. This was the position and work of my Brigade of your Division, and the engineer work was under the immediate supervision of Gen A. Hickenlooper.

It might seem to some as if this error was of no account, but when we remember the immense amount of work done and hard fighting called for to hold and trench and sap this Jackson road, to mine the front & blow it up, and hold possession of the crater, and the number of gallant officers and men killed and wounded in the 20th, 31st, 45th and 124th Ill. Regiments and the pride the survivors feel in what they did, it is important that the error should in some-way be corrected. I cannot conceive how the mistake could have been made, for since the war, General Grant has often spoken to me about this part of the siege of Vicksburg—and has always given the credit to my brigade. In reading over this article a second time, I am inclined to believe it was a mere slip of the pen – because if on page 760 he had written “Leggett’s Brigade” instead of “Ransom’s Brigade”, the article would have been true to history. In some way, this correction ought to be made – for **Grant will be the end of authority with the future historian**. Can you suggest any way in which the wrong can be righted?

As the First Brigade was yours before it was mine, and as you were in command of the Division at the time, we all naturally look to you. The brigade and Division made records second to none in the whole army, & their officers and men are unwilling to be shorn of well earned honors by a mere slip of the pen. Gen Ransom was a grand man and almost peerless officer and soldier, & his memory needs no honors except those he gallantly won.

Very truly ec,
M D Leggett”

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, Ira Merchant to Henry Yates, 26 February 1862, SC 1033, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Bowie knives two feet long and four inches wide that terrible weapon with which the doughty heroes of C.S.A. had calculated to disembowel the d—d abolitionists were

abundant and were secured by the boys of the different regiments. I visited Fort Henry (which is on the east side of the river) the next day and the sight was sick[e]ning. The shells from our boats had torn the sand bags riddeled [*sic*] the shanties and smashed every thing generally – portions of human bodies were lying in every concievable [*sic*] place inside the breast works and at one gun a shot had struck the muzzle glancing off, breaking the carriage and killing four men. Their bodies still lay where they had fallen. One had his head blown off leaving, the neck bones protruding annother [*sic*] had the upper part of his head torn off leaving the lower jaw and teeth perfect. The third was struck was struck [*sic*] in the breast and the fourth had his head partly torn off and seemed to have been hurled back with such violenc[e] as to half bury the body in the mud.”

Letter, Thomas F. Miller to Benjamin Newton, 23 January 1862, SC 1050-A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“we had to travel all day through th[e] Rain and Snow and Car[r]y a load of about fifty pounds and have nothing to Eat but Some old fat bacon and hard crackers that is not positively fit for a dog to Eat and not half enough [*sic*] at that.... it was a hard Sight to See hundreds of Stout young men that was give out a Sitting and lying along by the Road And Some of them a Crying and weeping because they Could not keep up with the train. upon the hole [*sic*] it was the dam[n]dest time that I Ever Seen. we made the Secesh citizens of kentucky [*sic*] think that we was a hard Set to deal with we wood [*sic*] Camp at knight [*sic*] on their farms and burn fence Rails for wood and take hay Stacks for beds we Just Ruined Ev[e]ry farm we Camped on. it was a hard Sight for me to witness to See a mans property all distroyed [*sic*] and broken up.”

Letter, Thomas F. Miller to Benjamin Newton, 18 February 1862, SC 1050-A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Since I have ben [*sic*] in a battle and afterwards walked over the battlefield field [*sic*] and Seen hundreds of our men lieing [*sic*] dead and wounded on the ground it has a bout Satisfied me to live in Peace at home.”

Letter, Thomas F. Miller to Benjamin Newton, 29 March 1862, SC 1050-A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“if a man gets Sick and goes to the hospitle [*sic*] he Sure to die”

Letter, Thomas F. Miller to Benjamin Newton, 2 May 1862, SC 1050-A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“a Soldiers [*sic*] Duties and Ententions [*sic*] are to kill or get killed for he that taketh up the soward [*sic*] shall perish by the soward [*sic*”

“I have Seen the boyes [*sic*] fall lifeless on the ground by my Side. Since I have be[e]n at this place I have witnessed more hard seens [*sic*] and barbarity than I ever before dreamed of”

“I am becomein [*sic*] to think that we can Starve the Southern Confederacy to Sur[r]ender in afew [*sic*] months if we Cant [*sic*] whip them Sooner for I never in all my life witnessed such hard times as are here visiting this Country at the present.... So far as I Can See my opinion is that Starvation and famine threatenens [*sic*] the whole Southern Confederacy”

“The Soldier has a great many things to bear on his mind he has but 2 Chances one is whether he will be numbered in the next battle with the dead and wounded and be deprived of Returning a gain [*sic*] to his native home and kind friends or whether he will go through Clear and unhurt and be honorable dis charged [*sic*] to go home Cround [*sic*] with victorys [*sic*] and once more Rest in the arms of Smiling peace.”

Letter, Thomas F. Miller to Benjamin Newton, 21 January 1863, SC 1050-A, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“this Emancipation bill of old Abraham has Caused in Some parts of th[e] army Considerable disturbance and is called the Lincoln Negro Proclimation [*sic*]. As for my part I Consider it a Proclimation [*sic*] I don't think that old Abe Ever Entended [*sic*] to free the negroes or Even propose Such a thing I look at th[e] affair in this way. he Considers himself at the head of the Government and that he is compelled to addapt [*sic*] all Plans that will be Calculated to Restore Peac[e] to our distracted Government So I think that the President has after So long a time arrived to the Conclusion that th[e] thing that Caused this Great trouble will have to be Removed before this thing Can or will be Settled. I dont [*sic*] think that it is the Desire or wish of Mr. Lincoln to Emancipate the Slaves but he Sees and that Plainly to[o] that we Cannot whip the South and let them hold there [*sic*] Slaves it is to[o] much like holding them up with one hand and fighting them with th[e] other”

Letter, Will A. Davis to Orlin H. Miner, 2 December 1861, SC 1053, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I will give you our favorite toast down here Jeff Davis may he be set afloat in an open boat without rudder or compass may that boat and contents be swallowed by a shark the shark swallowed by a whale the whale in the devil[']s belly the devil in hell the door locked and the key lost and further may he be chained in the south west corner of hell a north east wind blow ashes in his eyes to all eternity God damn him”

Letter, W. R. Claspell to Orlin H. Miner, 10 June 1862, SC 1053, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Gen Grant was our Col when we left Ills But he being promoted left us and has since made himself a name in history not to be forggotten [*sic*] – Grant came to see us and while in camp Rosencrans came to our Col with an order – the Boys hearing him & his horse surround – He Grant Introduced the Boys as his old Regiment – R’s reply you ought to feel proud of them for their appearance and the number of able men for duty reported Eight Hundred & twenty three 823”

Letter, James F. Pritetard to Orlin H. Miner, 9 July 1864, SC 1053, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“The nomination of Lincoln and Johnson are hailed with delight by the troops. He is the right man, and in the right place, and will be elected if soldiers are allowed to vote, they knows it to be to their interest to vote for Lincoln in preferance [*sic*] to any other man. The soldiers are the union, and should exercise the priveledge [*sic*] in casting votes for men that are true to us, true to the country and death to traitors at home and abroad. Give them a voice at the polls and Fremont, Vallaningham [*sic*] and their friends will never more disturb our quiet homes. Illinois should send as many of her sons home as possible to crush traitors and save her proud name. It is due to us, and we, as her brave troops, demand the right. Will the Union people see to it? We pray and trust they will. If so, all is victory”

Letter, E. E. Cady to William Reuben Rowley, 21 January 1871, SC 1306, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“The ‘gross insult’ against the President [Grant] is this reported in the aforesaid private letter – ‘Gen’l Grant a gr[e]ater drunkard than Johnson’, which I know the Dr never said, as to being intoxicated may be true, under his particular circumstances and associations in that horribly desolate place, and bad men have misconstrued and made capitol [*sic*] out of his weakness. Poor unhappy husband how my heart yearns to give him some comfort. My dear friend you know and understand his warm, kind, affectionate & honorable nature.”

Letter, Z. Payson Shumway to Hattie Shumway, 13 April 1862, SC 1388, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“on Friday night (Apr 4th) a large body of the Enemys Cavalry attacked our camp on the right, but were soon repulsed having done but little damage to us. This ought to have been a sufficient indication to our Commanding Genl (U S Grant) that the rebels were not far off yet it seems that but little attention was payed [*sic*] to it”

Letter, Z. Payson Shumway to Hattie Shumway, 4 January 1863, SC 1388, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Genl Grant in a late order says that if starvation must come upon either the citizens here or the soldier that the citizen must bear it & no doubt some of them will suffer – which would not have been the case had they not destroyed the R.R.”

Letter, Dietrich C. Smith to Carrie Smith, 20 February 1862, SC 1414, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“we deeply mourn [sic] & grieve over the loss of our comrades who only a day or two ago were yet in our midst setting around our camp fires with us full of life, spirit and patriotism; but they are no more we must see them shot down by our side victims [sic] to this unnatural rebellion, they died bravely & for a good cause silent & blessed be their rest in the soldiers grave.”

Letter, Peter ? to Dietrich C. Smith, 1 December 1862, SC 1414, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“The finger of scorn and calumny must forever point to the memories of these men who maliciously and wilfully [sic] caused the imbruing of brothers hands in each others blood. Alas! for once proud America, A nation who could compete with any power in the civelized [sic] world, A nation more perfect in all things pertaining to the welfare of its people than the crowned Kingdoms which had reared their heads in magnificence and grandeur [sic] hundreds of years before. Noted for its industry and improvements She astonished the world with her Progress. Heer [sic] people wore the proud mien of Independence and proudly proclaimed they were Americans. Heer [sic] Sacred emblem of Liberty was respected and admired upon the great waters of the deep and no pround [sic] monarch dared insult or treat it with disdain. But a change has come a deep and terrible change. The America of a few years ago is not the America of to day [sic]. The brow of an American is clouded and sad and he looks upon the deeds of his country with grief. Once harmon[y] now distraction once love now hatred once peace now war. God choose the day may come soon very soon when the eyes of men will become opened, when they will see the enormity of their crimes and a peace and quiet will spread their rays of light over our distracted country. That the hand of friendship and brotherly love will again be extended and the feelings of deadly hate be eradicated and an amicable settlement be the means of restoring our country to the position she once proudly occupied.”

Letter, Dietrich C. Smith to Carrie Smith, 26 February 1865, SC 1414, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Mrs. Lincoln had a public Reception every body may pass through and shake hands with the President – in Passing I remarked Mr. President – from Pekin Ill He replied [*sic*] Ok. when did You leave them. I said a few days ago and a warm shake and I must give way to others. The President although smiling looked very thin & careworn. I sympathize with him in his arduous duties.”

Memoir, George O. Smith, written 1913, SC 1419, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Re: Battle of Shiloh)

“As private soldiers we considered that the day was lost but Grant said ‘No!’”

“As we had no Breakfast, dinner, or supper on Sunday [April 6], and were on guard Sunday night, we were about all in. Never-the-less we went after them on Monday morning. That Sunday night was the longest I ever experienced. I will never forget the cries of distress of the wounded who lay on the battle-field that night. They called for mother, sister, wife, sweetheart, but the most piteous plea was for water. One would be praying and another singing. Some one started the old hymn, ‘Jesus Lover of my Soul’, singing the first verse. Another sang the second, another the third, and still another the fourth. This continued until sometime during the night when it began to rain; then the cries for water seased [*sic*]. We hoped that many were refreshed. As the wounded lay between the battle lines we could not help them.”

“We were promised medals of honor for our service on this special work but we never received them.... I suppose that the order never reached head quarters.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to Ada Tupper, 19 May 1862, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Religion don[']t seem to help a man in fighting for there is profane and wicked men in the army that will fight with as great courage as human beings can fight.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to Mr. and Mrs. William R. Tupper, 27 May 1862, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“But you will hear of no surprise in our army such as Grant had at the Landing.”
(Re: Grant’s unpreparedness at Shiloh)

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to Mr. and Mrs. William R. Tupper, 17 June 1862, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“We had a curiosity in the Guard House yesterday and this morning, a woman dressed in men’s clothing. She was brought before the Adjutant and questioned a little and then sent to the river and I suppose to Cincinnati [*sic*] she said she lived near there. She was doing a man’s work in some Regt. Kentucky I think.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to William R. Tupper, 30 July 1862, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Our Company is now acting as Escort to Gen. Grant. And I now suppose that we have lost our Western Commander in whom we all had so much confidence (Gen Halleck) Gen Grant don[’]t carry the material under his hat that Gen Halleck does. Nor he will never be as successful a General. It does us good down here to see how earnest the people and at last the President is getting about this War. They all ought to be down here for a while and see how things go. I guess they would all be abolishment [*sic*] before they had been down here a great while. For the short time that I’ve been down here I can see that Slavery is a curse to the country.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to William R. Tupper, 8 August 1862, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“If the Secesh south donn [*sic*] make an advance on us in force soon, we will be all right. Yesterday we got the news or the papers of the 5th containing the President[’]s Order for a draft of 30,000 militia, I have no comments to make only say let them come. they won[’]t be out of place.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to William R. Tupper, 9 March 1863, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“The soldiers are glad that the conscrip[t] law has passed both houses and the president has signed it, and upon every man is born a soldier in the United States.”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to William R. Tupper, 5 July 1863, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Vicksburg is take Glorious more Glorious most Glorious.... I may live a thousand years and not see a more glorious 4th”

Letter, Francis W. Tupper to William R. Tupper, 12 July 1863, SC 1565, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(re: Parade of Union troops into Vicksburg following Confederate surrender)

“Gen’l Grant & Staff & Escort went in first – Gen’l McPherson and staff next and after that came two Brigades that had suffered most during the siege. Every Officer had on his Sunday uniform, every soldier had his clothes brushed clean and looked as smart and neat as the circumstances would allow.”

“The whole surrender of men captured was 31,100 of these about 20,000 were in entrenchments a good share of the rest were in the Hospital sick and wounded. every home and building of any size was filled to overflowing with their sick and wounded. Although we have paroled them and they have marched out under their own Officers yet for all that I think it much better than sending them north and keeping them at an enormous expence [*sic*] to the Gov’t. They are now very much demoralized each man has his own parole in his pocket and swears that he is going home and won[’]t go into any camp of Parole nor won[’]t fight any.... It pleased them to get hold of our green box [*sic*] they would give from 3 to 10 of their money for one of ours –”

Letter, William J. Kennedy to Jane Kennedy, April 1862, SC 1791, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I have often heard of men in battle laying down but never thought they hug the ground as close as they did on the 6 & 7th. I will tell you something about the ground we fought[t] over so you can judge for your self what kind of fun we had. I have been here now over one month, and have not seen ten acres of cultivated ground, there is small patches here and there with a little log hut and fruit trees, and with this excepting there is nothing but a heavy growth of the largest timber I ever see, filled up with thick macler [?] brush, extending back far from the river. The ground is very nearer large ravines and long ranges of hills. This is the kind of ground we had to fight over – our foarces [*sic*] would be in one ravine or up on the side of the hill while the enemy would be on the aport [?] sometimes within fifty yards of each other and sometimes two and three hundred yards apart. We would lay on the ground and load our guns stand up and fire sometimes behind a tree or running from one tree to the other and the hardes [*sic*] thing to do was to get a sight of a rebel before they wounded us. It seemed to me that they were all deers [*sic*] but they was a good deal worse for while I was looking for them they were forming at me as at least I thought so they was thinking just as we was their wounded said we were very hard targets to shoot at. It was every man for him self. We were taking by surprise in the morning while preparing for our Sunday enspection [*sic*] so were compeld [*sic*] to fight on the retreat all day Sunday and I think I never see a warmer day and being in the woods in a thick smoke from the guns, from early in the morning till late in the evening with out anything to eat, and drinking bad water for we had no time to look for good. You would think was enough to kill men without gun powder. We lay on the ground all night in a cold rain wet threw and threw [*sic*], it was little slop we enjoyed that night & next morning at day light we took some hard bread and went at them again. We had received during the night large reinforcements [*sic*] so were confident of whip[p]ing the rebels they fought like devils all the forenoon. One a little afternoon they commenced retreating then we had time, we followed them far beyond where they opened [?] fire arms the previous morning. It was dark when we stop[p]ed operations and lay

down to rest for the night. We went to sleep and wake up at midnight and found ourselves swimming in water for it rained very hard all night. Mornin[g] camp we had more hard bread and formed our line of battle again expecting the enemy would return but learned at noon they had not stop[p]ed running. Our company's loss was the smallest of any in the regiment, we had 4 kill, ten wounded, two missing, some of the wounded may die yet, our Capt Joseph Clay run and left his company. He was a coward he has been under arrest ever since. I don't know what will be done with him. The men of our regt have been most all sick ever since the fight. I was unwell for a few days but am well as ever and ready for another fight and I think we will have another soon."

(Shiloh)

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, William J. Kennedy to Jane Kennedy, 19 May 1862, SC 1791, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

"Now Jane I will try and answer your secesh letter. I think you begin to talk a good deal like a Democrat. I did not think you would change so soon. You say you see plenty that now say they are glad they did not enlist and could not be induced to do so now. Now I will ask you one question that is do you know the reason, it is a simple one and one that a child could answer. All I have to say is that it would be a blessing to the army and cause we are engaged in had more such men staid [*sic*] at home it is not as you say because they love their families. A man that loves his family and expects they will live after he is gone must love his country and that of his childrin [*sic*]. Men that remain at home finding fault with everything that is done by the President and all others in power even down to the poor private in the army disregarding [?] his wife and children at home, not trying to give the little ones even a mouthful to eat but consoling them by telling them that their father did not love them or he never would have gone to fight for niggers. In my opinion such men are the biggest enemy we have to c_?_ and with men that ought to be arrested tried and shot for treason. I care not who he is if my Brother I would say shoot him, I thought you would have more sense than to think that we were fighting for the Negro. It is something I never thought of or intended to do. We all know that the war was brought on by those that hold the Negro in bondage. The North were compeld [*sic*] to defend themselves and the laws we live under. I do not expect the north is going to gain anything in the end, but I do think the south is going to lose everything – and if the Negro is benifited [*sic*] by the operation what do I care. I don't like the blacks any better than you do or others.... I would not try to deprive one man black or white of rights that all are entitled to."

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, William J. Kennedy to Jane Kennedy, 29 March 1862, SC 1791, Folder 4, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I believe one half that die would live if they had looked to their health in time and could get proper attendance from the start. The Docts are in many cases at fault. Some of them will not pronounce a man sick as long as they are able to get about camp, and men will not go to a doctor while they are able to get about, and then are to [*sic*] far to be saved. You could hardly believe that men get as shiftless, careless and lazy [*sic*] as they do. Many of them neather [*sic*] care for them selves or any others. This with the exposure to all kind of wether [*sic*] is what has caused so much sickness and death among our troops the last winters.”

Letter, William J. Kennedy to Jane Kennedy, 23 April 1863, SC 1791, Folder 4, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“We have been here so long digging canals and living in ___?___ and water watching the fine looking city of Vicksburg apparently within our grasp that a change of any kind will have a good affect [*sic*] and put new life in every one, and will make them go into a fight with the determination to come out victorious or perrish [*sic*] in the attempt.... You could scarcely find a man here that would wish to go home, knowing there was to be a fight soon.”

Letter, John R. Ziegler to Ellen Ziegler, 7 August 1862, SC 2204, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I went to show the Gorillas our stile [*sic*] of Jahawking Ransacked Evry house the men Eat all they cold [*sic*] find fed our Horses of thare [*sic*] Corn Broke up about 50 shotguns & Rifelels [*sic*] got 8 or 10 Pistols and some 30 or 40 horses & muels [*sic*”

Letter, John R. Ziegler to Ellen Ziegler, 18 October 1862, SC 2204, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Perhaps you Remember when I told the Republicans that if they elected Lincoln they wood [*sic*] have to fight the South & the ans[w]er was that the South had Considerable meny [*sic*] thre[a]ts & we had never had to fight them yet if it was Passeable [*sic*] to wright [*sic*] how determined they fight Braver than we dare to they walk with firm step wright [*sic*] in to our Bre[a]stworks whare [*sic*] they no [*sic*] De[a]th is serten [*sic*] until they air [*sic*] Piled 3 & 4 deep of de[a]d but De[a]th is nothing here no one fears it nor Cares for it”

Letter, John R. Ziegler to Ellen Ziegler, 3 November 1862, SC 2204, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I hold a sick furlough in disgust... Evry [*sic*] Body tryes that Some make them selves [sick] on Purpos [*sic*] for a furlow [*sic*] & then the Gen Sneers at a man that tryes on them grounds & looks upon him as a Coward”

Letter, Henry F. Hole to Minerva Hole, 25 January 1862, SC 2427, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“There is not an officer in the Army from McClellan down but is afraid to make a movement or order a scout afraid that Congress will appoint a committee to investigate the matter.”

Letter, Henry F. Hole to Minerva Hole, 25 March 1862, SC 2427, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Our brave and talented Generals East and West have met with unprecedented success. Halleck at the head of the Army of the mighty west wit his Grant, Pope, Foote, Curtis and all the rest have established for Western men a name that can never be lost.”

Letter, Henry F. Hole to Minerva Hole, 22 April 1862, SC 2427, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“... a host of other good things has happened and some misfortunes. Among the last is the great battle of Shiloh... where **the blame rests Most certainly on Major General Ulysses S. Grant** commander in chief and Brig. Gen. W.T. Sherman commanding outposts.”

Letter, Henry F. Hole to Minerva Hole, 13 October 1862, SC 2427, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I would advise the good people of Mason County to raise a militia company, drill it in the rope drill, I.E. hang Lyman Lacy and all men who uphold any such doctrine. He is a traitor, and would rather that Jeff Davis and his rebel hordes of uncombed, unwashed, poor whites, would gain the day than that Abra[ha]m Lincoln with his fine array of men should once more restore the country to its old accustomed ways. Would to God that every rebel sympathizer, ever northern doughface democrat could see some of this accursed rebellion. Would that they could experience a night march to the Hatchie, or that the ‘three days around Donelson’s grim works’ could be felt by some. Fourteen hundred of Mason County’s most intelligent, brave daring young men have gone forth to do or die. At least a hundred of their bones now lie bleaching on southern soils, a hundred more are crippled and disabled for life, wanderers upon the face of the earth, two hundred more are suffering now with wounds, fevers, and diseases consequent to camp life. Yet there are men or things who have the outward appearance of men who will stay at home and talk to those who are too old or have too much to attend to about a mere

proclamation which is acknowledged by every General in the Union to be a military necessity necessary for the preservation of our armies, for the safety of our nation, necessary to prevent the unnecessary effusion of blood, to prevent interminable difficulties growing out of the negro question, to forestall the Confederate government in doing the very same thing, necessary to prevent foreign intervention. I am for the President's Proclamation teeth and toe nails, Because it is right, it is necessary, it is expedient, it is just, it is what the whole civilized world expected us to do..."

Letter, John H. White to "Cousin", 9 February 1862, SC 2454, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Re: Fort Henry

"When I entered the Fort it was an awful sight to behold the killed & wounded lying in every direction some frightfully mangled in fact some blown to atoms [*sic*] I saw one man with his head shot off and both arms shot off near his body I saw eye balls tongues &c scat[t]ered around it would be hor[r]ible at anyother [*sic*] tim[e] except in time of battle at which time it does not seem to affect a man"

Letter, Alphonso Barto to William Barto, 9 February 1863, SC 2627, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

"You ask me how I like the Presidents Proclamation I cannot better express my sentiments again than that they are expressed in the Resolutions which I herewith send you I am proud to be one of the number that got up and adopted these Resolutions and I believe that they will be felt in our State that is in my adopted state [i.e., IL] I go in strong for any thing that will hurt these rebels & if there are rebels at home I go in for hanging them out & out I have suffred [*sic*] cold & hunger & fatigue and every thing that is incident to the perils of war and yet I am willing to suffer but I do feel as though I aught [*sic*] to have the support of all true men at home & I think that I have it but I would like to see the State authorities take hold of those Traitors at home and make a few examples of them for I tell you Father we have handled them with silk gloves too long. There is no man that loves the freedom of speech better than I do or the freedom of the press, but in all civilized countries Treason is punishable with death and I would like to see it enforced in this country Those cowards howl a great deal about the suspension of the writ of Habeas corpus and say it is unconstitutional to suspend it I say that any thing that protects the Constitution is constitutional but suppose it is unconstitutional and suppose Old Abe does imprison 1000 or 10,000 men for 2 or 3 years that have not taken up arms against the government do they suffer more than me who are exposing our lives daily in this contest? And when this war is ended can we not soon make these things all right? I think we can."

Letter, Alphonso Barto to William Barto, 31 March 1863, SC 2627, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“now these Rebels have no business to live any way and the idea of their living on sweet potatoes and apples and other luxuries of life while we poor union soldier who are fighting for the best government that God ever suffered to be established on earth are living on bread and bacon why the idea simply is ridiculous”

**Letter, Alphonso Barto to William Barto, 7 July 1863, SC 2627, Folder 2,
Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

“Well Father what a terrible war this is. it is awful to think of a people so prosperous as we were at the beginning of this war and that a government had done so much for us and then to see a portion of our own people try to tear that government to pieces it is too horrible to think of And then the worse idea of founding a government of their own upon that accursed institution of Slavery You know Father that I started in this war with no real abolition sentiment and I even believed in enforcing [*sic*] the fugitive slave law as far as could be and I believed it constitutional and when we were in Smithland a little more than a year ago I saw some fugitives delivered up to their master and thought it right but I have seen more of the curse of the thing since that and when President Lincoln came out with his emancipation proclamation I was truly prepared to endorse it and that heartily too. can it be a wrong in any light to blot out an institution that is cursing with curses blacker than the feinds [*sic*] of Hell could ask man to perpetrate upon his fellows.... Oh! how sadly this curse has demoralized Society in these so[u]thern States no one knows but those that have been here And now Dear Father can you think any less of me for saying Death to the Man be he North or South that will oppose the measure taken by our beloved President to annihilate the institution and I say and believed I can say it with a clear conscience Death to any man that will oppose this war after it has been forced on us in the manner it has been”

**Letter, Alphonso Barto to William Barto, 12 September 1864, SC 2627, Folder 2,
Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

“I want to get home to vote for old abe and andy McClellan is not a traitor at heart I dont [*sic*] believe but I think he lacks that moral courage that makes a fighting man or a man to lead the people or an army successfully and then I know how that he figured more to make himself the next President than he did to put down the rebellion and I say I would not vote for any military chieftain as president of this nation it is giving a true military man to[o] much power and the first thing we know we shall be living under a military despotism worse than any in the old world and I tell you Dear Father our liberty is what we are sacrificing our lives for in the army to day and it is to prevent this country from baming [*sic*] little petty despotisms that we are fighting”

**Letter, Alphonso Barto to William Barto, 25 September 1864, SC 2627, Folder 2,
Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**

“I don’t know but we all think almost as much of Sherman as we ever did of Grant but we who belonged to Grants old army still swear by Grant”

Diary [Memoir?], Henry H. Baltzwell, SC 2717, page 12, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(re: the Confederates)

“...the attack on Shiloh taught them a lesson.”

Diary [Memoir?], Henry H. Baltzwell, SC 2717, page 15, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(re: December 24-30, 1862)

“Every day was now dawning with Corinth isolated from the rest of the world, with no news and only half rations, but the soldiers were in fine spirits and seemed to feel indifferent concerning the situation.”

Diary, Job H. Yaggy, 16 May 1863, SC 2811, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“... for a while the bullets came like hail stones but we soon got down onto the rebs and drove them up, took meney [*sic*] of them prisoners and left a great meney [*sic*] laying, killed and wounded.... This is called the ‘BATTLE OF CHAMPIONS HILL’”

Diary, Job H. Yaggy, 26 June 1863, SC 2811, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Such a day I never saw before. It made it so very Horrible to us because we had to go in (the fort) and fight in the same place all the time, where the ground was already soaked with the blood of our comrades. But I hope God will remember us in Mersy [*sic*].”

Diary, Job H. Yaggy, 3 July 1863, SC 2811, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“This morning at about 8 o’clock the rebs fetched out a Flag of Truce. The firing was then stop[p]ed and both the rebels and we stood up on the breastworks in full sigh[t] of each other, ‘to see’.... At about 1 o’clock we got orders to pack our Knapsacks and be ready to march but just in a fiew [*sic*] moments the guns opened again and kept up a fire for about ½ hour then Gen Grant gave the order **NOT FIRE ANOTHER GUN WITHOUT ORDERS**. The General then ordered a flag of truce (or white flag) to be

planted on our fort. then [*sic*] he and his Staff went in and soon GEN PEMBERTON CAME OUT and the two Generals sat down under the tree near by [*sic*] and talked over the Ideas of surrendering Vicksburg.”

Diary, Job H. Yaggy, 4 July 1863, SC 2811, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“There was no firing all night it seemed very strange that we could sleep one night without being woke up by the cannons. It is said the Generals met again last night—at ten o’clock and and [*sic*] VICKSBURG IS OURS The Rebels are marching out to stack their arms (9 o’clock A.M.) We our Brigade marched in first we went down in town, marched around the Court House where OURE [*sic*] FLAG was waving and our Generals standing our [*sic*] in the cubals [*sic*].... The rebels were, or seemed to be, very glad to see us come in for they were nearly starved and nearly the first thing THEY ASKED FOR HARD-TACK. We had only a few [*sic*] with us but gave all we had to them. They had to live on quarter rations all the time of the siege.”

Diary, William M. Reid, 20 May 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“I got off the steamer above Warrenton to see the fun at Vicksburg, and the steamer left Bower’s landing in the meantime. So I had to travel around after them for a day or so. About 3 o’clock p/m/ the brigade landed below Warrenton and marched across to Young’s Point. We could hear the field artillery of Grant, in the rear of Vicksburg, all day, and saw the dust rise from the columns as they marched around the hills in the rear of the city.”

Diary, William M. Reid, 23 May 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Grant’s army seems to be resting after the terrible firing of yesterday. Often the firing was as loud yesterday as at Shiloh and when the battled raged the hottest.”
(Vicksburg campaign)

Diary, William M. Reid, 26 May 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“There was heavy bombarding of the city all night, and the sight was very grand indeed.”
(Vicksburg campaign)

Diary, William M. Reid, 30 May 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Last night’s picket duty will ever be memorable in the history of Co. I. About three this morning we heard a great rustling in the thick cane along the road, and our videttes halted something at the same time; something did not stop, and the guards gave a last summons before firing into the woods. At this, a tall rebel soldier, with a strange looking pack on his back, came forth; another soon followed, but without his pack. My men then plunged into the jungle and soon had finished out ten stout fellows, and found that each had a pack of 20,000 gun caps on his back; besides they had several dispatches and mail for Gen Pemberton and were from Jackson, Miss. One tried to escape our men and was shot through the arm by one of Co. A who were further to the right. In all 200,000 percussion caps were taken and 11 prisoners. The rebels were piloted by a boy about 14 who had come out of the city under a flag – a few days before, and the Gen. let him go home because he was so young.”

(Vicksburg campaign)

Diary, William M. Reid, 6 June 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Our whole line is closing on the enemy slowly and will soon be under the walls of the rebel forts. Deserters are constantly coming in and negroes are coming out in squads, like the horses and mules. They all tell the same story about a lack of food and the hope of Johnston’s coming.”

(Vicksburg campaign)

Diary, William M. Reid, 19 June 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Working parties are engaged whenever they can get the chance, and we will soon be in a shape to reply to the rebels, who seem to consider it a good joke to shell our working parties.”

(Vicksburg)

Diary, William M. Reid, 23 June 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“A fierce cannonade ... began and for a while the sky was filled with the shells, both going and coming. It was a grand sight, but rather expensive. The firing was very fierce and constant for some half an hour.”

(Vicksburg)

Diary, William M. Reid, 24 June 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“... each day sees the rebels pressed into less space than on the day before.”
(Vicksburg campaign)

Diary, William M. Reid, 4 July 1863, SC 2812, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“At 10 a.m. the white flags were hoisted all along the rebel lines, and **Vicksburg had surrendered!** Soon after this the rebel army came out of their works, stacked arms, hung their accoutrements on the stacks of arms, left their flags beside them and marched to the rear; while the divisions of Logan and Hokey took possession of the place. **The rebels appeared to be well pleased with the arrangement; that is, the privates. They hallooed about as much as our men.**”

Letter, Thomas Barnett to “Friend”, 27 April 1861, SC 2835, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Dear friend we are all in good cheer and we feel as if we had the courage of a lion and we are willing to fight, for that Glorious flag of our Union which those young ladies made the company a present of untill [*sic*] we wade in the enemy’s blood up to our necks and if we ever get a chance to get a pop at Jef Davis we will take his head and put it to the top of our flag staf[f] tell the young ladies of Alton that we will fight for our flag as long as there is a man left, and if there is not a man left to return the flag, the young ladies will have the reason to be proud that the Alton Guards fought nobily [*sic*] for its defence [*sic*].”

Letter, Thomas Barnett to Charles and Eliza Barnett, 6 March 1862, SC 2835, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(from Fort Donelson)

“...we was aroused before daylight by the approach of the enemy [*sic*] trying to make a break through our lines and we hardly had time to get in line of Battle to resist them. when we was in line the enemy was so close we had to resist at the point of steel, but, lucky [*sic*] for us we was all loaded and we poured in a folley [*sic*] that cut them down and throw’d them in convulsion and we followed them up and drove them back to there [*sic*] entrenchments where we fought 5 times our number for 4 hours...”

“Dear brother & Sister I thought at one time that you would never hear from me again for the way the bullets whis’d and sung round our heads is almost a mystery that so many escaped with our lives...”

“Sunday we was cald [*sic*] out in line for review and Col Mercy after takeing [*sic*] a look at us turnd [*sic*] to the quarter master and said my God is this all the man’s I have got left and the tears was streaming down his cheeks and he said boy’s I am no speaker but, receive my thanks for your Gallant conduct.”

Letter, Thomas Barnett to Charles and Eliza Barnett, 10 April 1862, SC 2835, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(after Battle of Shiloh)

“Dear Brother & Sister I write these few lines to you to let you know that I am still alive after the dreadful Battle of Sunday & Monday in which we was engaged 3 times **The Rebels took us by surprise and before we could form in line of Battle they was close upon us and they mowed down our troops like grass** we all had to retreat, back towards the river where all the troops formed in different lines of Battle and when the Rebels got within reach the Ball opened and continued all day until dark men fell by the thousands on both sides and its [*sic*] hard to tell which side got the best of it that day **for the secesh fought like tigers** and the next morning the battle comenced [*sic*] again more desperate than the day before and **the slaughter was terreble [*sic*] on both sides** and the secesh would have whip[p]ed us if we had not changed our possition [*sic*] about noon time and outflanked the Rebels on three sides and they caught it, our troops blazed away at them and they fell by the thousands and about 4 clock the[y] broke and rund [*sic*] and our troops followed up the retreat capturing Cannon and prisoners until dark...”

“Dear Brother the Horror’s [*sic*] of a battle field God have mercy on those ambitious men that has been the cause of shed[d]ing so much innocent Blood when walking over the Battle field to see the dead & wounded it would make the stoutest man shud[d]er”

Letter, Thomas Barnett to Charles Barnett, 13 September 1862, SC 2835, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“...worn out and discouraged from hearing of our late disassters [*sic*] and **unless the wheall [*sic*] of fortune turns in our favour very soon we may as well give up the ship** it appears very stran[g]e that our army [*sic*] should get defeated in every instance in Virginia when we had as brave an army [*sic*] that ever was lead before an enemy but, it appears that they are onley [*sic*] lead to sacrifice there [*sic*] lives through incompetent officers or else traitors and I think its [*sic*] time that game was played out...”

“it[?]s enough to make us all discouraged which we are and dont [*sic*] care if we get defeated or not as all confidence is lost...”

Letter, James Garner Fox to Jonas Fox, 5 July 1863, SC 3003, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“wee [sic] have achieved another great victory Vicksburg [h]as surrendered [sic] yesterday whitch [sic] was the 4th

22 thousand Rebels marched out and stacked Armes [sic], and then went back as pris[o]ners of war and thare [sic] was a great amount of wounded and sick Besides we goot [sic] 960 peaces [sic] of Artillery and any amount of Ammunition

One of our Capta[i]ns of the Batteryes [sic] asked them why thay [sic] didnt [sic] shoot moor [sic] as thay [sic] had plenty of guns and ammunition

The answer was that it was of no use for every time thay [sic] fired a canon [sic] over our guns would get raing [sic] and Dis mount [sic] thair [sic] guns evry [sic] time thay [sic] said that thay [sic] could whip yankees [sic] but thay [sic] didnt [sic] want to Fight any moor [sic] Western Troops wee [sic] goot [sic] 9 Majors, Generals, and 6 Brigadiers

... It is generally thought Gen. Grant will go to Richmon [sic]. he is most to[o] smart for the Coperheads [sic] at last he has proved so.”

Letter, “Mother” to Ada Brayman, 25 January 1862, Bailhache-Brayman Family Papers, Box 2, Folder 4, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Written from Cairo)

“All the soldiers without exception were mad because they had to return without fighting. Father thinks they could have taken Columbus. The men need a leader.”

Letter, Henry P. Andrews to Susan Andrews, 15 March 1862, Henry P. Andrews Collection, Box 1, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“we have such cursed mean men for doctors that would rather see a man die than live”

Letter, Harriet A. Eaton to U. S. Grant, 28 January 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 12, Folder 1, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Sir my husband Major Samuel Eaton 18th Reg Ills vols. is under arrest by the order of Gen John A. McClernand and confined to his small room. he has asked the General for larger limits but his demands has not been acceded to. As he informs me and as I well know his close confinement injures his health. I respectfully ask you to allow him larger limits than his quarters.”

Letter, U. S. Grant to J. A. McClernand, 29 January 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 12, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Gen.,

Yours of this date enclosing correspondence with Capt. Kounty is just received. As Capt. Kounty does not refer to me for information as to the nature of the charges against him I have no objection to learn the information where he can get it.

No charges have been prepared against him. When they are a copy will be sent him. I have simply requested that he be relieved from duty here and sent to some other field of usefulness [*sic*].

His arrest was for ‘Disobedience of orders,’ ‘Disrespect to his superior officers’ and ‘Conduct wholly subversive of good order and military discipline.’

As I believe the good of the service demands that as few Court Martials as practicable be had it was not my intention to prefer charges and I now await the decision [*sic*] of Maj. Gen. McClellan to whom the matter was referred.

Respectfully
Your Obt. Svt.
U. S. Grant
Brig. Gen.”

Letter, U. S. Grant to J. A. McClernand, 1 February 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 12, Folder 5, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“The troops of your Division will be held in readiness to move by steamer tomorrow taking with them all their Camp & Garrison equipage, three days rations and forage, and not to exceed four teams to each regiment.”

(Before the capture of Fort Henry)

Letter, J. A. McClernand to U. S. Grant, 6 February 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 12, Folder 8, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Sir: In compliance with your order of last night and to-day, the 1st Division under my Command was put in motion for advance upon Fort Henry.

The heavy rain, continuing through the night, found a large portion of the force without tents and ill prepared for exposure, but they came up in the morning promptly and in good condition. The roads had become heavy and the streams swollen- rendering the march difficult and prolonged.

At 11 O’Clock the 1st Brigade, Col. R. J. Oglesby Commdg, was put in motion, preceded by nine Companies of Col. Dickey’s Cavalry in advance, followed by five

Regiments of Infantry and Schwartz's and Draser's Batteries and flanked on the right by three, and on the left by one Compy of Cavalry.

The 2nd Brigade Col. W. H. L. Wallace Commdg followed, comprising four Regiments of Infantry, Taylor's and McAllister's Batteries, and one Company of Dickey's Cavalry, as a rear guard.

The forces were so disposed as to insure, mutual support if attacked.

The firing upon Fort Henry from the Gunboats commenced at one O'Clock P.M. and continued until two, having the effect to hasten the march, and increase the eagerness of the men to reach the Fort in time to cut off the retreat and secure the surrender of the enemy.

About three O'Clock P.M. a report reaching me that the enemy were evacuating the Fort, I immediately sent orders to the advance Cavalry guard, to ascertain the fact, and if true, make rigorous pursuit.

Col. Oglesby however, who was in the advance, anticipated the order. The pursuit was made with great spirit and vigor by a portion of Col. Dickey's Command under St. Col. McCollough, who followed for several miles, and until nightfall _

The 18th Regiment being in the advance reached the Fort at half past three O'Clock P.M. and were immediately followed by the remainder of the 10th Brigade.

The Second Brigade, under the able and judicious lead of Col. W. H. L. Wallace, although unavoidably detained by a battery of heavy Siege guns, and the aggravated condition of the roads, followed close upon the first, completing the arrival of my whole Command, in the Fort, where it is all encamped for the night.

On reaching the Fort, I learned that the enemy in his flight, had abandoned three pieces of artillery beyond the outworks, I instructed Col. Oglesby to detach two companys [*sic*] of infantry with the necessary teams to bring them in, Col. Logan however volunteered his services with the required two companies, and Capt. Schwartz Chief of Field Staff the teams belonging to his Battery making the necessary detachment which was placed in Command of Col. Logan who hastened to the place where the guns had been abandoned. The detachment pursuing the track of the enemy's flight for several miles, found not only the three pieces, but five others, and the way strewn with the enemy's wagons, and other abandoned property.

Col. Logan brought in several prisoners, but found it impossible in consequence of the approaching darkness and the state of the roads, to haul in the cannon. I will cause them to be brought within the camp tomorrow morning.

The Fort was found to have been defended with seventeen heavy and effective guns, well mounted, and so commanding the river and land approaches, as to render it formidable. With the eight field pieces found abandoned beyond the entrenchments [*sic*], the whole number of guns taken is twenty five. The fortifications are extensive, and give evidence of engineering skill, and great labor.

Their defenses are far beyond expectation, and the haste with which they were abandoned, proves the efficiency of the cannonade, and their apprehension of being cut off from retreat by my Command, and being compelled to surrender the whole force.

The troops of my Command are now occupying the huts and tents abandoned by the enemy. A large amount of army stores were captured, and will be accounted for by the proper Departments of the same for the benefit of the United States.

The casualties [*sic*] of the day in my Command are mostly confined to the loss and injury of animals and property in transportation by a circuitous route over roads in some parts scarcely passable to this point. Only one man was killed a private in Col. Dickey's Cavalry before referred to. The loss of the enemy, except that caused by the fire of the Gunboats, is confined, as far as heard, to two men one of whom was shot upon the entrenchments, the other, in the pursuit by Col. Dickey's Cavalry.

The gallant and masterly manner in which the Gunboats under Flag officer Foote assailed and forced the enemy to surrender the Fort and abandon their entire works reflects the highest credit upon that officer, and his entire command, and proves the efficiency of that arm of the service. In compliment to the first naval achievement upon the western waters I have taken the liberty of designating this camp as Fort "Foote".

With reference to my own Command I am pleased to say that both officers and privates did their wholly duty with the most commendable spirit and alacrity. It was the first of the land forces to enter the Fort, and having hoped to be able to come up in time to storm the Fort and capture the enemy regret that his precipitate retreat prevented that wished for result."

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, J. A. McClernand to U. S. Grant, 7 February 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 12, Folder 8, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

"Sir:-- Capt. Stewart, of the Cavalry, a member of my staff, in command of four companies of Cavalry, and accompanied by Col's Logan and Rearden returned about half an hour since from a reconnoissance [*sic*] extended along the Dover road to a point about one mile from Fort Donaldson [*sic*].

He reports that he met the enemy pickets about six miles and a half from this place and drove them forward. About a mile further on he came up with them again in stronger force- numbering probably one hundred mounted men, and drove them forward again. About a mile further on he came up with them again and drove them forward a third time. A half mile further on a body of Infantry was discovered who also dispersed and disappeared upon his advance. None of the enemy was seen after this during his march up to a point about two miles from Dover and about one mile from Fort Donaldson [*sic*].

Capturing a prisoner of war on the way, he learned from him that the enemy driven from Fort Henry, yesterday, had fallen back upon Fort Donaldson [*sic*], and, by report, that that Fort was defended by more cannon than were taken here. Also; that a r enforcement [*sic*] of fifteen thousand men intended for this place had been diverted to Fort Donaldson [*sic*] and had probably reached there today.

For the truth of this report, of course, Capt. S does not undertake to vouch, but only give it for what it may be worth.

He gives it as his opinion, however, that the enemy will make a stand there and that any movement made against the place ought to be accompanied by artillery, in the expediency of which I fully concur.

I may add that Capt. Carpenter commanding independent scouts has come in from a reconaissance [*sic*] in the same direction. He reports that he found the pickets of the enemy in such force some six and a half miles from here that he deemed it hazardous to go further.

Capt. S. brought in twenty five head of horses and five head of mules which have been abandoned by the enemy in their flight from this place.

I have omitted to state that Capt. S. thinks from what he saw and heard that the enemy are turning their cannon so as to command a rear approach to the Fort, and therefore suggests that a fire should be opened upon the Fort from the river by a gun boat about the time of the land attack.

Capt. S. further states that the roads three miles from here are good from that point to Fort Donaldson [*sic*].

These particulars are given in response to your instructions upon this subject.”

(Photocopy for reference)

General Field Orders No. 7, From U. S. Grant, 10 February 1862, John A. McClernand Collection, Box 13, Folder 2, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“General Field Orders No. 7

The pilfering and marauding disposition shown by some men of this command has determined the General Commanding to make an example of some one to fully show his disapprobation of such conduct. Brigade Commanders, therefore, will be held accountable for their Brigades, Regimental Commanders for their Regiments, and Company Commanders for their Companies. If any one is found guilty of plundering, or other violation of orders, if the guilty parties are not punished promptly the Company officers will be at once arrested, or if they are not known the punishment will have to fall upon the Regimental or Brigade Commander. Every offense will be traced back to a responsible party.

In an enemy’s country, where so much more could be done by a manly and humane policy to advance the cause which we all have so deeply at heart, it is astonishing that men can be found so wanton, as to destroy, pillage and burn indiscriminately without enquiry. This has been done but to a very limited extent in this command so far, but to[o] much for our credit has already occurred to be allowed to pass without admonition.

By order of

Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, Commdg.”

Letter, W. H. L. Wallace to Ann Wallace, 7 February 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 13, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Written from Fort Henry)

“It lasted about two hours & was tremendous. The effect of the fire on the fortification here was terrible.”

“The enemy seemed to leave here seized with a panic...”

“I don’t know where we go to next, but I suppose we will follow them up & perhaps attack Ft. Donaldson [*sic*] on the Cumberland which is 13 miles distant.”

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, W. H. L. Wallace to Ann Wallace, 17 February 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 13, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Written from Fort Donelson)

“This has been a day full of sad offices- collecting and caring for the wounded, burying the dead and doing all that could be done to allay the distress of those who suffered in that terrible fight.”

“It was the greatest battle ever fought on this continent—I hope the fruits of the victory may be the speedy restoration of peace—Our victory great as it is & great as I hope it will be in its results, has been dearly bought—This 11th suffered terribly—much more than any regiment engaged...”

“The scenes here yesterday & today have been the saddest & strangest ever seen on this continent—The prisoners amounting to 9 or 10,000 or perhaps more have been marched in long lines from their camps to the landing to be sent to Cairo—They are a strange and motley crowd, but they shoot terribly sharply.”

“I little expected when amid the fierce storm of lead & iron that beat around me for hours, striking down my men by hundreds, that I should come off unscathed...”

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, W. H. L. Wallace to Ann Wallace, 20 February 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 13, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Written from Fort Donelson)

“I have just returned from a trip up the river to Clarksville—Genls Grant & McClelland with several of their staff went up & I took up two companies of my brigade (Co. D of

the 11th & a company from the 20th) with the band of the 11th—It was a pleasant trip and a great relief from the constant & heavy cares incident to our dearly bought victory...”

“I felt indeed, when looking at the fragments of the regiment with its tattered banner, like Napoleon did after one of his disastrous battles, that ‘all was lost but honor’—I do not under[r]ate the importance of the victory—I think it is the death blow of the rebellion if rapidly & judiciously followed up—but I cannot, when I look at my own regiment, whose long front I have so often looked upon with pride, now shortened of more than half its length, that it is a dearly bought victory—May the sacrifice we have laid upon the altar of our country be acceptable to the God of battles & of Nations...”

(Photocopy for reference)

Letter, W. H. L. Wallace to Ann Wallace, 18 March 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 14, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“Genl. Grant came up yesterday & has command—I am glad of it.”
(Written from Savannah, Tennessee)

Letter, W. H. L. Wallace to Ann Wallace, 23 March 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 14, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“There will probably be some changes in our organization—Genl. Grant to day intimated that he intended to put me in charge of a division.”

Letter, Cyrus E. Dickey to “brother” [John Jay Dickey (?)], 10 April 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 15, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

(Re: Battle of Shiloh)

“The slaughter of men in this battle on both sides is more terrible than in any fight that ever occurred on this continent.”

“It was a most decisive victory for the Union.”

Letter, C. Lyle Dickey to Ann Wallace, 21 May 1862, Wallace-Dickey Family, Box 2, Folder 16, Manuscript Division, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

“We live day and night in expectation of the battle.”
(Written near Corinth)

Index of Manuscript Collections Consulted

SC 132: Jonathan Blair
SC 361: George W. Callum
SC 421: James F. Drish
SC 504: Charles H. Floyd
SC 600: David R. Gregg
SC 934A: John A. Logan
SC 1033: Ira Merchant
SC 1050-A: Thomas Miller
SC 1053: Orlin H. Miner
SC 1306: William Reuben Rowley
SC 1388: Z. Payson Shumway
SC 1414: Dietrich C. Smith
SC 1419: George O. Smith
SC 1565: Francis W. Tupper
SC 1791: William J. Kennedy
SC 2204: John R. Ziegler
SC 2258: United States Army, Illinois Infantry Regiment, 16th
SC 2382: Abram J. Vanauken
SC 2401: Anthony B. Burton
SC 2427: Henry F. Hole
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Bailhache-Brayman Family Papers
Henry P. Andrews, Box 1
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