

IN CAMP NEAR SHELBY –
VILLE, 32 MILES FROM
LOUISVILLE, S.E., 22 MILES OF FRANKFORT,
KY. October, 5th, 1862.

Respected Father:-

I thought that it might be a pleasure for you to hear from me again as my last letter was a very short one. I received the things that Mother sent me about an hour that I sealed up my last. I am very much obliged for the things that you sent, especially those pictures. When we came to Louisville we expected to stay there some time, but we did not. We have been in this camp three days when we marched from Battle Creek we were twenty-seven days on one third rations. This was the hardest time that we have seen. We were at Nashville several days and then we were ordered to Bowling Green. At this place we left all our wagons but one, to carry hospital stores and started out after the rebels that were said to be on their way to Louisville. Our advance were skirmishing almost every mile of the way. At three points, to such an extent that they might be called battles. The first was at Mumfordsville on the Green river, The next about three miles south of Camp Nevin. The last at Elizabeth town about three miles north of Nevin.

At the first place our men killed on Lieut. Col. and several privates. The second between fifteen and twenty, and at the latter place we captured fifteen hundred cavalry, their horses and five baggage wagons. There were a great many other places that we could see dead and wounded horses laying at the side of the road. At Elizabethtown the rebels left the pike going off to the right. Our division kept the pike on to West Point, which is on the Ohio River twenty miles below Louisville. There is a good stone pike connects that place and Louisville. All the wagons of Buel's division were left at Bowling Green with out baggage and knapsacks. We heard yesterday that eighteen hundred of these wagons had arrived at Louisville safe, so I am in hopes we will get ours in a few days. I think the largest portion of the army has left Louisville now. There seems to be a rebel force on the other side of Frankfort. Our men have been skirmishing some with them and I hear yesterday than Gen. Rosencrans division had a pretty hard fight routing the enemy.

Our loss was small the enemy's large. It is reported that Gen. Ruseau is wounded. We had orders to be ready to move

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at twelve o'clock last night but have received no marching orders yet. Expect them every minute. This seems to be a rather dark time to me. I did not expect we would ever have to go over our old track again, but it seems that Kentucky and Tennessee are the states that have the rebels in. There has been a report in camp that there was some prospects of a settlement. Have you heard any thing of it? If not what do you think about the war anyway. You cannot discourage me for one, so let me know what your views of it are. I have always been in the habit of telling as near as I could of the country that we have passed through. From West Point to Louisville the country is a very rich bottom. I never saw more stacks of hay in my life nor larger corn. The farms are No. 1 and are splendid ones. They are very large as a general thing. They all seem to be very wealth, and some are trying to enjoy it by having good buildings and every thing nice and handy about them. From Louisville to this place is a country that has been settled much longer and is more rolling. Farmers are all wealthy, do their farming well and have some as good herds of Durham cattle as I ever saw. Also splendid blooded horses and a goodly number of sheep, and hogs without number. They raise good clover and wheat.

This county is nearly equal to old MOLLY STARK. Shelbyville is not any larger than Salem. It has several good churches three good seminaries, one expressly for females. Never did we pass through a place where there were so many flags and handkerchiefs waved at us. It is certainly a strong Union place.

I think this a striking example of what education does for a community. Our battery was paid off a few days ago, but I happened to be away and did not get my little \$52.00. There will be so much the more when it does come. I have plenty to use.

The old soldiers made a good deal of sport of the last recruits. Call some fifty dollar men, others one hundred men. Some of them got to telling what a hard time they had, marching six miles in one day through the hot sun with nothing to eat but soft bread, boiled ham, potatoes, rice sugar, molasses and coffee. After hearing their complaints one of the old boys stepped up to them and told them he knew what soldiering was when he had marched thirty miles on half rations and then had nothing but flich, coffee and cracker. Crackers that had been baked not less than four months. We generally had to butcher our meat after we got into camp, then to top it off he opened his shirt and picked off the boy lice about half an inch long. and showed it to him telling him he knew nothing about soldiering yet.

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yet. Don't you think the poor fellow felt down his back then. Write as often as you can. No more at present.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield

Direct your next to

Louisville Kentucky,
McCook's Division,
6th Brigade, in care of
Captain Goodspeed.

CAMP FOUR MILES SOUTH
OF CRAB ORCHARD, 109 MILES FROM
LOUISVILLE, October, 17th, 1862.

Respected Father:-

Lieutenant came around about a minute ago and said there was a chance to send out mail, and thinking that you would be very anxious to know how I am, as you have heard of the fighting in this part of the state by this time. On the day of the hard fight at Perrysville we were on a forced march to reinforce them, but the rebels knew of our plans and they sent a pretty strong skirmish party after us in your rear to hinder us as much as possible. We had to put our baggage train in front and twice we had to halt and give them some of our canned fruit, and occasionally a shell. There was but one man hurt in our battery and that was by accident. The gun went off before No. 1 had withdrawn the ramrod. There were several infantry and cavalry killed and wounded. Perhaps ten killed and thirty wounded. We encamped on night on the battle field. This was a great deal harder fight than Shilo was according to the number engaged. Our force was ten thousand, the enemy's thirty-two thousand. They had three batteries to our one. They lost the most men. Major Cotter was taken prisoner but is paroled. The rebels are laying on the field rotting yet. I heard the xx citizens were burning them. Our men were all burried. We have been after them in full chase. This is the ninth day that I have heard cannonading in this division. It is in the rear of the main army. Our advance is twenty miles ahead and they have taken lots of prisoners. Nearly every house along the road is a hospital. Our men shell their rear day and night so they cannot get very much rest. I heard that the 19th. Ohio suffered heavy loss in the late battle. I have none of the particulars about the wounded and killed. Please send them if you have heard. We have halted today to get our provision train up. We are drawing three days rations again and I expect that we will be off again in a few hours.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT LOST RIVER 4
MILES SOUTH OF
BOWLING GREEN.Nov, 1st, 1862.

Respected Father:- Received your welcome letter a few days ago when we were on the march. I also received two from Celestine about ten days ago. We have been on the march for about two weeks and I think we will go on to Nashville in a few days if not further. Some think we will winter at Huntsville, Ala. We have halted here to draw clothing, horses, mules, wagons, etc. Four of our wagons were taken by the rebels. They were in a train of eighty-one, which was attacked by 500 cavalrymen after night. The wagons and their contents were burned, and the mules and horses were taken. There were ten of our boys along. There have been forty-three boys out of his battery taken prisoners. Our quarter-master is among them. The train was taken about twenty miles from Lexington Kentucky. We have not gotten our knapsacks xx and overcoats yet; also we are minus our tents yet. We expect them soon. We can now see the effects of not having a good Captain. He is not half as good as Capt. Cotter's old clothes would be stuffed full of straw. We have some good Lieutenants who wish to do their duty. One week ago today we had as deep a snow to fall as we had last winter, except one. We came very near suffering this time for want of clothes and tents. I think the fighting is played out in this state gain. It seems to make the people in Ohio to squirm some xx when the draft came off.

Was sorry to hear of Uncle John being drafted for he is not a man who could stand a soldier's life. I am in hopes that they will hang old Gregory and every other man that opposes the draft. It will take men to put this rebellion down and one man is no better than any other. I think there will be a change in the programme after the first of January. We are under the impression that Gen. Buel has been relieved of his command, which is perfectly agreeable to this division. He was an old traitor and a scoundrel in the eyes of his army. He has his range shot off by his own men at one time. From what I have heard from home it has been unusually sickly for the last fall. I think the health of the army is improving. I have gained my health so that I am able for an ox. I should like to know what Uncle John had to give for a substitute. I hear of some offering as

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high as \$1000.00. Mike Fox wants to know something about John. I think he will be apt to hear from him very soon. I expect they have been like us on the march. I could not get a chance to write. The last time I saw him was at Louisville. He was all right then. Alpheus Unger was left at Louisville in the hospital. I do not think he will ever be fit for duty. I must bring this to a close for I wait to wash today. It is likely we will march tomorrow. I shall write more when we get in camp.

Tell Thomas to make another break some day or he will forget how to write. Charlie says stick in a few words for him. He is well and ready for his ration of fitch and hard tack every time. May be you would like to know what he is doing now. He is coming the nail game over the body lice.

We all take a very active part in that game.

Your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT LOST RIVER,
NEAR BOWLING GREEN.

Nov, 4th, 1862.

Respected Father:-

I wrote you to on the last day of last month but felt it my duty to write again, as we have lost one of our comrades very unexpectedly. I suppose the dispatch announcing the death of Asahel Nash has reached you before this time, as it was sent yesterday before noon. I will try and tell you how he was ill. He first took the disease in camp at Battle Creek about two months ago. He did not have it very severe. Was able to walk around all the time, and when we left he marched with us and has continued to do so all through eastern Kentucky although the doctors and some of the boys advised him to go to the hospital, but he felt determined to go with us. On our last march he drove one of our baggage teams some of the way, and after we got here about four days before his death he took some cold and it seemed to have settled in his neck, as he complained of having a stiff neck. His hands also cramped him for several days. All of this time he was going around camp. On Sunday he went to the Springs, distance of a quarter of a mile, and brought a coffee pot full of water. This seemed to fatigue him very much but when dinner was ready he ate as hearty a meal as usual and was sitting around the camp fire with us until bed time. Just a few minutes before he went to bed I asked him how he felt. He told me that he thought he was some better. He went to bed with Abraham Fiffer and told him that if he should waken up in the night and find him uncovered he should cover him up again. At half-past four in the morning yesterday (Monday morning) Fiffer waked up and inquired of him if he was cold. Receiving no answer he felt of his hands and found them very cold. He then called the rest of the boys and told them he believe Asahel was dead. They lit a candle as quickly as possible and found him dead. He must have died very soon after going to bed. He lay on his right side, his right arm lying across his breast, the left lying on his side. We do not think he ever moved after going to bed, and from all appearances, he died without a struggle. I could hardly believe my own eyes that he was dead, for he looked more as if he was asleep. We have done the best that we could for his friends, and that was to send him home. We could not get permission for any one to go with his body but got the chance to

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send it by express. We did all in our power to get a metallic case but could not. So we are getting a zinc one made. It leave here today at eleven o'clock. The corpse is with us (L. B. Maxwell, F. Knapp and myself) at Bowling Green. We all feel as though we had lost a friend and as true a one as ever lived. He was well thought of by every one in the camp. He always did his duty and even more than was his share. This is what war does nad it is heartrending to see how many of the young men have laid down their lives for their country, both by disease and on field of battle. If it had not been for this rebellion they might have been living happy and useful lives. We have written the particulars concerning Asahel to his father and mother. We are going to send it inside of the outside box, though they may not open it. It would be impossible to get one there by mail before the body.

The rest of the boys are as well as usual. We do not know how long we are to stay here. From what I can learn the troops at Nashville are very hard up for something to eat. We hope they may be relieved soon for the railroad is nearly open. From what I can we expect a very heavy battle in eastern Virginia soon. My prayers are for a Union Victory and a big one. Write as often as convenient.

Good bye,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT TYREE SPRINGS
22 MILES N.E. NASHVILLE
ON THE LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE PIKE.

Nov, 9th, 1862.

Respected Brother:-

I felt this morning that I might interest you by writing you a few lines, as it is something I have not done for some time. I have the best of health at present. There is but one section of battery here, that is two guns Nos. 1 and 2. The rest of the battery are at Nashville, so you can see I am not with the Randolph boys, but none the worse off on that account. We are with the 89th Illinois. They belong to the 6th Brigade. They are called the Railroad regiment because they are all railroad men. We are left here to guard the tavern an watering place for the supply trains. The house is to be used for a hospital. The cards do not run any farther than Frankfort. This has been a noted place in its day. The house is a frame, two stories high and with a double porch the whole length which is between three and four hundred feet., besides there are two wings each over one hundred feet long and the same height. I wish you were here to see what any army does to a country when they encamp. This is only on case among a thousand. When we went through here last spring nothing had been molested. There were plenty of outbuildings, a park around the house of eight or ten acres that was covered with shrubbery, nice walks, good board fences, a garden of several acres, grape bowers, and a young orchard of fifteen or twenty acres. Now, how do you think things look? Among the buildings there are but two left. They are the house and the barn. Every rail has been burned for miles; every board, gate and eve the gate posts have been cut down. Cavalry have tied their horses to the trees and they are now broken down. Some of the shade trees have been cut down for wood, or the out buildings have been torn down for wood. We have our battery park in front of the house. We keep our horses in the barn, so you see the 89th. and our regiment run this shebang now. The first night we were in camp here some one set the house on fire, but it was put out. Morgan and his forces have been in this vicinity for some time. We have been expecting an attack from his cavalry. We keep our horses harnessed every night. Some of his cavalry have been picking up some of our straglers as they were going through. We drew our tents on the fourth of this month so we have a decent

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place to sleep now. We have plenty of blankets but no overcoats. It is very dry here and dreadfully dusty marching. It is what I would call very nice winter weather. It freezes almost every night. I expect you have pretty cold weather by this at home. I know it is so cold here that I have gone to bed to keep warm, so here I lay writing.

I suppose you will be going to school pretty soon, and then you will have time to write me a long letter. We have to forage for everything our horses get. Yesterday our boys were out after corn and got 16 chickens. General McCook tells us to take everything within fifteen miles if we want it. We have all of fresh hog that we want. I cannot say how long we will stay here. Have not received a letter from home for some time. Our mail will go to our brigade and then be sent to us, so it will be delayed some.

I suppose you have received a letter that I wrote after Asahel's death that had all the information concerning him that I could give. I suppose you have seen by the papers that Buel has been removed, and who took his place. Lieut. Belding of Rootstown has command of our section. He is well thought of by all of the boys. I have to write some for Charlie today.

Write as often as convenient for you will have something to write about now, for the long winter evenings are coming and the evening's schools will afford some amusement.

No more at present.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

Nov, 11, 1862.

Respected Nephews in camp:-

Your telegraph dispatch dated Nov. 5-came to hand by mail to Baltimore, Thursday the 6th. about forty-eight hours after his remains arrived at Alliance. Was sent by the way of Pittsburg. Secris and William Nash were in Alliance waiting to bring him home Saturday; about half-past three in the afternoon he arrived here.

We have no language to express our heartfelt grief but believing you to be sharers with us I will leave it and try to find words that will give you a faint idea of our gratitude to you for your noble deed of kindness to us.

I hope you will be favored with a speedy and brilliant victory over the enemy of our country and return to your homes and kind friends in the vigor of youth and live to a good old age while the flag of liberty shall wave undisturbed over our entire land.

I had never thought there could be so much respect due to a private soldier of the U.S.A. as there was paid to him in this community. We got black velvet and covered his coffin and lined it with white muslin around the head. Trimmed it with black lace. Talked some of putting on a white shirt bosom but did not. Buttoned up his coat that it might show to this community that he was a soldier of this country. The funeral was attended on the Sabbath at one o'clock P.M. Mr. Browning of Urbana attended with us. Some tell us that it was the largest funeral ever held in Baltimore or vicinity. The house was filled to overflowing and many went home. I am told there was seventy five wagons and buggies. The first hymn was "How vain are all things here below". Then an appropriate prayer. Some old men said it was the best they ever heard from the lips of man, and in it you were remembered.

His discourse was founded on this question "Does the state of our country require the sacrifices that are made to free it". He then went on to show that it did with language most clear. It was considered very appropriate and also patriotic and truly republican in every sense of the word.

We want you to write all you can about Asahel. Did he have a cough? Had you gotten your tents? He said in his letter of the 17th. that he had not slept under a tent since June.

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Could he have gotten a furlough to come home? Did he talk of trying? How were his morals? It is a poor place to improve good habits. When he was here he was called a model young man. No one has any thing to say against him. They all appear to love and many were the tears that were mingled with ours at his burial. They have said since that they never attended a funeral were every body cried like they did there.

Truly it was no ordinary funeral. He was a soldier of 1862 to be laid in the family burying ground and I hope you may be permitted to visit the little mound of earth.

Don't think me childish. I love an affectionate and obedient son. You will get letters from others. They will tell you other news from your own country.

My health is fairly good. Dr. Under is quite sick. Mr. William Whetstone is no better. Nothing of importance in war matters. Am glad Buel is superceded. Aint you? I must close. It is late and the house is getting cold. We all join in our love to you.

E. and E. Nash.

To—

A. S. Bloomfield.

L. B. Maxwell.

R. J. Crockett.

Nov, 11th, 1862.

Mr. Roggers:-

I would not forget to write you a few lines remembering your signiture in the telegraph dispatch and being informed by your kind sister that you had often named Asahel in your letters, you are entitled to a full share of our gratitude in forwarding his remains to the home of his youth.

A sore trial, but at the same time we are favored. Sons lie down on the gory field and they never know the whereabouts of their mouldering forms. When the coffin was first opened he looked very natural. The next morning not quite so well. Had come in the order that you had place him. Your folks were here ready to shed their tears over the departed volunteers, and attended the funeral services.

I shall expect a letter from you also to say something about your brief acquaintance with my kind and affectionate son, who died at his post in the service of our country.

His life has been sacrificed to save ours, our property free institutions and religious privileges.

Do not think me unreasonable when I request a good long letter from you. Do write to us. Nothing would be grasped more eagerly.

Good bye it is now bed time and I am weary.

Eliza Nash.

IN CAMP ON THE LUNA-
TIC ASYLUM FARM, 6
MILES EAST OF NASHVILLE.

Nov, 19th, 1862.

Respected Sister:-

I receive your welcome missive of the 11th. and was very glad to hear that you and the rest of our folks were well at that time. I heard a great deal about sickness up home. It seems that there are a great many more deaths this winter than usual. It appears that Asahel's body was longer on the road than we expected. You seem to think it would be better to let you know if I got sick. It will be of no use because it is impossible for a private to get a furlough now. I do not think there is any use for me to talk of anything about coming home until the war is over or my threes up. If I get sick I will do my best to get a furlough.

Celestine I will try and get my likeness the first opportunity I get and send it to you. When I wrote before it was our expectation then to stay at Tyree Springs sometime but we were ordered to our battery and got here last evening. This division moved out here last Sunday. They had to chase the rebels away.

Our battery fired twenty three shots. Yesterday there were on picket and were attacked and fired a few rounds. No one was hurt in the battery. The pickets are out six miles. There have been forty or fifty shots of artillery fired this morning by the battery that is on picket. Have not heard the result. Have but little idea how long we are going to stay at this place. I think our destination will be Chattanooga when we leave here. Our camp is now on the Murfreesboro pike. Tell H. Vick to write me and give me a good history of his time in the service. It seems that the stoutest of young men of our country are worn out first and taken off by disease. Lewis, Robert and I have just received on one of the best and most sympathising letters from Aunt Elizabeth Nash. It was far better than anything I could write. It was truly patriotic and contained a great many other good and kind words. When one dies here, if he has no friends, there is but little account taken of him. It is very seldom that there is any one present to make any remarks. Her letter was in fact, to us as a funeral sermon. My health is good now. I think I have gained 15 or 20 pounds since I left Crab Orchard. Winter weather is the time for me to soldier. I was not well all summer. I must close my writing.

Your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON THE LUNA-
TIC ASYLUM FARM, 6
MILES EAST OF NASHVILLE.

Nov, 24th, 1862.

Respected Sisters:-

You often say in your letters write a long one. Well I have set down this evening to try and do it, if the length of the sheet has anything to do with it. The whole battery is together now. We have our park cleaned up nice and are going through the old Camp Nevin and Wood ceremonies, which are as follows:

Reveille at day break. Roll call as soon as orderly can see to call. Then drivers groom their horses, while the cannoneers clean up around the mess fire and sweep the park. Then breakfast. We have roll call in the evening again. We do not have very much duty to do here, not more than is beneficial for our health. We get all of our forage out of the country. There is plenty out four or five miles. The division foraged some for the man as they go along. We have from one to five hundred of sweet potatoes piled up at the commissary nearly all of the time. When the wagons go out there are from one to two detailed out of each mess to go along for guard and load the wagons. And they never fail to bring in a hog or sheep. If they are unlucky and do not get one of the latter they pitch into the chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks. Sometimes a sack of potatoes and turnips. These things are paid for by the boys sometimes but very seldom. So you see there is no danger of our battery starving, yet it bears a pretty hard name so far as drawing is concerned. You may call it stealing but soldiers have found a new name for it, and that is drawing. There are few things though that we are not guilty of. And they are as follows: We never carry off anything we cannot lift; we never take any thing that we cannot get our hands on; besides these we draw full rations now and then, and they are more than any man can eat, and a soldier that would grumble at them would grumble at hanging. After doing on one-fourth rations as some of have.

I declare if this camp does not put one in mind of Camp Wood. I listen a moment, I can hear at least four fiddles playing while

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others are dancing, others singing. There are two fiddles that are owned in the battery and several that can use them very well. We have very pleasant weather for the past week it freezes lightly at night, but is warm and pleasant through the day. The tents we have now are what are called wedged tents. They are small and only hold six men when crowded. We have no stoves so you can imagine the disadvantages we labor under at present. When we want to keep warm we have to go out doors to the fire or go to bed. You may wonder how I can stand it to write after night. Well I can explain it all. I have wrapped by blanket around my body and manage to keep my teeth from chattering, and that is all. Our officers say that we are going to have Sibly tents and then we can have a stove. We have not gotten our over coats, but expect them every day. We also expect to get our knapsacks which we have not seen since we left Battle Creek.

Well, I must hurry for the bugle is blowing tattoo.

You spoke about me getting my likeness taken. I have done so and it started yesterday. It is a very poor one and I think I will try and send you a better one some day.

That piece that I put in the case is not anything of any importance, but I thought it explained some times very plain.

I wrote a letter for Charlie this morning. As for news I have none. I hear a report going the rounds. One is that one of our regiments fired into the first Ohio this morning through a mistake and killed eight. There are a class of people that always do a great deal of talking and little work. Some of them are flattering themselves and as many others as they can with the idea that this war will be settled this winter. I hope they are true prophets. Others say it will last all winter or three years. Some even say that it will never be settled. I cannot see it in that light.

The health of the battery is very good at present. Well girls, if this letter does not suit you for length just name the length you want it should be and I will try and do some better next time. No more at present for it is time to put out lights and have everything as quiet as we can. Take pattern from this and write soon one and all.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

I N C A M P 6
SOUTH OF NASHVILLE, TENN.
Dec, 3rd, 1862.

Respected Brothers:-

I received your welcome letter with Father's last evening. Was very glad to hear that all are well at this time. You seem to think we might enjoy ourselves while we are at the Springs if the rebels only leave us alone. I know that is what people think at home, but I know a company, regiment or brigade feel better when they are going out on a skirmish or a reconnoitering expedition, and even when our outposts are driven and the enemy threatens us with an attack. These things used to frighten us but now they seem to enjoy such fun.

You asked why we were not allowed to sleep in that tavern. The officers had their quarters in it. One part was used for the hospital, another for the commissary stores. We had plenty of tents and could sleep nearly as comfortable as in a couch. Besides privates do not care to get too close to the officers. I would not mind much if I was home helping you make that apple butter, but as for husking corn I have nothing to say, but I imagine you will have something to say about that yourselves. If you are not more than half done. I hear of a great deal of sickness in Ohio this winter. We have heard of the boys being exchanged but none have returned yet.

You and the rest of the people in the north seem to think that the negroes, if armed, could do a great deal. There you are mistaken. I believe that our brigade could whip an hundred thousand negroes. They are a pack of indolent cowards and as ignorant as a stump. They would kill ten times as many of themselves as they would of the enemy. The rebels need not fear them as an army. I do not believe that the fighting will end without one side killing off all the rest.

Try and make the best you can in going to school. Always remember there is a better time coming. Tell Father that I will answer his letter another time. We have had some fair winter weather. The streams are quite low yet. The railroad has been opened for several days from here to Louisville. There is plenty of forage out a few miles. We have to send out a very strong guard with the trains and it is very seldom they get away without a skirmish.

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About a week ago Edgerton's battery was out and fired several hundred shots. The rebels had a battery playing on his. They were well aimed but they had nothing to fire but solid shots. One took an axle off, another struck a wheel; another knocked a trunion besides a great many shots came very close.

Edgerton arrived in camp in the evening with the pieces of his battery without a man having a scratch.

This better belongs to the 5th. brigade of our division. I have very good health at present, as have also the rest of the boys from our parts.

Your faithful and confidential brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON MILL CREEK,
NASHVILLE, TENN.

CHRISTMAS MORNING.

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Dec, 25th, 1862.

Respected Sister:-

I wish you a happy Christmas. I do not know of any thing more important than that one thing, -- happiness -- to make this day pleasant at home or in the army. This is the second Christmas for me in the army. The first one we tried in various ways to make the day a memorable one and partly succeeded; but how different is today passing. I do not see a soldier trying to put on any style. They are all going around as usual doing the regular camp duties. Our battery has all gone out after forage, but the caissons, so there are but few left in camp; but the worst is I have promised to have a kettle of beans cooked for them by the time they returned.

I received your letter four days after you wrote it and was glad to hear the news. But you said before you had filled one page that you had no news to write, when you had already written the best news that I have ever received from home and as good as I ever want to receive. I suppose you wrote it unconscious of the importance the few words were to one far from home and friend.

Well, maybe you have forgotten what you wrote on the first page of your last letter. It was these few and simple words "we are all well". So you see a letter can have the best of news and only contain this short sentence. Now, after this do not say I have no news to write after you have put that sentence in.

There is no one thing of so much importance to one away from or at home as good health. Who could not enjoy themselves with that blessing. Even a soldier can almost do it. Well I have not told you how my health is. It is good with the exception of a cold. All the rest have had very good health so far. I think we are getting adapted to this kind of life. We have had very pleasant winter weather. But little rain has fallen.

I am sorry to hear that our old red school-house is not so well patronized this winter as heretofore, but bear in mind that there is a better chance for those who do go there.

I suppose you have read of the various little skirmishes and squabbles around Nashville, and that we apprehend an attack, etc. etc. This may all be so. I know it is the cause of us forming some very good habits. One is getting up every morning at five o'clock. Yesterday morning our whole corps was

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ordered to be ready to march at day break and to have their men supplied with three days rations in their haversacks, only taking what blankets they could not do without. All napsacks, tents, etc. to be packed in the baggage wagons and sent inside the fortifications at Nashville. So off we started at the appointed hour, but did not get out more than two miles when, after a long halt of about three hours, we were ordered back to camp to stay over night. When morning came we were ordered out to guard the forage train. I will bet the rebels never catch General Rosencrans or General Wilich in bed. Well, I do not know if any one say any rebels yesterday or not, but the privates have it all fixed to suit themselves and bore their officers. We tell them that old Rosey (as we call him) just had this big show to keep them from going to Nashville, or having a spree at home in their own camp.

I think it is having the desired effect for everything is quiet through all the camps in hearing of our battery.

You spoke that the paroled boys thought they would return to the batter soon. In my opinion they will not be exchanged until another general exchange is made in this department, which may be several months to come. The papers seem to think (or rather their correspondents do) that the rebels are concentrating their main army in this vicinity.

David Yarion is all right and seems to enjoy himself much better than I had expected.

One week from today and we will enter into a new year. What will 1863 bring around, is a question in the minds of thousands of soldiers. I hope it may bring victory, peace and more than one hundred thousand discharges for soldiers in this department. Discharges are going to be plentiful and easy to get some day. Then is when I am going to have one.

This very delicate sheet is very nearly full. Write a long letter. I have sent an example for you. My respects to all.

From your brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP ON MILL CREEK,
FIVE MILES FROM NASHVILLE.

Wednesday, Dec, 10- 1862.

Respected Sister:-

I received your welcome missive yesterday and read it with much pleasure. From what you both say I think you are having rather dry times. I can hardly say that of this division of the army, at least. I think all of the rest are in the same fix. Our division fell back one-half a mile to a better position. I understand the whole lines have fallen bank. We have been expecting an attack for about a week and to avoid surprise we are routed out every morning at three or four o'clock, and have to harness. The report is that the rebels are advancing with a heavy force. Now, they are getting rather saucy. We cannot go outside of the pickets for foraging without fighting all the time. There was heavy skirmishing on the Franklin pike all day yesterday, and I have heard that they had a heavy skirmish or a light fight in Edefield, which is on the opposite side of the river from Nashville. I do not understand our movements. It seems to me our men are getting scared.

The report is that they are coming in on us on all sides. I think we can give them a warm reception. We received orders when we went into camp today not to fix up as we will move again in a day or so. Some say we are going nearer the City.

It seems that our army has done but a trifle in the last two months, in my estimation at least. I still live in hopes that something will turn up in a few months for the better.

After Tattoo, Thursday evening, Dec. 11th

We have not moved our camp yet. We were out foraging today. Every thing went off very quiet, but it was all owing to the rebels keeping off gun shot. We draw over coats today. We have plenty of good and warm clothing now. One of the rebels who came up to our lines today with the flag of truce was Col. Terry. Some Terry was killed by the 32nd. Indiana at Green river over a year ago. Gen. Wilich told him that he was the old Dutchman that whipped them there. The 19th. are encamped about 20 rods from our battery. Well girls I cannot think of anything more at present to write. Write as often as convenient.

Your affectionate brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP AT THE BLIND ASYLUM AT NASHVILLE

Jan, 16th, 1863.

Respected Parents, brother and sisters:-

I believe the last time I wrote was on Christmas.

From that time up to the present are the days that will be noted in the history of this war. The next morning after Christmas, our division commanded by General Johnson, Sheridan's division, and Gen. Gill's division. These three divisions were under the command of General McCook. We took the Nalinsville pike which is on the right of the Murfordsville pike. There was a force larger than ours of the Murfursboro pike which moved at the same time. Our advance had not got out but a few miles when the skirmishing commenced and was kept up all day. Our men took one piece of artillery and some prisoners. There was artillery, infantry fighting on all sides. We encamped near Nalinsville, which was quite desolate. It is my opinion that our soldiers made it more so. This happened on the 26th. It rained most of the day. The next day we advanced about ten miles and the skirmishing was about as warm as the day before. In the morning there was a heavy fog which did not clear away until about noon and then it rained the rest of the day. We suffered very much from cold and rain. We encamped near a small town at night. Here they showed us some more fight. Planted a battery in town and done some firing but hurt no one. Our men threw a few shells into the town. At this point we were nearly opposite Murforborough, laying about twenty miles west of it. The next morning, Sunday the 28th. our brigade and a brigade of cavalry went out to reconnoiter and to see which way they had left. The cavalry had but little skirmishing and picked up several straglers. We also ascertained that the rebels had gone for Murforborough. The day was clear and pleasant.

Monday, 29th.---- This morning we received orders to march at day break and took a dirt road for Murforborough which was very badly cut up. Our cavalry had some very heavy skirmishing. They made one charge in which there was a Major killed. Our division moved up after dark with one mile of the rebels lines and about six miles of the town. It rained this evening and was very disagreeable. We were not allowed to have any fires, so of course, we had no coffee for supper.

Tuesday, 30th.---- This morning our lines were connected with the force on the Murfordsborough pike. We advanced about one miles when we came to the rebels line. Johnson's division was held in reserve. Now you will recollect that McCook had the

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extreme right of the battle line. I cannot say who was on the left, as you will learn this from the official report. From what I can learn our lines were between five and six miles long extending about an equal distance from both sides of the pike. The pike runs about direct south bearing to the east a little and our lines were nearly straight across this pike.

About noon there was sharp firing done. I witnessed a most splendid fight. There was an artillery duel. Our men got two batteries in such a position as to have a cross fire on the rebels. The latter had the highest ground and was sheltered by a few scattered trees. The rebels guns were twelve pounders, ours were six. In the course of an hour or so the infantry made a charge and took their guns. Every thing was favorable on our side through this day's fight. Our right you will understand fights their left, and from what I can learn we drove their left nearly one mile. Cannot say what was on our left but heard firing in that direction all day. Our men lay on their arms all night in battle line. This evening Johnson's division was thrown on the extreme right. The three brigades lay in the rear of each other, our being the farthest back. We took this position after dark. We could hear cars running distinctly all night and it was evident that they were reinforcing or evacuating. We are not allowed to have any fire to night so of course we make our supper on crackers and raw fitch.

Wednesday, 31st.---- From some negligence of our commanders we were allowed to sleep until daylight, or rather day break. I suppose it was because we were in the reserve, but before sun up we saw what was the matter. Our advance was not over thirty rods in front of the reserve. It appears that the rebels had thrown the greater portion of their force around on our right with the expectation of surprising us. They had slipped up to our lines as close as was possible for them to do in the night, and about twenty minutes before sunup, they came in on double quick. Their lines were eight men deep, as far as I could see. At the same time there was flanking with a heavy force that give us a cross fire on our right. This was more than our lines could stand and of course we had to fall back, and by no means with order. When we heard the first firing, xxx Lieutenant Belding ordered us to hitch our teams which we proceeded to do. But before we were half hitched we saw the rebels advancing and driving our advance, at the same time pouring in volley after volley. The brigade that lay in front of us broke and came running back through ours. Our brigade was held in check until the other two had passed through, when they poured in a volley and then gave them leg bale. Before we got hitched on some of our horses were shot down. I think there were two casions

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that were never moved., and No. 1 piece did not get more than ten rods. I cannot describe it to you as it was. I believe our whole battery was in the hands of the rebels at one time with the exception of two casions. I understand that four of our pieces have been recaptured. I and Charlie were drivers on a casino. We retreated nearly one mile with it, the bullets were whistling on all sides, but none struck us. We got into a piece of woods where we had to leave it. We unhitched and mounted our horses. When the rebels attacked they had a brigade of cavalry in our rear. No. 3 piece, which is the Randolph squad was the only one I saw do any firing. They fired three shots. The rebels then opened on them with one piece. Some say it was No. 1 piece of our battery. The third shot struck the limber chest, killed Conrad Lash and three horses. Richard Rodgers was shot through the knee joint, Vac Stanford wounded in the arm, Howard Tupper in the thigh, Elic Roe in the hip. Lewis and Robert are safe and sound as near as I can learn. One of the 49th. Ohio boys says he saw one of our battery get shot trying to spike a gun. Edgerton's battery lay just in front and were action to the front. They fired three shots. Edgerton was wounded and taken prisoner. Edgerton is well known all over Ohio. He was a professor of elocution and was the best reader in the state. General Wilich was wounded and taken prisoner. We stood until the rebels were onto him trying to rally his men. Major Drake of the 49th was killed and Col. Gibson had two horses shot from under him. There is no use of me trying to tell you what this looks like. It was equal to the Bull Run fight. It was a perfect surprise and caused a stampede. Our men were driven around three miles in less than two hours. They captured all of the wagons belonging to McCook's corps, also his headquarters. General Sill was killed. But before night our men drove them back, recaptured most of the wagons. Our battery as well as the whole division was completely scattered. Three or four of us got together and wandered around in search of the rest for a day and a half. We were then ordered to Nashville. From what I can learn concerning our batter we went in one hundred and ten men and came out with about eighty. ten or fifteen wounded, so there are about thirty we cannot account for yet. It is said that they took seven batteries from us on the right. New Years morning the fight commenced early and the roar of artillery was deafening. It continued until Saturday evening. We have not gotten any definite reports from the battle field yet. It is reported that they have skedaddled. Old Rosy is a long winded old fellow. They say he is following them up with ten thousand calvary. We have not had any mail for two weeks. The railroad communication has

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been cut off. The river is up so that boats can run up this far. I cannot say where David Yarion is. There are about forty of the boys here with Lieutenant Day. I do not know how long we are to stay here, but hope that we may join the rest soon. Write soon, and direct your next letter to Nashville, in the care of Captain Early, 5th. Michigan Battery.

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON STONE RIVER, FOUR MILES
SOUTH OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

Jan, 25th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received two letters from you since I wrote my last. None of us have heard P. Secrists yet. It was very startling news to all of us. You wonder what kind of a Christmas and New Years we spent. Well if you have received all of the letters I have written, you know how they were spent. When I wrote last there were about twenty of us at Nashville, but we were ordered back to the battery and started one week ago today. On the second days march, when within five miles of camp we met one of our Lieutenants going back to Nashville with two wagons and ten men. He detailed twelve of our crowd to go along with him. I was among the number. We stayed until last Friday. We were waiting for ordinant stores. We get two new guns, new harness and forty five horses, besides other things. It is the calculation now to have our battery fitted out with four guns. The infantry that were detailed to fill out our battery have been called back to their regiments. We will have about one hundred men when the parolled boys get back. We are looking every day for them. We did not succeed in getting a single thing at Nashville that we went after. They are going back again in a few days. The boys that we know were wounded and left in the hospital on the field are getting along fine. A. Wise and Henry Sears, are missing. and maybe wounded. Howard Tupper was seen to fall, but his body was not found on the field, so it is supposed that he was wounded and carried off by the rebels. I suppose that you have seen all of the particulars concerning this battle. Our loss is not as heavy as I expected that it would be. It was only a little over one thousand killed and six thousand wounded. We have two thousand taken prisoners. From all accounts the rebels lost more men killed than we. Our men took more prisoners than they, but the rebels captured about one thousand of our wagons and burned them. I do not think there has been a battle fought, where there were so many horses and mules killed as this one. From the rebels actions they have given up all hopes of holding their negroes. They would not take any of them prisoners, but shot them down when their cavalry got in our rear and were making charges on the stragglers, they would run clear past the soldier if they saw a Negro, and kill him and let the soldier go. The rebels left twenty five hundred of their wounded in Murfreesboro.

2.

There is no use of me trying to describe this battle field. It will never be done by living man, and I think I did not see the worst of it by any means. Our brigade of five regiments will not number two thousand men now. The loss of the 19th. Ohio was heavy. I cannot say as the war is any nearer to a close but I know one thing that my time will soon be half out. Things look pretty dark just now. We are going to move our camp tomorrow. We are now in an open stubble field and there is plenty of mud. It rained most of yesterday but is quite pleasant and warm today.

How does it come that they can raise such large parties yet. If the young men are so plenty yet I would be in favor of having our army increased a little, so six hundred thousand. I guess the north could stand it. I hear the people say that have just come from the north that they would not know that there was a war in our country if it was not for the papers. The people of the north have but little idea of the evils of the war. I wonder if it would not be a good thing to make the north more in earnest in their work? If the rebels were to make their way into Ohio and Pennsylvania and shell Cincinnati and Pittsburg and burn them to the ground; this is just the reason that the rebels fight so well.

No more at present.

From your brother,
A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP ON STONE RIVER, FOUR MILES
SOUTH OF MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

Jan, 25th, 1863.

Respected Parents:-

I suppose you have heard that I was sick. I told Lewis Maxwell to write to you when they brought me away and let you know how and where I was. I think I have been here ten days. I was quite sick for five days before they brought me here. My disease was the diarrhea and fever. The fever is broken now. The doctor said I was getting along so well he would not give me medicine today.

I can sit up two or three hours at a time and can walk around a little. There is one of the boys with me who belongs to the same detachment that I do.

You must not fret yourselves about me. We have good messes and get pretty good food I guess for the sick.

The whole army is advancing except one division left behind to garrison the fort. Our brigade had the advance the first day and had to drive them out of a gap. Our brigade lost some officers and a few privates. There was quite a number of wounded. Our battery did some firing. The wounded were brought to this hospital.

It has been raining every day since they started. There are two other boys out of the same brigade in the same tent with me. I cannot say how long I will have to stay here, but I guess you can send the answer to this on here. Direct:--

General Field Hospital near
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Ward A., Tent 4.

I cannot think of any more at present. Hope these few lines may find you all in better health than I. Oh, yes I received a letter from Celestine about twenty minutes before they started away to the hospital.

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP AT NASHVILLE.

Feb, 10th, 1863.

Respected Father:-

It has been nearly three weeks since I have written home. I have been putting it off thinking we would be put back to camp. When I wrote last we were out to the front but we were there only two days when our Lieut. Got his papers and requisitions to go back and draw the things he wanted. Twenty-five of the boys were detailed to go along. We have been gone sixteen days with fair prospects of staying a week longer. We have two new brass, twelve pound smooth bores as good as are used. Also a batter and forge wagon, and new harness. We are now waiting for hoses. We want forty five. We expected them here day before yesterday on the fleet that cam up. They arrived on Sunday. It consisted of seventy five river steamers. They were escorted by four gun boats. They also brought fifteen thousand reinforcement for this army. Some where from Western Virginia. They say there were nine batteries along. I only saw four. The remaining part of the boats were loaded with army supplies. Among the batteries is the 9th. Ohio. I found William Hickman with them. He looks almost as old as you. We are expecting more boats up in a few days with artillery horses on. The railroad is to be finishing to Murfreesborough this evening. I cannot say what is going on out to the front but I guess it is pretty quiet. I suppose you will learn all the particulars of the fight at Fort Donaldson before you receive this. From what I learn it was very hot there for several hours. I think the rebels had better give up for this makes the third time they have been whipped at that point. Major Cotter has not gotten back with the exchange boys. We look every day for them. No doubt you have heard that Levi McGregory was killed in the fight at Murfreesborough. The last forty days have been the easiest time I have experienced since I have been soldiering. I weight more than I ever did before. We have plenty of rations and nothing to do. I think from all of the preparations going here and elsewhere that our men intend to make a desperate blow between now and next June at the rebellion.

Old Rosy has exchanged nearly all of the six pound smooth bores for twelve pounders. He has also a splendid pontoon frame consisting of about one hundred wagons each wagon made expressly to carry one pontoon. There are enough to pontoon the Tennessee river. There are also several wagons loaded with timber all ready to set these up in order to cross small streams. I have heard some say that they thought this army was going to make a junction with the north Carolina army when we move.

2.

I think they had better send that famous army of the Potomac army to the west and let some of the western boys go there. General Bragg told his men before they went into the fight at Murfreesborough that they were going to fight a man that had never been whipped. After the fight he told his men that they had the old dutch fool whipped, but he did not know it. He is a kind of a man for a General, at least his army has full confidence in him.

Father I believe we have found one good loyal man in this City. His name is John Trimball. He is a United State officer and is appointed to attend to the confiscating of the rebel property in this City. He is the best lawyer in the state and is worth \$150,000.00 He free all of his slaves last Christmas. He says they were worth fifteen thousand dollars. He was in the State Legislature when the rebellion broke out and was the only one out of twenty five that stood by the stars and stripes.

He is full blooded southern and is sociable and common and is in every way a gentleman. He sends us corn bread twice a day. He also keeps us supplied with the latest papers. He takes the New York Tribune. It is raining this river. The river is middling low at present.

No more at present,

From your son,

A. S. Bloomfield.

IN CAMP FOUR MILES SOUTH OF MURFREES-
BOROUGH, TENNESSEE.

Feb, 24th, 1863.

Respected Father:-

I received your letter dated the 26th of Jan, last evening. I was glad to learn that you are not discouraged yet. I know that our army is injured very much by disloyal men in the north. Yes, women too. I wish all such people lived in Tennessee or some other state where the army has passed through. They might change their opinion, and if they did not they would not dare open their mouths. You say you suppose soldiering has lost all of its novelty for me by this time, and has become a solemn reality. I will have to admit that it has, but nevertheless I am not in the least discouraged yet, though it has lasted longer than I thought it would at the time of enlisting. I am still in hopes that the day is not far distant when the last gun is fired in this ward. I look at the cause today the same as I did eighteen months ago, and when my three years are out I shall come home and see my relatives and friends, and then I shall be ready for another three years if any help is needed. When I heard of such men as Dave Stallsmith acting as he done in the north it makes my blood boil. I am almost ready to centure the people at Randolph as a pack of cowards afraid to raise their hands against one poor miserable treasonable impudent wretch that dare oppose the cause in which over one hundred of the sons of the two have laid down their lives to uphold., and whose bodies only mark the place where a yankee was burried. One rebel in our rear is worse than two in front. How long are the people of the north going to let such men run unpunished? I can tell you just how my feelings run. If I were at home I should feel it as a duty that I owe to the rest of my comrades in the field to shoot such a man and I would do it as quick as I would tread upon a spider were it not for the penalty of the law. As long as we have laws they must be obeyed, or they cease to be laws. I heard of such men in almost every county, and in different states, and I hear of some getting their first dose. I hope to God they may all get what they justly deserve, and that nothing less than an ounce ball. Last Sunday was General Washington's birthday. Every division in this army fired a salute of thirty six guns. When I wrote last I wrote at Nashville. We were gone four weeks and just returned yesterday. We got all that we went after. We now have four guns. The paroled boys arrived at Nashville a few days before we started back. They came out to camp with us. They are all well and as a general thing in good spirits. We are going to get two more pieces and have the

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battery filled up. The pay master is here now and is paying off our brigade today, but from some cause or other our battery is not going to get any pay this time. Uncle Sam owes me ten months pay. Our men are putting up some very strong fortifications around this place. They are bomb proof and in my estimation they are big little things. There is a report in camp that Vicksburg has been taken. I do not count on the news being reliable, but I hope that it may be so. I have always been in hopes that our men would make that canal do the work at that place. There was a forage train out from our division today. They came in loaded with corn and fodder. They were out eight or ten miles and were not disturbed by the rebels this time. They also brought in several good horses and mules. There are no prospects of our moving for fifteen or twenty days. I do not think there is any force this side of Chattanooga. There has been an order issued in this division that five of each company can have a furlough at once. I am thinking before any one gets started home the order will be countermanded. I do not think there is any use of any one coming down after those bodies. It is difficult or procure a pass from Nashville to the front. When we were up to Nashville I saw hundreds of northern men there trying to get passes. General Mitchel and Rosy are pretty strict with the citizens. The weather is quite mild at present. The frogs are making the air ring with their music. I think we will hear stirring news from the river forces soon as I think they will make a desperate effort open the Mississippi this spring. We thought one year ago that it was possible to open it last spring, but you see we did not do it. You spoke about sending papers to me. I would like one once in a while. I received Thomas' letter yesterday.

From your son,
A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.

March, 3rd, 1863.

Respected Brother and Sister:-

Gertie I received your letter than you wrote on the 22nd of last month, yesterday and was glad to receive such late news from home. Received one from Thomas some time ago. This must do for an answer to both. I do not think it has been so cold here as it was at Camp Wood last winter. Winters pass off here and we hardly know it. Today is one of our winters here. It occasionally snows xxx a little and a chilly wind is blowing. One year ago day before yesterday we crossed the Cumberland at Nashville, and by the fifteenth of this month peach trees were in full bloom. They are more backward this spring. I can see an improvement in your writing. I am in hopes that both of you have made good use of school this winter. Thomas, I suppose the conscription act is passed and more troops are to be raised. I think they will be raised by draft, and they are made between the ages of eighteen and forty five, so you will come on the list. Now I do not know that there is any disgrace to be in the draft, but I do think it is a disgrace for one to run from the draft. Now, if it should be your luck to get drafted, do not get homesick before you start. Go cheerfully and what ever you do do not get down hearted. More die in the hospitals than on the battle field. After his battle Rosy issued an order that every company should vote five our of each company for mounted infantry. I do not think they will ever have to leave. It was given to those who had made themselves conspicuous in this battle, and for their meritorious conduct. Following received the vote in our company. Martin and John Marquet, brothers; Vacquor B. Stanford; Alexander Rode; and Cyrene Whetstone. They all deserved it especially the two latter. There has also been an order issued allowing furloughs. Five per cent may be absent at once. Our brigade has been numbered different. It is now the first brigade, Johnson's division. General Wood's division has been out on a scout and captured several hundred rebels. We were held in readiness to reinforce them if they got into too large a nest of them. I cannot say how long we are to stay here. It is reported that we are going to move in the direction of Knoxville. Our men have lost their best Gun boat "The Queen of the West" but I notice that the rest are very active, in the various rivers of the southern states. I thought when I enlisted that I would not have to stay three years, and I continue to think so yet.

2.

The 6th of this month the batties time was half out. I understand that we are to have four James Rifle guns and we are to turn over our two howitzers. Our battery then will be a very good one.

Gertie, it does not take such coaxing to get Tommy to go over to Coopers and set up since Jennie has gotten home, does it? Let us know what is the go with the young folks around there. No more nonsense at present. Write as often as you may find it convenient.

From your brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.

CAMP NEAR MURFREESBOROUGH, TENN.

March, 10th, 1863.

Respected Sister:-

I received your letter written some two or three weeks ago. Since I wrote home we have been soldiering for certain. Last week our brigade and battery were out foraging. We were out eighteen miles and got our wagons loaded, and got started on our way back to camp a few minutes before sundown. We got the forage inside the rebel pickets. We did not molest them nor they us. Not a shot was fired on either side. We halted on our return, made coffee and rested a while and then went on our way feeling like new men. We arrived at camp between one and two o'clock in the morning. That afternoon we received orders to draw two days rations and have them in our haversacks and to be ready to march at six the next morning. The next morning our little brigade started. We had less than two thousand men, battery and all. It should contain over five thousand. We had one company of cavalry. We took a road running nearly south and about two miles to the right of the Murfreesboro and Shelbyville pike. The road we were on was a dirt road very badly cut up. We had gone nearly ten miles when our advance came into contact with some rebel cavalry and skirmishing commenced. We drove them about four miles. and about one mile passed a small village by the name of Middletown. At this place their force was encamped. It consisted of five hundred cavalry. They fought hard. They were the most stubborn lot of men that we had ever met with. Our loss was two wounded and none killed. The rebels left eleven dead on the field, and about fifteen wounded. Not doubt others made their escape. The 32nd. And 39 Indiana made several charges on them. Our battery fired ten shots. Not a man was hurt in the battery. At the same time there was a force on the pike that routed them and drove them from a very strong position on a hill. We fell back about four miles and encamped in a cedar thicket for the night. It rained nearly all day and the men with horses were much fatigued. It rained nearly all night. We were awakened at three o'clock, or before, and we started off in the rain, mud and water. Among the rest of the disadvantages, it was uncommonly dark. But occasionally things were lit up by a streak of lightning which made it only so much drearier after. I think the mud and water would average about a foot deep. I believe with all this misery and suffering that on such occasions there are more jokes cracked than on any others.

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Such things are adapted to make one think of the days he was better off and of pleasant parlor fires, etc.

As a matter of course it quit raining, as soon as we got camp. Yesterday we got orders to march. We struck tents and made all preparations necessary and then the orders were countermanded, and here we are yet. It has been raining for twelve hours and no prospects for its quitting. There have been two divisions out reconnoitering for five days. Day before yesterday we heard over two hundred shots of artillery. The rebels had appeared in the vicinity of Franklin with quite a force. Six divisions have left this place for there, and I should not wonder if there would be some warm receptions in this vicinity. John Fox, was here all night the night we were out. I did not see him. He had just returned from the hospital. He was wounded in three different places in this fight.

Gertrude said in her last letter that Father had received one from Uncle William Bloomfield and that he wanted to hear from me. I have written him two letters and have not received one in return. Maybe I have not directed them right. Please send me his address.

We are being mustered today for our pay. We may get it tomorrow if we do not march. Madison has gone from my tent seemingly a little out of humor because he did not get a letter from some one-----I wonder who it is that writes to him.

It continues to rain and much more had fallen this spring than last. I heard that Wilson Britton is in the service. If so what regiment, division and brigade, is he in. No more on this occasion but promise you another soon.

From your affectionate brother,

A. S. Bloomfield.