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Army and Navy Messenger [Shreveport, LA], September 15, 1864-March 2, 1865

Vicki Betts

University of Texas at Tyler, vbetts@uttyler.edu

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ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER

Shreveport, Louisiana
September 1864 – March 1865

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 1
Soldiers' Homes.

Soldiers' Homes are now established at Shreveport, Marshall, Henderson, Rusk, Crockett, Sarquett's, Huntsville, Red Top, Anderson, Navasota, Hempstead, Houston, Millican and Beaumont, where our traveling troops will be supplied gratuitously with board and lodging. At Greenwood the citizens promise to do the same thing.

Most of these Homes have been established through the energy of Rev. Thos. Castleton who has for the present devoted himself to this work. We learn from Mr. Castleton that it is his purpose to establish a line of Homes from Arkansas down to Shreveport and Houston, and also eastward of Shreveport to the Mississippi. Our confidence in Bro. Castleton is such, that we should be surprised if he does not succeed in this great and good undertaking, and in the meantime, we shall advertise our friends in the army of the fact, as fast as the Homes are established.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

The paper will be issued semi-monthly for gratuitous distribution in the Army and the Hospitals.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 15, 1864, p. 2, c. 2

The Messenger.

Among the many things we have long wished to see in our Trans-Mississippi army, not the last, nor the least, is a Soldier's Paper.

Across the river, the soldier's paper has long been an established institution. More popular than the Tract, perhaps more effective, for many a month it has visited every Hospital, and been welcomed at every campfire. In this Department, owing to difficulties too tedious to mention, up till the present it has not been possible to establish anything of the kind. The present enterprise is the first attempt at a Soldier's Paper. We hope it may not be the only one or the last, for in such a work the more competitors the better.

Our object in this enterprise is the welfare of our soldiers. We shall study their advantage; consult their interest, and advocate whatever is right for them. We shall secure the aid of able writers to animate their zeal, quicken their courage, revive their fortitude, and stimulate their hopes. We shall furnish information of the progress of the war; current intelligence; news of the doings of our enemies; religious army news; religious correspondence; selections from standard religious writers; for we desire to make it a religious paper, and above all things, to bring to our friends in the army, that knowledge, which maketh wise unto salvation.

But it must be distinctly understood, that while it shall be our earnest purpose to make it a truly religious paper, at the same time we wish it to be such a one that all classes and denominations of christians in the army may peruse it with profit and pleasure. We shall seek to offend no man's taste, to arouse no man's prejudices by harping on any sectarian peculiarity. In accordance with the catholic spirit of the society under whose auspices we labor, the key-note of our endeavor shall be, those great fundamental principles of christianity, broad, deep, self-evidencing, which all love and honor, who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth.

A peculiarity of this paper which we would not willingly omit to mention is, that it is designed for free circulation among our soldiers. In these times no newspaper can be organized and conducted without great difficulty and expense. By the persevering energy of the General Agent, the generous aid of our civil and military authorities, and the hearty cooperation of our people, these difficulties so far, have been met and overcome, and we have reason to hope they will be as they arise. The soldier far from home and friends, sometimes feels lonely, unhonored and forgotten. He is not alone. *We* tell him, that the prayers of all our people follow him, and the Providence of his father's God surrounds him. He is not unhonored or forgotten, *our little paper* goes as the people's *Messenger* to assure him of their unwavering love and confidence; and to adjure him, by all that is best and dearest, in all things to prove himself a man. For while he bears the country's burden, under God, he is the country's only hope.

A word as to the end of the war. Every editor is expected to know when that is to be. We do not pretend to know less than an editor ought to know, and we are not afraid to tell it. The end of the war in God's providence, depends on ourselves it is put pretty much in our own hands; we can hasten it, or postpone it just as we please. This, like all wars, must end sooner or later. If our soldiers are true and faithful, it must end soon. If they are undisciplined, insubordinate, careless of duty, indifferent to public morality and private rights, straggling, deserting, skulking from the service, the end of the war is a long way off; much longer than we like to think. Then let us be united, energetic and patient in whatever position we occupy. Let every man in this Department do his duty *and give full measure*. Let us advance at the call, close column, no straggling, faith strong, and powder dry. Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, Jenkins' Ferry and many another battle-field, show what brave men can do. Let us act then so that Conscience will approve us; so that our children need not be ashamed of us; and so that the noble heroes under Hood, Beauregard, and Lee may feel that we are worthy the same banner, the same country and the same cause.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 2
Extract from a Letter from a Baptist Chaplain.

Camp Near Monticello, Ark. }
August 29th, 1864. }

I will give you a brief history of the religious proceedings at Three Creeks. Upon our arrival there, I began to preach to the regiment daily, assisted by Bro. Smith, who was then a private in the regiment. (Bro. Smith is a young man—a Baptist, had not then been ordained, but since has been appointed Chaplain of sharpshooters, and was ordained at Hopewell church recently.) From the first, God seemed to bless our labors. Crowds of weather-beaten soldiers attended each night and gave the most serious attention to the word spoken. To each invitation given there were ready responses by strong men crying out; "what shall we do," while others came with joyous countenances to tell "what great things the Lord had done for their souls." We continued our labors forty-five days almost without interruption, assisted occasionally by brethren from the vicinity. At the end of this time we were well nigh exhausted and compelled to rest from such incessant labor, though the interest seemed unabated. After this, we preached two or three times each week up to the date of marching. The known results are about as follows: Many careless professors were aroused from their lethargy. We baptized one hundred and forty-six—many of whom had been notorious for wickedness, many more were "almost persuaded to be christians," while the change in the general deportment of the command, is as perceptible as that from Winter to Spring. Daily prayer-meeting are well sustained by these

young converts, not only while in camp but when on the march. Never have I seen so great a work or more glorious results. To God be all the praise.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 3

Gen. Parsons' Command.—We have for some time been hearing the most favorable accounts of the revival in progress in Gen. Parsons' command, camped on Three Creeks, in the southern part of Arkansas. We rejoice to learn that the revival has resulted in the baptizing of between four and five hundred, besides the additions made to other denominations. The good work is still going on, and but few are left who are not to a greater or less extent interested. We do not remember to have heard of a revival so fruitful in good results, in any portion of our army since the war began. Apart from the direct spiritual results of this work, we learn that such results have never been known in a large body of men so long congregated at one place, in their general orderly conduct. So far from the neighborhood being molested and annoyed by them, they have materially assisted those who needed assistance. They have built houses, made wagons, assisted in tilling farms, and the neighborhood physician being sick, their surgeons have attended the sick. With one consent, the whole community vote them a good blessing, and not, as usual in such cases, a curse to the neighborhood. What good will not religion bring to man? [The Gen. Parsons spoke of above is Gen. Monroe Parsons, of Missouri.—Ed.]—Galveston News.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], September 29, 1864, p. 1, c. 3
Summary: Article on Army Intelligence Office in Shreveport, outlining its objects.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], October 13, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

We are pleased to learn that a Soldiers' Home has been established at Pleasant Hill, La. Mansfield and Pleasant Hill ought not to lack for a Soldiers' Home while the war lasts. We also learn that one has been established at Goliad, Texas.

The list now stands—Marshall, Rusk, Henderson, Crockett, Sarquett's, Huntsville, Red Top, Anderson, Navasota, Hempstead, Houston, Millican, Beaumont, Goliad, Greenwood, Pleasant hill and Shreveport.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], October 27, 1864, p. 2, c. 1

Soldier's Homes.—Are established at Marshall, Henderson, Rusk, Crockett, Sarquett's, Huntsville, Red Top, Anderson, Navasota, Hempstead, Houston, Millican, Beaumont, Goliad, Shreveport, Minden, Pleasant hill, Greenwood and Homer.

Skip to January 5, 1865

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], January 5, 1865, p. 1, c. 1-2

Gano's Brigade,}

Camp Gano, C. N., Dec. 15, 1864}

Dear Brother:--I see from a copy of the Messenger now before me that you desire to hear from the Chaplains and Missionaries in the army. I write to inform you of the religious condition of this Brigade. On the 10th of August last, I began a protracted meeting in the Brigade assisted by Brother W, Chaplain, 29th Texas cavalry, (Baptist,) Brother J, (Presbyterian,) Brother L. (E. Methodist,) Brother R. (P. Methodist) also had the assistance before the meeting closed of

Brother A, and Brother J. H., superintendent of the Chaplains Indian territory, all labored together in the utmost harmony, every one laid aside all denominational feelings and made a united effort for the good of the cause and the power of the spirit accompanied the word and we had the great joy of seeing the seed that we were endeavoring to sow falling on prepared ground and bringing forth sixty and an hundred fold; from day to day and from night to night the work went on, the youth, the middle aged, and the aged all came crying, what shall we do to be saved and the Lord met them and that to own and to bless. I cannot say too much in praise of the lay brothers and their earnest labor after remaining and laboring with penitents until the break of day, there were over two hundred conversions in three weeks, many are yet receiving the blessing. Our encampment is built along the banks of Red River, over a mile in length, we have good log cabins and at night hundreds of voices are heard hymning praises to Almighty God and in humble prayer asking for a continuance of his mercy, indeed we feel that the Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad, there is at this time a number of Baptist Missionaries here which has greatly increased our ministerial aid, may the Lord speed them in their good work. Please send me a few numbers of our valuable paper for distribution here, it is greatly sought after.

I am your most obedient servant.

F. M. H.

Missionary Chaplain Gano's Brigade.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], January 5, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers' Homes.—Are established at Marshall, Henderson, Rusk, Crockett, Sargent's, Huntsville, Red Top, Anderson, Navasota, Hempstead, Houston, Millican, Beaumont, Goliad, Hillsboro, Fairfield, Butler, Cotton Gin, Pine Tree, Palestine, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, New Braunfels, Corsicana, Independence, Waxahachie, Ash Creek, Bastrop, Paris.

Shreveport, Minden, Homer, Farmerville; Arcadia, Vernon, Mt. Lebanon, Sparta, Springville, Pleasant Hill, Mansfield, Vienna.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], February 2, 1865, p. 1, c. 1

Dear Messenger—I had fondly hoped to record a glorious revival of religion in our division, but of all mutable things, the circumstances justifying the continuation of divine service in the army are among the most changeable and uncertain. We commenced a meeting in Maclay's brigade on the night of the 16th inst., with the most flattering prospects. It continued until the night of the 21st. Resulting in the conversion of four of our soldiers and the accession of thirty-nine members to the Army church. We have now four churches organized in this brigade in a flourishing condition. In the 11th Texas, we have a church of 40 members; in the 14th, 40; in the 28th, 60; in Gould's battalion, 21. The exigencies of the service, demanding the recent removal of our division, compelled us to close our meeting when we were looking for the most beneficent results.—But the good seed sown by the several able ministers, who were with us cannot be lost. I am persuaded that it fell in many a good and honest heart. God grant that much fruit may soon appear to the honor of his blessed name.

S. C. L.

Missionary to Forney's Division.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], February 2, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

Houston, Dec. 26, 1864.

Eds. Messenger—I desire to call the attention of Army chaplains and officers to what so seriously embarrasses all benevolent enterprises aiming to benefit the soldier. That is, the too often stealing of private property in the vicinity of camp, and even among scenes of private hospitality. I respectfully call the attention of Chaplains, that they may employ the sanctions of their holy mission, to arrest the evil; and to officers that they may use proper discipline to suppress and prevent it.

Nothing so much hinders me in the work of establishing and maintaining Soldiers' Homes as this class of wrongs done by soldiers near camp, and while traveling, hogs, pigs, sheep, and cattle are shot down, hunted as men hunt squirrels in the woods; in communities where nothing that could be spared is withheld; and upon the property of planters whose hospitality to our troops has become a proverb; and where for many a long week many a sick hero has been nursed with a mother's and sister's care. Beeves have been shot down only to cut out a smoking morsel from their quivering flesh, the rest given to the vulture; breeding sows killed and carried off, leaving their young pigs to perish, too young for self-sustenance....

It is easy to conceive the difficulties we meet with our "Soldiers' Homes" enterprises from the petty thefts committed upon private hospitality. Spoons, knives, forks, sheets, blankets, quilts, &c., have been stolen from dining and bed-rooms, where gratuitous fare had been enjoyed. These crimes are so atrocious, base, mean and contemptible, that often I am speechless in the presence of the victims thereof. I can assert boldly and confidently that this is not the character of our armies, I know it is not.—But am ashamed to be obliged to offer apologies for such villainies....

I am happy to announce a most interesting revival of religion at Velasco—the mouth of the Brazos. Without a preacher, and as a Divine blessing upon the efforts of laymen, fourteen souls had professed religion and 20 to 30 were anxious enquirers ten days ago. To God be the praise.

I congratulate you upon the success of your paper, and hope it will do great good.

Yours, &c.,

Thos. Castleton.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], February 2, 1865, p. 2, c. 1

Soldiers' Homes

Texas.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| San Antonio | | Bexar county; |
| Austin | | Travis county; |
| New Braunfels | | Comal county; |
| Corsicana | | Navarro county; |
| Hillsboro | | Hill county; |
| Palestine | | Anderson county; |
| Fairfield | | “ “ |
| Cotton Gin | | “ “ |
| Springfield | | Limestone county; |
| Independence | Maj. Blanton's Hotel | Wash'n; |
| Waxahachie | Maj. Roger's Hotel | Ellis co; |
| Ash Creek | Mr. Ward's | Hill co; |
| Bastrop | Mr. Nicholson's Hotel | Bastrop; |
| Paris | [Name not known,] | Lamar co; |
| Beaumont | Col. Fletcher's | Jefferson co; |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Houston | Houston Hall | Harris co; |
| Hempstead | Defunct, reorganising | Austin co; |
| Navasota | Defunct | Grimes co; |
| Milican | Defunct | Brazos co; |
| Anderson | Mrs. Hendricks' | Grimes co; |
| Huntsville | Col. Polk's Hotel | Walker co; |
| Crockett | Defunct | Houston co; |
| Rusk | | Cherokee co; |
| Henderson | Col. Davenport's | Rusk co; |
| Marshall | ---- Hotel | Harrison co; |
| Dallas | | Dallas co; |
| Goliad | | Goliad co; |
| Jasper | Dr. L. White's | Jasper co; |
| Richmond | Mr. Betwick's Hotel | Ft. Bend |
| Clinton | Mr. Cottingham's Hotel | Dewitt; |
| Hallettsville | | Lavaca co; |
| Prairie Point | | Colorado co; |
| LaGrange | | Fayette co; |
| Winchester | | " " |
| Mr. Burns' Cross Roads, | | Burleson co; |
| Caldwell | | " " |
| Cameron | Mr. Drury's Hotel | Milam co. |
| Waco | McKeig's Hotel | McLennan co; |
| Butler | {Mr. Hillery Morning's} | Freestone co; |
| | {Mr. Wm. McDaniel's} | |
| Pine Tree | Mr. Ewalts | Cherokee co; |
| Sargent's | | |
| Red Top | | Fayette co. |
| | Western Louisiana. | |
| Shreveport | Caddo parish; | |
| Minden | Claiborne " | |
| Homer | " " | |
| Farmerville | Union " | |
| Arcadia | Bienville " | |
| Vernon | Jackson " | |
| Mt. Lebanon | Bienville " | |
| Sparta | " " | |
| Springville | Natchitoches " | |
| Pleasant Hill | DeSoto " | |
| Mansfield | " " | |
| Vienna | Jackson " | |

We have received a list of Soldiers' Homes from Rev. Mr. Castleton, but omit publishing it as it is much less complete than our own.

February 13th, 1861 }

Rev. and Dear Brother.—I send you a brief communication in compliance with your request that chaplains correspond with you. I reached Washington (Ark.) the 1st of December, since then have been pleasantly employed in visiting and preaching to the sick in the hospitals, of which we have quite a number, three large buildings filled with patients, the rooms are ample, well ventilated and admirably adapted to the purpose for which they are used. The chief surgeon and his assistants are energetic and efficient officers and cultivated gentlemen, and to some of whom especial credit is due for efforts in contributing to their comfort, by constant attention to the cleanliness of the wards and the hospital clothing. There have been diseases of almost every kind and while many of the patients have been very seriously even dangerously ill, now there are only a few concerning whom any apprehensions need be had....

Allow me to thank a few kind ladies of this place for their kindness to the sick men, what can be nobler? A beautiful boy and his little brother with a servant following, going around from bunk to bunk giving out soup, milk, &c., to the poor, sick soldiers. God bless that little John Howard and his mother. I intend to see all the ladies of the town and surrounding country and endeavor to gain their cooperation in this work. You know how any little thing prepared by a ladies hand, is relished by a sick man. I am sadly in need of reading matter, and you not send me something? Bibles or Testaments. Oh if I had them! I beg of the ladies to send me all the old Magazines, books, &c., that they can spare from their houses.

I am sorry to say (using a young lady's expression to a friend) "our town is gayer this winter than I ever knew it." This gayety is untimely and out of place. Men and women dancing in one room, in another only a few paces distant, brave southern dead and dying; no doubt the noise of the music and dancing disturbed the last moments of a noble soul that longed for a little quiet to make peace with its maker.

In the resident clergy we have two excellent men, the Rev. Mr. Renneau and Rev. Samuel Williamson, D. D., and a very efficient layman, Mr. L---, a noble christian who literally goes about doing good...

Your unworthy brother in Christ Jesus,

B. M. T.
Missionary Chaplain, Pres. Church.

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], March 2, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

Note: Report of W. R. D. Stockton, Chaplain 1st Regiment Texas Cavalry, from camp near Keachi, Feb. 23, 1865

ARMY AND NAVY MESSENGER [SHREVEPORT, LA], March 2, 1865, p. 1, c. 2

Ordination of Col. Jumper and Maj. Factor, Fort Washita, C.N., February 25th, 1865. "We have organized an interesting church in Maj. Johnson's Battalion at Fort Washita, and the Lord has added to our number frequently such as will be saved." --H. S. Buckner.