

THE JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF CORPORAL
WILLIAM O. GULICK

[This is the second installment of *The Journal and Letters of Corporal William O. Gulick*. The introduction and the first installment of the journal and letters were printed in the April number of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS. A third installment will appear in the October issue. The letters and journal were edited by Max Hendricks Guyer. The original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have been retained.—THE EDITOR.]

Wednesday Feb. 19th 1862

Since yesterday morning The (second) 2nd Mich. Cavl. left camp & a field battery came in. had quite a storm of rain & hail continued stormy all day. I set up with my patients as usual all getting better. The Ohio 39th Inft. came in camp. also 2 Co.s of the 4th U. S. Cavl came in from Sedalia.

Thursday Feb. 20th 1862

I am relieved from nursing the boys are able to take care of them selves. The 27th Ohio came in from the west[.] Col. Warren was released from arrest & took command of Battalion. He treated all hands with beer, & presented Sergt Will^{s1} with bowie knife.

Saturday February 22nd/62

I was relieved from guard at 7 o'clock A. M. to go to the City, where a great celebration was to take place in honor of Washingtons birth day. With Our Battalion in the *lead* we started for the City at Eight o'cl'k A. M. On arriving there I beheld the grandest sight I ever saw. The City was draped in red white & blue The different associations were well represented & all joined our prosession making it full

^{s1} Probably Cyrus H. Wills of Mount Pleasant, 2nd Sergeant in Company E.

seven miles in length. Ft. Donelson was represented by a large canvass fort on a large wagon drawn by six horses. A secesh flag was trailing in the centre with the stars & stripes floating proudly above it.

Many other things were there of interest. Came home about four o'clock P. M. very tired. Nine hours in saddle.

Friday Feb. 28th 1862

Since the last date the following regts. have come in & left camp

The 39th Ohio inft. 3rd Mich Cavl. 9th Ill Cavl. 2nd Iowa Battery & others — left us. While the 18th Mo. inft. 13th Ill. Cavl 5th Ill Cavl. & 4th Iowa Cavl came in. I have done my drilling stood my regular guard & ate my rations as usual. by the way we have Ten days rations on hand now. To day we have mustered for pay. It is rumored that we are going down the river hope it may prove true with the exception of one rain weather has been fine. Our *sutler* also set up in camp yesterday.

Monday March 3rd 1862

Saturday & sunday were quite dull as both were attended with Thunder showers. I was on Patroll guard yesterday. An old friend & relative from Mo. called to see me Sam. Shibley his business called him away soon, but I had a pleasant chat. Cold & disagreeable to day.

Tuesday March 4th 1862

Was much warmer. About noon we recd orders to be ready to march to the Pacific Depot time enough to take the 8 o'clock A. M. train. Every thing was hurry scurry untill late a[t] night packing for a final leave of the much hated barracks. An accidental shot occurred from an old stockless musket used as a poker. the ball passed through two parti-

tion[s] and a crowd of soldiers, cutting some of their clothes. The last thing in the evening the order to march in the morn was countermanded with Our Co. & L. we were to remain untill Thursday morn. this a slight disappointment — Wednesday we done little but talk about our expect march. Fred sent a box home my over shoes went with it. late at night fresh orders came for us to wait untill Friday morning before we started Getting used to humbugh. still most talkin we are doomed to remain in the barracks during the war.

Saturday March 8th 1862

This morning after being put off for several days concerning our move we are about to start.

We marched to the Pacific depot via Gen Hallecks Head qr. Noon found us all aboard the cars, but to make the day tedious we remained on the standing cars until Five oclock expecting to start at any moment

We were stowed & jamed in grain cars Our train consisted of Thirty box cars & two engines

Was rather tedious as well as interesting to set up all night passed through Jefferson City about 3 ocl'k A. M. of Sunday. could see but little but the country is very rough We arrived at Sedalia Sunday March 9th about 2 o'clock P. M. was more pleasant today passed through several prairie towns quite fine among which were Tipton California Lamine, (at river of same name where our troops had formerly thrown up fortifications as a protection against Gen. Prices forces.) & lastly Otterville. We experienced quite a heavy rain storm on top of cars. also had quite an interesting time pitching tents in the rain We camped near Sedalia Depot, & not far from the 8th Iowa inft. As I have a great many friends & acquaintences in this Regt. I took supper & enjoyed my self much with them

Monday March 10th 1862

Our battalion was occupied in unpacking & arrangement of our things and camp in general passed a very pleasant day with my friends of the 8th Ia.

I find Sedalia is quite a fine business town & the country here is a fine one for so much prairie

Tuesday March 11th 1862

Weather fine. a detail of Co. B. come down from Lexington after rations I learned Cousin Ike was *right side up with care*. We came out on dressparade with the 2nd battalion of our Regt. Our Capt. and 12 men from our Co. were sent out on scout I know not where.

The 8th Ia. left here for Tenn. — via St. Louis I regret we could not have remained longer together just night an order came for 50 men from each Co. of our batt. to be ready for a scout tomorrow at Ten o'clock A. M.

Wednesday March 12th 1862

We were ready by ten o'clock but did not get off until noon. We marched until Seven o'clock P. M. & camped on a small stream near a union man by the name of Baker of three miles South west of Belmont⁸² a small secesh town as we came through nothing but women and children were to be seen. All the women said they were widows consequently the boys prefixed "*widow*" to the town making it (very appropriately) *Widow Belmont*

Our party & train consists of Two hundred 3rd Batl 1st Ia. Cavl. One Co. of the 25th Ind. [Indiana] A section of Artillery (Two pieces) & Ten baggage wagons one of which broke down during the day. We have marched about 20

⁸² Evidently in west central Missouri, to which Gulick's company was being taken. It was not found on the map. It should not be confused with the Belmont in southeastern Missouri, the scene of the "Battle of Belmont" previously mentioned.

miles over a very fine high rolling prairie, in county of Pettis.

Thursday March 13th 1862

Our first nights camp was very pleasant Lt. Barnes & a small party were out scouting & brought in a rebel Capt. & some guns before day. We took up our "line of march" quite early. the country has been much rougher one more infested by guerrillas or rebel scouts. We passed a small town about noon which was very much deserted & showed the affects of secesh. I formed about the same opinion of the town I had of the traitor after whom it was named, *Calhoun*⁸³ During the P. M. we saw some of the rebel Jackmans⁸⁴ scouts I was one of the Twelve to give them a chase. they fled at our approach gained the timber and thus escaped. About Four oclock we surprised the Town of Clinton (Co. seat of Henry Co.) & captured ten or twelve prisoners. Encamped in the town, sent out pickets & about 9 oclock it commenced to rain fast & continued all night.

Friday March 14th/62

Wet & stormy all day. was nearly drowned out our tents were very much crowded I came on prison guard during the day a number were released by taking the oath of allegiance & giving bonds for their behavior. This town of Clinton has been quit[e] a flourishing country place, situated in a fine locality. The citizens are considerably tainted with secession Although it is against orders the boys will *jay hawk*.⁸⁵ pigs & chickens suffer as much or more than rebels.

⁸³ A small town in Henry County, Missouri, a few miles northeast of Clinton.

⁸⁴ Jackman was chiefly notorious for his leadership in Confederate guerrilla tactics. When beaten in the open field, as they were most of the time on the Missouri front, the Confederates resorted to "bushwhacking" or guerrilla tactics — dodging open combat and sniping at the enemy from ambush.

⁸⁵ "Jayhawk" is used with various meanings. Here it seems to signify

Saturday March 15th 1862

Came of[f] guard this morning after standing sixteen hours of the Twenty four The weather rather better.

I went out riding as far as Grand river, Three miles. Our troops took possession of a grist mill, kept it running for our special use "*corn dodger*" are plentiful. On searching a house some of the boys found a secesh flag To night quite an excitement prevails as it is reported from good authority that Jackman with a force superior to ours is preparing to attack us. A messenger (Billie Potts) was sent with dispatches to Sedalia. We understand for reinforcements. In the night the excitement increased when the "*grand rounds*" of the Officers of guard, did not find the pickets (said pickets however were all right)

This P.M. we moved from our tents to vacant buildings. Our Co. live in style in a fine house owned by a rich secesh fronting the Court house

Sunday March 16th 1862

I attended Sabbath school this P.M. for the first time since I left home indeed it seemed like home to be there We have had several scouting parties out brought in some prisoners & arms, Our Lt. Crosby with a party burned a bridge over river to prevent the rebels from crossing. I was detailed for picket guard Three of us *stood*, more than a mile from town all night A very fair time for the first. We halted & charged on two or three cows that made their appearance.

Monday, March 17th/62

A very fine day this. return scouts bring more prisoners & arms. The most of them get clear by taking the oath of

foraging illegally for food. "*Jayhawkers*", as Gulick uses the term in his letters, was a nickname for the Confederates, as "*rebs*", "*secesh*", etc. Strangely enough this very name "*Jayhawkers*" has for many years been applied to the inhabitants of the loyal Union State of Kansas.

allegiance. Our teams are drawing in corn & other confiscated property Forty head of sheep were brought in guess we'll have some mutton The citizens are just crowding town to take the oath. Several refuge[e] families came in. Also Co. I our Regt. came in from Sedalia, brought our mail I recd a letter from home

I was out after forage. by the way *I expect to have roast Goos for dinner tomorrow.*

Tuesday March 18th/62

It was quite rainy I was cook most of the day but volunteered to go on a scout to start at Five oclock P.M. The remainder of our Battalion came in with Col. commanding Our party of One hundred were in the saddle at the appointed time. marched Two hours. then stoped to feed an hour during which time it commenced raining & continued during our whole scout. We learned our business was to surprise a rebel camp We arrived at said place about Three oclock A.M. of Wednesday, 19th/62 but the rebs. had left, like *good fellows* leaving us their camp with out a fight as we expected. We now made it our business to search secesh houses and arrest suspicious persons (*men*) We routed the people with a tremendous scare at three houses before day light. Made them get breakfast for us, which they did reluctantly. We searched a number more houses that contained in all Thre doz. Cans & Two kegs powder Eleven guns (besides apples & sweet meats in abundance) We took Five men prisoners Returned to camp wet, Cold, tired & hungry, just night after a march of 60 miles all the time in the rain When we returned we learned that Capt. Ankeny of our Co. with a party of Twenty had a skirmish with the rebels to day near Leesville⁸⁶ resulting in

⁸⁶ Such a skirmish did take place at Leesville on the night of March 18, 1862. Brigadier General James Totten's report (*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. VIII, p. 341) confirms the statement that ten

the rout of the rebel party capturing Ten prisoners several gun wounded several & killed Two of the rebs. Our loss Four wounded none seriously.

Friday March 21st 1862

I was on Bridge guard over Grand river nearly Three miles from town, was cold & tedious. quite a snow storm during the night a Co. of state troops "mounted rifles" came in. Muddy but prospects of better weather now clearing up to night

Sunday March 23rd 1862

Nothing of note has occurred for the past two days. scouting parties go & come. More troops arrived. Attended sabbath school Was detailed for a scout tomorrow

Monday March 24th/62

We were mounted & prepared to march at Eight o'clock. The roads were very muddy. We marched S.W. crossing Grand river at bridge. took dinner at a secesh ministers. (No body home except women. It is a noticeable fact that the men of this country *especially secesh* are always hid out in the brush, while their women protest they are *dead*, or gone to *war* — or the devel or some where else away from home.) (Many times we find them skulking about giving the women the lie.)

We took a prisoner but afterward released him retaining his horse

Our rout lay over a prairie country Our officers kept lighting fires. I soon discovered they were signals to the other parties that had went out yesterday

prisoners were taken, also seven guns, ten horses, and seven saddles. "Captain Ankeny", says General Totten, "behaved with great spirit and did himself high credit." Leesville is in Henry County, twelve miles east of Clinton.

After a march of nearly twenty miles we camped at Rickeys store a strong rebel place. We came prepared to live on the country in earnest as we had nothing to cook with. Our meat we roasted on forked sticks over the flames while our "*corn dodger*" of unsifted meal was baked on a shingle inclined to the fire. I was among the guards for the night was posted out half mile nothing occurred. pretty cold.

Tuesday March 25th/62

We took up our line of march for Monegua Spg.⁸⁷ but did not arrive there with out some skirmishing as we met a gang of Sixty or thereabouts. We killed one wounded several & took Thirty prisoners. With the small loss of *Two men wounded*. Our rout was over a rough hilly country We stoped at the Sulphur springs only a short time & passed on through the Town of Monegua some two miles & camped for the night after a march of fifteen or Twenty miles. Several small scouting parties were out Maj. Gowers⁸⁸ command came up with us. We fared pretty rough in the grub line. had pork & mush for supper still we enjoyed it in the first degree

Wednesday Mar. 26th/62

We moved but a short distance but had several parties out took a number prisoners & searched a great many houses found arms & powder in nearly every one. Generally the boys appropriated something to them selves. Al-

⁸⁷ Monegaw Springs, also called Monagan, is on the Osage River in St. Clair County, Missouri, about ten miles west of Osceola, the county seat.

⁸⁸ Major Gower had started as Captain of Company F. He was promoted to Major on September 1, 1861. On August 26, 1862, he succeeded Fitz Henry Warren as Colonel of the First Iowa Cavalry when Warren was promoted to Brigadier General. Colonel Gower resigned from the service on August 20, 1863.

though it was not *right* the people had no right to expect anything *better*. We stoped for dinner at an old secesh had him get it for us in his yard — *done in good style*, so we came back & stoped all night with him, during the day I was on the Osage river above Osceola & within one half mile of the town, but the Col. stoped us from going in. he went ahead himself with an escort. I was quite disappointed as I wanted to see the Old head qr. of Gen. Price

Thursday March 27th/62

This morning the Col. with all the men except 60 from Our Co. (M) & K. returned to camp at Clinton. They took with them about forty prisoners I was quite elated when we were left with Lt. Col. Moss. He gave us many more privileges than we had enjoyed before. We were divided up in several parties. The one I was with went down to the Osage river below Osceola to burn a ferry. before reaching the place we discovered five rebel guerrillas gave them chase. When to the river the boat was gone so they swam their horses & thus escaped. When on the opposite side they were impudent enough to fire on us. We only had two or three rifles, but that was enough to bring down a horse for them after which they took a sudden departure.

We took dinner at a secesh place on *ham & honey*. about night all our parties arrived at a place previously designated by the Col. We had twelve prisoners boys give laughable accounts of capturing them

As usual only women & children were at this place of encampment we naturally helped our selves to all we wanted in the line of eatibles. Weather fare

Friday March 28th/62

We prepared to move back to Clinton sent out scouts to meet at Grand river ford. We routed a number Bush

whackers Myself & Potts gave two a three mile chase. They were $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in advance of us & gained the timber when we were within thirty rods of them & effected their escape. They certainly earned it, as they striped themselves & *saddle*, of everything that tended to impede their speed or application of the whip. I was riding a borrowed horse I know if I had mine I could have overtaken them

We all met at the ford & soon arrived in Clinton after a five day scout during which time we captured 65 prisoners Guns & amunition in abundanc. The train from Sedalia had arrived provisions plenty.

Clinton, Mo, March 29th, 1862
Co. M 1st Ia. Cavl.

Dear Bro. & Sister

Although I have not heard from home since I wrote, I thought as I had time, I would drop a few lines, that you might know I was *still in existence* in this land of *Danger & Trouble* (as I presume you call it) I have just returned from a five days Scout, and as it has been a pleasant trip to me, I suppose it would be interesting to you to hear something concerning it I believe I wrote that the country between Grand & Osage rivers was infested with a band of Secesh Jayhawkers Headed by the Desparado *Jackman*, & supposed to be three hundred strong. It is the object of our Col. to scatter & rid the country of them, & for this purpose a large Scout of Two hundred was sent over there, 25 from six Cos of the Ia first & 50 Home Guards or State Malicia [(] A scout of 50 men had been sent out the day before, Under Maj. Gower,) The first day out we could only now & then get a glimpse at some of them. We camped at Rickeys Store a noted secesh Rendesvous, (But they had been routed by the 8th Ia.) some time before, so there was nothing for us to do but to help our selves to *Meal* and

Bacon for supper. We had brought nothing with us except half rations of Coffee & Sugar as nearly every thing had run out at the post, (Clinton) There was so many of us that after scouring the neighborhood we could not raise half cooking loot enough. My supper consisted of corn Dodger made of unsifted corn meal and water (without salt) & Baked on a board. Ham roasted on a stick a Tin cup of coffee I was very glad to get this for I was to go on Picket guard at seven o'clock Our fare was better after this for we would occasionally find some squash [squash?] or honey in the *secesh sellars* and we were not at all Backward neither did we care for the time of day We ate when we could get it. The weather was very fine, Quite fortunate for us as we slept on the Ground without a shelter, The second day we arrived at the Monegua Sulphur Springs, situated in the Monegua Hills with heavy timber By the way it is Shibleys point right over only *more so*. More stoney & hillie. Our march for eight miles before we reached the springs was attended with some skirmishing. A party of Jay Hawkers kept harrising us. Small scouts were sent out in the Brush and over hills after them We captured about 35 prisoners *killed one* wounded 3 or 4 & dispersed the rest, We had 3 of our men wounded one from Co K in the face one from Co F in the arm another in the body None of the wounds very serious, I did not find an occasion to fire a single shot, the Rebel mode of fighting here is to give a shot and then take to the Brush, The 3rd day we marched to the Osage above Osceola and had scouts out all through the Osage hills We brought in a number of Prisoners, and gave many a hard chase at escapes⁸⁹ It is not

⁸⁹ During these three or four days beginning March 24, 1862, the First Iowa Cavalry had done excellent work in the field to which it had been assigned. About 75 prisoners, with a considerable quantity of horses, mules, and supplies had been taken, and some progress had been made toward driving rebel guerrillas from the Clinton-Osceola neighborhood.

Bravery here that does the work it is the fast horse. Maj. Gowers command came up with us and the fourth day the Col. & whole command Except Co. M & K returned to Clinton, the remaining Fifty of us Lt. Col. Moss Comd Scoured the country down the Osage several miles below Osceola we chased 6 so close that they were forced to swim their horses across the river almost in our sight one of the boys carrying a rifle gave them a shot across the river disabeling one of their horses We captured about a doz prisoners and put with a good old secesh for the night becaus he thought we were too hard on him to feed our horses at noon.

The Fifth day we repared to Clinton But I had the hardest chase of any A squad of six took a round about way across a stream to scare up Secesh Shure enough we started two of them, Billie Potts⁹⁰ & myself took after them We were $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile behind. We run them 2 miles across the Prairie and was within Twenty rods of them (a long distance for pistol shot) When they gained the Timber, we chased them half mile through the woods but they managed to escape in the brush. We captured some of their clothing as they completely striped themselves that they might better apply the whip & spur to their poor horse,

I like hunting but this is the best game I ever saw, It is some what exciting We all met at the Grand river ford & came in Clinton Where every thing is plenty as the provision train has arrived from Sedalia⁹¹ During our scout we took 65 prisoners on; horses nearly that number of Guns of *Every kind*

⁹⁰ William C. Potts, of Company M, was a member of the original enlistment. He re-enlisted on December 27, 1863, and deserted on June 25, 1865, at Alexandria, Louisiana.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 155.

⁹¹ The well known town of Sedalia, county seat of Pettis County, some 70 miles southeast of Kansas City, was now the main supply depot for the Union forces operating in western Missouri.

I am now ready for another scout and one will go soon over the Osage. Fred is out tonight in a small scout that goes to surprise some Secesh I hear another goes out tomorrow morning But I am waiting to go over the Osage for *there is the fun,*

The people here who were quite scornful at our arrival are becoming reconciled to the Soldiers. The people about the country are coming in every day to take the oath⁹² By the way I will send you the oath they take the Blanks are printed at *Uncles Sams* Office there in town. I will also send you a paper issued by the Soldiers at the same Office. We have a mail rout established from Sedalia here I hear that Co B is at Sedalia and that they are coming here I hope so for I have not seen Isaac Since he left the Barracks 5 months ago. It hardly seems 7 months since I left home. When I think of it, I think there must have been some changes in your *City* Write and give all the particulars I have shut down on all correspondents except home, So if you can tell me anything concerning my *friends abroad*, do so We get good news still from the Seat of War. I hope it will continue so.

I will close this poorly written letter with the request,
Write one write all My love & best wishes to all

Yours sincerely
Wm O. Gulick

Tuesday April 1st/62

Very wet & disagreeable. Came of [f] guard of which I was corporal (acting) was not relieved for twenty four hours Co.s B & D came in from Lexington on the Mo. river via Sedalia. Isaac was so fat I hardly knew him. Their

⁹² The oath, i. e., the oath of allegiance to the Federal government, was required by the advancing Union armies of the inhabitants of occupied regions. Especial vigilance in enforcing this oath was naturally taken in the case of those who were suspected of Confederate sympathies.

baggage wagons did not arrive so they remained with us.

During the last three days some scouting parties were out. they brought in a Doz. prisoners. Fred was a long gives a good acct. of their trip

I done my washing on Sunday. One cannot keep the days of week here as in Military matters the Sabbath is not respected

Saturday Apr. 5th/62

I was detailed to go after forage took dinner out in the country it seemed like home to sit at a table Co. A. of our regt. came in camp also Two Co.s of the 26th Inft.

During the past five days every thing passed as usual I was on guard once. Co.s C. & K. went to Osceola to establish a post there. Some scouting some prisoners taken.

Clinton, Henry Co. Mo.
Co M 1st Ia Cavl April 6/62

Dear Brother Parkes.

It is only a few days since I wrote Peter and sent you a Paper. But as we are about to make another move I take this opportunity to tell you

We expect to start tomorrow morning for Butler. The county seat of Bates Co. If you look on your map; you will see the Direction is S.W. from here & distance about 50 miles. I am glad we are going to move for I have been here long enough. I expect we will find a worse place than we leave But we have just so much work to do here in Mo. and the sooner it is done The beter it will be for us. I suppose our business is to open the way and establish posts Then the State militia will take our place They are not completely organized or Drilled yet, and it will be a long time before they can do with out the *Ia. boys*. Our whole Regt have been here except Cos G. & F. Three cos. have

gone to Osceola. Three or Four will go to Butler and the rest remain here. I suppose Co. B. will stop here, to rest and recruit[.] Isaac is here, I hardly knew him he is so fat He talks some of geting a transfer to this Co I hope he will I am going up to see him concerning it after I finish this. The weather for the last day or two has been very fine but there is indications of a storm for us to night. It has been invervably the case, rainy when we march and camp I have been out on several scouts lately, did not accomplish much except to take some cattle and forage, And occasionally some J. Hawkers. I suppose you have passed this day Sunday quite different from what I have. I have been out forageing. We have to go from Eight to twelve miles after grain & hay, hope it will be nearer at Butler. I received a letter from Bill Coffman & John Gleason this morning was glad to hear from them. I fear I shall have but little time to answer them received a letter from mother with the stamps they come very good. You must write soon hoping this will find you all well I subscribe myself

Dr. [Dear] Brother W. O. Gulick
 April 7th I have just returned from scout We marched all last night and today Did not accomplish much only took four prisoners and some arms I learn the order is countermanded and we will not go to Butler at present

Yours in haste

W. O. Gulick

Adress

1st Regt Iowa Cavalry

Co M. via Sedalia, Missouri

P.S. our orderly just came in and detailed me for a scout I know not where.

[Evidently written at Clinton, Mo.
Date not given. Letter incomplete]

Letter with them. The Bridge I spoke of is across the Grand River about Three miles from Town. We Burnt one Bridge to make less guard and to prevent the Secesh from useing it. When we came in this town We took posession of a gristmill and Printing office so you see we can Grind corn for C. Dodgers and Print our own News. We have taken a great many Prisoners Since we have been here. I have been out in several scouts. I enjoy them very much. By the way I will tell you something of them. The 18th a detail came for Twenty men from our Company. I volunteered for one of them. We started with 80 more men just night. We learned about Ten miles from camp that our Business was to surprise a *Rebel camp*. We marched all night and to make it the more interesting it commenced to rain about nine oclock and continued to rain that night and next day. Well we arrived at the Rebel camp about 3 oclock A M but they had left for regions unknown. We now made it a business to search houses and arrest suspicious characters. We surrounded several houses and routed the people before day light some of them were very much frightened. We would enquire for guns they would Generaly say they had none. If then we found any They were our prisoners, at one place we took 5 Guns, 2 Kegs of P & 3 Doz cans of Powder. We also took the man Prisoner. We made many of them get us Breakfast and we would help ourselves to anything we wanted such as Honey & apples. We marched back to camp with 6 Prisoners (one we caught after a long chase across the Fields) 11 Guns & the Powder aforesaid.

We came in camp just night hungry and tired Wet and cold. We had marched 60 miles without stoping only long enough to feed twice. The same night and day *we were out*. A squad of men about Twenty from our Battalion five from

our co were out and got in a little fight. they atacked them and after a brisk skirmish the rebels fled. Our boys killed Two of them and took nine of them prisoners. Four of our boys (not in our Co. however) were wounded not seriously. We have pretty lively times. A scout goes out tomorrow. They say we will move on south To Oseola on the Osage and about Thirty miles from here. This country and south of here is infested with a set of Jay hawkers and Bushwhackers They Drive of[f] the Union people They come in here every day striped of all they have Many of them are going with us as guides, so we will be apt to get some of them or have a chance to put some air holes through them. Many of the people are comeing in to take the oath. I have not much mercy for them dont beleive I would take many prisoners

But to change the subject I must tell you I want some Postage Stamps or else I can't write, I did not lay in as large a stock as I should when I left St. Louis, I supposed I could get them out here but they are not to be had for love or money and I have give away to those that could not get them at least half Doz. We have not received our pay yet But guess we will ere long. I have some change yet enough to last I guess. Did you get my overshoes at Wilkes I sent them in a box with some things Fred sent home. It seems a long time since I heard from home so you must give me all the particulars. You must write soon — I wish you would send those likenesses spoken of.

I Beleive I forgot to tell you that we were quartered in Secesh houses We have every thing we want from the Rebels as we confiscate their property The Teams are drawing in Grain all the time and a great deal of Pork and other meat Poltry and the like

The Teamster is waiting for my letter you must Direct to Co M. in care of Capt. Ankeny, 1st Regt. Ia Cavl (Via St. Louis) or Sedalia) I will be pretty sure to get it.

Our boys are mostly healthy, myself especially My love to all the folks Hoping to hear from you soon I close
P. S. I have written in haste so excuse all errors. I think I can get or capture some secesh articles that would do to send home if so I will

Your affectionate Brother
W. O. Gulick

Sunday Apr. 6th 1862

Was detailed for forage guard again Came in with plenty of corn & hay at two P. M. had been out seven miles

At Six oclock P. M. I was detailed for a scout. We were about Fifty in No. traveled all night, but did not surprise a rebel camp as expected During the night it rained some Morning come at last & found us about twenty five miles north of Clinton on the Warrensburg road We returned to camp late in the evening with Four prisoners. Fred had just [returned?] from an expedition to destroy a distillery. A place some of our boys frequented to much for their own good.

Weather unsettled — Ten from each Co. was detailed for a scout to start out immediately

Tuesday April 8th 1862

I was about camp. Co O. the Band & Col. started for Butler nearly forty miles west of this place. Two Co. of inft. went or started for the same place. Our mess concluded to have some fresh pork so I helped for the first time to kill a fine *Porker*

Wednesday Apr. 9th 1862

We took up our line of march for Pappinville.⁹³ Co.s M. &

⁹³ Pappinville, a small town in southeastern Bates County, Missouri, near the Osage River, was about 30 miles southwest from Clinton, which was still the First Iowa Cavalry's headquarters.

B. for the first time went out together. We numbered 60 men 30 from each Co. Capt. Lefingwel of Comp. B in command We marched to Johnstown (about 20 miles distant) a poor looking place indeed. Three men came in and gave themselves up as deserters from *Price*.

Thursday Apr. 10th/62

Our march was a little south of West. passed through a small town called Pleasant Gap. took one or two prisoners after a lengthy chase. We passed the remains of a burnt building said to have been the residence of the notorious *rebel leader, Jack man*.

This P. M. arrived at Pappinsvill the most desolate place I ever saw The town had been burned by the Feds. under Montgomery I counted more than Twenty five chimnis standing as monuments, in remembrance of the dreadful work

Chatfield⁹⁴ of Co. B. was taken prisoner he was the first in town, where he met a Doz. rebs. dressed in our uniform he rode up to them very carelessly when they anounced to him the fact that he was prisoner. He could make no resistance & they marched him off before our very face & eyes. We mistook them for our own troops untill it was to late to catch them.

I was on guard with others at the ferry & four jay hawkers were bold enough to fire on us from the opposite side We returned the fire & I was one of three to go over in skiff after the ferry boat. at our approach they fled. Was not very pleasant on guard still had no more trouble.

Friday Apr 11th 1862

Co.s E. & I. came in & a scout started out in search of Chatfield as well as the rebs. We went down to the lower

⁹⁴ Marcus M. Chatfield of Lyons, Iowa, enlisted in Company B, First Iowa Cavalry, on May 10, 1861, re-enlisted on February 22, 1864, was promoted to

ferry (on Osage river) where we forded the stream pretty deep, took a tramp ten miles over the river when we returned near night, at the upper ford, near Pappinsville, small horses had to swim. When in camp found the rebels had released Chatfield after taking every thing he had, even traded boots with him

It had rained pretty hard all day & with the scanty supply of tents we have with us the prospects for shelter to night is rather dubious

Saturday Apr. 12th/62

We took up our line of march for Butler quite early. Still raining consequently very muddy The distance 20 miles — When about half way we run in a nest of Guerrillas we took nine prisoners after some chasing & shooting. More scare than any thing else, as none of the rebs as well as our selves were hurt.

We arrived at Butler about four o'clock P.M. This has been a fine flourishing prairie town, before it was burned by Montgomery & Lane⁹⁵ Most of the secesh were obliged to leave after this but still enough lurk around to harrass the Union people.

Sunday Apr. 13th 1862

Started for Clinton distance forty miles was detained at Johnstown Two hours arrived at Clinton just after dark our wagons 10 miles behind

corporal later in that year, and was not mustered out until February 15, 1866.

⁹⁵ The burning of Butler and Pappinsville, mentioned by Gulick, was only part of a general policy of "terrorization by devastation" pursued by the Union army in this part of Missouri. It was partially justified by the fact that this region was the most violent hotbed of secessionist sentiment in the State. There are frequent references in Gulick's letters to important towns of this region being strongly "secesh".

Monday Apr. 14th 1862

Snug in camp after a five days scout during which time we took Twenty prisoners, & all the time the weather unfavorable. To day it is raining. I recd. two letters from home — ans both

Just night was detailed on a fifteen days scout expect something will be done as they take Fifty men from each of the Two Co.s here M. & B.

Tuesday Apr. 15th 1862

This morning we prepared for a Fifteen day scout Were on the way by ten o'clock. Marched thirty miles Camped in a Seceshes meadow plenty of hay & Corn We are 9 miles from Pappinsville & 5 from the Osage river. We no. 100 men Capt. Lefingwell of B Co. in command

Weather fine to day roads not very good

Wednesday Apr. 16th 1862

I was on guard last night. At two oclock a scout went out to surprise Pappinsvill. At the same time a party of twenty went down to take possession of the ferries to prevent the rebs from getting away. We all met at the lower ferry soon after noon. The results of the different parties scouting was the capture of four or five prisoners. A party of Fifty was sent down the river to rout a band of Guerillas but they did not find them.

Thursday Apr. 17th

A party of Fifty including myself, took an early start to make a detour from the main road leading to Eaton⁹⁶ As we had to ferry the river was nearly nine oclock before we got farely on the road. Before this time however it com-

⁹⁶ Eatons is a small village near Deepwater, in Henry County. A later reference to "Eatonville" probably means the same town.

menced raining very hard & continued all day. but never daunted we kept on our way chasing Jay hawkers where ever found got two notorious characters before noon by them learned where they had their head quarters. We procured a guide & made for the place had to cross clear creek now very high. Most of the horses had to swim. When in sight of the building (which was in a lonely by-place) we charged up surrounding it. Two men run from the place. We caught them they proved to be leaders of a band that was doing much mischief in this vacinity True enough the place had been Head qr. for them. Guns, pistols & amunition were found here. Capt. concluded to remain all night, I was on guard

Two young ladies, better have said femails claimed they knew me, as one John Post & wished me to redeem a promise made at Monegua It made a good joke as I was ignorant of the whole affair

Friday Apr. 18th 1862

We marched about four miles to Eatonville had to cross one stream that in its swollen & turbid state had to swim (which we did without accident)

From this place three of our boys who were in advance chased as many Jay-hawkers to Clintonville four miles when the J. H. joined thirty more of their party & returned the chase nearly back. We all now went forward double quick but the party I was with got on the wrong road & came back to Eatonville where we remained all day. the party that did get after them followed all day but could not overhaul them, so returned to this place after a ride of fifty miles for *nex*.

We camped here for the night Mad[e] the towns peopl[e] get us grub as we were out not being with our wagons Weather cold & wet.

Saturday Apr. 19th 1862

We were about camp all day the creek being too high to cross our wagons are on the opposite side consequently we were without grub. had to depend on the citizens for supplies. they being mostly secesh was not very liberal but fortunately we were not backward in helping our selves. Cold & cloudy weather

I was on a scout at night did not accomplish much. returned at midnight

Sunday Apr 20th 1862

Although I was sleepy & tired I was hungry so got up very early to go out in the country after breakfast. Had a square meal

The boys over the creek captured five prisoners creek still too high to cross the wagons. Was about camp all day. Our horses have been without hay several days grass is not large enough for grazing yet. Season very backward

Monday Apr. 21st 1862

We prepared to leave Eatonville for Montevallo⁹⁷ where we arrived after an easy march of twelve miles over a sandy prairie country on our arrival we took five or six prisoners found several guns & revolvers hid about town.

It was here that quite a fight took place between Co. K. Lt. Col. Moss commanding. and a party of rebel assassins about twenty five in no; who fired on the boys at night while quartered in a house. Two of K. boys were killed one rebel killed some wounded & several prisoners They beat a hasty retreat.

The shots in the house & barn the broken sash show plainly their cowardly work. We have one prisoner that knows

⁹⁷ Montevallo was a small inland village in southeastern Vernon County, Missouri.

something of the affair. We hung him twice to make him tell but he was too drunk to realize it. I am on prison guard
Weather fine

Friday April 25th/62

For the past three days we have been scouting every day & as often returned to this Montevalo with the same result (three or four prisoners & arms & powder)

Today a large party went out nearly one hundred Traveled South East, about twenty five miles, scoured the timber on Horse & Cedar creeks captured Eight prisoners with guns & ammunition I got a colts revolver but had to turn it over to the Q.M. We came in tired & hungry late at night after a travel of more than Fifty miles

Col. Warren with B. & I. Co.s started for Pappinsville.

This Montevala is a pretty place in quite a fine country. a strong southern party feeling exists here

Sunday April 27th

I was about camp all day the train of supplies came in Co. I. escort. We drew five days rations. It is already thirteen days since we left Clinton. But our time has been extended. A scout went out & returned with five prisoners Yesterday I was in bathing, the first this season cold bath indeed. Weather fine

Tuesday April 29th 1862

I was detailed with nine others to escort Lt. Col. Moss to Osceola⁹⁸ with dispatches We were about five hours on the road distance, forty five miles, & had to swim Sauk river to get the ferry boat before we could cross.

Osceola has been quite a flourishing town. the head of

⁹⁸ Osceola is still, as then, the county seat of St. Clair County. Its population is about 1000.

steam boat movings. But alas! it, like many other places has been razed to the ground burned & plundered. only a few desolate houses remain & only part of them occupied

Thursday May 1st 1862

Yesterday we remained with Co. B. Maj. Lefingwell⁹⁹ commanding this post (Osceola) Co K. is here, also, two Co.s of the 25th Ind. At an early hour we prepared to go to Butler, with Lt. Col. Our wagon broke down before we had gone a mile did not get it fixed until noon.

Then we met six of Co. B. coming from Butler who reported twenty Jayhawkers on the road. with reinforcements we went after them, only got one Then went on our way as before. but night over took us not half way to Butler without any thing to eat. We passed tolerable pleasant night on the prairie. Before starting this morning, I bought a horse of James Phelan The first I have owned since I have been in the service. We have been told by the officers that we can draw pay for them as ours is an indipendent regiment, & all with the exception of Our Co. own their own horses.

Friday May 2nd 1862

Continued our march at sunrise without breakfast arrived at Butler at noon. had a good appetite for dinner. We learned that our Capt. & two sergeants from our Co. had gone with the Col. & large scouting party to meet our boys from Montevalla

Butler, Mo. May 4th 1862

Dear Sister Emma

Yours of the 27th inst. came to hand last night It was

⁹⁹ This again refers to Captain W. E. Lefingwell's acting in the capacity of major although without the formal commission.

the first I had recd from any one in Twenty days I was greatly pleased to get the news from both *Letter, & Paper* I beleive I told you I was going on a ten days scout in my last. Well it proved to be a Twenty days, instead of Ten, and then it was a mere chance that I came in, as nearly all the Scout are out yet. We were at Montevallo, Vernon Co, when I was detailed (as was nine others) for body guard for Lt. Col. Moss. Escorted him to Osceola. (Distance 45 m. Times Five hours I expected to return to Montevallo but had to come on to Butler first. On our arrival here we found that Our Company (those that remained at Clinton) had moved here. So as we found our selves home. They concluded we had better stay until the scout returns, which will be Six or Eight days. This last Scout is doing pretty well down in Vernon Cedar & Dade County there is plenty to do. We took a number notorious Jay-Hawkers, some of which will be shot. We had some slight skirmishes and a *great many hard chases* Co K, a few days in advance of us, at Montevallo, was attacked in the night Two of their men killed & Five wounded Sargeant Lyon¹⁰⁰ seriously if not fatally, But it is useless for me to tell you more about our scouts I could not tell you half, When we come to Jay-Hs houses we are pretty good J.H.s our selves. I could get any amount of Trinkets to send home if I could carry them. We Destroy a great *deal*. It is hard work to ride *Day & night two*, as we have too But still I like it pretty well, Should be better satisfied however if we could do something

¹⁰⁰ Sargeant J. A. Lyon of Company K was in later years State Auditor of Iowa. Two men, as Gulick states, were killed on the Union side in this skirmish, which occurred on April 14, 1862. He says five were wounded; the *Roster of Iowa Soldiers*, Vol. IV, p. 7, says seven. Lieutenant Colonel Moss, in command of the expedition, reported that "never did men under similar circumstances display greater gallantry than those with me that night." They were surrounded near Montevallo by double their number of rebels; in view of this disparity in numbers it is remarkable that they fought their way out with such small loss.

that we would get credit for, Our Bushwhacking dont ammount to much, The State Troops are beginning to take our places I think we cannot remain in Mo. much longer, Our Regt. Quarter masters have been mustered out the service also the Adjutants. Why it is I do not know unless to curtale the expencs, There is talk of cuting the Regt down to Ten Cos I do not see the object.

The Battle at Pittsburg¹⁰¹ was very hard indeed. I could hardly rest I was so anxious to get the news A great many that I knew were killed or Taken Prisoner you name some that were on the sick list, I hope It will not be my *misfortune* to be sick if ever I should have the chance to go In Battle, I had rather be taken Prisoner or almost anything else than give people a chance to say, ("He made believe") or, ("It was a good excuse to keep out of the fight") and other conjectures every body are shure to make, I hope the boys that are Prisoners will be treated as well as we treat ours this is all we could ask, The wounded I suppose are well cared for. The Eighth Iowa & especially Co. A. seem to be very unfortunate I hope if we leave Mo. It will be to participate in the next battle, at Corrinth¹⁰² or any other strong hold the Rebels may choose. Fighting in Mo. is about *played out*. The season is very backward here The few farmers that are disposed to cultivate the soil are just planting corn. I think some of the people in

¹⁰¹ The battle of Shiloh, in April, 1862, generally considered a Union victory although indecisive, is sometimes called the battle of Pittsburg Landing. Only the arrival of reënforcements under General Buell saved the Union army from a disastrous defeat in this two days battle, the largest that had yet taken place in the war. Fully 10,000 men on both sides were killed and about 20,000 wounded.—Headley's *The Great Rebellion* (The American Publishing Co., Hartford, Conn., 1866), Vol. I, p. 361. These losses were about evenly divided between the two armies.

¹⁰² Corinth, in northeastern Mississippi, was an important Confederate base toward which General Grant was pushing forward in his gradual advance on Vicksburg. Corinth was captured by the Union army, on May 30, 1862.

that part must starve if the war continues next winter But the most of them Deserve to go on *half rations* to pay for their Disloyalty I seen by your letter, the Union sentiment was bound to prevail with C. & C. [Cynthia & Charlie] I hope They may live in peace & harmony. And unlike our once Glorious Union of States may the idea of seceding from each other never enter Their minds

Sunday May 4th 1862

Yesterday was a day of rest with me Today I commenced a letter home but had to leave it to go on a scout We traveled more than twenty five miles but did not accomplish much

Monday May 5th 1862

I finished my letter & sent it
Was out after forage Corn & hay is plentiful

Tuesday May 6th 1862

I was detailed as Corporal of the picket guard We had a very easy post.

Saturday May 10th 1862

Night before last the Officers had a dance the boys from Co.s E. I. & D. & Co. A. inft. broke it up caused quite a riot. Yesterday fifteen of the boys were arrested for being engaged in the riot & sent to guard house. I was one of the guards — they done about as they pleased. Today after I had come off guard they were all sent to the Jail for greater punishment & security. Time[s] are squally[.] boys threaten to raze the Jail and thus let them out by main force if necessary.

The colt I bought I sold to Thos. Else for a trifle more than I give.

The Col with our boys came in camp from a Twenty seven day scout

Sunday May 11th 1862

Although our Co was not engaged in the affair of Thursday night they were regarded as mutineers with the rest Col. Warren to show his authority ordered all the Co.s here to come out on Dress parade which was complied with After a few sarcastic remarks he ordered C.E.I. & M. to give up their arms

This was done publicly to make the dishonor greater. It was with much reluctance that the arms were turned over We went to quarter & out of respect for our Co. officers remained quiet Co. D. was the favored Co. this time as the Col. not only gave them his compliments by way of a short speech but had the Band play the "Star Spangle Banner" This has given (already) the rise of a "Star Spangle Banner Co" in our Regt. Our Co. recd orders to march tomorrow morning at Seven oclock

Monday May 12th 1862

In accordance with orders we were ready to move at seven A.M. The Col. sent over & arrested John Husband¹⁰³ of our Co for shooting his pistol last night. Corporal Ware¹⁰⁴ was also arrested & sent to Jail for expressing his opinion, (*rather freely*) This excited the men to a great extent for he was a noble fellow. After forming in line, we were given our arms, Rifles first. Corporal Walling¹⁰⁵ re-

¹⁰³ John Husband was a private in Company M. He deserted on October 18, 1862, at Cassville, Missouri.—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, p. 422.

¹⁰⁴ Corporal Ware became 2nd lieutenant before completing his service. He was a resident of Clinton, Iowa, and a native of England.

¹⁰⁵ Corporal Washington I. Walling came from Mt. Vernon, Iowa, to enlist. In 1865 he was promoted to 1st sergeant. Both of these men apparently were unimpeachable in record and behavior.

fused to take a gun that did not belong to him Where upon the Col. drew his revolver threatening to shoot him in two minutes if he did not take it, he could not do other wise, but if he had not taken it The Col. would have been riddled with bullets had he shot for to my knowledge twenty shots were ready for him. Nothing more happened, but the contemptable old Col. had all his meanness remembered against him. We took up our line of march about Ten oclock Made 25 miles Camped on a small stream east of Johnstown. I was on guard the fore part of the night

Tuesday May 13th 1862

We got an early start & arrived at Clinton about noon The rear guard met a team with whiskey & got drunk

We remained here all day in readiness to march as it was supposed we would go to Oscola [Osceola]

Wednesday morning recd orders to remain here. So after arranging our camp I was cook for the day

Heavy details for guard twenty men per day. Thursday I was on bridge guard quite pleasant during the day but at night the mosquitoes make it a purgatory. Five men came in with a flag of truce bearing a dead body said to be from Pea Ridge.¹⁰⁶ We hired Rigby¹⁰⁷ to cook for us the rest of the mess give him 25cts per month each and stand his guard

¹⁰⁶ This battle is also called the battle of Elkhorn Tavern. On March 6, 7, 1862, Generals Samuel R. Curtis and Franz Sigel engaged about 30,000 Confederates in this locality, and defeated them. The Union loss in killed and wounded was fully 1000; the Confederate loss was much greater. James McIntosh and Benjamin McCulloch were killed. The chief Confederate officers at this battle were Price and Van Dorn. Missouri was now definitely lost to the Confederacy. For a biographical sketch of Samuel Ryan Curtis, the first Iowan to be made a major general, see Gallaher's *Samuel Ryan Curtis* in THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS, July, 1927, and *The Palimpsest*, April, 1930.

¹⁰⁷ Washington H. Rigby came from Mechanicsville, Iowa, to enlist in Company M, on September 2, 1861. — *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 165.

Sunday May 18th 1862

Up to this nothing unusual occurred but this day brings us word from Butler that four men from that place had been killed by B. W. [Bush Whackers] after they were killed had their heads mashed.

Monday May 19th 1862

I came of[f] guard at noon. Was detailed on scout of five days. took as little as possible. The Co. consisted of twenty five from each Co.s A. G. H. & M. Capt. McQueen¹⁰⁸ of A. Co. commanding Took up our line of march¹⁰⁹ at one oclock P.M. Marched twenty five miles south of west towards Pappinsville & camped on a small stream. had the farmers in the neighborhood bring us hay & corn. Com-menced raining at night I am troubled with sore mouth

Tuesday May 20th/62

Continued to rain all day When we had marched four miles discovered four men running from us gave them chase caught one, who purported to be a deserter from Price we paroled him. We marched on to Pappinsville where we met Co.s E. R.I.D. & L. all going on the same business Continues to rain. guess will have an interesting time

Wednesday May 21st 1862

This morning our pickets fired on some guerrillas coming

¹⁰⁸ Captain Alexander G. McQueen of Company A had started as 1st lieutenant, but was promoted to captain on December 11, 1861. He became 2nd major on August 21, 1863, and lieutenant colonel on September 25, 1864. He was mustered out at Austin, Texas, on February 15, 1866.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 123.

¹⁰⁹ The transfer of Gulick's company from Clinton to Butler, 35 miles west, took place on May 19th-21st; the headquarters of the regiment had been moved to Butler on the 8th of April. Butler was now the chief Union headquarters of this district, Colonel Warren being in command there, with subsidiary posts at Osceola, under Captain Leffingwell, and at Clinton, in charge of Major Gower.

near our camp. they beat a hasty retreat. Our march lay in a westerly direction. We forded the Mariasdescygnnes river at Pappinsville at noon changed our direction & traveled north. Two scouting parties out but accomplished little.

We camped at the head of a deep ravine where wood & water were handy. A heavy shower of wind & rain came up just as night set in but we were quite hungry & tired so ate & slept quite as well. The boys kill[ed] a Rattle snake & cooked & ate him for supper. We have orders to be ready to start at three oclock A.M. tomorrow to surprise a party of one hundred rebels. We have marched our twenty miles today.

Tuesday May 22nd 1862

We were up at two A.M. and started on our rout at three traveled untill day light when we posted pickets so as to entirely surround an Island two miles long & nearly as wide. The Artillery from Butler came up on the opposite side to shell the Island threw about thirty shells but did not drive the rebels out. Some few penetrated the island to its centre. quite against orders myself & two others were among the indipendents. We discovered nothing however but tracks. the whol thing did not amount to much & we returned to Pappinsville this evening.

The Maraisdescygnnes river had risen so the teams had to swim. Co. D.s team was washed down stream with difficulty saved.

Friday May 23rd 1862

We marched to Clinton forty miles distant after a hard & quite unsuccessfull trip or attack on an Island know as No. Eleven. I recd. two letters from home which revived me much as my supper.

Saturday May 24th 1862

I was detailed to go to Sedalia with an escort to bring

the Pay Master[.] Sundown found us in Sedalia quite tired after a ride of forty five miles. Good times at this place — Sunday May 25th

We returned to Clinton Came in late at night

Monday May 26th/62

Our Co. was paid four months pay Clothing bill deducted leaving us about Thirty dol. I payd my little debts & recd money part pay for horse I sold Thos. Else. Our Lt. and twenty men went to Butler as escort for Pay Master

Tuesday — we started for Butler bag & baggage marched twenty miles camped on a small stream near Johnstown. Wednesday we marched on to Butler arrived at noon learned another soldier had been shot by rebels in ambush. I bought me an other horse of Phelan he warrants the title

Saturday May 31st/62

For the past few days nothing of note has occurred — I sold my horse to Gorham. weather dry & windy I came off guard this morning. A train with small escort started for Osc[e]ola. I commenced a letter but threw it aside to volunteer with a party to rescue the train that started out this morning word just came that they were attacked by rebels near Johnstown

After riding fifteen miles under the whip & spur we met a party of Co. L. coming from Clinton who had assisted in driving the rebels to the brush wounding several We had two wounded. two or three horses killed.

Butler, Bates Co. Mo. June 1

Dear Sister Cynthia.

Your letter came to hand in due season. But as I have

been very busy ever since I could not ans. untill the present time. you will undoubtedly inquire what I have been doing, and as it will help to fill my letter I will relate the most of my doings since I last wrote from this place. The large Scout that was down in the vacinity of Greenfield Dade Co. came in. they did not accomplish much (Good reason. The Col. was along. He puts on too many military airs for scouting)

During his absence the Officers that remained in camp Except Our Lt. concluded to have a dance & the Boys from other Co.s, Broke it up to pay for having *theirs* Broke up by the Officers about a week before. There was quite a row, some stones thrown & shots fired but no body hurt. Fortunately Co. M was not engaged in it. But they had to share the disgrace of being Publicly disarmed for twenty four hours when the Col. came in. He was very unjust, and had it not been for the respect of Co. Officers there would have been mutiny indeed.¹¹⁰ Next morning we received orders to go to Clinton. On our arrival there, I was detailed for a Five days scout. We went out on the Kansas line scoured the timber all along the Marais-des-ceygnés river. Posted Pickets around an Island, and then threw shells in from the opposite side of river. It was supposed to be a Jay Hawkers rendesvous The under brush was so thick could not find any body. Although it was against orders myself and two others went more than a mile on the Island did not discover any thing of much importance It was a pretty hard scout as we marched nearly Forty *ms* every day and part of the time it rained. Came back to Clinton one night & next morn. was detailed to go to Sedalia to escort the Pay Master. We marched through that day & back the next. (Distance ninety miles in two days)

¹¹⁰ The same affair as that described in the journal entries of May 10-12, 1862.

I felt pretty tired and travel worn. We received our Pay next day & the two days following was occupied in marching back to Butler where we arrived the 28th May. I had some business to attend to the first day here in the way of a horse trade. The 29th the wind blew hard & the Tents as well as every thing else was a cloud of dust. Next day I was on Guard, & yesterday I just comenced this letter when a messenger came from Johnstown with foaming stead stating that a small party with baggage train from here to Osceola had been attacked by a larger party of Rebel J.H. I volunteered with two others of our Co. & as many from each of the six Cos here to go to the rescue. In less than twenty minutes we were on the road. Our Horses were let out to Fourteen miles an hour all hands expecting for once to have some fighting. But it turned out as usual we were to late, for about Fifteen minutes after the engagment commenced a party of Co. L. came up. They were on their way from Clinton to this place. The rebels took to the brush.

Our boys followed them but the brush is so thick at this season of the year that they all escaped. One or two of there men were wounded. Our loss was one horse killed. One man shot in the foot. One through his coat collar, another through the hat.

The contemptable J. H.s have the advantage of us now. & they use it too. It is folly to even *attempt*. to hunt them in the brush. They lay in ambush & shoot a Soldier where ever they can. Not long since Three of our men were killed & one severely wounded while out after Forage. The rebels fired at them while watering at a creek. One escaped to give the alarm. the killed were bruitaly stabled and heads nearly mashed in the ground also Robed of every thing they had even boots. The men killed were from Cos C. & D.— Last week Three men were killed at Osceola in nearly the same manner. I beleive they were Co. C. That Co. moved

there soon after the first occurrence here. A man was also shot from Co. I. Three or Four days ago near this place. as yet we have only succeeded in killing one of the miscreants. But now a special order has been issued to shoot Two of the prisoners we have in our prison for every soldier that is shot. I think this order will be carried out. We have some hard cases in prison here & about Forty of them too. nearly every night some of our Pickets are fired at, or fire to some one. I am one of the unfortunate ones I can never get a shot or scarcely ever have an occasion to shoot I go on nearly every scout but cannot shoot a scesh. They say we will not scout much more here. I hope then we will leave this miserable God forsaken country where we will have something to do I observe those that lay around camp the most are the most sickly. There is a lot in every Co. that is never ready for duty never go a scouting or scarcely anything else, *except to their rations*, and they are always behind. they think *so much gained* But they mistake for it is an injury to their health. Our Co. is Generally healthy. 'as for myself I weigh One hundred Fifty Eight lbs. never better in my life. Fred is Fat and hearty too I think you would hardly know me as I have grown fat like *Isaac*. I heard from Isaac last week he was well. Tell Henry that Isaac did not get a transfer he applied one but could not get it. If I have time, I will write Henry This week as soon as I can at any rate.

I presume you have noticed in the paper that Col. Fitz Warren is nominated for Brig. Gen. (Gigadier Brindle)¹¹¹

¹¹¹ Although nominated at this time, Colonel Warren was not actually promoted to brigadier general until July 16th. On August 26th, Major Gower succeeded him as Colonel of the First Iowa Cavalry. The reason for Gulick's obvious dislike of Colonel Warren is readily seen when we recall that he had forced Company M, which was, according to Gulick, innocent of any part in the dance break-up affair, to humiliate itself along with the guilty by formally surrendering its arms.

I hope he will be appointed if he will have nothing more to do with us.— In your letter you spoke of Emmas Melodian I hope ere this you have it. By the time you get to be a good player I may be home to hear you. That is if you are not to apt a schollar. When that scout came in I received Mary's Ambrotype I think it *very natural* as good as could be I owe Mary as well as your-self something good for it — I am well satisfied with what I have, but would be better satisfied if you can send some the rest —

I told you I had received Four months pay. I presume you as well as the rest of the folks would like to know what disposition I made of it. To commence on Our clothing Bill was taken out, as was \$4.22 $\frac{1}{3}$ that was paid to us by U. S. when it ought to have come from the State of Iowa. This left me \$30.45. You may wonder how it is that our clothing can cost so much, when it is understood that Govmt clothes us. We are allowed \$3.50 per. month for clothes and ought to settle at the end of the year. You see for some reason we had to settle at the end of eight months & We had drawn clothing for a year or more. The next settlement we ought to draw more money in the place of clothing. You are aware that the most of our Co. is mounted on Govmt horses. The Capt. went to St. Louis and learned that all can furnish their own horses who have a mind to, and draw .40 cts. per day for the use of them. Horses are pretty cheap here, from Forty to Eighty Dol. I have bought Two, & as I was offered more than I give I let them go I have made about Ten Dol. Trading. Shall buy another the first opportunity. If I thought we would be discharged before a horse would pay for its-self I think I would not buy as I had rather have money then.

You say Delos Millard is dead I was sorry to hear it. I regret that he did not get home as did Jim Winnee. I often think how fortunate I was in not going with that Co. They

have met with so many great misfortunes. It seems the army before Corinth is very slow, But I suppose that when the blow is made it will be decisive. You speak of our fine Garden Shad Trees &c. I can imagine well how pleasant it is it would be a grand sight to me to see something clean and neat Every thing here looks barren and desolate. Before the war I think this country looked better The soil is pretty good & land very cheap. Peaches grow here in abundance. Strawberries are ripe and plentiful. It must be things are much earlier here than with you. Since you are a farmers wife I suppose you will have plenty of work this summer. I could send you some thing towards houskeeping if I could ever get my things together I have a very nice Glass wine cup salt cellar White dish & knife fork & spoon & — that I have picked up at Deserted J.H. camps & houses. My satchel and a good many traps are at Sedalia and many things I could get but can not carry them with me. It has been raining most of the day & although it is Sunday a number of the boys have been playing cards. Card playing is very common among soldiers but as yet, *I do not play.*¹¹² I am quite tired will have to close. You all have more time to write than I have. I should think the rest of the folks children & all might wright me my love to all —————
Direct as usual

Truly Yours

Wm O. Gulick

P.S. Let one know something of my friends I dont correspond with anybody Have John S. write

Wednesday June 4th 1862

We had a company inspection and the individual horses were mustered in service while the Government horses were turned over to the Q.M. I bought me a horse from Bal-

¹¹² Gulick's family was Methodist.

lard¹¹³ which was excepted [accepted?] by the inspectors.

During the last few days boys have been buying their own horses quite fast Lt. Crosby¹¹⁴ with the Pay Master escort returned from Sedalia. I was on prison guard once one rainy day

Tuesday June 9th 1862

I have neglected to write for several days but nothing has occurred more than I was on guard my regular turn. Maj. Chamberlain joined us. Recd the Cheering news from Corinth.¹¹⁵

We go out about two miles to graze horses. The boys have hors racing for the want of else to do. poor business at the best. Weather pleasant

Wednesday June 10th 1862

This P.M. Three of Co. B. came in reporting thirty of their Co. had run across One hundred & thirty rebels returning from Prices Army. They charged upon them but found them too many to make it successful. John Miller¹¹⁶ distinguished himself by killing one in a hand to hand encounter. he was outnumbered but made his escape by loosing his revolver & having his wrist sprained.

On hearing this report one hundred men were ordered

¹¹³ Either Private Missell Ballard or Private (later Corporal) Nathan W. Ballard. Both were natives of Ohio and residents of Clinton County, and both served in Company M.

¹¹⁴ Lieutenant James P. Crosby was promoted to Captain of Company M, on September 4, 1862, upon Captain Ankeny's resignation from the service. He retired at the expiration of his own term of service in September, 1864.

¹¹⁵ The cheering news from Corinth, Mississippi, was the news of the capture of that place by Grant and Halleck on May 30, 1862.

¹¹⁶ Private John A. Miller of Company B was a native of Prussia and a resident of Lyons, Iowa. He rose through several degrees of corporal until he became 2nd corporal on February 10, 1864. He was mustered out on May 5, 1864, at the expiration of his term of service.

out to assist them twenty five from each of the four Co.s here M.I.L.D. Capt. Colwell¹¹⁷ in command We marched about ten miles to head them off by placing ourselves as pickets on four different roads. we lay all night in the grass anxiously waiting for them fortunately for them they did not come When morning come we marched to a place where the enemy had passed the night previous but for some reason Capt. Colwell would not pursue, as the boys desired We returned to camp & as we had been up all night & minus breakfast we were pretty much fatigued or played out.

I traded horses even up. got cheated "like the Dickens",
— But

Friday June 12th I made it up by trading & selling my horse. I was on prison guard

Wednesday June 18th

Was about camp — time passes as usual had a refreshing shower last night crops are poor & were in much need of rain Col. Warren came back to day he has been to St. Louis. Since I wrote Co. H. has moved to Nevada¹¹⁸ & Co. A. come here. Have been on corral guard it seems like farming work to tend mules cattle & sheep — we drive them out to graze every day

Sunday June 22nd 1862

I was on guard — I also wrote Bro. Henry¹¹⁹ a letter.

¹¹⁷ Captain Joseph W. Caldwell of Company I was subsequently promoted to 2nd major (August 26, 1862) and later to lieutenant colonel (August 21, 1863). He was wounded in April, 1864, at Camden, Arkansas, and was mustered out on September 24, 1864, at the expiration of his term of service. — *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 55.

¹¹⁸ Nevada, the county seat of Vernon County, Missouri, is about 50 miles north of Joplin. Vernon County borders on Kansas.

¹¹⁹ Henry Gulick was the elder of William's two brothers who remained at home.

Indications of a rain Peter Barr obtained his discharge on acct of deafness. I have been tending his horse for several days was run-a-way with twice. Mail brought me a couple of letters. The papers bring news from Wm.[?] Fremont barely gains a victory. Weather warm & dry. A scout of Thirty men went out yesterday.

Monday 23rd June /62

I was detailed on a scout did not amount to much we went out to a cave on the Kansas line — found plenty of mulberries We got back about mid night I find my new horse rides charmingly nice

Tuesday June 24th

The ox & mule train started for Sedalia. A whole load of discharged & furloughed soldiers went home the Contraband stock were taken to Clinton on their way to Jefferson City

Thursday June 26th 1862

Came on my regular guard seven prisoners were brought in among them was a rebel Col. Palmer from Prices army

Saturday June 28th

We moved camp have had considerable to do No war news of interest by the night mail Thompson¹²⁰ came back to the Co. after an absence of Five or Six months on sick furlough. We learn by him that Sergeant Gaston of our Co. has recd. a Lts. commission in the 28th Ia.

Sunday June 29th

I was on Picket guard. Cuningham the most desperate character in prison made his escape

¹²⁰ Probably George Thompson of Lyons, private in Company M. He was in the original enlistment and served throughout the war.

Monday June 30th 1862

We had gen. inspection & muster for pay — pretty good time several of the boys were sent to pen for not appearing in proper uniform

July 1st [1862]

I went out in the Country after cherries had a good time

Thursday July 3rd /62

I came off guard at 9 oclock A.M. & at Six P.M. was detailed to go to Clinton for the mail. We traveled all night. Arrived at Clinton about four A.M. Took breakfast at the mansion house. the greater part of the day I passed at the Q.M. department in sleep. Took supper & retired after the dullest "Fourth" I ever passed

Saturday July 5th 1862

Was up and off for Butler at the break of day. We took dinner at or with Co. D. near Johnstown weather warm arrived at Butler just night. recd word of the fighting at Richmond. Oh! that we may be successful

Saturday July [12th, 1862]

The week has passed as usual. have stood guard every other day. Two prisoners have escaped. The remaining desperate bad characters have had a Ball & chain attached to their foot The weather has been very dry crops are suffering very much for want of rain.

A scout went out yesterday we hear they are fighting & need reinforcements A large party (myself included) is detailed to go to their assistance.

We marched about Ten miles When we met Capt. Ankeny with his command coming in We turned & come back with them. They report having a fight yesterday with

Quantrels¹²¹ rebel Squadron of 200 Our force was nearly as many in no. under command of Maj. Gower & Capt. Ankeny of the 1st Ia. Cavl. A few Mo. troops were also engaged. They beat the rebels badly completely routing them with a loss of 15 killed some wounded & prisoners

Our loss Ten (10) killed & 8 or 10 wounded. The great proportion of killed can be accounted for by starting it was almost a hand to hand encounter¹²²

Whole command arrived in camp about Ten oclock P.M.

Saturday July 19th 1862

For the past week I have done my duty as usual have had some rain — a great help to grain.

The mail come & went with out any news or Letter for me. The Pay Master come & yesterday we recd. pay but as the pay for our saddles & horse equipments was taken out I only recd. *Six dol.* Consequently I had to borrow money of Righby & pay for my horse as *agreed to*, — I could not get some money due me on horse trade

I am detailed for picket guard heavy shower. — A letter from home.

Saturday July 26th 1862

Time flies on — an other week is past & gone never

¹²¹ W. C. Quantrel, or Quantrill, was a notorious chief of a band of Confederate guerrillas who made southern Missouri and eastern Kansas decidedly uncomfortable places in which to live through most of the war. This band of outlaws, although working in general for the South, were without direct responsibility to the Confederate government for their acts. The burning of Lawrence, Kansas, in 1863, is probably the best known of Quantrill's unsavory deeds.

¹²² Gulick refers here to the skirmish at Big Creek Cliffs, Cass County, Missouri. In this engagement, that part of the First Iowa Cavalry which Captain Ankeny had brought with him, led by Lieutenant John McDermott of Company G, struck the blow that made certain the rout of Quantrill's force. The rebels were scattered like chaff inside of thirty minutes.—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, pp. 71, 72. According

more to return & with it have gone the usual occurrences of camp life. Co. B. came in from Osceola. Weather warm but pleasant. Blackberries are ripe & plentiful. I have had a touch of the [blank] was excused from duty for two or three days

Butler, Bates Co., Mo.
Co. M 1st Ia Cavl, July 27

Dear Mother

I recd your letter last week. I thought it a long time you were silent. I hope you will write sooner next time. I have been quite busy for the last week. Then it has been so extremely hot This is the warmest part of the Season. I think there is but little difference between here & with you. I am not prepared to Judge however as we have but little hard work to do in the sun. Nearly all our marching we do at night. "By the way" I marched 40 miles on the night of the 3rd of July (Carried dispatches to Clinton) You can Judge then how I passed the 4th (*I slept it away*) I suppose then since Corp. Barr¹²³ was with you, you had a pleasant time. I suppose he told you a great many things that was entirely new to you.

How is his *Deafness*. He was discharged on account of his hearing. I suppose like most others he got better very fast after his papers were made out.

Barr was a good Soldier. What do you think about drafting Will they *have too* in order to supply the Troops called I begin to think we will have to serve our Three Years out for *Uncle Sam* well if it is necessary I am willing The Col. has been promoted to Brig. Gen. I think we stand a small chance to get out of this country now soon. We have Drill

to Lothrop the losses were as follows: Union, 9 killed, 20 wounded; Confederate, 18 killed, 20 wounded.

¹²³ Peter Barr had recently received a promotion but, as Gulick mentions, had to be discharged because of deafness.

every night at six oclock That makes things appear a little Different from Bushwacking.

I presume ere this you have heard of the fight with Quantril at pleasant hill¹²⁴ Cass Co. Mo. Ten men from Co. M. & Ten from each of Six other Cos left Camp the ninth July under Capt. *Ankeny* on the morning of the 10th they were Joined by about 30 men under Mag. Gowen of Cos. A & G. They all pushed after Quantril as they were now on his Trail. About Ten oclock nearly one hundred of the 7th Mo. Joined our forces under command of Capt Kehoe They found Quantril in the Timber with 150 men. The engagement lasted about half an hour When the Rebels Skedad- eled in every direction Rebel loss 10 or 15 killed about the same wounded our loss 10 killed 17 wounded 7 of the men killed were from the 7th *nw.* Co. M. as usual lost not a man neither one recd a scratch. A Report came in camp that our boys were after Quantril & a scout was detailed to reinforce them. Among this number was I (I was on guard before) We Marched about half the night when we met the Capt. with his command returning home the battle ore. Co B & Isaac are here they are our nearest neighbours Isaac says he is going to write home soon Fred & all your acquaintences are well, very little sickness here Blackberries are very pleantifull I wish you might have half we do We received pay last week but as we had to pay \$32.00 for our saddles and I had one payment to make on my horse I could not send any money home as I should like to do. I own my horse saddle & saddle equipments now will draw over \$40.00 next pay day or the 1st of Sept. You must all write soon I have to go on guard & the mail goes out tomorrow morn. With much love to all I close,

Yours in haste

W. O. Gulick

¹²⁴ This fight is identical with the skirmish at Big Creek Cliffs.

Friday Aug. 1st 1862

We have been having drill & guard duty heavy. I was out one day hunting horses but found nothing but good meals & plenty of apples.

This morning a party of Twenty four (including myself) left camp S.E. Capt. Colwell¹²⁵ in command — had not gone more than ten miles when citizens reported a large gathering of rebels over the Osage river. We stoped & sent back for reinforcements They arrived 100 — in no. about 3 oclk P.M. when we resumed our march to the river A part crossed at Bennyfields ferry & camped. I was on patroll guard all night

Saturday Aug. 2nd/62

Early this morning I was detailed to make my way with Two others over the river opsite the mouth of Panther creek, with orders to come over the river We could not cross for the almost impenetrable brush & swamp bottoms. In the midst of this we discovered a deap fresh trail bearing to Clear creek. Orderly Dunham¹²⁶ found another trail leading the same way With five men he followed it Eight miles. He found twenty five rebels taking breakfast They cut short & beat a hasty retreat.

The Orderly as well as our party reported what we had seen

The whole command moved on after them, untill we come to the edge of timber on Clear creek. Here the rebel pickets were driven in & the command divided[.] Co.s L.M. & E. under com. of Capt. Heath. took the right, while Co.s B.I. & [blank] After scouring the timber for a mile we came

¹²⁵ Captain Caldwell of Company I is again miscalled *Colwell*.

¹²⁶ Edwin A. Dunham of Company M held the rank of 1st sergeant at this time and later was promoted to 1st lieutenant, which rank he held until his discharge, on March 31, 1865.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 69.

very suddenly upon the rebels. Capt. Heath very rashly gave the command to charge. Which was done in a gallant manner. The secesh had a trap set for us, and more than half the com. including Co.s L. & M. rushed in it.

It was a perfect gauntlet (down a lane & round a corner). The shot flew like hail, but the dust saved us in a great degree more than half the men went through and nearly every man or horse bore the marks of rebel shots. Twas here that the most of our men fell. The few that passed through were headed by Capt. Heath. I was among them. We were ordered to rally & recharge which we were about to do, when Two or three vollies dismounted, (I believe) every man but myself & one other wounding the Capt. in three places. The fence was thrown down and the boys with Lt. Berryman¹²⁷ went to join Capt. Colwell on the road.

In the mean time, the boys that were dismounted in the lain & those that were not led in the trap, were doing good exicution from behind the fence.

Capt. Colwell came up but after a few moments, he ordered a retreat. The rebels did *far* out no. us, & were concealed in the brush. Still with the courage our boys possessed they could have whiped twice their no. The rebs thought they were whiped & left for parts unknown. about the same time we retired to the prairie (Their move was unknown to us) We did [not] go after our dead & wounded untill nearly night The officers would not let us untill some of the boys went down privately & found they had left. They sent for reinforcements, & took a position on the prairie some half mile from the field of battle We found our loss in killed & wounded was Twenty — mostly from Co.s L.M. & E. Co. L 10. — Co. M. 7. — Co. E. 3 —

¹²⁷ "Lt. Berryman" must have been Lieutenant Thomas A. Bereman of Company E. He eventually rose to 2nd battalion major (February 15, 1865), and resigned on April 7, 1865.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 34.

The rebel loss said to be eleven killed — several wounded. The wounded that were taken off the field during the fight were sent to Butler Thirty miles, while the others were taken to the nearest house¹²⁸

I was detailed for Picket guard at night

Sunday Aug 3rd 1862

The sight that passed yesterday made a sleepless night. Nothing transpired on guard. The reinforcements came in from Butler at Sun-rise. We expected to pursue the enemy but instead the Col. ordered a march to camp. After burying our dead, (Which was done by wrapping them in blankets & placing them all in one grave) a detail of eight men from each of the six Co.'s was sent up Clear creek — to continue the scout, or purpose first planed.

I was with them. We marched about Fifteen miles & camped on a high mound in a prairie country for the night. good accomodations.

Monday Aug. 4th 1862

We marched to Balltown on the Osage. Camped at Wilsons about a mile north of town. Traveled about twenty miles. Wilson a "*Union man*" but charges exorbitant prices for

¹²⁸ The report of Colonel Fitz Henry Warren on this engagement at Clear Creek (about two miles from Taberville, in St. Clair County) on August 2nd, in general bears out the description of the fight given by Gulick. Captains Heath and Caldwell, with only 135 men, came upon a strongly posted body of from 300 to 500 guerrillas, against whom Captain Heath's detachment attempted a flanking movement. In so doing they encountered the ambush mentioned by Gulick, and had to run a gauntlet of murderous fire, which killed four men and wounded nine, including Captain Heath. In the meantime Captain Caldwell's sixty men, dismounted by the enemy's fire, moved around to Heath's position and peppered the rebels from behind a rail fence. When the united Union force of a little over 100 men was ready to move forward for an attack, it found that the vastly greater Confederate detachment had fled. A rebel prisoner, Captain Clarey, admitted that they had lost 11 killed and 18 wounded. —*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XIII, pp. 200, 201.

everything he sells to us. The boys made it up by steeling "or reaching". *I was on guard.*

Tuesday Aug. 5th 1862

After a march of twenty miles we arrived at Camp. (Butler) We have had quite a pleasant time during the last scout. took some prisoners — or *bushwhackers* The weather was pleasant or I would have fared slim as I had loaned my only blanket to the wounded at Clear creek

When we were in camp we learned Capt. Ankeny had gone down to Montevallo He came in just night & reports that 1500 rebels occupy Montevallo When nearly their they come out to meet him & tried decoy which did not succeed as Capt. is very wily. It was expected they would persue. Our camp was in quite & [an?] excitement. Every man was in the saddle & posted in lines of battle around camp. No enemy appeared.

Wednesday Aug. 6th All tired standing so much guard last night a party went to Ft. Scott for reinforcements. All quiet except crying women when the prisoners were started for Jeff. City Many will never be permitted to return after trial. hard customers

Thursday Aug 7th 1862

This morning preparations were made to move the whole command to Clinton.

It is expected that the rebels will attack us under Com. of Col. Coffee¹²⁹ & Haze¹³⁰

At 7 P.M. we took up our line of march for Clinton. Our whole command & train were two miles in length. We ar-

¹²⁹ Colonel Coffee was quite prominent in Confederate guerrilla operations in Missouri and Arkansas.

¹³⁰ Probably Hayes, some subordinate of Colonel Coffee.

rived at Johnstown about 3 oclock Friday morn, in the timber at this place a number of bushwhackers or guerrillas fired on us. fortunately only one horse was killed. The fire was promptly returned, & a hundred riflemen dismounted & scoured the woods. Rebels fled. We arrived at Clinton at 9 A.M. of _____

Friday Aug. 8th with out any more adventures. Was about town nearly all day when we moved out about three miles — on grand river where we established our camp.

Two pieces of the 3rd Ind. Battery arrived from Sadalia

Saturday Aug. 9th 1862

I was about camp resting myself as well as horse. Just night a part of One hundred men started out on a reconnoitring trip they are furnished with all the Sharps rifles at our disposal Six & seven to the Co. I wrote a letter home, during which time an unfortunate Peanut & Lemonaid dealer was robed of his stock unknown to him, although it was before his face, done by the ever adventurous soldier

Clinton Mo. Aug. 9th/62

Dear Mother

I recd. your paper a few days ago, by it you said you had recd. my letter. So I expected a letter at this place by the last nights mail. *It did not come.* I began to think you (I mean the folks at home) had become very negligent. I should not take the trouble to write *myself*, had we not gone through so many changes and so much trouble since I wrote you last.

I thought you might hear of our fight¹³¹ &c, and be

¹³¹ "Our fight" was the skirmish at Clear Creek described in the journal entry for August 2nd.

troubled about me I will relate to you the circumstances that have happened since the first of Aug. Friday Aug first I was Detailed with Four other from our Co. & as many from each of the six Cos. here to go on a scout South West We had gone about Fifteen Mile when we met some citizens who reported more than a hundred rebels gathering on or over the Osage in our direct course. We sent back to Butler for reinforcements. they came about Three oclock P. M. One hundred Twenty strong. We now had 150 men. We marched to the Osage where we encamped for the night. (I come on Patroll Guard so did not get much sleep.) About sun rise we (that is the guard) discovered a large trail from the Timber below us about Four miles, leading to Clear creek In the mean time Our Orderly Seargeant with Four men discovered another trail going the same way. he followed about Six miles when suddenly he came to a house where Twenty five were geting breakfast The rebels run left breakfast and other things in great haste The Orderly now reported to the command. The whole Com. now moved on in great haste after them (I got some of the breakfast that was prepared Twas about all I had too) We come to the Timber on Clear creek about Ten oclock A. M. There They divided the command. Capt. Heath of Co L. took Cos L. M. & E and made a Detour to the right in the Timber. Capt. Colwell of Co I. remained with Cos. B. I. & K outside until the atack commenced. After we had been in the Timber about half an hour we Drove in the Pickets The order "*Charge*" come, & away we went Cos L. and a part of M. in the advance. The Enemy were in the brush each side of a lane, and in and around a house. They had a Trap set for us and all the advance guard *my self* included rushed in The rebels poured shot in us from all Quarters *like hale* nearly all the men lost in the engagement fell here Twas like runing

the Guantlet About half of us went through The rest fell back to take a position behind the fence Freds horse threw him & he took a position behind the fence When we had gone through down to the end of the lane Cap Heath who was then shot in the arm tride to rally the men to charge the brush (I had shot twice in passing through. Came very near being dismounted as my horse jumped on a dead horse, but had not received a scratch on my person or horse I was the last or nearly the last man through)

We were geting straight and ready for a charge When Two or Three vollies from the Brush Dismounted I believe every man but Sargeant Colter of Co. E. & myself. Capt Heaths horse was shot and he wounded in the Thigh. Not so Many men or horses were wounded as I at first supposed. Many men were thrown their horse were frightened. We then had orders to take down the fence and go round the field and Join Capt Colwell command. My horse leaped the fence and I rode up to get some more shots at the rebels I was soon discovered and as I was alone and exposed I went back to overtake Cap Heath to go around and help Colwell. But Just as we came around (Lt. Berryman in command Capt. Heath taken to the first house with some of the other wounded) to the other side of the Battle Ground Cap Colwell was comeing out, the fight at an end. We found out to our sorrow that the rebels had from Three to Four hundred And that it was a dificult thing to disloge them We came out as I said formed in line of Battle. & after geting water for us all and takeing care of the wounded that we had brought off the field and fooling around, it seemed to me an unnecessary long time We went back to the field but they were gone & we found our dead and wounded in a miserable state The rebels had left in great hast they undoubtedly expected us to charge on them again We supposed they had only fell back to take a new position

so we did not give chase, but sent in to Butler for reinforcement We brought off our dead & wounded Which we found to be Four killed & Fourteen wounded From our Co. (or Twenty men engaged) There was One killed & Five wounded From Co. L. or Twenty men engaged There was Three killed & Seven wounded From Co. E. or Twenty men engaged Two wounded The only wonder is to me that every man that run the Guantlett *as it were* was not shot. You see that the number of killed & wounded in the Cos *vary* as they entered the fight Co. L first M next then E. The rebels made very poor *shooting*, but then it was such a cloud of smoke & dust that we were in they could not take good aim. I feel I was very fortunate I never received a scratch nor lost anything Fred came out all right himself but, The rebels got his horse and saddle I think there will be some arrangements mad to save him the loss It is too bad he had just got them payed for Isaac was not in tho

At night we took up our position on the Pararie. I was on guard again. But I might as well been for the excitement of the day made a sleepless night for many of us. I did not feel my self in any danger neither did I have any strange feeling during the fight *if any* they were all after ward. Next morning the reinforcements arrived but on examination the rebels had left the country for good and all but Forty men returned to camp I was one of that number We continued out Three days went up on the Little Osage & around toward the Kansas line then to Butler. I was on guard every night but one. What time I did sleep however was with out a blanket on the Ground I give My *Little Red Blanket* the only one with me, for the use of the wounded boys I forgot to say the killed were burried with their blankets only wrapt around them I shall never forget the sight nearly every man killed was shot in the face.

The rebel loss was reported Eleven killed When we arrived in Buttler we found that Cap Ankeny had gone out with One hundred men to reconnoitre the country south west. He run in about Fifteen hundred Rebels near Montwallon he had to retreat double Quick It seems since the late act ordering all men of the State to Join the Mo. state Troops the Majority of the citizens left & Joined these small bands and they have concentrated have Joined Coffee, Hase, & other rebel leaders in this part. Many Troops from the South have come up & it seems they are about to over run this portion of the State They have taken several small posts & even threatened ours. Our Regt was obliged to abandon Osceola & Butler Two nights before we left Butler we were mounted on the outskirts of Town expecting a fight all night But they did not dare attack us then On leaving the Post at B we burned all that we could not carry with us. We were all night and part of yesterday fore noon comeing here. At Johnstown we were fired on by the bushwhackers none hurt. One horse killed. We have been reinforced here by Three or four Cos of State Troops and Two pieces of the 3rd Ind. Batory We intend to hold this place until we get reinforcements then we will go out to fight these rebels around here I have written to much all ready concerning this affair. I feel miserably tired have been on guard or on a march Seven nights out of Eight

I suppose by the time you get this Drafting will be in opperation John Schuyler undoubtedly will have to go Tell him he can come in this Co if he wants to I do wish he would Tell him to write concerning it There is a talk of our going to Jeff. City Our Col. has been promoted to Brig. Gen. I here he has to take up his head Quarters their Isaac is here he says he will not writ until he gets

some letters. Do some of you write I have written in great haste so excuse all errors

Your Aff. Son

W. O. Gulick

I send some flowers in this that I picked in the yard on and near the battle Ground

W. O. Gulick

Sunday Aug. 10th 1862

The scout of yesterday report the rebels at Osceola. Thirty men from each Co in the Regt. were detailed to go with Col. Warren Com. to Osceola. It was well understood to fight Coffee (Since Coffee turned up our Regt has consentrated here Clinton) But he left in hast at our approach on the morn of the 11th We took breakfast at Osceola Then as their was no show for a fight we returned to Clinton where we arrived just night Coffee outnumbered us but we had artillery consequently he was afraid & left the first cannon shot It is said he had sent his wife to our camp to ascertain if we had artillery it may or may not be so.

Tuesday Aug. 12th 1862

I wrote a letter to John Schuyler sent it by Lt. Crosby as he together with all the boys that were wounded, went home on furlough

E. P. Iden¹³² of our Co. is a prisoner with the rebels He left the party that went to Ft. Scott on the 6th to have a spree.

Rebels are quite numerous, our scouts and dispatch bearers are chased whenever out. Nate Gordon¹³³ came

¹³² Edward P. Iden had been in trouble before. Formerly a corporal, he had been reduced to the ranks on March 23, 1862. He reënlisted on February 22, 1864, but deserted on July 22nd of the same year at Davenport.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 105.

¹³³ Nathan Gordon, of Company M, came from Lyons to enlist as a wagoner, on October 15, 1861. He served throughout the war, becoming a sergeant be-

back to Co. he has been home on furlough. had his arm broken the fourth of July.

Wednesday Aug. 13th 1862

Was about camp all day. A party of 100 men went out on a scout. I hear that a party of militia went with them

This Thursday morning a detail of 20 men from each Co. of our Regt. also some of the 1st Mo. Cavl that are encamped here were sent out in different directions with instructions to concentrate if the enemy was found & give them battle. Co.s E. K. & M. were together under Com. of Lt. Barns of R. Co. Our direction was north west We traveled about 20 miles across the country regardless of roads then lay on the prairie for the night. I was posted out as guard.

Friday Aug. 15th 1862

After a march of five miles we took breakfast. Moved on a mile farther to Dayton, where there was about 25 guerrillas They made some show of fighting but soon run & joined with Maj. Gower's command about Two ocl'k P. M. Then marched to Harrisonville where we camped for the night. We found about Forty rebels in town. They left double quick with *some cold lead* flying after them. We were now fairly on the track of Coffee who it is reported has 3,000 men.

The citizens are in a great state of alarm It is amusing to hear the women tell their stories, as they crowd the streets around us They say they were threatened to be taken as prisoners & robed by the rebels. Their Joy knew no bounds when we came in & released their men.

Saturday Aug. 16th 1862

This morning the Col. who had been round by Butler

fore its close.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 85.

came in. We now have 600 men the Col. Commanding them, & Two pieces of the 3rd Ind. Battery. At about Eight oclock A. M. we took up our line of march on the trail of the rebels We captured several prisoners Two fishermen they had just enough fish for *supper for our mess*. The boys begin to trade horses. We crossed Big creek where the rebels had camped two nights before. We camped Two miles farther at Rose hill city as usual slept on the ground without shelter

Sunday Aug. 17th 1862

We were on the move by four oclock. We heard at Kingsville that the rebels had fought & whiped Col. Foster¹³⁴ with Six hundred state militia capturing the two pieces of artillery he had.

We marched on to Lone Jack¹³⁵ Crossed the battle field that was nearly in the town, formed in line of battle. The rebels were half mile off forming also. We expected a fight *sure*.

We heard of our reinforcements Seven miles back We found the position we occupied was not a good one (too easily out flanked so we fell back nearly a mile, on an eminence Sent out reconoitreing parties to find the position of the enemy. In the course of two hours we learned they were passing round our right in full retreat south. Our reinforcements under Gen. Blunt¹³⁶ & Saloman¹³⁷ Two

¹³⁴ Probably Colonel J. W. Foster, Union army.

¹³⁵ Lone Jack is a small village about 30 miles southwest of Kansas City, Missouri, in the opposite corner of Jackson County. General Warren's command on this march from Clinton had taken an indirect route by way of Dayton and Harrisonville, Cass County. The object of this march was to form a junction with General Blunt's forces for the pursuit of guerrilla bands in this neighborhood.

¹³⁶ Brigadier General James G. Blunt, in April, 1862, had assumed command of the Department of Kansas.

¹³⁷ Brigadier General Salomon coöperated with General Blunt in western

thousand strong came in. (Their command consisted of the 2nd Ohio Cavl 6th Kansas Cavl. The 9th Wis. & some Kansas Inft. & one Co of the end Ind. Battery six pieces of Cannon.)

This command was much fatigued had to rest & feed. While Col. or Gen. Warren with our Com. went double quick to cut them off in their retreat. We came near doing so Seven miles out But the night set in dark & stormy could not see them so they made their escape by passing close around us, and gained several miles We were allowed to rest ourselves by laying on the wet ground holding our horses. passed a very rough night

Monday Aug. 18th 1862

Long before day we were on the move marched on their trail to Kingsville.¹³⁸ Here the whole command joined us also about fifteen hundred men & four cannon under command of Col. Cloud.

After using the last of our rations for a scanty breakfast, we made a force march all day. Our advance skirmished with the enemies rear. Was rainy so we camped about dark. Had nothing but fresh *beef & green corn* for supper. I thought might as well die by eating as to starve to death, so partook of the fare with a relish not but a soldier placed in similar circumstances can think of

Tuesday Aug 19th 1862

We force marched all day on green corn & beef.¹³⁹ The

Missouri operations at this time. He was an inconspicuous and little known officer; the same applies to Colonel Cloud, who worked with him.

¹³⁸ Kingsville is in western Johnson County, Missouri, some 15 miles west of Warrensburg, the county seat.

¹³⁹ In the course of less than three weeks this detachment of the First Iowa Cavalry under Brigadier General Warren marched over 300 miles in

rebels fa[i]rly stampeded skirmished with theirs They crossed the river Osage at Taperville, four miles beyond. our advance had quite a skirmish with their rear guard killing several of the rebels. A no. of our boys were wounded. We camped near Taperville.¹⁴⁰

Wednesday Aug 20th 1862

We followed the enemy Ten miles farther Then as our men were nearly starved out and going still farther from camp at Clinton Gen Warren with our command returned Camped four miles north of Taperville Gens. Blunt & Saloman & Col. Cloud kept up the chase as they were not going away from their post at Ft. Scott

Thursday Aug 21st 1862

Last night had a heavy shower as we were on the ground minus shelter no wonder we were soaked. But fortunately soldiers are *tough* so did not mind it All was forgotten when we arrived at Clinton and partook of a square meal on rations that were sent from Sedalia to meet us. We found our camp & all the Stores had been moved from Clinton to Sedalia since we had left as they were afraid of an attack during our absence & their weakness

Friday Aug. 22nd 1862

We were about Clinton not knowing what to do. Sergeant Hodges¹⁴¹ came through from Calhoun — informed us that

pursuit of rebel guerrilla bands before returning to Clinton on the 26th of the month.— *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 9.

¹⁴⁰ Taberville is in St. Clair County, Missouri.

¹⁴¹ An interesting fact concerning Sergeant Clark Hodges of Company M is that he was reduced to the ranks at his own request — reason not given — on January 6, 1864. He was mustered out at the end of his term of service, on September 9, 1864.— *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 103.

a part of our Co. as well as Regt. were with Gen. Totten¹⁴² Expecting to go south on an expedition against the rebel Gen. Rains. This would suit me, but we may go to Sedalia

Sunday Aug. 24th 1862

We are living here at Clinton without shelter or any of the conveniencies of camp Still we are as happy as you pleas with plenty of mellons & peaches

Clinton Henry Co. Mo.
Co. M. 1st Ia Cavl Aug 27th

Dear Sister Cynthia

I have just returned from a Ten day Scout & found your letter had been waiting for me Five days. Things here have undergone quite a change during the present month. And the Secesh have been very active as well as *ourselves*. We had quite an interesting Time on the last Scout. A great cry and but little fighting

While the better half of our Regt. were makeing the Rebels Skedadle before them the other part in camp took fright and left for Sedalia. However holding this Post with as much Government Stores as there was here, was undoubtedly a little dangerous. Though They ought not left in the hurry they did They Burned a great quantity of Provisions & clothing

Fred was here and availed himself of the opportunity. Cast off his old Garment and secured himself a new Uniform. He was so thoughtful as to get me a pair of Pants. I have not seen him since I came in, as The Capt¹⁴³ with a

¹⁴² Brigadier General James Totten, Captain of the Second U. S. Artillery, who distinguished himself by valiant work against superior numbers at the battle of Wilson's Creek (August 10, 1861), must be the man referred to. The only other possibility would be Major General Joseph G. Totten, Chief Engineer of the U. S. Army, which is highly improbable as his work was mainly in the East.

¹⁴³ W. H. Ankeny was still Captain of Company M when this was written.

detail from this Regt. Fred included went to take Gen. Totten Amunition. He is or was at Osceola. The detail is expected back soon Gen. Totten passed through here with about Five thousand men last week, it is said that Reins [Rains] & Coffee (whom we chased on the scout and whom I will tell you of Presently) have joined forces and are marching north.

Totten will give them a sweet reception Undoubtedly he will receive reinforcements & Our Regt may be called for I shall be glad to go, as Scouting & Fighting suits me better than laying around Camp. (Missouri suits me very well now since there is something to do I shall not want to see other parts untill this is cleaned out)

In regard to the Scout you must not expect full details as it would be quite tedious to relate. It seems the quiet Union men you spoke of & many that had taken the *oath* since the late order to show their colors have joined together under the Rebl Colonel Coffee. Some Four or Five thousand in number. They intended to make a descent on Lexington as there was a goodly quantity of arms & stores and but few Troops, there. They thought they could capture them and escape south They had to pass up through our Territory consequently, as we have been very watchfull they were discovered. So on the 14th inst. we that is about Five hundred of Our Regt. and Two Pieces of the 3rd Ind. Battery Sallied forth to hunt them after Figureing about Two or Three days we discovered their Trail and followed it north as far as Lone Jack. Before our arrival there we learned they had a severe fight with Maj. Foster commanding Eight hundred State Militia with Two Pieces of the 3rd Ind. Battery the same as with us. The result was the defeat of the State troops. and the loss of both

He resigned exactly one week later and was succeeded by Lieutenant James P. Crosby.

Cannons & Fifty killed many wounded and a number prisoners. The Rebels had about Sixty killed. But as they had two Guns they were better prepared to fight now than ever. We were about Ten hours Too late to assist the State Militia. When within Five miles of Lone Jack We learned that Two thousand Troops from Ft Scott under *Generls* Blunt & Solomon were Seven miles behind us. We now felt our selves eaquel to the enemy and moved on to open the fight as soon as possible. We marched within half mile of the Rebels camp and formed in line of Battle on the same ground the fighting had been done on the day before. The wounded Maj Foster and many others were in a house not Twenty rods from our line. The rebels seemed very active but showed no disposition to attack our front.

In a short time we discovered they were trying to out flank us, and as our position was not a very good one, we retired a short distance on an elevation. The enemy in manouvring around discovered our long line of Reinforcements, comeing in they immediately returned to their camp and comenced a retreat. It was Two hours before We discovered it. When they were in full retreat away on our right. The reinforcements that came in were very much fatigued and had to stop and feed. So our Command Under General Warren¹⁴⁴ Marched out Double quick to head them off. We came near doing so Seven miles out from Town. We were side by side and our Flankers commenced Skirmishing when the night set in very dark & rainy. We could not bring on a general engagment & we dare not follow them for fear of takeing the wrong road. So we stood sit & lay holding our horses all night in rain fortunately I had my ruber coat. Morning came at last and the Rebels were Ten miles south of us. We moved on to Kings Ville. the

¹⁴⁴ Fitz Henry Warren assumed the rank of brigadier general, for which he had been recommended in June, about ten days previous to this writing.

whole command joined us about Sunrise. Also Colonel Cloud with Fifteen hundred men. We now had 3,000 men and Twelve Pieces of Artillery. The Inft. were drawn in Wagons to keep up with the Cavl. We fed our horses and devoured all of our Grub. (We had only taken Five days rations with us) We then Took after the rebels with all hast we over took their rear Guard just night and from that time on We (that is our advance Guard) kept up skirmishing. We followed them from within 20 miles of Lexington about Twenty Miles below the Osage river Then as our command was going too far away from home with out Preparations we came back and Gen. Blunt with his com. followed on. During the Four days skirmishing There was Eighteen rebels killed and only a few of our boys wounded. They kept up a perfect Stampede all the time. Most of the time after our rations gave out we had Green corn & Fresh Beef only, and several days and nights it was rainy and wet

You may think this fare pretty rough, But we get used to it and it just suits us. The chase we gave Coffe reminds me of *Price*, only swifter and of shorter duration, and his final escape without a *Pea Ridge* affare

The 18th Ia inft is at Sedalia and the 19th Ia is expected. is there any body you are acquainted with

It would do me as much good to see some one from home as it would you to see a Soldier from this Co. Furloughs are about played out I guess and those home are returning every day. Mark Tillie is back He says he saw *Father*. It realy did me good to hear so direct from home

I wrote in my last that Lieut. Crosby was going home and would recruit for our Co. He was stoped at Jeff. City but Seargt Mettle and anumber others wounded will or is there by this time. But I learn by your letter that nearly every body have enlisted. It is hard for so many to leave the *home* country. To leave Families & friends. But it is in a

noble cause, and for noble deeds. How proud are we here to learn of Iowas well doing. We expected to see drafting ere this. I am sorry *John & Henry* could not come here. I know a *Cavl* soldier enjoys himself more than *Inft*. It is much easier. I have seen too much *Inft toating pack* on *back* and heavy musket. *Cavl* carry all on their Saddles and are burdened with nothing. They are much the healthiest from this reason when tired of *camp* can mount horse and ride out in the country & get some fruit perchance a good dinner and take the fresh cool air. This we do when ere we choose.

It will come very hard for Weston to be a soldier & many others also. To do as others will, and keep *mum*. To stand regular Guard, & perform soldiers duty generally. I should like to hear from *John & Henry* when they get in their Co. I may have a letter now from some of you as the boys tell me Fred has a letter with him for me.

Dont let Parkes enlist he could not stand it to soldier. I have seen too many young boys broken down. There is no help for a person when once *in*, he has to "*Root hog or die*". In case he *should enlist* let him come to me I could assist him a great deal more than any body else. It is said Our Cos in this Regt will have to fill up to one hundred men, Six or Eight have already enlisted in our Co.

I wish you could have half the fruit we do here. Peaches are ripe and apples are very fine. *Plumbs* remind me of *Shiblies Point*. I had not heard of the fight (if any) at *Kirksville*.¹⁴⁵ But undoubtedly they see some Trouble there.

¹⁴⁵ *Kirksville* is the county seat of Adair County in northeastern Missouri. On August 6, 1862, it was captured by 1000 Union men under Colonel John McNeil of the Second Missouri Cavalry. About 2500 to 3000 Confederates were posted in the village, but were driven out with a loss to the Union force of only 5 killed and 25 wounded. About 200 horses, 40 prisoners, and many arms were taken. At least 150 Confederates are believed to have been killed and wounded.—*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XIII, pp. 211, 212.

as well as *elsewhere*. I was quit[e] surprised at hearing the news from the Potomac when I came in I think something will turn up that we have not heard of yet in that direction. Of late our camp is swarming with Darkies It is Darkie cook, Darkie waiter Darkie hostler & Darkies are becomeing very popular By the way Darkies dinner is waiting and I will have to close

A Scout is talked of this after noon I maybe Detailed so I must be in readiness. If I am not Detailed I shall go out in the country after apples. One has to be very cautious or he will get picked up. Two of our Co have been taken prisoners striped of every thing and then let go.

Pay day will soon come I expect to send some money home for Mother to use for anything she needs she was so kind as to look out for fruit trees on my lots By the way how does everything prosper at home I never hear from the Children. have them write me

Gorham of our Co a friend of mine corresponds with Capt. Johnson he speaks of him as a very fine man

You must excuse all errors and writ soon

Your Aff. Brother

W. O. Gulick

Sunday Aug 31st 1862

I have neglected to write for the last week during which time our Regt. has returned from Sedalia & all camped at the mounds three miles from Clinton. Have had all the apples & peaches could manage. Today we have had Gen. muster for pay