“Please Send Stamps”: The Civil War Letters of William Allen Clark
Part II

*Edited by Margaret Black Tatum*

The letters William Allen Clark wrote between January 9 and June 27, 1863, continue with pleas for stamps and for news of home but, most importantly, Clark expresses his fear that war might come to Indiana. Sitting in Tennessee and relying on camp rumors, the young soldier worries that the numbers of southern sympathizers in Indiana will push his home state into secession. He dismisses his apprehension, however, by saying he cannot conceive that Hoosiers would allow men unfamiliar with the effects of war to lead Indiana away from the Union, nor can he believe reports that the Knights of the Golden Circle are active in Clinton County. Referring to camp life, he writes about dreading the field hospitals more than marching. He hates foraging and at times stays in camp with the excuse of an illness rather than confiscate goods from the local farmers. One can imagine he saw his parents in the faces of these southern farmers and regretted taking their crops, animals, and stores. Religion and war do not mix, he says, nor does the war and his love of the land. He never explicitly describes scenes of death; perhaps out of respect for his parents or fear of censorship by his superiors, he only suggests the horrors he has witnessed, especially after the Battle of Stones River.1

Clark’s letters contain special messages for his parents and his brother, George, and assert his need to hear from them; writing and receiving letters are among his few pleasures. He finds leading a moral life difficult in camp. Clark wants to come home but assures his parents that a “furlough” (an absence without leave) is out of the question, especially after having seen a fellow soldier branded and drummed out of the army. He celebrates becoming a part of Wilder’s famed Lightning Brigade, receiving a horse and a Spencer Carbine; nevertheless, his letters written in the first half of

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1 Margaret Black Tatum is an English instructor at Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, Michigan.

1 The first part (August 17–December 21, 1862) of William Allen Clark’s Civil War letters is found in Margaret Black Tatum, “Please Send Stamps: The Civil War Letters of William Allen Clark,” *Indiana Magazine of History*, XCI (March, 1995), 81-108. For background information on Clark and the letters themselves see *ibid.*, 81-87.
1863 record his realization that being a soldier is not a glorious profession, but one filled with disgust, ignorance, fear, and horror. On May 24, Clark celebrates his nineteenth birthday hoping for a day without "butchery." He has become a man. His political views remain consistent, and they deepen as he sees war firsthand. He maintains his belief in the Union, despises both secessionists and abolitionists, dismisses the black contrabands with offhand comments, and articulates his desire to see Indiana remain free of battle.

Murfreesboro, Tenn. January 9th 1863
Dear Father,

You will perhaps be uneasy before you get this as it has been sometime since I have wrote to you. We have been marching all the time since Christmas. We went to Cave City, Ky. and laid there a day or two then put us in the [railroad] cars and brought us to Nashville. Staid there one night then marched us 28 miles on the road here. We came here yesterday. You have doubtless heard of the Slaughter that was made here. We were fortunate enough not to participate in it. The 86th Regt. was in hottest fire. Jethro Wilson is reported killed. Ben Ashbro wounded in the face but not fatal. I can't tell much about the Battle field as the fight has been over a week ago, and the dead are all buried. The Enemy has a strong position and well fortified. There is various estimates as to our loss, from two to 7 thousand. The Enemies loss not much more. Henry Mohler is not hurt but fought Bravely.

I have not rec. any letters since the 24th of Dec. The last one I got from you contained 45 cts. I purchased some paper and stamps with it, but I put the stamps in my pocket book and it got wet and spoiled them. We had the heaviest [rain] that I ever seen on the 27th. It rained all day and we marched all the time. There was not a dry thread on me.

I got the Witness that had the Message in it. It was as good as I expected.

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1 William Allen Clark guided the following transcription of his correspondence by reminding his brother George, in a letter of January 9, 1865, to place periods at the end of sentences and to capitalize proper names. Probably in part because of the difficult circumstances under which he wrote, Clark himself did not use apostrophes in his letters; his periods, commas, and pen pauses all resembled one another; and his capitalization was haphazard. In recognition of Clark's obvious knowledge of grammar, correct punctuation has been placed at the ends of sentences, commas have been added throughout the letters to facilitate reading, and words that begin sentences have been capitalized. In other instances Clark's capitalization, whenever clear, remains unchanged; in case of doubt, the rules of modern usage were followed. Some decisions regarding sentence divisions were necessarily arbitrary, and the letters have also been arbitrarily divided into paragraphs. The location and spacing of headings, salutations, and closings have been standardized. Clark's spelling, which was quite good, has been retained.

2 Clark refers here to the battle of Stones River, fought between December 30, 1862, and January 2, 1863, in and around Murfreesboro, Tennessee. While the numbers of casualties were equally devastating for the two sides, this battle was considered a Union victory. James M. McPherson, ed., The Atlas of the Civil War (New York, 1994), 43, 92. The report of Jethro Wilson's death was premature; he died of the wounds incurred in this battle on January 9, 1865. Benjamin F. McGee, History of the 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry of the Mounted Lightning Brigade (Lafayette, Ind., 1882), 88-89.

3 The Witness was a religious and family newspaper published in Indianapolis by E. W. Clark (no relation). The publication ran from 1857 to 1864. John W. Miller, Indiana Newspaper Bibliography (Indianapolis, 1982), 290.
There no one sick in our Co. now. All the sick are in Hospitals, 43 men in our Co. A. G. Brown and L. A. Hollingsworth have died out of our Co. 1

Well, George, I have not rec. your picture yet. Will be glad to see it. I hope you are a good Boy. I want you to write. I found a Sabbath School Bell. So we have some fine singing. 2 My health is good. You must not be uneasy if I dont write as often as I did as we dont know when we can get mail or send it. Write as often as you can.

Believe me your affectionate Son,

Wm. A. Clark

You had better Sell out and come to this state where they have no winter. They plant Cotton in Feb. Cotton is plenty, grain is scarce, land good, Negroes plenty.

No. 2 Murfreesboro, Tenn. January 18th, 1863

Dear parents,

This pretty Sabbath morning I take my pencil to let you know that I am well. The health of the Army here is good. There is none sick in our Co. now except Captain Collins. He has been unwell for a month. 3

Well this is a cold morning with 1/2 inch of Snow, but the sun is Shining now, and the snow beginning to melt. You have heard great Reports of the fight here no doubt. If you got the description of it I want you to send me the paper containing it. I would write you all I know about it but I might write something Contraband. We dont hear any news from outside of our guards. Save what we get by letters.

I have got no letters of a later date than Dec. 30th. I rec. the letter that contained G. W. Clark's picture all right. 4 Dr. B of Frankfort (Indiana) left here yesterday for home but is coming back in 10 or 12 days. 5 I would write more this time but havent paper. This is

4 Corporal Amos G. Brown died December 28, 1862, in Gallatin, Tennessee. Private Joseph B. Hollingsworth died December 1, 1862, also in Gallatin. Both men, like Clark himself, were from Clinton county. [William H. H. Terrell], Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana (8 vols., Indianapolis, 1866–1869), VI, 190.

5 Clark is referring to the Sabbath School Bell, a copy of which he had requested from his brother George in December, 1862. Published in 1859 and 1860, the two numbers of the Bell were collections of tunes and hymns arranged for singing and instrumental presentation.

6 Hiram B. Collins, whose residence is listed as Frankfort, Indiana, served as captain of the 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment from August, 1862, until April, 1863. Terrell, Report of the Adjutant General, II, 671.

7 George W. Clark is a brother. See Appendix, p. 225, for a list of Clark's family members.

8 Dr. B is George Brown, also of Clinton County. Although Brown had studied medicine prior to the Civil War, he enlisted in the 72nd Indiana as a private and was later promoted to first lieutenant, then captain, of Company K. He is not listed in the adjutant general's report as a physician although Clark notes in a later letter that Brown has been promoted to assistant surgeon. Joseph Claybaugh, History of Clinton County (Indianapolis, 1912), 211.

9 Jesse Hill was serving as chaplain for the 72nd regiment beginning in September, 1862. He resigned on April 13, 1863, and was replaced in June by Rev. John E. Eddy. Terrell, Report of the Adjutant General, VI, 180.

10 This was only a camp rumor, possibly fueled by the fact that on January 1, 1863, Colonel John Thomas Wilder had ordered some men of the 17th Indiana Volunteer Infantry to be mounted on mules so that they could more easily pursue Confederates. General John Hunt Morgan, whose men rode horses. The attempt was dismal failure, as mules bucked the men off their backs and into the mud. "The 72nd had no part in this farce except to do the laughing." McGee, History of the 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, 88-89.

Our Company is now the fifth and is in the center of the Regt. Our Regt. is in the center of the Brigade, & the Brigade forms the Right Center of the Division. Our Camp is on the right of the McMininville Pike, 40 Rods from it, and 1 mile from Murfreesboro.

Well George, have you Broke Ned to ride yet and how does he look? How does old Peter get along, etc.? How does Bob Carrick's pulse beat on the War question?

Well, I have just finished eating my Dinner. We had some Hominy and Sassafras Tea. It was a meal good enough for a Soldier. I would like for you to send me some paper and envelopes if you can. It will be cheaper than to give 2 1/2 cts. per sheet here for it and you can get better paper. If you can't send both, send the envelopes, and stamps. When you send stamps don't send them but 4 or 5 at a time and don't fold them together, or wrap them up, just put them in the inside of the letter.

Well Mother, I done my washing yesterday and blistered my fingers at it. Well Father, I have tried to be as good here as I was at home, but with what success it is for the all wise Creator to know. It is hard for a soldier to live a moral life. Write soon. No more at present.

Yours from an affectionate Son,
Wm. A. Clark

I received 45 cts from you last month. Bought paper and Stamps with it, and they got wet and spoiled.

No. 4 Murfreesboro, Tenn.   Mon. Feb. 2nd [1863]

Dear Father,

I take this opportunity to let you know that my health is good, hoping that you are enjoying the Same Blessing. I received No. 2 from you last week with one Stamp. But No. 1 come out minus. Perhaps it will come yet, as the mail is uncertain.

I received a letter from Mr. Mohler, containing extracts from the Enquirer relating to the proceedings of the Ind. Legislature and I can indorse the Resolutions that they have passed without hesitation. There is a large minority here opposed to the Emancipation Proclamation, and perhaps a small majority in favor of the Supremacy of Military Power. For my part I am opposed to the military enforcement of the laws. There is a in my opinion a large majority that would be glad to hear of Peace on any thing like Rea-

The "standard organization on the union side was 45 infantry regiments and nine batteries of light artillery. There were about five regiments to a brigade, about three brigades in a division, and about three divisions in a corps. The infantry regiments usually consisted of ten companies, lettered in alphabetical order with J excluded." Union companies had "maximum authorized strength of 101 officers and men, and a minimum strength of 87" Mark Mayo Boatner III, The Civil War Dictionary (New York, 1959), 611-12. Clark's company was a part of the Army of the Ohio, sometimes called the Army of the Cumberland. He was in the XIV Corps.

No. 5 Murfreesboro, Tenn.   Feb. 8th [1863]

Dear Father,

I seat myself to pen you a few lines to inform you that I am well and hope this will find you in the same state of health. I received letter No. 3 from you early monday night, containing 40 cts., which I spent for paper and ink.

I am somewhat fatigued as we have been on a scout for the last 5 days. We came into camp last night at 1 o'clock. We were at Liber-

13 Augustus F. Clark is one of Clark's brothers.
14 Union General Jefferson Columbus Davis commanded the 1st Division, XX Corps, Army of the Cumberland.
ty, Alexandria, and Lebanon [Kentucky]. We traveled 78 miles in the 5 days and captured 50 Rebels, one Brigadier General, one Colonel, and two Captains. Killed two Rebels and had one of our men wounded in the action. He belonged to the 101st Ind. Regt. Of all destruction of property that I have ever seen that trip beat. Our men captured horses, cattle, hogs, pork. In fact everything that was any benefit to them.

The health of the Boys is pretty good considering the exposure that we have to encounter. It rains about half of the time, consequently we have plenty of mud messes. Wm. & James Gaskill of Clinton Co. are here now. They brought lots of good things such as Apple Butter, Butter, and apples. But some for me.

I received four letters this morning. 1 from D. F. Clark, 1 from Cosmas Rhodes of the 10th, and 1 from Jane Hays, also 1 from Alma Jordan. They were all well. Dave Clark is quite a Politician.

We hear no talk of Peace here nor of any important movement of the Army. We hear awful Reports of the movement of Northern Democrats. But I do not credit all the reports. It is my opinion that there is no man in the Service but would be glad to hear of a cessation of hostilities. We are tired of this trifleing with the Constitution and laws which were handed to us by our forefathers. 13

We have not got our Greenbacks yet. Dont want them till the war is over. Then I will get it all at once.

I want you to send me some stamps. Them and paper is the most needful articles to a Soldier. The only pleasure we see is in writing to friends and hearing from them. If you write to Colonel A. O. Miller he will answer your letters. I want you to write as often as once per week. Give my respects to all who may inquire. Tell the Boys to write and I will try to answer. I write to each of my Brothers once in two weeks and hear from them once in three months. Well George, I want you to write once in a while. No more at present.

But remain your Affectionate Son,
Wm. A. Clark
No. 5

No. 6 Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn. February 15th, 1863

Dear Parents,

With pleasure I seat myself to pen you a few lines to inform you that I still possess one of the greatest Blessings of Camp life: Viz: good health. This morning is quite cool. We have had a rainy week. I was on guard two days and nights. The rain pouring down all the time. It seems strange that my health is so good, and so much exposure. Surely I thought my System was not made strong enough to withstand all the exposure that I have had to endure. The health is not as good in the Army as it was two weeks ago. There is a prevalence of Typhoid fever. Lieut. Gaskill is dangerously ill with typhoid fever. I dont think he will live a week. His Brother has not spoke above his Breath for more than Six weeks on account of Bronchitis. Louis Cloe died at Gallatin on the 6th of this month. If justice had been done, he would have been a well man at home, but he was not rich enough to buy his discharge. 14 We have not heard from G. W. Brown since November. Our Co. now reports 29 men able for duty. When a man is taken to a Hospital you may mark him for a discharge, or an occupant of the Cemetery.

We have been living on the Flesh pots of Egypt during the past week. We draw light Bread and Beef one half of the time, and we got a Box of Butter and fruits from Clinton Co. which made us quite a happy family for a few days at least. There is some prospect of Peace in the course of three or four years. We have not got our greenbacks yet. But Col. Miller says we will get them this week.

I have received No. 4 and 5 of your letters since I have wrote No. 5 of nine. No. 4 contained two stamps and 25 cts. No. 5 a package of paper and envelopes, for which I am very thankful.

(Well George, thank you for your Poetry, but if you send me any more, please select some other Subject. I have sickened on Politics. I am glad to hear of your being so successful in your Studies at School. Where is that hog Pen that you spoke of? I hope your dog wont be cross if I should get home. I dont want to be held at bay by him if I should stray away of Saturday Nights.)

There is no news of importance. All quiet on the Cumberland [River]. I have been as careful as possible what I have write. Have I write anything wrong or have you heard of my writing anything Contraband that caused you to Caution me of what I write? I have been careful. But mighty independent.

I am sorry to hear of mother being unwell. Hope it is nothing serious.

How many Bushels of wheat was there of mine and did Newton give you the money that I left with him. Richard Smith is well and with his Company. But I guess has spent all of his wages. I think I can clear $10 per month. But if we get paid now I dont know what disposition to make of it yet. Have you got all the corn husked yet?

I must close as I want to write a couple more yet today. I received one from J. N. He is quite unwell. Write as often as you can, and as much information as you can. Show this to J. D. A. F.

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13 Although Clark himself was a Democrat—a Douglas Democrat in his own words—and although he wanted the war to end, he was opposed to the Peace Democrats who supported, as their name suggests, a negotiated peace.

14 For a $300 fee, a drafted Union soldier could buy his way out of military service, a policy which favored draftees who were wealthy enough to pay the commutation fee.
and S. S. I have received and answered a letter from each one of them within two weeks. Goodbye for the Present.

Your Son,

Wm. A. Clark

No. 7 Murfreesboro, Tenn.  March 1st [1863]

Dear Parents,

I received letter No. 6 from you on Friday last. My health is good and I hope this will find you in the same state of health. The health of the Boys is good. I am sorry to hear of so much sickness at home.

I have nothing of importance to write on movement of this Army yet. Nothing from Vicksburgh [Mississippi] or the Potomac. There was a man Branded and Drummed out of the Service in our Division today. It was a horrid sight. One that I never wish to see again. His crime was desertion.

We have had a Rainy month but this is a beautiful day. We have not got our pay yet, but will get it this week. I will send most of mine home if I have a chance.

I must make this brief as it is getting dark. I got a letter from Alma to day. They are well and have moved to Tecumseh [Kansa]. I got the paper which you sent me. I wrote to George last week. You must write often. Send some stamps for me as we cant get them here. No more at present but remain your son,

Wm. A. Clark

No. 8 Murfreesboro, Tenn.  March 8th '63

No. 8 Sabbath morning

Dear Parents,

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. I have not received a letter from you of a later date than Feb. 21st No. 6. Our Regt. went out on a scout last Friday with 10 days Rations. They were going to McMinnville. I was unwell that morning and was excused from going. I had an attack of Dysentery, but I am all right now. I was pretty sick for three days. We are having very inclement weather. It has rained every night this week. There is a large amount of sickness on account of so much dampness.

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In this case a man from the 75th regiment who had been court martialed for desertion and attempting to kill an officer was marched before the entire division as a trial and drum played the 'Sousa's March. Colonel Wilder took a red-hot iron from the fire and burned the letter "D" into the man's head. The soldier was then taken beyond Union lines and set free. McClure, History of the 72nd Volunteer Infantry, 104. A less cruel method of branding soldiers was to stamp in indelible ink the initial pertaining to their crime. Besides "D" for desertion, other letters used in both forms of branding were "C" for Cowardice, "T" for Theft, and "W" for Worthless. William C. Davis, ed., The Image of War: 1861-1865; Vol II, The Guns of '62 (Garden City, N.Y., 1982), 200.

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For information about the Conscription Act and its institution in Indiana, see Tatum, "Please Send Stamp," Part I, 81-83, note 4.

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Estimates put as many as one-third of the members of the Union Army as deserting. With battle losses, no pay since enlistment, and questions over the war's purpose, Clark knew firsthand why men are deserting. Patricia Faust, ed., The Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War (New York, 1986, 241.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Tenn.  March 22nd [1863]

Sabbath morning

Ever Remembered Parents,

It is with pleasure that I try to pen you a few lines to let you know my good health. This is a gloomy morning. The clouds indicate rain. The gloomy morning with the more gloomy appearance of our National difficulties makes me feel rather gloomy to write an interesting letter. I wrote you a letter last Sabbath morning, and received No. 6 from you that afternoon. I have received 8 letters from you in '63. Vis. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9. No. 1 is missing.

The health of our Co. is good. We have 53 men here now, and only 7 sick, which leaves 44 able for duty, making a larger Company than we have had for 5 months. Capt. Collins is here now but will soon resign. By the way, I will tell you how him and me stands on the greenback question. When we were paid at Camp Chris Miller, they paid us $25 Bounty, and one month’s pay and $2 premium. On the 25th of August, we got the $25. The next day we got $10 of the first month’s dues, leaving three $ wages unpaid and the $2 premium, making $5 unpaid. The paymaster gave it to Captain, and he was to pay it to the boys, but he had forgot it I suppose. We
was paid our wages last week up to the 1st of 1863. I drew $48.96 cts. I sent $25.00 to you. If you get it, you will please put it in such a condition as will make it multiply by a good Big percent. So it will do you some good if I dont get home. Perhaps you think I ought to have sent more home, but I was ind pobt some to the Sutler, say $5.50, and spent some for vegetables, and kept the rest for emergencies. We dont draw anything for Uncle Sam, but pork, crackers, and Beans. It is almost an impossibility to keep good health on greasy, salty diet. I am the only one in the company that has not been excused from duty by the Surgeon. I have taken but two doses of medicine, yet, and was on guard then.29 I attribute my good health to my eating all the potatoes and apples that I could get at 5 cts. a piece. Apples now cost 75 cts. per dozen and potatoes $1.50 per peck.

After going 5 miles after a load of rails, I sent myself to finish my Scribbling. There is not a fence within 5 miles of Murfreesboro, and none between here and Nashville, 33 miles. There is nothing new among us save Skirmishing on the right and left wings. The cannon played pretty lively yesterday morning on the Shelbyville Pike two miles South of here. I was on picket a mile from them and could hear the small arms, plainly. The enemy was repulsed, but they are thick all around us.

You need not be afraid of my Deserting or taking a french Furlough.

I think to much of my Character and my Country. I would like to see you but I will wait till I can come without being called, Deserter.

We hear some talk of the Draft being resisted by those who oppose the Proclamation. I don't know who will oppose it or who went, but if any of my friends and Relatives talk of Resistance, my advice is to them to come to Ky. or Tenn. and see what effect war has upon the Country and the people in the vicinity of those large Armies, before they inaugurate a war at home.

I have got three or four letters from D. F. Clark. He is a pretty strong antiwar man. I think there is some danger of his taking the wrong horn of the Dilemma, but perhaps he will come out right at the end of the Race. My political views are the same as when I left home. I am opposed to Abolitionism with all my might. And I, never, Never, want to Compromise with the Traitors that attempted the destruction of the Democratic Party in Charleston, the 18th of may, 1860.21 Do you? I hope the next Congress will bring this matter to an end.

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29 The medicine prescribed for ailments in camp was often whiskey or brandy. Since Clark's family members were strong temperance advocates, he may be reassuring them that his only use of alcohol has been for medicinal purposes.
21 In May, 1860, the Democratic party held its convention in Charleston, South Carolina. Members of the party from eight southern states left the convention after a pro-slavery platform was rejected. No presidential candidate was nominated, so remaining delegates left Charleston with no leader or policies adopted. The Democrats reconvened in Baltimore in June, 1860, and nominated Stephen A. Douglas for president. The Southern Democrats, meeting in June, nominated John C. Breckenridge as their candidate on a platform that advocated slavery. John S. Bowman, ed., The Civil War Almanac (New York, 1982), 40.
20 Colonel Wilder commanded that his infantry regiment be mounted on horses, not mules, in order to pursue the enemy at higher speed. The 72nd came to be known for this reason as the famed Wilder's Lightning Brigade. See also note 20.
good health. We dont hear from Clinton as often as we did when we came hear, but I dont know the reason. I received three letters by to
days mail, one from home, one from Bill Miller; the other from—an
old friend. They were the only ones for nearly two weeks. I was not
Surprised to hear of Rube Stout's Conduct. It is Characteristic of
the Family. It is a great Pity that he coulsnt show his courage by
fighting Rebels. He is not worthy of a Citizenship in the society of
White men. I detest a man who is mean enough to desert his Co.,
his Regimental flag, and the service of his Country.

I had a taste of Maple Sugar yesterday, one of our Boys got a box
of it and gave me a piece. The Butler has it but he sells it at 75 cts.
a pound. We draw light Bread now \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the time. I dont need any of
the articles that Mother mentioned, all I need is postage Stamps.
I received two in No. 9 to day and I have three letters to answer. We
cant get them here, however I wont complain, as long as my health
is good.

There is some talk of an advance this week. Lin Coulter was
here to day. He said they had turned over their tents, and was
ordered tomorrow march in the morning at 7 oclock. We are not
connected with this department consequently we dont march so
soon.

The Rebels are said to be at Bridgeport [Alabama], 100 miles
from here. I hope there will be some important movements made in
April. There is some talk of the capture of Port Hudson by Gen.
Banks. 22

I believe I have said enough for one time. I write you a letter
once every week, and so you can tell whether you get all or not. The
paper containing the Description of the Battle which you sent me
the 7th of Feb. came to hand last Thursday, having visited Mem-
phis. 23 I will close for this time. Write often.
your affectionate Son,

Wm. A. Clark
Care of Capt. H. B. Collins
1st. Brig. 5th Div. 14th Army Corps.
Murfreesboro

Same old Camp

April 5th '63

To all who it may interest I am well and hope this will find you
in the same state of health. I propose to make this note Brief as I
have wrote 4 letters to day and I want to write two more yet to

22 General Nathaniel P. Banks's Army of the Gulf arrived at but failed to cap-
ture Port Hudson, Louisiana, on March 14, 1863. Banks was unwilling to give up,
however, and his persistence led to the surrender of that Confederate port on July 9,
1863.

23 This is the description of the battle of Stones River that Clark had requested
from his parents in a letter of January 25.
Murfreesboro, Tenn. April 12th, '63
Dear Parents,

After waiting till nearly night for the mail at last it came, But it brought nothing for me. So I thought I would write anyhow. I havent heard from you for nearly two weeks. I am well as ever, but have a touch of the Spring fever.

Our Boys was on a scout last week. They was gone 8 days traveled 100 miles and got 200 prisoner, 300 horses, and more Niggers than you ever seen at one sight. They fired two Rounds at the Rebs, and they surrendered. The Rebs captured two of our pickets, took them 4 miles then turned in to the woods. After getting a safe distance from the Road, they wrote out our Boys Paroles and gave to them. But instead of releasing them, they tied them to a tree and shot them, three shots in each man's head. They went away and left them tied up. But one of the boys was only wounded. He cut himself loose and come to camp. He is shot three times in the face. He is getting well but his tongue is wounded, so he cant talk. His comrade is still tied to the tree.

The Regt. started out again yesterday to catch a band of Guerrillas that captured a train of Cars at Laverne. Our Boys went to Lebanon and I think they will burn the town. My horse is lame so I had to stay in camp—but I dont fancy such trips anyhow.

I got a letter from Rev. Moses Kerr yesterday, the best letter that I have yet received. I answered it this morning. We had preached to day, the first for two months. The preacher was an African. I soon became so disgusted that I went to my bunk.

There is no news to write. I staid with Henry Mohler last Tuesday night. We had a good time. He is well. I wish you would send me something to read. We dont get any thing here to Read But Abolitionism and I am sick of it. I guess I will quit for the present. Write often, and send some stamps. No more at present.

Your affectionate Son,

Wm. A. Clark

I got a letter from I. N. on Friday. He is well. If any of the Boys should be conscription, I want them to come to the 72nd. But I hope there will be no draft, although the prospect of Peace is poor. I want to hear from George once in a while. My Respects to Neighborhood friends.

W. A. Clark

Murfreesboro, Tenn. April 19th 1863
Dear Parents,

As I am in a writing way I will pen you a few lines to let you know that I am well. I have wrote to I. N. and Alf Miller to day and I want to write two more letters yet to day. It is Raining and has been all day. I was on guard last night and feel sleepy to day. We have got our horses now and they are famous horses. We are to

start on a 14 day scout in the morning. I think we will go to Bridgeport, Ala.

I havent heard from you since March. I havent heard from Clinton since my last to you. I dont know much news that would interest you. The only excitement here is from the circulation of monstrous stories about Copperheadism in the north. I heard a letter from a Discharged Soldier that lives in Clinton Co. He said that the Copperheads was hiding Ammunition in the woods, and that all the Democrats was K.G.C.S. For my part I cant believe all the goss that we hear, but this much I do know the traitors are not all Democrats.

Henry Mohler is well. Tell them Brothers of mine to write to me and you must not be uneasy if I dont write as often as I have been doing, as we will be Scouting most of the time. Do you ever see any thing in the papers about Wilder's Brigade?

Our Chaplain has gone home. There was a Nigger preached last Sunday but I couldent stay to hear him through. It was more than I could Stomach. There is nearly 100 Blacks in our Regt. now.

I guess I have wrote all the news. I want you to write soon and often. I will do the same. Good bye till the next time.

Your Son,

Wm. A. Clark

Dont forget your miniatures. I want to hear from George. Please excus my writing with a pencil. The paper is so thin I cant write on it with ink.

Murfreesboro, Tenn May 10, 1862
Dear Parents,

I seat myself at this time to pen you a few lines to let you know that I am well and well satisfied, but the news from Gen. Hooker is not calculated to cheer up our Spirits very much. The boys are all well now. The weather is dry and hot. It is 1 o'clock and the Sun is nearly overhead, while the Thermometer stands at 85. I would like

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25 The Knights of the Golden Circle was an organization whose members sympathized with the South. The Republican leadership of Indiana accused such organizations of treason, and Clark bristles at the thought of being associated with them. For more on the K.G.C., see Frank L. Klement, “Carrington and the Golden Circle Legend in Indiana during the Civil War,” Indiana Magazine of History, LIX (March, 1963), 31-52.

26 Many former slaves remained close to the Union troops who had freed them; some officers set up camps for them, leased them to Union-sympathetic farmers, or hired them to work for the Army. Some of the freedmen joined black regiments, by war's end as many as 180,000 African-American men had fought for the Union. For more on the African-American contribution to the Civil War see Dudley T. Cornish, The Noble Arm: Negro Troops in the Union Army, 1861–1865 (New York, 1966) and Joseph T. Glatthaar, Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers (New York, 1987).

27 General Joseph Hooker was the commander of the Union Army of the Potomac; he was defeated at Chancellorsville, Virginia, on May 4, 1863.
for you to see the 72nd today. Each man has his own tent. So we have about 700 tents in the Regt. and nearly everyone is in his tent writing, or reading the news. I am barefooted & bare headed, sitting on the ground with a Cracker Box for a desk, trying to pen my thoughts to you while one of the Radicals is reading aloud from the Cts. Gazette in the next tent. If he don't read to himself pretty soon, I shall pull his ears.

I bought a Nashville Dispatch today, and after perusing it, I folded it up and mailed it to you as a Specimen of the news we get. If you get it let me know. I want to know if you have read Daniel Voohee's speech on the Conscription Bill. He delivered it in Feb. in Congress. Somebody sent it to me directed in Back hand. I wish I knew who it was so I could thank him. I also received the Crescent, dated April 24th. It is the same date of the one that you cut that extract from, vis. Hon. J. K. Edgerton's speech.

I have a horse now, a Bright Boy, 7 years old. I dont know what to write that would interest you. The boys all say today that our term of soldiering is greatly lengthened by Hooker's Defeat. Can you tell me the difference between Disaster and defeat. The Gazette says it is a disaster not a defeat.

I bought 12 eggs today for 60 Cts. Cheap wasn't it? Apples sell at 10 cts. a piece, or 5 cts. per Btke. What is greenbacks worth per dollar? We hear various statements at from 60 cts. up to par.

I havent got a letter from Jonas D. since the 2nd of Feb I got one from Lin Cafe yesterday. They was all well. I havent seen the Mohlers for some time, as we have moved outside of the ground guard lines, so we cant get to the 86th.

I have heard that you think me unhealthy and homesick. If you was to see me, your doubts in regard to my health would certainly be dispelled. You wouldnt see the same Slim, stoop shouldered, awkward, Goaling that came to all the Singings in Ross Township. I am 5 feet 9 inches high and weight 170 pounds. I jumped 42 feet yesterday at 2 hops and a jump. No one in the Regt. Beat it, and to cap the climax, I have a superb Moustache, nearly 2 inches long, colored a jet Black. I am satisfied. But I will acknowledge that I feel

gloomy when I think of the uncertainty of getting home. There is nothing strange in that.

We have no preaching now, since we quit patronizing the African Clergy. Please write soon, and believe me your affectionate Son,

Wm. A. Clark
P. S. The mail has just come and it has brought me a beautiful present. Guess what it is if you can. A pretty miniature.

Latest News
Stones and strips waving in Richmond, Va. I dont believe it.

Camp near Boiling Springs, Tenn.

Sabbath Evening

Ever Remembered Parents,

After spending the day pleasantly with old Associates. I seat myself to inform you that I am still on the land & among the living. I rec. a letter from you a few days since dated the 11th. The weather is beautiful. We have no excitement to shorten the tedious of Camp life. For my part I am in good Spirits but there is Blues on an extensive scale in this vicinity caused by the defeat of Hooker. I had the pleasure of seeing the 4th Cavalry to day, and found them in good health & well satisfied. Sam Hiner is sick at Nashville. The Boys say he will get a discharge. Das White is sick also. George Siegfried is Company Cook. Billy Williams is Company Sergeant. Jacob LeFever is Mail Carrier. Hellick & Ciple have deserted. They are the heartiest looking Soldiers I have seen for Six months. It was like being at home to be with so many old Companions.

I have no special news to narrate. All is quiet here. Of Eastern affairs you know as much as I. Mississippi movements are contradictory. We have drawn the Spencer Repeating Rifle. It is a 7 shooter, & a beautiful little gun. They are charged to us at $30.00. 15 of which we have to pay.

I have the toothache & have had it for two or three days. It is disagreeable company. I was at an interesting Prayer meeting to day at the 4th Cav. We have no Religious Services in the Regt. at present. I have written all the news and nonsense. As I was on guard last night, I feel sleepy now. My Drowsiness accompanied by toothache makes me feel but little like writing. Therefore it wont be a paying Institution to waste paper, Ink. I would like to join the Regular Cavalry, but will not do so, contrary to your wishes. (By the

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29 Daniel W. Voorhees was U. S. representative from the Seventh Congressional District of Indiana. Clark was from the Eighth District but admired Voorhees, a popular Democrat and opponent to Lincoln. In a speech before Congress on February 25, Voorhees had suggested that the unpopular Conscription Act would not have been necessary without pressure from Abolitionists: "You purpose [sic] to buy negroes, steal negroes, fight for negroes, obtain negroes in any way and then humiliate and disgrace the white soldier by his presence and contact in the ranks." Frank Smith Bogardus, "Daniel W. Voorhees," Indiana Magazine of History, XXVII (June, 1921), 98.

30 The Frankfort Crescent was a Democratic newspaper in Clinton County. It ran, under various names, from 1833 through 1890. Miller, Indiana Newspaper Bibliography, 88.

31 Jonas D. was a brother; the Cade family was related to Clark by marriage.

32 This decidedly premature report was only a camp rumor.

33 The Spencer carbine, a lever-action, repeating rifle, gave the combat advantage to the Union Army. Though the Spencer's use was not widespread until 1864, some troops were using it as early as 1863 after their commanding officers had ordered the men to purchase their own. Beutner, Civil War Dictionary, 785.
way,) when do you think peace will be conquered? Please write soon and often & all the news.

Yours as ever,  
Wm. A. Clark.

What fields have you put in corn?

Camp near Boiling Spring, Tenn.  
May 23rd (1863)

Dear Father,

I take this opportunity to let you know that my health is good. The weather is clear & hot. We were on a scout yesterday. We went 11 miles on the Manchester Pike, drove the Reb Pickets, Killing 3 & capturing 7. Our Skirmishes went in sight of the Fortifications but found the enemy in line ready for us. We come away without molesting them as we was only Reconnoitering. Tomorrow is my Birthday. If I had been certain of being in camp then, I would have waited till then to write this. We are under marching [orders] now & before this reaches you, the papers will announce another Bloody Battle.

I sent a Box containing 2 over coats & a pair of mittens to Lafayette addressed to D. C. Clark. The coat with the string around it is Wakeland’s, also the mittens. He wants you to take or send them to his wife in Rossville in Granny Clark’s house. You can get the Box by calling at the Express Office. The Freight is paid. There is a package of letters in my coat Pocket, which you will please put in my Box without Reading them. I did not intend to send them but they was in the Pocket & Wakeland put the coat in the Box. We are not allowed but one suit of clothes now.

This may be the last that you will hear from me for sometime, for we will leave here in less than 48 hours. At least I think so. I hope we will have success & not a Butchery.

I have received no letters since the 15th. I will close for this time as I wish to write several letters to day. I am not fearful, but the prospect of the next week fill my mind with serious thoughts. Man’s life is not his own. It is uncertain. Please write soon & often, and tell my Brothers to write. Don’t forget the Stamps.

Yours as ever,  
Wm. A. Clark  
P. S.

We march at 2 o’clock to day, so Reports say. It is now 1 o’clock. Please write as soon as you get that Box, or if you don’t find it, let me know in 30 days so I can get paid for it. The expressage was $2.00.

Camp near Boiling Spring, Rutherford Co. Tenn.  
May 31st 1863

Sabbath morning.

Dear Brother, 24

I take my seat this beautiful morning to pen you a few lines in response to yours of the 13th (?) which I received on last Tuesday.

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24 George W. Clark.
prospect is not very promising, as Johnston is at Jackson, with a large force, threatening Grant's Rear.

Ben Caloway and Peter Cohler has come to their Regiment. Whether they come willingly or by force I know not. Henry Smith was here last night. He is as hearty as ever. He is Gen. Wagner's orderly.

Why don't you tell me something of Neighborhood affairs? They are more interest to me than anything else. How does Bob Carrick stand on the war by this time? I want to see the proceedings of the Democratic Convention at Indianapolis on the 20th Inst. The Nashville Union said it broke up in a Row. That is all I have about it."

Do you sing any now or have you forgot your music? I think I could enjoy myself first-rate at Singing School in West Point or Union School house, but I believe I will wait till Piece is proclaimed. Some of the Boys say we will get home this Fall. For my part I have quit prophesying. It will last till one or the other side show more of a Compromising Spirit then they do at this time.

We have 49 men in Company K at this time, and not one sick. We are going to have Black Cooks in a few days. Two to a company. For my part I would rather prepare my own grub (woundent you?). I want you to write soon. No more at present, but remain your loving Brother,

Wm. A. Clark
to G. W. Clark. Esq.
Appendix.
Father & Mother,

This will inform you of my good health. Also, I am satisfied. When a man gets in a position that he can't get out of, it is his duty to make the best of it. I know by experience that a Soldier can make himself miserable by thinking of home, and associations of the past. For my part I am determined to be satisfied.

James L. Keys and me are the only ones in the Company now but what play Cards. There is 7 decks of cards in the Co. We have no Chaplain yet, and no prospect of any. Religion is not thought of here. Morality is almost unknown here. There is several of the Boys that have quit writing home. I think from Remorseful feeling. There is 3 men in our company havent wrote or received the scratch of a pen since they enlisted.

27 Confederate General Joseph Eggleston Johnston.
28 On May 20, 1863, Indiana Democrats held a state convention to protest Republican Governor Oliver P. Morton's arbitrary assumption of power and Republican charges that Democrats were traitors. Daniel Voorhees opened the convention with a defiant address, in which he criticized the resort to military government and defended the right of the people to discuss public policies. John D. Barnhart and Donald F. Carmody, Indiana: From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth (4 vols., 1954), II, 178-80, quotation 178. See also Emma Lou Thornburgh, Indiana in the Civil War Era, 1850-1880 (Indianapolis, 1965), 202-208.

Two of our Regiment started out last night at 12. I don't know where they went to. We are ordered to march at a moment's warning with 5 days Rations. We get Rations of Potatoes now. I believe I never told you the list of Rations. It is 5% of a pound of Crackers or 1 1/4 pound of Bread per day, 1 pound of pork or 1 1/4 lb. of Beef, 1 lb. of Beans or peas to eight men per day, 1/8 of a pound of Sugar, the same of Coffee per day, a bushel of Potatoes to 50 men per day, a pound of soap and the same of Candles to eight men. There is no Regularity about Vinegar and Salt. 1 gill of Whiskey to a man each morning. The Officers Drinks my share. Each privates is allowed 57$ worth of Clothing in a year. I have been cut nearly 10 months and have only $37 worth of clothing, and I think I have enough to last me till August.

I believe I have wrote all the news. Write as often as you can and please write longer letters. Did Mother get the letter that I sent her? I will close for the present. My love to Neighbors & Relatives, Your erring Son,

William A. Clark

I think there is no danger of my joining the Regulars, so you needent be uneasy. W. A. Clark. Do you get any letters from Alma Jordan?

In Camp

Sabbath Eve

Dear parents,

I seat myself to pen you a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and well and hope this will find you in the same state of health. I will make this brief as I am quite fatigued, having rode 30 miles since 7 oclock am. We came from Liberty [Tennessee] in 7 hours. We were not permitted to get out of our Saddle during that time. We was gone 4 days captured several horses and between 206 & 300 Prisoners. We had two of our Boys captured, and 1 killed also two or three wounded. Our last was in the Ill. Regt.

Yesterday there was 8 of our Camp with Sergt. Jack Ball to go after horses. I was one of the detail. We went 7 miles south of Liberty and rode over a high hill where we surprised 4 Rebs that were showing there steeds. We gave them chase Running them several miles but we caught them at last (three of them). The 4th one run his horse over a Rock 40 feet high. Broke his thigh, and killing his horse. We then mistrusted that we had got in a warm neighborhood, so we Broke for camp with 3 prisoners and 4 horses (to lead). When we got to Camp we were told by Wilder that Wharton's Rebel Brigade was at Woodbury, and we had been within three miles of there in our Rebel Chase. You had better think we was glad that we saved ourselves from a visit to Richmond.

June 7th '63

Confederate General John A. Wharton led forces against General Wilder at the battle of Stones River.
There is fighting now on the Right Wing. We can hear the bursting of the shells quite plain. The Battery Boys say it is about 7 miles from here.

I received a letter from Eliza\textsuperscript{a} to day. They were well and she said she was in favor of abolishing Slavery, "Abolitionist." I also got one from Hen. Ewing, in which he gave of vivid description of the K.G.C.S. in Ross. It was highly exaggerated, I suppose. At least I dent believe there is such an Organization in Ross. Township.

It is reported now that we will move Camp to Franklin tomorrow. I hope it is not true as I would rather stay with the left wing.

It is raining now with the appearance of Raining all night. Vicksburg is not taken yet. The Excitement is high over the events of the last two days along our lines here, and the prospect for warm week in the coming week.

I received a letter from a friend to day in forning me of the death of Sarah E. Carrick. It surprised me considerably. I have not had a letter from you for nearly two weeks, I will close for this time as it is getting late. Please write soon and often. No more at present but remain your loving Son,

Wm. A. Clark
72nd Regt. Ind. Vols.
Camp, K. care of R. H. McNair
I saw Albert Gaddiss today. He looks the best I ever saw him look. We lost the man that had his thigh broke to a house, where he was no doubt well cared for.

Camp near Boling Spring, Tenn.

June 14th [1863]

Dear Parents,

I have abstained myself from the camp, its noise, confusion and Bustle, for a few hours, in order to have a better chance to call my thoughts together. I have chosen my position on a huge pile of Rocks, shaded with Cedar & gum trees, I received yours of the 3rd inst. on last Monday. It contained a far simile of Mother and Father on a limited scale. It was a veryagreeable Surprise. I hope I will be permitted to return it to you before next June with our Countries troubles so adjusted, that the exchange of miniatures, and letters between friend at home and those in the tented fields will be no more necessary.

We started out on a scout last Wednesday, and was gone till last night. There was only 160 of us (a detail of 16 men from a Company). Lieutenant Col. Kirkpatrick was in command. We went to Liberty and get in a muss with Allison’s Guerrillas, but routed them with out any loss on our part, except one horse killed. The enemy’s loss was 4 found dead on the field, one wounded and 5 captured. Their loss would have been greater had it been in a level Country, but they broke Ranks, and fled to the mountains, where pursuit was almost impracticable, at least in the night and it was then getting dark.

We went from there to Rome, then to Lebanon, and then back to camp. We had no adventures worth naming after the first day. You must not be uneasy if you don’t hear from me in the next 30 days. If all Rumors are true we will make an important Raid soon. It is Rumored that we are to draw 20 days rations tomorrow, and start out the next day. How true it is I can’t tell.\textsuperscript{41}

The war news is not of a cheering nature just now. Vicksburg and Port Hudson are both invested, but their Reduction progresses very slow, if it does any. Everything is quiet here again. All marching orders have been revoked. Henry Mohler, Selby Lewis, and Henry Smith was to our camp to day. They look hearty and are as full of fun as ever. Henry Mohler Keeps himself the closest of any soldier that I have yet seen.

Well Mother, you wish to know if I am as good a boy as I was at home. I fear that I am not. There is so many temptations here that a boy will be almost ruined before he is aware of the fact, and there’s no Mother’s influence or the least spark of morality to restrain the wayward, and I fear that Christianity and war are two things that are incompatible. They don’t mix much in the Department of the Cumberland any how.

I have not got the scratch of a pen from Jonas since the 7th of January. Why it is, I cant tell. If he is my Brother I wish he would let me know it. I got a letter from Grand Mother not long since. She was as well as usual.

We have 48 men in our Co. now and they are all able for duty. We had general inspection to day, and the General said that our Company was the Cleanest and healthiest one in the Brigade. We have tidy Officers, and they make the Company help themselves in the right kind of style. When we are in camp we have to wash ourselves 3 times a day and comb with fine comb. And we have to examine our Clothing each day to prevent vermin. We have to sun our Blankets every day and wash them every two weeks. The officers have to be so strict as some of the men would die with filth and vermin.

Do you take The Witness yet? If you do, I wish you would send me a copy. We get The Crescent every week. I see in The Crescent of June 5th that Capt. Cornelissan and the Republicans have had a falling out. I see that Tom & George Major have been pitching in with their slang. I hope to hear of their pitching in to the Army before long as Ensigns. And if they have to carry 64 pound Knapsacks, and sixteen pound muskets 10 months, you take my word for it, they won’t blame Cornelisson for getting a discharge at the earliest opportunity.

\textsuperscript{a} Clark’s sister: Eliza Jane Clark Cadle.

\textsuperscript{41} The Union troops were preparing for the Tullahoma Campaign.
The People here are now in the midst of harvesting wheat. [It] looks Splendid, but the crop is limited. When we was out in the Country, we had plenty of Mulberries, and Cherries, and young potatoes.

I was sorry to hear of Sarah Carrick's Death. It is wonderful to think of the changes that have taken place in that vicinity within one year. It looks as if all my school mates would be married or in the grave before this accursed War is ended. Please write soon, and often. No more at present but remain your son,
Ally
I forget to tell you that my health was excellent.

Camp near Cave Springs, Tenn.

June 21st '63,

Dear Parents,

This will inform you that I am well, and hoping that it will find you enjoying the same great Blessing. I rec. yours of the 15th just today and now haste to peruse these few lines. We moved Camp yesterday. Consequently, I have but little leisure time to write, on account of fixing up in a comfortable manner. We are now camped north of town five (5) miles, near a large spring that issues from a beautiful cave, and near Stone River ford, on the Lebanon Pike. Our old camp was 4 miles southeast of town, so you see we had back 7 miles. Why this retrograde movement is made I cant tell, but I believe it will be a Bueil46 scrape before long. The Rebels are running heavy, mounted forces on both sides of us to outflank us, and if they prove successful, we will pay Louisville a visit.

The papers are crowded with news, to day. They report that Lee is menacing Washington or Pittsburg44 while Dix is threatening the Rebel Capitol at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. All is ( ) . The last, but not least Paragraph, says that Hines has paid Ind. a visit, having penetrated the state to Paoli, Orange Co. It is doubtless his intention to cut the Cinn. and St. Louis R.R., so as to facilitate a raid in to Ill. from the mouth of the Wabash [River]. The Governor has called for 20,000 6 months Vols., but I dont know where they will find them without taking the Abolitionists (Home Guards) and that would leave the state unprotected.45

I have received the extracts that you sent me, describing the Convention of the 26th [20th?] inst. and can indorse them, but they differ from the statements made about it in The Gazette, & Ind.

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44 This seems to be a reference to General Don Carlos Buell's early retreat on October 7, 1862, a mistake for which Buell was replaced by General William Starke Rosecrans. See McPherson, Atlas of the Civil War, 80-87.
45 Clark refers to the Gettysburg campaign.
46 Captain Thomas Hines was an officer under General Morgan. He led an invasion as far north as Paoli, as Clark indicates, but most of his men were captured. Hines himself escaped by swimming across the Ohio River. John D. Bernard. "The Impact of the Civil War in Indiana," Indiana Magazine of History, LVII (September, 1961), 212-13.
grape shot. The prisoners that we took today say that their boys was 1100 killed, wounded, and missing.66

We are 12 miles from Tullahoma. It has been raining all the time since we started, but it looks to night like we might have good weather. We are ordered to move at daylight in the morning with five days Rations in our haversacks. Our wagon train will be left here.

I am in good health, and hope you are the same. I will close for the present. Please write soon, and send some stamps. I had some but they are spoild by getting wet.

No more, but remain your Affectionate Son,
Allen

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66 The Union lost about 560 men in the Tullahoma Campaign, while Confederate losses are estimated to have been greater than 1,600. McPherson, Atlas of the Civil War, 128.

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APPENDIX
List of Family Members

David C. Clark (b. 1804) Father
Mary M. Slifer Clark (b. December 10, 1803)* Mother
Elizabeth Clark (b. April 27, 1827) Sister
Augustus F. Clark, A. F. (b. December 28, 1828) Brother
Stephen S. Clark, S. S. (b. December 2, 1831) Brother
Isaac Newton Clark, Newton, I. N. (b. October 13, 1833) Brother
Eliza Jane Clark Cade (b. August 29, 1835) Sister
Sam Cade Brother-in-law
Jonas D. Clark, J. D. (b. September 12, 1837) Brother
Tilghman A. H. Clark (b. July 12, 1840, died at 4 years) Brother
David Austin Clark (b. May 24, 1844, died at 14 months) Twin brother
William Allen Clark (b. May 24, 1844) Brother
George W. Clark, Geo., G. W. (b. March 4, 1851) Brother
Jonas P. Clark Uncle
D. F. Clark Uncle
Alma Jordan Cousin
Jennie Jordan Cousin
Andy Erehart Cousin
Stephen Erehart Cousin
Clark Rhodes Cousin
Cosmas Rhodes Cousin
Jane Stabler Cousin
Luanne Stabler Cousin
Mary Stabler Cousin

*An alternate spelling of Clark's mother's maiden name is Slipher. Slifer is, however, the spelling used in Clark's family Bible.