

THE JOURNAL AND LETTERS OF CORPORAL
WILLIAM O. GULICK

[This is the third and concluding installment of *The Journal and Letters of Corporal William O. Gulick*. The two preceding installments appeared in the April and July numbers of THE IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICS. The letters and journal were edited by Max Hendricks Guyer. The original spelling, capitalization, and punctuation have been retained.—THE EDITOR.]

Monday Sept. 1st 1862

Our officers are preparing papers for the reorganizing of our Regt. By the late order we are to have Three Lieutenants Eight Sergeants & Eight Corporals to a Co. The Battallion Quarter masters & Adjutants are mustered out.

Tuesday Sept. 2nd 1862

“It is just one year ago today”

“That I remember well”

I signed my name to the muster roll

And Im satisfied very well

Many changes have taken place since then but life & health have been spared me May the succeeding year pass with as little casuality.

I have been appointed Eighth Corporal by Capt. Ankeny.¹⁴⁶ That I may do my duty is all I desire. They have initiated me in my new capacity by placing me on picket guard — Poorest post on the job.

To mend matters I have recd a letter from Mary & home.

Clinton Henry Co. Mo.

Co. M. 1st Ia Cavl Sept 7th

Dear Cousin Mary,

Your neat little letter including a few lines from Mother

¹⁴⁶ According to the *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers*, Vol. IV, p. 86,

came very safely to me and it as all letters from home met with a hearty welcome.

It seems a long time between your letters. I hope you will never wait so long again. But do as a *Dear little cousin should do*, write very often. You must not think because the rest write, that will suffice for in fact you all write so different that should you all write the same day each and every one of your letters would be very interesting

It is just one year ago today since I left home and friends to go to the wars.¹⁴⁷ The time seems very short since I bade you all farewell, picked up my satchels and took the cars from *Old Low Moor*. I have passed through a great many senes & changes and have come out all on the Square I am very thankfull for my health & life. May I only be as successful and have my health for the next year as I have for the past. I suppose ere this You have been brought to the trial of a final parting with the boys Henry & John, & may be *others*, of my relatives that have enlisted Since you wrote. It must call forth all your courage & energies I am glad you all showed yourselves brave enough to give consent & hope you did not get faint hearted & regret their going. If Henry & John gets along with Soldiering as well as I do they will never be "sorry they *larnt the trade*" I should like very much to be home & would like to have all who are now engaged in this cruel war with their own friends. But I never could stay at home as long as my Brethren were in the field. I would not be a citizen in times of war. Nor a Soldier in times of Peace.

There is but little to do here at present. Though no body Gulick received a further promotion to 7th corporal two days later (September 4th).

¹⁴⁷ It seems curious that Gulick does not mention in this letter his successive promotions within the previous five days to 8th and 7th corporal. It certainly indicates a becoming modesty and sense of proportion on his part.

knows how soon their maybe. We have reconoitreing parties out nearly every day, but I beleive they report all quiet. There is some talk here of the Gun Boat service. And geting transfers. I most beleive I would go myself if I could get a transfer I think I would have so much more experience by so doing. But there is nothing certain in regard to it yet. We have so many camp rumors it is difficult to tell what to beleive.

I was out today after Peaches had all I could eat then brought in camp about half Bushel. By the way I ate one for you all around then repeted the operation and was in the act of Doing so again when I found myself *incompetant* for the *job*. (Dont think I am pigish) I wish I could send you some. If I can go to Sedalia I will try to send you a box. You spoke of a great many things all of which I would like to be home to enjoy, such as Plumb picking, the last day of school, Emmas Piano & c But a furlough is out of the question at the present time.

You speak of *Pet* I had almost forgotten her. She must be quite a horse. I wish you had a Pony to learn to ride. there are some very nice ones in this country. I was glad to hear your Black Calf was doing so well. Why Mary you will have a cow before you are aware of it. Our Regt has lately been reorganized under the new order. Giving us, Three Lieut. Eight Seargeants, instead of Six & Eight Corporals as usual. Mrs. Wilkes says in her letter to Fred she had an exelent visit at Mrs. Gulicks. For gracious sakes dont make a public thing of my letters. You know I never take any pains with them when I write. By the way has Price gone to the war or is he at Eden [Iowa] Tell me all the happenstances have Parkes & Woody write They scarce ever write They say the Pay master has arrived if so we will get our Pay tomorrow There is Fifty two Dol. Due me. I owe about Twenty Isaac was here today is as

hearty as ever likewise Fred. My supper of Stewed Turkey is waiting for me so I will not bother you more

Very truly Yours

Billie

Saturday Sept. 13th 1862

I am on guard today weather fine For the last ten days I have neglected to write in fact nothing has occurred unusual or worthy of note except A large scout went out to attack rebels on the Little Osage, b-u-t — b-u-t didn't find them. We recd pay Thursday. \$50.80 was our due. I payed all my debts & with but few exceptions recd all that was due me from the boys

War news from the east rather discouraging Maryland invaided¹⁴⁸ Still my confidence of future success is undisturbed

Saturday Sept. 20th

The week has passed as usual. A detail went to Sedalia has not yet returned

This morning at Eight oclock we took up our line of march to Springfield.¹⁴⁹ We marched about 20 miles & camped Six or Eight miles from Osceola Some straglers in rear of column were fired on by the guerrillas at Grand river. A sergeant from Co. A. was killed The detail to Sedalia just come in they were also fired on by the same Guerrillas fortunately no harm done.¹⁵⁰ Sergeant Tow-

¹⁴⁸ This refers to Lee's drive through Maryland after the second battle of Bull Run, ending in the repulse of the Confederates at Antietam.

¹⁴⁹ "On the morning of September 20th, all the sick who were unable to march having been ordered to Sedalia, in obedience to orders the regiment, Colonel Gower in command, left Camp Warren [Clinton] and took up its line of march to Springfield, distant one hundred miles south of Clinton".—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, p. 79.

¹⁵⁰ Attacks at the crossing of the Grand River are verified by Surgeon Lothrop. The "detail returning from Sedalia", two ambulances in charge

send¹⁵¹ sent one of them to his long home. Weather fine.
roads good Forage scarce

Sunday Sept. 21st 1862

We crossed the Osage river at Osceola Marched to within Six miles of Humansville camped in a fine meadow Used new corn for hors feed Our rout was over a continuation of rocky hills

Monday Sept. 22nd 1862

Humansville a small town in a stony country, & where the state troops had a fight some time since passed.¹⁵² We changed our direction west toward Stockton. Camped three miles east of said town on the Sauk river

Tuesday Sept. 23rd 1862

As usual we started at five oclock A.M. Stockton the County seat of Cedar Co. is quite a fine town pleasantly located on a fine high but rather stony hill.

We camped at a splendid spring six miles south of Melville a small town "by the wayside". A forage train was out here from Springfield. We have marched twenty five miles. roads very rough.

of Surgeon Cochran, not only sustained no loss themselves but wounded one man and killed one horse of the bushwhackers. Lothrop states that "Corporal Van Hook of Co. A [was wounded] while absent from the command".—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, p. 80.

¹⁵¹ "Towsend" was Solomon Townsend of Company M, ultimately its captain (January 4, 1865).—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 190.

¹⁵² A small skirmish between a detachment of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry under Major Samuel Montgomery and some rebels under Colonel Coffee (August 12, 1862) resulted in the Confederates being put to flight with a loss of 5 killed and several wounded. Not one Union man was killed and only one, Major Dale, was wounded.—*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XIII, p. 230.

Wednesday Sept. 24th 1862

We marched five miles & camped on a rough hill called *Rattlesnake* & near a small stream, to await orders We are 25 miles west of Springfield, Ten east of Greenville & Thirty miles north of Sarcoxie

I am on guard today & night still found time to go out & gather grapes which abound. they are the finest & best I ever saw for uncultivated.

Friday Sept. 26th 1862

We lay over yesterday. This morning took up our line of march, as usual at five o'clock. We had gone but three miles when a report came that fifty Guerrillas were encamped Ten miles distant. A party of fifty men was called for from our Regt. I volunteered to go. When within half mile of the place we dismounted and went in on foot. We all expected a fight, but Lo, & behold! the enemy had fled we now made tracks to our Regt. which was thirty miles distant. We arrived where they were camped about ten o'clock P.M.: (At Pond springs Ten miles S west of Springfield hungry & tired after our fruitless scout

Saturday Sept. 27th 1862

We came in Springfield ten miles distant. This is a splendid location said to be the summit of the Ozark Mt. the town has been quite flourishing in its time of peace. Some very fine springs good farming tract for several miles any direction from town.

Springfield,¹⁵³ Green Co. Mo Sept. 27th

Dear Sister Emma.

You will undoubtedly be surprised to hear from me from

¹⁵³ This concentration at Springfield, as we shall see presently, was preparatory to carrying the war into the enemy's country. So far Arkansas had mostly escaped invasion, except for the Union victory in March at Pea Ridge, which the victors were not then in a position to follow up. Springfield, which

this famous Town. We have just arrived here after a weeks hard marching. I recd your letter the morning we left Clinton, had not time to read it untill we got on the march. We were so busily engaged packing. We recd marching orders quite unexpectedly, consequently we were not very well prepared.

Our rout here, has been quite a circuitous one, by the way of Greenfield. I suppose it was on account of forage being scarce The country from Osceola is pretty rough & as we gradually rise the Ozark Mts. I am reminded not of Mts. but old York State & Schoharie hills. This is the summit of the Ozark, but quite a level tract of country well watered & timbered. I think it must be very healthy. as for the Town it has been quite flourishing but it is all military now Even the Citizens are obliged to work on the fortifications. & The Stores are only open from Twelve untill Two oclock. I spent an hour down town this afternoon but could not learn much that would be interesting to you. The 18th 19th and 20th Iowa Regts. are here I have not had time to seem [see] them yet. Though some of the boys have found acquaintences among them. Oh how I wish the 26th¹⁵⁴ or Clinton County Regt. would come here before we leave. What a *glorious old time* we would have I hope they will come and *join our Brigade*. I learn since we come here that we belong to Gen. Dyes¹⁵⁵ Brigade composed of the 1st Ia. Cavl. 20th Ia Inft The 57th Ill. Inft. and the 1st Mo. Battery

I suppose our *Bushwhacking* is nearly at an end & we will take our places in the *big fighting* where there is *less dan-*

was to be the base for these advanced operations, was then and is now the metropolis of southwestern Missouri. Its present population is about 40,000.

¹⁵⁴ This reference is, of course, to the 26th Iowa Infantry. In the absence of a specific designation, *i.e.* when written simply "the 26th", *infantry* is the type of service inferred.

¹⁵⁵ Probably Brigadier General Alexander B. Dyer, Union army.

ger & more credit & honor to be gained. I am heartily glad of it. I judge by appearance that a forward movement will take place soon and in the direction of Ark.

There is about Thirty thousand Troops here & at Mt. Vernon. & more expected every day

I forgot to tell you that our rear Guard was fired on coming down here & a seargent from Co. A killed. & also yesterday I was on a scout Four men was called for from each co. I was one to Vol. from ours. we heard of about Fifty Bush(.) Whackers Ten miles off our road and we went to attack them. When within half mile of the reported camp we dismounted & advanced on foot every man expecting a fight, but *lo* on our near approach we discovered that they had fled in haste, and it was to late to persue them. We had to hasten back to our camp which was Thirty mile distant as our Regt. had been on the move all day. It was a very hard ride. We got in camp last night at Ten Oclock. Then came in this place this morning starting at *Five oclock*, our usual time for starting, when on a march

I am glad that the quota from Iowa is filled. You will not be called to part with more friends soon. But if it must be, remember, it is your duty & give them a cheering word I think with the forces we now have we can soon whip them. Our sky that was so *dark* [part of letter torn off] by this war. You know I told you I give my Little red blanket to the wounded boys at Clear creek. Well that was the last I ever saw of it. I thought so much of it I would rather loose Five Dol. Also When Our Regt. left Clinton in such haste & I was not there my Old *Low Moor* Satchel was left, more than half full of trinkets I had gathered from secesh. Consequently the J.H. got it. I have written in such haste I doubt your reading it. If the boys have not gone from Clinton yet tell them to write me & I will do my part also tell them to direct to my Regt. & Co. Via. St. Louis

Monday Sept. 29th 1862

After preparing yesterday for a march in the way of shoing horses — drawing rations &c. & waiting in readiness all day, We took up our line of march S.W. about four P.M. & camped on a small branch Near Wilson creek after marching ten miles.

The 37th Ill. 26th Ind. 18th & 20[th] Ia. Inft. & the 1st Mo. Battery are with us. We form a Brigade under command of Gen. Dye. We lay out, minus supper or horse feed.

Tuesday September 30th/62

We had good horse feed & breakfast Remained about camp all day. just night a scouting party of Fifty men from our Regt. went out to reconoitre. It is reported that a battle is being fought west of Mt. Vernon.¹⁵⁶ We have orders to prepare three days rations & march at Nine oclock in the morning.

Wednesday Oct 1st 1862

Quite rainy this morning Were on the march by ten A.M. Traveled about fifteen miles. Camped within Eight miles of Mt. Vernon at a good spring in the timber.

Forage very scarce. We still hear reports of a fight South of Mt. Vernon. Gen. Schofield Totten & Brown are with. One Battalion of the First Mo. is their body guard

Thursday Oct. [2] 1862

I was on guard while marching but the rear came in late so we were excused from picket.

We passed through Mt. Vernon the Capitol of Lawrence Co. It is quite a fine little town or would be in civil times. We learned some of the particulars of the fight which

¹⁵⁶ Mt. Vernon, the county seat of Lawrence County, Missouri, is about 30 miles due west of Springfield.

which was at Newtonia.¹⁵⁷ We got whiped. As Gen. Brown was too late with reenforcements. As *usual*. Camped where Browns Com. had been on a fine spring creek.

Friday Oct. 3rd 1862

We arose quite early & prepared to march After waiting nearly two hours. Word came that we were to remain all day where we were & march at night.

We learned during the day that Blunt & Solomon had been repulsed at Newtonia. Two days ago, with quite a loss, they attacked a superior force behind fortifications but could not carry them.

Night came at last. We took up our line of march (with three days rations) at Nine P.M. Our whole Com. was along the 1st Ia. in advance. Marched all night in the direction of Newtonia S.W. The inft. kept up well the 10th Ia were fired on three men wounded Commenced raining just before day continued *hard*, for three hours.

As we were in the edge of timber about three miles from town word came that a fight was in progress at town We marched forward double quick formed in line of battle. all hands expecting a fight. After advancing about a mile the whole of the rebel force was in full sight of us, & south of town. While Blunt & Saloman were to be seen on the west of town with their batteries playing on the rebels, Who as we came up, moved south in full retreat. Our command advanced double quick to town only having an opportunity

¹⁵⁷ A small force sent out by General Salomon on September 30th to reconnoiter the enemy's position had encountered a greatly superior force of Confederates at Newtonia and was hard pressed at the time Salomon arrived. It is now noon, and he sent a dispatch to Colonel G. H. Hall, commanding Brown's brigade, for assistance. Near sunset, just as Salomon was being forced to retire by the greater numbers of the enemy, Colonel Hall arrived with 1500 cavalry and some guns, checked the enemy's advance, and effectively covered General Salomon's retreat. About 7500 Confederates and 4500 Union men were engaged at Newtonia.—*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XIII, pp. 18, 19.

to give the rebels a few shell. We took possession of *everything* publick — some prisoners. While Blunt & Saloman persued the rebels — both disappeared in the timber but heard their cannonading all the morning (Rebs had a start, so will escap) After feeding we moved two miles out of town & camped. If the rebs had stood a fight, or if Brown had come up as he ought — Would have made a good thing of the rebels. The different commands all in sight as they were at one time, manœuvring, presented a grand yet terrible sight. Rebel loss about fifty killed & wounded. Ours none¹⁵⁸

Sunday June [Oct.] 5th 1862

We remain in camp This is quite a pleasant tract of country.

Heavy guards out — Horse feed plenty. We are short of rations of all kind but meat this with out salt constituted my supper.

Myself wrapt in blanket I slept as snug and good, as usual out from shelter. Our train came in late

Still remaining in camp this Monday Oct 6th. Are awaiting supplies, I learned that two of our pickets were wounded by Guerrilas last night. Our scouting parties found munitions of war hidden amounting to more than a thousand dol. The expected supply train came in. also about 3,000 troops

Tuesday Oct. 7th 1862. We expected to march Was prepared at an early hour but it proved to be a Division drill, the whole day was occupied & we are still in camp waiting to march, on uncertainties.

¹⁵⁸ General Schofield's report gives the Union loss as 4 wounded; he also states that the loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, "as the fight extended over 30 miles of timbered country. Eighteen of the enemy's dead were left in the road."—*Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XIII, p. 19.

Thursday Oct. 9th 1862

Yesterday was cold and rainy & continued to rain all night. I done but little except write a letter to [blank]

This morning was on the march by Eight oclock A.M. It continued to rain all day was cold & made it very disagreeable. We marched about fifteen miles to Gadfly where we stoped for the night. *did not camp* The roads were so bad our wagons keep up. [?] they were upset, & stuck about five miles back. Consequently we were without supper tents or shelter & it continued to rain all night

The inft. were as bad off as ourselves many of them nearly give out. I saw some poor homesick fellows crying by the way side.

Friday Oct 10th 1862

Weather cold & damp. about noon our teams came up & we commenced living again Remained in camp all day. Forage plenty

Saturday Oct 11th 1862

Our Co. & four others from our Regt. went out on a reconoitreing expedition. We went to Cassville saw a few rebl scouts, but they "Vammoused the ranch" with half doz. shots after them Came back a round about way.

Sunday Oct. 12th 1862

Got quite an early start. We marched with whole command to Cassville. Arrived about noon. Teams kept up quite well This is quite a pretty place located in a pleasant valley, on Shoal creek Tis the county seat of Barry Co.

Roads are getting good. weather fine.

Cassville Mo. Oct. 16th/62

Co. M 1st Iowa Cavl

Dear Sisters,

Your long looked for letters are at hand. Maries

[Mary's] came first by the way of Clinton then yours Emma, by the way of Cairo. Since I wrote from Springfield we have been very busy. As war & war movements are the principal topics of the day it may not be out of place to tell you of the moves & operations of this "out of the way" western division

We left S—— field the next day after writing you, and camped in the vicinity of "Wilson Creek¹⁵⁹ Battle ground", Two days. That is Two Brigades, Under Gen. Totten We then moved on to Mt. Vernon and camped one day By this time we learned that a battle was in progress at Newtonia, Newton Co. We now pushed on until we came up with Gen. Browns Division. Fifteen miles S.W. of Mt Vernon. here we learned that Gens Blunt & Soloman had engaged the enemy at Newtonia and were repulsed as the enemy were superior in numbers and strongly posted in Town. Our whole command under Gen. Schofield¹⁶⁰ moved forward to reinforce Blunt & Soloman We marched all night. (The latter part of which was wet and rainy) as day dawned we were within 3 miles of town Blunt and Soloman opened their Batteries The rebels came pouring out to meet him, but when they discovered our command on their Flank, They took a great scare and commenced a hasty retreat — Our Regt. was in advance and as we came up our Batteries opened upon them at Two miles distant. The town is on the prairie Two miles from any timber con-

¹⁵⁹ The battle of Wilson's Creek (August 10, 1861), where the gallant General Lyon was killed, was only an indecisive Confederate victory, although the Confederates numbered 20,000 as compared to 5000 Union men.

¹⁶⁰ John M. Schofield succeeded General Samuel R. Curtis in command of the Department of Missouri and Kansas some six months later. Not being as radical an abolitionist as Curtis he was less intent upon crushing out all rebel sentiment in Missouri than upon so distributing the available Union troops as to combat most effectively the regular Confederate army. He managed this department in a creditable manner, and later took part in the Atlanta campaign under General Sherman.

sequently all the troops were in sight. As the smoke slowly rolled away from the Batteries it presented the grandest sight I ever saw. The rebels never looked back but soon disappeared in the Timber with shells flying after bursting some high in air. We followed several miles but as it was necessary to feed, the rebels got the start and made good their escape after night. They were Seven or Eight Thousand strong and it is said fell back to Gen. Reins & Hindman in the vicinity of Pea Ridge or Crosshollows. We stoped at Newtonia Several days, then marched to Gadfly thence here, where we have been for Four days As soon as Supplies and reinforcements come in will undoubtedly move on to Arkansas after the rebels. We have about Twenty thousand troops in this part, and Gen Schofield commander.

We live in high hopes of whipping the Rebels if they will only fight I am getting impatient for to have the work done up, the sooner the better. It is rather discouraging to look at the many reverses we have met with. And surely all oweing to our leaders. When will we have efficient leaders. When will the authorities at Washington awake to a sense of their duties. The Presidents Proclimation indicates a change. it is in my opinion just the right thing in just the right time. And well it may be For unless the war is prosecuted differently we might as well make the childs bargain "You let me alone & I will you"

The Soldiers generally recd the Proclimation with great satisfaction. Some few old Fogy Pro Slavery Dem. will only listen to it as a military necessity. Although they like the negro to be a slave. They hate the South and are getting tired of playing with them. I think by the time the war ends they will all vote the Rep. ticket. We had election the other day for Iowa State officers. of cours I did not vote *neither did many of the Dem as they had no tickets*

(a good joke on the Dems.) Yes I was very glad to hear that Uncle Smith had come at last, but sorry Mary and Woody had to be separated although you say it is for the best. I supposed Mary and Woody would always stay with us as my Brother & sister

You both speak of Wares visit & the soldiers dinner, how gladly would I have been there but I could not, still I am pleased to know you had so good time. I suppose ere this. The boys have left Clinton I really hope they may come here though it will be hard times to what they have seen. For example, I only slept in tents Four times from Clinton here. The two days out from Newtonia coming here it rained day and night Our Teams were stuck consequently we lay on the ground with out supper or break fast drenching wet no shelter but the broad canopy of heaven Many times have we fared in this way. And now we are under marching orders and half rations of everything except hard B[r]ead, which is marked B.C. No Mary, we do not have stewed Turkey every day only some times. The new Regs here are quite sickly. But nothing can *faze* such hardened cases as we are. Mary you speak of my being Corporal since you have found it out I will tell you I was appointed by Capt. Ankeny just one year from the time I enlisted. Sept. 2nd. I had rather you would not direct as such however. The vacancy was occasioned by Capt Ankeny resigning Our 2nd Lt. J. Crosby is Capt. now. By the way I have Five Dollars state pay due me and I authorized Capt. Ankeny to draw and pay it to Father Gulick or Wilkes as it was the most convenient If you receive Freds pay give it to Mr. Wilkes and if Wilks receives mine he is to give it you You can use the \$5.00 for any thing you want, it is a present to you all. You need not fear I have money enough besides I have plenty of friends. hereafter I shall send my money home (as my horse and saddle is payed for) and if you have no use for it I will use

it to go to school for I am resolved to devote some time to my education if I survive this war

Tell John I received his letter will ans soon as I learn his direction. I must say well done for Abel and John Gleason I would say unto them "Judas went out and hung himself. Go thou and do likewise."

I saw Mats. likeness Isaac got It look well. Isaac and Fred are as hearty as myself Much thanks to you both for your exelent letters Do not fail to write soon, for soon I expect to be an *Arkansaw Traveler* My love to all

Your Aff. Brother W. O. G.

P. S. It will not pay to send me paper I have stamps and paper plenty Direct my Regt. & Co. Via St. Louis Mo.

Saturday 18th 1862

During the past week their has been four regt. come in (Iowa & Wis. troops) from Springfield also the first Ark. Cavl. Regt. I have recd letters from home and ans. them. Yesterday we moved three miles out of town on the Hertsville road The telegraph is completed to this place.

This Saturday Oct. 18th We took up our line of march for Ark. at Six oclock A.M. Passed through Hertsville at about Ten A.M. (The telegraph is completed as we go or about five miles below this place) Tis a poor shaby town the last in Mo. Near here we enter a deep narrow revine the one in which Curtice [Samuel R. Curtis] skirmished with Price & in which McCullah¹⁶¹ placed all manner of obstructions in the way of our then advancing column.

Since I have seen the many obstacles with which our army had to contend, I can give them more credit for the brilliant victory they gained at Pea Ridge. When within two miles of Pea Ridge we took a road to the right leading over a high ridge Said to be the road that Price came to attack

¹⁶¹ The Confederate general, Benjamin McCulloch, was killed at Pea Ridge.

Curtice army in the rear. We moved Ten miles S.W. & camped on Sugar Creek, had no feed for horses and was not allowed to unsaddle our tired horses. Our wagons came in about mid.night.

Strong guard out tonight. One of our men it is said was *shot* on picket. Also one of the rebels that came in prowling about camp we caught four of them. The enemy is supposed to be close at hand.

Sunday Oct. 19th 1862

We were ready for a march very early but remained in camp all day. I was out two miles after forage A fals alarm went the rounds which caused us to come out in line.

Monday Oct. 20th 1862

Our Co. & one from the 1st Mo were out on a reconoitreing scout. We went S. W. to Bentonville Eight miles. It was here that Seagle¹⁶² had his Head Qr. & was attacked by Price or McCullah. We passed over a part of the road in which he conducted his retreat to Pea Ridge the first day of the fight. Saw the field in which he displayed his strategicle skill by useing blank cartriges to draw the rebels out — then slaying them by hundreds with more than a score of cannon

Bentonville is quite a fare place for the country is a *County seat*¹⁶³

From here we moved ten miles south. But discovered nothing of the rebels. The citizens concur in the report that

¹⁶² General Franz Sigel, a Union officer of German nationality, performed excellent service under General Lyon in the summer of 1861 in helping to hold St. Louis and vicinity for the Union and by his management of the artillery he contributed materially to the victory at Pea Ridge in a later campaign.

¹⁶³ It was the county seat of Benton County, the northwest corner county of Arkansas.

the Rebs. passed the day before. When we returned to Bentonville in the P.M. The citizens told us a Confederate scout had passed through there since we had in the A.M. We came in camp just dark and found everything in readiness for a move. We took a bite for supper of what little we could get at, & fed our horses about half feed corn without unsaddling. During the night we were on rear guard And traveled nine miles east to Elkhorn tavern & Pea Ridge. Passed over the old Battle ground about daybreak of Oct 21st 1862

Continued our march all day Stopping only to feed our horses a few two or three ears of corn at a time & make coff[ee] each man in his tin cup. The march was very tedious as we are yet in the rear of all the transportation. The roads were very rough & mountainous. Camped just after dark on a branch of White river in the Bostons Mts. A God forsaken place indeed. We are very tired as we have marched Thirty six hours without halting for an hour. The infn. stand up well. have traveled about Thirty five miles in the last 24 hours. It is said we are near the rebels. And may wish them God speed the time. We are ready now and can whip them

Wednesday Oct. 22nd /62

It was late last night before we could stretch our weary selves upon the ground wrapt in blankets for repose. And again it was early when the Bugle sounded reveille and time for marching. I found myself the worse by a stiff neck, occasioned by exposure to the rural dampness. We marched all day S.E. Stopped just dark to get supper. Recd dispatches that the rebels at Huntsville had commenced a hasty retreat when they saw our advance guard. So we took a new direction & traveled until three o'clock in the morning when we made a halt for breakfast & waiting for day light. Day soon come & we were off for Boonville double quick

Our Regt. in advance I learned our intention was to cut off a party of rebels at Cross hollows, four miles north of B.ville & surprise a camp three miles south.¹⁶⁴

The plan failed as it seemd when we arrived at the expected camp the rebels had fled in haste.

We were out of rations and much fatigued so returned to Cross hollows where we camped quite late at night after a thirty six hour travel. The inftr were very much worn as well as our selves. No wonder; Seventy two hours travel within only one short nights rest during the time. The supply train came in just night.

Friday Oct. 25th [24th] 1862

The day has been occupied by dealing out rations & clothing. I drew boots the quantity brought was not sufficient for the demand. We hear of Blunts success fighting the rebels. nothing authentic The rebels came in with a flag of truce. We are encamped in the old qr of the rebel Gen McCullah

Saturday Oct. 25th /62

Were surprised this morning at finding the ground covered with three inches of snow & cold wintry weather. just night and as supper was yet over the fire word come for every able man to mount in hot haste his steed, and away We knew not what for. *Minus supper* we set out Our (third) battalion. We went out some twelve miles 4 miles beyond out line pickets & drove in the enemies pickets then posted at Fayetteville.¹⁶⁵ As it proved only a reconoisence, and being assured the enemy were not advancing we returned to camp away after midnight cold and hungry

¹⁶⁴ Booneville, the county seat of Logan County, Arkansas, is south of the Arkansas River and over 100 miles west of Little Rock.

¹⁶⁵ Fayetteville, the county seat of Washington County, adjoins Benton County on the south.

Cross Hollows.¹⁶⁶ Ark. Oct. 26th /62
Co. M. 1st Iowa Cavl. —

Dear Mother

I thought as I had time this *fine Sunday morning* — I would write you a letter, that you might know my whereabouts and also that I would have another letter due me from home. You can't imagine the joy with which letters are received by the Soldiers from home & friends. Away in this wilderness of a country We get no news whatever. I know nothing of the war out side of Our Division have not seen a paper since we left Cassville which was the next day after I wrote Emma & Mary Since then we have been pretty busy. And, that you may know something of True Soldiering I will tell you how we have passed our time in Rack-en-sack. Twenty miles South of Cassville we entered this famous State. Through a long Mountain pass or Defile, in which Ben McCulloch fell(.) [ed] trees and placed all manner of obstructions for Curtis to remove. (Since I have seen the difficulties with which Curtis & Seagle had to contend, I can give them more credit for the Glorious victory they achieved at Pea Ridge)

We camped one day on Sugar creek Five miles west of Elkhorn(-)Tavern and Pea ridge & Six miles east of Benton Ville. The former place Gen Curti(u)s [Curtis] Head Qr. the latter, Gen Seagle [Sigel] — Before & after the battle. The next day Our Co. was detailed to reconoitre S. W. We went to Benton Ville then Ten miles South, discovered nothing of the Enemy untill we came back to B-ville Where a party of the Rebels skedaddled before us. They were out on the same business as we were. As we came in camp at dark We found every thing on the move for the

¹⁶⁶ "Cross Hollows" is not shown by this name on the map; it is not a town, but a strong natural fortification on the old Santa Fe stage route, four miles from Valley Springs, Boone County, where two deep rocky ravines cross each other.

S.E. by way of Elkhorn Tavern. so we had to content our selves with a piece for supper, and fall in as rear guard to the Train. We marched very slow all night & morning found us several miles S.E. of Pea Ridge. We did not stop for Breakfast or Dinner that day. (The understanding was that every man must have his rations with him) fortunately I had some coffee & Hard Bread The coffee I boiled in Tin cup. late at night we camped, after Thirty Six hours Slow but very tedious traveling. We were very hungry and also had to prepare rations for the morrow so it was near Mid night ere we could wrap self in blanket & stretch my weary limbs upon a bed of earth to rest. Before old sol made his appearance We Were upon the road again We marched due South all day. & only stoped by the way side at dark to get supper then continued our march (though West instead of South) at a fast pace untill after Two Oclock when we bivouaced untill early dawn, when our March was again resumed barely giving us Time to boil coffee in cup — about noon we came up to one of the enemies camp they had left about Ten hours before in considerable haste

The Infantry and wagons remained at this place (Boonville) while Our Regt. was sent out to reconoitre We went Five or six miles. came near cutting of [f] Col. Coffee with 250 of his men on a scout He joined his command I suppose.

Our whol division came here Six Miles North of Boonvill to rest and await supplies when we will undoubtedly resume our Southward march. After all our marching we are only Twelve Miles south of Pea Ridge. I was over the road From Benton Vill to Elkhorn on which Seagle conducted his retreat the first days fighting. It was indeed a very difficult rout. I saw the field in which Seagle drew the rebels with Blank cartriges then poured in them such a

murderous fire — [(] I have mentioned Elkhorn several times). The first shell McCulloch Threw struck this building his intentions was probably to kill our commander at the begining of the engagement The country in which the fighting was done is very hilly and rough — finally this whole region is Timbered and Mountaneous. And very thinly settled. What people there are her are strong secesh & very ignorant They will take confederate notes rather than Lincoln Greenbacks. And the joke is they dont know the genuine C.S. scrip. So many of the boys have sent to St. Louis and got Shinplasters struck off at .50cts per \$100.00 and (sell) (trade) them here for their full face and in some cases get Lincoln Green in change —

You may think I have put it on pretty thick in regard to Soldiering. heretofore I have shown the best side out. I have seen harder marching of shorter duration, but none more tedious than that of the last week. Dont think I complain. I am geting used to anything and can enjoy anything as it comes. Yester morning we had about Two inches of snow. I thought this would be a warm country but it is as *cold* I do believe as Iowa

Last night Our Battallion was called out on a reconoi-tering expedition. We went some Ten miles south Discovered the enemies Pickets came back about One Oclock when we cooked our regular Suppr and retired We heard Yester day that Blunt had a small fight and captured six peices of artillery His Division is but a short Distance from here I suppose you get more news in regard to our general movements than I do here as the Telegraph is compleated to Elkhorn And you would get Official reports

Sunday Oct 26th 1862

I arose very late to partake of chicken & pancakes for breakfast. We have two mills running here so we fare

sumptously, in the corn dodge line. I am on stable guard to night — tis cold.

Monday Oct. 27th /62

Was about camp all day untill just night when our Regt. & the 7th Mo. (The able men) numbering about 900 all told were ordered out on a scout. We marched all night & when nearly day light. We struck the enemies pickets & drove them to within half mile of their camp. (during which time we killed one man. He was picket at his own door showed himself *brave* but fool hardie as he continued to fire at us untill he fell dead by his wife & children. the former rent the air with wild cries & shrieks of insanity) We had one horse killed & Two wounded up to this time.

We now formed in a line of battle deployed our skirmishes and commenced our advance. A pretty heavy fire was kept up for more than a hour, during which time we advanced a mile, or up to the main rebel force — who seeing our undaunted courage gave way & comenced a hasty retreat, leaving us in possession of their camp a number of wagons & prisoners. Their force was three times our no, so we did not dare to persue so as to reveal our force, so returned after driving them a mile beyond their camp Our loss was small only 7 wounded, one mortally. The enemies loss 11 killed & several wounded

During the day we heard cannonaiding at Fayetteville. Folten Div. attacked Seven thousand rebels and drove them taking the place with as good success as ourselves, driving the enemy several miles. We marched to Fayetteville & without stoping for supper, we returned to Cross hollows a distance of twenty two miles. We arrived at camp away after midnight very tired after the hard riding & excitement of a day & nearly two nights. Our forage train was fired on today & forage master killed

Monday Morning Oct. 28th 1862

I was obliged to lay by my writing yesterday, as about noon there came a call to *arms*. Our Pickets came dashing in and reported the enemy advancing or at least the guard was attacked by a large party. We had to saddle up and fool around all the afternoon while a part of our Regt. went out to meet the enemy, as they approached the out line pickets post, the rebels fled. It proved to be a large rebel scout I suppose sent out to see what mischief they could do

About Nine o'clock last night all became quiet and we were allowed to unsaddle and retire. I was Corp. of Stable guard last night so did not get my usual allowance of sleep. I begin to think the rebels dont intend to fight us as they always run. Citizens say they are half naked and but poorly armed and judging from the Prisoners we have taken their saying is true. There must be a great demand for socks and Butter nut cloth, as every old woman is knitting and every family is weaving as fast as possible I have seen many flocks of sheep and nearly every one has been sheared this fall. It must be to supply the southern army There is Two good grist mills at this place and we keep them running pretty steady for Uncle Sam. by the way we have corn dodger occasionally

There is considerable cotton raised in this part. The Stalk and pod both look very much like Gympsum [jimpson] so you can get quite an idea of cotton I suppose ere this Woody & Uncle Smith have gone East & also Henry & John have gone to the wars in earnest. It must have been a sad week when they all left. I heard by way of Isaac letter that Henry was Corp. "Bully for him" allowing me to use a Soldiers term. I am afraid he will find it but little better than a Private, only a trifle easier on guard, and much more responsible Tell me where the boys are that I may write, also tell them to write me

I know the boys will often wish they could drop in at home and get a good dinner. I never did *No thats a mistake.* Their is a great deal of satisfaction in thinking that nearly half our time is out, although we all think the war will close with in a year. When you write let me know how everything is prospering for I feel as much interested in your affairs as though it were my own. Write soon My love to all -- Your Obedient Son

W. O. Gulick

P. S. Excuse this pencil writing I could not get any ink. Every thing is very high My pencil cost 25 *cts.*

W. O. Gulick

Wednesday Oct. 29th 1862

Was about camp untill night when Our Co. was detailed on outline picket Ten miles distance. We arrived at our post about ten oclock P.M. a crossing on White river had not been there long when we were fired on and a large party came in upon us. Numerous shots were fired. The river exposed the rebel force to our view as they were crossing and as it was overwhelming we placed a strong rear guard and returned to camp on a walk, reported to head Qr. at three A.M. When a large force was sent out. We had one man wounded in the arm.

Some curious circumstances connected with it, in my mind.

Thursday Oct. 30th 1862

Our Co. went out on picket, again I was detailed with others to go to Springfield with supply train Came back after starting to await for more wagons Will go tomorrow

Sunday Nov. 2nd 1862

Friday we marched to Cassville & camped for the night. The place supports about a half regt. a guard. Keetsville

was on fire as we passed through Our boys fired it as the rebels fired on us from the houses.

Saturday we marched twenty eight miles & camped at Crane creek a regular station for trains.

Today moved in Springfield a distance of thirty miles, & camped in the edge of town. We have a train of nearly one hundred wagons about fifty when as guards.

Monday Nov. 3rd 1862

I was about town all day did not enjoy it a bit Was disappointed at not seeing the 26th Ia regt. as I expected

Springfield Mo. Nov. 4th 1862

Dear Parents,

As I had an opportunity I thought I would drop you a few lines

I came through to Springfield as one of an scout with Supply train yesterday. We will go back or start tomorrow. I lived in high hopes of seeing the 26th Ia here but was disappointed. I had heard they were ordered here, but one cannot depend on what he hears in this Country If I knew the boys were within fifty miles I would take a French furlough (without permit)¹⁶⁷ to see them

Every thing is dull here as only Three Regts. are at this post. I begin to wish my self back to my Co. again although they are in a dangerous miserable country. And I have only been away Five days. Fred & myself were both on the Detail from our Co. We have only Fifty men as guards for our train of 30 wagons. We anticipate a little fun going back as the roads are lined with Bush Whackers. Our Brigad is encamped at Cross Hollow about one hundred miles South from this point. There is Three Gov. Posts

¹⁶⁷ This is reminiscent of the more recent expression used by American soldiers in the World War to denote the same practice — "A. W. O. L." (absent without leave).

between here and there, one at Crane creek one at Cassville and The third at Elk Horns or Pea ridg. just before we came up a party of our men were fired on at Keets ville also the mail robbed. I had the satisfaction of seeing the Town *reduced to ashes* Keetsville is between Cassville and Pea Ridge the last town in Mo.

just after I finished the last letter home Our regt and the 7 Mo. from our Brigade under Gen Heron started out from Camp to attack a rebel camp Five miles east of Fayetteville we marched all night came on their Pickets just before daylight drove them in with considerable skirmishing, and attacked the main body about Three thousand strong An hour Sun. [day] After an hour and half brisk skirmishing the enemy left Double Quick leaving us in possession of their camp and Five wagons some prisoners We followed them some ways but to no purpose Our loss Four or Five wounded one Mortaly ¹⁶⁸ Enemy lost I think Eight Killed a number wounded Our rifles took effect at a longer range than theirs In the mean time we heard the booming of artillery. Totten and Brown had attacked the rebels at Fayetteville seven or eight thousand and completely routed them with success equal to ours

It took us the better part of the night to return to camp. And the next night Our Co was sent out about Fifteen miles to reconoitre and guard a ford on White river We got our Pickets posted at the ford about Ten oclock and in Less than an hour they were driven in by a rebel reconoitreing party consisting of 250 or 300 men We could not hold the place so fell back to camp on a walk numerous shots were fired and one of our Men wounded in the arm. A hea[v]y scouting party was sent out when we reported to Camp just daylight but the rebels fearing something of

¹⁶⁸ Samuel C. Dickerson, quartermaster of the regiment, was the one mortally wounded.— *Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 9.

the kind left. So you see how our time is occupied I anticipate a move ment South as soon or before we get back.¹⁶⁹ I hope we will not delay long. I think the "hotter war the sooner peace", so as willing to push ahead In fact we cannot remain long in a place, the country cannot produce half forage enough for us now, Our poor horses have to take it pretty rough. I have got a pretty tough *Pony* horse, can live on almost nothing.

The weather is quite wintry and the closer we can lay to a fire these night (out to the weather, as we are on this trip) the more comfortable we sleep.

I did not intend to write much this time have not time as I must help load our teams I will send you a paper Published at this place by our former Lt. Colonel Moss. The 1st Iowa for the first time is mentioned in its Columns. It is a long time since I recd a letter from home so do write often and send some news in regard to the war.

Excus all errors My love to all. I am as ever

Your obedient Son

W. O. Gulick

Saturday Nov. 8th 1862

Finds us on Crain creek We moved here from Springfield yesterday, & met the whole army of the Frontir, coming up from Arkansas, except Gen Blunt with about Five thousand Troops. Our Div. Gen Herron is here. While Gen. Tottens Div is 7 miles distance A scouting party went out today Fred, who was very sick last night with Cholera Morbis is much better I was up all night with him.

Weather cold & raw.

¹⁶⁹ The First Iowa Cavalry had, on October 16th, been assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Army of the Frontier. This division was commanded by General Francis J. Herron, in preparation for the invasion of Arkansas.

Monday Nov. 10th /62

We took up our line of march eastward quite early made fifteen miles. Camped on Wilson creek about four miles south of the old battle field Forage plenty.

The Wagon Master of Co D died very suddenly¹⁷⁰

Tuesday Nov. 11th /62

We marched east to Ozark about 15th miles. just to make it interesting we had a drenching rain as we camped, which was in the brush a mile from town There is as many as Ten thousand troops here

Wednesday Nov. 12th /62

We were in camp all day. nothing of special importance occurred.

The 94th Ill. came in from Springfield. This has been my birthday I passed out of my "teens" and did not know it. That the coming year may find me as healthy & as ready for duty as the past, & also that I may improve in knowledge & good morals, is my sincere desire.

Twin Springs, Mo, Nov. 24/62
Co. M. 1st Iowa Cavl

Dear Sister Emma

Your letter came to hand last night & glad was I to get the news from home. Mothers & Cynthias also came in due time, & had I not been very busy since, should have written sooner. When last I wrote from Springfield I said our Division was at Cross hollows & I expected to find them there But for some reason, (I suppose becaus the enemy

¹⁷⁰ The casualty in Company D nearest this date, as recorded by Lothrop, was the death of Private Geo. H. Colville at Sedalia, Missouri, of fever, on November 4, 1862. This could hardly have been the man meant.—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, pp. 421, 422.

had fled) Our Division was on the road to Springfield & we with the Train met them the second day at Crain Creek (half way between Cassville & Spg.-field. All hands camped at this place several days, when we moved to Ozark a small town Fifteen miles South of Spg.-field. The command Stopped here a day or two, & a large party of our Regt went on a Seven day scout. as I was quite unwell at the time I did not go. I cured my self however by going *Fifty hours* with out food, at the end of which time I ate toast and marched all day We moved about Twenty miles on the Rolly¹⁷¹ road and again camped awaiting the return of the scout here we received new orders. It was generally understood that our Brigade was going to St Louis from thence down the river in McClenards Expedition to Texas. We were disappointed, for as I said, new orders had come, and we were sent back as the *Army of the Frontier*. The weather set in very rainy about this time. But still rainy weather has nothing to do with marching orders, & off we started at noon and marched untill midnight. The rain beating down on our Devoted heads with out mercy. (And the worst of it was we were just retracing our steps) Before morn. The scout came in. The rain continued next day and so did we our march untill night, when we brought up on Wilson creek about four miles below the Battle Ground. Here we got fresh orders for we have remained here ever since except makeing a move of Two miles up the creek to Twin Springs for better camp grounds. We arrived here Saturday, yesterday I was *baker for the day*. And today (Monday) I have been *washing* and also visited The old Battle Grounds The marks of that bloody conflict is dis-

¹⁷¹ Rolla, the county seat of Phelps County, Missouri, is about 100 miles southwest of St. Louis. The scouting of the regiment between the 1st and 25th of November covered 154 miles in southwestern Missouri and northwestern Arkansas.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 9.

tinctly visable in-as-much as skulls & human bones lay scattered about the field, and bullets mark nearly every tree. Some as large as my body has been cut off completely by canon shots. Though the canon Shots are not as large or numerous as those at *Pea Ridge*, for there, and *especially* on the Telegraph road trees are mown down as though it were done by the Tornado, the winds strong hand, & even the Telegraph polls are cut slick off by shots. On the centre of this (Wilson creek) field is a huge pit formed by nature which was used for a grave and it is said nearly Two hundred are buried in it The thin covering of Dirt has caved in which expose whole frames to the sight Bones & hair have been pulled out by wolves & c. and lay scatered about I was rather Delicate about touching any thing but *finaly* I *did* pick up a lock of hair from the dirt a part of which I send you as a relict of the many brave solders that fell there.

I also added one stone to the pile that marks the spot where Gen. Lyon fell. I would that all our Gen were as brave as him, and as eager to prosicute the war. Then could one pray for them to be spared and not like him sacrifice There lives for their country But as it is, it would be better if some of them could meet him or a similar fate

I think however the prospects are brightening, & although I always had a great confidence in "Little Mack",¹⁷² I think his removal just, for he was as you say "too slow" We can say more for *him* than Fremont. He was *farely tried*.¹⁷³ Yes we can well see by the election returns who

¹⁷² "Little Mack" was General George B. McClellan, who was removed from command of the Army of the Potomac earlier in the fall. The failure of his "peninsular campaign" against Richmond had convinced many that he was "too slow", as Gulick puts it; and when he failed to follow up his advantage after defeating General Lee at Antietam he was relieved in favor of General A. E. Burnside.

¹⁷³ That is, McClellan had been fairly tried, while it was charged that

or what party have sent the most Soldiers¹⁷⁴ look at Missouri for another example you mention Iowa She has gone Rep, or Emancipation & *her* Soldiers voted The truth is it makes every man an anti Slavery man, or a *detestable black abolitionist* to go a soldiering. I wish all the Dem. had to go.

Tell mother a thousand thanks for her trees She must not hurt her self working. I will ans her letter soon and hope to pay her and all for the many favors done me, for Pay day is said to be here next week. In regard to health I am as well as can be although I was a *little sick my birth day. No wonder, I passed out of my teens,* still I feel just as much of a *boy as ever* Fred and Isaac are hearty but we have had more sickness in our Co last week than ever before Three of our boys Died at the Hospital at Spr. field last week.¹⁷⁵ Makeing four from our Co. by Disease. They certainly had no care Our Capt. says none of his boys shall go away again he will Divid his Ten and purse before it All praise is due him he is a noble man We have to march Tomorrow morn at day break on a five days scout. Every able bodied man is going but we know not where. Will write as soon as I return To you and the boys at Helena. It is geting late this evening so good night Your aff.

brother

W. O. Gulick

P. S. Maj. or Capt. Lefingwell is cashiered¹⁷⁶ and Dishon-

Fremont's removal from command in Missouri had been due to political influences.

¹⁷⁴ The State and Congressional elections of 1862 showed considerable Democratic gains in many northern States, which was naturally discouraging to those who favored the war policies of President Lincoln.

¹⁷⁵ Sergeant Daniel M. Shureman, and Privates George A. Nelson and Jacob Stephenson.

¹⁷⁶ This dismissal occurred on November 10, 1862.—*Roster and Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion*, Vol. IV, p. 117. The exact cause

orably Discharged from the service. My love to all and best wishes to Woody & Mary

Battle Grounds of Prairie

Grove Wash-tn Co. Mo. Dec. 10th¹⁷⁷

Dear Mother:

We have had a great fight, but all of Our Regt. is safe. We were victorious, and the rebels have left.

We left Springfield the next day after I wrote you, and made force marching all the way reinforce Gen. Blunt. Then facing the Enemy at Cane Hill. Our Regt. being Cavl. arived at Blunts Command Saturday night at 12 oclock. 10 hours in advance of Our Brigad or the infantry. That very night the rebels thought to get in Blunts rear to attack him And thus Sunday morning at 7 oclock they run in Herrons or our Brigad four miles in the rear of Blunt & us. Thus the Battle opened at 8 oclock with Herron & lasted untill after dark At noon Blunt with our Regt. in advance attacked their left flank. A volley or two was fired out not to take affect. When the Infantry came up (it was in timber) and went a head, thus we were left to Support them and the artilery. Which proved not very dangerous. I have just came from the battle field. hundreds are yet unburied and this the 3rd day. Tis an awful sight I will

was not given, but drunkenness was strongly hinted at by Gulick in a later letter.

¹⁷⁷ The battle of Prairie Grove, which took place at the locality of that name in Washington County, Arkansas (not Missouri), on December 7, 1862, was a decisive Union victory in that it virtually cleared northwestern Arkansas of the Confederates. As General Blunt's report said, it "practically ended the war north of the Arkansas River." Although outnumbered nearly 3 to 1 by the Confederates under Hindman and Marmaduke, the 2nd and 3rd Divisions under Generals Blunt and Herron routed them with heavy losses. The Confederates are believed to have lost about 3000 of which nearly 1000 were killed, while the Union casualties totalled about 1250. This was the battle of greatest magnitude participated in by the First Iowa Cavalry during the war. Although not in the thick of the combat, it performed invaluable service in flanking, skirmishing, and guarding supply trains.— *Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XXII, Pt. 1, *passim*.

write full particulars as soon as I have time in a day or two.

Your Aff. Son,

W. O. Gulick

The rebel dead I saw at the hospitals & on the field the Fourth day would exceed Two hundred besides many were buried and many yet unburied I did not see. I am led to believe the rebels loss 700 killed & Three times that no wounded *While ours* I think is 250 killed and Seven or Eight hundred wounded. They out no. us but we had the most Cannon, & then they shooting down hill over shot a great deal.

The trees are more cut up than they are at Pea ridge. if you could see it you would *wonder* how a man escaped as nearly every saplin bears the marks of bullets. (The timber is a young growth)

I presume I have consumed more space & time with the details of the fight than is interesting. but unless one writes of the daily occurances with him, he would come up short of a subject as we are ignorant as a heathen here.

We have remained here much longer than I supposed we would. It is said the rebels are south east of Vanburen on the Ark. river. Forty miles distant. Others say they have gone far south of that The time will come I suppose when we will go to see them, where ever they are. *I hope so*, I want to go a head. I have seen enough of Mo. I look for an opening down the Ark. river, possibly we may meet the *26th Ia.* if we go in that direction. We are haveing beautiful weather now. no, not a bit of frost, It has been quite wet & muddy but now it is drying fast. I suppose your Iowegians are enjoying winter in earnest — haveing your sleigh rides & c. Well you may I enjoy soldiering in a warm climate better nor that.

You speak of my being promoted it is a mistake I am only

Corporal, not seargeant You must not let Capt. Ankeny flatter you in regard to myself. I am quite a hard customer Ankeny was a good man however & if he paid 390.00 it is all right. I observed you spoke of a *heiffer* I gave that to you, Mary, so keep it. it is not mine You said you had been on a playing *scout* up to Cynthias. *Most agreeable* scouting I should judge. how I should like a scout of that kind Well I may see such times again by the by only a year & half then I will be home to hear you play that beautiful Piano you speak of

Tell Emma I have not yet reed pay, but as soon as I do will send the money home. I have now \$100.00 due me from Gov. the probability is we will not get pay in this country. Mother says she is afraid my constitution will not hold out for so long a time at such business as this. Why I am more robust, hearty & stronger than ever was before. When soldiering agrees with a person tis well but if not tis killing business.

Poor Fred Toda¹⁷⁸ the German that worked at Ralstons is dead. he died of Chronic Diarrhoea. He was only away from the Co. Three days at our regt hospital near by. When he died the Doct. said nothing but change of climate could help him & he was too weak for a furlough home. The day before his death he told me if he could only live at Mr. Ralstons for a time he should be all right, but he is gone & we mourn his loss as we do the rest of our brave comrads that are lost. Now, Six in no. You inquire where Capt Crosby is from. He was Foreman in the Lyons Fire Co. he was second Lt. & becaus we made him capt Our First Lieut. resigned. We now have a new one to make which will undoubtedly be our Orderly seargeant McDonal.

¹⁷⁸ Fritz Thode, private in Company M, who died at Prairie Grove on December 19th of dysentery, is probably the man meant.—Lothrop's *A History of the First Regiment Iowa Cavalry Veteran Volunteers*, p. 422. This part of the letter must have been written several days after the first part.

I wrote to Henry & John yesterday. Isaac & Fred are well I have some Springfield Papers. I will send if I can get them the boys borrow them so much. Send me some papers. the last we got were rather encourageing in war details. I sent Mother that hair in an other letter.

Tell our folks they had better trade Pet for a Cow it would be more profitable. I would not use any thing but a good horse if I were home. I am quite a horseman I have a new one. Gay as a Bird I traded also got boot [illegible]

W. O. Gulick

CIRCULAR

Headquarters Second and Third Divisions,
Army of the Frontier,

Prairie Grove, Ark., Dec. 27, 1862.

SOLDIERS:

Before marching, the General Commanding desires to call your attention to several matters. You have been selected to take part in an important movement, the success of which depends upon your soldierly conduct, and above all upon your prompt obedience of orders. Let every officer and soldier make it a personal matter to see that none are absent from the ranks under any pretext whatever. Acts of plunder, pillage or destruction of property, will be a bar to our success, and should be frowned down by every soldier. Obey strictly every order from your officers, for it is the main spring of success. Remember the unparalleled march of the 2d and 3d Divisions, from Wilson's Creek to Prairie Grove, and the gallant manner in which you routed the enemy at the latter place. You earned a glorious name by it, and you now have an opportunity to

add to that name. Let us work together as officers and soldiers, and all will be well.

F. J. HERRON,
Brig. Gen. Commanding.

Official.

Wm Hyde Clark
Assistant Adjutant General

Fayetteville, Ark. Jan 3rd 1863
Co. M 1st Iowa Cavl

Dear Sister Emma

Your letter of the 14th inst. came to hand *Christmas*. indeed it *was a Christmas* present to me, but the mittens that came about that time I prize more. And as I recd. your letter to night of the 22nd (*while my hands were in the dough*) which informed me of the box of dainties you were about to send. I could but regret that you had undertaken to do so much for me.

It is strange you are ignorant of my where abouts at this late date. I have written Three times since the Battle of *Prairie Grove* you must have recd some one ere this, if *not*, I will let you know how we were engaged then, in future.

Since then we have had quite an important expedition over the mountains, or to Vanburen¹⁷⁹ on the Ark. river. As usual, we recd. orders to march. the morn. of the 26th Dec. Marched all day & night. Were then within Twenty miles of the Enemy or Vanburen. The Cavl from both Blunts & Herrons Divisions were sent ahead on the double quick to drive in the pickets We had Two small Howitzers with us. We had not gone more than Seven miles before we met and Captured several picket guards Three miles more & we found a whole Regt. of Texan Cavl on out-line

¹⁷⁹ Van Buren, the county seat of Crawford County, Arkansas, is situated on the Arkansas River three miles from the Oklahoma line.

picket duty — They commenced a hasty retreat & we hurried them considerably. Captured part of their train on the spot.

From this in to Vanburen the chase became general. never stoped a gallop except to use the cannon. I never saw such skedaddleing in my life — the road was strewn with camp equipage, hats, caps, coats, Tents, & lastly wagons, with harness cut from horses, laying on the tong or pole. The fireing was kept untill we entered town where we scattered Six more regts. Cavl — they scattered out down the river. The whole rebel force some Twenty five thousand were on the South side. We had been in town Two or Three hours — stoped Four very fine steamers & cleaned out The town pretty well, when the rebels opened fire with their larger guns & shelled us out. In less than half & hour our Artillery & Inft. came up. The Batteries were placed in position & soon Silenced and drove the enemies Batteries from sight that night. Col. Cloud shelled the Enemies camp — which it is said, caused them to leave, burning their stationary Gov. property at Ft. Smith & Camp. The expedition was quite profitable, as we captured Four Steamboats (were burned) loaded with commissary stores. Seventy wagons. One hundred fifty head cattle. Three hundred horses. Two hundred prisoners. & any amount of Army stores the most of which were destroyed for want of transportation¹⁸⁰. Besides all the Stores & shops in town were

¹⁸⁰ The capture of Van Buren occurred on December 28, 1862. Gulick's report of the spoils taken by the Union army corresponds fairly well with the amounts listed by the *Official Records*. The reports of Generals Curtis, Blunt, and Herron furnish the following data on men and material taken: 100 prisoners, 40 wagons, 50 six-mule teams, four steamers, and a ferry-boat, 250 head of cattle, and a large amount of corn, ammunition, and garrison stores. The Union force lost but one man killed and 5 or 6 slightly wounded. General Herron admits, concerning the bombardment that preceded the fall of Van Buren, the "transaction was diabolical, to say the least of it, the town being full of women and children."— *Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I. Vol. XXII, Pt. 1, pp. 167-170.

ransacked, The town will compare very well with Lyons — the goods destroyed or carried off “By the way,” I got a nicely bound volume which I shall send you as soon as I read it Tis old nevertheless a good work “Bunyan's Pilgrim Progress” I might have got more, but it was a great burden on my horse especialy under such pressing circumstances. Still I got Mary a small book I shall send as soon as you please to send me some postage stamps. *They are not to be got here*

We remained at Vanburen nearly Two days, most of the time on duty. got back to Prairie Grove the last day of the year or *Muster* day. New Years I was quite busy. Went dreaming of the *nick nacks* that you had taken so much pains to prepare for me, & all in vain, for we are One hundred Twenty five miles from Springfield with no conveyance or chance to get it whatever. I hope you recd my letter before you sent the box (them) for you must then know I could not get it. I wish I might have been to Springfield not only that I might have got the *box*, but that I might have seen Mr. Finney, who was so kind as to bring the present. I should realy like to see some one from home. — You have spoken a number of times about my coming home from St Louis the prospects of going to either place very soon are rather dubious — Where we will direct our future course no one but our Commander can tell. The 2nd we moved from Prairie Grove South East of Fayetteville some Four miles, have rem[a]ined here to day but are under marching orders for the morrow. The talk is *here*, that the “Army of the Frontier” has done *its do* & is now to be divided up & sent to some other section to opperate — however it may be only one of the Thousand idle rumors that we have in camp. But when we recolect that all our Army supplies come in wagons from *Rolla* a distance of Two hundred Fifty miles & the winter or wet season coming on it

is better polisy to with draw our forces than to advance farther in a country where the enemy is whiped Still if the Ark. river was open we might establish a new base of operations post at Vanburen. I wonder that the forces at Helena did not cooperate with us on the Ark. river we could have made a clean sweep of it, thus forceing the rebels to go to *Red river* to navigate

I forgot to mention the discovery I made while down to Vanburen — I enquired for Shibleys & found them or where they lived. I learned that two Shibleys from north Mo. had setteled in there some three or four years ago — The name & description corresponds with my cousins. They lived off the road Two miles & as we were chargeing the enemy going down, & came back in the night I could [letter incomplete]

P. S. Direct my Co. & Regt. Via St. Louis

Forsythe¹⁸¹ Mo. Feb. 2nd 1863
Co. M. 1st Iowa Cavl

Dear Mother.

Yours of Jan 23rd came to hand last night a much shorter time on the way than mine by your acct.

You had not recd my last letter however as I wrote *last*, from near Fayetteville Jan. 4th immediately on receiving Emmas letter informing me of the *box* you were about to send. (which I never recd) said letter mentioned our trip to Vanburen, which it seems you have heard by way of Campbells letter for Gorham. Josiah is a messmate & friend of mine *besides a brother Corporal*

When I wrote I knew but little of our future movements, but as some time has elapsed since I wrote you may be glad

¹⁸¹ Forsyth is the county seat of Taney County, Missouri, bordering on Arkansas. The Union army which had captured Van Buren had returned with the object, as Gulick says, of intercepting General John S. Marmaduke on his return from an unsuccessful raid against Springfield.

to know what has transpired with us. The Army of the Frontier became divided & our Div. or Herrons moved East from Fayetteville as far as Huntsville. During this time the rebel Gen. Marmaduke made a dash on Springfield — It now became our duty to cut off his retreat, & every muscle was strained to accomplish this — consequently the cavl, was kept continually on the scout We made long and tedious marches — Some times nearly down to the Arkansas river (near Ozark) then away East on the White river (South east of Yellville¹⁸² The Inft. & Artillery moved to Carrolton¹⁸³ — While we as it was kept up a patroll guard at least one hundred miles east and West — we captured quite a number of Marmadukes men as were stragling south but his main body crossed Whitt [White] river at Batesville¹⁸⁴ to far East for us. At that time we were at a ferry Fifteen miles below Yellville Exposed to the several storms we have had in these ports In short: we left camp at Carrolton early in the morn at which time it was raining — We marched late at night then turned out only to stand around our fires during a knight of drenching rain continued our march next day & it continued to rain growing colder at night — we camped at Ferry, but without shelter — but — rolled up in blankets by our huge camp fires next morn found us buried in six inches of snow — I *declair things looked billious* — Fifty miles from *camp, out of grub, and in a snow storm* It continued to snow untill it became to cold — we marching all day towards camp — found it rather tough starting fire in the woods that night & next day arrived at camp — Now the whole command was nearly out of rations some lived on half rations untill we marched from Carrolton here (Forty five miles most of the time raining

¹⁸² The county seat of Marion County, Arkansas.

¹⁸³ Carrolton was at that time the county seat of Carroll County, Arkansas.

¹⁸⁴ The county seat of Independence County, Arkansas.

& on a barren Mt. Country) The river was too high to cross but a messenger was sent in a skiff over the river, thence to Springfield & in due time supplies arrived.

Nearly a week was occupied in constructing a Ferry and crossing the river. since which time we have been very active in preparing for some grand movement. Our horses were jaded and worn Our clothing & accoutrements in a bad condition. It will occupy several days yet before we will be in marching trim. We all think we will go to Batesville when we move, though may not, — I should be glad to go down the river or nearer civilization. I suppose an expedition from below will meet us — I would that the 26th might be with it. I heard of the Battle of Ark. Post.¹⁸⁵ am thankful the boys are safe — but if they go to Vixburg they may again be endangered, but we enlisted to fight our enemies & must not flinch even in the hour of danger

We have been as ignorant as heathens down [here] No chance to get mail. Our mail has been robbed two or three times, I suppose the girls letters were lost — I thought you were never going to write I said I had not recd the box you sent, although I have heard that it was at Springfield of cours if I have a chance I will send for it. I sent Emma & Mary the books I got at Vanburen & of which I wrote about in my last as I had to carry them in my saddlebags and have them throwing about while reading I left my mark on them (dirt) I also wrote concerning the Shibleys — I recd the mittens & Emmas letter & ans — from Fayetteville informing me of the box the last from any but yours of Jan. 23rd

¹⁸⁵ Arkansas Post, a Confederate fort on the Arkansas River, was captured on January 11, 1863, by a Union land and gunboat force under General McClernand and Admiral Porter. Nearly 5000 prisoners were taken, but the Confederates, because of their sheltered position, lost only 60 killed and 75 or 80 wounded, while the Union loss in killed and wounded was 1061.— *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. III, pp. 452, 453.

The weather is very mild now geting quite dry. The anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans was pretty well celebrated, not only at Springfield by fighting, but at *home*, all hail to Sarah & my *wee neice*.

We have not recd pay yet but as I told Emma in my last I will send it as soon as I get it —

I have my hors to get shod so must close My love to all — do write often

Your Obedient Son

W. O. Gulick

Fred & Isaac are well — all thanks for the stamps

Forsyth Mo., March 24th/63
Co. M., 1st Iowa Cavl.

Dear Bro. Parkes

I have written two letters home since I recd any, but attribute their non appearance to the mails & rather than have you much concerned about my welfare I do not hesitate to write again. & much *more* it is a long time since I recd *from*, or wrote *you* a letter. As we are detached from our Reg. & Div. our mail has a round about way to travel, makeing it tardy & uncertain.

I learn our Div. has moved on East must be near Iron-ton.¹⁸⁶ I wish we could join our Command & thus “get out of the wilderness.” Indeed it is but little else here than a wilderness, We are more than Forty miles from any body. Our poor horses have to suffer for feed & do the same duty as when in the best condition. All we have for them is corn

¹⁸⁶ Ironton, the county seat of Iron County, Missouri, is 75 miles south of St. Louis. It is closely adjoined on the north by the village of Pilot Knob and on the south by the village of Arcadia. On February 16, 1863, the entire Third Division (except companies B and M of the First Iowa Cavalry and the 19th Iowa Infantry) had moved out for Lake Springs, in Dent County, about halfway between Forsyth and St. Louis.

and that we have to draw 40 miles, generally from Ark. but that is no easy job as the *Butternuts*¹⁸⁷ are getting pretty thick down there. By the way, we had quite an adventure the last trip. We had about 120 men Inft. & Cavl with the train. We had got well loaded with corn and some other plunder & half days march on our way back, when just as we moved out next morn, we discovered that 250 of the Rebels had planted themselves directly in front of us, in line of Battle extending some ways either side of the road. & about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile ahead, we formed *our* line in front of Train Cavl on each flank Inft in centre. Now 8 volunteers were called for to go in advance, Your Bro. could not stand the pressure so I made one of the No. We soon met the enemies advance who gave us a shot. We replied with a volley which sent them in "double quick time" to their command. In the mean time our line moved forward and gained a good position 80 rods from the *rebs*, We could scarcely see them as the timber was very thick. However 2 vols. were called for to reconoitre. Again I was one of the number. We soon discovered the enemy had dismounted & were advancing but stoped after 20 rods march, Sixty (60) rods from us. It seemed they wanted us to leave our good position, but our noble Capt. Crosley [Crosby] who was in command would not be foolshed in that way, as we were the least party & a train to guard, the taking of which was the object of the secesh. The rebels kept their position for more than an hour and finally concluded, although little fireing had been done, they would have to pay too dear for the whistle & left us. We could not follow them far with safety to our train. So we came in camp without farther molestation, or without giving them the whipping they so much deserved.

¹⁸⁷ Add "butternuts" to the not inconsiderable list of nicknames that Guelick has employed to designate the enemy.

Not long since reports became so current that Marmaduke was agoing to attack this place, that they sent us 200 Inft. & 4 pieces of Artillery as reinforcements. Still I dont believe he can muster spunk enough to fight us, although we No. less than 1000

The weather here is beautiful tho trees are quite green & grass is nearly large enough for grazing. The boys are bathing in the river every day the few farmers that are here are plowing & sowing. It must be early for to till the ground with you, still I presume it will be your occupation this season undoubtedly you will have to work hard as help will be scarce — still keep up good courage & remember for what the grain is raised or the use it is put to. It is the best way you con serve your country I am glad the draft cannot touch you I think it is as good a bill as could have been passed. I feel anxious to know what bearing the draft will have on Richard & Charley. If it is their lot to go I hope my sisters will spare them with out too much grief. They can then truly say "Our hearts are with the heroes that defend our glorious flag." Tell our folks to write often & tell me the condition of their home. is the hous painted yet or what other improve has been in our place or the town.

I recd, a letter from Woody but as he did not give his adress I can not ans. please inform me. We have not recd pay yet. I sent Emma a letter with a few lines & small present to Mary. has it arrived. Fred & Isaac went to Springfield the last detail there I have not heard from Henry or John yet. Write every thing & often Much love to all

Your Aff bro. W. O. Gulick

I saw Edies likeness when you
can send me yours,

P.S. Yesterday our reinforcements went back to Springfield Artillery & Inft. both. To day much excitement pre-

vails, from a report that Marmaduke is advancing on us. The day has been very busy with us throwing up Breastworks. Reinforcements are again sent for. I apprehend little danger.

W. O. Gulick

Lake Springs Mo.

Tuesday May 26th 1863

Dear Mother.

I have arrived safely in the land of hard bread & bacon. I certainly have no reason to regret it, for I found our Regt camped in a beautiful place, with plenty of large shad[e] trees, good water & so near Rolla that we lack nothing for our selves or horses.

Besides there is a prospect of our remaining here some time — which, if we *do* will be very pleasant for us & will afford our horses the recruiting they so much need. I found my horse in a fine flourishing condition from the good care Gorham gave him. *but in no condition to throw me.* Although he feels the oats he has been having since here.

I found it very easy to conform to camp life — but that I might be thoroughly reinitiated I was detailed (with others) to escort a train to Salem¹⁸⁸ & back the first day after my arrival, (Sunday) the distance was *twice thirteen* miles & to say it was dusty would not express it at all. The dust was raised in clouds by the wagons as well as our selves. & as our road was through a timbered country no ordinary breeze could waft it from us, but we *did* survive it *just like soldiers* & found our selves in camp soon after dark partaking of a good supper with bread & *butter* for desert. Monday morn, as well as *this* found us in good condition for Battalion Drill. We are coming down to the old style of

¹⁸⁸ Salem is the county seat of Dent County, Missouri. By this time companies B and M had rejoined the remainder of the regiment at Lake Springs.

camp duty drill — have carbine drill in P.M. so during the heat of the day (except every 4th or 5th) we can lay in the shade We have our new arms. I have two revolvers army size & saber The Non-Coms have Two Revl while the boys have one Revl & carbine & saber I think we could make our mark now if we had the oppor-Ra-chunity Our boys done well at Cape Girardeau ¹⁸⁹ Only had six or Seven wounded a few horses killed — but they say the papers exaggerated very much in the report of their charge. They consider it a trifle compared with some other Skirmishing they have done — But the Rebs in this country have learned to run while tis the reberse in the East. We have glorious news from Vixburgh.¹⁹⁰ I most believe the western army will have to take Richmond if it is ever *taken* & if *Vixburgh's* taken will be good opening for us to move East.

By the way we get the news almost as quick as you do for we take the St. Louis Democrat & have it brought to our tent By a Brigade news dealer He furnishes us with any kind of reading matter at reasonable prices I delivered the several packages I brought down, the boys were very grateful for them. Ic,c, [Isaac] thinks he may come by & by but as yet has had no opportunity Two of our boys are going to go home to morrow. Furloughs are cut down to only Twenty days, so Fred & I were in luck you see comeing as we did. It might be interesting to give the details of my return trip, so takeing it for granted that it would I commence with Camanche where I met Fred, who had come up from Lyons with a carriage (having missed the morning train) he wanted me to go down with him, I had to accede after going to Camanche to bid his friends *goodbye* we

¹⁸⁹ The repulse of Marmaduke's attack on Cape Girardeau, April 26, 1863. The actual Union losses were 3 killed and 19 wounded.— *Official Records: War of the Rebellion*, Series I, Vol. XXII, Pt. 1, p. 305.

¹⁹⁰ Grant's army was steadily closing in on Vicksburg and cutting it off from communication with the outer world. Its fall came on July 4th.

struck out for Lyons Sundown found us there. I done my little business up, crossed the river in Skiff & took the train for Dixon at midnight The train did not connect with the Ill. C. R. R. train so we remained in Dixon until Wednesday noon. (We met Rice and McDonal¹⁹¹ from our co, here by them we learned the whereabouts of our Regt.) We next arrived at Bloomington were again detained nearly all night. took morning Train for St. Louis (passed Springfield about Nine oclock A.M. did not see Mrs. Fralick) arrived at St. Louis about noon & at the City hotel time for a fashionable dinner (One ocl'k) after riding to nearly every other hotel in the City in a great long Omnibuss that in the narrow Streets of St. L. had to drive round block to turn round. I met a number of our own boys while out walking, & attended the Theater or Varieties in the evening had a pleasant time. I send you a bill or programe. If you could see the performance you would think the entertainment good Up to this time we had paid full fare on the railroad, we took the morning train for Rolla, & after riding nearly all day over a crooked & poor R. R. through a miserable country we landed at the desired station in the midst of a short rain storm. The next day Saturday we joined our Regt. & Co. Twelve miles S. W. of Rolla.

There is little or no sickness in our camp Our new Brass or Silver Band is organized & practice every day. Some of the Regts are being paid off Our turn will come next — I guess This P.M. is appearance of rain well we need it — very much. Crops are poor here. Caused by drowth Tell Mary, Emma, Parkes, & all to write By the way how does the Low Moor School progress & every thing in general I have written in great hast So excuse all errors Much love to all — Your aff. Son

W. O. Gulick

¹⁹¹ Private (formerly Sergeant and later Quartermaster Sergeant) George W. Rice, and Private Jacob McDonald, both of Company M.

Direct Via St. Louis

Co — & Regt.

P. S. Adress Co. M. 1st Ia Cavl

Via St. Louis Mo.

Pilot Knob Mo. June 23rd 1863

Dear cousin Woodworth.

It is a very long time indeed, since I recd your most worthy & welcome letter. I have been very dilatory with this my ans. My only excuse is want of time & conveniences for writing. Though I confess no one *ought* to be so engaged under any circumstances as to prevent a correspondence between friends & relatives. Nevertheless if you knew any thing of a soldiers life you would readily admit that *it* (soldiering) is the most unfavorable position a man can well be placed in for writing. Then I have learned of your health Uncle Smith & business Via. home. I suppose you also have been posted concerning my health & whereabouts consequently no uneasiness could arise with either of us. I have but recently returned from a very pleasant visit home during which time I enjoyed myself hugely. I regret however that you & Uncle Smith were not there to participate in the pleasure rides visits & c, but it seems my fortune to be *absent* when *Uncle Smith comes*.

I *said* I enjoyed my self. Is it a *wonder*. After so long an absence, during which time a person is continually exposed to danger & disease isasmuch as we are exposed to the weather. Our couch consisting of blanket on the some times wet & muddy earth, & to awake nearly every morning with the rural dampness on our brows. I say no wonder that a person can enjoy a feather bed in a tidy room, & after a peacefull & undisturbed nights repose a steaming breakfast choicely prepared on a stainless white table spread was a comfort and luxury. I think I can fully appreciate the endearments & comforts of home. With others

of my friends I saw your friend Sarah Hindman. She is fresh as a rose & her flaxen hair is to my tast & satisfaction a shad[e] darker. She is fast approaching maturity & woman-hood. We did not fail to have a hearty laugh concerning a certain valentine.

Mr. Hindman boards the school mistress again who very much resembles *Miss Cowl*. Yet she does not take as well at Uncle A.s or Ralston for they both send to the Low Moor school taught by Henry Judson, but of all this you know by Marys letters. And if I would interest you it must be concerning my own travels & adventures which are of late quite limited. When I recd your letters we were posted down in the S. W. *wilderness*, or on the White river near the border of Arkansas where we had a plenty to do in the way of scouting down among the rebels. Then a soldiers life was attended with some excitement & adventure. But for the want of forage & subsistence & a lack, or want, of rebels to fight, we moved back to the R. R. at Rolla, from which place I obtained my furlough. Our Regt. enjoyed a season of rest here, but soon after my return we were ordered to Pilot knob. Where I learn we are to participate in an expedition south I suppose to *Little Rock Ark*. The force here said to belong to the expedition is about Ten thousand. Will probably move after the siege of Vicksburg is terminated. (in our favor) That cooperation of the Gunboats with us in opening the river (Ark.) will make us sufficiently strong for the work. Great preparations have been made — We can not move too soon to suit me, for nothing a soldier likes more than activity & the consequent excitement.

Our army is again active, & if our *Generals* are energetic & *plan* as well as our soldiers *fight*, the rebellion must soon be quelled

Incompetent leaders has been almost an irremediable fault with us. Oh! that *Wirepulling*, *money making* & Jeal-

ousy may be cast aside, & a thorough prosecution of the [war] be enforced. The copperheads cause an other source of anoyance to the soldier, fortunately I did not see any while home. At least could not get in conversation with any. perhaps they knew *mine* would have been a *knock down* argument in earnest. Be that as it *may*, I can inform them that it would be a unanemous request of the soldiers to record their names that their blood might be made to ans[wer] for their treasonable practices. Bid them *beware* lest they be destroyed by an indignant and outraged Union Soldiery — Wrath is accumulating, and when the soldiers return they will feel its deadly weight.

I suppose you are still attending school, storeing your mind with usefull knowledge — continue to do so you will not regret it I feel I am loosing my best time for study, but am determind to make it up if I am spared during the war. I am well satisfied to remain untill the last traitor is hung.

Now wishing you & Uncle sucess sending my love to my relatives, with your self a share, a request to hear from you soon. I subscribe myself a Military Child of Uncle Abraham

W. O. Gulick

In my next will describe the Iron Mts.
mines & c The country in General
No time now W. O. G.

Arcadaia Mo. June 27th/63

Dear cousin Mary.

Your welcome letter came to hand by yesterdays mail. As you had been very prompt in writing, I thought it best to follow suit, especially since there is so much *uncertainty* about the time of moving. You will see by the adress above that we have moved camp. Although it is but a short distance only three miles. Pilot Knob, Ironton & this place,

Arcadia, are three small towns almost connected. Pilot Knob being the terminus of the R. R. and Arcadia the outpost, or most southern point, & the most strongly fortified. The reports concerning our move are many & the conflicting, for my part cant tell *any thing* more than we are fit[t]ing out for some place & will b[p]robably wait untill the siege of Vicksburg is terminated in our favor. That, in case we go through to the Ark. river the Gunboats could cooperate. It seems most likely that will be the case. & Although the expedition is most sure to go by some chance or other Our Regt. might be sent some where else — or even remain here, Which I hope will not be, for inactivity is as disagreeable to *me* as it is ruinous to the country. The papers tell us of *activity & excitement* in the east.¹⁹² *Glad to hear it* although at present affairs in that department wear rather a gloomy aspect. May be it will rouse the dormant spirit of some of those Penn. & N.Y. property holders who hitherto have been regardless of the prog of the war — whether adverse or successful I have confidence in Hookers ability to defe[at] the rebels. never-the-less if we meet with disast[er] I shall ascribe it to *him*, for I believe the army, properly *managed*, can withstand any force the rebels can send.

Our Gen. is a stranger to us — dont like him very well though he may prove himself good in a fight — his name is Davidson.¹⁹³ was a Lt. & prisoner of Camp Jackson notor-

¹⁹² This "excitement" was well founded, as Lee was even then dashing through Maryland into Pennsylvania. It was this invasion that culminated in the battle of Gettysburg. Well might the "Penn. & N. Y. property holders" begin to regard anxiously "the prog. of the war".

¹⁹³ Brigadier General John W. Davidson now took charge of the 6000 cavalry gathered at St. Louis. With them he planned to move south and form a junction with Major General Frederick Steele's infantry which should move up from Helena on the Mississippi. Their plan was then to "break up Price and occupy Little Rock."— *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. III, pp. 453, 456-457.

iety. I regret that Herron had to leave us. He has gone to reap *honors & glory* in the field at Vicksburg — he occupies (as you have already seen) the left flank. I really wish we were with him although it might not be so healthy for us

We are quite pleasantly situated here — but as it has rained for the last five days nearly all the time we have been confined in our kennels which is quite disagreeable as one has to *lay down to stand up*, or straighten. Dont care though

We had been out Three days after forage & arrived at the river about noon Sunday with Sixteen loads corn — A new boat had been constructed & was on the line — But the Ferryman did not understand the management of it properly. Consequently the Fourth load (I having crossed the Second) the pulley broke causing a jar. the boat swamped & sank leaving more than Thirty men with Two loads & teams struggling in the merciless water. The river is wide deap & swift none or little assistance could be rendered Some were fortunate enough to gain “Terra firma” after being washed down more than a mile & alas six sank to rise no more alive. Kelly of Co. B. among the No. Six of Our Co. were on the boat but all swam ashore but somewhat chilled

They have been engaged fishing for the lost since, but none have been found except one Corp. of Co. A, who was drowned some time ago.

I wrote Cynthia a hurried letter some days ago a poor excuse to the good one I recd — I have not recd a letter from Henry or John yet should like to know something of them. Tis dark — As I said the mail has come. supper over. Candle lighted & I finish this a more lengthy letter than I had supposed

Oh the Conscript bill has passed. *good news enough for once* perhaps the copperheads will resist it. if they do they

are just as sure doomed as though their *necks were in the halter*. I only hope the draft will hit the right ones — but I believe provisions are made that are all *right*. I just *recd* a letter from Woody & right glad was I to hear from him & see how well he does in writing. Why dont Parkes & Mary write, in fact why dont all write. I should like to hear from My Brotherinlaws and know what was going on in their line of business, & what they think the future prospects are in regard to war. I hear that Lefingwell is makeing conservative speeches. becaus he could not (through his own drunkenness) gain wealth & rank in the servis. *does he turn traitor if so, hang him.*

The night has set in dark & rainy. The boys out will have a sweet time. they are used to it however. Give my love to all excuse the many errors as I have written in haste

Aseverdear Sisteryour Aff. Brother W. O. Gulick

P. S. Will cross river to night or in morning Fred
& Isaac both well

Clarendon¹⁹⁴ Ark. Aug. 18th/63

Dear Sister Cynthia

Yours of the 18th ult. came to hand yesterday. It seems a very long time for a letter to be on the way, but since we left Bloomfield Mo. (Where I wrote last & just one month ago) our communication has been kept open on the small scale, at least not so as to carry mail matter untill of late we communicate with Helena. I had expected to get a letter in ans. to mine from Bloomfield but did not, had a mind not to write yet, but felt sorry to have you in trouble about me. So concluded to releive you of any fears or suspense you may be laboring under. We left Bloomfield the next day after I wrote you. Two days & one *nights* march

¹⁹⁴ This was the county seat of Monroe County, Arkansas, 60 miles due east of Little Rock. Here the Union expedition crossed the White River.

with all its difficulties brought us to Chalk Bluff on the St. Francis crossed on Pontoon bridge, remained one day in Camp when we resumed our march, for *where we knew not*. For several days our march continued nearly south passing successavely the small towns of Gainsvill, Greenville, Goldsborough Jonesborough Harrisburg. All small inferior towns were in peacible times, *now* entirely deserted & desolate. We made several night march some during storms which I know would not be pleasant to any body but *us Soldiers*. As we ploded along through the darkness only seeing ones file leader by the flashes of lightening every now & again some unfortunate soldier & horse plungeing headlong in a dark & treacherous ditch & often the unsuspecting soldier as riding sleepily along (although drenching wet) was struck smartly in face by a thorny branch or hat gently tossed in mud to be trameled in by a thousand succeeding hoofs — all this together with a fair prospect of bucking to the rebs at day break we passed in the best of spirits. I *say* enjoyed *it*, there is an excitement something wild & grand that I like. But to go on with our expedition We made detours to the right & left toward the St. Francis & White rivers all our scouting was attended with some bush wacking or skirmishing but up to our arrival at St. Francis landing or Wittsburg (not far above Madison) & where we remained several days) I only know of Two or three wounded. After resting several days (& sending despatches to Helena¹⁹⁵ by a detale from our Regt., Who cut their way through several hundred rebels with out the loss of a man killed We resumed our march South crossed the Langville river & when within forty miles of Helena changed direction by the left flank and after three days travel across a miserable low swampy country we arrived

¹⁹⁵ The county seat of Phillips County, Arkansas, on the Mississippi about 40 miles southeast of Clarendon.

at this place *Clarendon* Situated on White river about One hundred miles above its mouth & Sixty miles east from Little Rock. The country as far south as the Langville river is called Cowleys ridge a midling good country for Ark. The people are very ignorant and the large plantations are mostly deserted. The village of log huts on each plantation known as Negro quarters are blank & vacant & the large fields once teeming with cotton are now idle, or as far as the scanty labor would admit of planted with corn. As we travel through this country we *make a hole* in the corn fields. Up to our arrival here we captured must be hundreds of prisoners had a number wounded. Two or three killed in the whole division.

We have been here now Ten days. The river is patrolled by Gunboats. have captured to rebel steamers. The "Tom Sugg" & "Kaskaskia" are kept busy shelling rebes who show them selves on the opposite side. Two Brig. of Inf. & Several Batteries have come in from Helena also some cavl. More troops are expected. Gen Steel came in today will have command his name certainly sounds better to me than Davidson — although Davidson is better than we expected.

Our Cavl Div. commenced crossing yesterday. last night they were fighting all night the Gunboats kept up afire shelling the rebs. does not amout to much the rebes. only intend to harrass our advance & this is what our Cavl Div. is for. I dont beleive the rebels under Price & Marmaduke will attempt a stand this side of Little Rock even if they do ther.

This expedition is fiting out for Little Rock or any other place where the rebels may make a stand. This will be a base of supplies a very good place I should judge. We have had a good time scouting have brought in negros by the hundred have them do all our dirty work & they are well satis-

fied at that but some of the women & children look pitiful. They have had a hard row to hoe for a long time, have been hid out in the swamps with mules & cattle, some times. We find plenty of Meat flour & rations with valuable of all kinds. Fruit grows in abundance Peaches especialy. They grow almost spontaneously.

The people are to indolent to raise fruit. I wish I could send you some of the peaches we have here. Only ten to twelve inches in circumference We are having as good times now as could be expected, but we are ignorant of outside matters We can only learn by hearsay of our Success & general forward movement I feel indignant toward New York & the authorities there for not using harsher means to quell the riot.¹⁹⁶ [“] Blank cartriges.” tis only playing with them like playing with the rebels when we first began I was glad to learn you had got through with harvest so well. The crops here are not worth much. must be produce will be high if the war continues.

Now since Saddles are plenty I have no way of sending Charlie or Rich one as I would like to do I suppose you are enjoying a visit ere this from Uncle Jacob & Aunt Betsy Uncle Smith & maybe other Well enjoy your selves while you may or at anything you can, thats my way — twill be my turn to visit next year this time. The draft must have passed ere this let me know who are considered the unfortunate Write all the news and often. Do not be uneasy if you do not hear from me very soon. Ill write from Little Rock any way Excuse the many errors give my love to all

Your ever aff. brother

W. O. Gulick

¹⁹⁶ The anti-draft riots in New York City about the middle of July, 1863. Because of the laxity of the local Tammany administration in performing its duty, this disgraceful affair lasted several days and destroyed considerable property and some life before the Federal troops could arrive and restore order. It certainly was “aid and comfort to the enemy”.

Camp near Brownsvill, Ark
Sept 2nd 1863

Mrs. Wagner.

I haistily drop you a few lines this morning to notify you of Billies. sinking condition. he has commenced to fail fast and I am sorry to say there is but little hopes of his recovery. altho he has had as good car[e] as could be given where we now are. I have been with him most of the time, night and day, and shall not leave him at all untill ther is a change. I was up with him most of last night. his leg pained him prety bad.

The Doctors say they have but little hope of him How I do wish you could see him. Noble Boy. It seems like death for me to part with him. I have talked with all the Doctors, and entreated them to spare nothing for they should have evrything as far a means and help was required. Isack is watching him while I write. he is not well. has the Ague evry other day. Billy is rational, only flighty at times under the influence of his Stimulants. it seams to me I never can stand it for he seems like my only friend, and nearer than all others. Can I ever be happy. It seems as thoe I never could. "I will write soon, Again." Do not think of coming down by any means. Good Bye

From a Friend and Sympathiser

F. Wilkes

P. S.

Our troops moved last night and this morning for Little Rock." F.R.W.

Camp near Little Rock, Ark.('')
September 22nd, 1863.''¹⁹⁷

Mrs. Jones.

By last eavnings mail came your kind letter directed to

¹⁹⁷ Fred Wilkes's letter to William Gulick's sister, Mrs. Cynthia Jones, tells

your dear Brother Billy, which in his lonely absence, I took the liberty to open, as I saw it was from home.('') I see by the date of your letter, which is Aug 31st that it takes three weeks for a letter to reach you, so it will be near the date of this before you will hear the sad Intelligence of his Mournfull death, althoe I have been looking anxiously for the past two or three days for a letter from your folkes after they have recd my first. How often have I thought of you since the mailing of my first, how anxiously you would await the receipt of another, which should the bear the glad tidings of his doing well and a speedy recovery, which was no more than you would expect from the assurances given in my first, not only by me, but in his own Signatres of his doing so well. how unsuspectiously did I suspect his fate when such cheering and hearty assurances were given me of so sucessful an Amputation by all the Surgeons, and of the little doubts they inferd of his speedy recovery little did I think it, and as I sat by him, how anxiously did I look forward to the time, which I thought was not far distant, when I should again see him as hearty and cheerfull as he was always wont to be, and how often did I think of the consolation it would be to me, that althoe we could not be together, to write too, and hear from him, and in a few monthes, if God see fit to spare my life, that I would again see him at home, where we could reiterate the many good times we have had together.('') Oh: it makes my heart feel sick to think of it. I cannot realize that I am never to see that Gracious boy again but so it must be. how thunderstruck I was when the Doctor told me the fourth day the turn it had taken and the little hopes he had of his recovery. I could not beleive it: Why could it be so, while others laying all around him were doing so well. Why should I so be thus bereft! It

its own story and is substantially accurate as to the details of Gulick's death, as well as of the capture of Little Rock, the main objective of this campaign. It thus constitutes a fitting epilogue to this series of letters.

could not have been for care or attention. No, Never, too many an anxious and warm friend was near him to see him one moment neglected.('') Poor Boy, he thought not of death but looked anxiously forward to the five days when he should again be with friends at Home. he talked of his Schooling which he was aware he should have to rely upon in future, and many were the assurances given him, that for nothing from liberal hands he should want.('') You will see by this that we are at last at the Capitol of Ark. One Cavl Div came in on the 10th Inst. with but very little resistance to what might have been expected. As Our Generals compleatly Out-generaled Old Price and made him leave his long lines of entrenchments and heavy packs without firing even a shot as we crossed the river on a pontoon bridge seven miles below the City which compleatly surprised them all and made them leave their works on the other side very hastily for fear of being cut off alltogether which they undoubtedly would, had they not left.('') Our loss was small, not much exceeding fifty in killed and wounded. Our Reg lost but one man killed, and less than a dozen wounded, althoe they were in the fresh[?] all day, and we now are in quiet and undisputed possession of the City and country for a long distance around.('') Little Rock is a very prety place, and business is getting quite spireded and evrything bids fair for Our Reg. to stay here all winter. Oh! how I should enjoy it was Billy only with me, but as it is I enjoy nothing. it seems as if my only Friend was gone, and I can take no comfort at all. How glad I am that we went home together. I will never forget or regret it, but I must stop. Please remember me to all you folks as a friend and one who can deeply sympathis with you all in your lonly and bereft condition.

P. S. I packed Billies things in a box and sent them to

Helena by one Sutler who went through last week giving him instructions to Express it to Low Moor from there. he has not returned yet. this was the only way I had of sending it through and I thought I would send it as soon as possible, for I did not know how long we would stay Isaak is well.

Good Bye

Yours with Respect

F. R. Wilkes