

CAMP AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Dec, 25th, 1864.

Respected Brother:-

According to custom I must write this evening whether I have any news or not. We have had some very cold weather during the past week and I have kept as close to our quarters as convenient and have tried to pass the time in reading the news from our victorious armies. This is the first opportunity we have had to lay back and read the news of the 4th A.C. I think General Sherman has awakened the southern confederacy as well as the whole world. The Johnnies seem to think that Sherman is going to be the cause of Richmond falling. I think our prospects are getting brighter every day. I saw the boys of Battery E A few days ago. They are all well. John Dunbar is here but I have not seen him yet.

We have had thirty of our best horses picked out and sent to the front and their are prospects of turning over the remainder. We are This Christmas evening, for all of that I cannot see any difference from last night except that some of the boys are rater jubilant over what they have had to take. I suppose you have often seen in the papers this summer of the soil of Georgia being full of isen-glas I send you a specimen in this letter. As a general thing it is in small pieces about the size of fish scales, but the piece I get this off from is as large as a sheet of paper and probably over a hundred layers in the chunk. I supposed you boys at home are having things about your own way this winter. There are between twenty and thirty thousand soldiers in and around this City. I think there are over twenty batteries of light artillery here. There were twenty-three here all last summer. I do not think this war will last over one year longer. The Johnnies are evidently getting sick of this rebellion as is the north, and a little sicker if I can be any judge of their feelings.

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,

Jan, 1st- 1865

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome missive a few days ago and was glad to hear from you again. This week is a week that most of the people have their jollification, but here it is quite different. Sundays, Wednesdays, Christmases and New Years and 4th of July are all the same. No Holidays for a soldier.

I think I wrote some to you how I spent Christmas. Now you may want to know how we are going to put in the first day of this year. Our officers have treated the battery to something to drink. All feel very jubilant, xxx more from the kindness and the good disposition of our officers than from what we have been drinking. We got nothing stronger than beer. Everything is quiet around the City today, and really does put one in mind of a lonely Sunday at home. We had inspection at half past nine. This is the usual Sunday ceremony in the army, especially in artillery. Some regiments have chaplains that preach once in a while. I hear that you have good sleighing in Ohio and I suppose sleighing is the main topic of the day. Day before yesterday it blew up cold here and snowed about three inches. It has been quite cold here since. It put me in mind of last New Years day only the cold is not so severe. Today is as pleasant a day as I ever saw and prospects of more like it. I suppose it is a query in your mind how soldiers put in their time in camp. We only have to get up wood, take care of thirty horses and on guard one day out of a week, so every one is idle at least two thirds of the time. We get plenty of candles and have all the light we want. I have put in most of my time reading since I have been here. I have read the history of the United States, lives of the presidents and vice presidents and I am now reading a large book on the evils of slavery. I cannot enumerate the novels, etc etc. besides not less than two daily papers each day. Other play cards checkers dice, chess dominoes, etc. etc. but I am glad to say there is not half the card playing now that there was a year or so ago. It makes a great difference where an army is as to the amount of card playing. Soldiers will always find something to do and when they are where papers and books cannot be got then is when the cards have to suffer.

I cannot say that the health of the battery is as good as it was. I have just got over the worst cold that I have had since I was at home last winter.

2.

Every thing is quiet here and we get no xnews but what is encouraging to one that has two years to serve. I see old Abe wants three hundred thousand more. and I suppose they are to be had. I am going to send home another diary that I have just filled. Please take care of it. there is nothing here to excite one to write. It is quite different to being at the front..

With my respects, I am,

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

NASHVILLE, TENNESS. Jan, 8th, 1865

Respected Father:-

I seat myself today to answer your welcome letter of December 26th. and to manifest my pleasure at receiving the box. Not only, you but the whole family and every one that had a hand in it. I received the letter with the receipt over a week ago, but the box did not come until the day before yesterday. It was delayed at Louisville on account of the rail road being cut. I received it yesterday., Every thing was in good order. Not a mouthful spoiled. I only wish you could have been here to have seen our feast. I want you to understand that I divided with my messmates and called in my outside friends to the number of 16. many were th words that are spoken in thanks to you and rest of the family. Some even went to the Sutlers and took a glass of beer as a token of respect. Others more temperate smoked a cigar. All very useless habits but frequently indulged in by soldiers. After all had had a meal I found plenty left to last me for a number of days. In the shanty I stay in are ten Randolph boys, two Cleveland boys and one from Carma. Today that frosted cake was carved into sixteen pieces and passed around the jolly circle. I feel that it did me more good to see others eat it and have them mention your names than it would have been for me to have eaten it all myself. I have opened two cans of applied butter and one of wild grapes. There was another box received by three of the Randolph boys at the same time mine was. Nearly every one of our boys have boxes on the road. Some are however, so unfortunate as to have no one to send them such articles. The boxes received yesterday were the first that came to this battery since we halted here.

Tell Betsey Biles that I am much obliged to her for what she sent. Just now something comes into my mind that I have heard. It was that Fred Biles is a copperhead and that his wife is a Union woman. It is so? Uncle Sam provides us with plenty of clothing, yet those socks are very cheerfully received. They are better than the government furnishes. Madison, Charley and Dave are looking of their box nearly every day.

You spoke in your last letter as if you would like to come down here, or would if you could get the time. There are but things that would give me as much pleasure as it would to bee you here. I think I know something about how a citizen feels when he goes amongst soldiers, or has to travel in a country ruled by military officers. It is very embarrassing for one to be halted at the corner of every street, or wherever there chances to be guards and e compelled to show a pass.

2.

The first thing he will see when he goes to get onto the cars, or onto a boat, is a guard at the door with a bayonet on to investigate your case and see if you are traveling lawfully. I do not have the least doubt that you could get a pass to the City. I think they are allowed to come here without a pass but have to get one to get north. I suppose you heard long ago of Jonathan Yarion's misfortune. I was over to the hospital a few days ago. He was up walking around on his crutches. I do not think I ever saw one get along as fast as he has. He is as cheerful as I ever saw a soldier. You can tell his folks they need not feel concerned as to this safety. he says he is going to Louisville in a few days.

You speak of the draft and from what you say of the xxxxxx loyal portion of our town I think it accords with the sentiments of the army. I have no doubt but that you will have to pay high bounties to get the township clear, yet there is another way to clear the bounties that Randolph has not tried yet. That is, for the men to go that are drafted. I heard that bill Bates had to pay \$800.00 for a substitute. I am in hopes that this draft will hit him, and then what will poor Will do? I suppose that he will just flatten out. Now a long time ago I sent you an order to draw my bounty of J. Kendrick. I heard you received the order but not that you ever got the money. Now if you have got it let me know and if you have not received it I will go about it in a way that will bring it. You seem to be highly pleased with the late news. and still it continues to come. Every mail and morning paper makes it more assured that we are on the right side and that the enemy is getting more discouraged each day. Did you see what Senator Foote said in the rebel congress when he resigned? We are having very mild winter weather at present. I have the best of health but I cannot say that the battery is as health as it was.

With these lines I will close.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Jan, 15th, 1865.

Respected Brother:-

It has been some time since I heard from you so I am going to write to you. there has nothing transpired a this place ;worthy of note, expect the order that has just been sent around to all of the batteries in this place except three. It is to turn over every thing and draw muskets. There are twenty seven batteries here, only three are going to be kept up for field service. The remainder are to do guard duty around the City. Yesterday our battery received orders to turn over every thing and report t Gallatin, where the 13th Ind. battery would turn over every thing to us. I suppose we will go some time this week. It is probable that we il have to take muskets also.

The battery that is there has been there for two years. I believe we will serve out our time there. We have had a very pleasant time here . Or tent has had four or five boxes of provisions within the last week, and you may believe we set a good table now. But provisions is not all we have. One of our boys received a violin. He is a better violinist than Bradfield ever was. He is the sargeant of the detachment I am in, so we have plenty of music. Some of the boys are trying to get up a brass band. Some of them have their instruments and we have nearly enough that have been members of bands before. Night before last Battery E String band serenaded our battery. Last night I was down to the old theatre to hear the Seen sistes It was the most beautiful scenery that I have ever beheld, and if any one wants to spend money for any thing of that kind the theatre is the place one can see more language in gestures and scenery than may can make with their tongues. I would see more to see a good piece performed on the stage than go to a dozen circus shows.

Well if this is not one h—I of a place to write in. they are playing the fiddle and about a dozen big loafers are dancing, singing etc. well I believe I could write in the center of a bar room row if they left the table right side up.

Well I will be darned if this old fiddle don't make one almost sick to hear those old fashioned tunes played. One of our lieutenants have just come in and the boys have gotten him to sing a dutch son. I have hard some very good news from the north which caused much rejoicing in our battery. IN fact all of Abraham's posts are rejoicing over the news.

2.

I suppose you could not guess what it is so I will tell you. First is the call for three hundred thousand more men. Second, the fair prospects of a speedy and honorable termination of the war.

Third that Bill Bates had to come up to the scratch.

I shall wait until the mail comes in and see if I do not get a letter from some one at home -----did not get the letter. The last I received from home was mailed the 27th. of last month. Now, you want to recollect and not put the 4th. A C on the letters. The battery received about a half a bushel of mail today that had been down to the 4th a.C.

This is a beautiful day. We have had some of as nice weather here as you ever saw in Ohio in April I heard some news the other day to the effect that Fanny Cooper and Em Harper had joined Church. Well I do not know but the old saying is true. "We all wear cloaks; some wear one kind and some another" The more variety the less perfection it needs" It has been over one year since I started home from Strawberry Plains. There is a vast difference in affairs now to what they were at that time. My sincere opinion is that his rebellion is not going to last long enough to make years though we may serve our time out.

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT GALLITON, TENNESSEE.

Jan, 22nd- 1865.

Respected Sister:-

I take this occasion to answer your letter which I received a few days before we left Nashville. We left there last Friday. The battery we relieved will not go away until tomorrow when we take possession of their quarters. The quarters are very good but not as good as the ones we left at Nashville. We are quartered in some cars at present. Our battery is to be reorganized again into a six gun battery. There is a beautiful star fort here about a quarter of a mile from town. The place is about the size of Ravenna with some very good public buildings. The ravages of war have not been left here as in other parts of the state. The town is full of cits. and every thing looks prosperous. I think we are twenty six miles from Nashville. There is one regiment of infantry here. The 11th. Minn.; also some colored troops. and a regiment of cavalry. The 23rd A C are passing through here on their way to reinforce Gen. Grant. We long ago got the news of the fall of Fort Fisher for which the guns of Nashville fired a salute. I suppose from what you said you are having a jolly time during the good sleighing. I heard the take about the big meeting at Limaville.

We are having some very unpleasant weather. Plenty of rain and mud for the last few days. Some of the boys have gone up town to a meeting of the old battery. They have been here for twenty five months. I believe six or eight of them have been married here. they have advance nearly every week and they hay they have run out the cits. You may believe they hate to go to the front after staying here so long. I do not see how I can find news for any thing to put in a letter if I continue to write once a week. No more at present.

From your brother,

A S Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT GALLITON, TENNESSEE

Jan, 29th, 1885

Respected Brother:-

According to a long a practice I write to day not that I have any news to transfer to you. We have gotten arranged in our new home. Not as comfortable as the quarters we left at Nashville, though they are far supperior to pup tents. We have two long buildings for the battery. Each shanty is divided into three rooms so that each detachment is quartered together. We are divided into six detachments again. Our rooms are twenty by thirty fee and are to contain from twenty to twenty six men. Our quarters are outside of the fort and within ten paces of the railroad. The fort is a very good structure and is in the shape of a six pointed star. there is a gun in each point. It is all sodded over and will look green when summer comes. From the bottom of the ditch to the top of the parapet is fifteen feet. There is a good magazine and two cisterns. Each gun has three port holes. It has been erected nearly two years as long as we stay here all we will have to do will be to put on style and have inspections. We have just had one week of very cold weather. As cold as any that we have had this winter, but there is some appearance of it moderating.

I cannot say that the earth of the battery is as good as here to fore though no one is seriously ill. Last evening H Ward arrived here from Randolph. He is a brother to J. Ward of our battery.

I have no news from General Thomas' command but take it all in all the news in the papers is decidedly good and no doubt will strengthen the nerves of those that are to be numbered in the next three hundred thousand. The greater portion of our battery have gone to meeting. We almost imagine ourselves out f the army. There is little propsects of our being paid off any ways soon, and I am out of money. I want you to get five dollars from father and sent it to me in the next letter that leaves home. I cannot get the time into any advantage without money. We take the Cincinnati commercial daily and I think it is the paper for the soldier to take. It is the best paper in our country on all subjects of importance. We get the Portage Co. papers very frequently so you see we are nearly as well posted on home subjects was we would be out of the service. We have not receive our mail very regular f the past week. I guess we will get it regulate din a few days.

From your brother, A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT GALLITON, TENNESSEE.

Feb, 5th, 1865

Dear Mother:-

I received your welcome letter a few days ago and as was very glad to receive one written by your own hand. Today finds we enjoying good health. There are but very few sick at present and they are now dangerously ill. Since I wrote last Sunday one of our number had died. He was a German by the name of Cariger, and lived west of New Baltimore. He worked at the carpenter trade with Fred Nigh. He was out for one year. He was only sick a few days and died from congestion of the lungs. I wish I could spend part of my lazy hours visiting with you and Uncle William. Every letter from Ohio brings the news that there is as good sleighing as ever was seen. I know it will take a war far more gigantic from this to keep the people from enjoying it. You poke about receiving a book that I had sent father. I suppose it was the history of the 2nd. Division. I am glad to hear that Fred A. Bowe is all right on the question of the day. I would be very much pleased to send you some of my photographs but there is no gallery in this town yet. I think someone will set up a shop here soon and then I will get some taken. You say Gertie is taking music lessons. Is she learning to play any tunes?

Mother, wasn't it one year ago today that I arrived home on furlough? I think so. Is it to be two years ere I can take the same journey again? I think not. I cannot believe the war will last two years longer though I may have to serve my time out. The papers are full of peach but what does that amount to. There is ten times the excitement in the north and amongst the literary part of the community who never saw an army as there is amongst the soldiers. I don't expect peace until we have captured the last gun boat and have completely routed the Richmond army, the largest and most powerful force they ever had collected in one body. Yet I do think things look very cheering to the soldiers and if Grant and Sherman do not meet with any reverses the war is certainly fast coming to a close. Father was talking some of coming down here. I should be very glad to see him. Without doubt the trip will pay him just to see the country. I think I can get a pass to go with him to Nashville which is only 26 miles from here. There is but little said here about the draft. Every one supposes it will go off on the 15th. Well Mother I cannot think of any more at present worth mentioning. I hope these lines will find you all well and enjoying yourselves. Your affectionate son,
A S Bloomfield

GALLATIN, TENNESSEE,

Feb, 13th, 1865

Respected Brother:-

Yours of the 5th. came to hand today. Although I had heard of the greater portion of the news you wrote some days ago yet I could read it with great interest. I am some surprised to hear of John Britton's enlistment. You did not say where he was going, whether in the Randolph company or in some other one. I am glad that they have gotten some of the high bloods of our town, even if they are going with the intention of being officers of some rank. I heard that Bill France thought he ought to have a lieutenancy. I think perhaps we have some men of three or four years experience that know about as much about military matters as he. You spoke about our battery being reorganized. So it is, yet we are not allowed any more men. We were made a for gun battery for a seer campaign. The great difficulty in artillery is to get ammunition and men to use it. The number of guns don't have so much to do in winning a battle as does the well service of those that are used. You spoke something about enlisting. I will always advise you not to enlist in infantry. I should rather serve in artillery without a cent of pay or bounty than to go into the infantry with the largest of bounties. I suppose our town is cleared of the draft for this call, so my advice to you is the town is cleared of draft and it may be the last call. If another one is ordered you may get a chance to enlist in some battery.

I am obliged for that V. We are having very pleasant winter weather. this has been a very steady cold winter but not extremely cold at any time. The most of the boys have been troubled with colds but they are getting over them now.

I hear of a great man of the 23rd A C boys being at home. I am in hopes they may have a good time for they are going to see some rough service in North Carolina or some where else pretty soon. I think in a few months more the Johnnies will change their tunes. We have got the particulars of the Hatchers Run fight.

Every thing is quiet at this point. there are some guerillas committing some depredations around here.

This letter of yours was the first that I had heard from home since the twenty- second of last month. I shall close with what I have said hoping that I may have more news next time. don't forget that yours is always welcome.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

GALLATIN, TENNESSEE,
Feb, 26- 1865.

Dear Sister:-

I received your welcome letter of the 14th. a few days ago. I am enjoying good health, but here are some of the boys unwell. Jerry Ward and C Lamphrey are at the hospital but are not considered dangerous. xxx We are having very pleasant weather for the past week. Had two heavy thunder b showers lately. We had inspection today, it being our Sunday exercise for the Sabbath in the army. Every thing is quiet at this point. Yesterday an extra train went north carrying vice President Andrew Johnson and escort on their way to Washington D C. There has been a great many troops going to the front during the past week. I understand that there is a new A C being formed at Nashville. We have been looking for Perkins and Company for the pas two days. Did you have any thing going on there on the 22nd? We gave it a double celebration, firing thirty five guns in honor of the fall of Charleston.

You may think we did not have a good time. If so you are mistaken. We had a big dance in our shanty. We have a very goodo orchestra, consisting of two violins, a fat fiddle and two brass horns, and if I ever told the truth I do now, that soldiers have lots of fun, if women are scarce. Our detachment and no.3 can more than take the lead in dancing. The boys are all very cheerful over the prospects of the speedy over throw of the confederacy. What did I tell some of you last Summer about this army. I mean the army of the west? It was that I believed that General Sherman would take Richmond some day and better than all he is going to do it with the western army. I fee confident our army will occupy it before thirty days. Yet General Sherman's army may never see Richmond. They are they army that are going to cause the evacuation. I think by next winger I shall be at home. If not, some of the boys will be discharge anyhow. I hear you have had good times sleighing this winter. You told me who Gert's fellow was now who is Thomas's fellow? You spoke about were we were one year from the night you wrote. Now, do you remember where we were one year ago tonight? I do. We were at Baltimore. Mother said she heard some one had got some of my photographs and that she wanted more to give away. Now I want you to remember they are not worth one in return and are not worth presenting to any one. I expect to get some taken. I cannot entertain you any longer at present. With my love to all I remain,

Your brother,
A. S. Bloomfield

CAMP AT GALLITON, TENNESSEE.

March, 5th, 1865

Respected Father:-

I received your welcome letter a few days ago and was again reminded of home and parents. I have the best of health at present. Coughs and colds are disappearing amongst the boys. I presume your snow has is appeared for we have just had tenor fifteen days of warm weather. A very heavy rain commenced to fall Thursday evening and continued for over fifty hours without cessation for a minute. Part of the time it came down in torrents, accompanys with thunder and lightening. There is some fear that it may have been general over the U S and may interfere with Gen. Sherman's movements in the Carolina's. The Cumberland river was extremely high.

You say that from reports, or rather from what Brad Britton said, that Johnfelt very bad because he could not go as substitute. I think he must have reformed if he feels such a great interest in the well fare of his country, or as you say it is tight papers with him. I think they must have been very tight if that could have any effect on his feelings. I should think it as the latter that prompted him to go into the service more than his patriotism. I should have liked very much to have been at home and spent some of my time with Uncle William. Maybe I cherish his name and loyalty too much but he is the only one living of my name that I can respect as Uncle. Ever since we have been here I have paid strict attention to the army news. We get nearly every number of the Cincinnati commercial, Louisville Journal and Democrat, Nashville Union & Press, Cleveland Tri-weekly & Herald and the Portage and Stark county papers. So I am pretty well posted on army news as well as on country affairs. Yesterday was the day that Old Abe was to be sworn in for four years more. I wonder if his soldiers vets standing to his back did not have something todo with his going in for four years more. There was a salute fired at Nashville ad and this little place showed their warm feelings by illuminating the town. They have established law here and are holding court. It begins to look a little like a free country.

There is going to be a general bustification in the confederacy very soon. I speak as though defeat to our army was impossible. Yes, I do think a total defeat impossible, yet they may throw their whole force on some part of our lines and defeat the portion or our army, yet I trust if they do that the apa that has not received any injury will embrace the opportunity to harrass their broker columns for such they will be after defeating Sherman or Grant.

2.

Now, I really believe the civilians of the north. would be far worse terror stricken to hear of the defeat of General Sherman than would the soldiers in the fields. For they have often met the Johnies in battle and nkwo their valor as soldiers. We are beginning to appreciate what Gen. Sherman said to his men last spring when the army left Catousa Springs, Georgia. It was "Let each soldier provide himself with only those things which are indispensable to a soldier All other articles shall be sent to the rear for we are starting on as campaign that is going to last until the war is over." Things are very inactive here, or seemingly so to one who has seen the operations of large armies. The greater portion of the government employees at Nashville have seen sent to the different points of the coast so the City has ceased to be a great military post. I sup ose Chattanooga is far ahead of it at present. Nearly all of the supplies for Thomas' army goes up[the Tennessee river. for the past twenty days there has been considerable of a rush of horses and mules to the front for the cavalry and their has probably twenty thousand troops, mostly new recruits, gone also. Trains have been on time every day since we have been here except one. About a week ago a few guerillas captured and burned a freight train near the Kentucky line. It was principally load with merchandise and it as a little loss to the government

There are two passenger trains each way per day. They pass here at 4:30 in the evening. There are eight or nine coaches on each train. The principle travelers are soldiers. Freight trains have no guard on them and only a light guard on passenger and mail trains. i went to church this fore noon and heard a very good sermon. It was Union throughout and he often spoke of our soldiers commanders, and the president. It sounded more like the right kind of preaching than any man that I have listened to for some time. The Chaplain of the 11th Minn is preaching in the fort now. I do not remember of telling any of you than out Captain has his wife here. Everything has the appearance of spring. The field look green but it was rather cool last night. It froze the ground a very little. I am in hopes that the day will soon dome when we may meet and talk to our satisfaction.

With my well wishes,

You son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

Fort Thomas, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.

March, 18, 1865.

Respected Brother:-

Yours of the 11th, came to hand during the past week and as usual greeted me with good news. Every thing goes well with us at Gallatin. No one dangerously ill, no one over burdened with duty, night comes and no one is fatigued. Rations can be seen laying around promiscuously in every shelf and every havesack. It is so warm we need no fire at present so of course we have no wood to chop.

I should like to know who has a better time than battery A at present. Now I have pictured to you the fairer side of a soldier's life, yet you know someone would complain if they the whole world at their disposal. So it is here. Some are complaining about one thing and some another. I never saw our battery so well satisfied and contented as when we were on a campaign sleeping in our little pup tents at night and marching in the day time. It always seems that men never know when they are well off. I have been to meeting twice since we came here. Once was today. And now for a description of the audience as it presented itself to me. About three fourths of the men present were soldiers, mostly privates with their full uniform on. There were soldiers, mostly privates with their full uniform on. There were a few officers. The other Twere mostly old men and young boys. They wear their hair long and cut off square. Their clothing is butter nut or gray cloth, home made. Their pants are cut after some old fashion or no fashion at all. Any how they are about as tight as the hide. Their legs look like broom sticks They are mostly tall and slim, spare faced, light hair and grizly beard. So much for the men and now for the women. I must say they look a little better, for you know they will keep up with fashions or stay at home. Nearly all of the females are natives. I do not think there are a dozen northern women in this place. They do not look s hale and hearty as Ohio women. There is another class that was not represented at church today. They are the poor whites. They seem to be a separate class all together. it is a pitiful sight to see so many people poor and ignorant. They seem to be lower spirited than the contrabands and are by far worse off at present for the government cares for the negroes.

You know the porr people in Ohio are able to have their children get a good education at the expense of the wealthier, and if honest can earn a good living.

2.

And as a general thing the ones that have nothing to show for their years of toil go with their backs covered with the best cloth You say it keeps you bobbing to do the chores. So that part of the game has not changed much since 1860? I shall not forget that nice span of horses and buggy you speak about. I am in hopes that I shall be at home some time during the coming year and pay my respects to them. From what you say that party must have been a gay thing. I think I could have enjoyed a game of bang about this item of the day. There has been some little excitement between here and Louisville caused guerillas. They captured a passenger train a few days ago, robbed the passengers, burned the cars and then left for parts unknown. I suppose you have read of the capture of Sue Mordry the famous guerilla chief, also of his execution at Louisville, Ky. I send you a few lines written by the editor of the Louisville Journal on Sue before he was captured. I don't go much on the editor's loyalty yet his editorial column is always interesting. His politics has nothing to do with the local news and the telegraph dispatches are the same as in the commercial and other papers.

I almost forgot to tell you yesterday was my birthday. I came very near forgetting when it came, myself.

Your brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.

Fort Thomas, GALLIATIN, TENNESSEE.

March, 26th, 1865.

Sister:-

With pleasure I seat myself today to pen the doings of another week in Dixie, if it be possible to all the country visible from our camp Dixie. Every thing passes off in the same old strain only we keep our eyes open a little wider, to see the part of the war cloud. For it seems to be the belief of every one that the end is fast approaching. One would naturally suppose if they had never been in the army, that the soldier would feel more contented if there was prospects of peace yet it is to the contrary. To soldiers whose minds are on war, the enemy are always within sight or within a few hours march. I have no doubt that Sherman and Grant's armies are much more contented than this one. I already notice a change in our own company. They are beginning to talk of getting out in one year, some even sooner. Some seem to feel nervous thinking that U S is going to turn them off before their three years are up. I cannot say that I have lost any sleep yet on the future prospects. I was to church today. The sermon was delivered by a minister not less than seventy five years of age. We are having very pleasant weather. The forest trees are beginning to nooks green and peach trees were in bloom over a week ago. The guerillas continue to commit depredations in the vicinity of this place. they always go where they do not find any soldiers. They only plunder for what they can carry off. I must say that I have no news to write you and I suppose you must have exhausted your supply for I have not received a letter from home for over a week.

I remain, You brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

Fort Thomas, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.

April, 2ND, 1865.

Dear Brother:-

I received yours of the 26th. last evening when I was on guard. I think if I was at home I could spend many pleasant hours in conversation with you, but it is a slow and tedious way to communicate with any one. I do not know of any thing that has transpired in this department worthy of note, yet every one both north and south are waiting with feverish anxiety for news from the eastern army. I see in this morning's papers that General Thomas is taking an active part in the campaign against Richmond. It is stated that his forces are half way from Knoxville to Bristol. He also has a corps of engineers repairing the road in his rear. It is my opinion there will be some heavy fighting inside of thirty days. I feel confident that our forces will have Virginia cleared of rebel forces and never to be occupied by them again by the 4th of July.

Emaline Bloomfield's marriage is very unexpected to me. I should have been very glad to have seen them, as they passed through here. I have no doubt that they have passed through before now, if they started Wednesday, but I shall look on the evening train today.

From what you say New Baltimore is retrograding of late. This thing of using liquors to such a great extent is becoming more disgusting to me every day. No one sees the ruinous effects more than a soldier. I wish there was a tax on it twice, yes ten times as high as at present.

The health of the battery is good. The weather is pleasant and grass has grown enough to make a good cow pasture. Three years ago today we broke camp at Duck River, and started for Pittsburg Landing. I want you to look over my Diaries and send me the date when they commenced. I want to try and get what I lost. I do not recollect if I send any home, of our proceedings in Kentucky, in 1861 and 1862. I received a letter from Celestine last Sunday about one hour after I wrote to her.

No more at present,

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS. GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
April, 19th, 1865

Dear Sister:-

I received your letter written one week ago today. It came to me this morning. It seems that you got some fun out of the first day of April (or as the old saying is "all fool's day"). There were a great many sells tried to be gotten up here on different ones, but I do not know of any one being sold.

Soldiers do not have any thing to think of and of course they all remembered that that was the first of April. It has rained all day and most of last night. You said that you had come to the same conclusion that I had, and that was that you had no news to write. Well I will just say that I have changed my mind. You might as well say that were I to come home that you would have nothing to say, which I know to be the reverse, so I have come to the conclusion that I never told the truth when I said that I had nothing to say or write.

Since I wrote last Monday we have received a great deal of very good news from the Eastern Army. I suppose there was great excitement in some of the northern Cities over the fall of Richmond and Pettersburg. It did not cause so much excitement in the different armies as one would suppose, not knowing the Disposition of the soldiers. It was what all had long looked for and every one was confident that our armies were strong enough to take them at some future day, so every one is waiting and looking for the news of the surrender of Lee's whole command. I think the rebellion is about played out. I would not be surprised to hear of the army surrendering at any hour.

I am enjoying good health. Alexander Roe spent three days with our battery during the past week. He had been down to Nashville after the body of a Randolph soldier. I heard that most of those new recruits from our town were in the hospital.

I read a very high-flown piece in a paper some time ago headed "Randolph in the field". Now I expect to see one entitled "Randolph in the hospital". One would suppose that they were the most patriotic men that Randolph ever sent out to read the piece. Now, I have not a very great amount of sympathy for some men, not it does not go a grain against my conscience to express my opinion. I have come to the conclusion that were it not for the draft and high bounties the Union army might have been defeated and driven across the Ohio before 3-4 of them would have thought that they could ever have been a private in the army. I am confident that there are a few innocent boys amongst the ones that constitute the last named.

With my respects to all I will close hoping to hear from home again in due time.

Your brother, A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLITAN, TENNESSEE.
April, 16th, 1865.

Dear Father:-

I seat myself to pen you a few lines knowing that they are expected from me. When I wrote you last week I was highly gratified with the news that we had been receiving, and it continued good until yesterday morning. We fired a salute of two hundred rounds in hone of General Grant's victory and for the down fall of the flower of the rebel army . We also fired two hundred rounds on the 14th. that being the day set apart for the President to celebrate Union victories and to raise the flag again over Ft. Sumpter. But on the morning of the 15th. some of our boys were in the telegraph office and the operator came to them and told them what had passed through on the wire, and about eight o'clock, or a little before the news came through confirming the death of the president and that he had died at twenty minutes past seven that morning. The news was a perfect hock to all. I have seen our army battery whipped; I have also seen our battery driven back and compelled to leave our dead and wounded companions in the field to fall in the hands of the enemy, yet the contrast was not so observable as in this case. Of course I can only speak of our own company at the present, yet I think it a good rule to go gy. the sensation was great in Nashville. The whole City was stunned into mourning. Flags were placed at half mast, and the forts fired minute guns form the moment guns for the moment of the reception of the news until sun down.

The day had been set apart for celebration, but when they received the news they changed their celebrating to mourning . The papers are all out in mourning. This calamity is not going to have any tendency to discourage the army, but right to the contrary. Every one is in hopes that Sec. Seward will recover. It seems form all accounts there has been a plot to have put quite a number out of the way, and no doubt Gen Grant was numbered among the victims. I am in hopes that the assinators will be caught and receive what they shall justly deserve, that is a hanging. I do not think it will prolong the war a single day. We have good and true men left. Johnson made a bad commencement yet I am in hopes that he will come out all right. NO one seems to have any doubt as to his loyalty yet I dont think him such a man as Lincoln. I think Johnson will be a great deal more tyranical than Lincoln. I would not wonder that the enemy would be made to join us in mourning, the loss of our president before this rebellion is settle. Who ever head of any Gen. Being more liberal with an enemy after warring as much as he.

2.

General Grant's terms were far more liberal than General Lee had expected, and he even done better by the rebels than General had asked him to do. Now, I should like to know the opinion of the people at home of General Lee. AS an enemy you may wonder of my asking such a question, so I shall answer any telling my opinion of him as well as what seems to be the general opinion among the Union soldiers. No one doubts but that he is an enemy and did all that was in his power to sustain his government. Yet when he saw every thing was lost, he made an honorable surrender, and from all accounts he has been doing his share to get Johnson to surrender his arm. I do not think the enemy has another General as good as Lee, nor one with as much honor as he. Their cause is certainly hopeless now. I think they are only holding out to cover the retreat of Davis and his cabinet. Every thing as far as I can learn is going on xxxxxxxx smoothly in this department. The people in this county seem to be encouraged by the prospects of peace and are going to try and raise crops this year. Guerillas do not seem to be so plentiful of late. The Col commanding here tried to make our battery draw horses to mount ninety of our men, but Capt. got out of it some way, and now he says we are to draw muskets.

We are having pleasant weather here. The forest trees have leaves on them about half grown. I have not received any letter from home this week as I have been in the habit of heretofore. A letter leaving Marlboro Tuesday gets here Saturday or Sunday morning. We get two mails per day.

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT" THOMAS. GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.

April, 23rd, 1865

Dear Mother:-

Your welcome letter came to hand several days ago and once more reminded me that I should be punctual and write each week. I cannot complain of any of you not writing often enough for I have heard from some of you nearly every week since I left home this last time. Today is a very pleasant one, clear and cool enough to wear coats with comfort. I have just returned from a pleasure trip with a few others of the company. We borrowed the Railroad Company's hand car and took a trip to the tunnel a distance of six miles. I think the ride had a great tendency to give us a good appetite, even more of our pork and beans than our curiosity that we had to see a tunnel. I do not anticipate an attack here not even if the country was invaded with considerable of an army and I will tell you why. Because Battery A has got muskets and I bet it is known all over this county by this time. The most of them have a great curiosity to go scouting. I know of some going out ten miles. At present every thing is very quiet in this part of Tennessee.

Mother, I cannot help saying something about the death of our President although I wrote something about it in my last letter, yet were I to write for a week I could not say half that has been said and thought by his supporters. We respected the day of his funeral. All of the officers and most of the soldiers wore crape. We fired twenty-one guns commencing at 12 noon. No labor was performed by soldiers. All stores and shops were closed here, I sent two of the Nashville papers with particulars of the funeral, home. The papers are crowded with the sayings and doings of the different states. All of the engines on this road were trimmed in mourning, some even have it on yet. We have not heard of the arrest of booth yet but I think they will capture him soon. I do not doubt but that many a rebel has been shot already for the crime. Every paper has an account of some one getting killed for uttering disloyal words and speaking in favor of the Assassin. One of the officers of Battery E 1st O L A who had been with the A C up in East Tennessee said that when they received the sad news of the death of Lincoln they were almost uncontrollable. They wanted to destroy everything. He said they did burn nearly every building. I do not have the least doubt but that hundreds of southerners will be coolly shot by our soldiers, also their property will have to suffer. They will be obliged to mourn for his death as well as we.

Well, I suppose you want to know my opinion of the war. Well here it is. I do not think there will be another battle of the magnitude of Stoneriver or Chicamauga, and it may be

2.

possible that the fighting is all over. We have not yet heard of the surrender of Johnson's army but expect it soon or another battle. It has been reported in nearly every paper for the past week that he has surrendered, but we have not gotten it officially, so of course we do not believe it.

The old 4th A C are at Nashville now on their way to Texas so we have missed that trip by being relieved. Kirby Smith will have his cotton trade frustrated soon if he allows the old 4th A C to invade the state. My opinion is that they will never get a shot at Kirby. They have fought him many a time, are willing to again. Some think that we will be in Ohio by the 1st. of August. Now, I do not believe any such doctrine. I am in hopes and believe we will get out of the service sometime between next January and June of 1866, yet I suppose it possible that we may get out sooner than I think.

From what you say about Uncle Jake Cook he is not very well posted on the war or the intentions of Canada. You say his son was drafted. I think it would him good to get drafted a few times. I think that would remove all superfluous copper.

I sent Gertrude those pictures of Lookout Mountain.

With my respects, I remain,

As ever your son,

A. S. Bloomfield

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
April, 30th, 1865

Dear Sister:-

I received your welcome letter of the 18th. of the present month. Today is Sunday and I am on guard. I am now sitting on one of the off sets inside of the fort on the green grass, which covers all parts of it and gives it a beautiful appearance. I cannot complain of my health so of course I am satisfied for all am sure our work is done and we are only waiting the day for settlement to come. We received the news of the surrender of Johnson's army to General Sherman in yesterday morning's paper and it of course produced much rejoicing among the soldiers as well as among the citizens. The rebels sympathizers of this place rejoice a great deal over the prospects for peace. We also received the news the day before of the capture of Booth and partner and the death of the former. I have also read an order from the war department stating that great reductions were to be made in the armies as soon as it would be possible to do so. Yesterday the hands and teams, 300 men and 100 wagons, government employees from this department that were engaged in the lumber business, passed through here on their way to Nashville to be discharged. They were at work about twenty five miles up the Cumberland. Well there is no use for my going on to tell about what I have read in the papers for you can see the same, but it is my opinion there will be a great many troops discharged within the next 60 days. This morning there was a train loaded with prisoners that General Kilpatrick captured at Salisbury, N C, passed through here on their way north. They all seem to be glad that the war was played out. But were much out of humor about the treatment that they received by Jeff Davis. They say he is running off with the gold that they should have. They talked freely on all subjects and apparently hold no grudge against the Union armies.

I was not much surprised to hear of those girls joining church because the greater portion of fast young women generally join church five or six times in their lives so it is about time for them to commence. I enclose a photograph of Major W. F. Goodspeed. Please take it into your care until I can for it. I cannot think of any more to write about that would come inside of the limits of this sheet, so I shall close.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS. GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
May, 7th, 1865.

Dear Sister:-

Your welcome letter of April 26th. came to hand one day last week and it found me, as I now am, hearty and well. We are having as easy times as any soldier could wish for. We drill twice each day, one hour and a half each time. I think I have told some of you before that we have muskets. We can show the regiments of infantry that are here some new tricks in drill. I am almost of the opinion that Battery A would make a good infantry company.

Well Gertie you are looking for news of some command getting discharged. So are we. I have not heard of any but a few from Hospitals getting their discharges. Yet I suppose every thing is moving along slowing in that direction. there is not such a thing known in the service as hurry. Every thing has to go through just so many ceremonies. I do not expect to hear of any getting discharged before the last of the first of next month and I am not certain that the vets are going out with the rest. Every one seems to be of the opinion that they will be discharged with their company or regiments are. There is one thing in our favor. Nearly all of the batteries in the service are veterans. I shall have to tell you that we had a big dance last night. We held it in a tobacco and cotton ware house that belongs to the railroad company. Over fifty couples danced at once and there was plenty of room for more. We had a good band but were minus of women. You would have laughed to have seen them go in shoulder strips and all. I believe we have as good officers as any battery in the service. We do not draw any commissaries but soldiers can almost always find something for substitute. I do not think there has a day passed for 50 days but what Battery A has milked from the cows of this town to the amount of 25 gallons. That would not sound very well at home would it, of men to act that way. The cits are constantly running to the Captain with complaints. He tells them to keep their cows up. This town is the worst rebel town in middle Tennessee. I expect lot so people will think all soldiers will be thieves and rascals after the war is over and they return to their homes. I am certain none but enemies will suffer by them.

Well dinner is ready and I must close.

Your brother,

f

A. s. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
May, 14th, 1865.

Respected Father:-

Yours of the 30th of April came to hand during the past week. I am enjoying the best of health at present. Today is cloudy and cool. It has been uncommonly cold this past week. We have had heavy frosts two mornings. One night it froze ice. I fear it has done damage north if it is as cold as it is here. You seem to think that the war is over. So do I, yet I have but little hopes of getting home in time to help you cut your harvest, but I think some of the troops will be discharged before harvest commences, and it would not be impossible for our battery to get out before the 4th of July. I have not heard of any regiment getting their discharges yet but I think they are making all preparations to do so soon. The Hospitals are discharging disable men. The trains have been going north laded with men going to their commands and to their homes. There is one class in the hospitals who cannot get discharged. They are the veterans. That looks a little like they intend to keep all of the veterans. I have not seen an official report from the War Department that we are to be retained, yet I see all of the papers say that they are going out according to Scripture and that is that "the last shall be first and the first shall be last" and other papers say that the ones whose time is nearest out shall be discharged first. I am waiting very impatiently to see how it is going to be done. I am sure of one thing and that is that every day I am kept now is against my will. I do not want to be a soldier in time of piece. Besides I think the Government will be doing a great injustice to the veterans to keep them after the war is over. they reenlisted in the very darkest hours of this war and at the very time when men were almost indispensable. I believe they were the main cause of our success during the past year. The influence they had in the way of bringing in new recruits in the northern states was worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, besides adding their strength to the armies, and no one who has served three years but will say veterans is worth at least twice their number in raw recruits

Now, suppose none of the Army had reenlisted the draft would have been much heavier on the states and I say the consequence would have been defeat in more than one battle during the past year. and for every man that the State of Ohio would have gotten to volunteer in the service they would have had to pay at least one thousand dollars; and in case of a draft it would have cost at least \$2500.00 for a man to have gotten a substitute, and as things stand at present the veterans are by far the cheapest of the two (I mean Veterans and the men that enlisted last summer) I hear of but very few that got less than \$500.00 for one year and now they go out before

2.

their time is up. Veterans only go about \$500.00 for three years and have already service nearly half of their time yet they have fair prospects of staying as much longer. Well I will wait and see what there is in the Mightiest and greatest Government on earth to her most patriotic men even if we be kept until our time is out we are deceived any worse that the men who enlisted in 1862 for the unexpired time of of different regiments and companies. this class of men were gotten very cheap by using a little deception. You may think from what I have said that I am dissatisfied out I am not. Every thing is working as well as I could expect. I have only spoken of what might happen I am sure that I can stand 18 months more soldiering in time of piece after serving four years in time of war. This state is going to take care of it self after the 15th. of this month. the 4th A C had a grand review at Nashville on last Tuesday, by Gen. Thomas. This was practically the last grand review that will take place of the army of the Cumberland. I suppose you have heard of the death of Miron Colens of Randolph, the one that was in the store” He died in the hospital at Nashville. I think he was a member of Capt. Perkins Company. There are no prospects of our getting paid off and the general belief is that we will receive our next pay at Columbus, Ohio. There is over 8 months pay due us now.

With these lines I shall close with the hope that I shall be able to converse to you face to face, as a citizen again.

Yours with respect,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
May, 21st, 1865

Dear Mother:-

I take this afternoon to take a short chat with you on paper. I receive your letter during the past week and perused it with pleasure. I am enjoying good health at present. The health of the battery is very good. I think this vicinity is very healthy. There has been very little news come to us during the past week. The rebel Governor, Brown, of Georgia passed through here on the cars and we all thought for several days that we would get to see Jeff Davis, or at least see the car that he was in, but the report is that he was sent down on the river, so we are not going to get to see Jeff.

The best news in regard to discharging the armies that I have heard lately is that a veteran can a discharge from the hospital. There was an order that no veteran could get a discharge heretofore. I have not seen or heard of a regiment or company getting discharged, but I think the work will commence shortly. It commenced raining last Friday evening and continued until day light next morning. It poured down torrents all the time. It was accompanied with the heaviest thunder I ever heard. I never saw so much water on the ground. The inhabitants of the county say they never saw such a flood before. The Cumberland and all of its tributaries are the highest ever known. I expect to hear of many people getting drowned. There are no trains running on the road only between the breaks. The road is very much damaged and a number of bridges swept away. There are two freight and one passenger train at this place cut off from Nashville. They have just left here with the passenger train. The road is repaired so they can make connection at a creek below here with a train from Nashville, then change cars. We do not expect any mail for several days and have not had any for two days. I cannot say when this letter will leave here. Well it continues to rain.

There is a heavy thunder shower coming up. from what I can learn of the telegraph operator the heavy rain was not a general thing north of the Ohio river. I am in hopes that it did not reach that far.

I am of about the same opinion as you on men enlisting for money. I do not think any one can ever be called a good soldier who enlists of money. If the cause is not worth going into the service without five or six hundred Dollars it certainly will not pay for one to go with a large bounty. I do not hire me to enlist if I thought it was not my duty.

I am very certain that Mr. Creg will not get to see his son in Ohio this month. I do not

2.

expect to hear of their getting home before December. A day or so ago I saw one of the Flowers' of Randolph going home. He was a member of Perkins Comapny. I give them his name because it was used by the Portage County Democrat. I think the name was given by one of the Company. If they call themselves the flower I think they were plucked at the wrong time of the year for they seem to be fadeing very very fast. It certainly is fun to hear them take on about their soldiering. They imagine they struck the fatal blow. This is the way the vest look at the subject now.

I do not intend to come down on all for there are some boys with those new regiments that should have the sympathy of every one who has any feeling in his heart. But then there is another class and a pretty big one it is that-----well, no difference. With these lines I will close.

From your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield..

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
May, 28th, 1865.

Respected Sister:-

This afternoon finds me as comfortable as any one often is after eating a hearty meal of coffee, bread and boiled beef. I received yours of the 19th. this morning. We have received but little mail for the past week owing to high water washing away the railroad bridges. Trains commenced to run through yesterday. They go north with a full load. Mostly soldiers going home on furlough, some discharged. We hear no news of any importance concerning the discharge of the army yet there is no doubt that the men will get discharged as fast as their time expires. C.O. Lamphrey started home this morning on a furlough. I think he has a discharged furlough, as he has the consumption. He is much better than he was a month ago.

L. B. Maxwell met with an accident a few days ago. He got the outer bone of the left arm broken near the wrist. It is not dangerous. He has also been promoted the 2nd. Lieutenant. This was done some time ago. I suppose you have heard it for the first I learned of it was one day when I picked up a Cleveland Herald. I suppose he will have to go to some other battery in the regiment. One of our 2nd. Lieutenants, Lieut. Grant, has been promoted. He also leaves. Other officers will be assigned to this battery.

The health of the battery has been very good of late. Two of the boys have the smallpox. No one feels very bad about it for they want where it was after being warned about it. Last I heard from them they were getting along fine. the victims are Howard Tupper and Abe Pipher. There are 30 cases of smallpox here in the pest hospital, just out of town. You need not be alarmed about my getting it fo I do not calculate to expose myself.

Well the grand review of the eastern and western armies has taken place at Washington. The war department, or some of the cabinet, are down on our old Billy, yet as near as I can calculate they have not made any thing off from the old man. Besides the war department has done him a great injustice and I have but little doubt but that some had already repented of their conduct if not, they will. The feeling in the western army is that Gen.W C. Sherman should rank next to Grant in the army of our country. Yet no one doubts that he is Grant's equal as a General, yet every one thinks that the Lieut. General is good and that it is best to let a man hold this office as long as he does nothing out of the way. There is a great risk to run in changing a good commander for another even if it is thought good might be the result.

Your brother,

f A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLITAN, TENNESSEE.
June 4th, 1865.

Dear Brother:-

I propose to pen you a few lines after I have partaken of my dinner, which consisted of coffee and bread for a change. You know it is fashionable to have something good on Sunday. I have the best of health, but a man has to have a constitution like a saw mill to stand it such hot weather. We have one consolation,--we have nothing to do. We have quit drilling and we come on guard only once in six days. Thomas, if you could hear the noise in this shanty, you would think that it was the devil's own den. It is so warm no one can sleep or rest in one position, so every one is doing his best to keep his tongue running. The subject that receives the most attention is the discharge of the army. Every order in the papers concerning this receives particular attention, and and they are read from 15 to 20times. Then some ones takes the paper, reads it off one sentence at a time, giving it a thorough review and thus disposes of each clause separately. Yet, after we get done we know no more about when we are going to get out than we did a month ago. for the past week there has been but few discharged soldiers passed through here, and I have not seen the first regiment on its way home yet, and no prospects of the pay master, yet they say the 4th A C are getting their pay at Nashville. I suppose from what I see in the Cleveland papers they must expect some of the soldiers there soon. They say veterans when they speak of them, yet I suppose they would call the O N G veterans if they had crossed the Ohio River, or been off some where to put down so some miner insurrection. ha!---ha!---ha!. It took three companies, I believe a half dozen of Pap Sherman's bummers would have done the whole job in half the time without even a corporal to command. I am think their funds will be exhausted and all of the goodx things eat up at Cleveland. They will find that it is not a very funny thing to feed an army of the size of the one that will be mustered out here. Our smallpox boys are getting along fine, according the last reports. L. B. Maxwell has gone to join Battery F. Lieut. Grant has been assigned to Battery G.B.K.Davis is our 1st. Lieut. He was a private in the battery once I think promotions are played out in the volunteer army.

With my respects, I remain.

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
June, 11th, 1865

Dear Sister:-

This day finds me as usual, laboring under the terrible disease of laziness. It is said to be contagious among soldiers. I received your letter a few days ago and am sorry to hear that the prospects for fruit are discouraging this year for I had faint hopes of getting home in time to partake of some. I should think the times were reviving in that neighborhood if you have church once in two weeks, or rather twice once in two weeks., I presume the dances are not quite so entertaining as they were once. Well, better times are coming. I wish some of the soldiers were at home to go with that party to the lakes. I have no doubt but what they will have a good time if it don't rain like it did one time several years ago when a party went to the lakes. Last Thursday the first regiment that I have heard of leaving left for home. They were 1862 men. Since then they have been passing at the rate of two thousand per day. Six thousand have been discharged from the 4th. A. C. The remainder have been reorganized and number eleven thousand. It is reported that they are to go to Texas or some where else in that direction the men are very much dissatisfied from all accounts. Some fear mutiny. I am sorry that such men as they should receive ill treatment after suffering what they have. I cannot but think they will get home yet. I have heard of but one battery being discharged and I am not certain that they are. It was the 20th Ohio, a Dutch battery made up at Cleveland Ohio I don't think they ever fired a shot at the Johnnies and I know they have been a disgrace to Ohio. I do not ask any news paper correspondent or non combatant to confirm this but I can get the proof in the army of the Cumberland where they have been since 1862. I hear of some of the Eastern artillery being discharged. There was a heavy firing in this town a few night ago. A number of buildings were consumed and it is believed that the whole place would have burned had it not been for the soldiers. Some think it was set on fire by the soldiers. There was a big fire in Nashville a few nights ago destroying a large amount of government stores. It was the Taylor Depot. Everything is quiet in camp at present. Those who have not gone to the meeting are asleep. Nothing more at present so I shall close,

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLITAN, TENNESSEE.
June, 18th, 1865.

Dear Brother:-

I have no particular news to communicate to you yet according to my regular habit that I formed of writing to some of folks each week, for this reason more than any other, I write. There is nothing like a regular habit. No one can gain confidence or succeed i business if they are deficient in this . I suppose your first question would be were you to meet me today, when are you coming home? This is the very thing that is most talked of in camp as well in the north. The only thing I can say is that our time is eighteen days nearer out than it was on the first of this month. We have not received any orders to send our sixty two men yet. I have no doubt they will go before we. About all of the '62 men have gone from all commands south of this. And some of the one year regiments I can only say that I consider every thing working favorably but very slow. A part of the 4th A C have left Nashville, i mean the Veteran organization. The town is full of paroled Johnnies. They are very submissive and all confirm that they were badly beaten at their won game, that the war is over and they are glad of it. Some say that they are ready to join the United States Forces at ane futue time if ever a wars breaks out between the United States and any other power. The soldiers converse very freely with them about the war, an dare more apt to agree that we are when we discu s the question with the citizens. The rebel soldiers say thy think more of the United State soldiers than they do of the skulking rascals who never joined any army. And then on the other hand we will show a rebel private more sympathy than we do the citizens. They are not half as rebellious as they. there was one whole brigade of rebel soldiers raised in this county. It has been very warm here during the past week with frequent showers. some of the boys say that the thernometer stood at 110 yesterday. The latest of the wheat is being cut now. Blackberries are ripe.

We drill a little once in a while. Three of our boys have been detailed as clerks at head quarters at Nashville. There has also been a detail sent out the past week on a government survey. Also two for overseers on the government farm here. It is tilled by contrabands. They have several hundred acres of corn out this year. No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLATIN, TENNESSEE.
June, 25- 1865.

Dear Mother:-

I received your welcome letter a few days ago and was glad to hear that all were well at home. I also received one from Thomas last Monday. The same day that I got yours I rec'd one from Celestine. I suppose Lewis will tell all of the news that is to be told from this post of the world. We are doing all the guard duty at this post at present. It brings us on every other day, yet for all of that is comparatively no labor. In a few days this duty will fall to the 110th, US C. They arrived today and are drawing their arms.

I am enjoying good health at present. I have given up all hopes of getting home without your knowing any ting about it. IT has been written to our battery by more than a hundred persons that they were looking for Battery A in a few days.

I can tell you what I have seen and that is all I know about the mustering out of the artillery of this department. there have six or eight batteries passed here going home. Some of them were veterans. That is a good sign. Besides this that I have seen there is no use of telling you of the reports. They are very easy started, and thousand ears ready to catch them, and thousand of tongues to confound them, yet I can say with great confidence that the prospects are very good for going back to God's land soon, but I will advise you not to look for me until you see me coming. I knew that L. Reed was in the army some time ago but have not heard of his misfortune. Cripples will now be a very common sight in all parts of the U.S.

Tell Thomas to get one of the horses will broke to that new buggy and I shall they and relive him for a while. The greater portion of the boys who are not on duty today are out blackberrying. Some have gone to church.

It is with great effort that I have written as much as I have, so I shall close hoping that my situation may soon be changed.

I remain your affectionate son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS, GALLITAN, TENNESSEE.
July, 2nd, 1865.

Dear Sister:-

I have taken my post on a three legged stool for the purpose of penning you a few lines again. I am enjoying the best of health at present. I should have liked very much to have gotten home in time to partake of some of those early cherries but the time is past now so what is the use of talking. I am certain we are enjoying one thing that you cannot, to such a great extent as we. That is blackberries. They are very plentiful here. Four or five of our detachments go out each day and get from 20 to 30 qts. I never saw them more plentiful except in 1862 when we marched across Alabama. There was a circus in this town last week. It only caused a little excitement among the negroes.

The 11th. Minn. have gone home mustered out of service. the 110 U S C have come here for duty. The cits. are considerably worked up about it. They do guard duty the best of any soldiers I ever saw on duty. They are regulars for sure. No Tennesians can run over the. I think some are convinced of it now for three of them tried it yesterday, two got badly bayoneted and the third was put in the guard house.

For the past thirty days soldiers have passed here at the rate of two thousand per day, all going home discharged or to be as soon as they get to their states. Now I suppose you want to know what I know about the light artillery. I have been told that there are forty seven batteries of light artillery in this department, all of which are to be discharged as soon as it is possible to do so. fifteen have already passed and I expect four or five more to pass today. Battery E 1st. O L A passed last Friday. I saw Hy Britton and Milt Whetstone. John Fox was along but I did not see him. They said they were going to report at Camp Dennison, Ohio This was at the first of our regiment to leave this department. I am not able to give you the slightest information as to when we will get our orders. From what I can learn we will report at Camp Cleveland. This exhausts my store of knowledge on this subject, so I shall close hoping always for the best.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield

FT. THOMAS, GALLITAN, TENNESSEE.
July, 9th, 1865

Dear Brother:-

This afternoon finds me seated to write to you but I find it just as it has been for some time past, no news. The past week has been extremely warm. On the 4th. the thermometer was 111 in the shade as Nashville. The 5th it was hotter still. I heard it was 129 in this place. I think the thermometer must have hung in a favorable position, but I do not know s it was impossible as I know the thermometer stood at 94 just after sun up on the morning of the 5th. It is getting extremely dry, The corn crop will not amount to much here without rain very soon. But there is prospects for rain as large clouds are rising accompanied by thunder. I hear that the 104th. O V I have arrived at home. I suppose they are having a fine time. As for Battery A coming home I see no more prospects of going now than I did three or four weeks ago. I presume you are busy harvesting at this time. You need not expect any help from me but I am in hopes that some of the soldiers will get home in time to help the farmers with their work.

I have not heard a word from home since the fourth so I don't know anything of the doings of that day in Portage county.

I say Battery K of our regiment pass a few days ago on their road to Ohio. So there only remains one more of our Batteries in this department, that is Battery M. Battery I was consolidated with Battery M. Battery G. is with the 4th A C yet. I believe Battery F is down here yet. I shall close hoping to hear from some one soon. With respect I remain,

Your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

FT. THOMAS. GALLITAN. TENNESSEE.

July, 16th, 1865

Dear Sister:-

I am obliged according to my custom to write home again. I have long been waiting for the time to come that I could say that I would be home before the next seven days would pass. Well I have no particular news. Every train that goes north is crowded with discharged soldiers, or soldiers going to their respective states to be discharged. So I suppose there are many glad hearts in the northern sates. I heard a few days ago that battery D was in Cleveland on the 9th. So I suppose they are home discharged before this time.

Battery B of this regiment passed here last night on their road to Camp Cleveland. The only ting that troubles me this coming week is that I have to cook for our detachment. It rained the most of last a night and all of today. The past week has been cool to what it was the fore part of the month. I am looking for Lewis back. News being scarce, I shall close.

Your affectionate brother.

A. S. Bloomfield.

Battery A received the order the report at Camp Cleveland Ohio to be mustered out on the 13th. of July. Captain Scovill immediately began work of turning over the government property preparatory to leaving.

The Battery took the cars on the evening of the 23rd, reaching Louisville the next morning and by river, Cincinnati the next, and by rail reaching Cleveland, Ohio, on the evening of the same day. At the depot the Battery was welcomed by a band of music and invited to partake of a bountiful supper already waiting on the tables in the great Union Dept.

The depot was occupied until morning when the company was marched to Camp Cleveland where it was mustered out of the United States Service the 31st. day of July, 1865.

The above and the following page are from the history of Battery A, written by H. M. Davidson.

ALPHEUS S. BLOOMFIELD.

Entered the U.S. service at the Batter's organization and shared its fortunes in all the long marches in 1862 and 1863. For a short time was sick at Murfreesboro during the engagement at Liberty Gap.

Veteran and served with the battery in all of its engagements in the whole of the Atlanta Campaign and in those at Springhill and Franklin. With the single exception of Liberty Gap has always been present.

Was discharged the 31st. of July, 1865 at Cleveland, Ohio.

Post Office Address, Marlboro, Stark Co. Ohio

