



Antoinette Porter King and
Family Papers.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

GROUP FOUR
BACKGROUND INFORMATION
for
LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN
WILLIAM VIPEN KING & ANTOINETTE PORTER KING

These letters are arranged in chronological order, starting October 21, 1864, and continuing until May 27, 1865; then there is a hiatus of a number of years, followed by one letter in 1880 & two more in 1884.

Antoinette Louise Porter was born December 12, 1835 in Manhattan, on the corner of what today is Washington Square. She was the daughter of Selah Smith and Cornelia (Dan) Porter. Her father was a printer for one of New York City's oldest newspapers until 1838, when he moved his family to the newly opened Wisconsin Territory and settled on a farm in Walworth County. Antoinette, called "Nettie" or "Nette" in family letters, grew up there.

William Vipen King was born September 26, 1831, in Royton, Lancashire, England, the son of John and Hannah (Hilton) King. On April 1, 1835, when William was three & 1/2 and his sister Lucy was two, his family emigrated to America. They settled in New York, where John King continued to work as a cotton spinner, the trade he had learned in England, for six years. In 1841 the Kings migrated to Wisconsin Territory, settling on a farm in Walworth County. There William grew up, helping his father on the farm and sometimes teaching school, until his marriage to Antoinette on March 27, 1856.

In 1861, at the outbreak of the Civil War, William & Antoinette King were living in Eastman, Crawford County, Wisconsin. They had recently moved to a farm there with their two small children, Willie, born 1857, and Nellie, born 1859.

That same year, William took a position with the government as an enrolling officer. On September 3, 1864, at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, he signed a volunteer enlistment for one year of army service and was mustered in as a Private in the 43rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, Company C. He soon was made a 1st Sergeant and served for nine months.

He was hospitalized for a good part of his service, the first time at Camp Washburn, near Madison, Wisconsin, apparently with dysentery. A month later he rejoined his regiment at Louisville, Kentucky, and went from there to Johnsonville, Tennessee.

Johnsonville was the terminus of the government railroad which had been built to convey supplies from Nashville to the Tennessee River. The function of the 43rd was guard and garrison duty, details being sent daily to guard railroad trains to Nashville.

William survived a major rebel attack on the terminus, and one of his letters (# 33) gave substantial detail about the attack. He suffered some serious physical damage to his hearing during the attack which was the source of his pension application many years later.

Later that same month, he was stricken with malaria and quite likely scurvy, and spent most of his remaining time in service in military hospitals. The first of these was in Jeffersonville, Indiana; then he was transferred to Keokuk, Iowa. He wrote in great detail about life in an army hospital.

Meanwhile, back in Wisconsin, Antoinette had returned with her children to her father's home in Adams, Walworth County, and there she delivered her third baby, the subject of the first letter in the exchange. This baby was also mentioned by his mother in numerous subsequent letters, as she pleaded with her husband to help her decide what the baby's name should be.

The most dramatic of Antoinette's letters was #44, written April 17, 1865. In it she vividly described the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, then went on to a discussion of trivial family matters. William responded in letter # 45, and told her his experience of Lincoln's death.

In 1866, after William was discharged, he and Antoinette, along with several of each of their brothers and sisters, migrated from Wisconsin to Minnesota. They located homesteads in Jackson County and settled there.

William farmed there for a while but soon became increasingly involved in civic duties. He was at various times superintendent of schools, county attorney, and judge of probate. His most important position was County Auditor, an elected post he held for 21 years. He held county office 31 of the 46 years he lived in Jackson.

William's tenth letter (# 76) was written August 15, 1880 from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he had gone to get treatment for his eyes.

Antoinette's last two letters (# 78 & 79) were written April 16 & May 27, 1884 from Whitewater, Wisconsin, where she was taking care of her sister Vie--the only other surviving member of her family.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Letter #27 (ALPK #1): 21 OCT 1864

(Most of this letter was actually written by Nettie's sister Vie, as Nettie was recovering from the birth of her third child)

Willie----Oldest child, Willie Porter King, age 7

Nett/Nettie----nicknames for Antoinette

Mother----Hannah Hilton King, William's mother

Rhoda----Rhoda Holcomb, childhood friend of Antoinette

Robert----William's brother Robert Hilton King, away in service

Albert----William's brother Albert Bartlett King, also away in service

Irv----Antoinette's brother Irving Bayant Porter, living in Wis. with his father & helping on the farm

Joe W., Jim, Bruce, William---family friends from Walworth Co., all in service

Lucy----William's sister Lucy King, at that time a school teacher in Troy, Wisconsin

Eliza----William's sister Elizabeth Annes King (*later Barney*), who was teaching school in Eastman, Crawford Co., Wisconsin

Letter #28 (WVK #1): 26 Oct 1864

Wm. Coats----a fellow soldier from Walworth Co.

Lib----Antoinette's brother Lebbeus Porter (*married to William's sister Nellie King, farming in Eastman, Crawford Co., Wis.*)

Letter # 29 (ALPK #2): 31 OCT 1864

Bill Bomen/Bill Kling----family friends away in service

little McC ----General MacClellan

Joe Ellis----Friend whose death later figures prominently in

William & Antoinette's letters

Mr. Ellis----his father, for whom Lib & Nell are tenant farming
in Eastman, Crawford Co., Wis.

Other names----family friends

Emeline----2nd wife of Antoinette's father, Selah Porter

Letter #32 (WVK #2): 16 Dec 1864

Lib---as before

Rob and Albert---as before

Letter #33 (WVK #3): 20 Dec 1864

Joe Ellis--as before

old Hood---General John Bell Hood, commander of the Confederate
forces in the battle described in this letter

Charley Heath--friend from Adams, Wis. (*who was married to Eliza
Kenyon & moved to Jackson with the Kings & Porters*)

Kenyon boys--brothers of Eliza (above), friends from Adams

Letter #34 (WVK #4): 25 Dec 1864

Lib--as before

Letter #35 (ALPK #3): 8 JAN 1865

Acors---Antoinette's cousin Acors Sheffield Porter, a 1st Lieut.
in army

Grandpas--- Selah Smith Porter, Antoinette's father with whom she
is living & John King. William's father, who lives nearby in La
Grange, Walworth Co., Wisconsin

Elisa Heath--as before

Tom Kenyon----Elisa Heath's father

Charlie Porter----Antoinette's 1st cousin

Uncle Sam----Samuel Lyman Porter, brother of Selah Porter, father
of Charlie Porter

Letter #36 (ALPK #4): 23 Jan 1865

Father---as above

Uncle Sam---as above

Irve---her brother

Vie---her sister

Letter #37 (WVK #5): 6 FEB 1865

Nellie---their daughter, age 6

Zella----Zella Porter, daughter of Nellie (King) & Lib Porter,
William's niece, age 3

Letter #38 (ALPK #5): 10 Feb 1865

Eliza---his sister

Melvin Selah--the latest attempt to name the baby, now 4 months
old.

Willie---as before

Nellie---as before

Lucy--as before

Lib--as before

Albert--as before

Letter #39 (ALPK #6): 14 Feb 1865

*(This letter is a valentine. The original paper is sheer,
decorated with a lacy border)*

Letter #40 (WVK #6): 20 March 1865

Irve-as before

Elisa--as before

Vie--as before

Joe Ellis---the home town friend who is part of all the war letters. He enlisted with William, and his death is obviously wrenching for them both.

Letter #41 (ALPK #7): 27 MAR 1865

Lucy & Eliza-as before

Vie--as before

Walworth--Walworth Delavan Porter, Antoinette's cousin

Melvin--this is the new baby, still trying on names. *(Eventually he was named Selah Samuel King)*

Lib & Ellen--Nettie's brother, William's sister, Lib & Nellie (King) Porter. Her name was Ellen, but she was always called "Nellie". This is the only reference to her in any family letters as Ellen

George--George Henry King, William's brother, who stayed behind when his 3 brothers went into service & tended the farm

Willie & Nellie--as above

Letter #42 (WVK #7): 27 March 1865

(Letter is dated 1864, but careful analysis ensures that Wm. mistakenly dated it incorrectly--he was not yet in service on the date he wrote)

Letter #44 (ALPK #8): 17 April 1865

Lincoln---President Abraham Lincoln

Booth---John Wilkes Booth, Lincoln's assassin

Stanton---Secretary of War Edwin McMasters Stanton

Grant---General Ulysses S. Grant

Albert---William's brother, Albert Bartlett Porter, at that point serving in Barstow's Cavalry, 3rd Wis. Reg., on a march through Arkansas

Lucy & Elisa--as before

Vie--as before

Nellie & Willie--as before

Letter #45 (WVK #8): 22 April 1865

the President--Abraham Lincoln

Acors--her cousin, Acors Sheffield Porter, an army 1st Lieut.

Lib--as before

Vie--as before

Letter #46 (WVK #9): 9 May 1865

Dick & Jim--farm friends

Letter #76 (WVK #10): 15 August 1880

(This letter is notable for its radically different handwriting, no doubt because of the eye treatments he describes in it)

Letter #78 (ALPK #9): 16 APR 1884

Cousin Louise----Louise Dann Wilson, Antoinette's cousin in Bellport, Long Island, with whom she maintained a lifelong correspondence

Aunt Sarah Smith----Antoinette's aunt, her mother's sister

Mother----Cornelia Dan Porter, Antoinette's mother

Stanley----Lemuel Castle Stanley, married to Samuel Porter's daughter Cornelia.

Uncle Sam---lived with the Stanleys & worked for his son-in-law as a carpenter. At the time of this letter, he was quite an old

man, aged 84.

Vie---her sister, age 42, whose imminent death is the reason
Antoinette in writing from Whitewater

Johnny---their youngest child, age 14

Nellie---their daughter, now married to Ed Davies & living in
Pipestone

Letter #79 (ALPK #10): 27 May 1884

Vie---her sister, Viola Cornelia Porter, who died 3 days before
this letter was written

*(It seems rather poignant that the exchange of letters
in this group began with Vie's letter to William as she was
caring for her sister Antoinette, and the last two, 20 years
later, were written to William by Antoinette as she cared for her
dying sister Vie.)*

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN

ANTOINETTE PORTER KING & WILLIAM VIVEN KING

(These letters are arranged in chronological order, starting October 31, 1864, and continuing until May 27, 1865; then there is a hiatus of a number of years, followed by one letter in 1880 & two more in 1884. Obviously this is only a portion of the letters this couple exchanged.

(Viola Porter to William)

ALPK #1

(Sister of Antoinette)

Adams, October 31st 1864

Dear William,

"To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is given." "Yes a little darling thing it is to[o], just as pretty as a doll. Looks like its pa of course; there never was one but what did. But aside of all jokes it really does look like you evry one saves (sic). So I wish you could see him. The children are very much pleased with it. Willie is quite a Father to it. Nett is getting along very well. She often looks at her baby boy & says I wish your pa could see you but a good many miles are between & we must wait with patience untill the year is out.

Nett recieved (sic) your letter last night dated Oct 14th stating that you had another attack of the Cholera Morbus on your way South. She felt very bad to hear of you being sick again & all the rest of us did. I hope that you will begin (sic) to improve now that you have got settled. If there is any medicine you would like & and cannot get you must send for it & we will forward you some. Do not delay in Doctoring when you are so sick for you must come back to us & I believe you will but your Mother is full of trouble about you & the other boys. You know it's her way to borrow trouble.

Well Rhoda has been to see Nett today. She looks quite miserable but her little one is as healthy looking as can be. There has been quite a number in to see Nett. We are into the molasses business in right good earnest. Evrything is so sweet that if you go up by the side you will stick so tight you can hardly get away.

It is raining today & it seems quite like a long rain. I am afraid it will spoil the work out doors for a while. Your folks received a letter from Robert last Tewaday. He was well said he had been ordered to Fort Scott & was then sent back to the old station with orders to be ready for any emergency. I guess Albert does not write very often. Irv recieved (sic) a letter from Joe W a short time ago. said the boys were all well. Albert, Jim & Bruce had gone with a Cover (went) train to Fort Smith. I will leave a space for Nett to fill. Hoping to hear from you soon I will subscribe myself

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN

ANTOINETTE PORTER KING & WILLIAM VIPEN KING

(These letters are arranged in chronological order, starting October 21, 1864, and continuing until May 27, 1865; then there is a hiatus of a number of years, followed by one letter in 1880 & two more in 1884. Obviously this is only a portion of the letters this couple exchanged.)

(Viola Porter to William)

ALPK #1

(Sister of Antoinette)

Adams, October 21st 1864

Dear William,

"To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is given." Yes a little darling thing it is to[o], just as pretty as a doll. Looks like its pa of course; there never was one but what did. But aside of all jokes it really does look like you evry one sayes (sic). So I wish you could see him. The children are very much pleased with it. Willie is quite a Father to it. Nett is getting along very well. She often looks at her baby boy & says I wish your pa could see you but a good many miles are between & we must wait with patience untill the year is out.

Nett recieved (sic) your letter last night dated Oct 14th stating that you had another attact of the Cholera Morbus on your way South. She felt very bad to hear of you being sick again & all the rest of us did. I hope that you will begine (sic) to improve now that you have got settled. If there is any medicine you would like & and cannot get you must send for it & we will forward you some. Do not delay Wm in Doctoring when you are so sick for you must come back to us & I believe you will but your Mother is full of trouble about you & the other boys. You know it's her way to borrow trouble.

Well Rhoda has been to see Nett today. She looks quite miserable but her little one is as healthy looking as can be. There has been quite a number in to see Nett. We are into the molasses business in right good earnest. Evrything is so sweet that if you go up by the side you will stick so tight you can hardly get away.

It is raining today & it seems quite like a long rain. I am afraid it will spoil the work out doors for a while. Your folks received a letter from Robert last Tewsday. He was well said he had been ordered to Fort Scott & was then sent back to the old station with orders to be ready for any emergency. I guess Albert does not write very often. Irv recieved(sic) a letter from Joe W a short time ago. said the boys were all well. Albert, Jim & Bruce had gone with a Gover(ment) train to Fort Smith. I will leave a space for Nett to fill. Hoping to hear from you soon I will subscribe myself

Your Sis
Vie

I forgot to tell you how old our baby is. He was born Sat Morn about 2 oclock Oct 15.

Nett wants to know if you have any choice in the name of your little one.

(Antoinette to William) (on same sheet of paper)

My Dear William

I will try & write a few lines but I meant to have written you a good long letter today but I hardly feel strong enough to write yet & my eyes feel so strange. I am getting along finely & I hope soon to be able to wait on myself. I wish you could see our baby boy he is a fine little fellow has a nice head with quite a lot of black hair. His eyes are dark blue I think they will be black.

Vie is a frustrated nurse how I wish you had as good a one. I was so sorry to hear you was sick again. I was in hopes you would get along without being sick again. You should not have went away from home until you was stronger. I do hope you will be much better by the time this reaches you. try & take good care of yourself & keep up good courage. I wrote to you & directed to Camp Washburn & Lucy sent you a letter last Tuesday. Write to me just as often as you possibly can. I received your pic & was so glad to get it. I will get mine as soon as I am able to go. After I hear from you again I shall be able to write & I will write about the family &I have been up quite a while & I guess I had better get to bed for I feel somewhat tired. Have you had any letters from Crawford? I would like to hear from them.

I must bid you good night. May all good angels guard you is ever the wish of your own

Nette

Write soon

Give our respects to Joe & William. Take care of your self & write as often as it is convenient. Eliza has not come yet. I think she will come next week.

in your way South she felt very bad
 to hear of your being sick again &
 all the rest of us did. I hope that
 you will begin to improve now that
 you have got settled if there is any
 medicine you would like & cannot
 get - you must send for it & we
 will forward you some as not
 delay you in Doctoring when you
 are so sick for you must come
 back to us & I believe you will but
 your Mother is full of trouble about
 you & the other boys you know its her
 way to borrow trouble well Rhoda
 has been to see Mitt to day she looks
 quite miserable but her little one
 is as healthy looking as can be
 there has been quite a number in
 to see Mitt - we are into the molasses
 business in right good earnest every thing
 is so sweet that if you go up by the
 side you will stick so tight you can
 hardly get away

From Sat - Mon about 1.15 PM Oct 7th

it is raining to day & it seems quite
 like a long rain I am afraid it
 will spoil the work out doors for a
 while - your folks received a letter from
 Robert last Tuesday he was well said he
 had been ordered to Fort Scott & was then
 sent back to the old station with orders
 to be ready for any emergency I guess
 Albert does not write very often. I
 received a letter from Joe M a short
 time ago said the boys were all well
 Albert, Jim & Bruce had gone with a
 Hoover - train to Fort Smith. I will leave
 a space for Mitt to fill - hoping to hear
 from you soon I will subscribe my self
 your Obedient Son

My Dear William

I will try & write a few lines but
 I meant to have written you a good long letter - but
 but I hardly feel strong enough to write yet - my eyes feel
 so strange - I am getting along finely & I hope soon to be
 able to wait on myself - I wish you could see our baby
 boy he is a fine little fellow has a nice head with
 quite a lot of black hair. his eyes are dark blue
 I think they will be black

Mitt wants to know if you will write to him

Letter #27A

From: Mr. William King, Co C. 43rd Reg Wis Vol, Decherd, Tenn,
via Nashville

To: Antoinette Porter King, Adams P.O., Walworth Co, Wisconsin

Johnsonville Tenn

Oct 24th 1864

Dear Nette

I have waited long and anxiously for a letter from you--but am doomed to disapapointment (*sic*) upon the arrival of every mail. I apprehend that if you have written that the letter must have been destroyed as several Mail Trains have been attacked by guerrillas and destroyed within a few miles of here.

My health has been very good since I left Nashville. I only staid there two days and then the Reg was ordered to go to this place. So I packed up and came along with them. We came down in Box cars, and arrived here about 8 Oclock at night and we were all compelled to sleep in an open ware house without fire or supper. I expected to get a serious setback, but was agreeably disappointed. The next two nights I slept on the ground with the rest of the boys and stood it just as well as any of them.

Johnsonville is situated on the Tenesee (*sic*) river 87 miles west of Nashville. The town was started only last spring and contains nothing but slab and board Shanties, although it has a population of about three or four thousand besides the soldiers--mostly gov employees. Our camp is situated on a high bluff on the river bank just south of the town. I have been on duty 5 days now but still am rather weak. But if I keep on gaining as I have done I shall soon be as sound as ever. I have good quarters at present as I am rooming with the Capt.. We have pretty good living as I put the rations which I draw in with the Cap & and take it all together will fare about as well as at home.

I wrote to Lib the day after that I arrived here but have received no answer yet. I distribute about fifty letters per day to the boys of the company but nary one for myself. If I dont get one pretty soon I shall stop writing. This makes the fourth I have written since I saw you. Now Nette if you only knew how much pleasure it affords me to receive a letter from you, you would surely write oftener. I am so busy at present that it is hard for me to find time to write to anybody but as soon as we get our barracks and parade ground in order I am in hopes that I shall have a little more time. I had no idea that the orderly [had] as much to do as he has. I have nearly the whole responsibility of the company on my shoulders making details. Guard mounting, Dress Parade, Drill, drawing rations, and issuing them keeps me busy about all the time and still I have not mentioned half my duties but I do not have to stand guard on Piket duty.

[No signature]

only knew how much pleasure it
affords me to receive a letter
from you - you would surely
write often - I am so busy at
present that it is hard for
me to find time to write to
any body but as soon as we get
our barracks and parade ground
in order I am in hopes that
I shall have a little more
time - I had not idea that
the orderly as much to do
as he has - ~~the~~ I have nearly
the whole responsibility of the
company on my shoulder
making details. Guard mounting
Drill Parade - Drill - drawing
rations and issuing them
keeps me busy about all the
time - and still I have not
mentioned half my duties
but I do not have to stand
guard on picket duty

Cahoonville Tenn
Oct. 24th 1864

Dear Nette

I have waited
long and anxiously for a
letter from you but am
doomed to disappointment
upon the arrival of every
mail I apprehend that if you
have written that the letter
must have been destroyed
as several Mail Trains have
been attacked by guerrillas
and destroyed within a few
miles of here -

My health has been very good
since I left Nashville
I only staid there ^{two} days
and then the Reg was ordered
to go to this place - so I
packed up and came along

with them - we came down
in Box cars - and arrived
here about 8 O'clock at night
and we were all compelled to
sleep in an open ware house
without fire or supper -
I expected to get a serious
set back - but was agreeably
disappointed - the next two nights
I slept on the ground with the
rest of the boys and stood it
just as well as any of them -
Johnsonville is situated
on the Tennessee river 8 1/2 miles
west of Nashville - it is the
town was started only last
spring and contains nothing but
slab and board shanties
althoug it has a population
of about three or four thousand
besides the soldiers - mostly gov
employees - our camp is situated
on a high bluff on the river

bank just south of the town
I have been on duty 6 days
now but still am rather weak
but if I keep on gaining and
have done I shall soon be as
sound as ever - I have good
quarters at present as I am rooming
with the Capt - we have pretty
good living as I get the rations
which I draw in with the
Cap and and take it all
together - will fare about as well
as at home - I wrote to Lib the
^{day after} day that I arrived here
but have received no answer
yet - I distribute about fifty
letters per day to the boys of
the company but none for
myself - If I don't get
one from home I shall stop
writing. This makes the fourth
I have written since I saw
you - now Write if you

(William to Antoinette)

WVK 51

October 36th. 1864

Dear Wife

I commenced a letter for you the other night but got so cold and chilly that I was unable to finish it and have been unable to do so until now. Since then I recd a letter from Lucy informing me of your confinement and the information that I am the father of another (sic) boy. I was so glad to hear it that I could hardly refrain from shedding tears. I would give almost anything to see the little fellow. Give him a good kiss for me and don't forget Willie and Nellie. When you write tell me all about him whether he is good looking or not -- color of his eyes &c and everything else about him. And do send me your photographs as soon as you can. We Coats & myself recd a letter from Robert day before yesterday. The boys are both well and like soldiering. They are in Missouri at present. I shall write to him today if I have time. I spilled my ink the other day. So I am obliged to write with a pencil today and should even if I had ink as it is raining and our quarters leak so that we can hardly find a dry place to sit down in.

Before I came down here I had a notion that I should like the south but the Lord deliver me from ever ever living in the south. I had rather live in old Crawford ten times over. I don't like the country or the climate and the people still less. No danger of my ever moving (sic) down here no matter what I see. The society will never be here what it is in the north.

Now Hattie you will have more time to write than I shall and I hope you will try and write at least every four or five days and when you write to Lib tell him to be a little more prompt and write oftener about my business matters as I am anxious to know something about it. I wish you would send me a paper occasionally especially Fr-d-a-oh [Prairie du Chien] papers and tell Lib to do the same and when you send a [word omitted -- letter?] put in about 1/2 oz of quinine and another with an ounce of golden Sial (?) foot. Now be sure send them as quick as you can as I don't want to be without them. I was going to write another (sic) sheet but the mail is ready to go out so I must close. Write soon and often.

Yours very affectionately

Wm V

Direct your letters to

Co. C. 43 Reg Wis Inf
Johnesville Tenn via Nashville

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #1

October 26th, 1864

Dear Wife

I commenced a letter for you the other night but got so cold and chilly that I was unable to finish it and have been unable to do so until now. Since then I recd a letter from Lucy informing me of your confinement and the information that I am the father of another (sic) boy. I was so glad to hear it that I could hardly refrain from shedding tears. I would give almost anything to see the little fellow. Give him a good kiss for me and dont forget Willie and Nellie. When you write tell me all about him whether he is good looking or not -- color of his eyes &c and everything else about him. And do send me your photographs as soon as you can. Wm Coats & myself recd a letter from Robert day before yesterday. The boys are both well and like soldiering. They are in Missouri at present. I shall write to him today if I have time. I spilled my ink the other day. So I am obliged to write with a pencil today and should even if I had ink as it is raining and our quarters leak so that we can hardly find a dry place to sit down in.

Before I came down here I had a notion that I should like the south but the Lord deliver me from ever ever living in the south. I had rather live in old Crawford ten times over. I dont like the country or the climate and the people still less. No danger of my ever movving (sic) down here no matter what I see. The society will never be here what it is in the north.

Now Nette you will have more time to write than I shall and I hope you will try and write at least every four or five days and when you write to Lib tell him to be a little more prompt and write oftener about my business matters as I am anxious to know something about it. I wish you would send me a paper occasionally especially Pr-da-ch [Prairie du Chien] papers and tell Lib to do the same and when you send a [word omitted -- letter?] put in about 1/2 oz of quinine and another with an ounce of golden Sial [?] Root. Now be sure send them as quick as you can as I dont want to be without them. I was going to write another (sic) sheet but the mail is ready to go out so I must close. Write soon and often.

Yours very affectionately

Wm V

Direct your letters to

Co. C. 43 Reg Wis Inf
Johnsonville Tenn via Nashville

put in about 1/2 oz of gum
and another with an ounce
of golden Seal Root now be
sure send them as quick as
you can - as I don't want
to be without them I was
going to write another
sheet but the mail is
ready to go out so I must
close write soon and often

Yours very affectionately
Wm K

Direct your letters to
Co. C. 43. Reg Wis inf
Johnsons ville

Tenn
Via Nashville

Oct 26th /64

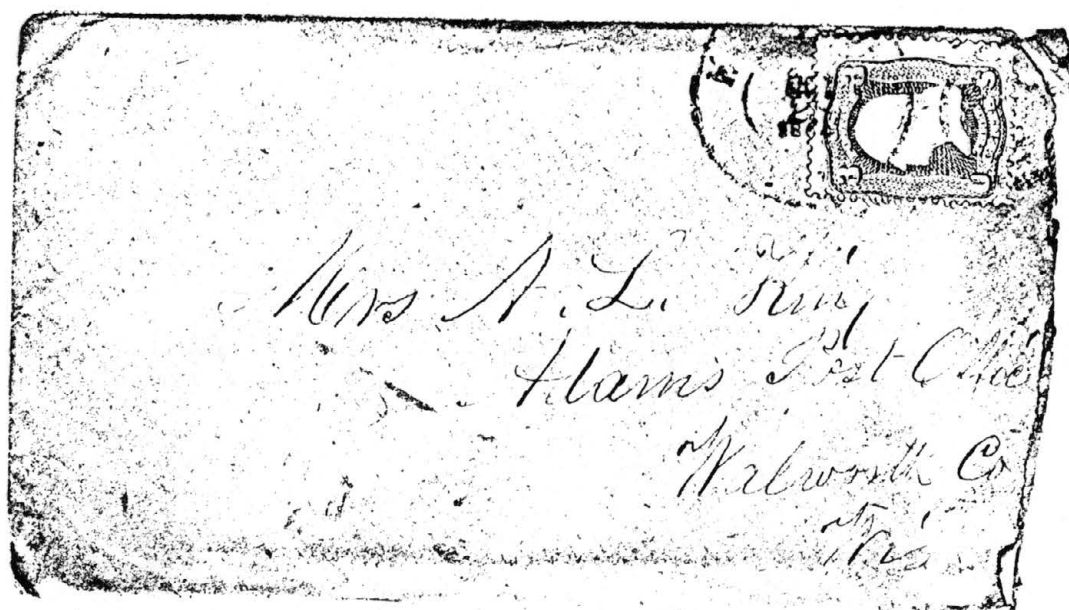
I am wife

I commenced a
letter for you the other night
but got so cold and chilly
that I was unable to finish
it and have been unable to do so
until now - since then I recd
a letter from Lucy informing
me of your confinement and
the ~~extraordinary~~ information
that I am the father of another
boy - I was so glad to hear it that
I could hardly refrain from
shedding tears. I would give
almost anything to see the little
fellow - give him a good kiss
for me and don't forget Willie
and Nellie - when you write tell
me all about him whether he is
good looking or not - color

of his eyes &c - and every thing
else about him - And do send
me your Photographs as soon
as you can - Mr Coats & myself
need a letter from Robert
before yesterday - The boys are
both well and like soldiers
they are in Missouri at present
I shall write to him to day if
I have time - I spilled my ink
the other day - so I am obliged
to write with a pencil to day
and should even if I had a
pen ink as it is raining and
our quarters leak so that
we can hardly find a dry
place to sit down in -

Before I came down here
I had a notion that I
should like the south - but
the Lord delivered me from
even from ever living in
the south - I had rather

live in old Crawford
ten times over. I don't like
the country or the climate
and the people still less - No
danger of my ever moving
down here no matter what
I see - the society will move
be here what it is in the north
Now better you will have
more time to write than I
shall - and I hope you will
try and write at least every
four or five days - and when
you write to Lib tell him
to be a little more prompt
and write often about my
business matters as I am an-
xious to know something about
it - I wish you would send
me a paper occasionally
especially the Prada ch Papers
and tell Lib to do the same
and when you send a



Mrs A. L. Smith
Ham's Post Office
New York Co
N.Y.

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK 42

Adams, Oct 31st/64

Dear William

I have waited & waited for a letter from you but I guess I am doomed to disappointment. I was so disappointed Saturday night when they came from the office & no letter for me that I could not stand it any longer. I had quite a comfortable cry. I really could not help it. I tried as hard as I could but the tears would come. If I knew you were well I could get along very well but a letter from you is acceptable every day. I wish you was like Bill Bommen or Bill Kling I should not be disappointed very often. I've went up to your fathers Sat night & Eliza had got home & she said that Lib had a letter from you & that you was better & in very good spirits & that cheered me up a little. I am in hopes to hear from you soon. I tell you I had made up my mind that you was dead. Do you think I was foolish? I suppose you would like to know how your wife & young son are getting along. Well I am quite smart have been outdoors today for the first time. I never got along any better than I have this time. The baby has been real good until a day or two he has worried a great deal. He has gained a pound in two weeks, he weighs 7 pounds. Everyone wants to know what I am going to call him so if you have any name selected send word. Willie says his name is Albert Henry & Nellie says he must be called cousin Acors. Father thinks he ought to have one grandchild named after the celebrated president Lincoln. By the way aint you afraid I will turn democrat. You know you used to say I was a democrat. I tell you I hear some great discussions. I expect the country & all will sink if a Republican is elected president. The Deans say the war will surely last four years longer unless little Mc (MacClellan) is elected what do you think? Mr Beach & Mullen sent their photographs they are first rate. Eliza says that Mullen is going back to Phil-- & that his wife is going to stay in Prairie du Chien. She will not go to Phil for fear of the rebels. Eliza says that old man E [Ellis] works every Sunday & that Lib & Ellen do not like him near as well as they did when Joe was at home. Our folks have got through making up their cane they have over a hundred gallon of their own. Father is going to send some to Lib. Dont you think my writing looks horrible. I cant write good to save me. I want you to write & tell me what you want me to write about--it seems I cant write anything interesting.

You wanted to [know] how I got along living without you & if I ever thought of you. I tell you I think I shall be like Angeline willing to live in a rat-hole or anywhere & I dont think there is many minutes but what I think of you. It seems I never would be hateful to you again & I shall be so glad when your year is up. There was another draft in Eastman Sat. I am so anxious

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK #2

Adams, Oct 31st/64

Dear William

I have waited & waited for a letter from you but I guess I am doomed to disappointment. I was so disappointed Saturday night when they came from the office & no letter for me that I could not stand it any longer. I had quite a comfortable cry. I really could not help it. I tried as hard as I could but the tears would come. If I knew you were well I could get along very well but a letter from you is acceptable every day. I wish you was like Bill Bommen or Bill Kling I should not be disappointed very often. Irve went up to your fathers Sat night & Elisa had got home & she said that Lib had a letter from you & that you was better & in very good spirits & that cheered me up a little. I am in hopes to hear from you soon. I tell you I had made up my mind that you was dead. Do you think I was foolish? I suppose you would like to know how your wife & young son are getting along. Well I am quite smart have been outdoors today for the first time. I never got along any better than I have this time. The baby has been real good until a day or two he has worried a great deal. He has gained a pound in two weeks, he weighs 7 pounds. Everyone wants to know what I am going to call him so if you have any name selected send word. Willie says his name is Albert Henry & Nellie says he must be called cousin Acors. Father thinks he ought to have one grandchild named after the celebrated president Lincoln. By the way aint you afraid I will turn democrat. You know you used to say I was a democrat. I tell you I hear some great discussions. I expect the country & all will sink if a Republican is elected president. The Dems say the war will surely last four years longer unless little Mc [MacClellan] is elected what do you think? Mr Beach & Mullen sent their photographs they are firstrate. Elisa says that Mullen is going back to Phil--& that his wife is going to stay in Prairie du Chien. She will not go to Phil for fear of the rebels. Elisa says that old man E [Ellis] works every Sunday & that Lib & Ellen do not like him near as well as they did when Joe was at home. Our folks have got through making up their cane they have over a hundred gallon of their own. Father is going to send some to Lib. Dont you think my writing looks horrible. I cant write good to save me. I want you to write & tell me what you want me to write about--it seems I cant write anything interesting.

You wanted to [know] how I got along living without you & if I ever thought of you. I tell you I think I shall be like Angeline willing to live in a rat-hole or anywhere & I dont think there is many minutes but what I think of you. It seems I never would be hateful to you again & I shall be so glad when your year is up. There was another draft in Eastman Sat. I am so anxious

to hear whether Lib is drafted. Elisa says he has had two palpitations lately. Your folks had a letter from Jim Stratton he says he is back to Little Rock & that Albert is sick with the Ague he is in the Hospital at Van Buren Ark. Bruce Drake also. They have not heard from Robert lately but are very anxious to. I think I shall go up to your fathers sometime this week. I do want to go out somewhere. I have not been in to a house since I came down here only Wolfendens that day with you.

Now I want you to write as often as you can wont you. Do I write to[o] often to you?

Mr Taylors expect Geo Henry home & he is an artist & if he fetches his machinery I will have my picture taken & send as soon as possible. Do take good care of yourself & if you want any paper or postage stamps write.

Affectionately yours

Nette

If you have a chance to get your miniature taken I want you to slick up for I want it to look real nice.

I wish you could see me look so pretty. I have got a great sty on my eye--how mean it feels.

We are going to have a boiled dinner. Emeline says she wishes you was here to have some.

Richard Pilling is at home. His father stood in the road to meet him crying & swinging his hat saying the dead is alive the lost is found.

You wanted to know I got along living
without you & if I ever thought of you
I tell you I think I shall be like
Angelina willing to live in the rat-hole
or anywhere & I don't think there is many
minutes but what I thinking of you
it seems I ~~never~~ would be happy
you again & I shall be so glad when
your year is up - there was another
draft in Eastman Sat - I am so
anxious to hear whether Lib is drafted
Eliza says he has had two palpitations
of the heart - Your folks had a letter from Jim
Stratton he says he is back to Little Rock
& that Albert is sick with the ague & is
in the hospital at Van Buren Ark Bruce
Drake also - they have not heard from
Robert lately but are very anxious to
hear from him I think I shall go up to your
father's sometime this week. I do want
to go out somewhere - I have not been
in the house since I come down here
only Wolfenden that day with you
Now I want you to write as often as you can
I want you - Do I write to often to you?
Mr Taylor's expect Geo Henry home & he is an
artist & if he pictures his machinery I will
have my picture taken & send as soon as
possible - So take good care of yourself &
if you want any paper or postage stamps write
off to the nearest place

Adams Oct 31st /64.

Dear William

I have waited & waited
for a letter from you but I guess I am doomed
to disappointment - I was so disappointed
Saturday night when they came from the
office & no letter for me that I could not stand
it any longer. I had quite a comfortable cry
I really could not help it - I tried as hard
as I could but the tears would come
if I knew you were well I could get along
very well but a letter from you is acceptable
every day - I wish you was like Bill Bomer
or Bill Kehring I should not be disappointed
very often. I've went up to your father's Sat-
night & Eliza had got home & she said
that Lib had a letter from you & that you

was better & in very good spirits & that cheered
me up a little - I am in hopes to hear from
you soon - I tell you I had made up my mind
that you was dead - Do you think I was fool-
ish? I suppose you would like to know how
your wife & young son are getting along
Well I am quite smart - have been out doors
today for the first time. I never got along
any better than I have this time. The baby
has been real good until a day or two he
has worried a great deal. he has gained
a pound in two weeks, he weighs 7 pounds
everyone wants to know what I am going to
call him so if you have any name selected
send word. Willie says his name is Albert
Henry & Nellie says he must be called
cousin Acors. Father thinks he ought to
have one grandchild named after the
celebrated president Lincoln -
by the way and you afraid I will turn
democrat - you know you used to say I
was a democrat - I tell you I have heard

great discussions. I expect the country
& all will sink if a Republican is elected
president - the Demos say the war will
surely last four years longer unless Little
Mc is elected what do you think? &
Mr Beach & Mullen sent their photographs
they are fine - Eliza says that Mullen
is going back to Phil - & that his wife is
going to stay in Prairie du Chien she will
not go to Phil - for fear of the rebels -
Eliza says that old man E. works every
Sunday & that Lib & Ellen do not like him
over as well as they did when Joe was at
home Our folks have got through making
up their cane they have over a hundred
gallon of their own. Father is going to send
some to Lib. Don't you think my writing
looks horrible - I can't write good to send
one - I want you to write & tell me what
you want me to write about - it seems

I can't write anything interesting
Returned Pilling is at home his father placed in the road to meet him
carrying a bundle his hat - saying the head is above the road to be turned

any other friends you are here to have some

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #2

Keokuk Iowa Dec 16th 1864
Seventh Street Hospital

Dear Nette

Again I have an opportunity to rest long enough to write so Ill write you a short letter and as soon as I get rested say by sunday I will try and write you a good long one and give you the particulars of my journey from Johnsonville to this place. I feel considerable better today and if I have good luck shall probably be able to go to my regiment in the course of about 3 or 4 weeks. I want you to write immediately on receiving this -- and send me ten dollars -- send it in two letters -- 5 dols in each letter. I am almost entirely out of money -- and to be without money and in a hospital is about one of the worst things that can happen to a soldier. I have lent about ten dollars or else I should have had enough -- and some of the boys are trying every day to borrow what I have left. I have been traveling now about 17 days and it has cost me about a dollar a day for provisions and bed. Most of the time we have had nothing furnished us but cold boiled beef and bread and the very looks of it would make me sick. I have no time to write any more tonight but will try to write you a good long one sunday. Write soon and give me all the news and dont forget to send that money right along. Send green backs as nothing else will go here. Write me a good long letter and tell me all the news all you know about Lib [her brother Lebbeus] and the boys Rob and Albert [his brothers] and every thing else of interest and dont forget to mention the baby. How I would like to see the little fellow.

I must close or I shall be told late so here's a kiss and good bye.

Yours affectionately

Wm

Direct to Wm King, Co. C. 43rd Reg Wis Vol. Seventh St. Hospital
Keokuk, Iowa.

Nette I want you to write right away so I shall get it before I am moved to some other place.

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #2

Keokuk Iowa Dec 16th 1864
Seventh Street Hospital

Dear Nette

Again I have an opportunity to rest long enough to write so Ill write you a short letter and as soon as I get rested say by sunday I will try and write you a good long one and give you the particulars of my journey from Johnsonville to this place. I feel considerable better today and if I have good luck shall probably be able to go to my regiment in the course of about 3 or 4 weeks. I want you to write immediately on receiving this -- and send me ten dollars -- send it in two letters -- 5 dols in each letter. I am almost entirely out of money -- and to be without money and in a hospital is about one of the worst things that can happen to a soldier. I have lent about ten dollars or else I should have had enough -- and some of the boys are trying every day to borrow what I have left. I have been traveling now about 17 days and it has cost me about a dollar a day for provisions and bed. Most of the time we have had nothing furnished us but cold boiled beef and bread and the very looks of it would make me sick. I have no time to write any more tonight but will try to write you a good long one sunday. Write soon and give me all the news and dont forget to send that money right along. Send green backs as nothing else will go here. Write me a good long letter and tell me all the news all you know about Lib [her brother Lebbeus] and the boys Rob and Albert [his brothers] and every thing else of interest and dont forget to mention the baby. How I would like to see the little fellow.

I must close or I shall be to[o] late so here's a kiss and good bye.

Yours affectionately

Wm

Direct to Wm King, Co. C. 43rd Reg Wis Vol, Seventh St. Hospital
Keokuk, Iowa.

Nette I want you to write right away so I shall get it before I am moved to some other place.

Nette I want you to write
right away so I shall get
it before I am moved
to some other place

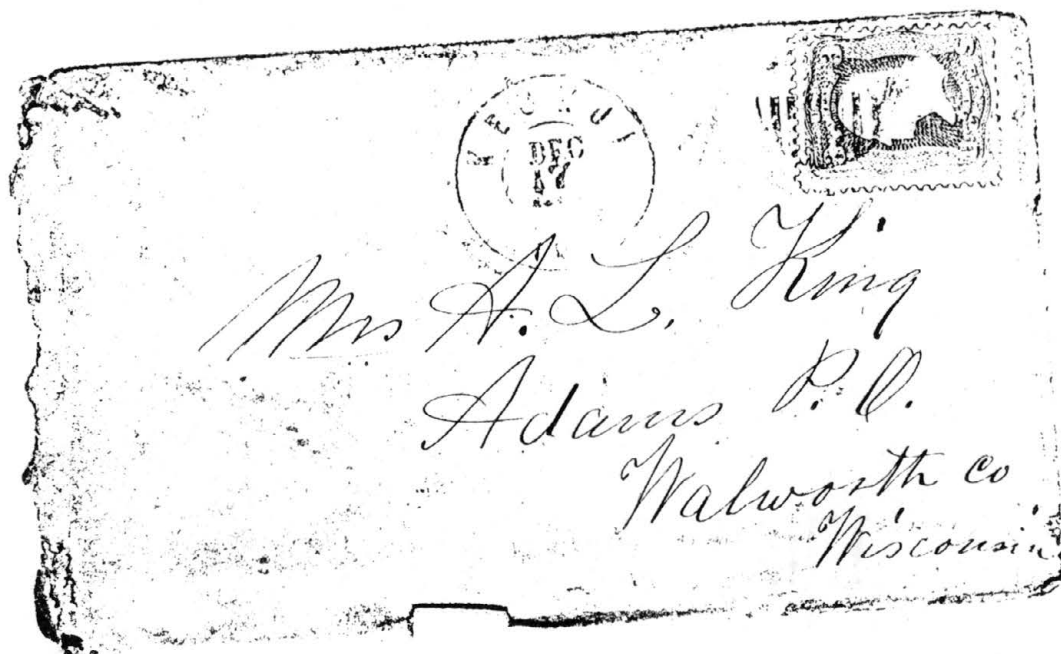
3
Keokuk Iowa Dec 16th/64
Seventh Street Hospital
Dear Nette

Again I have
an opportunity to rest long enough
to write - so I'll write you a short
letter and as soon as I get rested
say by Sunday I will try and
write you a good long one
and give you the particulars
of my journey from Johnson
to this place - I feel considerably
better to day and if I have good
luck shall probably be able
to go to my regiment in the course
of about 3 or 4 weeks. I want
you to write immediately on
receiving this - and send me
ten dollars - send it in two
letters - 5 dol. in each letter
I am almost entirely out of

money - and to be without
money and in a hospital is
about one of the worst things
that can happen to a soldier.
I have lent about ten dollars
or else I should have had
enough - and some of the boys
are trying every day to borrow
what I have left - I have been
traveling now about 17 days
and it has cost me about
a dollar per day for provisions
and bed - most of the time
we have had nothing furnished
us but cold boiled beef and
bread - and the very looks of
it would make me sick.
I have no time to write any
more to night but will try
to write you a good long
one one Sunday - write
soon and give me all
the news and don't forget to

said that money right
along - send green backs
as nothing else will go
here - write me a good
long letter and tell me
all the news all you know
about Lib and the boys
Rob and Albert and any
thing else of of interest
and don't forget to mention
the baby - how I would like
to see the little fellow
I must close or I shall
be too late so here's a Rip
and good bye
Yours affectionately
Wm

Direct to
Wm King
Co. C. 43rd Wis Vol
Seventh St. Hospital
Keokuk
Iowa



Mrs A. L. King
Adams P.O.
Walworth co
Wisconsin

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #3

Hospital Seventh St. Keokuk Iowa
Dec 20th 1864

Dear Nette

I had intended to have written you a good long letter this morning, but when I came to get hold of the pen I find I am so nervous that I am not able to make a decent mark with it. However I will try it a little while and then rest and (go) at it again and maybe in the course of the day I shall get through with it. If not I'll try it tomorrow. I believe I have never told you yet what was the matter with me that I happened to have. You are aware that I had the inflammation of the stomach the first time I was sick in Camp Washburn. Well my stomach has never been entirely right since. Consequently every time my stomach gets a little bit out of order I am liable (to) an attack (of) the disease. About the middle of last month Lieut Ingham of Co. I wanted me to take up my quarters with him as he had no bed fellow so I turned in with him--and the night being very rainy and a poor roof on the cabin we got pretty well down--and the consequence was I caught a D.L. of a cold which brought on the disease I spoke of. Then about the last of month our reg was ordered to evacuate Johnsonville and report at Nashville to help thrash Old Hood out and as I was unable to march, my self and about one hundred men from our reg were sent to the Hospital at Nashville. And as it will probably interest you a little I will try to give you a short sketch of the incidents and events which transpired during my transfer from Nashville to this place.

Nov 29th/64. All men unable to march were ordered to be ready to go out on the next morning train to Nashville. So we got every thing packed up that night but our blankets canteens filled with water and a supply of f---(food?) in our haversacks. My provisions consisted of a piece of dry bread about as big as my fist and a bottle of golden seal quinine and water. Pretty good fare that wasn't it.

30th. At about two O'clock got Joe Ellis to carry my knapsack &c. and started for the depot with the rest of the sick--myself and about fifty others all too weak to get on top of the car alone were crowded on top of the baggage car--and being one of the first on I got a seat near the middle of the car thinking to myself if anyone got shoved off I had a little rather it wouldn't be Bill. So after switching about for about two hours the cars started and we soon were dashing through the woods every one on the alert for guerrillas as we were then going through a part of the country infested with them and through hardly a train passed without having someone shot on it. It being no uncommon thing for a train to bring in one or two dead men.

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #3

Hospital Seventh St. Keokuk Iowa
Dec 20th 1864

Dear Nette

I had intended to have written you a good long letter this morning, but when I came to get hold of the pen I find I am so nervous that I am not able to make a decent mark with it. However I will try it a little while and then rest and (go) at it again and maybe in the course of the day I shall get through with it. If not Ill try it tomorrow. I believe I have never told you yet what was the matter with me that I happened to have. You are aware that I had the inflammation of the stomach the first time I was sick in Camp Washburn. Well my stomach has never been entirely right since. Consequently every time my stomach gets a little bit out of order I am liable (to) an attack (sic) of the disease. About the middle of last month Lieut Ingham of Co. I wanted me to take up my quarters with him as he had no bed fellow so I turned in with him--and the night being very rainy and a poor roof on the cabin we got pretty wet down--and the consequence was I caught a D.l. of a cold which brought on the disease I spoke of. Then about the last of month our reg was ordered to evacuate Johnsonville and report at Nashville to help thrash old Hood out and as I was unable to march, my self and about one hundred men from our reg were sent to the Hospital at Nashville. And as it will probably interest you a little I will try to give you a short sketch of the incidents and events which transpired during my transfer from Nashville to this place.

Nov 29th/64. All men unable to march were ordered to be ready to go out on the next morning train to Nashville. So we got every thing packed up that night but our blankets canteens filled with water and a supply of f---(food?) in our haversacks. My provisions consisted of a piece of dry bread about as big as my fist and a bottle of golden seal quinine and water. Pretty good fare that wasn't it.

30th. At about two O'clock got Joe Ellis to carry my knapsack &c. and started for the depot with the rest of the sick--myself and about fifty others all too weak to get on top of the cAr alone were crowded on top of the baggage car--and being one of the first on I got a seat near the middle of the car thinking to myself if anyone got shoved off I had a little rather it wouldnt be Bill. So after switching about for about two hours the cars started and we soon were dashing through the woods every one on the alert for guerrillas as we were then going through a part of the country infested with them and through hardly a train passed without having someone shot on it. It being no uncommon thing for a train to bring in one or two dead men.

Dec 1st. After a tedious nights ride arrived at Nashville about 2 O'clock in the morning. The train stopped about a mile from the city so the most of us lay down the best we could in cold night air--healthy wasnt it. The next thing I knew the car was standing by the depot and (we) were ordered to file off and take up our quarters in an open building close by. I awoke about day break and started out alone on a foraging expedition. Presently I came across a lady (word?) on selling genuine new milk at ten cents for half pint so I invested a dime and setting down on a stone made the best meal on that and my crust of bread I had eaten since I left home. You can imagine how I looked sitting there in the street of a city before sun rise shivering with cold and sipping my milk and munching away at my crust like a hungry bear and so weak that I could scarcely waddle. Presently the ambulances came along and we were carried to the hospital---upon which the doc examined me and put me on a light diet and prescribed two small doses of Magnesia and three whiskey punches per day all of which together with my meals were brought to my bedside promptly(?) every day. Bully for the doc. Fare first rate. Improved fast under his treatment. To day the battle of Franklin was fought a short distance from Nashville.

Dec 2nd. This morning the wounded are being brought in from the battle field. About eighty were brought to our hospital. At one end of the room is a number of tables covered with knives saws probes compresses bandages ointments &c. and a wounded man is brought into the ring and the doc examines by probing the poor fellows shoulder body hips or legs or wherever the ball happens to hit him. After extracting the ball and rags which happen to be in the wound the doc passes him over to an attendant who seats him on an oil cloth and provided with a pail of cold water and a syringe he goes to work on him as lustily as a New York fire man for about ten or fifteen minutes. When the wound is bandaged up and he is ordered to travel and so on till they are all disposed of.

Dec 4th. Our army has retreated to Nashville. Hood has approached so close that his cavalry may be seen from the city. A battle being hourly expected those patients who are able to ride were transferred to Jeffersonville Ind myself among the rest. So we were carried down to the depot put aboard a hospital train the hospital cars are of two kinds--viz, those provided with seats and those provided with beds. A bed was given to me and a sergent of the 43rd whom I had become acquainted with in which we were compelled to remain during the whole journey. We were well supplied with eatables on the route--the train being provided with a cooking car. Our fare consisted of bread apple sauce tea with milk and sugar in it oyster soup pickles and other goodies to[o] numerous to mention such as a soldier seldom sees.

Dec 5th Arrived at Louisville Ken at 7 O'clock P.M. Were carried to the transfer Hospital in ambulances were compelled to sleep on the floor, the hospital being already crowded.

Dec 6th. 9 O'clock A.M. were transferred across the Ohio river to Jeffersonville Ind to the US Gen Hos. This Hospital is the largest one in the west and capable of containing thirty four hundred patients besides attendants. You may form some idea of its size when I tell you it requires 24 miles of water pipe to supply the different rooms with water. It is situated on the farm of Jessie D. Bright about two miles from the city of Jeffersonville said farm having been confiscated at the commencement of the war. Here for the first time during my Hospital experience I was fed on milk diet--having milk and bread for every meal and you may believe I flourished well on it. Found 7 or 8 of my own company at this Hos.

Dec. 7. Was transferred to Keokuk Iowa. Started in ambulances for the boat at 9 Oclock A.M. it being the intention of the officer to take us as far as St. Louis on the boat and the rest of the way by rail road--so we were put on board an old concern (?) which had been a steam boat some 15 or 20 years before but had become nearly rotten (sic). After we had got on board they tried to start but a slight wind blowing at the time beached her. And the old thing was to[o] helpless to get of[f] alone so we were obliged to lay over until the next morning. There was 150 sick soldiers in the squad and we were obliged [to] lay on sacks of coffee on the lower deck exposed to all the inclemency of the weather which was as cold as any weather we had so far this season.

Dec 8th. At daybreak started. Below Jeffersonville about one mile are the rapids or falls they extend for about four miles the descent being great and the river running very rapidly and the bottom being full of rocks makes it very dangerous for boats to pass even in high water. There is a canal around but it being a little cheaper to hire a pilot than to pay toll and soldiers being of no account we were sent over the rapids. The officers and river pilot being afraid to venture they went around by land. In about twenty minutes after starting were whirling down the rapids at the rate of about fifteen miles an hour--the billows rolling--whirlpools spinning and breakers clashing high over the rocks around us. I was standing alone outside enjoying the commotion hugely when an ominous scrape on the bottom of the boat sent me inside to make inquiries. I soon found out our danger. The engineer boat hands and those of the soldiers who knew their danger carried some pretty anxious faces over with them. During the afternoon the engine broke down and we were obliged to lay up for about two hours for repairs. On the trip we had nothing to eat but dry beef and bread at least those who had no money to buy their rations. I provided myself with a pound of butter and a pint of molasses--butter 75 cts per pound.

Myself and chum also hired a room upstairs rather than sleep in the open air. Paid 50 cts apiece for a bed and 50 cts for the privilege of staying in the cabin per day.

Dec 11th. After two or three more break downs arrived at Cairo Ill at 3 Oclock A.M. and the boat being unable to go any farther were obliged to go to St. Louis on the cars so as soon as daylight came we started for the Soldiers home. Saw Adam Rosenback there he was just returning to his Reg at Nashville. He had been tried and acquitted for murder. Also a man from the 28th Reg who knew the Kenyon boys and Charley Heath [Elisa Kenyon later married Charley Heath]. I got breakfast here at an eating house got 2 eggs a cup of coffee and a piece of cake and had to pay 75 cts. My chum ate about twice as much and had to pay \$1.25 for his. Spent the day at the Christian Commission rooms reading religious papers and writing home. Any soldiers visiting these rooms are supplied with all the material for letter writing that they want to use while in the rooms and has his letter carried to the office for him. During the evening attended the annual meeting of the Cairo Bible Society with my chum and one of the officers of the Christian Commission. By the way my chum is a professor of religion so you see I keep good company and as the other boys can do swearing enough without my help I have just about concluded to stop. Although it is sometimes pretty hard work for an orderly to get along without swearing when he has a lazy man or a fool to deal with as he is responsible for all the short commings (sic) of the men under him.

Dec 12th, 2 O'clock P.M. Started on the cars for St. Louis. Arrived at Illinois town on the opposite side of the river from St. Louis at three P.M. crossed the river about dark and to supper at the soldiers home. Had a good supper plenty of bread applesauce tea butter molasses &c not much &c though. After supper were sent to the exchange Hos. Staid here one day and two nights found the worst feed here of any place we have been before. Have nothing but bread and boiled beef. And only half enough of that. Those of us who could not eat the fare soon began to look around for a hole to creep out of which we soon found and took advantage of. This is the first time I [have] broken the regulations and laid myself liable to arrest since I came into the service. But I think I was excusable. I found a place where they had milk to sell so stowing away a pint in my what do you call it and three more in my canteen and started back for the hos and got there just in time to keep out of the clutches of the patrol Guard.

Dec 14 4 O'clock P.M. Started for Keokuk arrived at Springfield at 8 O'clock P.M. Failed to make connection and had to stay there all night a bed for the night cost me 75 cts.

Dec 15th. Started for Keokuk arrived there 3 P.M. Was sent to the Seventh St. Hos. This hos is the unoccupied portion

of the Keokuk Medical College it is a large 6 story brick building and capable (sic) of accomodating 250 patients every part of the building having been given up for the use of the hos but the lecture room and the dissecting room. Upon arriving the doc examined me. He said it would be a long time before I would be able to go back to my reg if I went back at all but I am bound to go back in time for the Spring campaign if I can get away. It will probably take 2 months to get up to my usual weight and when I get that I shall try to get back. This is the best place that I have found since leaving home. We can go wherever we please between nine in the morning and nine at night. I cant go out after dark but then some of them can. Those who are able can go where they please except into barrooms and saloons. If a soldier is caught in them he is popped into the Guard house a day or two unless he is sick in that case he is not allowed to leave the hos at all for a week or so.

I have joined the Keokuk Library association cost me one dollar so I have plenty of reading. The soldiers can also attend the Medical lectures when they please. I go up into the dissecting and see them chop up dead men just when I please. I attended a lecture on Midwifery yesterday afternoon. The Professor (sic) was provided with an india rubber woman and baby and I saw ---- well I saw an india rubber baby born. Dont blush now.

There is also a museum in the building which [I] have access to at any time containing stuffed animals birds serpents fish skeletons mummies shells of all imaginable descriptions.

There Nette I have given you a pretty good history of things since I left my reg. I might have written much more but it tires me to write a great while to a time. I wrote to you from Nashville, Jeffersonville and last Friday from this place. I have got two letters unanswered from Lib. I guess he will begin to think that I am not going to write any more. I shall probably write to him to tomorrow. I heard that there was some letters at the reg for me. I think I shall send for them and not wait till I go back. It is so long since I heard from you that I am getting anxious and I hope you will answer my letters promptly. In my last letter I requested you to send me ten dollars. I hope you will send it right along as I have only a dollar left and that I am going to pay out this afternoon to attend a book-keeping class. It cost me a good deal on my way up here for provisions and bed. Those who had no money or were to[o] stingy suffered a great deal and were much [sicker] when they got here than when they started. There is 7 or 8 of the boys from our company here in the different hospitals.

When you write dont forget to tell me all you know about Robert and Albert and anything else of interest dont be afraid to write a long letter. Tell me whether Lib has sent any more money down to my father on my acct and how much. I got a

letter from Lib telling me about exemption (sic) &c.. How does the baby get along. Have you named him. If you have I hope it is not some hifalutin name. Be sure and not name him after some big man but give him a pretty unpretending name that he will not be ashamed of when he grows up. How does Willie and Nellie behave themselves. Does [they?] stay with you or at my fathers and how do they like the children are they getting sick of them yet. How do you get along with Emeline. How much do you weigh so I can tell whether you are well or not. I weigh 135 and gaining pretty fast. The Bookkeeping class will commence in a short time so I must close. If I only had the money I would have sent you a Christmas (sic) present but I shall have to defer it until some other time. Write soon and lots of it. So here's an armful of kisses for you and the babies and now Good bye.

Yours ever and ever

Wm

P.S. The laidies (sic) of this place have just had a meeting and have concluded to give the soldiers here a Christmas or New Year dinner to come off [f] some time next week. They have appointed a committee to attend to it and solicit the people to send in their provisions cookies &c. I suppose [word] pretty fine for the ladies of this place generally go ahead when then undertake a thing. I believe the people here think more of the soldier than they do in most places.

I have just been down to see about attending a class in Bookkeeping but they have their class in double entry in the evening so I cannot attend. So I think I shall attend the writing class as that is open in the day time and I must be doing something to while away time. It costs more to be idle than it does to be sick but while I remain here I might as well be doing something. I have just read a letter from our regiment and I tell you it was a good thing for me that I was not with them. I should have been a dead man by this time if I had to stay with them even if I had got a chance to ride. I wanted to go with them but the doc would not let me and good for me that they didnt. I have been a little to[o] fast all along to go with them when I have been sick.

When you write tell me whether you have drawn any state pay yet or not. If not then apply for it as soon as you can and draw it and then you are sure of it. I expect I shall be paid off in a short time--say the 10th or 15th of next month when I shall have \$100 coming to me. Eight dollars a month of which I allotted to you will be notified by the state treasurer as soon as it comes for you.

Three hundred thousand [illegible; in next draft?]. What do you think of that. Guess you had better all enlist or you will be drafted sure. Lib will stand a poor chance this

time. I think it will be perfect nonsense to take him anyhow.
[Lib had tuberculosis.] It is getting so dark here that I cannot
see to keep the lines so I will have to close. If [I] had time I
would put another sheet in but I have spun it out so long already
that I guess you will be sick of it.

So here's a good night to you.

Wm

Write it Seventh Street Hosp instead of as at the beginning of
this letter.

Hospital Seventh W. Kentucky

Dec. 10th 1862

Dear Aello

I had intended to have
written you a good long letter this morn-
but when I came to get hold of the pen I find
I was so nervous that I am not able to make
a decent mark with it. However I will try
it a little while and then rest and abide
again and maybe in the course of the day
I shall get through with it. if not I'll try
it to-morrow. I believe I have never told
you yet what was the matter of me that I
has been to home - you are aware that I
had the inflammation of the stomach the
first time I was sick in Camp Nashville
well my stomach has never been entirely
right since. Consequently every time my sto-
mach gets a little out of order I am liable
an attack of the disease - about the middle
of last month Lieut. Ugham of Co. I. wanted
me to take up my quarters with him as he
had no bed-fellow so I turned in with
him - and the night being very rainy
and a poor roof on the cabin we got just
wet down - and the consequence was I caught
a D. of a cold which brought on the
disease I spoke of. - Then about the last of
month our reg. was ordered to evacuate
Johnsonville and report at Nashville to help
thru old Wood out and as I was unable
to march - myself and about one hundred men
from our reg. were sent to the Hospital at
Nashville. - and as it will probably interest
you a little I will try to give you a short

sketch of the incidents and events which transpired during my transfer from that of Nashville to this place

Nov. 29th/64. All men unable to march were ordered to be ready to go out on the next morning train to Nashville - so we got every thing packed up that night but our blankets - canteens filled with water and a supply of food in our haversacks - my provisions consisted of a piece of dry bread about as big as my fist and a little of golden seal gummi and water - pretty good fare that night.

36th At about 2 O'clock got Joe Ellis to carry my
knapsack &c. and started for the depot
with the rest of the sick - myself and about
fifty others all to break through on top of the car.
We were crowded on top of the baggage cars and
being one of the first on I got a seat near the
middle of car thinking to myself if anyone
got ahead of I had a rather it wouldn't be Bill
so after waiting about for about two hours the
cars started and we were dashing through
the woods every one on the alert for game
as we were then going through a part of the country
infested with them and through ^{valleys} thickly wooded
passed on through having some deer shot at.
It being so uncommon thing for a team to bring
in one or two dead women.

Dec. 21 - After a tedious night's ride arrived at Khabarovsk about 2.30 clock in the morning - the train stopped about a mile from the city so the most of us lay down the best we could and went to sleep in cold night air - healthy would it be the only thing I knew the crowd was standing by the depot and were ordered to pile off - and little of our

quarters in an ^{open} building close by - I woke about day
break and started ^{out} alone on a foraging expedition.
Presently I came across a lady wagon selling
genuine cow milk at ten cents per half pint.
So I entered a dime and sitting down on a
stump ~~made~~ ^{made} the best milk the best meal
I had ^{and my goat of home} had eaten since I left home.
You can imagine how I looked sitting there in
the street of a city before some nice churning
milk and sipping my milk and shivering
away at my chest like a hungry bear - and so
weak that I could scarcely waddle - Presently the
ambulance came along and we were carried to
the hospital - upon ^{which} the doc examined me and
put me on light diet - and prescribed two ^{small} doses
of Morphine and three whiskey punches for 2 days -
all of which together with my milk were brought
to my bedside promptly every day - bully for the doc
for a first rate - important fact under his treatment
to day the battle of Franklin was fought a short
distance from Nashville.

Second - This morning the wounded are being brought
in from the battle field - about eighty were brought
to the hospital - at one end of the ^{camp} is a number of
tables covered with Russian saws, probes, compasses
bandages, amputations, &c. &c. a wounded ~~man~~ ^{man} is
brought in and the doc commences by probing
the poor fellows shoulder body hips or legs
wherever the ball happens to hit him. after
extracting the ball and rags which happen
to be in the wound the doc passes him over to
an attendant who seats him on an oil cloth
and provides with a pail of cold water and
a syringe he goes to work on him as lustily
as a New York fireman - for about ten or fifteen

when the wound is bandaged up and he is ordered to
travel and so on till they are all disposed of.
Dec 4th our army has retreated to Nashville
Hood has approached so close that his camp
may be seen may be seen from the city.

A battle being hourly expected those patients
who were able to ride were transferred to
Jeffersonville Indiana myself among the
rest so we were carried down to the depot
put aboard a hospital train the hospital consist
of two kinds - viz those provided with seats and
those provided with beds a bed was given to
me and a sergeant of the 4th Cal. who with
had become acquainted with in which we
were compelled to remain during the whole
journey we were well supplied with
relatives on the train the train being supplied
with a cooking car - open fare consisted
of bread apples tea with milk and
sugar in it - oysters about pickles and other
goodies to numerous to mention such as a
soldier add down are

Dec 5th arrived at Louisville Here at 3 o'clock
P.M. were carried to the Transfer Hospital in
ambulances were compelled to sleep on
the floor the hospital being already full
Dec 6th 9 o'clock A.M. were transferred to
the Ohio river to Jeffersonville Indiana to the
Gen Hos. This Hospital is the largest one in the
west and capable of containing 3400 patients
besides attendants - you may form some
idea of its size when I tell you that it
requires 24 miles of water pipe to supply
the different rooms with water - it is
situated on the corner of Second & Bright.

about 2 miles from the city of Jefferson
said farm having been confiscated at the com-
mencement of this war - here for the first
time during my Hospital experience I was fed
on milk diet - having milk ^{and bread} for every
meal and ^{may} believe I flourished well
on it - found 7 or 8 of my own company at this place
Dec. 7. and transferred to Keokuk Iowa. Started in the
evening for the boat at 9 O'clock A.M. it being the
intention of the officers to take us as far as
Louis on the boat and the rest of the way by
rail road - so we were put on board an old
cannon which had been a steam boat some
15 or 20 years before but had become nearly
rotten - after we had got on board they tried
to start but a slight wind blowing at the time
beached her and the old thing was too helpless
get of alone so we were obliged to lay over
until the next morning - there was 150 sick
soldiers in this squad and we were obliged
lay on sacks of coffee on the lower decks
exposed to all the inclemency of the weather
which was as cold as any weather we had
so far this season.

Dec. 8th At daylight started. Below Jefferson
about one mile up the rapids on foot they
extend for about four miles the descent being
great and the river running very rapidly in
the bottom being full of rocks makes it very
dangerous for boats to pass even in high
water - there is a canal around but it is
a little cheaper to hire a pilot than to pay toll
and soldiers being of no account we were
sent over the rapids - the officers and
river pilot being afraid to venture. The women

around by land. in about twenty minutes after
starting were whirling down the chutes the
rapids at the rate of about fifteen miles an
hour - the billows rolling - whirlpools spinning
and breakers dashing high over the rocks
around us. I was standing alone outside
enjoying the commotion hugely when
the furious escape on the bottom of the
boat sent me inside to make inquiries.
I soon found out our danger. The engine
boke hands and those of the soldiers who
knew their danger carried some poorly
anxious faces over with them. during the
afternoon the engine boke down and we
were obliged to lay up about ten hours
for repairs - On the trip we had nothing
to eat but dry beef and bread at least those
who had no money to buy their rations.
I provided myself with a pound of butter and
a pint of Molasses - butter 75 cts per pound
myself and Chum also hired a room up stairs
rather than sleep in the open air. paid 50 cts
apiece for a bed and 50 cts for the privilege of staying
in the cabin per day -

Dec 11th After two or three more break downs
at New Orleans. at 3 o'clock A.M.
and the boat being unable to go any farther were
obliged to go to St. Louis on the cars. as soon
as daylight came we started for the Soldier
home. John Ashton Vassentach there he was
just returning to his Reg at Nashville. he had
been tried and acquitted for murder. Also a man
from the 25th Reg who knew the Hagen boys and
Charles Heath. I got breakfast here at
an eating house - got 2 eggs and 1 coffee

and a piece of cake and had to pay 75 cts - my chum ate about twice as much and had to pay \$1.25. for him. We both spent the day at the Christian Commission rooms reading religious papers and writing home. Any soldier writing their names are supplied with all the material for letter writing that they want to use. A fellow in the process and has his letter carried to the office for him. During the evening attended the meeting of the Ohio Bible Society with my chum and one of the officers of the Christian Commission. By the way my chum is a professed religionist so you see I keep good company and as the other boys can do nothing enough without my help I have just about concluded to stop. Although it is sometimes pretty hard work for an orderly to get along without swearing when he has a large mass of a fool to deal with as he is responsible for all the short comings of the men under him.

Dec 12th, S. Delick P.M. started on the car for St. Louis. Arrived at St. Louis before noon on the opposite side of the river from St. Louis at 11th. P.M. I crossed the river about dark with the supply at the soldiers house. Had a good supper plenty of bread apples and butter. We had to make do though. After supper were sent to the exchange. Had Staid here one day and two nights found the worst food here of any place we had been before. Have nothing but bread and boiled beef and only half enough of that. Those of us who could not eat the fare soon began to look around for a hole to creep out of which we soon found and took advantage of

This is the first time I broken the regulations
since ~~I came~~ and laid myself liable to arrest
since I came into the service. but I think I was
excusable - I found a place where they had
milk to sell. so stealing away a pint in my
coat do you call it. and then more in my
pocket and started back for the box and
got there just in time to keep out of the
clutches of the patrol guard.

Dec 14th 4 P. clock P.M. Started for Reebok
arrived at Springfield at 8 P. clock. I was
forced to make connection and had to stay
there all night as bed for the night cost
me 45 cts.

Dec 15th Started for Reebok arrived there
3 P.M. was sent to the Seventh St. Hospital
which is the unoccupied portion of the Reebok
Medical College. It is a large frame story
brick building and capable of accommodating
250 patients every part of the building having
been given up for the use of the box but the
lecture room and the dissecting room.
Upon arriving the doc examined me. then said
it would be a long time before I would be
able to go back. to my reg. if I went back
at all but I am bound to go back in time
for the spring campaign if I can get away
it will probably take two months to get up to
my usual weight and when I get that I shall
try to get back. This is the best place that I have
found since leaving home. we can go whenever
we please between nine in the morning and nine
at night. I can't go out after dark. but the most
of them can. those who are able can go when
they please. except till dark comes and returns

If a soldier is caught in there he is jugged into
the guard house a day or two unless he is ~~released~~
in that case he is not allowed to leave the
wall for a week or so.

I have joined the Keokuk Literary Association
and have one dollar. I have plenty of reading
The ~~soldiers~~ can also attend the Medical
lectures when they please. I go up into the church
and see them chop up dead men just what I
attended a lecture on Midwifery yesterday
afternoon. The Professor was provided
with an Indian Indian woman and baby
and I saw ~~well~~ I saw an Indian sub-
baby born - don't blush now -

There is also a museum in this building which
have access to at any time containing stuffed
animals birds, ~~skins~~ fish skeletons, minerals
shells of all imaginable descriptions.

These Wells I have given you a pretty good
history of things since I left my reg. I might
have written much more but it tires me to
write a great while to a time. I wrote to
you from Nashville Jeffersonville and
last Friday from this place. I have got
two letters unanswered from Lib. I guess
will begin to think that I am not going to
write any more. I shall probably write
to him tomorrow. I heard that there was
some letters at the reg for me. I think
I think I shall send for them and not wait
till I go back. It is so long since I heard
from you that I am getting anxious and
I hope you will answer my letters from
and ~~about~~ my last letter I requested you
to send me ten dollars. I hope you will

If a soldier is caught in there he is jugged into
the Guard house a day or two unless he is ~~released~~
in that case he is not allowed to have the ~~the~~
straw for a week or so.

At the present the Keokuk Library association
has one dollar each have plenty of reading
material. Indians can also attend the Medical
Lectures when they please. I go up into the dining
and see them chop up dead men just what please.
I attended a lecture on Midwifery yesterday
afternoon. The Professor was provided
with an Indian Indian woman and baby
and I saw - well I saw an Indian rubber
baby born don't blush now.

There is also a museum in the building which
have access to at any time containing stuffed
animals birds, reptiles, fish, skeletons, minerals
shells of all imaginable description.

There. Well I have given you a pretty good
history of things since I left my Reg. I might
have written much more but it tires me to
write a great while to a time. I wrote to
you from Keokuk, Jeffersonville and
last Friday from this place. I have got
two letters unanswered from Lib. I guess he
will be glad to think that I am not going to
forget him any more. I shall probably write
to him tomorrow. I heard that there was
some letters at the Reg for me. I think
I think I shall send for them and not wait
till I go back. It is so long since I heard
from you that I am getting anxious and
I hope you will answer my letters promptly
and ~~and~~ in my last letter I requested you
to send me ten dollars. I hope you will

send it right along as I have only a dollar
left and that I am going to pay out this
afternoon to attend a book-keeping class.
It cost me a good deal on my way up here
for provisions and bed - those who had
no money or were too stingy suffered
a great deal and were much worse when
they got here than when they started.
There is 7 or 8 of the boys from our company
here in the different hospitals.
When you write don't forget to tell me all
you know about Robert and Albert and
anything else of interest don't be afraid to
write a long letter - tell me whether Lib
has sent any more money down to my
father on my acct and how much.
I got a letter from Lib telling me about
execution etc. How does the baby get along have
you named him if you have I hope it is not some
some fatalistic name be sure and not name
him after some big man but give him a pretty
independent name that he will not be ashamed
of where he grows up. How does Willie and Willie
behave themselves, does stay with you or at my
father's and how do they like the children are they
getting sick of them yet. How do you get along
with Emeline. How much do you weigh. I
can tell whether you are well or not I weigh
135 and gaining pretty fast. The book-keeping class
will commence in a short time so I must close.
If I only had the money I would have sent you
a Christmas present but I shall have to defer it until
some other time. Write soon and lots of it
so there is an awful lot of kisses for you and the
babies and soon Good bye. I am here and ever
yours

At the ladies of this place have just had
a meeting and have concluded to give the soldiers
here a Christmas or New Year dinner to come
of some time next week. They have appointed
a committee to attend to it and select the people
to be seated in their provisions. Turkey's head &c.
something splendidly fine for the ladies of the
place generally go ahead when they undertake
a thing. I believe the people here think more
of the soldier than they do in most places.
I have just been down to see about attending
a class in Bookkeeping but they have their
class in double entry in the evening & I cannot
attend - So I think I shall attend the writing
class as that is open in the day time - and
I must be doing something to while away time.
I don't seem to be idle there it does to be sure
but while I remain here I might as well be learning
something. I have just read a letter from
our regiment and I tell you it was a good
thing for me that I was not with them.
I should have been a dead man by this time
if I had to stay with them even if I had
got a chance to side. I wanted to go with
them but the doc would not let me
and good for me that they don't.
I have been a little to fast all along to
go with them when I have been sick.
When you write tell me whether you have
drawn any state pay yet or not. If not
then apply for it as soon as you can and
draw it and then you are sure of it.
I expect I shall be paid off in a day or two
time - say the 10th or 15th of next month.

D. S. The ladies of this place have just had
a meeting and have concluded to give the soldiers
here a Christmas or New Year dinner to come
of some time next week. They have appointed
a committee to attend to it and solicit the people
to assist in their provisions. Biskin's & Co. supply
everything for the ladies from the ladies of this
place generally go ahead when they undertake
a thing. I believe the people here think more
of their religion than they do in most places.
I have just been down to see about attending
school in Biskin's but they have their
classes double every in the evening & I cannot
attend. So I think I shall attend the writing
class as that is open in the day time and
I would be doing something to while away my
leisure time. I shall have it down to be sick
but while I remain here tonight as will be long
something. I have just read a letter from
my regiment and I tell you it was a good
thing for me that I was not with them.
I should have been a dead man by this time.
If I had to stay with them even if I had
got a chance to ride. I wanted to go with
them but the doctor would not let me.
It is good for me that they do not.
I have been a little to fast all along to
go with them when I have been sick.
When you write tell me whether you have
drawn any state pay yet or not. If not
then apply for it as soon as you can and
draw it and then you are sure of it.
I expect I shall be paid off in a day or two
time - say the 10th or 15th of next month.

If ~~any~~
when I shall have over \$150. coming
to me. Eight dollars per month of
which I allotted to you you will be
notified by the state treasurer and
it comes for you.
~~I hope the state treasurer will~~
what do you think of that guess?
I had better call enlist or you will be
drafted soon. Lib will stand a poor
chance this time I think it will be
perfect nonsense to take him anyhow.
It is getting so dark here that I cannot
see to keep the lines so I will have to
close if I had time I would put another
sheet in but I have spent it out so long
already that I guess you will be sick of it.
So have good night to you
Yours

write it - Seventh Street Hotel instead
of as at the beginning of this letter

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #4

Seventh Street Hot Reokuk Iowa
Dec 25th 1864

My dear little wife

I wish you a merry christmas. I received your very welcome letter of the 15th inst last Friday. I presume it has been laying in the P.O. several days. But as I was not expecting one I never inquired (sic) and only inquired for the fun of it then. I was quite agreeably surprised when they handed one out to me.

You seem to think that I am worse than I really (sic) am. Well I have been pretty sick but at present I am a great deal better than [sentence unfinished]. I weigh just one pound less now than I did when you saw me last and have weighed less yet. I am about the same as Lib was only I dont have the palpitation (sic) of the heart. I feel just as well as ever I did unless when I happen to eat something that dont agree with me. But still I am very weak. It makes my legs wilt to walk a half mile or so.

We have firstrate accommodations here. The room that I am in is a very pleasant one. It is about 50 feet long by about 20 broad. We are not allowed (sic) to go out much but we have plenty of papers and books to read. So we read and tell stories and visit the dissecting and lecture room occasionally and the Chaplain visits us every day and brings in papers so take it altogether we pass the time very pleasantly. You know a soldier is seldom at a loss for something to talk about.

I am attending writing school at present. I have only attended one lesson yet but am going right along now. The teacher charges one dollar for 12 lessons.

I have no doubt but I should be sick again if I am sent south such before spring. You see they have a great deal of cold rainy weather in the south in the winter time--and you know that is the worst kind of weather for me. You will probably recollect that my health was not very [word omitted, good?] all last summer. The dyspepsia was slowly crawling on then. But under the treatment I get here I think I shall get over it. No danger of killing myself eating anyhow. For breakfast I get one slice of toast not such as you or mother make but about two thirds as large--half a tea cup full of boiled rice--half an egg and a pint of tea. For dinner I get mashed potatoes instead of rice and boiled chicken. Not a very large quantity of chicken though--for instance today I got half a neck--just enough to keep me hungry as a wolf all the time.

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #4

Seventh Street Hos Keokuk Iowa
Dec 25th 1864

My dear little wife

I wish you a merry christmas. I received your very welcome letter of the 15th inst last Friday. I presume it has been laying in the P.O. several days. But as I was not expecting one I never inquired (sic) and only inquired for the fun of it then. I was quite agreeably surprised when they handed one out to me.

You seem to think that I am worse than I really (sic) am. Well I have been pretty sick but at present I am a great deal better than [sentence unfinished]. I weigh just one pound less now than I did when you saw me last and have weighed less yet. I am about the same as Lib was only I dont have the palipitation (sic) of the heart. I feel just as well as ever I did unless when I happen to eat something that dont agree with me. But still I am very weak. It makes my legs wilt to walk a half mile or so.

We have firstrate accomodations here. The room that I am in is a very pleasant one. It is about 50 feet long by about 20 broad. We are not alowed (sic) to go out much but we have plenty of papers and books to read. So we read and tell stories and visit the dissecting and lecture room occasionally and the Chaplain visits us every day and brings in papers so take it alltogether we pass the time very pleasantly. You know a soldier is seldom at a loss for something to talk about.

I am attending writing school at present. I have only attended one lesson yet but am going right along now. The teacher charges one dollar for 12 lessons.

I have no doubt but I should be sick again if I am sent south much before spring. You see they have a great deal of cold rainy weather in the south in the winter time--and you know that is the worst kind of weather for me. You will probably recollect that my health was not very [word omitted, good?] all last summer. The dispepsia was slowly crawling on then. But under the treatment I get here I think I shall get over it. No danger of killing myself eating anyhow. For breakfast I get one slice of toast not such as you or mother make but about two thirds as large--half a tea cup full of boiled rice--half an egg and a pint of tea. For dinner I get mashed potatoes instead of rice and boiled chicken. Not a very large quantity of chicken though--for instance today I got half a neck--just enough to keep me hungry as a wolf all the time.

I shall probably attend a class in double entry book-keeping. He charges three dollars for 24 lessons.

They will probably keep me here untill spring. The doc says if I go back before that time and [am] exposed to cold wet and fatigue that I would be right down again. I tell you these doctors dont use a soldier as our regimental doctors do. There is many a boy in our regiment who would shoot our docs as quick as look at them if it wasn't for the law. They have always used me well but I must say for all that they are the most miserable army doctors I have come across.

The bell is ringing for meeting and as I want to go I must close. I had intended to have written two sheets but I feel so nervous today I must close. Write soon.

Yours affectionately

Wm

Dont send that box you spoke of. The doc wont let me have it. We are going to have our big dinner on Wednesday. If I was further South they would let you send things to me but here they think they have got enough unless you give it to the Hospital.

Don't send that boy you spoke of. He does want to see me but I am going to have surgery tomorrow on Wednesday. Now they think they have got it. You send things to me but I don't know whether they would.

I shall ~~also~~ probably attend a class in double entry bookkeeping. He charges three dollars for 24 lessons.

They will probably keep me here till spring the doc says if I go back before that time and am exposed to cold wet and fatigue that I would be right down again.

I tell you these doctors don't use a solidien as our regimental doctors do. There is ~~many~~ a boy in our regiment who would shoot our docs as quick as look at them if it wasn't for the law.

They have always used me well but I must say for all that they are the most miserable army doctors I have come across.

The bell is ringing for meeting and as I want to go I must close. I had intended to have written two sheets but I feel so nervous to day I must close. Write soon.
Yours affectionately
J. M. W.

Don't send that boy you spoke of. He does want to see me but I am going to have surgery tomorrow on Wednesday. Now they think they have got it. You send things to me but I don't know whether they would.

Seventh Street Hos Keokuk Iowa
(Dec. 25th 1864)

My dear little wife

I wish you a merry Christmas. I received your very welcome letter of the 15th ~~inst~~ last Friday. I presume it has been laying in the P.O. several days. but as I was not expecting one I never inquired and only inquired for the fun of it. I was quite agreeably surprised when they handed one out to me.

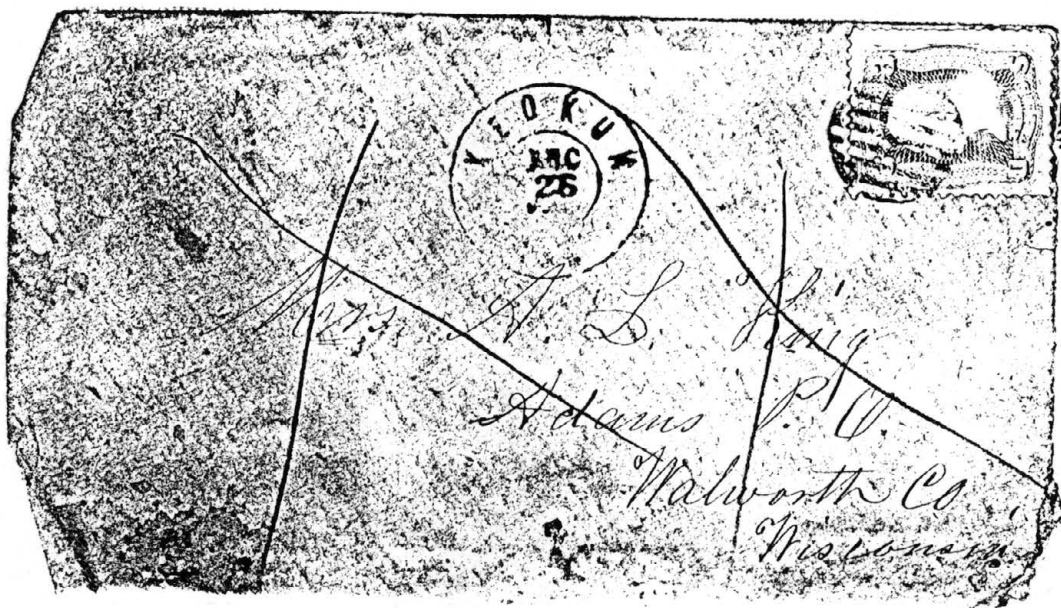
You seem to think that I am worse than I really am. Well I have been pretty sick but at present I am a great deal better than I weigh just one pound less now than I did when I you saw me last. and have weighed less yet. I am about the same as Lib was only I don't have the palpitiation of the heart.

I have no doubt but I should be sick again if I am sent south much before spring. you see they have a great deal of cold rainy weather in the south in the winter time - and and you know I ~~am~~ that is the worst kind of weather for me. You will probably recollect that my health was not very all last summer. the dyspepsia was slowly crawling on then.

But under the treatment I get here I think I shall get over it no danger of killing myself eating anyhow. For breakfast I get one slice of toast not such as you or another make but about two thirds as large. Half a tea cup full of boiled rice. half an egg and a pint of tea. For dinner I get mashed potatoes instead of rice and boiled chicken. not a very large quantity of chicken though. for instance today I got half a neck. just enough to keep me hungry as a wolf all the time.

I feel just as well as ever I did. unless when I happen to eat something that don't agree with me. but still I am very weak. It makes ~~it~~ makes my legs wobble to walk a half mile or so. We have first rate accommodations here the room that I am in is a very pleasant one ~~that~~ it is about 50 feet long by about 20 broad we are not allowed to go out much. but we have plenty of papers and books to read. so we read and tell stories and visit the dissecting and lecture room occasionally and the Chaplain visits us every day and brings in papers so take it all together we pass the time very pleasantly. you know a soldier is seldom at a loss for something to talk about.

I am attending writing school at present I have only attended one lesson yet but am going right along now. The teacher charges one dollar for 12 lessons.



(Antoinette to William)

ALPK #3

Adams, Jan 8th 1865

Dear William

I received your letter last week stating that you had been sick again. I was very sorry to hear it for I was in hopes you was going to get right along. I hope you are better than you was when you wrote. I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow with the glad tidings that your are better & that you are coming home. I dont see why you cant come home as well as others. There is lots home on furlough out of the 42nd Reg. Acors starts back tonight. He has been home a long time & stayed as long as he wanted to. Geo Allen is home on furlough. I wish you would write & tell me why you cant come. Your father wants you to come & he is looking for you so write & tell me if you have ever tried to get a furlough. You dont write half as much as I want you to. I see I have to scold you a little.

I was up to your fathers Sat eve. They were all well. Your father wanted me to write to you & ask you if you had not better invest your money in town scrip as they are raising another bounty for volunteers & you will get 7 per cent. He says you will not need it before next Jan & that a hundred dollars will bring you 70 dollars. He says it is perfectly safe. Dont fail to let me know immediately.

Nellie received the present. She feels very proud of it -- shows it to everyone that comes in. Grandpa King bought her some new hoops the other day. She is a great pet with her Grandpas. Willie thinks so much of his letter. He is a pretty good boy but he is awful rough. Little chub is in bed. He is such a good baby I know you would love him. Father thinks lots of him -- & so does Elisa Heath. She says she loved him as soon as she heard he was born. She was down to see him Saturday.

I dreamed he died the other night & I felt so bad to think you had never seen him.

Well William I have some very sad news to write you but I expect you may hear of it before this reaches you. Poor Joe Ellis is no more. He died the day before Christmas was sick only four days. The march was to[o] much for him. I have not heard the particulars. Ellen wrote to Elisa & said that Dave Posey had written the news. O how bad his mother will feel. I cant make it seem possible that he is dead. Did you ever write to him or him to you. Write me if you hear the particulars of his death. Wa Coates went to see him but he had just breathed his last. I keep thinking what you said to him -- Well Joe if you will enlist -- I will -- & he did but you have scarcely been together any of the time. Did you see each other often while you were in John-

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK #3

Adams, Jan 8th 1865

Dear William

I received your letter last week stating that you had been sick again. I was very sorry to hear it for I was in hopes you was going to get right along. I hope you are better than you was when you wrote. I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow with the glad tidings that your are better & that you are coming home. I dont see why you cant come home as well as others. There is lots home on furlough out of the 42nd Reg. Acors starts back tonight. He has been home a long time & stayed as long as he wanted to. Geo Allen is home on furlough. I wish you would write & tell me why you cant come. Your father wants you to come & he is looking for you so write & tell me if you have ever tried to get a furlough. You dont write half as much as I want you to. I see I have to scold you a little.

I was up to your fathers Sat eve. They were all well. Your father wanted me to write to you & ask you if you had not better invest your money in town scrip as they are raising another bounty for volunteers & you will get 7 per cent. He says you will not need it before next Jan & that a hundred dollars will bring you 70 dollars. He says it is perfectly safe. Dont fail to let me know immediately.

Nellie received the present. She feels very proud of it -- shows it to everyone that comes in. Grandpa King bought her some new hoops the other day. She is a great pet with her Grandpas. Willie thinks so much of his letter. He is a pretty good boy but he is awful rough. Little chub is in bed. He is such a good baby I know you would love him. Father thinks lots of him -- & so does Elisa Heath. She says she loved him as soon as she heard he was born. She was down to see him Saturday.

I dreamed he died the other night & I felt so bad to think you had never seen him.

Well William I have some very sad news to write you but I expect you may hear of it before this reaches you. Poor Joe Ellis is no more. He died the day before Christmas was sick only four days. The march was to[o] much for him. I have not heard the particulars. Ellen wrote to Elisa & said that Dave Posey had written the news. O how bad his mother will feel. I cant make it seem possible that he is dead. Did you ever write to him or him to you. Write me if you hear the particulars of his death. Wm Coates went to see him but he had just breathed his last. I keep thinking what you said to him -- Well Joe if you will enlist -- I will -- & he did but you have scarcely been together any of the time. Did you see each other often while you were in John-

sonville & did he seem cheerful & satisfied with the service. Tell me all about him. Dont you feel sorry & how did he seem to feel the last time you saw him when he helped you on board the cars. How much I think of him. He is on my mind all the time.

Troy had an election Saturday for the purpose of raising bounty for volunteers. The town will give 200 hundred (sic) & the enrolled men will make it up to 300 hundred dollars. There is seventeen men to be raised. I expect Irve will have to go this time but I hope not. Mr Kenyon got so excited down to the election that he made a regular fool of himself & more enemies than he ever had before. He twitted Will Morrison about his father said he had to run away from the old country & when he left York State the sheriff followed him for stealing tools &c. Everyone says that Will ought to have knocked him down. Tom straightened up & told this to the whole crowd & said he was Tom Kenyon & no one can say ought against him. Poor bigoted man what a noddy he can make of himself.

We heard that Charlie Porter was married to a southern lady a widow. Gus Dean was married last week to Susie Montague. Emeline is over to Allen yet. Uncle Sam is here looks first rate. I heard him telling Willie that if he was as easy to learn as his father was he would be a pretty smart boy. Have you ever got your letter from the Reg & have you got my picture you didnt (?) say. Well it is bed time & father wants to go to bed so I will have to close. Dont you think I ought to go to writing school. Charlie Morrison & Elise are going to the dance to Palmyra on the 13th. Mrs Astin (?) is going to Boston again ha ha (sic). Now dont neglect answering all my inquiries & write immediately.

Yours with much & best wishes

Nette

I will send you a paper with a cookie. Do come home do will you.

They had an election Saturday for
the purpose of raising money for volunteers
The town will give 200 hundred & the enrolled
men will make it up to 300 hundred dollars
There is something more to be raised - I suspect
we will have to go this time - but I hope not
Mr Kenyon got as excited down to the election
that he made a regular fool of himself &
more enemies than he ever had before
He twisted Will Morrison about his father
said he had to run away from the old country
& when he left - York State the sheriff followed
him for stealing tools &c. &c. &c. &c.
I don't know if you know anything about this
thing down to Tom Stratton's up & told
this to the whole crowd & said he was Tom
Kenyon & no one can say ought against him
poor biggest man what a model he can
make of himself

We heard that Charlie Porter was married
to a Southern lady a widow
Miss Dean was married last week to Susan
Montague - Sammie is over to Allen yet -
Uncle Sam is here looks first rate - I hear of him
telling Willie that if he was as easy to learn
as his father was he would be a pretty smart
boy - Have you ever got your letters from
Mr Kenyon & have you got my picture you
want - I want to see it & I will have to look
don't you think I ought to go to work
& school - Charlie Morrison & Elsie are going
to the dance to Calumet on the 13th
Mrs Astin is going to Boston again - Be he
Now don't neglect answering all my inquiries
& write immediately

Yours with much love & best wishes

Mother

I will send you a paper with a cookie
do come home do will you

Adams Jan 5th/865-

Dear William

I received your letter
last week stating that you had been sick
again - I was very sorry to hear it - for I was
so hopes you was going to get right along
I hope you are better than you was when you
wrote - I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow
with the glad tidings that you are better & that
you are coming home - I don't see why you
can't come home as well as others - there is
lots home on furlough out of the 42nd Reg.
Acers starts back tonight - he has been home
a long time & stayed as long as he wanted
to - Geo Allen is home on furlough
I wish you would write & tell me why you
can't come - your father wants you to
come & he is looking for you so write & tell
me if you have ever tried to get a furlough
you don't write half as much as I want you
to - I see I have to scold you a little

Will William I have some very sad news
to write you but I expect you may hear of it
before this reaches you - poor Joe Ellis is
no more he died the day before Christmas
was sick only four days - the march was
too much for him - I have not heard the
particulars. Ellen wrote to Eliza & said
that Dave Tracy had written the news
Oh how bad his mother will feel - I can't
make it seem possible that he is dead
did you ever write to him or him to you
write me if you hear the particulars of
his death - Wm Coates went to see him but
he had just breathed his last - I keep thinking
what you said to him - Will Joe if you will
enlist - I will - & he did but you have scarcely
been together any of the time - did you see
each other often while you were in Johnsonville
& did he seem cheerful & satisfied with the
service - tell me all about him - Don't you
feel sorry how did he seem to feel the
last time you saw him when he helped
you on board the cars - How much
I think of him he is in my mind all the time

I was up to your father's but see they were
all well - Your father wanted me to write to
you & ask you if you had not better invest
your money in town scrip as they are
raising another ^{I mean it} bounty for volunteers
& you will get ~~40~~ ⁵⁰ per cent - he says you will
not need it before next Jan & that a hundred
dollars will bring you 40 dollars - he says
it is perfectly safe - don't fail to let me
know immediately - Nellie received the
present she feels very proud of it - shows it
to every one that comes in - Grandpa King
bought her some new hoops the other day
she is a great pet with her Grandpa
Willie thinks so much of his letter - you
must write to him again - he is a pretty good
boy but he is awful rough - little Chub
is in bed. he is such a good baby I know
you would love him - Father thinks lots
of him - & so does Eliza Heath she says
she loved him as soon as she heard he
was born - she was down to see him Saturday
I dreamed he died the other night & I felt
so bad to think you had never seen him

Letter #35A

From: William V. King

To: Mrs A L King, Adams P.O., Walworth Co., Wisconsin
(Postmark Keokuk January 10 1865)

Seventh Street Hospital, Keokuk, Iowa
January 9th 1865

My Dear Nette

I received your letter of the 4th inst Saturday Evening. The money came to hand all right. As I believe I informed you in a former letter I have not received the letter containing your photograph yet. I wrote to Joe Ellis to send them on here but have not heard from him yet, although I have heard from the regiment they are stationed now at Bowling Green Kentucky. They say that it rains nearly all the time there. The boys have to sleep all the time in pup tents and cannot possibly keep dry. A great many of them are sick in consequence of exposure and hard work and poor doctors.

I am getting along first rate at present and shall probably in about two weeks or three at the most to go to my regiment. I shall be a little more careful when I get there again than I have been. I am less exposed that the rest of the boys are unless in case of attack as on the march because I do not have to go out on picket or stand guard or do any hard work. The privates have to do all the chopping, digging, lifting &c.

AKE seems to be having a good time of it but the 42nd has got better officers than we have anyway but I guess AKE is smouging a little. As for Lucinda and old man Hutch, I am not disappointed in the least in them and believe yet they are pretty good sort of folks, only a little stingy. I can get along with a failing in a neighbor [better] than a failing of some others around there. I wouldn't say anything about it. Let it pass and look out the next time.

Call the baby just what you please but I must say I dont like the names you mentioned. They are not as pretty names as either of the others, and I am afraid you will give him as pretty a name. Supposing you let me name him.

What did you send me that paper in the letters for. Do you think I cannot get any paper here in this big city. The postage stamps come in handy though. Send me a Pr-du-Ch paper occasionally.

I must be off to the post office or I shall be to[o] late.
Write soon.

Yours ever affectionately
William

^{Iowa}
Seventh Street Hospital Keokuk
January 9th 1865

My Dear Nette

I received your letter of the 4th inst. Saturday evening. The money came to hand all right. as I believe I informed you in a former letter. I have not received the letter containing your photograph yet. I wrote to Joe Ellis to send them on here. but have not heard from him yet. although I have heard from the regiment. They are stationed now at Bowling Green. Kentucky. They say that it rains nearly all the time there the boys have to sleep all the time in pup tents and cannot possibly keep dry. A great many of them are sick in consequence of exposure and hard work and poor doctors

I am getting along first rate at present
and shall probably be ready in
about two weeks or there at the most
to go to my regiment. I shall
be a little more careful when I
get there again than I have been.
I am less exposed than the rest of
the boys are unless in case of attack
~~on~~ on the march. because I do not
have to go out on picket or stand
guard, or do any hard work
the privates ~~the~~ I have to do all
the chopping digging lifting &c
Ake seems to be having a good
time of it. but the 4th ~~regt~~ has got
better officers than we have any way
but I guess Ake is smuggling a little.
As for Lucinda and old man
Hutch I am not disappointed
in the least in them. and believe
yet they are pretty good sort of
folk's. only a little stingy

I can get along with failing in
a neighbor than ~~so~~ the failings
of some others around there.
I wouldn't say anything about it
~~so~~ let it pass and look out the next time
call the baby just what you please
but I must say I don't like the name
you mention. They are not as pretty
names as either of the others. and
I am afraid you will give him
as pretty a name. supposing
you let me name him
what did you send me that
paper in the letter for do you
think I cannot get any paper
here in this big city. the postage
stamps come in handy though
send me a Pr-dack paper
occasionally. I must be off to
the post office and shall be to
late - write soon.

Yours ever affectionately
William



Mrs A. L. King
Adams P.O.
Walworth Co
Wisconsin

Letter #35B

From: Wm V King

To: Mrs A L King, Adams P.O., Walworth Co, Wisconsin

7th St. Hos. Keokuk Iowa

Jan 22th 1865

Dear Nette

I reced your very welcome letter last night and intended to write you a good long one this morning, but I feel so nervous and my hand trembles so mornings that I dont frrl much like writing. So I will write just a little now and then go over and see Dan Stackland and the rest of the sick boys from our reg. I am getting rather sick and tired of this place, laying around and having nothing to do. I have asked the doc and Ward Master two or three times to put me on duty of some kind or other. But as they dont want to put me on duty such as washing dishes, standing guard &c, I have to remain idle yet.

They are going to organize a Guard to day for the purpose of arresting drunken and disorderly soldiers and such as frequent fancy houses, and I shall probably be appointed sergeant of the guard.

I have just been down to see Dan Stackland and two or three others who belong to our co and found one of them in the guard house for being caught in a saloon. Dan S. pretty low yet but is getting better slowly.

I have at last come across a man from Walworth Co, the second one only that I have seen since I came into the service. His name is Wm Bright from Elkhorn. He says that one of Mr Wiswell's sons died not long since. He was the Steward in the 3rd Wis Cav.

You need not send me the neck tie you spoke of. I shant stay here long enough probably for it to do me any good.

Tell my father I think he had better invest my money in town funds. And tell him to keep it in his own name for if I should have any trouble with Pelton he cant get hold of it then. And get my acct from him so that I can see how it stands.

I have reced two letters from Lib and have sent him four. Have you sent him that letter of yours yet. I told him to ask you to send it to him. I didnt want to erite it all over again and then he will send it back to you after he has read it.

We are having splendid weather here but no snow. How I wish I could be at home a few days and take a good sleigh ride with you. How I would enjoy it.

What do you think about the war now. It is my opinion that it is about drawing to a close. One campaign more will finish it most certainly. How do they talk up there about it.

You say that you thought of having your photo taken. I wish you would and send me one. I reced the pic that you sent and glad enough to get that but O how much better I would like to see the original. When I do see you, you may depend on getting one buss [that] will make your head ring. And maybe get bit to[o].

The first day after I get home I intend to devote to kissing you and the babies. As it is getting pretty near dark I shall have to close. Write soon. Here's a kiss for you and the children. I wish I was there to give it to you.

Ever yours affectionately

William

(The postage stamp is upside down---did that then mean sealed with a kiss?)

and then he will send it back
to you after he has read it.
We are having splendid weather
here but no snow. How I wish
I could be at home a few days
and take a good sleigh ride with
you how I would enjoy it.
What do you think about the war
now. It is my opinion that it is
about drawing to a close. our
campaigns are well finish it
most certainly how do they talk
up there about it.

You say that you thought of having
your photo taken I wish you would
and send me one I need the
one that you sent and glad enough
to get that one. O. how much better
I would like to see the original
When I do see you. you may
depend on getting one buss the wife
make your head ring. and
maybe get bit to.

The first day ^{after I get home} I intend to devote
to kissing you and the babies.
As it is getting pretty near dark
I shall have to close write some
there is a kiss for you and the children.
I wish I was there to give it to you.

Ever yours affectionately
William

Clement L. Hos. Keokuk Iowa
Jan 20th 1865.

Dear Nettie

I rec'd your very
welcome letter last night and
intended to write you a good
long one this morning but I feel
so nervous and my hands are
ble so nervous that I don't
feel much like writing - so I
will write just a little now
and then go over and see
Dan Stackland and the rest
of the sick boys from our regt.
I am getting rather sick and
tired of this place. laying around
and having nothing to do. I have
asked the doc and Ward Master
two or three times to put me on
duty of some kind another

But as they don't want to put me
on duty, such as washing dishes,
standing guard &c, I have to remain
idle yet. They are going
to organize a Guard to day for
the purpose of arresting drunken and
immorally soldiers and such as
frequent fancy houses, and I shall
probably be appointed sergeant
of the guard.

I have just been down to see
Dan Stackland and two or three
others who belong to our reg and
found one of them in the guard
house for being caught in a
saloon. Dan is pretty low yet
but is getting better slowly.

I have at last come across a
man from Walworth Co. the
second one only that I have
seen since I came into the
service. his name is Wm Bright

from Elkhorn. He says that
one of Mr Wiswell's sons died
not long since he was Har
Steward in the 3rd Wis Cav.
You need not send me the note
tie you spoke of. I shant stay
here long enough probably for
it to do me any good.

Tell my father I think he had
better invest my money in
town funds. and tell him to
keep it in his own name for
if I should have any trouble
with Pelton he can't get hold
of it then. and get my acct
from him so that I can see
how it stands.

I have rec'd two letters from Lib
and have sent him four.
Have you sent him that letter
of yours yet? I told him to ask
you to send ^{it to} him. I didn't want to
write it all over again.



Mrs A. L. King
Adams P.O.
Walworth Co.
Wisconsin

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK #4

Adams Jan 23rd 1865

My Dear Husband

In your last you wanted me to write as soon as I received your letter. I rec'd it last Thursday & this evening although very tired I will try & answer it. I have been washing today. Done the washing alone & it makes me feel old tonight. I wonder how you are feeling. I hope well--but I am afraid that you are gaining too fast to last long. I never heard of any one gaining two pounds a day. I am afraid it is not good flesh. I think you are in such a hurry to get back to your Regiment that you would go if you had to walk all the way. Every letter I get I expect to hear that you have gone but I am in hopes you will not have to do any fighting as some seem to think that is nearly done with. Those that are enlisting now seem to think they will not have to fight any & I hope they will not for I am so sick of this war. I do hope they will settle it soon.

I have had company from Delavan. John McDougal & wife & Lew Hatch & wife came Saturday & went back Sunday. I wrote to Sarah some two weeks ago that I was down here & would like to have her come & make me a visit. She had not heard that you was a soldier boy until I wrote. They were quite surprised. Lew says he would rather be drafted than enlist. They are going to raise a bounty in their town. When they went back they stopped at your fathers & took dinner. John Hatch is married. He took his brothers best horse, cutter, buffalo robe, &c & his cousin, a young flirt, & put out. He is in New York City. Lew talks of working his mothers farm. She wants him to. Pete Rector is married. He married a Florida lady. He is Assistant Surgeon. They like him very much.

I wish you was here to see the baby laugh. He has just been laughing for us. Father & Irve think lots of him & Uncle Sam too. Vie is down to Mr Perrys. Helen is going to be married Wednesday eve to Dave Ellis (?) of East Troy. Irve & Maria P. is going to stand up with them. Irve has been to Palmyra today to get him a pair of boots. It is awful cold tonight. I would not like to be out on picket very well. Enclosed in this you will find a minature (sic). I wonder if you will recognize it. It seems to me when I look at it I am looking at the original (sic). Nellie got it this morning & spit on it & then rubbed it with her apron. I was afraid she had spoiled it. Would you like to have me take the State Journal the weekly six months. If you are agreed I will & then send them to you. The babe keeps worrying & I shall have to close. I want you to answer my questions sometime. Write often.

With much love I remain as ever

Your loving wife

Nettie

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK #4

Adams Jan 23rd 1865

My Dear Husband

In your last you wanted me to write as soon as I received your letter. I rec'd it last Thursday & this evening although very tired I will try & answer it. I have been washing today. Done the washing alone & it makes me feel old tonight. I wonder how you are feeling. I hope well--but I am afraid that you are gaining to[o] fast to last long. I never heard of any one gaining two pounds a day. I am afraid it is not good flesh. I think you are in such a hurry to get back to your Regiment that you would go if you had to walk all the way. Every letter I get I expect to hear that you have gone but I am in hopes you will not have to do any fighting as some seem to think that is nearly done with. Those that are enlisting now seem to think they will not have to fight any & I hope they will not for I am so sick of this war. I do hope they will settle it soon.

I have had company from Delavan. John McDougal & wife & Lew Hatch & wife came Saturday & went back Sunday. I wrote to Sarah some two weeks ago that I was down here & would like to have her come & make me a visit. She had not heard that you was a soldier boy until I wrote. They were quite surprised. Lew says he would rather be drafted than enlist. They are going to raise a bounty in their town. When they went back they stopped at your fathers & took dinner. John Hatch is married. He took his brothers best horse, cutter, buffalo robe, &c & his cousin, a young flirt, & put out. He is in New York City. Lew talks of working his mothers farm. She wants him to. Pete Rector is married. He married a Florida lady. He is Assistant Surgeon. They like him very much.

I wish you was here to see the baby laugh. He has just been laughing for us. Father & Irve think lots of him & Uncle Sam too. Vie is down to Mr Perrys. Helen is going to be married Wednesday eve to Dave Ellis (?) of East Troy. Irve & Maria P. is going to stand up with them. Irve has been to Palmyra today to get him a pair of boots. It is awful cold tonight. I would not like to be out on picket very well. Enclosed in this you will find a minature (sic). I wonder if you will recognize it. It seems to me when I look at it I am looking at the orriganal (sic). Nellie got it this morning & spit on it & then rubbed it with her apron. I was afraid she had spoiled it. Would you like to have me take the State Journal the weekly six months. If you are agreed I will & then send them to you. The babe keeps worrying & I shall have to close. I want you to answer my questions sometime. Write often.

With much love I remain as ever

Your loving wife

Nette

Adams Jan 23rd 1875

My Dear Husband

In your last you
wanted me to write as soon as I received
your letter. I rec'd it last Thursday
this evening although very tired I will
try & answer it. I have been washing today
done the washing alone & it makes me
feel old tonight. I wonder how you are
feeling. I hope well but I am afraid
that you are gaining to fast to
keep your head of any one going
for weeks a day. I am afraid it is not
good flesh. I think you are in such a
hurry to get back to your Regiment that
you would go if you had to walk all the
way. Every letter I get I expect to hear that
you have gone but I am in hopes you will
not have to do any fighting as soon seem
to think that is nearly done with.

Those that are enlisting now seem to think they will not have to fight any - I hope they will not for I am so sick of this war I do hope they will settle it soon -

I have had company from Delaware - John Mc Dougall & wife & Lew Katt & wife came Saturday & went back Sunday - I wrote to Sarah some two weeks ago that he was down here & I would like to have him come & make me a visit - she had not heard

that you was a soldier boy until I wrote they were quite surprised. Lew says he would rather be drafted than enlist - they are going to raise a bounty in their country when they went back they stopped at father's & took dinner - John Katt is married - he took his brother that he was cutting buffalo-robs &c & his cousin a young flint & put out he is in New York city Lew talks of working his mother's farm she wants him to - Eli Reeder is married he married a Florida lady he is Assistant Surgeon they like him very much

I wish you was here to see the baby laugh he has just been laughing for us - Father & I love think lots of him & Uncle Sam too - Bie is down to Mr Perry - Helen is going to be married Wednesday eve to Dan Usher of East Troy - I love & Maria P. is going to elope up with them - I have hasten to Calumet today to get him a pair of boots - It is awful cold tonight - I would not like to be out - on picked very well - Enclosed in this you will find a miniature I wonder if you will recognize it - it seems to me when I look at it - I am looking at the original - Helen got it this morning & spit on it & rubbed it with her apron I was afraid she had spoiled it - Would you like to me take the State Journal the weekly six months if you are agreed I will & then send them to you - The babe keeps woeing & I shall have to close - I want you to answer my questions sometimes - write often

With much love I remain as ever
Your loving wife
Mlle

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #5

7th Street Hospt Keokuk Iowa
February 6th 1865

Dear Nettie

I received yours of the 30th inst Saturday evening and should have written yesterday but had such a cold and was coughing almost continually that it was almost impossible to write. I volunteered to sit up with a sick man last Tuesday night and caught a severe cold and have been under the weather ever since. It is quite probable that I shall go to my regiment now before March. I have borrowed some books of a lawyer here and have commenced reading law so I can feel contented now. I feel considerable better now. I took two doses of Ipecac last night and after heaving up Jonah a spell I went to sleep and dreamed all night that I [was] sparking you over again nice wasn't it. The only difficulty (sic) was that you would persist in saying no every time I popped the question and now when you write again if you dont tell me that the fairies were fooling me I shall get mad maybe. I thought you millened (sic) me about a dozen times and then just as you promised to be mine I woke up. Mean to wake up just then wasn't it.

I asked you in my last how my father got the ten per cent on that money legally (sic) and you say he asked for it and got it. Thats very definite isn't it. One of the Committee of the Christian Commission has just been to see me. To ask me what my belief in regard to the bible is &c. There is a few over zealous members of the church in the Hos here who are making considerable noise about me from some remarks they have heard me make. I told him as near as I could and he seemed pretty well satisfied and hoped I would see the true light and believe. I wish I could. I know I should be a happier and better man if I only could believe. Nettie I hope you will continue to live up to your religion and practice too. I should be very sorry to learn that you had faltered way (sic)--press forward in the way you have started.

I sent you word about 4 or 5 weeks ago about the time I enlisted. It was on the 3rd day of September/64. I was mustered in the same day. How does it happen that Kling can allott (sic) his wife \$15 per month. What is his position and where is he. You will have no trouble about your allottment money. All the trouble arises from their not understanding it. I got the papers you sent--one sent &c. That is a Kaideliscop (sic) which I sent Nellie. I sent one to Zella too.

Yes you can have the dress and balm...(illegible).

(William to Antoinette)

WVK #5

7th Street Hospt Keokuk Iowa
February 6th 1865

Dear Nettie

I received yours of the 30th inst Saturday evening and should have written yesterday but had such a cold and was coughing almost continually that it was almost impossible to write. I volunteered to sit up with a sick man last Tuesday night and caught a severe cold and have been under the weather ever since. It is quite probable that I shall go to my regiment now before March. I have borrowed some books of a lawyer here and have commenced reading law so I can feel contented now. I feel considerable better now. I took two doses of Ipecac last night and after heaving up Jonah a spell I went to sleep and dreamed all night that I [was] sparking you over again nice wasn't it. The only difficulty (sic) was that you would persist in saying no every time I popped the question and now when you write again if you don't tell me that the fairies were fooling me I shall get mad maybe. I thought you millened (sic) me about a dozen times and then just as you promised to be mine I woke up. Mean to wake up just then wasn't it.

I asked you in my last how my father got the ten per cent on that money lagally (sic) and you say he asked for it and got it. Thats very definite isn't it. One of the Committee of the Christian Commission has just been to see me. To ask me what my belief in regard to the bible is &c. There is a few over zealous members of the church in the Hos here who are making considerable noise about me from some remarks they have heard me make. I told him as near as I could and he seemed pretty well satisfied and hoped I would see the true light and believe. I wish I could. I know I should be a happier and better man if I only could believe. Nettie I hope you will continue to live up to your religion and practice too. I should be very sorry to learn that you had faltered way (sic)--press forward in the way you have started.

I sent you word about 4 or 5 weeks ago about the time I enlisted. It was on the 3rd day of September/64. I was mustered in the same day. How does it happen that Kling can allott (sic) his wife \$15 per month. What is his position and where is he. You will have no trouble about your allottment money. All the trouble arises from their not understanding it. I got the papers you sent--one sent &c. That is a Kaideliscope (sic) which I sent Nellie. I sent one to Zella too.

Yes you can have the dress and balm...(illegible).

Tell my father I dont want to pay taxes on that town scrip if I can help it. About the time the assessor comes round take it [in?] your hands and if they assess it to you or me they'l be pretty smart if they get it. Keep pretty dark about it too, until I settle up with Pelton.

Dont let anybody know that I have money there.

It is about dinner time so I shall have to stop for this time. Write soon.

And believe me ever your

Affectionate husband

Wm

It was on the 3rd day of September¹⁸⁶⁴
I was mused in the same day
how does it happen that Kling can allot
his wife \$15 per month what is his position
and where is he you will have
no trouble about your allotment
money all the trouble comes from
their not understanding it
I got the papers you sent one sent
That is a Telescope which I sent
I sent one to Zeller too
yes you can have the drops and balance
Tell my father I don't want to pay
taxes on that town scrip
if I can help it. about the time
the assessor comes round take it
your hands and if they assess it
to you or me they'll be pretty
smart if they get it. Keep pretty
dark about it too, until I settle
up with Pelton
Don't let anybody know that I have
money there
It is about dinner time so I shall
have to stop for this time write soon
and believe me ever your
affectionate husband
Yours

7th Street West Keokuk Iowa
February 6th 1865

Dear Nettie

I received yours of the
30th ult. Saturday evening and
should have written yesterday
but had such a cold and was
coughing almost continually
that it was almost impossible
to write. I volunteered to sit up
with a sick man last Tues-
day night and caught a severe
cold and have been under the weather
ever since. It is quite probable that
I shall go to my regiment now
before March. I have borrowed
some books of a lawyer here
and have commenced reading
law so I can feel contented
now. I feel considerable better
now. I took two doses of Ipecac

last night and after heaving up
Jobah a spell I went to sleep
and dreamed all night that
spanking you over again nice way
it. The only difficulty was that
you would persist in saying
me every time I popped the question
and now if you tell me when
you write again if you don't tell
me that the fairies were fooling
me. I shall get mad maybe.

I thought you millined me about
a dozen times and then just as
you promised to be mine I woke
up. Mean to wake up just then
wasn't it. I asked you in my
last how my father got the ten
per cent on that money legally
and you say he asked for
it and got it. That's very def-
inite isn't it. One of the Com-
mittee of the Christian Commission

has just been to see me. to ask
me what my belief in regard
to the bible is &c. There is a few
over zealous members of the church
in the hos here who are making
considerable noise about me
from some remarks they have
heard me make. I told him as
near as I could and he seemed
pretty well satisfied and hoped
I would see the true light and
believe. I wish I could. I know
I should be a happier and better
man if I only could believe.
Nate I hope you will continue
to live up to your religion and
practice too. I should be very
sorry to learn that you had
faltered way- prep forward in
the way you have started.
I sent you word about 4 or 5
weeks ago about the time ~~ago~~
S. A. T. L.



Mrs A. L. King
Adams P. O.
Walworth County
Wisconsin

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK # 5

Adams, Feb 6th, 1865

My Dear William

I wonder if you ever go to the post office & get disappointed if you do you will know then how I feel. It is more than a week since I heard from you & I am begining(sic) to feel somewhat anxious. I really had the blues yesterday. I felt more like having a good cry than anything else. How do you feel. I hope in good spirits. It is a beautiful day & it recalls(sic) to mind things that transpired one year ago. Do you remember where you were--we were up to Seneca (sic)--to that good meeting which I hope I shall never forget--one year ago today in the presence of God & the holy angels I gave my heart to my Maker. But O what an unprofitable servant I have been. I hope I may be more faithful in the future. I sometimes feel as though I should always have to trudge my way alone but I will not throw away my confidence for Jesus says it has great recompence of reward. Do you attend the meetings you spoke of. I hope you do for you may gain some reward. I expect you will think you had rather I would write about something else. I received the papers you sent & I thank you very much.

Eliza has just been trying the baby's cap on. We have made him one & trimmed it with swans down. It looks real good. Saturday we weighed him. He weighs 15 pounds & twelve ounces. He is the fattest baby we ever had. Tell what you want to name him & whether you like the name of Melvin Selah. Willie has been sick with a cold but he goes to school now. He is real poor. Nellie is very well. She sits on the floor with her Grandpa's specks on. Says she is going to write you a letter. Lucy is teaching school down to Ferrys. They had to turn turn out the teacher. She had no government so they came for Lucy. She has been teaching a week. Does not like the school very well. I expect it is a hard school. Troy has 19 men to raise. They give 320 dollars bounty. They could have got 17 men the other day but they wanted 340. LaGrange gives 200 hundred. Ed Mills & John Stewart wont give anything. They want the town to pay it all. Do you hear from Lab often. I dont & what does he say about the draft in Eastman.

I had a letter from Lucinda the other day. I will send it to you & you must be sure to send it back. She sent me five dollars but I will send it back again. Wouldn't you? Tell me what to do. I always liked her so well but I dont think she served me just right. But maybe I dont know all about it. Lucy thinks I well earned it.

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK # 5

Adams, Feb 6th, 1865

My Dear William

I wonder if you ever go to the post office & get disappointed if you do you will know then how I feel. It is more than a week since I heard from you & I am begining(sic) to feel somewhat anxious. I really had the blues yesterday. I felt more like having a good cry than anything else. How do you feel. I hope in good spirits. It is a beautiful day & it recals(sic) to mind things that transpired one year ago. Do you remember where you were--we were up to Senica (sic)--to that good meeting which I hope I shall never forget-- one year ago today in the presence of God & the holy angels I gave my heart to my Maker. But O what an unprofitable servant I have been. I hope I may be more faithful in the future. I sometimes feel as though I should always have to trudge my way alone but I will not throw away my confidence for Jesus says it has great recompence of reward. Do you attend the meetings you spoke of. I hope you do for you may gain some reward. I expect you will think you had rather I would write about something else. I received the papers you sent & I thank you very much.

Eliza has just been trying the baby's cap on. We have made him one & trimmed it with swans down. It looks real good. Saturday we weighed him. He weighs 15 pounds & twelve ounces. He is the fattest baby we ever had. Tell what you want to name him & whether you like the name of Melvin Selah. Willie has been sick with a cold but he goes to school now. He is real poor. Nellie is very well. She sits on the floor with her Grandpa's specks on. Says she is going to write you a letter. Lucy is teaching school down to Perrys. They had to turn turn out the teacher. She had no government so they came for Lucy. She has been teaching a week. Does not like the dchool very well. I expect it is a hard school. Troy has 19 men to raise. They give 320 dollars bounty. They could have got 17 men the other day but they wanted 340. LaGrange gives 200 hundred. Ed Mills & John Stewart wont give anything. They want the town to pay it all. Do you hear from Lib often. I dont & what does he say about the draft in Eastman.

I had a letter from Lucinda the other day. I will send it to you & you must be sure to send it back. She sent me five dollars but I will send it back again. Wouldn't you? Tell me what to do. I always liked her so well but I dont think she served me just right. But maybe I dont know all about it. Lucy thinks I well earned it.

Verkins (?) has run away with Mrs Lampman. L. is in the 3rd Cav. His time is just out. She left a letter on the table for him. Quite a shine aint it.

Geo Spurr is having a party one night this week for Waters(?) Mrs Spurr's brother-in-law. He was burned out one day last week. He lived in Troy. Had nearly everything burned. Your father had sold him clover & had 12 bags. It came to over 300 dollars. The thresher did not want to thresh it. Told him he had better feed it to his sheep.

Albert is gone to Fort Smith with a train have not heard very lately from either of the boys. I shall not have room on this to send the [illegible] for I want to send candies. Will send Nellie's next time. I am [...illegible...]from you. I hope you have not left Keokuk. Answer this right [...illegible...] better send that money back to Lucinda or not. Your father & mother send their love to you & so do I.

Affectionately

Nette

Oliver Carter got 1000 dollars bounty. He enlisted from Albany. He is in Newbern N.C. sick in the Hospital.

I weigh only 141 1/4. If I keep on you will hardly be able to tell me from a small mountain. I am hungry all the time.

Cy Heath, Geo Wilkerson talk very strong of enlisting. I want you to be sure & send Cinda's letter back. Now dont forget to write immediately. I expect a letter tonight. If I dont get one I shall have a cry.

My dear William - I am
writing you a letter
I want you to tell me
I send London a letter
I hope more about
to write immediately
I expect a letter from
you about you and I should
have a very

Adams Feb 1841

My Dear William

I wonder if you ever go to the post
I get disappointed if you do you will know then how I feel
It is more than a week since I heard from you & I am beginning to
feel somewhat anxious - I really had the blues yesterday - I felt
more like having a good cry than anything else - how do you
feel? I hope in good spirits - It is a beautiful day & it recalls
to mind things that transpired one year ago - do you remember
where you were - we were up to Seneca - to that good meeting which
I hope I shall never forget - one year ago today in the presence
of God & the holy angels I gave my heart to my Maker - but
O what an unprofitable servant I have been - I hope I may be
more faithful in the future - I feel sometimes as though I should
always have to tread my way alone but I will not throw away
my confidence for Jesus says it has great recompence of reward
So you attend the meetings you spoke of - I hope you do for you
may gain some reward - I expect you will think you had
rather I would write about something else - I received the
papers you sent & I thank you very much -
Eliza has just been trying the baby's cap on - we have made
him one & trimmed it with quans down it looks real good

He is in New-bern. A-E with me that day. I brought only 141 1/4 what do you think of that? I'd back on you did I handle it right? I'd before from a small mountain - I am knowing all the birds

to a house & not bringing anything with you. On
Saturday we weighed him. He weighs 15 pounds & his owner
says he is the fattest baby we ever had. Tell what you want to
him & whether you like the name of Melvin Selak.

Willie has been sick with a cold but he goes to school now. He is real poor - Nellie is very well she sits on the floor with her

Grandpa: speaks on says she is going to write you. a letter

Lucy is teaching school down to Lerys - they had to turn out the teacher she had no government - so they came for Lucy - she has been teaching a week - does not like the school very well - I expect it is a hard school - Troy has 19 men to raise they give 320 dollars bounty - they could have got 17 men the other day but they wanted 340 - La Grange gives 200 hundred.

Ed Mills & John Stewart wont give anything - they want the
house to pay at all - Do you hear from Lill often - I dont & what
does he say about the Draft on Eastman - I had a
letter from Lucretia the other day - I will send it to you &
you must be sure to send it back - she sent me 5 dollars but
I will send it back again - wouldnt you? tell me what
to do - I always liked her so well but I dont think she would
me just right - but maybe I dont know all about it - Lucy
thinks I will carry it - Perkins fixing Eagle has run away
with Mrs Lampsman - he is on the 3rd day his time is just out
she left a letter on the table for him - quite a shine and it

Geo Spurr is having a party one night this week for Mother. Mrs Spurr's brother-in-law he was burned out one day last week - he lived on - he had nearly every thing burned - your father has sold his clover and had 2000 - it came to over 300 dollars this afternoon did not want to break it - told him he had better feed it to his sheep - about is gone to fort Smith with a team - have not heard of the top - I shall not have a room on the boat - will about 1000 - next time - I am not sure - have not left it yet - know this night -

Mother and their love to you
 affectionate -
 the
 hat
 on hat - you
 to - remember
 the
 sheep
 Condie
 The
 would

[Antoinette to William]

ALPK 8 8

[Original written on decorative, lace-edged paper.]

Home (?) February 14 [Valentine's Day]

William

Oh do not suppose that my hours
Are always unclouded and gay
Or that storms never mix with the flowers
That fortune has strewed in my way
When seen by the cold and unfeeling
We smile through the sorrows we feel
But smiles are deceitful -- concealing
The wounds that they never can heal
My moments of mirth they are many
And hope half my sorrows beguile
But believe me there cannot be any
Whose features wear ever a smile
Though oft in the sunshine of gladness
My cheek and my eye may be drest
Whilst the clouds of dejection and sadness
In secret o'ershadow my breast

I am your faithful Valentine

[next page]

May you be happy

Mayst thou live in joy for ever
Naught from the true pleasure sever
From thy heart arise no sigh
And no tear bedim thine eye
Joys be many cares be few
Smooth the path thou shalt pursue
And Heaven's richest blessings shine
Ever on both thee and thine
Be thy path with roses strewn
[illeg] thy hours to care unknown
Sorrow cloud thy pathway never
And happiness be thine forever

Think sometimes of me your

Valentine

(Antoinette to William)

ALPK # 6

[Original written on decorative, lace-edged paper.]

Home (?) February 14 [Valentine's Day]

William

Oh do not suppose that my hours
Are always unclouded and gay
Or that storms never mix with the flowers
That fortune has strewed in my way
When seen by the cold and unfeeling
We smile through the sorrows we feel
But smiles are deceitful -- concealing
The wounds that they never can heal
My moments of mirth they are many
And hope half my sorrows beguile
But believe me there cannot be any
Whose features wear ever a smile
Though oft in the sunshine of gladness
My cheek and my eye may be drest
Whilst the clouds of dejection and sadness
In secret o'ershadow my breast

I am your faithful Valentine

[next page]

May you be happy

Mayst thou live in joy for ever
Naught from the true pleasure sever
From thy heart arise no sigh
And no tear bedim thine eye
Joys be many cares be few
Smooth the path thou shalt pursue
And Heaven's richest blessings shine
Ever on both thee and thine
Be thy path with roses strewn
[illeg] thy hours to care unknown
Sorrow cloud thy pathway never
And happiness be thine forever

Think sometimes of me your

Valentine

St. Louis, February

William

Oh do not suppose that my house
 Is always unclouded and gay
 Or that I was never vex with the flower
 That for me has strewn its way
 When seen by the cold and unfeeling
 The smile though the sorrows we feel
 But smiles are deceitful - concealing
 The wounds which they never can heal

Of moments of mirth they are many
And hope half my sorrows beguile
But believe me there cannot be any
Whose features were ever a smile
Though oft in the sunshine of gladness
My cheek and my eye may be drest
Whilst the clouds of dejection and sadness
In secret & in shadow my heart

I am your faithful Valentine

May you be happy

Mayst thou live in joy for ever
Thought from thee true pleasure rise
From thy heart arise no sigh
And no tear bedim thine eye
Joy's be many roses be few
Smooth the path thine shall-pursue
And Heaven's richest blessings shine
Ever on both thee and thine
Be thy path with roses strewn
And thy hours be all unknown
Garrow cloud thy pathway never
And happiness be thine forever

Think sometimes of me your

Valentine

(William to Antoinette)

WVK # 6

Dickenson Tenn March 20th 65

Dear Nette

I wrote you last night and after I had finished writing I sat down and read your letters over again and as there was some questions that I did not answer I try again this morning. My father can do as he pleases about lending that money to Battell if he is safe. How much did he want to get. You may let Irve have those pants if he wants them. When I was coming down here I could have bought blankets at a dollar apiece and Overcoats new at from 3 to 5 dollars but I hadn't the money to spare. You may get a cloak if you want one. Buy whatever you think you need. I ain't afraid of your spending money foolishly. Your as carefull as I as I guess. Clothe yourself decent at least. I will send you a flower in this letter that [I] picked a week ago. There is a good many flowers around here now. The trees are beginning to bud and spring is coming on apace.

Our first Lieut has gone home this morning to Mucoda Wis and the capt went yesterday up to Tushom (?) to the 47th Reg. And the 2nd. Lieut is away on detached service. So you see I am rank[ing] Officer this morning!

Tell Eliza and Vie that I will write them as soon as I get time. I must first [write] to Lib and Dan Stackland.

You ask who was with Joe Ellis when he died. Well so was that he knew. Our Color Sergt was with him just before he [died] but Joe thought he was going to get well then he died very suddenly [sic]. The Color Sergt. bunks with me in the Caps quarters so I will find out all about it and write you the whole story. They will get part of his things as the Cap has just recd. an inventory of them and they will get them after a while. I will write you a whole history of it just as the sergt tells it sometime soon.

What do they think of the war up there now. We have got it into our heads here that the rebellion is pretty near quashed. I wish you would send the money to the Milwaukee Sentinel office and have them sent the Tri Weekly to me for three months. Its to[o] Old those which you send although they are better than nothing. Send me a Wal. Co. [Walworth County] paper once in a while. And if there is any boys in the 47th Reg from around there send me their names.

How would you like to go out West somewhere to live after I get back. I am bound to go into Iowa or Minnesota to find a home. No danger of my ever coming south to live. There

(William to Antoinette)

WVK # 6

Dickenson Tenn March 20th 65

Dear Nette

I wrote you last night and after I had finished writing I sat down and read your letters over again and as there was some questions that I did not answer I try again this morning. My father can do as he pleases about lending that money to Battell if he is safe. How much did he want to get. You may let Irve have those pants if he wants them. When I was coming down here I could have bought blankets at a dollar apiece and Overcoats new at from 3 to 5 dollars but I hadn't the money to spare. You may get a cloak if you want one. Buy whatever you think you need. I ain't afraid of your spending money foolishly. You as carefull as I am I guess. Clothe yourself decent at least. I will send you a flower in this letter that [I] picked a week ago. There is a good many flowers around here now. The trees are beginning to bud and spring is coming on apace.

Our first Lieut has gone home this morning to Mucoda Wis and the capt went yesterday up to Tulshom (?) to the 47th Reg. And the 2nd. Lieut is away on detached service. So you see I am ran[k]ing Officer this morning!

Tell Eliza and Vie that I will write them as soon as I get time. I must first [write] to Lib and Dan Stackland.

You ask who was with Joe Ellis when he died. Well no one that he knew. Our Color Sergt was with him just before he [died] but Joe thought he was going to get well then he died very sudenly (sic). The Color Sergt. bunks with me in the Caps quarters so I will find out all about it and write you the whole story. They will get part of his things as the Cap has just recd. an inventory of them and they will get them after a while. I will write you a whole history of it just as the sergt tells it sometime soon.

What do they think of the war up there now. We have got it into our heads here that the rebellion is pretty near quashed. I wish you would send the money to the Milwaukee Sentinel office and have them sent the Tri Weekly to me for three months. Its to[o] Old those which you send although they are better than nothing. Send me a Wal. Co. [Walworth County] paper once in a while. And if there is any boys in the 47th Reg from around there send me their names.

How would you like to go out West somewhere to live after I get back. I am bound to go into Iowa or Minnesota to find a home. No danger of my ever coming south to live. There

is hardly a man in our Reg but what likes the North better than the South.

This is a beautiful country around here but it [is] always rain and mud or hot enough to fry a nigger.

As I have to write to Stackland I shall have to close this and in the meantime I hope there is one from you on its way hither. So here's a kiss for you and the children. When you write to Lib ask him why he dont write to me. I wrote the last one. I got the money he sent \$15 dollars.

From your affectionate husband

Wm

I sent you a ring in the last letter see how you like it.

Those which you send although
they are better than nothing
send me a Wal Co. paper
once in awhile,
and if there is any boys in the
44th Reg from around there
send me their names

How would you like to go out
west somewhere to live after I
get back. I am bound to go into
Iowa or Minnesota to find a
home. No danger of my ever
crossing south to live

There is hardly a man in our
Reg but what likes the North
better than the south

This is a beautiful country around
here but it always rain and mud
or hot enough to fry a mignon
as I have to write to Stackland
I shall have to close this and
on the meantime I hope there
is one from you on its way
hither. So here's a kiss for
you and the children

When you write to Lib ask
him why he dont write to me
I wrote the last one. I got the
money he sent \$15 dollars
from your affectionate brother
Yours

Mr. J. W. ...
Dickens ... March 20th 65

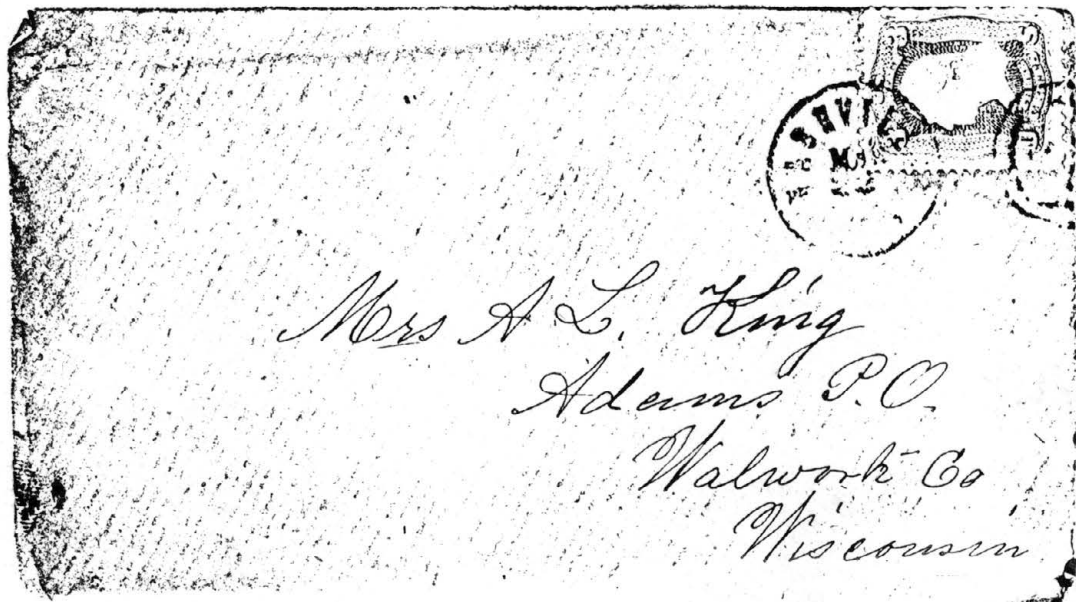
Dear Nettie

I wrote you last night
and after I had finished writing I
sat down and read your letters
over again and as there was some
questions that I did not answer
I try again this morning. My father
can do as he pleases about lending
that money to Battell. if he is safe
how much did he want to get
You may let I've have those
pants if he wants them. When I
was coming down here I could have
bought Hinkels a dollar apiece and
Overcoats now at from 3 to 5 dollars
but I hadn't the money to spare
You may get a cloak if you want
one. But whatever you think you
need. I ain't afraid of your spending

money foolishly " (You are as careful
as I am I guess. " Clothe yourself decent
at least. " I will send you a flower
that in this letter that picked a week
ago. " there is a good many flowers
around here now. the trees are
beginning to bud and and spring
is coming on apace. "

Our 1st Lieut has gone home this
morning to Mucoda Wis and the
Capt went yesterday up to Tulahoma
to see the 4th Reg. and the 2nd
Lieut is away on detached service.
So you see I am running Officer
this morning. I tell Eliza and
Vi that I will write them as
soon as I get time I must first
to Lib and Sam Starkland
You ask who was with Joe Ekins
when he died. well no one
that he knew. Our color Sergt
was with him just before he

but Joe thought he was going to
get well then he died very
suddenly. " The color Sergt bunk
with me on the Capt's quarters
so I will find out all about
it and write you the whole
story. they will get part of his
things as the Cap has just recd
an inventory of them and
they will get them after a
while. " I will write you a
whole history of it just as
the sergt tells it sometime
soon. " What do they think of
the war up there now. " We
have got it into our heads
here that the rebellion is pretty
near quashed. " I wish you would
send the money to the Milwaukee
Sentinel office and have them
send the Tri Weekly to me
for three months. " Its to Old



Mrs A. L. King
Adams P.O.
Walworth Co
Wisconsin