

To my father this volume is presented with the hope that it will bring back to your memory many pleasant recollections of the old home, old friends, and of the field camp and march.

By your son,
L. M. Bloomfield

Columbus, O.
Jan. 1st 1893

The letters are given nearly verbatim from the originals. Occasionally the sentences have been recast to make the meaning more clear, but it was sought to maintain, as far as possible, the grammatical errors have, in most cases, been corrected.

Repetitions, common to all familiar letters, have in many cases for the sake of brevity, been omitted. Without doubt many mistakes have been made, which, under the circumstances, it was not possible to avoid. Many of the letters were almost illegible, and other mistakes have no doubt been made through unfamiliarity with the names, places, and events.

I am fortunate, however, in being able to submit them to their author who will, I trust, find pleasure in going over the letters and making such corrections as are necessary.

I have reserved a few blank pages in the back of the book where errata may be entered.

Finally I desire to compliment my co-laborers in the execution of this work. To my esteemed friend, Miss Eva Janette Sells of Columbus, Ohio, I am especially indebted for the elegant execution of the typewritten work, and for her valuable assistance rendered during their compilation.

To the Lutheran Book Concern of Columbus, Ohio, I am indebted for the substantial and artistic binding of the volume.

Very Respectfully,

Loyd Morris Bloomfield.

Columbus, Ohio, January 1st, 1893.

CAMP CHASE.

Tuesday, Sept, 24th, 1861.

Parents, Brothers and Sisters:-

I arrived at Camp safe and sound and feel well satisfied so far. I hope that these few lines may find you all well, and I hope that Mother is composed by this time. We took dinner in the Capital today. The Capitol is by far the finest edifice I ever saw.

We have received word to march to Louisville, Kentucky, tomorrow at one o'clock; a little unexpected to all of us.

There are over two hundred rebel prisoners in this camp. One is a captain and he says that he is glad that he has been taken prisoner. The rest of the boys are all well at present. I have not had a talk with Lewis yet.

You need not write me until I write again. There are no guns here for us yet. I would like to have that money to buy a revolver as soon as possible. There! the Captain says the tents have come and I must stop writing and go out and pitch them, so no more at present.

I remain,

Your affectionate Son,

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ON BOARD THE STEAMER
COL. ANDERSON BOUND
FOR LOUISVILLE.
Sept, 26th, 1861.

We started from Columbus last night; about five o'clock, this morning we reached Cincinnati. We went from five last night until two this afternoon without anything to eat, and you may believe we had good appetite for bread and meat. The boat we are on is about three hundred feet long. We will get to Louisville about two o'clock tomorrow. We have one hundred and thirty horses on board for our battery, which is ready for us. We have a very good crowd and have all sorts of fun. Many of the boys have revolvers and are shooting at ducks and geese and dogs as we go along. I cannot tell you half I have seen since I started from home. We have stopped at three towns since we started from Cincinnati. This is a very pleasant day for traveling. The river is about three-quarters of a mile wide. Some of the cornfields I have seen contain from one hundred to fifteen hundred acres. We have been cheered from both sides of the river so far. The women wave their handkerchiefs where-ever we meet them. We have just passed a beautiful island. We are on the deck of the boat. Bob is asleep; Asahel is writing on my satchel and I on my canteen. Cleveland is the prettiest town we have seen yet, by far. I guess I will quit for the present. This boat wiggles so I can hardly write. Direct your letters to Louisville in care of Capt. Cotter.

Sept, 27th, 1861.

We arrived at Louisville safe and in good season. They said, at a town a little below the mouth of the Kentucky river, the rebels had a battery planted and were going to stop our boat. It was dark when we passed the place and they let us pass in peace. We lay all night on the boat. There was one of our men deserted or got drowned we do not know which.

Louisville is a very large City and very pretty. We have seen lots of slaves here. We are encamped in an Omnibus line yard waiting orders to march. We are going to a town about forty miles from here. The Union men of the town gave us our dinner.

No more at present.

A. S. Bloomfield.

October, 1st, 1861.

I have had the pleasure of training on the cannon for the first time. The guns arrived this forenoon. I expect all of you would like a description of our camp living, equipage, etc. Our camp lies about one and one-half miles from the center of Louisville, Ky., on the Oakland Fair Grounds, a piece of land containing about 50 acres, or maybe a little less, on the west side of the road; large corn-field on the west of the camp probably containing 80 or 100 acres and woods on the north. Our living consists of pork, rice, potatoes, coffee and crackers; we have sugar to put in our coffee but no cream, only when we milk the cows that come in the camp, and that is pretty often. The owner of the ground has 50 cows. We get vinegar and salt; then we have another way of getting cabbage, sweet-potatoes, etc.; we call it drawing. Our guns arrived today. There are but five guns on the ground yet but the Captain says the other guns will be here soon. They are rifle cannons about the size of that gun at Ravenna. There is a cassion which is drawn behind the cannon, and then there is a large magazine that takes six horses to draw it. They use six horses to draw each cannon. I wish

you could see the harness that we have. They are as much larger than these big dutch harness as the dutch harness are larger than your buggy harness. We have the very best horses. We have them tied before our tents with two ropes. The horses are about four or five feet apart; just far enough for them to kick each other nicely. We put the corn and hay on the ground for them to eat. I expect that we will stay here and drill four or five weeks. We feel as much at home here as we would were we in Stark County. It seems as though I could start and go home in about two hours. I suppose you would like to know something about the weather. Well, we have had very nice weather so far; some warmer in the middle of the day here, than it is in Ohio; but very cold and foggy at night owing to the river. I do not think I have seen a field of fall wheat here yet. I guess they do not raise any thing but corn and mules. I have not been out of the camp since I came in so I have not gotten to see very much of the City yet, but it is a larger City than Cleveland and it looks like a nicer City than Cincinnati. I am going to send home a Louisville Journal to let you know the sentiment of the Kentuckians. I have not seen a Tribune since I left home. Please tell the girls to write. Please write soon. I have not had a letter from Ohio yet. This is my 5th letter. I must quit writing as I cannot afford to write but one sheet at a time. No more at present.

Good-bye,

Father, Mother, Brother & Sisters.

Sunday morning, Oct, 6th, 1861.

Dear Sisters:-

I take my pencil in hand this morning to write you a few lines to let you know how I pass Sunday in camp. It takes a pretty good scholar to keep track of the days. Sundays are just like other days. It commenced raining yesterday, and it has rained ever since, some of the time as hard as I ever saw it. It thundered and lightened hard, it is raining yet and looks as if it might rain for a week. Our tent is in a dry place but the water is some of the tents is three inches deep. Our tents are new and keep the rain out first rate. The cars are running here the same as on other days. They only go about forty miles south of this, the rebels having burned a bridge at that point. There are soldiers going south on this road every day. I saw several trains go by the camp loaded with army wagons. Lewis has been unwell most of the time since we came into camp. He was very glad to see us. We have some very nice young men in our company, as Randolph can afford. Celestine if you would rather have that likeness that Almira has let her have the one that I sent home, if she is willing to make the exchange. Gertrude I want you to write as often as you can and tell all the news about the girls and boys. Tell Cena to hurry and get so she can write to me. I have averaged a letter every day so far. It is almost two weeks since I left home and I have not received a word from home yet. These two weeks have passed the quickest of any I ever experienced. I have not been off the ground since I came into camp. We sleep on the ground with nothing under us but our oil cloth blankets. I sleep sound in the morning as though I was sleeping in a big white house in a feather bed. You would wonder how I could write if you could take a peep into our tent. There are ten or twelve sitting around talking, jawing and laughing. Tell me if Lydia Miner has come back yet. We are in sight of Indiana. We call this camp "Camp Cotter". It is likely we will stay here for a week. I am in hopes that you all feel satisfied that I went off on this cause. We have all confidence in our Captain that he will take us through safe and sound. About one-fourth of the company are married men. Did you hear of the present I got before I left N. Baltimore. Uncle Elisha Nash gave me a testament. Thomas I expect you have a lonesome time at home, but I want to improve some of your leisure moments in writing.

No more at present

A. S. Bloomfield.

Louisville, Kentucky,
Thursday, Oct, 10th, 1861.

Respected Father and Mother:-

I received your letter of the 5th. And perused it with much pleasure. I also received one from Lewis and Henry Stopher. This is the first from home. It was a great deal of comfort to me when I heard that Mother had quit fretting about me. I thought it would be the hardest battle I had to fight, even if it should cost my life.

I am glad to hear that you are getting your corn cut before the frost comes. Also glad to hear that you were all in good spirits and getting along with your fall work as well as common.

As for Charley moving into the old home I will not say a word. I would liked to have been at home the day when Owen was there.

I have enjoyed as good health as ever I did since I started from home. Time passes away very fast to me. It does not seem as if I had been from home over ten days, but the three years is a long time to think of staying away from all kinds of social company. We are still here but as the Captain said at Randolph "we know not how long we will be here". I heard today that we were to leave as soon as we got all our equipments. When we get them all I am going to give you as good a discription as I can of them. You have no idea of the cost of this little company. They had better lose two whole regiments of infantry than these six guns and the men. It looks very much like war to see the soldiers going from Louisville to the interior of the State. A regiment went out this morning and three or four hundred this afternoon. They are going through every day and whole trains of army wagons. I guess there is no doubt but that something is going on in the south. A few of our boys went out last night to see what was going on in the neighborhood. They had gone two or three miles when they found some secess training. We are going to have some fun some night if we can catch them.

I am very glad to hear that there are some men left who are willing to enlist in this glorious cause. Lewis says that Stephen Mendinghol has enlisted. I would be ashamed if I was a young man living in Marlboro township. I wish you was here to see our Captain train us. When he speaks we have to spring. He has no chosen friends with him, they are all used alike. I tell you he makes the officers dance to his music. I believe he could be heard giving his commands for over a mile. I has the smartest horse I ever say under a saddle. He is

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particularly fond of getting onto the wild and fractious horses, and he will sock his spurs into their sides and make them rare and kick, and if it does not cut up some pretty big capers he will have one of the boys get a big wagon whip after it. It seems as if he cannot be thrown.

No more at present,

Your respected son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

Direct as before. Please send a Tribune once in while. The report here is that the Union men have taken New Orleans.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
October-18-1861.

Dear Sisters:-

I received your letter about three hours ago, it being the first I have had the pleasure of reading from sisters. You may guess that I read it with great delight. I am as well and hearty as ever I was in my life. Plenty to eat and good enough for any one. One cannot get lonesome here or anywhere else in camp. You were down to Alliance you said and saw the soldiers. I am glad you went. You could see better than I can tell you, how a soldier has to live.

I hear the drums down in the City and I expect there has another reinforcement come in. I have just looked out to see a train pass. It is loaded as usual with soldiers and army wagons. Hundreds of baggage wagons have gone down on the trains since I have been here. Besides some two hundred wagons made to carry wounded in. They are making calculation on having a great slaughter some day; if there is not there will be some tall backing out done.

The quarter master in Louisville is from Salem, Ohio. Father knows him. His name is Jack Heaton.

Asahel and Bob are well and feel cheerful and are ready to serve their country at any moment. Lewis has been very sick with the pleurisy. He has been getting better for the last two days. He was taken to the hospital today. The doctor saw that it was impossible for him to go with us Sunday night. I think he will be well in a week or ten days. There are two others in the hospital. We have an old doctor with us from Charleston by the name of Pitman. He is just like Dr. Ferguson for all the world.

We are not allowed a doctor in our company without we pay him out of our own pockets, so we voted him one-half dollar of our wages per month, so he gets \$75.00 per month. He is one of the best men we could have.

Wallace Stedman is very attentive when any of us are sick, so you need not think that if I am sick I will not have attention.

Our Captain was down to Columbus. He brought us all a new jacket when he came back. When we got down to Green mountain our Captain made us a speech. We have twelve hundred rounds with us and we are to be the advance guard when Buckner's forces are attacked. We had a dance in camp last evening. Captain called off.

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Gertrude wanted to know the name of our Company. It is the First Regiment of the Ohio Light Artillery, Battery A.

I got a letter from Em. And Charlotta Britton today. No more at present and write soon. Direct as before.

I am your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

Louisville, Kentucky.
Saturday afternoon, Oct-19-1861

Dear Brother:-

I received your letter of the 13th. And read it with as much pleasure as I ever read a letter. I got one from Gertie and Celestine today. It was written before you wrote yours but did not get it as soon. I was glad to hear of the success you had at the Fairs this fall. I guess that some of the people in that neighborhood feel rather mute.

I am in hopes that the 19th. Regiment will be in our brigade but think it is rather doubtful.

I can imagine how you feel (you said you was lonesome, that there was nothing going on). I thought last Sunday that I could almost see you come out of the house and lean against one of the posts on the porch and then say I do not know where to go to day; but I expect that you went down to Prices or Liges as usual. You have seen enough of camp life in connection with what you have heard to know how it is carried on. It is constant excitement from the time we get up until we go to bed. Our Captain was down to Columbus and was gone three days and just got back last night. We got up at half-past four this morning, got ready as soon as we could and went down to the City to receive him. He brought six ton of shell, powder and other stuff for the Company. We are very well equiped now. We have eight or nine ton of shell now, here on the ground. The word now in camp is that we are to march from this place tomorrow evening or the next morning certain, but where our destination will be I cannot tell, but think we will go south of this place fifty or sixty miles. They have taken the guns down to the town to get sites put on them. We have been training pretty steady for the last ten days. I tell you Thomas, we make a great deal of noise when we get to firing right brisk, and there is a small cloud of smoke following the firing. There was a company shooting marks down the river a mile or so. They fired towards our camp and the balls fell thick and fast. One fell within a foot of Bob. He saw the dirt fly when it went into the ground. Several came as near getting hit as he did. Quite a number of shells were picked up.

You said there was a big dance at Richinens one night, but you did not say whether you was there or not. We have some of the biggest dancing in camp you ever saw. You would laugh yourself sore in 5 minutes. Write me often and tell me all the news.

No more at present, as I must write to the girls.

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,
October, 23d, 1861.

Most Respected Parents:-

I expect that you watch the movement of this battery with great interest. As we made quite an important movement yesterday I thought I would write you a few lines. We left Louisville at 7 o'clock yesterday, then went south on the L. & N. R.R. 53 miles to a camp by the name of Nevin. There was a bridge burned about twenty miles from Louisville, but has since been rebuilt. It is seventy or eighty feet high and some 300 feet long across Salt river. They keep it guarded, also have guards all along the road. In some places they have ten, others 50; some a whole company, and one hill, where the secess tried to get a point (and I believe they had possession of it for a while) an Indiana regiment is stationed. On this large hill of which I have spoken the Union men have five cannon planted and command five different points on the road. It took two engines to draw our battery. The road is very rough, and the hilliest country I ever saw. We had to go through a tunnel three quarters of a mile long, and while going through it the engines were stalled. The first one broke the piston into and knocked the cylinder head out, and the one behind the train broke the large iron bar by which they push the train.

This camp is about six miles long and contains about twenty-two thousand men. When we left Louisville there were 6,000 on the dock waiting for a chance to go on the railroad. One regimen is under Wades & Hutchison, cavalry. When we march we are to go against Gen. Buckner, who is a citizen of Louisville. He tried to get an office in the Union army but failed and then went and joined the rebels. It is reported that he has at Bowling Green 40,000 men. If there is a battle there you may expect that we took a part in it. Our Captain gained a great many friends in Louisville; while there he made arrangements to have our bodies sent home is possible, and if not to have them buried nice, and have the best of care for the wounded.

This is a beautiful country here. It is about as hilly as Marlboro. We are having a great time today breaking mules. We have eighteen mules and only six of them ever had a collar on. They are to be put on the baggage wagons, six to a wagon and one man to drive them. I wish you had the pleasure of beholding this army. It would pay any one to come here and see the movement. The pickets are stationed about six miles out of camp.

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One of the pickets was shot a night or so since. They say it takes about thirty for guards.

Lewis Maxwell is in the hospital at Louisville now. He was getting along fine when we left.

I received a letter from Thomas, Gertrude and Celestine and have answered them all. Some of the boys think all of their letters do not get here. Have seen no frost but twice, and then it was very light.

Write all of the particulars of the army movement. We are under the command of General McCook.

No more at present.

Your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

October 26st, 1861.

Respected Father:-

I received your letter of the 21st. and perused it with pleasure. I also got two others. One was from Bradford B. You said you started a paper the same time you did that letter but I have not received it yet. We do not get half the papers that are sent. I would like to get a paper from home well enough but I guess you need not mind about sending any more because I do not think I would get them.

You spoke about sending me some clothing if necessary. I will just say that I have all the clothes that I want to make me comfortable. I will tell you what I have in full: Two pairs of woolen socks, two pairs of drawers. The most of the boys have what is called reinforced pants. Mine are not. They are blue wool. I have the same boots that I had when I left home. They are good yet. My jacket is like that artillery jacket of Bradford's. Then I have a blouse which is a loose woolen coat. Then a great big overcoat with a large cape on it. Our caps are good and has an oil cloth cover on it. I have also one good blanket that I got from the government. I bought one when I went through Cleveland. Have an oil cloth that will do good service over me when it rains, and when we lay on the ground we put them under us. Two of us can lay to ether and then we have two blankets and one oil cloth to put over us. We have all we need to make us comfortable. It has not been very cold yet. Only light frosts. It is considerable warmer here than in Ohio.

You spoke of sending me some money to buy a revolver. I will just say that I have not gotten one yet and I am not so particular about getting one now. Artilleryman do not need them very much and I do not know how you could send the money if you wanted to.

We have been here almost a week but still I do not know very much about the proposed movements of the army, but it is pretty certain that we will march on Buckner or to the Cumberland Gap. There have been several of our pickets shot around this camp. They are stationed out from six to ten miles and it takes several thousands. There are also cavalry who go out scouring the country. There was a woman came to camp and said she knew where the rebels had about \$1,000.00 of cloth hid in a hay stack about three miles from here. Sixty cavalrymen went with her when she went back. I have not heard what their success was. A

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man came in and reported at head quarters that the rebels had a drove of hogs about twenty miles from here. They went after them also.

As I promised to write out a discription of our battery when out quota was made up, I will do it now.

To commence with we have six cannon, five rifle and one smooth bore to throw grape shot. They are mounted on carriages. Now I will give a discription of one gun. The gun is drawn behind the limber. This is a box about twenty inches square placed over the axel tree. This box is so fixed that it can be taken off in a instant. Behind follows the caison. They have three of these boxes just the same size as the one that was on the limber. One is on the forward axle tree and the two over the hind one. Behind these there is a place to carry an extra wheel which is called the fifth wheel. It is to put on in case a wheel gets disabled. All of these wheels are of the same size, and as long as there is a whole wheel left they will be taken off and put on the gun that is in action.

There are six horses on each one of these. Each of the boxes hold ten hundred pounds of shell. Following these comes the fore and battery wagon. The battery wagon consists of a great big wagon with a box that will hold fifty or sixty bushels. There is a wheelright that is to take charge of this wagon; and in it there is a set of wagon tools, harness tools, axle trees, hubs, spokes and fellies. Six sythes and snathes, also sickles. These are to cut forage for our horses. There are also six shovels, six axes, six spades, six picks, hand spikes, sponge-staffs. The forge consists of a wagon with a bellows and forge anvil, vice and a full set of black-smith's tools. Each of these wagons have wheels which will fit the cannon. They have four horses on each of them. We have three baggage wagons with six mules on each of them. This makes in all, 115 horses, eighteen mules and 150 men. This makes a pretty good train load. I have forgotten several things. There are sixteen tents, and there are ten messes, each mess having three axes, three spades, three California picks and a coil of rope that will weight four of five hundred.

There was firing going on last night. We supposed it was pickets, but we have not heard what it was yet. It is impossible for any one but a company of soldiers to get by the pickets. No one can go out of camp without a pass from headquarters, and they are nearly as hard to get as it would be to get by the pickets.

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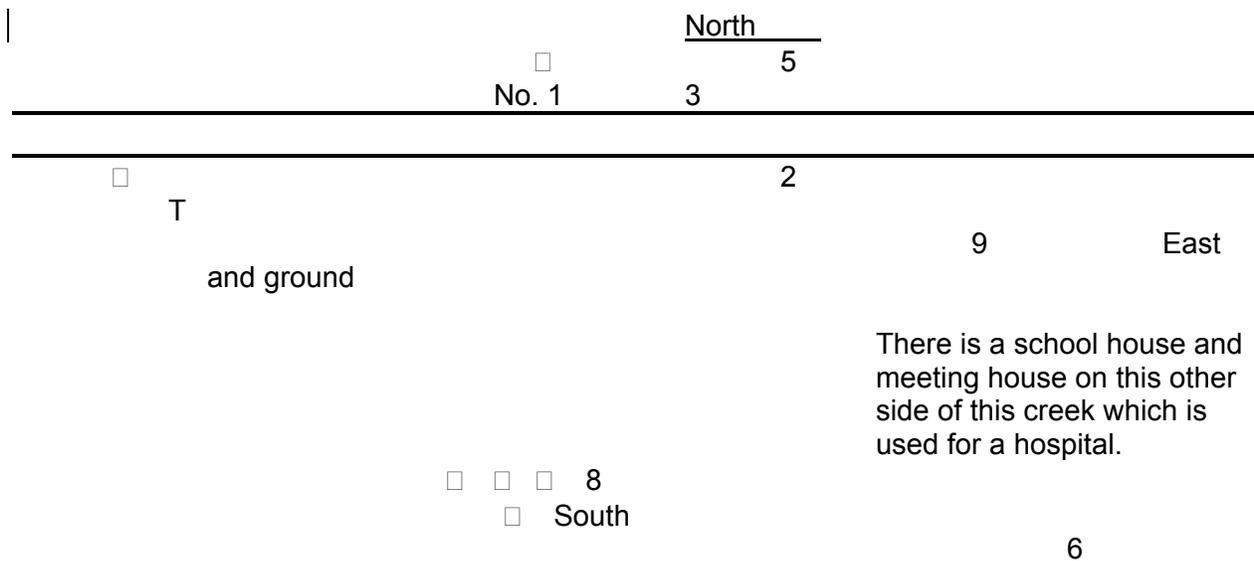
No one is allowed to pass on the cars but soldiers without they have a pass from head quarters at Louisville. If a man is brought into camp claiming to be a Union man with news of importance about the enemy they are very often brought in blindfolded and always with a picket on each side of them with loaded guns that will kill half a dozen men at once.

The rebel pickets are within ten miles of ours. The rebels have signals which are sky rockets after night. Our guards say they saw a balloon go over our camp.

Here comes two of the boys who were left in the hospital at Louisville. One is Lewis Maxwell. He is most well again.

I have just heard what the firing was last night. The pickets shot three rebels, killed one wounded two and brought one home for a pet. Only one of our men killed.

I have just received the paper you sent me. I will give you a short description of this camp.



This camp is a plantation of about 600 acres.

No.1-- The residence of the farmer. It is a large brick and is used as headquarters.

No. 2-- Is a black-smith shop that is carried on by the government.

On the corner where the head quarters are there is a brick store room used for the commissary department.

No. 3-- The stables.

No.4-- The station, one mile from field.

No.5-- The field where they keep the cattle for the army.
Kill ten every day, Sundays not excepted.

No.6-- The river that the Ma moth cave is on.

No.7-- A brick church is used as a hospital.

No.8-- A grave yard.

No.9-- Is the spot that we occupy. It is close the headquarters and the highest ground near here.

I wish you was here to see an army move. It would be almost impossible for you to come. No more at present.

A. S. Bloomfield.

Direct to Camp Nevin, Hardin County, Kentucky, in the care of Capt. C. S. Cotter, to follow battery.

CAMP NEVIN.

October, 30th, 1861.

Respected Brother & Sisters:-

I received your letters today. The mail came in before sun-up this morning. I got a letter from Kirk also. I am as hearty as ever I was. I can make a meal out of fat smoked meat or crackers quite easy. You all seem to be enjoying yourselves very well since I left.

I want Ella to be a good girl and go to school this winter, learn to write and then I expect I will get a letter every week.

I guess you would be more interested if I write about things concerning the army. Since I wrote before soldiers have been coming in every day. There are about 35,000 in this camp; it reaches more than ten miles.

Day before yesterday we noticed there was something up among the officers; the next news of importance was the speedy transportation of the sick out of the hospitals to Louisville, about two hundred in number. They came from the three hospitals in sight of our camp. I do not know how many more there are.

The infantry received 40 rounds apiece and we were ordered to load 150 rounds apiece. We spent Tuesday afternoon and part of the night loading shell; put in 30 to 40 ounce balls in some of the shells; some, pieces of thick glass broken up, and for others we took old horse-shoes and cut them up into slugs.

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We have more shell and powder on hand. Yesterday some of the Regiments were inspected and same was continued up until this evening. Last night it was reported that General Buckner was marching on Louisville with seventy thousand men. The Pennsylvanian's artillery had their horses harnessed all night and stood in readiness for an attack. Last night there was a scouting party of Cavalry out from this camp (two hundred in number); they went out eight miles and came to a camp of secessionists numbering 6,000. When they heard our party coming they pulled up stakes and retreated. Today the Chief of the artillery was here to inspect our battery.

It is reported that the rebels say they must secure the hog crop of Kentucky or they will starve this winter.

Yesterday our picket brought in a recruiting officer who was recruiting for the rebels. He was a pretty saucy man. I guess I had better quite for this evening. After breakfast I slept as sound as a log. Did not hear any rebels. Some of the boys said the pickets were firing last night.

Thomas, you asked me a question that surprised me some. It was about Lewis' drinking. He has not tasted liquor since I came in camp. When you write next tell how that report reached there. Whoever told it is a liar. There is no chance to get anything to drink within five miles of this camp without a permit.

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from the Captain. I must stop for a while, as they want xx me to go and help break mules.

I take up my pencil this morning, Nov. 2nd. To finish this. We have had the most fun I ever had in my life. We hitched up six raw mules, that never had a collar on before, and started to the river. I was thrown. Stedman was on the saddle mule. It jumped over the tongue and fell down on its back. When we went through the river the one I was on tried to throw me off. One of them was so mad it laid down three times in the water. We then went out two miles for wood and it rained all the time we were gone and all last night.

No more at present, but remain,

Your affectionate Brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

CAMP NEVIN.

Nov, 2nd, 1861.

I thought I would write a few lines to Father. I have something more to say about that money you talked of sending me. I think we will be paid off next week. They have made out the pay roll and the pay master is paying off some of the companies so we think we will get ours next week. If we are paid I can get a revolver.

Last night was the worst night we have experienced since I left. It commenced snowing first and then changed to rain. The place where we are encamped was a field that had been sown for wheat, and now there is not a spear to be seen on this farm. There was fifty acres of, I think, as pretty wheat as I ever saw, ten days ago, but now it has been all tramped down, and most of the rails on the farm have been burned.

Thomas, when you write again tell me whether the Robinstines' boys have enlisted, and what regiment John is in; also of any one else I ever knew. There is a Brigade here from Erie County, Pennsylvania. Vack Stanford is on his way to join our company. He lived in Randolph and got as far as Louisville and could get no farther without a pass. He

telegraphed Cotter to send him a pass. He will be here today then we will get news from Randolph. Please write soon one and all of you. No more at present, but remain,

Your affectionate Brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,
Nov, 12th, 1861.

Respected Parents;-

I sit down not knowing what moment we will be ordered to march. We received orders from Head Quarters this morning to pack our napsacks and to be ready to march at a moment's notice. We have done so and now are waiting for the notice to march. We may not get them for a week or two and they may come in less than five minutes; I know there is some thing the matter but what it is I cannot tell. Wagons are being loaded with provisions at Head Quarters. Some say that Buckner is marching this way, and others, that he is retreating. The report here is that the union men have burned the bridge across the Cumberland river and that Buckner cannot get provisions from Tennessee, nor can he retreat, and it is possible that we are going to try and catch the old scoundrel. The Governor of Indiana is here now. There was a man in camp today that used to live in Randolph and now lives about six miles from this place. He came from there two years ago and did not know that the Randolph boys were here until he came in camp. Have for gotten his name. He says he is not scared yet but almost all of his neighbors have left. Some have gone to the South and some some to the North.

It is believed now that we will not start from here until there are one hundred thousand in this division. There are three camps in this state. There are forty thousand in this camp now. The names of the other camps are "Wildcat" and "Camp Dick Rob".

That man Randolph said that three thousand encamped last night near his house on their way here. We heard here that the fleet had taken Charleston, South Carolina. Hope it is so.

I have not had a letter from home for over a week, but I had one from Lewis B.W. and several others, almost one a day.

I have changed my position. I drive a team (or rather ride one) on the casions. It is the middle team and is a nice span of bays. We have received more baggage wagons since I wrote you last. We have six baggage wagons, six mule teams and 34 horse teams. We have 145 horses and mules, almost one for every man. It is not very hard work to take care of one team. I must stop and go and water my horses for the bugle has been blx blown. We do every thing by the sound of the bugle.

The weather has been very pleasant for the last week. There have been several thunder showers. I do not think there has been

2.

a half dozen frosts yet. I expect that Wallace Stedman will leave us before long. He has received an appointment in his Father's company and says he will go. Lewis is getting along all right. I guess I had two chills about three weeks ago. It was the day we left Louisville, but our doctor straightened me out in a day or so. I have drawn another pair of pants, and put them on for the first time today. I also have another blanket. I can carry my things on my off horse, and have all that a soldier needs. I fear nothing but sickness and bullets.

I received a letter from John Fox this week. He has not been in a fight yet but was near when Freemonts' body guards was attacked, but could not get there in time to get a pop at them. The Captain says we are Gen. McCook's body guards. I do not know what it is but I know we are not attached to any brigade yet.

Write to me where the 19th. goes when they march. It is almost sun down now and we are still here. I have written this in a hurry as you can see. No more at present,

Your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

I HAVE SEEN SUMPTER'S HERO.

CAMP NEVIN,

November, 16th, 1861.

Dear Sisters:-

I curl down in my tent this afternoon to answer your most welcome letter of the 8th. You said you had nothing to write. I thought you wrote considerable. You say you was to town yesterday; just as I expected. I imagine sometimes how things are going on at home. One thing is that about two o'clock on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday some one is getting up a horse to go to town for mail. I know from what I hear from there you all wait with anxiety to hear from the seat of the war. Some watching and listening to hear from Kentucky, others Virginia and Missouri. So it will continue for months.

Girty, I would like to see you when you get that new dress on. I tell you girls calico looks better to me now than silk did ten weeks ago. I am very sorry to hear that Eddy was sick. I wrote him a letter when we were in Camp Cotter. Ask him if he received it and if he did tell him it is almost time for an answer. The dances are going off as I thought they would. I expect you and Rachael felt rather cheap the next morning after that party at

You said you were going to have chicken pot-pie for dinner. That is nothing I had crackers for my dinner that you could not break with your hands. I have no doubt but that they

2.

had been baked for more than a month. I can tell you what—they will stand. We get fresh beef twice a week; sometimes we make soup with it and put in crackers to thicken it. We take a hatchet, break the crackers up, put them with the meat and boil for half an hour, then there are pieces that are just as hard and dry as before put in. I do not wonder that the Government wants men with good teeth.

It did not surprise me much when I heard that Aunt Amy was dead. I have been expecting that for some time.

The rest of the boys are out drilling. They are about as far from our tent as our house is from Bills', and they just fired six shots that shook the ground like thunder. I went out to see what was the matter. I looked up the pike and there was a regiment coming which proved to be the 1st. Ohio. They had marched from the mouth of the Salt River. They are very anxious to see old Buckner. There are two more regiments behind them. One is the 18th. Ohio. I expect the 19th. Will come here but how soon we cannot tell. Those guns we fired was a solute for the company that just came.

I am afraid our folks will have some cold fingers before they are done husking corn and picking apples. There the bugle blows the stable call and I must stop and go and water the horses.

3.

That is done and I have eaten my supper. Maybe you would like to know how we feed the grain to the horses. We have a leather bag that will hold about two gallons into which we put the corn and tie it on the horses nose; in this way they cannot lose a grain. We call them nose bags.

Last night was the coldest night I ever experienced in camp. I thought we were going to march in a day or so, but a week has passed and there are no more signs of our going now than there was two weeks ago, but without doubt we will move soon. We are all well and getting fat on crackers. We have the whitest teeth you ever saw. Crackers are as good to scour them up as charcoal. Lewis got a letter from Syrus this morning stating that they had heard that Asahel and Bob had gotten their arms shot off. Such news has come here several times. It certainly rather amusing to get letters from Ohio and hear them read. They hear all manner of reports about us. There is a man in our company who helped to duck Wm. Hess. His name is Marquet.

We were paid off yesterday up to the 5th. of this month. I got \$15.60. I think I shall send mine home by Wallace Stedman. I have not gotten a revolver yet and think now that I shall do without. The boys in the old squad say they would not be bothered withone. I think the money will do Father more good than it will me. There was over \$4,000 paid to the Company. Before three hours had passed after we were paid the Suttler in the 45th. Ohio had sold this Company

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over one hundred dollars worth of Postage Stamps. This goes to show that the boys of this Company have friends at home. I have bought over five dollars worth of stamps and stationary.

I might write more if I had more room. No more at present. Write one and all. From

Your Brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,

Nov, 22nd, 1861.

Respected Brother:-

I received your letter this morning and was some surprised to hear of Abe Harry enlisting, but was not so much to hear of Warren's going, for I always thought he wanted to go. As for that fiddle you and Bob bought I have but one think to say that is, put it through and try to learn to play equal to Jhonny Bull. You said it had been snowing there and I suppose it is time for such weather. There has not been any now here yet. It has been raining all forenoon, but it has quite and is clearing up now. There have been several raining days here, and it never rains without thundering.

There have been probably half a dozen nights that the ground was frozen a little. There are still more troops coming here. The first Ohio is in this camp. They are from around Cleveland. This morning there was a regiment of cavalry moved down from the railroad to guard it. They have the bridge finished over the Nolin river. I think they run about thirty miles. It rained a l the time they were preparing to march. I saw an infantry company this morning. They are mud up to their knees and have nothing but shoes on. I cannot tell any more when we will move than you can. There are three batteries here yet, and it is reported that three or four more are to be here before a week. We have been out on three general reviews. One was yesterday. There were sixteen guns. They were drawn up in barrel line and ordered to load with blank cartridges. Firing began on the right and passed down the column, there being an interval of about a second between each shot. Some of the horses cut up big spludgens.

I got a letter from O. A. Minard this morning. Therewas not any particular news in it. You need not get alarmed about what you hear about this battery until you have heard it at least half a dozen times. There is no danger of our losing our lives or arms if we do not get any closer to the rebels than we have been yet. The nigger that Captain has for hostler was General Buckners cook when he held Muldroes Hill between here and Louisville.

We hear glorious news from the fleet. I guess the war is going on first rate to bring things to a focus. We get all the news in camp; if it is old it is news to us. There is hardly a number of the Ohio Farmer but what is read in our company and all the rest of the papers of importance, we have gotten of the sutler in our company. He keeps almost everything a solider needs, and a great many things we do not need.

2.

Dick went up to the station the other day and bought a stove for our tent. It is of sheet iron about 18 inches long and nine in diameter. It keeps our tent nice and warm.

The place we take our horses to water is about half a mile from camp. There are over three thousand horses and mules watered there every day. We take them below a grist and saw mill between this place and our camp. I have seen over 1500 horses at one time.

The bugle has blown the water call and I must go and water my team. I did not get time to finish this letter yesterday so I will finish this morning. It is the coldest morning we have had yet. No more at present,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,

Nov, 23rd, 1861.

Respected Father:-

I received your letter yesterday morning, and was glad to learn that you are having a pleasant Fall for doing your work. Was very sorry to learn that Uncle William had been sick. I did as you requested and wrote him a letter. You said that you had the rheumatism in one of your knees. I believe you generally have that in the Fall. I am thinking some of you will have cold fingers before that corn is all husked, because it is getting pretty cold here. Yesterday was the first cold day we have experienced yet. It did not thaw any in the shade and it continues cold today, and it is the first time it has snowed. It is blowing and snowing just enough for it to be disagreeable to be out. I imagine that you are sitting around our comfortable fire-place talking about the war as usual, and perhaps pitying the soldiers that have to stay in tents this cold weather. There are some that do not fare very well.

Dick comes in telling us that they have been trying to get our Captain from us. They want him to take the highest command in the artillery, which is chief of the artillery. Our Lieut. says he thought he would accept it, If he was certain he would never see service. If he is promoted it is likely Lieut. Mason will be our Captain. He is a good artilleryman, twenty-one years of age and is not as large as I. Lewis got a letter from home this morning stating that Sam'l Miller was dead. Bob is writing to Cyrus Maxwell. He and I are sitting on the ground with our backs together so on serves the other with a good back to his seat. I got a letter from Bradford this morning. Asahl and I have had a sociable talk with a man and his son that used to live in Marlboro. I think you will be surprived when I tell you who it was. It was Mr. Saily and son. They enlisted from Minerva, Stark County, and are in the First Ohio, Company D., better known as the Cleveland Grays. They were the first ones I have seen since I left home that I am acquainted with.

We are getting alone fine. Are well provided for. Bought a stove for our tent. Captain says he will furnish transportation for it. It keeps our tent comfortable so far and I guess it will in the coldest weather that will be in Kentucky.

It was quite a joke on the old house Charlie's moving in when he did. By the way you speak about the war you have the same idea about it we have. We are all very well pleased with the movements so far. Captain was in our tent a couple of hours

2.

the other evening and we had a chat about things, but it is mighty hard to get much out of the commissioned officers concerning the war; but I will tell you what I learn from the conversation. He has no idea how long he will stay here, but is quite certain that we will not go into winter quarters. There is not a man in this company who wants to, and that it was his opinion that we would never see a fight. You see that we are the center of the army in Kentucky. There is a force off to the right and left and they must move before we do, and then you see they will have all of the skirmishing to do, and if the rebels do not stand and take a big battle there is no show for us. I have been hearing other news and I think it confirms this. The money that I put in the letter, I want you to use to the best advantage you can. I had calculated on sending it home by Wall Stedman but he has not gone yet and there is no prospect of his going so I will send one bill in this letter and maybe I will send \$5.00 more if I think I will not need it.

I must bring this letter to a close. Bob says he is going to write you a big letter some day, and I will be glad to hear from you are any time.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,
Nov, 28th,

I am well yet and there are no prospects of our moving. It rained hard last night. You may wonder why the first of this letter was dated so long before this. I will explain. I first was going to send it by mail and then W. W. Stedman was going home and I thought the safer way would be to send it by him. So I did. He started but did not get any farther than Louisville. His pass was not made out right and so he came back. I have taken out that money. I thought it was not very much and maybe I might need it before we draw our next. There are several of the boys sick; some with colic. We were going to fight a sham battle today if it had not rained so much last night. I got a letter from Geo. Oby a few days ago. He said they were all well and had not been in a fight yet. I do not know of any thing more at this time.

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,

Dec, 1st, 1861.

Dear Sisters:-

I received your welcome lines yesterday. I was glad to hear that you were all well. We are in this camp yet. When we came here we thought it very likely that we would move in a week or ten days. We have been here five weeks and still know no more about when we are going to move than we did when we came. There are some that think the next move will be for home. Captain just came from Head-quarters in good spirits about something, and told the sergeants to grind their axes and to be ready to go to work to building stables for our hoses. If this is done I think we will stay here forty or fifty days. And if we stay here that long I think we will never see a fight. There are some of the troops moving down the railroad fifteen miles.

This is Sunday, and you could not guess how our squads are spending it. We are hauling brick and gravel to pave our yard around our tents and our cook places, and we are going to have a kitchen. I will tell you how it is built. There are four forks put in the ground, and two poles laid across with four or five boards for a roof. The tables are out in the yard. You may think this is a poor xxxxx site for a company of twenty six to do their cooking and eating. We think it rather fancy, it being the best in the camp. I do not only mean ourselves, but all the rest of the regiments have stoves in the backs of their tents. We had quite a feast today you may believe when I tell you that it was a pot of mush. Had it for breakfast dinner and supper. Had nothing to put on it but grease. The living is very good when one gets used to it. There are but two things I would like to have to set down to when I come home and those are apple-butter and mush and milk.

There is one of our boys in the hospital whose name is Nick Nap. There are three more grunting around, and there are three that have been pretty sick but are getting better. One of the Illinois boys told me today that some of their boys had the measles. Uncle Thomas need not fret about Lewis for his is getting fat and saucy.

Gertie tell Father the next time he writes to me that I would like him to get a corn sheller and send it dotn to grind our crackers on it. It would be a great convenience.

2.

I am thinking your school is going to be a dry concern as usual. I am sure your teacher is one that will do her part if you will do yours. Girls I do not hardly know with what to fill this sheet that will be interesting to you.

Oh, yes, there is one thing I have thought of. I got a new pair of boots yesterday. There has been about two inches of snow here and mud I cannot tell how deep but I guess it is ahead of Ohio. I am on guard tonight. That went pretty hard at first but now I would just about as leave stand guard as not. When the weather is fair. The way we go guard is as follows:

The ones that are detailed for guard are divided into three companies and are called the first, second and third reliefs.

The first go on at eight in the morning and stand two hours; then the second and third go on the whole twenty four hours.

Drivers do not stand guard in the day time, so I only have to stand two reliefs each time.

Cenie I think you did first rate in writing. You must go to school this winter and try and learn, and by the time school is out you can write as well as I.

Your affectionate brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,

Dec, 4th, 1861.

Respected Father:-

I thought I could spend a few minutes very pleasantly by writing to you again. There, I am called to go on guard, so I must quit till tomorrow.

Thursday morning, Dec, 5th, 1861.

I am as well as usual. Have had quite a large boil on my face which gives me the headache, but that is all the affliction I have at the present time. Since I wrote you last there has several things of importance transpired in this camp and other places. The weather has not been good for the last week. The citizens here say it has been colder than it has for three years, and more snow now than there was at any one time last winter (the Louisville Journal says it was a violent snow storm). The snow fell to the depth of three inches, and the next night it froze so hard that the ice would bear a man's weight. Snow commenced falling Monday morning about four o'clock and quit about four o'clock in the afternoon. We can stand such weather very well in our tents, and with the clothes we have. There were some infantry companies here that did suffer very much from the cold that morning.

Captain called us out and told us to take our axes and go to the woods to cut poles and build barracks for our horses. I worked hard in the snow all day, but feel none the worse for it now. We have been working at the barracks for the horses ever since. Think we will finish them today. General McCook wanted the Captain to move his quarters into the woods for the Winter, but the Captain told him he would not do it. Our position is a very nice one being the highest ground in the vicinity. I guess we will stay here over winter.

We received the President's message yesterday and it was read with pleasure by most of the soldiers. I think he is very mild and determined in what he says, but hardly as sour as I had looked for, but maybe it is all for the best. What do you think of it? There was a heavy rain fell here last week that disabled a bridge across Bowling fork between here and Louisville on the railroad, and on that account there is some difficulty in getting provisions here for the army. Some of the regiments hardly get enough. Our company had 11 days rations on our hands

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when the accident happened and the General wanted the Captain to give up part of them. Captain told him that there was no law to take them and if there was he could have them, but that he had a stronger force than the General. Captain is one of the men that look out for No. 1. When he heard of the bridge being gone he ordered the teams to be harnessed and then he told where there was a barn full of rye which not been threshed and they should put a guard around the barn and not let a sheaf go. When night came we had three large stacks of un-threshed rye, so we had enough for our horses until they could ship on the railroad again. Last Tuesday morning a baggage train left this camp for Salt river to get provisions. The train consisted of two hundred wagons. Some wagons had four horses and others had six mules. It is the general belief there that the war will be over in three or four months.

I heard yesterday that the 19th. were at a little town about ten miles from here. Asahel has gone up there today and he will find out if it is so. The 13th. Ohio has been ordered to Louisville.

When you write again state all the particulars of the war whether it be good or bad. No more at present,

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEVIN,

Dec, 8th, 1861.

Respected Parents:-

I take my pencil and paper this time to inform you that we are going to leave this camp soon. We were called into line this morning and told to cook two days ration and be ready to march by nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

The rebels are getting rather saucy here. Our men were building a bridge across a little stream, Bacon Creek, ten miles south of this camp. There was a brigade about five miles from the bridge and a company of 125 rebel cavalry came and burned it just as it had been gotten ready to lay the track on it.

Some of the boys say we are to go to Green River. I do not know whether this is so or not.

It is my opinion that the rebels will be chased out of this state, or there will be some big fighting done in 10 days.

The men are all in the best of cheer. They have no fear of being defeated, but from what I heard the rebels are getting a little enlightened on the subject and are beginning to see their situation.

The most of the boys are writing a few lines home. I have only about twenty minutes to write this. There is nothing particular in regard to news here.

No more at present.

Your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT MUMFORDS-
VILLE, 22 MILES SOUTH
OF CAMP NEVIN, ON THE
BANK OF THE GREEN RIVER.

Dec, 12th, 1861.

Respected Father:-

I suppose you and the rest of our folks will be impatient to here where we stop. If you get the letter I wrote last Sunday. We started Monday morning and went to Bacon Creek. At this point the rebels burned a new bridge on the railroad that was nearly finished. The next day after it was burned there was a brigade of our men went down to guard it while it was being rebuilt. It will be done in a day or so. The bridge was only about fifty feet long. The most of the citizens seem very glad to see us come. There are about one-half of the houses empty. Some have gone north and some south. The folks told us that if we had been two hours earlier we would have come onto a company of rebel cavalry. When we came into town the stars and stripes were floating from the Court House. Two hours before the rebel flag was there. Most of the way from Bacon Creek to Green River, which is about eight miles, is up and down gulleys between high hills from one to three hundred feet high and some places so rocky and steep xxx that a man could not climb them. Green River is a stream about 300 feet wide. It can be forded now, but the water is unusually low. The west bank is very steep, some places being almost perpendicular to the height of 150 feet. The rock is lime-stone. Here is where the rebels blew up the nice bridge. I must give you a description of it. It is eight hundred feet long, all iron with four piers, that is between the abutments there are two supports thus making 160 foot spans. This bridge is 120 feet above the water. The rebels blew up the east pier with powder and that let two spans fall. They had three kegs of powder under one of the other piers but from some cause it did not go off. Some of the citizens took this powder out. They say it will be built in nine days. That the castings are all ready at Louisville, but I think it is rather doubtful if it is done in twenty days. The bridge cost \$300,000.00. One of the boys went out on the other end of the bridge this morning and put a flag on. The water in the river is green but it is healthy and pure. The rebels had built two earth works on the other side

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side of the river, each one for two guns. They were twelve feet thick. The folks tell us they had two twelve pounders and the rest were not as large as our guns. The guns were taken away six weeks ago. The first night after we came here the pickets were placed up and down the river for several miles but none across the river. That night there was a company of rebel cavalry slipped up on the other side of the river and fired on our pickets but little damage was done. Only one man touched and that was a Captain. He got one buck shot in his hand. Our men returned the fire. A man that lived on the other side said some of our xxxxx balls struck his house more than a half mile off. Some of our boys went across the next morning and found two of their tin cups. This took place night before last and about twenty rods from our tents. Last night there was two companies across the river after dark calculating on catching them if they cam back but they did not come. Our men are making a floating bridge. When this is done the cavalry will go over. Our men have wagon beds that are water proof to haul powder in. These beds are taken and tied together, plank laid on them and then cavalry, infantry and artillery can cross. It is now certain that we are attached to a brigade. It is Gen. Johnson's and is composed of the 15th, and 49th. Ohio and the 32nd and the 39th Indiana. The 32nd is a german regiment. Allt he commands are given in the german language and it is the best drilled regiment that I have seen. They are all stout men. At one time they had but one man that was unfit for service. This regiment draws their rations of whiskey every day. There are three six gun batteries between here and Bacon Creek. They will be here this evening and more infantry is on the road. The soldiers and pickets are considerably excited. The report is that here is a force of five thousand marching on us. We have commenced a little game on them. We have our batter on a high hill that commands the railroad bridge and all the rest of the forces are back a few rods and cannot be seen from the other side of the river. We think may be they will come out here and try to take this battery thinking it is alone and has been placed there to guard the bridge. When they get here they will find about two hundred and two guns and eight or ten thousand infantry besides cavalry. If they attack with less than twenty thousand men there will be no show for them. It will not be long until there will be forty or fifty thousand here.

No more at present,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON GREEN RIV.

Mumfordsville, Dec, 15-'61.

Respected Mother and Sister:-

I received your letter yesterday and read it with much pleasure. Was a little surprised to get a few lines from Mother. Celestine you say you are going to school this winter. You did not say whether Gerty was or not. If she does I suppose Mother is better this winter than common. I am glad to hear that John Taylor is going to have singing school this winter so that there will be some place for the young folks to go. I wrote a letter to John today. It hardly seems that I am as far from home as I am. We take the Portage County Democrat and we get it the same week it is printed, so we get the news from Randolph every week besides letters by the hundred. I received a letter from George Oby and Milo Marshall last night. They were well and thought they would go to South Carolina. I heard today that the 19th. was at or within four miles of Louisville. I saw in the papers that the 13th. was coming to this state but I have not seen anything of them yet. We are the hill by the railroad guarding the bridge. Cannot say how long we are going to stay here. Today is Sunday and as usual in war it is the busiest day of the week; at least it has been the most exciting day we have had for some time. There were some of our men sent to the other side of the river to guard the men that are working at the bridge. They were stationed out about a mile. The rebel cavalry have been in the habit of riding around a hill a few miles off. Today they ventured up rather close. There were about twenty-five. We thought they would dash on about six of our pickets and take them. Our men fired on them and made them skedaddle. The rebels loss was—four killed and two wounded. and four horses captured. Our casualties were two wounded. One in the hand the other in the arm. One so bad that the doctors say it will have to be amputated. There were nine shots fired being the first guns I have heard fired that killed any rebels. I was just finishing a letter to John Taylor when I heard the firing and I waited about twenty minutes to write what the first message brought in but it was not correct and if you see John tell him the right story of the skirmish. His letter started today and this will start tomorrow.

The cars come down here every day bringing timber for the bridge. The soldiers are working on the wagon bridge across the river. I think it will be finished by noon tomorrow and then the rebels had better skip.

2.

The pickets brought in several contrabands and some prisoners.

Those German boys are out of the 32nd. Indiana. This is one of the best regiments in this state. It has been reported that Gen. Seigle was surrounded in Missouri. There are lots of the german say that they served under Seigle in the old country and they say he will fight his way out. I hope it is so.

General Buckner has xxxxx a farm about six miles from this place and it had a large crop of corn and wheat on it. We have been feeding it to our horses since we came to this camp. The wheat is to be ground. I hear this evening of a glorious victory in Virginia for our men. The money I put in that letter, you may do with as you please with the exception of \$1.00 which I want you to get postage stamps and send me. It will be enough to last me until I get home. They are hard to get here.

Write soon and tell all the news. No more at present, from your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON MILL CREEK

NEAR NASHVILLE.

Thursday, Dec, 18th, 1862

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome letter a day or so ago and was particularly satisfied with it, for its length and the news it contained. It is very pleasant winter weather here now. It freezes lightly at night but thaws out where the sun shines in the day time. Our pieces have all gone out with the rest of the brigade to guard the forage train. The caissons are in camp. The rebels have not molested our foraging trains for some time. Our men have cleared the Franklin pike of all rebels as far as Franklin. Some try to make it appear that the rebels were going to fight us here. I have never thought they would. I think they are going to have their hands full at Richmond. It is my opinion that our men are going to try and drive them out of every place this winter where gun boats can assist them; if so the greater part of this army will stay here. There does not seem to be any prospects of their settling it before the first of January. I caught a bad cold some time ago and have not gotten over it yet, with this exception I have had good health this winter. Bad colds are a common thing in the winter. All of the rest have good health as far as I can learn. The paroled boys are on their way to the battery, but have not arrived yet. Our Captain is under arrest and if he does not resign will be court martialed. Lieut. Belding has command at present.

From what you say you must have had a perfect jubilee in the old house. I should have liked very much to have been there and partook of some of the merriments of a civilized group again. I have enjoyed many an evening in the same way and presume I should again. One does not learn anything that is moral in the army. This generally speaking of course. There are always exceptions. I want you to remember that when I come home the party must be held in the new house. Our battery just came in and have not fired a shot. There was skirmishing on our left today but have not heard with what success. We have but little news from the eastern army and expect very little until after a victory.

This letter may not interest you very much but it is hard for me to find anything to write about. You must excuse the latter part of the letter as I am writing by the light from the camp fires.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP WOOD,

Dec, 21ST, 1861.

Respected Father:-

I write this morning for the purpose of letting you know that we have had the first battle, but I expect you will have heard the particulars in the papers before this letter reaches you. Well, for the fight. You see the 32nd. Indiana had finished a bridge across the river for the infantry and artillery to cross on, and yesterday there was about twenty companies across the river and the pickets were attacked. They called over six more of our regiments and commenced the attack about twelve o'clock. It lasted about three hours. The enemy was all cavalry; there was about 1500 of them, and about 600 of our men., Our men chased them and fired on them most ferociously. Our men were strung along for about half a mile. At first there were four companies formed themselves into a hollow square and then the rebels began to run, and then our men charged on them with bayonets chasing them right up before a masked battery, and then the battery opened fire on our men but did not kill a man. They fired between fifty and sixty shots killing some of their own men. They had four guns and we thought by the sound that they were smooth bore. They used the old fashioned round shell. Just as the fight commenced there was a train of cars came up from Bowling Green with six hundred soldiers on.

Our guns are placed on a hill so we can see down the railroad about two miles and we could see their cavalry crossing the bridge. It was the pike bridge over the railroad, so we squared one of our guns up and sent a shell over toward the bridge. It went to the right of the bridge and near their battery, but we did not know that there was a battery there. It was not more than three minutes after we fired until they opened fire on our men. There was Kentucky battery got in about one hour before the firing commenced. They fired three shots out of their parot gun. That was all the firing we done. We had our horses harnessed all ready for action. The number of killed on our side was ten; wounded, thirty or forty. Number of rebels is not known to a certainty, but is not less than twenty and probably one hundred. Our men were reinforced in two hours with eight or ten thousand, and this morning there are twenty thousand here.

Last night there were three more batteries came so that now there are thirty-two guns here. Two of them are thirty-two pounders. We expect a fight today. I wrote you a letter last Sunday and put some money in. No more at present.

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP WOOD,

Dec, 28th, 1861

Esteemed Father:-

I received your letter of the 22nd. and was very glad to hear that you and all the rest of the folks were well, but I was not surprised to hear of Grandfather's illness.

I do not think you got a very large pile for your horses, but it is not likely that you could have gotten much more if you had kept them until spring. I would smile to see old Bill hitched to a cannon. You seem to have confidence in Gen. McCook. Well we have. I think him a very active and competent officer. He is constantly on the alert in the day time. I can't say whether he is after night. His Father rides around with him very often. He was raised in this little town. Also was Gen. Johnson and old Buckner. I have written several times about this battle and still there are many things I have left unsaid. Christmas one of the Cols. Went over in the woods and in the field where the fight was he saw four Texas Rangers laying there yet. The hogs had eaten the greater part of them. The rebels seem very inhuman in their ways of disposing of their dead. Our men did not hinder them from hunting up their dead.

Some of the citizens who live on the other side of the river and who saw the fight, say they saw quite a number of horses run down the pike with their riders on their backs. The riders were perfectly dead. Most of them were shot through the head. The reason they were carried off that way is they were fastened to their saddles. They all had larriets on the saddle, but of course did not use them.

The report here today is that old Buckner is going to advance but I do not think there is any danger, yet I hope it may be so. We expect an attack at Columbus in a few days by our great gun boat. I see in todays paper that Gen. Buel has made requisition for twelve hundred wagons. I think that is a good sign that we are going to move soon and before this bridge is finished.

I hear today of another great victory in Missouri. You wanted to know how many there was in this division. I would be very happy to inform you if I could but I suppose there is between forty and fifty thousand, and I know there is forty-two cannons here, and I think there are more between here and Louisville that will come in this division. The 19th. is to our left twelve miles south of the Cumberland river. That division was sent there to keep Buckner from receiving reinforcements from

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Virginia. This is Saturday and the mail does not go out until Monday so I will not finish this now. Maybe tomorrow will bring glorious news as a soldier never knows one hour what the next will bring forth.

Sunday evening, Dec, 29th, 1861.

Nothing has transpired yet of any importance. This has been a very pleasant day here. They are building a floating bridge across the river here. Maybe you would like to know how it is constructed. They take boats that are made out of plank and are about thirty inches deep and five feet wide and twenty-eight feet long. Those are put in the water side by side and all fastened to a rope that is stretched across the river. Then timber is laid from one to the other for sleepers for the plank. There has been two hundred of the infantry at work on the grade on the banks. It takes more grading on each side there is on that hill by Stopher's place.

I see in today's paper that Mason and Slidel are given up. I think if there is any danger of a war with England this war will be put through in a few months.

There is some difficulty in our battery between the officers. We are in hopes that it will all come out for the best. As soon as it is decided I will write all the particulars to you.

You spoke about seeing Phillip Green in Ravenna. He was one of our Artificers. Our Quartermaster is at Louisville in the hospital. They say he will not get well. His name is V. Clark and he lived in Rallston. He was not a healthy man and should never have enlisted. He was with Captain in the three month's service. Wallace Stedman started home last Friday morning. He was promoted to hospital steward in the regiment that his Father is in. They have been trying to get him out ever since he enlisted and he has not been idle by any means.

Well I cannot think of any more to write. I received those postage stamps. The reason I sent home for them was when we buy them here of the settlers we can only get three and the have to pay a dime for them. They do not have anything less than five cent pieces here.

No more at present.

From your son.

A. S. Bloomfield.

Dear Sister:-

I sit down this morning for the purpose of answering your most welcome letter of last Sunday evening. I and all of the rest are all hearty. We have had the nicest winter weather I ever saw since we came to this camp. The wind began blowing yesterday and this morning it is rather cool having frozen a little. From what you write things are going on on the same track it seems as they did last winter, having dances and spelling schools. I think I could enjoy either very much about this time, but there is no use talking about this, I shall not attend this winter.

Celestine I must tell you what a nice present our Battery got day before yesterday. It was a silk flag, and was presented us by the ladies of Louisville, Kentucky. It is of double silk has thirty-four stars on it with the letters "First Regiment, Ohio Light Artillery, Company A". These letters are of gold and the stars are silver. On the staff is a silver Battle Ax. It has beautiful fringe around it. The flag cost \$100.00. The flag was brought here by Jud, the proprietor of the Louisville Hotel, and the Col. Of the 49th. Ohio delivered the presentation speech, and it was worth hearing.

Father has heard of this Col. It is Col. Gibson.

Yesterday morning we were called up at three o'clock told to harness our teams and prepare for service. We did so. The cannoneers stood at their posts from day break until about twelve. There was about eight thousand infantry sent across the river. Our men expected to be attacked xx xxx at dark. There were ten thousand advancing but before day light they were retreating again. There is a large force at Cave City, ten miles south of here.

The fight we had here the other day is worse than the papers say. There were 120 rebels killed. The General of the Texas Rangers was killed; the Col. Of the 32nd, Indiana, Old Wilich got a shot through his cap and the man who done it got all five of the loads out of Wilich's revolver through him.

There was a little affair happened yesterday that I must relate to you. It may be interesting to some of our folks. Yesterday while we were expecting an attack Gen. Johnson was riding over the battle ground, the Gen. Of the rebel forces rode up with a flag of truce, to look about for some more dead bodies. This man was Gen. Fiffer. They recognized each other and so they rode up, shook hands and drank together. Fiffer noticed he had a Journal in his pocket and asked for an exchange, so they did. Fiffer had a Louisville Journal which was worth

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half a dollar in Bowling Green. Johnson got a Bowling Green paper. He said that coffee was worthy fifty cents per pound. And he told Johnson that they would lay down their arms if they thought slavery would not be affected. Johnson assured him that they would hold their slaves as before. Fifer owed Johnson \$300.00. He offered to pay him in Southern paper but he did not take it telling him it would be treason for him to do so. Thanked him and told him he would run the risk of getting it some other time. He said they felt the loss of their Col. Very much. He told our Col. That if they ever came into action he hoped they might not get shot. They then shook hands and parted. Johnson is a very common man. He goes on foot most of the time, though he has two of the finest horses I ever saw. He comes around our quarters and talks to the boys as common as though he was but a private. He is certainly a gentleman. I think likely we will stay here until this bridge is finished. It may be four weeks yet. If we do not move before that we will not go farther than Cave City. That is ten miles.

There is considerable of a force of rebels there. We may go and chase them out some day. Julius Michener is here. Yesterday one of Achel's cousins was here; it was Ivene.

Father there is some talk here that England is going to war with our country about Slidel and that other scoundrel. Write what you think about it and how you think this war is prospering.

I think they are very near surrounded, though the way may not close for three months yet. There is a very large force gathering here and more coming from Virginia. The 19th. is some distance from here. Write as often as convenient.

Thomas must write once in a while. Charlie going to war turned out just as I expected.

No more at present.

Your affection brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP WOOD,

Jan, 2nd, 1862.

Respected Brother:-

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. Father told me that he had sold xx Bill and Tip. You will have to feed up old Nell to go sleighing with this winter. You do not say whether that black colt has gotten over that strain. If she has you can break her and she will make a good sleighing nag, but what ever you do do not put old Nell through too hard. I suppose you and Robert are in partnership yet. Please tell me in your next how much the threshing bill was and if he gets any money for it. You did not say where Lewis and James went only that they went west. It has not been cold enough to freeze here more than one day in four it is sprinkling here this afternoon. I think it will turn into snow again in a few hours. Cyrenus Whetstone and I done our washing today. We are getting so we can do anything. I am glad you to speak so well of your spelling schools. There must be plenty of boys there yet, at least they keep up parties pretty well. You tell about Robert's fiddle. But you do not say if any of you can play any tunes or not, but I suppose you can play anything from the highland fling down to old Dan Tucker. I hardly know what will interest you most, but I will tell you something about the bridges here. There are two wagon bridges across the river, a railroad bridge, and they are going to put another one across about one half a mile up the river from these. May be you wonder how they raise the bents of a rail road bridge so I will tell you. They put a rope and tackle on them, then hitch a locomotive to one end of the rope, and they raise it up as nice as you please. The timber for this bridge they up toward Louisville and brought down on the cars, and rolled it off on this side of the river. When they wanted them across, they fastened a rope to a large tree on the other side, about fifty feet from the ground. The end was then brought across and tied to a stick, then the locomotive would pull them across. One of our boys died of the typhoid fever day before yesterday. He was sent home. He lived near Cleveland. His name was Wooster.

Honckles batter is ib this camp. He is from Cuyahoga Falls. There are several of the boys from Randolph and Atwater with him. They have been in eastern Kentucky most of the time. Thy have seen hard times. Have had two skirmishes but have not lost a man yet. There are about forty five of them sick. Yesterday was New Years here as well as in Ohio. Some of the

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boys wanted to do something or other to recollect the day, and the way some of them took was to get after an old Kentuckian and his nigger who were in camp selling apples. The darkey drove the oxen, and the master sold. The boys that they were rather dear, ten cents a dozen, so they gathered around his wagon, pulled out the linch pins, dismounted the wagon and started the wheels down a large hill into a pond of water. By this time they got a hole or two cut in his bags and the boys were helping the selves, and about this time the old fellow's blood began to get rather warm. He drew a knife but that did not keep them back, so he stabbed one in the arm. At that the boys grabbed every bag he had and scattered right and left, leaving the old Kentuckian and his slave in the wagon rearing and pitching. I think he will remember this New Years as well as any of us. I mean the boys of the 1st. Ohio. Our boys did not have any hand in it.

The report in our company is that we are mover back a mile or so tomorrow and let another battery guard this bridge. They say the bridge will be done by next Sunday. But how soon this Division is going to move I cannot say. McClelland says we should not cross the river for sixty days. Gen. Buel was down here last Monday and Tuesday looking around. There is a company of hands at work building a house for the headquarters, which is at Louisville at present. They have been measuring off the ground on this hill where our guns stand. Some say that they are going to build fortifications here. If it is so these are very curious movements. There are over one hundred thousand men in this state, and there must be one hundred cannon or more here. The camp is very anxious for a forward movement and if they had their way they would be in Bowling Green before three days or get whipped. You have not said whether there was any sleighing there. Are you done husking corn All of these things interest me if I am over five hundred miles from home.

Try and improve our spelling and writing. I would be glad to see you beat me. No more at present.

From your brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.