



James C. Christie and Family Papers

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[ca 1862?]

Miss Sarah Christie
Hot Lake
College

My Dear Sarah [Christie]
I have
Received two letters from
you now, and must
answer you. The one
you sent me after I had
told you my determination
in reference to the period
of your college attendance
was written with great
kindness to say the least of it.

But I am convinced that you now see the propriety of my course, I will not give you all my Reasons for my decision. Let it suffice to say that my opinion is that it will also be much better for you to attend school no longer than this term.

at an after time it may be for your good to go again if circumstances concur.

I will not let any one see Tom's letter you sent me, and will keep it for you. I do not know yet what the secret is that you and we allude to

But might guess. I do not wish any closer connection than at present exists between any of my Children, and their Cousins. Therefore let there be no approximation to anything that tends that way. And I think you should dissuade Master Tom from pressing his Cousins to write. If he must have a Lady to write to, you tell him to ^{write} to Donnets to Liberty That will do until he comes out of the War, and then, and then —

Please to send me the other letter of Tom's

I received one from him
 last night. No news in it
 But I will send it to you
 now. I am pleased you
 sent a letter to Willie,
 for he dearly loves to
 get one. I sent Tom post
 stamps, 10 of them last week

You had a very
 hard tussle with yourself
 at the idea of leaving school
 hadn't you. You have
 to learn a proper deference
 to those who do all that they
 can and think is for your
 good. Your feelings are very
 strong and you will have
 to suffer much in their

subjections, for every faculty
 must be subjected to a wire
 and just restraint, so that
 your days may not be filled
 with sorrow. I know just
 how it is with you much
 better than you do yourself
 and desire to help long enough
 to guide you through the
 minority of your superior
 faculties, in youth all the
 feelings are in full play
 and if not bridled and
 guided at every turn they
 lead away from the true
 road to peace, But I thank
 God that you have been
 guided so far in the right
 path. Let us all take
 courage (for we do trust
 in his mercy) to do what
 we think will please him

I will Enclose two dollars
to you in this for incidental,
and will Exp^d 25th when
I get into Town, will
you singing Cl^g. Teacher
here to be paid soon;

if the Boys do not
get pay soon I will have
to raise that also: —

I have no desire
to repay you in any thing
that justice to others will
enable me to do. and I
think that the Cultivation
of the Voice and a Knowledge
of Music is all well in
its way. But I have

been a Great deal of Time
and Imagination amongst
its professors, even in the
Choirs of Churches

As you see there
is nothing necessarily good
in it, the Syrens being
as well as the Angels,

Get an Actirety of the
Moral and Spiritual
Powers of the Mind is
needed to give that finished
Perfection to Music, which
Elevates all who hear it
and I have no doubt
that the Glories of the
Spirit Land will be

While he raised to brightness
by the vocal harmonies
of its inhabitants.

It would be a very
useful adjunct to your
qualification as a school
Teacher,

The here are in
our usual way. We hope that
you will continue in health
of mind and body. Give my
respects to Mr Goldthraute
and tell him I do not
regret my meeting him
accidentally. That cold
morning last winter

The boys are to write
Mother send her Love
Yours Abner

[ca 1862?]

Sarah J Christie

My Dear Sarah [Christie]

I Received your long letter. And I am very glad to see that you enjoy yourself so well.

I went into Town yesterday, having sold Book & Nides, and raised the 25 \$ which you must have got last night.

I certainly would have sent you the money for the Skates if I could have spared it. But taxes will be very high and will not be able

to meet them unless
I take some care.

When I have
ascertained what mine
amounts to. Perhaps I
will get send up the
price of the State to you

I cannot see that
they are very necessary.

Yet it is a very healthy
amusement, and if money
had been easy with me
you would have got them

A little newspaper
came here to you from your
cousin Robert. I send it
with this

I have received
an Illustrated News

from Scotland.
if you wish to see
it I will send it up

I am going to do
some little fixings to
the inside of the House
next week now papering
it and painting the
wood work. Also I am
to paper your Bedchamber

Daniel goes
steadily to school and
as yet stays to home

We are all as
usual as regards Health
My Mother send her love
to you, Uncle Tom
says he will drink
no more from home

I have received no
letter from your Uncle
Robert Wife. I do not know
if she has got the Flowers
I sent or not. if you
should write to William
Wife, tell her that I sent
two Bawls to Robert
about 2 months ago
and I should like to
know if they had
received it

Professor Hawley no doubt
is a good man. Very,

I only meant to let you
see that Musical ability
has no necessary connection
with virtue.

Yours Affec^{ly} Write soon
J. Christie

[ca 1862]

Dear Father,

I will tell you something about what I intend to take next term. you see that now I am in Physiology, Physical Geography, two classes in Arithmetic, one with Miss Tenney, and one with the Prof. and then Miss Tenney's class in Grammar and the Prof's parsing and analyzing class. Besides two Normal lessons in the week and Ditt's Minic lessons, and either writing a composition, or reciting a piece every week. Making and also, I was going to forget, Mental Arithmetic, and Reading History every day, which makes two more half hour recitations, in all. Making eight. - Classes which I am in not counting Normal singing and Composition, each of which takes up considerable of my time. So you see that I have plenty of work to do. if I get all those lessons, and it takes me pretty hard sometimes to make both ends meet, and to get everything done in

its proper time, I take two walks regularly every day, which does me an immense amount of good. For next term I will tell you what I am going to take, which you see will not be hardly as hard as what I have now:

1. One class in Grammar, the Prof.
2. One Class in British History, Ditto.
3. Review of Physiology, " "
4. Review of Phys. Geography,
5. Algebra.

Tuesday evening 3.12

Dear Father,

Again I take

pen and hand to try ~~and to try~~ and finish this letter. I was so tired last night I could not get it finished. I have just come from taking my walk. - you see by the studies above mentioned that I will not have so many, or such hard classes as before. As ~~they will~~ I expect to finish up the 3^d and 4th by the middle of the term. Mr. Soltanow wants me to take up Algebra very much. And I do ~~too~~ as I expect to teach a winter school next winter, and it

is likely I will need Algebra. I feel on ~~shall~~ feel perfectly competent to teach a winter school after having been here all winter, and my health holds as good, as it gives all appearance of doing. I will next spring, feel that I have got a fair start in the world, and it will be my own fault if I do not follow it up. It is now my highest ambition to get a good thorough education that I may follow teaching as a profession through life. There is one thing that I want to speak to you about and that is, taking private Singing lessons. It is costly, but I know that it will do me a great deal of good. \$10. is the price, but in one term, with one hour of practice every day, I will be a "finished Singer," and my health will be helped greatly, as it develops the Chest and Lungs. Those up here who are afraid of their daughters falling into company send them to take private lessons of Prof. M. But it is not for that I want it. I want to have my voice developed. Prof. Mandy told me that I had a good voice, and

would make a good singer by practice
So as I am going to be a Teacher I want
to be a singer also. to be able to lead, and
teach singing in my school. I do not want
you to send me the money for it, I will get
it from the boys the next time they receive their
pay. I know that they will be perfectly willing
if you only will. Now do let me for I first
achieve to get at it.

After Supper,

I am just
as happy as I can be, for the Prof. has been to
the Office and brought me a letter from Sandy and
Dave. They are both frustrated, and I will answer
them on Saturday, I will not have time before as
Friday is the last day of the term and we are reviewing
all we have been over preparing for examination
on the last day. So I must study extra hard. But
tell the boys that I will give them a long letter
on Saturday, but I want you to give me a long
letter in reply to this as soon as you get it if
you possibly can (which means if you only will.)
I want the answer Thursday night if possible
Friday at furthest. I am sorry that Uncle Sam
is going in the downward track to ruin, and
begging, I almost feel like going down to talk
to him. I think that I will write soon to Aunt
Jane or him. He must not be allowed to go
in that way, if it can anyway, be helped, you go and
talk to him. I hope that this scribble will find you
all in health, give my love to Mother, the boys and all
friends. Good Night from your loving Daughter
Sarah

1861.

Jan'y fr. Father.

Jan 28.
9.Feb. 23
25
3. 9. 15
17March 17. Feb
22. 7.Apr. 15. 26. May 13. 25.
(Shiloh) 31.June 15. July 27
26. 20.Aug. 29. Sept 6. 7.
15. 25. 23.

Oct 20.

10. 6. Oct 26.
Nov 15. 23. 26.

23. 28.

1861.

Feb

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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Mch

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30	31					

Apr

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29	30					

May

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29	30					

June

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July

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Aug

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Sept

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29	30					

Oct

Nov

Dec

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

June

K + M W	Died of d.	Wounded	Prisoner	Dischd for disab.

Dischd 3 yrs.
||||

K. + M. W. 7
Died of d. 22
Deaths = 29.

Dischd for disab. 37.
" " other leas. 6.
" " 3 years 21.
Total dischd = 64.
Deserted = 4.
Left us = 68.
Died = 29.
Total loss = 97.
Came through = 55. = reenlisted.
Total in 1861 = 152.

153

St Louis, Bentr
Barack

January 7th 1861

Dear Father. I

take great Pleasure

in telling you

that, This day I

received my pay and the

after Pasingall

of \$15. I will have

\$15, to send you. That you may take

care of it for me. Now I would like

you to make use of it yourself

if you need too. if you do not

use it I would like you to let

it be in interest to the in you

known to be able to pay, or deposit

in Bank. Would you think

it is safe to do so in Watertown

or any of the Banks in the neighborhood

here. I mean to do by Sarah

as I said I would. in regard to

paying her Board and schooling

So I hope she will do her
Best at school this winter.
I have not much to say to
you at present but you are
well. I had a slight cold
so I took the salt water
cure and am all right again.

I hope mother is well and
that she will still think
of me with pleasure and loving
kindness. I am not as good
as I might be and still I
don't go as far down hill
as there are opportunities for me
to do. There was a poor fellow
shot on Sunday evening for run-
ning the guard. He was shot dead.
I will write at greater length
to you or send something some time
you can see by my writing.
I am not in the best condition
for writing at present.

So at some spare time I will
give you and Susan a long
letter.

Your loving son
William G. Christie
We will express the money
to you on the 15th
and will only send it as
far as Watertown so
you may expect in
the 15th at least
give my love to all
W. G. Christie
we will send by the
American Express company
or look out at Watertown
on the 13th.

Edinburgh 11 January 1862

My dear old friend [Christie]

You would scarcely believe
the pleasure your letter
of a year ago gave me from
my being so long in answering
it but I have had a great deal
to go through so that your
first the journal for which
you wrote was a failure
only four numbers were published
and it cost me a good deal of
money besides time and
anxiety, then ~~in the end~~ but
we lost a fine little boy
8 1/2 years thus being the

first bank in our family we
felt very severely jolted &
believe Mrs Matthews will
never be hurt again
in addition well that business
has taken a turn for the worse
on account of the removal of a
shop the first in which ever
did any substantial good
but the site was wanted for
a public building and fortune
ately have made as much as
though very far from being
an independence in this country
will be sufficient to trade
upon in a large way but I
have not now (though have
always had good health) the

elastic spirits of youth
I suppose I must reckon myself
to have been successful in life
as to very many have not done
so well though were it all to
begin I should take a lower
aim and ~~study~~ more to live
by the way
I remember the days of our
companionship better than
for any period before & that
in this I reckon that you
have realized our joy & living
much better than I have
done from your account of
your own position & happiness
I am much richer in such
pecuniaries but these things
are comparative you are

in a state of much greater
independence and we more
clearly know your children
are to maintain an equal
position should like to
know ~~after~~ ^{about} ~~dear~~ ^{more} of
your history since you
go last when & how you
got to far west parts under
such a great deal of difficulties about
that period that my memory
(of that period) is rather confused
What of your brothers William
and Alice how did they get
on? and your mother what
of her? and your own family
how many children & how
is Mrs Christie and were the
difficulties of the early days of

emigration ^{Sheet 2} very great
I forget the year that saw
you in it must have been
about 1843 if married
in that year have two
girls of 16 and 8 years and
two boys of 14 and 12
but my was always a great struggle
in Dundee partly no doubt from
my not understanding business
then on getting married
determined on trying my fortune
in Edinburgh but it was 1846
till I could make it out the
first half those years were
a very great trial but for
the last three years I have

been with certain fluctuations
getting on, on the whole
but business still requires as
much attention as if our men
afford to find it my boys
are at the High School and
I hope by & by they will
relieve me of part of my
labours but we must not
count too much upon that
to ~~now~~ now you owe me
a history and don't take a
year to it you have plenty
of leisure the one thing
I have been fighting for for years
I suppose I shall get it only in
the grave

I am very glad indeed that
this statement goes with
America has blown over
though I am afraid your
reckless unprincipled statesmen
will provoke some day
I have not had much time
for political speculation for
a long time past but am
wonderfully reconciled to things
as they are here in America
the true time past has not
raised my notions of Republican
government which whatever
we may have thought in our
young days I consider to be well
suited to a future state of
manhood or in fact to be

utopian form of Government.
My ideas of more serious
subjects have not under-
gone such a very decided
change. Although I have been
a member of the Church of
Scotland for 16 years without
anybody knowing that I might
have my doubts I should
not take the responsibility of
taking a family in motion
on these subjects very
different from the ordinary
standard it is all right
if properly understood
Good bye with re-
spects ever truly
Yours
D. Matthews



Memphis Jan. 12th/62

Dear Father,

Here we are again on the old Father of Waters, and tired enough from the three-days march.

We left Moscow on the forenoon of the 18th having been relieved at that point by a Brigade of Logan's Division and the 8th Mich. Battery.

Camped at ^{La Fayette} that night,
having passed over
a flat, low road, made
awfully sticky by
the late rains, and
the mortar-making
process to which it
had been subjected
by "Horse, Foot, and
Artillery" that had
passed over it during
the past few days.

Yesterday we ad-
vanced to German-
town, where we bi-
vouached last night.

Today saw us on
the road at dawn
and we entered

the suburbs of Mem-
phis early this af-
ternoon.

We remark, as an in-
dication of the char-
acter of the country
traversed; that no
locking has had to
be done since leav-
ing Moscow.

The rumors flying
around camp in
regard to our future
doings are, that we
are to be paid here,
and are then going
down to Vicksburg
to reinforce Sherman.
Mc. Kean's and Ross'
Divisions have gone down

and there will be no
falling back this time.

I have to repeat
what I said in ^{his} last
letter about repairing
and sending to me
my watch.

Every Non-commiss-
sioned Officer has to
have a timekeeper
while on garrison to
change the reliefs by,
and if mine does
not come I will
have to buy one.
If we remain here
2 or 3 days I will
write again, if not
you will have to wait
a good while for a letter from
F. D. C.

Glenn's Tenthers
Tenthers



For Sandy

Camp Benton, Jan. 1862

Dear Brother,

Rejoice with me.
I am to be a Commander.
You know that each platoon
is composed of 25 men
including the Sergeant and
two corporals. Of these there
are 8 men for commanders
to work the gun, and the

rest are ~~Drum~~ and Super-
numeraries. We have just
been organized and I am
to be one of the gun detach-
ment, the Sergeant says.
I believe William is to be
a cannonier also but I
am not sure just yet.

Yesterday must
have been a very cold day in
Wm. and Chin. for it was
a sneeze here. For the

past two weeks. Wind and
Rain have reigned supreme
making it almost impos-
sible to go out of doors.
But, night before last
"A Change came over the
spirit of our Dreams!"
and we woke up to
find that we were
almost frig. However
the change has been ben-
eficial to us, as is shown
in the decrease of the
number sick with
colds. The warm weath-
er which we have had
since we came here has
been very injurious to
us. We were as healthy
a set of men as you

could have picked out
when we arrived, and
now we have 8 men
in the Hospital, with
Rheumatism, Lung Fever
and Erysipelas, while
12 more are kept in bed
here with severe colds and
the Chumps. Only 45 of
us drilled yesterday, the
rest being excused on
account of inability.

We hope this cold weather
will continue until
the company attains
again its Minnesota health.
Hope Father got the mon-
ey which we sent on
Thursday. No more from
Camp Benton, J. D. Christie
Minnie Barry

could have picked out
when we arrived, and
now we have 8 men
in the Hospital, with
Rheumatism, Lung Fever
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will continue untill
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Hope Father got the mon-
ey which we sent on
Thursday. No more from
Camp Benton, J. D. Christie.
Minn. Battery



Gen. Nathaniel Lyon.

Jan. 14th 1862.

Camp Benton Mo.

Dear Sister,

This is the last letter you will receive with the above post mark for the present, as we are ordered to be ready to march at 8 tomorrow morning for the Arsenal in St. Louis.

We and a Co. of Lancers are going down to guard Welch's property there, and also to drill

Jim Chatham is here, the company is to be disbanded & turned into Infantry



with our guns which are
in the Arsenal. As soon
as we get established there
I will write and let you
know where to direct your
letters.

I received your inter-
esting gossip last night just
before Vattel. I must tell you
how we get our letters. The
Captain details the Bugler
to fetch our Mail from
the office which he does
once a day. As soon as

he enters the quarters with
his armfull of correspondence
he is ~~is~~ surrounded by an
eager crowd of men who
keep still as death while he
calls out the names of
the lucky recipients. Oh
if the ones left behind
could see the joy with
which we clutch the
welcome missive and
retire to our Bunks to read
it in private, and could
witness the disappointment
of those who have waited
long for an answer to
their first letter sent weeks
ago, they would not
be so apt to send letters
beginning like this, "I
received your letter a week

"ago of last Saturday."

Tell Helen
to write soon and I will
answer her letter without
delay. Offer my congratula-
tions to Cousin Mary, and
tell her to send me a big
chunk of the Wedding cake
as "we Soldiers" can appre-
ciate that sort of thing not
having seen any pastry
since we left home. Oh,
no you must not tell her
that, for it would make
her my mortal enemy for
life. Jim is writing soon to
Jessie. Give my love to
Grandmothers Ned and Bertie
who I hope are in good health.
Goodbye from camp Benton, La.
J. D. Christie

ago of last Saturday.

Tell Helen
to write soon and I will
answer her letter without
delay. Offer my congratula-
tions to Cousin Mary, and
tell her to send me a big
chunk of the Wedding cake
as "we Soldiers" can appre-
ciate that sort of thing, not
having seen any pastry
since we left home. Oh,
no you must not tell her
that, for it would make
her my mortal enemy for
life. M. is writing now to
Jessie. Give my love to
Grandmothers Reid and Bertie
who I hope are in good health.
Goodbye from camp Benton, G. D. Christie



St Louis Arsenal
Missouri January

Dear Father [James Christie] 11. 1862

I Got your kind letter this day, and now I take this opportunity of answer you, You will see By the time We have made a Change of quarters. We came here last Wednesday, and have got to do guard duty, so they have given muskets, to drill with. I have not much time to write now and really dont feel like it, you know how a Dodge will feel sometimes, not capable, of writing or doing anything that requires thought or ~~mental~~ exertion. I will give you a long letter soon. telling you a great many things. the man I spoke of, was actually shot in the act of running past the sentry. I will send you six dollars in this letter, and explain



St Louis Arsenal
Missouri January

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day, and now I take this opportu-
nity of answer you, You will see
By the time We have made a
Change of quarters. We came here
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and really don't feel like it, you know
how a Dodge will feel sometimes,
not capable, of writing, or doing
anything that requires thought
or ~~mental~~ exertion. I will give
you a long letter soon. telling
you a great many things. the
man I spoke of: was actually shot
in the act of running past the
sentry. I will send you six dollars
in this letter. and explain

to you. Now I have it.

Jan: 18th I have again
taken pen in hand. to give you
as true a picture of our present mode
of life. We are living in tents. and it
a very good method of living; the tents
are pitched inside the walls of the Arsenal
under some very handsome trees. down from
us. Towards the river are the buildings
where they have machinery for repairing
arms. of all kinds: they make nothing
new. only cartridges and sabots for
shot and shell: filling shell making
balls: for muskets. they also make
grape. and canister shot: they make
100,000 musket balls per day. so one
of the men told me. and I believe it.
for you should see them sitting round
these Baths of molten lead casting twenty
each time one man can make
18,000 per day of 12 hours. I will now
tell you how I have the money
you will find enclosed in this letter.

I sent you a very little to much. in
the first place. so when I got into
the tent. we all concluded to have
a sheet iron stove that with the pipe
and three wash dishes cost us forty
cents each: nine of us. well I had
no change. so I tried to borrow
some money. but could not get
less than ten dollars. so you see
my credit is good. Tom and I have
got us a Book entitled *Field Artillery
Instruction* in I should be first.
it cost \$2. so I will have it to send
home. to you. you may think
my writing looks nervous.
But if you had to do as I do you
would look so too. Thinking by
what you say in your letter to
me. I will answer you by say-
ing. that I am not giving way
to any of my Passions. any more
than I did at home. I may be bad
myself but I could not help it if I

was the means of making any
of a certain class of beings worse
than ~~than~~ they are or should be
but I am thankful for your
good advice: And believe me I will
think of all these things. you
have been so kind to mention
We have had one Death in the
company the Person was German
he died of ~~Bothman~~ ^{yesterday} he will be
buried today. We have quite a number
on the sick list but very few of them
are serious cases: There are a few cases
of Mumps. one or two of lung fever
The last mentioned are serious
one of measles as for the Balance
of the company. ~~they~~ they are well
since we came here we have to
do guard duty. it takes 23 men
each day to mount guard: out of
our body of men: I have not been
into any of the work ships yet only
where they cast Balls. but I will try to
get in, and then I will write at greater length
have Sarah write to me your loving son W.B.C.

A Louis' January
One Flag, One Country, Arsenal 22/62

Published and for sale by McMurroad & Co., 38 and 40, Fourth St.



[Alexander]
Dear Brother. I received
your letter yesterday
and am very happy
to learn you are
all well, and likely
to remain so.

Give me every
facility to know why they
do not let us out to the city
and I will tell you.
But I suppose it is because there
would be too much trouble
with unruly men. You
want to know who puts
us through our sword exer-
cise: well our captain does
some times. And Corporal
Hanks: does a good deal
of it of his own accord.

Since we came here we have
not drilled much of any kind
on account of having so much
guard duty to do. We will get
rid of a great deal of that now
for their has come two instal-
ments of five hundred troops
which are to remain here
they are Missouri's Home
guards. The fifth regiment
they have been in the
service six months and
has got ~~the~~ pay yet. So
you see Uncle Sam is
better than Aunt
Missouri's a big day. In
my last letter to you I
told you some things about
the place. I can now tell
you more. for I have
had better opportunity
to look round. They have

have a building here where they
have a gauge to gauge the
shot. after they are passed through
that operation. They are
wheeled out to a building and
painted. with a barbed wire
fence. The shell are stored
in the same way. The smaller
ones are immured. Being hot
they glaze over nicely
they are rolled over on to bars
to dry. I stood guard over 4
~~of the~~ members of Dejeu's
at Presen members of Uncle
Sam's guard house, at the
Arsenal. They are well fed
and have as good a place to
stay as our own troops. But
they are a dirty set of good for
nothing set of fellows. Lousers
Lank light men. Colstiff
might have made the

same remark about them
that he made about Justice
Shallow: they look like
forked radish and so it is
there were two of them got
released yesterday if they should
turn Traitors to their
country again, they will be
able to tell a good deal about
this place to the enemy.

I cannot give you much
account of the men that are
with Fremont. Although I
have seen a good many some
of them. Also a great many
that were at the Battle of
Lexington. But you have
read as much of those things
as I can tell you. Now for the
weather, and then I will.

~~But~~ let ~~these~~ long foolish
letter come to an end

Have you heard the News from S. C.

McCrack & Co., 25 and 27, North St., Cincinnati, O.



and then I will write for you
see I have not much
to say. I am
sorry to hear
that you were fang-
led. but I use
is every thing. We have had
an Irish winter's art father, and
he will tell you and save me
some trouble in not writing
it. Ah Now when I think
of it there are a lot of the
men taken with the mu-
rder now brand one or
two more have got the mes-
sage. but as a general thing
they are getting along very
well. There is one more

thing, I have not told you
before, our head Bugler has
deserted: he left after he got
his pay. He was dissatisfied
with his pay: he did not
get as much as he expected
so he having got the letter
to put in Postoffice that
being his duty assigned him
by the Captain) he forgot
to come back again. he has
gone to Germany our Officers
think. I had a drill today
with the sword. The motions
were first draw Sabre
Sec: come to guard. 3^d Right
moulinet) Pronounced
moulinee 1st then left
^{then} rear motion: 5th right cut
against Carey then the
reverse. rear cut then

these all combined: which brings
in right left and quarte and three
cut. I cannot give you an
account of all the motions
for it would not be possible
to give you a correct idea
of the thing is such a space
so having nothing to say
to more than I want you
to tell Sarah to write
me a letter. to me so
that I can write to her
in return. Thomas says
he will write when the
spirit moves him he is
so laizy he cant bother
himself just now. he
had a letter from Willie
he is not going to answer
it he says. I told him
I always answer it

Sarah said to him that
Helena was going to
write to him, but she
has not done it. I had
a letter from Michael
Dempsey yesterday. I am
certain if you see Jessie
Amers tell her to write
to me for I have sent
her two letters, to Em-
et. Poloffice, so I will ex-
pect a letter from her and
give my love to all.

tell Grandmother
Bertie I will certainly
write to her soon.

Good bye

William J. Christie

Waterbury Jan^y 26th / 1862.

My Dear Friend & Brother,
We rec^d your very kind Letter
We were happy to hear of you
& all our folks being in the
Enjoyment of good health as
this leaves us in the same
for which we are thankful
I am sorry to inform you
that Trade is at a stand
still here and I have very
little to do the Flour will
help me along in these dark
times, I will gladly except
the arrangement you have
proposed of sending me the
Flour in the fall, if we are
spared and will leave
it all with you how you
send it as your knowledge
in such matters is extensive
than mine —

I am very much interested
in the Army of the West
since Wiley S. Thomas, has joined
its ranks, But I am alas, in
the dark of the whereabouts
of the first Battery Minnesota
Light Artillery, I trust all the
Boys of the Bramley who has
gone to the wars, may return
to their homes in safety
If I should see anything
in the papers that I think
would interest you I will
forward them to you. &
In the meantime if you
should get any word
from the Boys, you will
be so kind as to let me
know how they get along
I wish I was near them for
I think I could learn them
something yet that would
be useful to them

My poor Robert is growing
so tall that he is losing
his appetite I must give him
some Barks to increase it, he
sent a note to his Grandmother
before Christmas and put a dollar
in it as a present to her and
she have not answered it, I sent
a letter to Br. Tom before that.
He has taken no notice of either
- of them I would like to know
the reason if there is a huff.
in question or not, I would
have wrote you sooner but
- expecting a letter from Tom,
let me know all about them
and if them and you get the
papers I send. My Son in law &
Sarah my daughter & children
are in good health I had a
letter from them last week
they are living in No. 6 North Street
Hartford about a 100 yards from
where Sarah was born

William Sayes he is Engaged
on Military Work & has 3 Girls
Working for him He Sayes he
thinks its Better for him
to Be in Hartford, than Northampton
Elizbeth has Gotten her Eye teeth
& James, Wilkey, there Son, is
thriving finley Br William
& famley is well Sister Mary Jane
has a Daughter our Love to
your wife Sarah & all the
Boys Eliza wishes to Be rememb^{ed}
to your Mother & Br^e William,
Br Tom Jane & Mother and all
the Children & Br Williams, Tom,
And Believe Me yours Truly
Robert H. Reid

St Louis: Arsenal
[Sarah Stevens] January 27 1862

Dear Sister. I have not
yet a letter from you
since I came from home
but I have not got much
the advantage of you, for
I have ^{not} sent you any more
than one. Previous ^{to} this,
so much for apology.

in the few lines I got
from you in the letter
to Tom. you wanted
me to tell you some
thing about our comrades
and captain also the
other Officers. Well our

Captain is a very good look-
ing man of 30 years of age
fair complexion, and about
six feet in height, and every
inch a gentleman. I will
give you an instance

of his kindness, and forbearance. One of our men Henry Dotz by name went out to the city, and was given two roll calls of course he was reported to the commander of the Post, who sentenced him to twenty days in the guard house, with the ^{prisoners} ~~rest~~ of war, Our Captain did not like this. Besides we never had one of our men in such a filthy place, so he went and got the sentence revoked and took the culprit into his own hands, and gave him two days severe labor, he's kind and will be obeyed, our Record. Lieutenant is now here visiting us. he's if anything a better man than the Captain. he is more easily approached.

One Flag, One Country.

Published by Mumford & Co.



W. S. Arsenal. 1862
St Louis. Mo. Feb. 1st.

Dear Father. [James Christy]

For fear

that you will think
something dreadful has happened
to me, I will try during the
intervals of my duty today
to think of something to
interest you.

I was on guard
today, and was detailed as
Orderly for Col. Callender,
Commander of this Post.
There are 2 men taken
from the Guard every
morning, one for the Col.
and the other for Mc. Kinstry



who is here under arrest,
for his malpractices under
Fremont. I do not have
anything to do, but carry
letters and messages to
the Officers of the Post.

I have just seen Gen.
Halleck. He is here today
inspecting the Guards.

On Wednesday
evening we were astonished
to hear our bugle blow
for assembly. We all

hurried to the Rendezvous
and were drawn up in
line by the Captain. ~~My~~
10 names were then called.
among them Williams
and mine. Those whose
names were called were
ordered to be armed and
equipped, and ready to
march within five
minutes. At the expiration
of that time the bugle
blew and we fell in.

Of course we
were all curiosity to know
what was the cause of
all this. but we could not
find out anything
about it. One of our
First Lieutenants took

command of us and
marched us through
the gate out into the
City. We marched at
quick step right through
the heart of the city up
to North St Louis a dis-
tance of 4 miles and
halted in front of the
Olympic Concert Room.

Our Lieut. went in
and soon about 13
soldiers came out whom
we took in charge and
marched back to the
Arsenal and delivered
them up to the Officer
of the day who put them
in the Guardhouse.
It was ten O'clock when
we got to our quarters.
Thus ended our first



experience of Patriot
Duty. A sadder duty
called us out yesterday.
Perhaps you are not
aware that 4 men of
our Co. have died since
our arrival in the Arsenal.
The first, a private named
Heuler died of asthma. The
second - a young boy named
Emery, a favorite with the
whole Co. You know I told

command of us and
marched us through
the gate out into the
City. We marched at
quick step right through
the heart of the city up
to North St. Louis a dis-
tance of 4 miles, and
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of the day, who put them
in the Guardhouse.
It was ten o'clock when
we got to our quarters.
Thus ended our first



experience of Patrol
Duty. A sadder duty
called us out yesterday.
Perhaps you are not
aware that 4 men of
our Co. have died since
our arrival in the Arsenal.
The first, a private named
Wexler died of Asthma. The
second - a young boy named
Emery, a favorite with the
whole Co. You know I told

when I was on furlough
that there was one man
smaller than me and
he enlisted as Drummer.
His father accompanied
us to La Crosse and I
had quite a long talk with
him. He said he would
not have let Stephen enlist
only as he was advising every
body else to join, he thought
they would think him selfish
otherwise. So he let Steve -
a mere boy enlist. he
was in good health at that
time but this infernal climate
soon brought him down,
and now he, who would
have lived in all probability
his full term in Mexico,
lies beneath the sod in

one of the overcrowded
graveyards of St. Louis.

The third victim
was A. P. Woodcock,
apparently the healthiest
man in the company.
The Measles took him
off, assisted by his intem-
perate habits.

The man
we buried yesterday was
Corporal G. C. Goffin
as fine a man as was
in the Co. He died of
Erysipelas, and so of
us followed his remains
to the grave. He was
buried with Military
Honors. There are 3
or 4 more who will
not survive the winter.

We have 5 Drill Sergeants from
the Regular Army instruct-
ing us now in our duties
as Cannoneers. As soon
as we are ready for them
we will get our horses and
will take the field in
Spring. Tell Sarah that
Jist Strachan is still
in Camp Benton. He
was down to see us yes-
terday, and says they
have got their horses
and Arms and are
under marching orders
for Kolla. So it is not
likely that I will see
him again for a good
while. No more at
present. I. D. Christie



"Fear not ABRAM, for I am
thy SHIELD, and exceeding great
reward."—Gen. xv. i.

Wm. Rosewell & Son, N.Y.

Feb. 27th 1862.

Dear Brother, [Dear]

I received
your interesting letter this after-
noon and hasten to answer it.
And here I would say that
you must not expect me to
answer every one that is sent
to me from home, for what
with Drill, Labor Exercise, clothes
mending and Study my time
is pretty much occupied,
and one letter per week
is as much as I can promise.

Perhaps you laugh
at the idea of me mending
my clothes but it is a
solemnly fact that if
you had been in our
tent at one time today you



"Fear not ABRAM, for I am
thy SHIELD, and exceeding great
reward."—Gen. xv. i.

Med. Arsenal St Louis Mo.

Feb. 27th 1862.

Dear Brother, [Adey]

I received
your interesting letter this after-
noon and hasten to answer it.
And here I would say that
you must not expect me to
answer every one that is sent
to me from home, for what
with Drill, Saber Exercise, clothes-
mending and Study my time
is pretty much occupied,
and one letter per week
is as much as I can promise.

Perhaps you laugh
at the idea of me mending
my clothes but it is a
solemnly fact that if
you had been in our
tent at one time today you

might have perceived
"Yours Affectionately"

seated on his bed with his
inexpressibles between his
knees busily engaged in
repairing them. Uncle Sam
is nowhere wronged so
shamefully - as in the clothing
contracts for the troops, as bursting
Seams - and ~~the~~ stockings out
at toe and heel fully show.

I show no mercy to the
rents, but pitch into them
as soon as I observe them
acting on the principle
that "A stitch in time saves
nine."

For the past 2
days long wagons loaded
with the 15,000 stand of
arms taken at Fort Donelson

have been pouring into
the Arsenal. The collection
is the most interesting that
I have ever seen, Flintlock
muskets of ancient pattern
are mingled with Squirrel
Rifles and Shotguns single
and double barreled. Immense
piles of Cartridge belts and
boxes are being brought in
today. These prove that the
Rebels did not surrender from
want of Ammunition
for many of the boxes are
full of cartridges - a heavy
bullet, ~~two~~ 3 buckshot and
a tremendous charge of
powder. Many of the
bunches of Cartridges are
marked with blood, showing
how desperate was the fight.

I have secured a belt
as a trophy of the victory
but I must say that it is
a miserable specimen of
Southern workmanship.

Men have been
detailed twice to go for
our horses, but neither time
have they fetched any back
with them. We are promised them
(or part of them) tomorrow sure,
and expect to get them.

Tell Father
(whose letter I received yes-
terday) that I have not
violated any of my prin-
ciples in the least since
I enlisted. So his question
about the Beer is answered,
I know too well the ~~con~~
consequences of such a step
to yield to Temptation however
strong. Yours Affectionately J. D. C.



Give the
other to
Sandy

March 1st. 1863

St. Louis Arsenal

Dear Sister,

Yesterday we
were mustered for pay
and inspected by Lieut.
Col. Callender. This prevented
me from writing as I in-
tended. We do not ex-
pect our pay for some
time yet for the last
time we were mustered
we did not receive it
until a week after.
Four of our horses
arrived yesterday and



The others are to come
by installments until
we get them all. We
are now exempted from
Post Guard, the Drivers
guarding the horses and
the Carriages the
guns.

Your letter I
received ~~yesterday~~ day before
yesterday and was glad
to learn that you were
thinking of teaching
next Summer. But I
think you should not

try for our School as
I know that there are
persons in the District
who would throw every
obstacle in your way
that they could. And
the very fact of Uncle
William being ~~Deer~~
Director would give
them a handle that
they would not be
slow to avail themselves
of. Therefore I think
it would be better if
you would try in
some other direction.

But in order to insure
success remember that
you must study.

There is no other way.
And also remember
that a little, well learned

I will write more next time,

is better than a great deal only half learned. Especially is this true in Arithmetic. In your next tell me how far you have advanced in that Study and I will try to assist you.

And now Sarah I hope that you and Mother agree better than you used to, for you must know by this time that your disagreement has produced nothing but misery to both and to the whole Family. Now do give more deference to her opinions than you have hitherto done.
Your loving Brother, Tom.

Waterbury March 16th 1862.

Dear Friend & Brother, [James Christie]

I Received yours of the
27th Feb^y. we are glad to hear
By it that you, and all the
Folkes are Enjoying Good Health
As Me and My Family are in
the Same State, for which we
feel thankful, you have had
rather a hard Winter out
West you say, we are complaining
in the Same way here, we have
not Seen it So Severe for a
Number of years, & this Day &
Last Night, has Been one of the
Severest Ice Stormes, that has
occured for many Years—
we are glad to hear that My
Mother, is able to Be about, and
Can Make her Self Usefull in a
Small way, Best Ever So Little if
Shes She is Inclined to help all

My dear Mrs Love to your Daughter Sarah & my Daughter & all

She Can as She has Done So
All her Lifetime. I Should Like
her to Embrace me & my Family
once more, But I am afraid that
will never take Place, in this
Life. I am happy to hear from
you that the Papers I send you
Interests you. I will Strive if
my Finances, holds out, to Continue
them, wase not that a fine
Picture in Lesley's. Last, of the
Occupation, of fort Donelson.
I thought it would Interest
you, all very much. I am Sorry
to say, that at the Charge of
The 17th Reg^t of Illinois, Joshua Allen, of
Hartford, whose Mother, Mrs Margaret
Isa. Cousin of Elizas, Was Killed, he
had Graduated at Wilmington Coll^y
for the Ministry, But finly went
to Ill^y. Where he Became Editor of a
Paper and on the Braking out of
the War he Enlisted, he was

Orderly Serg^t Co^d, B. He was a
good young man, and Lared By
all who Ever knew him. My
Mother, & Thomas knew him
and will Be Sorry to hear of
his fall in the Prime of Life
" I am glad to hear of your Boys
Being Still at St. Lewis. when
we heard of the War in the
Cumberland and Miss^y, we were
verry Uneasey about Wiley & Sam,
there Lucky in Being in Settled -
Quarters this hard Winter, I thought
Probley the were with Gen^l Curtis in
Arkansas, when we heard the
news of his Great Battle of
Pea Ridge. Last Week, as the
Hokes around here Expresses
themselves on the Affair is that
Curtis & Sigel. has given the Rebels
Pertickular Hell, I must Confes.
I am tickled to hear how
Gen^l Sigel Out Manuvered

the Rebel Gen^{ls}, and sent them
off in Disorder. James I am
delighted to see a more friendly
feeling springing up between England,
and this Country. I have always thought
it was got up here by some news-
-paper Editors, to please the Irish, and
encourage them to embark in the
war, and on the other side by
those in the interest of the Aristocracy
the people are all with us on
Freedom. What do you think
of the Presidents last message I think
- it covers all the ground we Rep-
-ublicans stand on, & means to fight
- on. you will excuse me for send-
-ing you soiled papers. the truth is the
are all well I hummed over here, I
must send you my best respects to
you and all your family also to the
Soldiers wishing them a safe return in
which wish Eliza joins me. Love to Tom &
Jane & Mother. Yours Truly R. McKim

Reminiscence of
Lt. Peebles
& Shiloh, 1895.

[ca Apr. 1862]

[Photocopies]

Where passing away,
Am teaching history, and
other lessons to a
man or two. 23 with
us. Botanical
Berlin: we
are to have
collection
share
some to Lincoln Post.
Hunt.

To Alex. S. Christie, Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

St. Paul's Institute,

Carsus, Asia Minor.

President's Office.

June 28. 1895.

My Dear Brother: -

Here are two of
your letters, just come, May 30. and
June 2. The death of Gen. Graham
moves me deeply. He was personally
a good man, and a brave soldier.
He made a great mistake, I think, in
joining Cleveland; and it probably cost
him his life. - But what moved me
most was what you wrote about Lieut.
Peebles. Please find out all you can from
Capt. Goddes, and write me.

Peebles was a handsome fellow,
proud, and brave as a lion. How will I re-
member his riding down the slope in front
of us, when we had just taken position at
the "Hornets' Nest," shouting to the Min-
ishers whom we saw dodging towards
us, from tree to tree, - to declare what
side they belonged to! As the brave fel-
low rode down towards them, all alone, I
saw the advanced ones running back!
He soon satisfied himself as to who they
were; and dashing up to us, as we stood

by our two guns, all ready for action,
- he called out, "Fire, Boys, fire!
they're Rebels!" The next instant our
canister - four or five shots a minute
for each gun - was sweeping the
slope clean of every living thing;
and the enemy's advance was
most effectively stayed, without a
shot from our infantry.

No man could have fought
his guns better than Peebles did that
day; and he was well seconded by his
sergeants, Clayton and Connor. It was
not until the last great charge of the
enemy - after they had been repulsed
again and again - that the three heroes
fell with desperate wounds, and Fardahl
and Filson dropped dead beside the guns.

Peebles told me afterwards, that
when he came to himself, he was
lying on the slope face down, spitting ^{out}
fragments of pistol from his esophagus
(or trachea) - while the balls from both sides

whistled over him! He had been shot
through the neck, the bullet lodging close
to an ear. It was months before we saw
him again; and then he was made Lieut.
Colonel of a Negro regiment.

If you can send his address, I shall
write him. So he is an old man now,
much broken; and he was pointing
out the place to one or two old com-
rades, and saying - "Yrs, this is where
our two guns stood". I could not keep
back the tears when I read that.

Can you find any account of
that meeting at Shiloh, to send me?
Please give my salutations to Capt. Giddes.
It wakes up old memories to hear of
that Shiloh meeting.

I was untouched, up to that last
charge. Johnson, our No 6, had been shot
through arm and shoulder; Kelly, No 5,
was absent; - so as No 7 I was taking
ammunition from the chest, preparing it,
and carrying it all the way to Everts - No 2,
at the gun. When the fearful crash burst
out on us, from the regiment that had gained
the ravine in front without our knowledge,
- I was bending over to the left to hand a
charge to Everts, when the ball went through
poor Fardahl's body in front of me, knocking

the rage from the back of his blouse into my face. He cried out "My God"! But stood with thumb on vent till No. 1 had sponged, when he fell dead. Was there ever a better illustration of devotion to duty?

My own life had been saved by the bending over to hand Wants the Charge. As Fardahl fell, I turned to run for another cartridge; - then a heavy bullet went through between left arm and body, ripping the sleeve, and striking the biceps with such force as to drop my whole arm to my side as if shot through. I thought the bone was broken. When I reached the timber chest every horse was in its death agonies, all piled together. The infantry had opened a crashing fire, all but the men just in rear of our guns; these were cocking their pieces - I can hear the rapid click, click, click to this day! And were calling out to us, "fall back, artillery men, fall back! We are going to fire." (See the American Kindness and self-control!) Under the circumstances, I think I was not to be blamed for accepting their invitation! I made my way back through the branches of a felled tree, sprang upon the trunk; stooped down to push aside the bayonets of four ranks of men that already had cheek on butt and finger on trigger - they were lying down, like sensible fellows, in shelter of trunk and branches - and as they opened with a deafening crash, I leaped down into the sudden cross-road (Purdy & Hamburg), passed through a reserve line, got behind the first tree, off with my blouse - to find I was not so badly

5.

Smashed up as I had thought. It all passed in a moment or two. I saw a young Lieutenant, shot through the body, raise himself on his arm and fire his revolver again and again, crying out - "fire, boys, fire; don't give back an inch!" The body of Fillemon was carried past me by Rush and other comrades; he was No. 1 on the battery beside my gun. A heavy ball had gone side ways through the back of his head, making a fearful wound; but still I noticed that he was moving his head from side to side, as if in sleep. He was an only son, and his mother was a widow. That cruel ball killed them both. She came South to do hospital-service; but she was heart-broken, and soon died.

He was a dear friend of mine, bright, handsome, well-educated; on the river Expedition with Sherman to Eastport, the week before, we had slept under the same blanket, after talking half the night as enthusiastic young men will do. In Wisconsin I had seen the parting between him and his mother. They had but recently come from the East. She was a tall, handsome, refined-looking lady, dressed in black. I recall her looks perfectly; and I can see yet that last embrace, and that long tearful look of love with which she released him.

Oh that terrible War! Thank God, the present generation knows nothing of what it cost to save the ^{country} ~~Nation~~ under whose shelter

those millions are now so prosperous and happy.

The crashing fire ceased: the desperate charge was repulsed. I had just got up to go and find my comrades - when Corporal Gates, who had been in the war with the Caissons, came up to tell me that the infantry had dragged our two guns to the rear; and that he had orders from Gen. Bruntiss to limber them up to the rear of the Caissons - the limber-horses having been all killed - and seek a position farther to the rear. The charge on us had failed; but to right and left of us it had broken our lines; so that Bruntiss (who did his whole duty that day, if any man did) - was already preparing for that attempt to force his way out in which he afterwards failed. I asked Gates if he had seen my brother Will; he said "No." I told him I would go back among the dead limber-horses and look for him, and then join the guns in their next position. I walked up to the infantry line, about ten paces off. As I went through them (they were lying down), several spoke to me, warning me against going over the crest, as the enemy was still in the woods nearby. So I stooped down and went cautiously forward, crawling on hands and knees as I neared the heap

of dead horses. To my great joy, Will's body was not among them. I then crept forward to where the guns had stood - a little down the slope, to see whether Taxdahl was dead, or only wounded. But the first glance at his face, upturned to the sky, told me he was gone. There he lay, his belt and accoutrements upon him, dead at his post of duty! Many a time have I been strengthened in spirit, when the battle has been going hard against me, by the memory of his devotion unto death.

He was on the sick-list that morning, and had been told not to go out with the guns. But he refused to stay behind. When we fell back from our first position, he was so weak that I put my arm around him and half-carried him along in the rapid run we had to make for a time, till we met the welcome regiments of Hurlbut coming up to our support. Taxdahl was an earnest Christian man, one of the very few we had in the Battery at that time. I hope to meet him again, in a better world.

As I passed to the rear the bullets were already coming in from right and left, behind the devoted man I had seen lying down with such undaunted front, in the Purdy Cross road. I went on and on

looking for the guns. An Illinois battery
was posted in one of Hurlbut's camps,
where the enemy's shells were already
falling. ^{I remember asking me to help them.} I remember the great heaps
of sugar, crackers, etc., to which every
one was invited to help himself. As
I stood here, looking down to the left,
where a regiment was still firing hotly
as it fell back, a stream of men came
back from it - fine-looking young fellows,
with the light of battle on their faces. "What
regiment is that?" "Twenty-fifth Indiana".
Then they showed their empty cartridge-box-
es, saying they were simply going back to
fill them in their camp near by. There
was not a bit of "demoralization" about
them; and I saw many returning to the
front. I think it was a shot from this
regiment that killed Gen. Johnston.

I served with that Illinois battery
for half an hour or so; when I became
uneasy at being away from my own,
especially as we were short-handed.

So I left them, and pushed on to
find our guns on the hill above the landing,
where we took part in the final repulse of
the Confederates late that afternoon.

Pardon this bundle of reminiscences
suggested by your letter. (Keep the correspond-
ence with Dpt. Don't dare order it here.) All well,
but property not bought yet. Ever yours, Tom.

Washington, Aug. 2, 1895.

My Dear Brother:

On 31st

When I received your welcome
letter of June 28th, and I felt
greatly relieved to know that
you are all safe in your
mountain retreat.

I had been somewhat remiss
in not looking up Andrew Geddes of
the 8th Iowa, so started out on
the evening of the 31st and found
his residence in Washington South-
east. The colonel was out, and I
left word that I would call next
evening, but for him not to break
any engagement to see me. On return-
ing I found that he had left word
for me to call on him at the
pension office today at 12³⁰; and
I have just got back from —

short conversation with him there.
I have a cordial invitation to
call again, and when I get back
to town - I shall be gone say a month
- you may expect me to write you fully
and accurately. In the meantime I
will just down what I recollect.

Andrew Geddes is Scotch - "straight,"
as he said when I asked if he was
Scotch or Scotch-Irish - but born in
Canada nearly 50 years ago, so that he
and I are practically the same age.
He comes of a military family. His
father - Alexander - was a Brigadier-general in the British Army,
serving at the Cape and in India;
an uncle was Surgeon-general in
the British service; and numerous
others of his father's kinsmen served
the Crown on land and sea. Six of
Alexander's sons fought for the Union
in our civil war! James L, born at
Berwick, and who saw service in
India (was there in '57 thro' the Sepoy

Rebellion), was Colonel of the 8th Iowa
at Shiloh; Andrew, born in Canada, and
only a lad of 16, was Captain of Co. H there.
(Andrew is the youngest man who held
a Colonel's commission in the Union
Army during the war - a fact his wife
gave me). Companies E and H. lay
directly back of Peebles' two guns
on the Puddy-Hamburg road, the
other companies of the 8th lay to their
left (probably back of Welcher's Missouri
Batt'y), the 14th Iowa (Col. Shaw) to H's
right, to their right the 12th Iowa, 7th
and 2nd Iowa, in that order. E and
H. drove the rebels from your guns
and dragged them back. Geddes says
that he saw many horses down and some
men, and his impression at the time
was that the cannoniers were about
all killed or wounded. His ^{own} men behaved
well except one poor fellow who was
paralyzed with fear, and he well remembers
his frantic attempts to burrow down out
of sight in the road. I tell you,

Tom, you didn't know then how lucky you fellows were in having just that kind of a regiment at your back — sturdy Iowa boys led by a fighting, big-headed Scot of military traditions and experience. James L. Geddes died four years ago, having been for many years president of the Iowa Agricultural School.

And now of the meet at Shiloh last April. Geddes went up the river by boat from Paducah with Gen. B.M. Prentiss and about a thousand others. Peebles was on the boat, but they didn't know it. { In '88 Prentiss talked to me enthusiastically of Peebles and his section }. After looking over the field in a general way, Geddes started out to locate exactly where the 8th lay in the Hornets' Nest, and marked the spot with an inscribed board which he had brought along. Prentiss called out to him: "Hold on, Andrew, and I'll go with you." So together they located the line with some precision, in spite of some changes in the locality.

5

Geddes had brought spikes, but there were no trees (I ~~think~~ he said — you know they are turning it into a national park — that is, destroying the field as you fellows remember it) — however he needed to drive a stake. Just then an Iowa man came by with a broad-axe on his shoulder, evidently bent upon literally blazing his way to glory before he left that field. He hadn't come up the river the second time for nothing — you can bet. Geddes had just borrowed his axe, when four men came along, looking about carefully. Three of them were Iowa men. The fourth was a thin, stooped, badly broken old man with a white beard. He stopped and said something about that being the place where the guns stood, then coming close to Geddes, pointed to Prentiss and asked who that man was. When told, ~~Prentiss~~ ^{Peebles} showed great emotion, and when he was further informed that Geddes was marking where the 8th Iowa lay behind his guns it was almost too much for the old man. Then they all got together and examined the

ground. When they were parting, Geddes found, just where the section had stood, a piece of bone from the fetlock of a horse, and he called to Peebles that he had a relic for him. It was probably from one of the battery horses, and Peebles carried it home with him. His address - and you will not fail to write to him - is "Camden, Ills."

To my astonishment I learned from Geddes that there were about twenty thousand people at Shiloh last 6th & 7th of April. They came up the river by boat loads and very many of them were soldiers. All this escaped me at the time - I had been reading only these wretched Washington newspapers, filled all through this administration with accounts of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville, and the prizes taken by Sumner & that ilk.

I may say in confidence that Colonel Geddes lives in a humble little brick house and would appear to be either saving money rigidly or not to be overly well off.

My impression is that on account of the comparative humbleness of his home he prefers to meet strangers at the pension office. Mrs. Geddes is a native of Washington, of Maryland and Democratic antecedents, but she is a firm believer in Col. Geddes and republican principle now. I chatted with her for a half hour. A girl baby a year old was going to sleep in her arms, and two very sweet and pretty little girls - Florence 3 and Katie 4 years - were prattling over their dolls. Their only boy lived to be four years and then died - a great blow to them. An older daughter I did not see. The intelligence and beauty of the little girls prepared me to see in Col. Geddes a fine-looking and very superior man. But I did not expect half enough - Andrew Geddes is about the finest fellow I ever met - tall, finely formed, handsome in head and face, modest and manly in manner and bearing, with the frank and sympathetic eye of a brave, good man of good family. There was not time (he had still to get his lunch in the

half hour) for him to read your letter - that will come later - but he inquired about you and William, and had already learned from Capt Hunter of your whereabouts and occupations. Mrs. G. is, by the way, a member of the Calvary Baptist Church (whose pastor is acting president of the Columbian Univ.), and the Colonel attends with her, although not a member.

I inclose a card of the Union Veteran Legion which he gave me. You will notice that he is Colonel of the Encampment here. He is also a ~~good~~ man, a member of Lincoln Post, and was interested in learning that you were present at the Encampment here in '92 and was mustered into line at that time. I will see more of Giddes and write you again.

All well in the west. I had an interesting letter from Emerson not long ago. I would send it to you if I did not want to keep it - a really fine letter, and characteristic.

Affectionately

Alex. S. Christie

Tarsus, Sept. 2, 1895.

My Dear Brother;

Yours of Aug. 2. came a few days ago; and soon after your pamphlet on Tides. This last I sent up to C. in Vancouver. It seems a very thorough piece of work. I shall be glad to examine it more carefully. Your letter about Giddes and Peebles pleased me much. The 8th Iowa belonged to M. H. Wallace's Division; and the men were nearly all taken prisoners about 6 o'clock that evening. Was the Colonel, and was his brother taken? Please remind the Colonel that our infantry were lying in two lines behind the guns. One line was forward, on the crest, among the trunks and branches of felled trees, close to our limber-chests; the other line was a few paces farther back, in the Purdy cross road, which was cut down a foot or two below the level - a natural, shallow ditch, which gave considerable protection. Perhaps the men in front were only skirmishers; but I got the impression there were two regiments supporting us, one behind the other. It is just possible that I saw the rear line farther back still; and the fellows in the ^{felled} tree-tops and the road made only one line. But the rear line was not many paces back of the other. I remember that distinctly; for it gave me a thrill of delight when I saw how strong we were still -

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Even if our artilleren fellows were all smashed up! And I never had the least fear as to the result after I hear our noble infantry open their fire. — Yes, Lower backed up Minnesota well that day! And then for three years another Iowa Brigade — 11th, 13th, 15th, and 16th, — was always close beside our guns.

I wish Colonel Giddes could find time to write me. I should take it as a great favor. For one thing, I want to know just where those brave fellows surrendered. Was it right there on the crest? or, was it some distance to the rear? There never would have been any surrender, if Sherman and McClelland on our right; and even Stewart and Hurlbut on our left — had stuck to their work as Prentiss and Wallace did. It was a most ominous thing, all through those long hours, to hear the firing on right and left getting farther and farther back towards the Landing.

I should be very glad to have some more Shiloh literature, if you can find it for me. I have the Century Warbook, and Force's "From Fort Henry to Corinth." But if Gen. Prentiss has published anything; or if there are personal or regimental narratives, in addition, I should like exceedingly to see them. (I seriously think of printing my own recollections, sometime!)

What would I not give for a day or two with Col. Giddes on the old battlefield! — I am writing Colonel Peebles. Ever yours — Tom.

Tuesday April the 8th 1862

[James Christie]

Dear Father I arrived here yesterday at about two o'clock. Without having had any trouble when I got to Beaverdam, there were three young ladies going to the Institute who got onto the train, the two Miss Dangers, of Burnett and Miss Roberts of Beaverdam, so we had a chance to get acquainted right away. When we got to the station at Fox Lake there were horse cars, to take us right up to within a very little way from the college. Mr Goldthorpe was in Beaverdam so I did not see him till this morning. I believe that he is about the best man I ever saw, as well as being a very religious man he is so pleasant with his scholars, he wants to make their time pass as pleasant as possible. He is all the time joking with us. This morning when a great many of the girls were feeling awful homesick and could hardly keep from bursting out crying (myself among the number), some of them really did start to crying. He commenced joking and laughing and telling funny stories that he soon had them all laughing, and then he got up on the platform and commenced saying, "You would scarce expect one ^{age, he} young and he did it in such a laughable manner, that he made them all laugh till they cried again. One of the college girls called out to him "Go ahead Mr. G. if you please

you will make an orator yet. Mr Faylord of Oakbrook arrived today to assist him in tending to the ladies, as Mr Allen could not come on account of the sickness of his family. There are about forty teachers here now from all parts of the states and more coming in all the time. Mr Faylord gave us a lecture this evening. He resembles Wendell Alex. very much, all the Centocoon teacher there is attending as yet is Mr George Lindsey. I have not had an introduction to him as yet but I will tomorrow. It is likely, as they are all introduced to each other as soon as there is a chance. They are having protracted meeting in the Baptist church just now and I went to prayer meeting last evening with about twenty of the college girls, and heard a great many good prayers for the soldiers. Mr Goldthays says grace before every meal and if not present one of the ladies takes his place and after we have eaten there is first a hymn sung and then a psalm read and then a prayer, we hear plenty of music as there is a melodeon in the sitting room, and any that want to play can, it is going almost all the time, and it makes splendid music.

We all study the morning branches, mental arithmetic and written, in the forenoon, and Geography, Grammar and orthography reading and spelling in the afternoon. We have no commence at the very beginning of every thing, and is awful thorough and learning to draw maps in the afternoon. She must

professor has not arrived yet. She uses Mr. Kilgus Geography here so I had to buy one which cost one dollar and a mental Smith Davis series cost twentyfive cents one bottle of ink, five cents, sponge for slate three cents two pencils two cents lead pencil five cents and 1.20 to come up here and five cents for this days sentinal which I will send to you with this letter. If you get any letters from the boys send them to me, or from Janet Clarkson. I am occupying a room with an English Lady from New Brunswick, her name is Miss Rebecca Gellage. Please and write to me when you get this, and if you would I would like you to send me the Independent. I must quit writing

like you
85 from Jamaica
128 to June

now for it is past ten o'clock and every one is in bed. I have
been studying all the evening, till half past nine, I am in
a great hurry which will account for the bad writing. This is
all the paper I had up stairs as my other paper is down stairs
in the school room. Write now, he will ^{or} you may expect
me home in a few days, your daughter
Sarah J. Hunter

you will see some news. I send, inside to me
about the army of the desert in the paper.

Westford, April 9, 1869,

[1862]

Dear Christie [Sara]

Hoping that you arrived home safe, and that you are enjoying yourself to the best of your ability, I seat myself to fulfill my promise to you.

My health is very good now. I returned home last Saturday afternoon, walked all the way, was tired when I reached home, I can tell you. Found "our folk" all well, and enjoyed to see me, especially my little brothers and sister.

I commenced

school last Monday. I have but fifteen scholars this week expect more soon. My school is very pleasant, and I am enjoying myself exceedingly, Mary Hubbard commenced the same day that I did.

I have not seen her yet but hope to soon, she teaches but about two miles from where I do.

I have not seen or heard from any of the girls since last Saturday, have you heard from Kelly yet I believe she promised to write me but am not certain I think her an excellent good girl she seemed so kind.

I have written to Mr Allen sent the letter today. The people ~~where~~ here are very kind and seem to exert themselves much for my benefit.

Will dear Christie have you forgotten Fox Lake yet and the many excellent girls there, myself included

of course". Have you forgotten those excellent Prayer meetings, methinks I hear you say no nor will I white existence rolls, I can tell you I never shall. I attended prayer meeting last Wednesday evening, walked about two miles, and back, but I did not mind that as it was pleasant, and we had an excellent time. Sylvia Ashley was there.

I must ask you dear Christie how you enjoy yourself, are you happy in the Savior, I believe you are and how ^{happy} I am to think it is thus. I am sometimes very happy while at other times I doubt but still I am determined to strive to serve my maker. Oh! 'tis such happiness to feel that we are his children and though we may never meet on Earth we shall all meet ~~him~~ around our Father's throne, and what is best of all never to part. Pray for me dear Christie and I will

endeavor to do the same by you.

How many precious promises the
blessed Bible contains, what a blessed
book, and how thankful ought we
to be for having such a guide,
and such a savior. Oh may we
prove faithful.

Have you heard from
your brothers, and how are they.
Oh I forgot to ask you if got your
certificate, I received mine Saturday
before I returned home the lowest
number marked on mine is eight.
I am eight in two studies, nine in
three, and ten in one. Have you
cast Got from your vocabulary of words
yet, write as soon as you get this,
for I am impatient to hear from you.
write all about yourself, and what you
are doing, I hope your health is good
but I fear quite otherwise as you looked
so pale, when you left. ^{From your sincere}
goodbye Dear Christina. ^{friend} Lot. Powers.
do I have room to write Please direct East Randolph
no more. Columbia Co.
I will endeavor to do better next time. ^{write}

Clyman April 10th 1862

My Dear Sarah (Christie)

I received Yours
to day, and am highly
pleased that ^{you} like Mr
Goldthwait so well,

I was not mistaken
in my estimate of the man.
Your stay in Fort Lake will
I hope and expect, be both
profitable, and agreeable
to you. Do not study too
severely. Be moderate in all
things. You ought to
join the Vocal Music

Class. it will strengthen
your lungs, and amuse
you, take the whole affair
easily. there is little doubt
that you will get a certificate
and then if, God wills you
may again go another
regular college term.
Pay attention to the
Religious Exercises. they
will develop your character
where you much require
it, and I hope impress
you with the necessity of
a Religious and Moral
life. Your Education

has been sadly neglected
in that department
it is of all others the
most important, in fact
all other things are as the
Sunt in the Balance.
Give your Heart to God
to do good in his sight
and you will prosper
in all that is for your
Ultimate Benefit.

I am trusting
that this Movement will
have great Effects on your
future Life. You will see
much that will inspire
you with a desire to Rise

towards Higher things
than are common
in Clymer... I allude
more particularly to
a Higher Estimate of the right
course of life.

I will send the
Independent to you when
it comes, and you can bring
it down with you.

You now know what it
cost to go up. Calculate all
your probable wants, and
let me know if you have
money enough to see you
home again. You know
money is scarce with me
but if you need more I will

Send it.

To day we saw
in a Chicago daily, there
has been a Great Battle
fought by Grant and the
Rebels, Great loss on both
sides, and I am extremely
anxious for a letter from
your Brothers. I hope it is
Gods Will that they are
spared yet we will soon
see details of the Battle
and then we will know if
they have been engaged.

Observe that I
was not acquainted with
Mr Lindsay in Scotland

only knew him.

Since

David visit to their House to any positions on the prairie, and I rather think one of the Boys came to our place here with his father, I presume to see what we were.

But in this Country, Character is the Entrance to all Society that is good. there are no Clap privileges. and if Man or Woman can show an Unblemished record they may aspire

If you should see a daily with details of the Battle purchase it and send it to me, If we get a letter from the Boys it will be sent to you.

And now Sarah. believe my Love to you is all directed to your true advancement. I can give no indulgence when it tends to evil in my estimation. But

A Great deal if for
Good, lead over the
part Troubles and see
if it is not so,

We all send
our Love to you. and
I subscribe.

My affectionate Regards
for your True Welfare
Christie

OFFICE

GREEN WARE

WAIT TILL THE WAR IS OVER

Apr. 10th. 1862

Field of Battle, Pittsburg.

Dear Father,

Knowing

how anxious you will
be to hear from me.

I take the first chance
I have had, to write.

Well, in the first place
(to your mind) Km. and
I are both well although
both of us were hit.

He by a ball glancing
off a limb was struck
on the calf of his leg.
The ball tore his pants
and left a black scar.
I was touched on my

WAIT STILL THE WAR IS OVER. Apr. 10th. 1862

Field of Battle, Pittsburg.

Dear Father,

Knowing
how anxious you will
be to hear from us,
I take the first chance
I have had, to write.

Well, in the first place
(to your mind) Ann and
I are both well although
both of us were hit.

She by a ball glancing
off a limb was struck
on the calf of his leg.
The ball tore his pants
and left a black scar.
I was touched on my

right arm, the bullet
left a scar which pains
me yet. Our list

of casualties is as follows

~~Killed~~, + R. C. Tillson

..... + C. J. Fandal

..... H. Stinson.

Wounded Capt. Munch

..... + Lieut. Peebles.

..... + Sergt. Clayton

..... + Sergt. Connor

..... Corp. Davis.

..... + J. Johnson.

..... G. Larnare.

..... H. Blood.

Those marked with +
are from my Section
of two guns, which were
in the heaviest of the
fight on Sunday.

As you know ~~probably~~

the Rebels surprised
us in our camp,
and the first of our
fight was just outside
of our tents. All our
Baggage was taken and
we are without a change
of shirts. But that is
nothing, we whipped
them, and are only
anxious to advance
and help clean them
out utterly. He knows
nothing of the details of
the battle, and hears
all kinds of rumors.
Please save carefully all
the newspaper accounts
of the battle. I saw
Gen. Hardee's body, and got
some lace from his

sleeve.

All the descriptions of Battle Scenes I ever read fall short of what I have seen since Sunday morning.

The 16th and 18th Wisconsin suffered pretty severely.

Charley Visgar of the 16th is wounded in the head.

No letters yet, and they say that our letters will not be allowed to go away. However, I have done my duty in writing No more at present.

J D Christie

sleeve.

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J D Christie

Clyman Wis.

April 15th 1862

[Miss Sarah Christie]

Dear Sister,

This being the first
opportunity I have
had to send you
a letter, since the
Battle of Pittsburg
I will get one away
this morning.
We have had no
letter from the Boys

Clyman Wis.

April 15th 1862

[Miss Sarah Christie]

Dear Sister,

This being the first
opportunity I have
had to send you
a letter, since the
Battle of Pittsburg
I will get one away
this morning.
We have had no
letter from the Boys

but we expect one
within a day or two.

Now if you see any
direct mention of
Capt. Munch
in a paper send
it down to us.

We get a daily every
night (The train
did not stop last
night and so we
did not get it)
but have seen no

details of the fight.

It must have
seemed queer to
D. and W. V. to
be roused from their
breakfasts to meet the
enemy of Republi-
can freedom in
the hardest contes-
ted battle-fields of
the War. I have no
more time to write
You must excuse the

Sad writing.

Now dont
feel worried
about the Boys.
I know they are
all right.

Write soon.

A.S.C.

Min Battery Co. New
4th Brigade. Col. Buckland

Sherrans Division
Western Tenn.

Blyman April 16th
1862

[Christie]

My Dear Sarah, I received
your letter to day, we are
glad you feel well, we
are as usual. But like
you very anxious about
the Boys. they were in
the Battle. But we
see no account of their
Battery. although their
Brigade was named
as having fought the
Enemy. 48th 70th and
72nd Foot Ohio and

the Second Illinois
Cavalry, transferred to
place of the 5th Ohio
Cavalry, that is their
Brigade, under Col.
Buckland

to day I have
written a letter to Captain
Munch making enquiries.
But it may not reach him
for a long time. We will
find out about J. G. and
W. G. if they are killed or
wounded, just so soon as
the Lists are published.
They are begining.

the St Paul prep of next
week may possibly have
some news about them.

There is nothing
for us but patience
and Submission to the
Will of God. I saw all this
trouble before us when they
enlisted. if they are now
safe there will be many more
battles to be fought, and
our wills must be bent
to give them up. Let us
trust in God. if they are
gone, that we will meet
them in another world

they have fought in a
Good Cause, the Cause
of Liberty, Justice and
Righteousness, they went
to fight for principle and
shall have their reward.

Let us do as well
in the Battle of Life, as
I am sure they have done
and it will be well for us.

Prepare yourself for
any news that may come
Have faith in God and
the ultimate triumph
of Righteousness, and
murmur not even if

The Boys are Gone.

I think that you
did right in speaking
your real feelings out,
do not become disappointed

It would make my
Heart Glad if I heard
that you had become
a Christian upon conviction
attend upon the means
of Grace offered you up
there it may be that you
will become that.

Resist Not, but
allow your better feelings
to conquer your Reluctance

But become not a professing Christian upon mere excitement. The reciprocity of a Christian's Life becomes to me more and more apparent every day that I live. Whether you are capable of coming up to all that you think is required of those who believe in Christ, gives you trouble. If you believe and ~~are~~ willing, you will learn.

You cannot too soon learn to submit all things to God.

To follow Christ while
bring peace, and happiness,
that will be Eternal.

But do not become a Professor upon mere excitement, wait a little, and Endeavour through God's Grace and Private Prayer to make up your whole mind and heart, I do not mean by this that you are to wait until you become perfect before becoming a follower of Christ. it is

for sinners and the
 imperfect, that the Gospel
 is given. I only mean
 that you shall not in
 too great haste adopt
 a course that you are
 not prepared for. lest
 afterwards, you may
 lose heart and turn
 back, May God Guide
 you in all things. is

the wish of my heart
 Give yourself no uneasiness
 about your Brother

Believe me your
 affectionate Father
 J Christie

If you get any news of the boys
send it along, as I am very anxious) April 17th 1862, Fox Lake Dodge Co Wis

[Alexander]

Dear Brother you do not know what pleasure

it gave me to receive a letter from you. I received it yesterday and was
set down to answer it, it being the first time that I have had time. I do not
have time now, but I take it as Mother says, "It is just after supper and
the rest of the Ladies are down in the parlour just below me playing on the
melodion and singing. Mr Seylard and Mr Packard is helping them. Mr Packard
arrived the day that I sent the letter to Father he is brother to the State
Superintendent. Mr Allen has not arrived yet they are expecting him every day.
Mr Goldthwait has not arrived from Lowell yet Mrs Goldthwait said this morning
that she expected him on Saturday. The case that he had on hand is decided he is
not the County Superintendent. Mr Phelps of Beavertown is but Mr Gold
will examine the teachers this year. ~~you~~

You never saw two look more alike.

than Mr Seylard and Uncle Alex. I do not think that Mr Seylard will
live long he looks just ^{like} Uncle Alex did before he went to Cuba the last
time. It always makes me sorry when I look at him, he has had a great
deal of trouble lately too. just before he came here he had an only son
a small boy die of convulsions. And he has a daughter that is going
the ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ same way. The way that I came to know was that last night
he went to prayer meeting with three other girls ~~head~~ ^{and} and he told
us as we were going. He is almost the best man that I ever saw. The
girls say of Mr Packard and him, that they like Mr Packard but they
~~love~~ ^{love} Mr Seylard. He is going away I believe as soon as Mr Allen comes.
He said last night that he did not want to go away till he saw Miss
Powers and Miss Brink, and myself converted, there was a new convert
yesterday it was Miss Sylvester of Beavertown. They have had first fruits
meetings here in Fox Lake now for 3 months prayer meetings every evening.
I have been out every evening but two since I came here. I was at prayer
meeting this morning at half past eight held at the Baptist Church. There
were present delegates present from the various Sunday Schools of the County
schools from Wiertown and Milwaukee. Rev Wm. Parmelee of Oak Grove
was present. Brother to Egbert. There is to be a great meeting this evening.

and Lectures delivered on the subject of Sunday Schools. They call themselves the Dodge Co. Sunday School Union. I am going tonight I believe for the last time for a good while, as I find that it does not agree with me to be out so much at night. I have a very bad cold and then I do not have time to study my lessons and we have very hard ones. But it is getting very dark and the second Church bell has rung, so I will tell you all about it when I come back so I will say good bye till I get back.

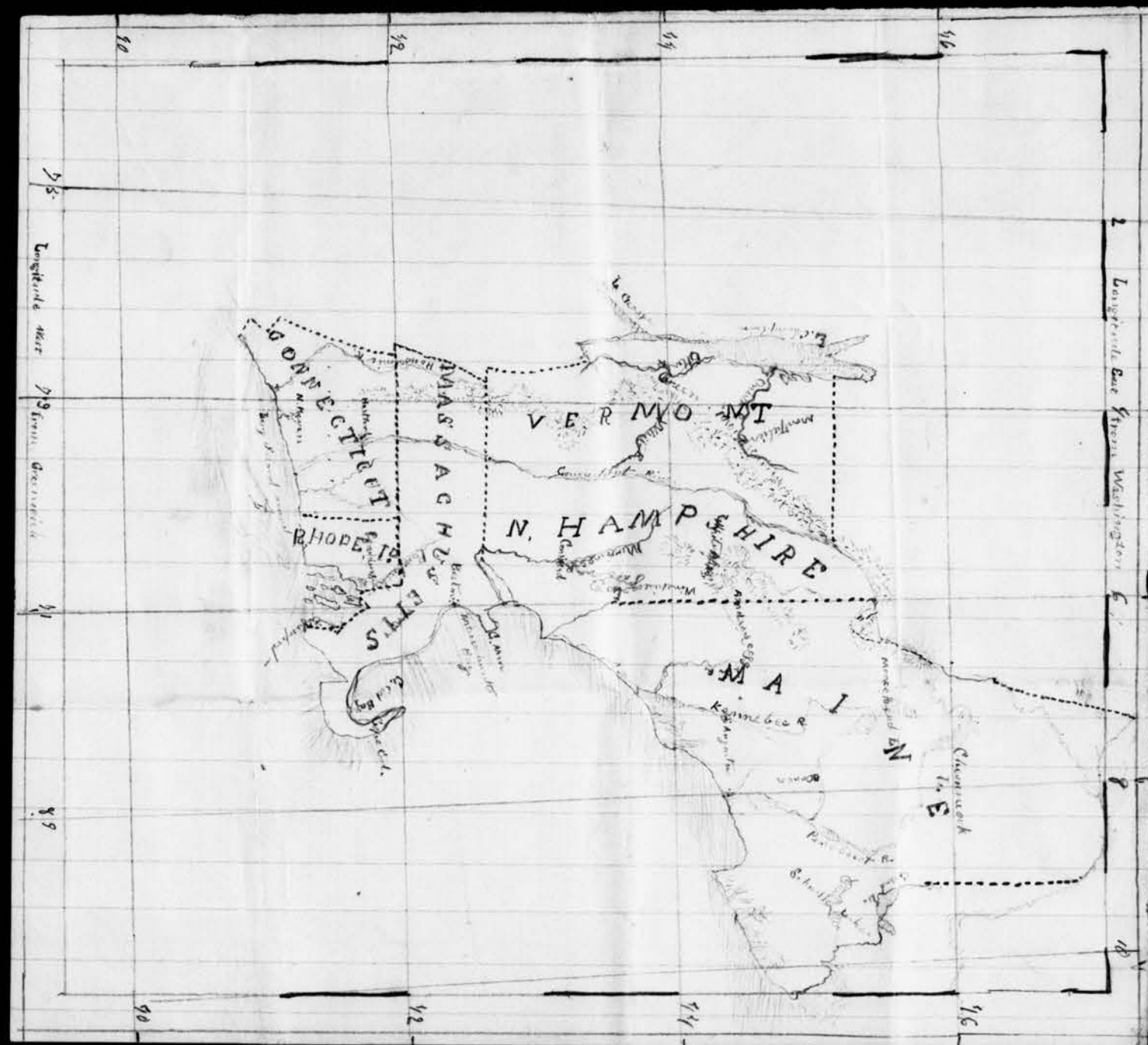
Dear Brother it is now half past ten o'clock. I have just got home from the meeting. The Church was crowded, about one third were Sunday School children from different parts of the county. There were some lectures delivered the first by Mr. Parmelee and the next by Mr. Best of the Congregationalist Church, and then Mr. Hodge of the Baptist Church of Breckenridge and many more that I can not think of now. I enjoyed it very much. I think that when I come home we will try to start a Sunday school in Osmon.

But I must tell you something about our studies and how they are classified. First I am always up very early before sunrise. I am about always up before anyone else, my plan is that as soon as I wake up in the morning no matter how early it is, I jump right up. It requires quite an effort at first, but now it is very easy.

I then wash and dress, and comb, then I take my books and study in our room or I go down to one of the sitting rooms and study there. We have breakfast at about a quarter past seven, the bell is rung and we all rush down stairs to the dining room. we all take our stand at the back of our chair till the head of the table makes a signal when we all draw back our chairs and take our seats. Then a blessing is asked, and then we are all helped to victuals, and at a given signal commence, when we are done we sit still and there is a chapter of the Bible read and the verse sung, when we all pull back our chairs and kneel down and a prayer is offered. We then go back to our studies. The ones who wish to join in it have a prayer meeting directly after breakfast, at half past eight the school bell is rung for an extra class in Physiology (did I spell it right) to recite, at nine the bell is rung for school. We all take our books and a rush is made for the school room better sheller you can hear them running in all directions through the buildings. Then there are fifteen minutes of Devotional exercises first

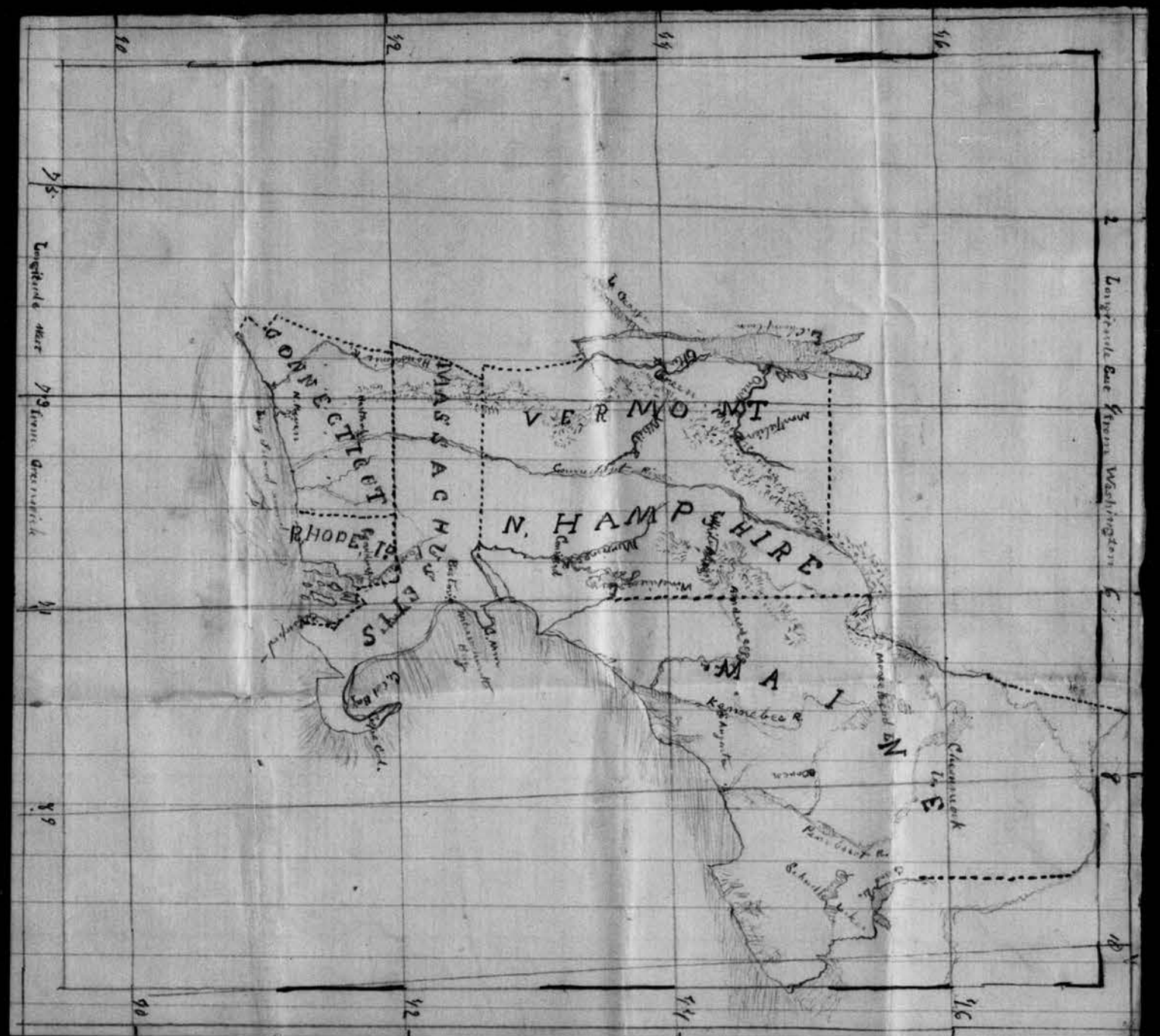
a chapter is read then a hymn is sung accompanied by the melodeon then prayers. Then the roll is called each teacher responding to his or her name by a verse from the Bible, and then come the recitations. Mr. Heyland snaps his thumb and finger together when we all spring into position in rows down the aisles. We snap again and we all move in order to the recitation benches, we must be as precise ^{if you may} as soldiers when the signals are given, first comes mental arithmetic, till ten, another snap and we are on our feet another and we begin to move to our seats. Another and we are on our feet again another and we are dismissed for six minutes recess then the bell is rung and Algebra till eleven then another recess and then Written Arithmetic till twelve, at one the school is called with the same exercises, and Orthography and Reading till two, also the breathing exercise in the same hour, which is divided into 4 classes they are the aspirative, breathing, expulsive, explosive and explosive, not all have to fill our lungs with breath and then let off as the directs, one of the ways given above, the second hour from two till three is geography and the next is Grammar.

then from four till five our have lectures delivered on the theory and practice
 of teaching. The subject tonight was the teachers care of his or her health
 by Mr. Pickard. He is the funniest and jolliest man I ever saw.
 he made out in his lecture tonight that the stomach was the centre
 of civilization. But I cannot tell you the half that I want to. I will
 have a thousand things to say when I get home. At half past six in
 the evening there is an extra class in history. the recess time is taken
 up with singing and metatone playing. There is a good library open
 to all full of excellent books. But I dare not go into the library for
 fear of being tempted. I got the Independent today and was very glad to
 get it but have not read any in it as yet not having had any time
 not even Moses and Aaron I have not read. But I can read it on
 Saturday as there is no school or on Sunday. In our Geography
 class we have just commenced to draw maps with lead pencil. I
 will send you my first and only one as a specimen. My hand feels
 as if I could not write another word. I must be fast asleep. I don't let my eye
 read this letter to sleep. I am sure with my pen I can write
 much better.



ENCLOSURE

then from four till five and have lectures delivered on the theory and practice
 of teaching, the subject tonight was the teachers care of his or her health
 by Mr. Dickard. He is the funniest and glibest man I ever saw.
 he made out in his lecture tonight that the stomach was the centre
 of civilization. But I cannot tell you the half that I want to. I will
 have a thousand things to say when I get home. at half past six in
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 get it. But have not read any in it as yet not having had any time
 not even Moses and Aaron I have not read. But I can read it on
 Saturday as there is no school in our academy. In our Geography
 class we have just commenced to draw maps with lead pencil. I
 will send you my first and only one as a specimen. My hand feels
 as if I could not write another word. it must be past eleven. don't let me see
 as if I could not write another word. it must be past eleven. don't let me see
 Read this letter to satisfy my hurried writing. be sure and write to me
 Sarah J. Christie



ENCLOSURE

Tuesday April 18th 1862

Dear Father I received your kind letter on Saturday morning and now will proceed to answer it. I was anxious when I received it to find out about the battle that you spoke of, as I had not heard anything about it. Mr. Solthorst got a daily for me from which I learned that the Regiment that Luther is in was engaged but did not see any mention of our boys company. Oh, how I hope that they were not in it. but I am afraid to get a letter from you, you must have heard all about it by this time and know whether they were in it or not, do write to me and let me know all about it. I expect to get a letter today or tomorrow, and the Independent.

to Beaurdson yesterday, I believe that he has got a ^{com} ~~com~~ ^{are on hand} Mr. Solthorst and

concerning the Superintendent. I believe that his opponent in Beaurdson is trying to make out that he was not lawfully elected. I suppose he is going to Lowell also to examine the teachers there. Mr. Fayard of Oakford is in his place till Mr. Allen comes they expect him today. There is also another teacher that came yesterday I do not know his name. The teachers are divided into two divisions the first and 2^d ^{teachers} and are half of the ^{teachers} in each of them. The 1st division of mental arithmetic and of reading spelling and Grammar and in the 2^d division of written arithmetic and Geography.

I have been attending prayer meetings every evening since I came here except two, at the Baptist Church. Rev. Mr. Fish is the minister I like him very much. On Sunday I attended their covenant meeting at half past ten and then went down northward to the lake to see the ~~view~~ ^{scenery}. We then came home to dinner after which we went to the Quarterly Concert at the Methodist Church, and in the evening attended the Sermon at the Baptist Church. Mr. Solthorst takes a great interest in the religious feelings of the teachers as also does Mr. Fayard. There are about fifty teachers here fifteen of whom are not ^{Christians} ~~Christians~~. We have prayer meeting every morning at half

Thursday April 18th 1862

Dear Father I received your kind letter on Saturday morning and now will proceed to answer it. I was anxious when I received it to find out about the battle that you spoke of, as I had not heard anything about it. Mr. Goldthwait got a letter for me from which I learned that the Regiment that Luther is in was engaged but did not see any mention of our boys company. Oh, how I hope that they were not in it. but I am afraid to get a letter from you, you must have heard all about it by this time and know whether they were in it or not, do write to me and let me know all about it. I expect to get a letter today or tomorrow, and the Independent.

Mr. Beumerden yesterday, I believe that he has got a ^{care} ~~care~~ ^{on hand} from Mr. Goldthwait

concerning the Superintendence. I believe that his opponent in Beers is trying to make out that he was not lawfully elected. I suppose he is going to Lomel also to examine the teachers there. Mr. Fayard of Oshkosh is in his place till Mr. Allen comes they expect him today. There is also another teacher that came yesterday I do not know his name. The teachers are divided into two divisions the first and 2^d. ^{teachers} but one half of ~~the~~ ^{teachers} are in each of them. In the first division of mental arithmetic and of reading spelling and Grammar and in the 2^d division of written arithmetic and Geography.

I have been attending prayer meetings every evening since I came here except two, at the Baptist Church. Rev. Mr. Fish is the minister I like him very much. On Sunday I attended their covenant meeting at half past ten and then went down northward to the lake to see our converts. Baptized two of them members of the institute. We then came home to dinner after which we went to the Quarterly Concert at the Methodist Church, and in the evening attended the Sermon at the Baptist Church. Mr. Goldthwait takes a great interest in the religious feelings of the teachers as also does Mr. Fayard. There are about fifty teachers here fifteen of whom are not ^{Christians} ~~Christians~~. We have prayer meeting every morning at half

Monday April the 21st 1862

Dear Father I got your
letter of the 16th on ~~Friday~~^{Friday} morning and
you may be sure it did me a great deal of
good in more ways than one, I hope that
you have had good tidings of the boys by
this time, even if you get bad news let me
know. ~~I hope that all will be well with them~~

~~and~~ On Friday just after I had got your
letter, I was standing talking to two young
Ladies of Beavertown Miss Dunton and Miss Walker
Students of the University here, when the brother
of Miss Dunton came in, to tell them that they
must go home for their cousin ~~was~~^{had} just come
home wounded from Pittsburg Landing, so they
told me that they would make inquiry of
their cousin about T. D. and M. S. He was in the
14th W. Regt. The girls came back today and
they told me that their cousin said that he did
not know anything about what Regiment were
here, he said it was dark when they commenced
and they were not allowed to speak a word they did

Monday April the 21st 1862

Dear Father I got your
letter of the 16th on ~~Friday~~^{Friday} morning and
you may be sure it did me a great deal of
good in more ways than one, I hope that
you have had good tidings of the boys by
this time, even if you get bad news let me
know, ~~if it is not too late to write to you~~
~~any thing~~ On Friday just after I had got your
letter, I was standing talking to two young
Ladies of Beavertown Miss Hunter and Miss Kelley
Students of the University there, when the brother
of Miss Hunter came in to tell them that they
must go home for their cousin had just come
home wounded from Pittsburg Landing, so they
told me that they would make inquiries of
their cousin about G. D. and W. H. He was in the
14th W. Regt. The girls came back today and
they told me that their cousin said that he did
not know anything about what Regiment was
there, he said it was dark when they commenced
and they were not allowed to speak a word they did

not even know what regiment were sent to
them. He was wounded at the very first of the
engagement, and was sent right home. I may
as well tell you now that it was telegraphed
here this morning that Gen. Kearney is dead
he was drowned at Pittsburg. I did not learn any
particulars only that it was getting out of a bad I
believe. But I suppose you have heard of it
before this, they were telling the fact this forenoon.
Mr. Goldthwaite got home on Saturday night,
from Lowell he said that he had met with
a relative of mine, down there he said that Thos.
David was at the examination, and that he was
in Thos. David's store. I don't suppose that any
of you were up, here, you can tell Mr. Allen
and Grandmother that Mr. L., told me that
F. Ella Pierce made out the best papers in
regard to good writing, spelling, and punctuation,
he said that she was one of the best and modest
writers that he had seen. Now I know that you
think that I am a most miserable writer, but
when I am writing answers to questions in
the class, I write better than the most of

But when I am writing to any of you
I have not any time to spare so I just
scribble it out any way so that you can
read it. Mr. Gaylord went away this
morning and I can tell you that we
were all very sorry to part with him. Mr. Allen
arrived on Saturday and he is another good
man. I never saw such a collection of
real good people in my life. They seem
to be every one better than another. I have
not time to sing their praises now, so I
will wait till I get home. He commenced
this afternoon to take lessons in drawing
from Mr. Allen on the blackboard. The lesson
consisted in drawing straight lines, and
squares, you need not send me any
money, as I do not think that I shall need
it, as we are not taking any more lessons.

But do send me word about the boys even
if you have not had any news of them do
write and let me know. It seems to me
sometimes when I begin to think that I can
not stay here another day in such a state
of suspense. I try to think a little about them

not even know what Regiment were sent to them. He was wounded at the very first of the engagement, and was sent right home. I may as well tell you now that it was telegraphed here this morning that Gen. Kearney is dead he was drowned at Pittsburg. I did not learn any particulars only that it was getting out of a head I believe. But I suppose you have heard of it before this, they were telling the bell this forenoon. Mr. Solthausen got home on Saturday night, from Council he said that he had met with a relative of mine, down there he said that Thos David was at the examination, and that he was in Uncle David's store. I don't suppose that any of you were up, there, you can tell Ellen and I understand that Mr. L., told me that Ella Peere made out the best papers in regard to good Writing spelling and punctuation, he said that she was one of the best and neatest writers that he had seen, Now I know that you think that I am a most miserable writer, but when I am writing answers to questions in the class, I write better than the most ^{them} of

But when I am writing to any of you I have not any time to spare so I just scribble it out any way so that you can read it. Mr. Seydore went away this morning and I can tell you that we were all sorry to part with him. Mr. Allen arrived on Saturday and he is another good man, I never saw such a collection of real good people in my life they seem to be every one better than another. I have not time to sing their praises now so I will wait till I get home. He commenced this afternoon to take lessons in drawing from Mr. Allen on the blackboard. The lesson consisted in drawing straight lines and squares, you need not send me any money, as I do not think that I shall need it, as we are not taking any more lessons. But do send me word about the boys even if you have not had any news of them do write and let me know. It seems to me sometimes when I begin to think that I can not stay here another day in such a state of suspense, I try to think as little about them

as I can help. Oh, it is very hard to think of giving them up, there is one thing that I have learned to do since I came here that is worth all the rest to me and that is to read the Bible and to pray. You will hardly believe it of me, who was so regardless of such things. But it is so. I have learned to pray in earnest. I have tried to pray before, but I did not feel it. Well, and I used to say our prayers but we talked about it and we made up our minds that it was hypocritical and we would not do it any more. But now I can feel it and I think it a blessed privilege. I have taken part in the morning prayer meetings since last Sunday. Saturday, on Sunday morning, and for a good many days before I felt very miserable. I felt that there was no hope for me but in giving myself up to Jesus. Mr. Byland had talked and prayed for me and so had Mr. Fish and Elder Pyron from Antisauken, but it only made me feel more miserable. But that morning as I was sitting in the school room where school commenced, Miss Cates of Riverdown came to me and put her arms around me and kissed me, and ~~she~~ asked me why I did not submit to the spirit working within me, my heart was so full that I could not answer her. I left the room and went up to my room and locked the door, knelt down and poured out my soul to God. I think that I gave everything up to him. I read my Testament and prayed all forenoon and evening. I even lay down. Some feelings were calm and peaceful. I met Miss Cates in the hall and she said as soon as she saw me, Oh, I know that you have

found Jesus. I told her just how I felt. She threw her arms around me and said I knew that you had found him. I think I never felt so happy in my life. ~~She~~ Miss Cates is the best Christian I ever saw. Oh, she is so good. Such a sweet expression on her dear face. She is 25 years of age has been a teacher for a great while, such a lot of handshaking I had that night of prayer meeting. I never felt such a hearty grasp. It seemed as if their hearts went with it, and you do not know how happy I felt and how happy I feel now. Oh, how I wish that you would begin to have burning worship. I know that it would be for the benefit of all of us, we all need strength and it is what we must pray for. I pray for it all the time. I never knew my own weakness so well as I do now. I find out that I am nothing in myself. But Jesus is strong he can bear us up. Oh, how I wish that you could know the good Christians that are up here. I wish that there were such good people in Glynne. I can now see the immeasurable distance between them and the people that I have been used to associate with in the eastern part of our town. I can now see that you were in the right and always was in regard to everything. I have every reason to be thankful to God in giving me such a good Father, and to be so tried as you have been. Oh, what a disobedient ungrateful child I have been to you, and to Mother also. I hope that you will both forgive me and I promise you, to do better in the future. I hope that the boys will do just as you say in all things. But they were always better than what I was. I think that we must try and get up a Sunday school this summer in Glynne. I think if we tried that we could. It might be the means of doing some good, and Glynne is the place of all places that needs such a thing as a Sunday school as ~~some~~ religious

as I can help. Oh, it is very hard to think of giving them up, there is one thing that I have learned to do since I came here that is worth all the rest to me and that is to read the Bible and to pray, you will hardly believe it of me, who was so regardless of such things. But it is so. I have learned to pray in earnest. I have tried to pray before, but I did not feel it. Wellen and I used to say our prayers but we talked about it and we made up our minds that it was hypocritical and we would not do it any more. But now I can feel it, and I think it a blessed privilege. I have taken part in the morning prayer meetings since last ~~Friday~~ Saturday, on Friday morning, and for a good many days before I felt very miserable I felt that there was no hope for me but in giving myself up to Jesus. Mr. Bayard had talked and prayed for me and so had Mr. Fish and Elder Pyron from Smithwick, but it only made me feel more miserable. But that morning as I was sitting in the school room before school commenced, Miss Cates of Beavertown came to me and put her arms round me and kissed me, and ~~and~~ asked me why I did not submit to the Spirit working within me, my heart was so full that I could not answer her, I left the room and went up to my room and locked the door knelt down and poured out my soul to God. I think that I gave everything up to him. I read one Epistle and prayed all forenoon and evening. I went down stairs feeling very calm and peaceful. I met Miss Cates in the hall and she said as soon as she saw me, Oh, I know that you have

found Jesus. I told her just how I felt. She threw her arms around me and said I know that you had found him. I think I never felt so happy in my life. ~~the~~ Miss Cates is the best Christian I ever saw. Oh, she is so good. Such a sweet expression on her dear face. She is 23 years of age has been a teacher for aged white, such a lot of handwriting I had that night of prayer meeting. I never felt such a hearty grasp. It seemed as if their hearts went with it, and you do not know how happy I felt and how happy I feel now. Oh, how I wish that you would begin to have kindly worship, as known that it would be for the benefit of all of us, we all need strength and it is what we must pray for. I pray for it all the time. I never found my own weakness so well as I do now. I kind of feel that I am nothing in myself. But Jesus is strong he can bear us up. Oh, how I wish that you could know the good Christians that are here. I wish that there were some such good people in Chamon. I can now see the immeasurable distance between them and the people that I have been used to associate with in the eastern part of our town. I can now see that you were in the right and always were in regard to everything. I have every reason to be thankful to God in giving me such a good Father, and to be so kind as you have been. Oh, what a disinterested ungrateful child I have been to you, and to Mother also. I hope that you will both forgive me and I promise you, to do better in the future. I hope that the boys will do just as you say in all things. But they were always better than most boys. I think that we must try and get up a Sunday school this summer in Chamon. I think if we tried that we could. It might be the means of doing some good, and Chamon is the place of all places that needs such a thing as a Sunday school or a more religious

exercise of some rest on the Sabbath. But I cannot
write much more as it is very late and I must think
of going to bed. Oh, how I wish that you could hear Mr
Goldthorn or Mr. Lyland praying for the Soldiers. It always
seems to me to ~~help~~ personally to my Brothers. Oh,
how it would make my heart ~~leap~~ if I should
get a letter with their well known handwriting.
upon it, you must have had news by this time, I
hope you have and that good news, too. I almost know
you have. I can not make myself realize that they
might be dead. something seems to tell me that they
are safe. I almost know they are. though when I get
to thinking I do not mind that something. But what
ever way it is one must teach ourselves to hope
they will be done, not soon will, but they will. I will
hope for the best, till further news, and now I cannot
write any more. you know the reason of such scribbles
writing. Give my love to Mother and the boys and
to all the rest of our Friend I sign myself.

your loving Daughter
Sarah J. Christie

P.S. you do not know what good it does me to get a letter
from you



Fox Lake, April. 22-1862.

Dear Father, I received James letter, a few days ago, but I could hardly spare time to write to you then. and, I got the dollar also, that you were so kind, as to send to me. I did not think, that I would need it. But it just came in good time, as I had to have, my shoes mended, with part of it. Oh, I was so glad to hear from the boys, I cannot be thankful enough, that they have been spared. There ^{is} ~~was~~ a young Lady here, who has a brother, in the army, and, his name was published in, the Gazette, as being among the killed! she was almost crazy, about it, but, it turned out to be false, for, the next day, she received a letter from him, dated after the battle. so you see, we must not depend upon what the papers say. I received the letter from Jeannette Clarkson this morning, and have answered it. She says, that they are expecting James home soon. every day, he wrote in his last letter to them, that he had been very sick, with the measles, and, he had taken cold after and was very sick. He is going to be discharged. She said, that he told them, in the letter, that he would stop in Watertown a few days, and to see us when he got to Ogham. So if he does stop, at our house, you may expect him, in a day, or two, if he is not there now, I would like to see him before he goes home, so I hope that he will not come till I get home. Jeannette told me that Blair has sold out (that is, Williams claim) to a man in Mt. Charles, by the name of ~~Spae~~ ^{Case}, they are great friends of the Robertsons. She did not tell me what he got for it. That is about all the news she told me, except that James Strachan, was guarding Telegraph wires down south, he was out in the battle of Pittsburg. I saw in the daily of yesterday that New Orleans

has been taken and that the rebels had evacuated Corinth and gone to Memphis, it is supposed. So, I suppose that our boys will be at another battle at Memphis, But Mr Allen and Goldthwaite do not now think that the rebels will try much to hold that place, they think that it will be a very easy victory there,

We are expecting the State Superintendent to deliver a lecture here to night, and then Friday night. Judge McArthur will give us another, he is a Scotchman. I believe, Mr Allen is a great admirer of Scotchmen, and everything that is scotch he can talk it pretty well himself. Last night Mr Goldthwaite told him that I was scotch, and he thereupon insisted that I should read something out of Burns to him, I told him that I could not do it, even so well as he could. But he would not take any excuse, so I had to read the Cotters Saturday night and several other pieces that he picked out, I did it the best I could, and he seemed to be highly delighted. He knows all the scotch songs that I ever heard of and can sing them too,

We are going to be examined on Friday and Saturday, so, I think, that I will be home, on Saturday, you need not answer this letter of course, since I am coming home so soon. This is a beautiful day outside and I see every one making garden. I expect that you and Mother will have some garden made before I get home. I do not think that I can spare time to write any more at present. Mr Allen excused me this forenoon to write to Jennette and you. I hope that this will find you all enjoying good health. Give my love to all our friends. I remain your loving Daughter

Sarah J. Christie

1862
Clyman April 29th

My Dear Sarah [Christie]

I hope that
will find you in your
usual state of health,
Your last letter gave
me much real gratification
it moved me more than
I was telling any one
should be. God has
blessed me above what
I had dared to hope

May his Grace be
with you and lead
you. You must

have felt happy when
you receive Tom's -
letter. I have received
one from him and
William's since. Giving
detail of what William
saw. Tom says nothing
but I wish he would
give me a description
of the battle. He leaves
the top of his Diary
and note Brook and
feels bad at their loss
I expect you home on
Monday. G. Cotton
was asking about you
and I told him I expected
you on Monday.

if you get a Certificate
you must come home
because they desire to
commence school.

We are so busy
getting in wheat or I write
here writes you sooner.
Tom says he has got a
letter from Tybee -
and that Clarkson is
discharged for ill health.

Leather Poyes
was in the 18th and is
returned home sick.

I would have
sent you on the Indep
endent. Only I thought

You had enough on
hands besides, I have
written a letter to your
Uncle Robert, giving him
your letter (that is its
contents), I am thinking
I should have had
another letter from
you. You must come
home on Monday if
possible, I write this
in an interval of bowing
therefore it is very
Brief.

Believe me
Your Affectionate
Christie