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PART 2

THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF
ELBRIDGE LITTLEJOHN

edited by
VICKI BETTS



BASED ON
INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY:
MILDRED LITTLEJOHN
SARAH L. HANES
JON HARRISON
JOHN W. WILKINS

Editor's Note

It had been a long nineteen months for Elbridge Littlejohn - - nineteen months since he had last seen Sallie, his bride of not quite two years. The Confederacy had called, and Elbridge had answered by joining Company G, Tenth Texas Cavalry, a group recruited largely from Smith and Rusk Counties. Although he regretted having to leave her, Elbridge knew that Sallie would be in good hands while he was away. Her father and step-mother, William Cory and Evaline Wilkins Jefferies, along with four of her sisters, Pamela, Mary, Alice, and Melissa, and three of her brothers, Terril, Thomas and James, lived nearby. Two other brothers, Robert and John, had already enlisted in the Confederate army and a third, Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, would soon follow. One sister, Rebecca, was married and living in South Carolina, the state from which both Elbridge and Sallie had emigrated and where Elbridge's family still lived. Elbridge had a brother, Thomas, serving in a South Carolina regiment.

Probably with tears and promises to write often, Elbridge and his friends, Isaac Martin, Reuben Goforth, Monroe Spinks, William Garner and others, left eastern Smith County and joined their regiment already near Gilmer. Their first objective was to secure northeast Arkansas against Federal encroachment, but soon after arriving near Searcy, Elbridge contracted "typhoid pneumonia" which "came very near taking me off." By the time he recovered and was able to catch up with the Tenth Texas Cavalry, it was involved in the retreat from the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. The later summer and fall brought the Kentucky campaign under General Bragg and Elbridge' first experiences with battle, although death had been a constant presence in the regiment since Little Rock. The autumn of 1862 also brought great happiness and great sorrow to the Littlejohn and Jefferies families. Elbridge's first child, a son, Elbridge Gerry Littlejohn, Jr., was born on September 23, 1862. On November 3, 1862, however, Sallie's brother, Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, died from illness at Knox-

ville, Tennessee, and was buried there in a temporary grave.⁴ Letters continued to be sent to Texas and back again, asking about the baby, describing the scenery and battles, relaying family news from South Carolina, consoling the absent and praying for continued good health.

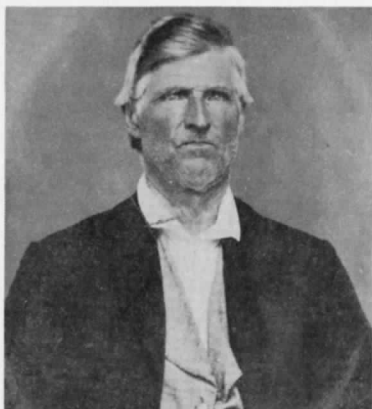
On December 31, 1862, while fighting in the Battle of Murfreesboro, or Stone's River, Tennessee, Elbridge was shot in the right hip and pieces of canister struck him in the head. His father, Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, came to take Elbridge home to recuperate, probably because South Carolina was closer than East Texas. Elbridge made a slow recovery amidst his family and childhood friends at Thicketty Creek and his letters to Sallie included local gossip as well as pleas for news from Texas. Letters from Smith County were few and far between, partly due to the scarcity of paper and partly because of the growing Federal control of the Mississippi River which culminated in the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. By October 4, Elbridge had recovered sufficiently to be on his way to join his regiment at Meridian, Mississippi.

The last letter in part one of "The Civil War Letters of Elbridge Littlejohn" was dated October 24, 1863, from Brandon, Mississippi. It had been nineteen months since Elbridge left his home and Sallie. He had a son thirteen months old he had never seen, and he had been very near death twice. Even so, the War Between the States still was only half over for the Jefferies and Littlejohn families.

--VICKI BETTS

All the contributors who make the publication of the Littlejohn letters possible were acknowledged in the last issue. Additional recognition, however, is due the editor, Miss Vicki Betts, whose editing and footnoting of the collection was invaluable. Miss Betts is a graduate of Robert. E. Lee High School, Tyler Junior College, East Texas State University and holds a Master of Library Science degree from North Texas State University (not Texas Woman's University, as previously published in "Chronicles".)

---JAMES WILKINS
Publications Committee



ELBRIDGE GERRY
LITTLEJOHN, SR.
(1841-1913)



SARAH ANN
"SALLIE" JEFFERIES
LITTLEJOHN
(1839-1927)



PAMELIA GOODMAN JEFFERIES
(1834-1910), Sallie's
sister.

photographs courtesy of
SARAH L. HANES (The two
photos at right are
being reprinted as they
were transposed in the
last issue. --ED.)

"BRIDGIE"--Elbridge G. Littlejohn,
Jr.--and his mother, SALLIE LITTLE-
JOHN. (photo courtesy of Liska
Littlejohn McCoy of Columbus, Ohio)



WHO SAVED THE LETTERS?

The late Elfleda Littlejohn, daughter of Elbridge G. Littlejohn, Jr., has been credited by many family members as being responsible for making a typescript from the original letters many years ago, and making copies of that available. It was from Mildred Littlejohn's typescript that the Publications Committee worked. The originals are now in the possession of Mr. Richard C. Torbert, who adds this information to the story:

"The person one has to thank the most, I would guess, for both the preservation of the E.G.L. letters and the inspiration to Elfleda, was her father, E.G. Littlejohn, Jr. Mr. Littlejohn was a devoted student of Texas history who would have no difficulty recognizing the value of his father's wartime correspondence. He impressed all who came into contact with him with his enthusiasm for history and the heroes who made it happen. His Texas History Stories still grip the youngster who never heard of Dowling, Bean or Cabeza de Vaca. Although he was a scholar, writer and educator (superintendent of Galveston schools), Mr. Littlejohn had a profound respect for men of action. His own style of teaching was thus an active one, full of innovations such as establishment of the first parent-teachers association. High moral standards infused his life, translating into a sense of fairness, modesty and love of family and friends."

Camp Harper, near Brandon, Miss. Nov. 1st/63

My dear Sallie,

I take the time this Sabbath morning to write you all again, knowing that any tidings from this side of the river will be received with pleasure by you all. Though my short scribbles may be crowding upon you very fast at this time, which contains nothing to interest you, yet I believe it will be a gratification to you anyhow, even to see a few lines from me, however uninteresting it may be. It is always a pleasure to me to meditate upon the bygone moments of the happy days, though few they were, that we spent together in our early acquaintance. And afterwards, when we became more closely and intimately connected, when our joys and woes became united. But the time allowed for us to associate together in love and peace were few. Love's happy journey was soon interrupted by the clash of arms and the flourish of trumpets, and we were called on to separate. I bid adieu to all that was dear to me on Earth to risk my life and my fate, but placing my trust in the goodness and mercy of an all-wise and superintending Providence, whom I knew was willing to protect those who put their trust in Him. But the vicissitude and changes of this life are many, more than the soil of this once peaceful and happy land should endure. The quiet home, where once happiness reigned supreme, and the winning smile rested upon the countenance of its inmates, has now become the house of mourning, where grief and melancholy sits depicted on every face and the happy smile is never seen in their circle. What a contrast! Had it been proclaimed aloud by an Angel from Heaven that such disastrous changes would take place, who would have believed it. But I hope the time is not far distant when peace will be proclaimed and glorious Victory will perch upon the Banner of Freedom; and then we will be permitted to return home, made doubly dear to us by toils and privations which we have endured, and still more so by the long and painful absence.

I have suffered a great deal since I saw you. I have suffered more than death itself. But I am grateful that, by the kind hand of Providence, I have been able to survive all these hardships, and I am now able to be moving about. Though far from being stout as I once was in my leg, I don't think it will ever injure me seriously.

Sallie, I am very sorry to inform you of my disappointment. I sent up a furlough on surgeon's certificate of disability. It passed through all the Brigade authorities without hesitation, but when it came to the Division Surgeon he disapproved it and sent it back. He says if I am not able for service I must be put where I can do something. I expect they will put me in the hospital as a nurse. I don't like that position and I think I shall not go to it. If I cannot get a transfer to the cavalry I think I shall remain with the company. I don't have to do any drilling now. Nothing but camp duty, such as standing guard, &c. My health otherwise is very good. The other boys are all well and in fine spirits. Garner is doing better now than ever before since he has been in the service. Martin is doing well also.

Well, I suppose that marrying is not entirely done away yet in Texas. I have heard by others, who have received letters from home, that Sam Goodman¹ is married to a Miss Vincent. I was not expecting such a thing and was astonished at it. How was the old folks pleased at it. These here who know her say she is a very nice looking lady. I learn also from letters that there is a great deal of sickness in Texas. There has been but very little sickness in the old states. There have been very good crops of corn made back there.

I have not had a letter from any of Pa's folks since I left, but I am looking every day. Davis Jefferies² told me when I saw him last that he was coming to our Brigade as soon as his wife was confined, which he thought would be in two weeks from the time he left home. Davis never went to see Becca³ at all. What was the reason I can't say now. Reynolds⁴ and Sam Jefferies⁵ has had a difficulty which has ruined the good feelings of the families. Becca thinks her friends treat her very coldly, that is, some of them. Says that Uncle Adam's⁶ family has been better to her than anyone else. It would be a good thing if they could get with you. They have some very sorry negroes, and their expenses are heavy. They are hardly able to meet the expenses of the family. They sold Alf⁷ and got \$1600 for him, which did not pay for his substitute. I have found out that there is a great deal of deception in some folks. I was very much deceived. People in whom you all placed the greatest confidence. If you ever live to see Becca she can tell you a few things. I will not mention names for you would all be hard of belief. But I can tell you one thing. As long as I lay at home, unable to get out of the house, not the first one of Uncle John's⁸ family ever came to see me at all. Don't this look like good will! I don't grumble at this at all, because it is a matter that I don't care anything about.

It is now twelve months since Benton⁹ died, wanting two days. His remains are yet at Knoxville but will be moved as soon as the enemy is driven from that part of the State. If they had gone after his remains as soon as I wanted them to do they could have got them. But Reynolds was not at home and no one else could go.

I must bring my letter to a close. I have written to you often lately. Our Col.¹⁰ leaves in the morning for Texas. You can send letter by him when he returns. He lives in Upshur Co. I wrote to John¹¹ this morning by a man who belongs to his regt. What has become of Robert?¹² I have not heard from him in a long time. How does my boy do? Does he talk any? I sent him a little ring by Capt. Howard.¹³ Write to me by him. Tell Mr. Goforth¹⁴ Reuben¹⁵ has got back to his Grandma's and is doing well. Can walk on his crutches. Tell all the girls to write to me on every chance. You can mail letters and send them by mail across the river, as there will be two mails a week. Direct them by Shreveport, La., to any place on this side of the river you wish.

My Respects to all the friends, and particularly to your Pa and Ma,¹⁶ Pamela,¹⁷ Mary,¹⁸ Alice,¹⁹ Terril,²⁰ Lis,²¹ Tom,²² and Jim.²³ Kiss my boy twice for me, and accept the same for yourself. I remain as ever your true and affectionate husband,

E. G. L.

Brandon, Miss. Nov 6th 1863

My Dear Sallie,

I hasten to drop you a few lines by a man who is coming home. I received your kind and most welcome letter two days since from John,¹ who came up to our company and brought it to me. It was the first line I had seen from you in six months and you may be sure it met with a glad reception. I was glad to see John, too. He looks very well and is in fine spirits. He speaks of getting a furlough and going to So. Ca. in a few weeks.

We are now at the Depot waiting for the cars to take us to Meridian, and where we will go from there we cannot tell. Some think we will go back to Ten. but I don't think we will myself. My opinion is that we will go up about Corinth in this State. But there is no certainty where we will go. I know one thing - we are all very much opposed to going back at all and a good many of the boys say they will not go at all. There is no Yankees now this side of Big Black.² I suppose they have all been sent from Vicksburg to Chattanooga. The papers say we are getting Rosecrans³ in a tight. I would much rather stay in Miss. this winter on account of the weather. Our boys are suffering up there very much from the weather. They have no tents, and but very few blankets. We had a tremendous hard rain last night, it liked to have washed us all away. I went to a negro cabin and slept very comfortable with two other boys. Today is very fair. I got a letter from Sister Mollie⁴ yesterday. All the folks were well back there. She says her old man⁵ is sick at the hospital in Ten. You must write to her as she would like to hear from you. I am glad to hear that you and little Bridgie are getting on well. I can imagine that I can see him and you now, almost. O! I would give all I have got if I could see you both. What was the matter with you when you was sick? I hope you will recover your usual size. Well, well, I was astonished to hear that Sam Goodman was married.⁶ I would like to know who that sweetheart of hers is that she was looking for when you and Alice⁷ wrote. Tell her if she goes to claim anyone there someone in Rutherford will be disappointed. Tell her not to marry till I come back as I want to be there. I can't give you any particulars this time, but when I write again I will be more extensive, as I have a bad chance to write now. I know my boy will be a great deal of comfort to you in your lonesome hours. You must raise him in the true path. I know you will do right so far as you know. At least I am willing to risk you. If I live till next Sept. I will come home, as our time is out then, and if I am alive at that time you may look for me. I could come now by doing as many others are doing, but I know none of you wants me that way. I am not compelled to do any duty as the surgeon considers me unable. I sent up a furlough but it came back disapproved. I will try for some position. We have drawn money again. If I have a chance I will send some home. Yours &c. E. G. L.

Note at top of last page: A mail route is established across the river by which you can send letter by paying forty cents and sending them via Shreveport, La. I want you to write to me often. Tell Pa (Pamelia)⁸ I will comply with her request soon and I want her and the rest to do likewise. When you write to Robert,⁹ give him my respects. Which is the larger - your boy or Bob's? I expect you all spoil him very much. I have given all John's clothes to him now. I am proud that your Pa¹⁰ is getting better satisfied. John said he heard from North Carolina lately. All was well. I think he writes there pretty often.

Well, I must close. Give my respects to all the friends. My constant prayer is that I may be spared to return home to the presence of my loved wife and child. Write often as you can. Experience no uneasiness about me. I will take care of myself.

Remember me in your prayers and I will do the same for you.

Your same affectionate husband, Elbridge

Meridian, Miss. Nov. 16th 1863

My dear Wife and Friends,

Again I seat myself to inform you of my present whereabouts and condition. A Lieutenant from our Rgt. is coming home, who lives in Smith Co. by whom I will send you these lines. This leaves me in the enjoyment of good health and in tolerable good spirits. You probably would think that one of my situation, with a loving and affectionate wife at home and an infant Boy, from whom I have been absent almost two long years, could not say that he was in good spirits. Well, 'Tis true I often feel disconsolate when I reflect upon the varied scene and changes of this life, and knowing, too, at the same time that it may be my lot never to return to those loving ones at home any more, whose happiness almost depends upon my welfare. I say I cannot but feel low spirited when these solemn thoughts come over me, but I try to resist them as best I can. For I believe it is one essential to one's health to keep busy and cheerful; but at the same time, I believe it is quite as necessary for a person to meditate upon and contemplate the situation in which we are placed and to reflect upon it with serious thoughts. None of us at home knows how long we are going to live; but here in camp life looks much more precarious, beset with many more dangers, and the allurements of vice and wickedness are more apt to lead us astray. Wickedness in all its deformity reigns with unlimited sway in the soldiers' camps, and moral rectitude is a word which almost becomes obsolete in his lexicon. I often consider my own case to see if I have in any degree degenerated from my old courses. I don't profess to have lived up to all the commandments, but I

hope that I have not been as morally wicked as a great many whom I have seen. Sometimes I fear I am losing sight of the right track. The temptations are great here, but I hope that I will be able to withstand all.

This morning is quite cool, and I can't write much. Lieut. Wynn¹ from our Com. will be coming in a few days by whom I will write again at more length. Since I wrote you last John² has been up to see me and brought me your letter of the 14th Sept. I was truly glad indeed to get it, being the first one I have had from you for six months. I forwarded the one Alice³ wrote to Becca.⁴ She has not heard from you in a long time. Robert Ligon⁵ from Tyler has been court marshalled and sentenced to work on the fortifications at Mobile during the War for cowardice. He was first condemned to be shot, but his punishment has been commuted.

I have no news to write you at all. We can hear nothing definite from our army in Tenn. The enemy is still shelling away at the beleaguered Charleston. All the people at home are well. We are fixing to go into winter quarters, building houses, &c. I would be proud if you could cross the river. I would board you at a house as long as we stay here. But I pray to the Good Lord to let me live to see you all once more. I must close. Give my respects to all the family. Tell them to write to me, all of them.

Enclosed you will find one piece of the bone that came out of my hip, the largest piece. I remain as ever your true and affectionate husband,

E. G. Littlejohn

When you write to me tell me all the news of the country, who is married, who is dead, who is gone to the army &c. All the boys are well and hearty. Note at top of second page: We have just had an inspection of arms and our com. got the praise of being the finest in the regt. I have a tolerable nice gun myself. Written across the second page: We all have a good supply of clothing and blankets. Tell Mary⁶ I would like to know who that Beau of hers is. You promised to tell me who it is. If I had a chance I would send you some money. I have more than I have any use for it. I will send it by the first chance. Sallie, if you can have your likeness and the baby's taken, please do so and send them to me. It would be a great consolation to me in my lonesome hours. I often look at the one I have, though it is not a good one. I will send you one of mine when I can have it taken. We are getting very short rations now. Scarcely anything but coarse meal and a little beef. I don't have to do any hard duty now, nor do I believe I ever will be. I will make an application for some detail after the winter is over. Probably I may get a transfer to the cavalry. Note at top of last page: Garner's⁷ well. Tell Mr. Goforth⁸ Ruben⁹ is doing well.

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Camp near Meridian, Miss. Nov. 19th 1863

My Beloved Sallie,

To while away a few of the solitary moments this evening while I am on guard I conceive this to be the most agreeable way in which I could spend the time. All the rest of the company have gone out to the woods to build the houses in which it is said that we are going to spend the winter. But I fear that even before we get them completed we will be ordered to leave them for some other field of action. As I sit writing on my humble desk of blankets and knapsacks with the ground for my chair, let me imagine you to be sitting in the entry of your Pa's house, with my Dear little Boy fondling in your arms, where we so often imparted to each other tokens of our Love and esteem for each other; and where we have spent many pleasant hours of happiness, which none can appreciate but those who have participated. My memory oft recurs back to those times, and the stragling dew-drops of tears start from my eyes before I am aware of it. Perhaps while I am writing this you may be thinking of your far Distant ever mindful husband; between whom and yourself many miles, an insolent and inhospitable enemy, and the broad rolling waters of the Mississippi intervene to cut off all intercourse of communication, and if possible would sever forever those links of love, which nothing but death itself can separate. It does really seem as if the cruel and relentless Fates were against me all the time; but I trust in God that he will bring all things out right at last, according to His holy will.

I am bound to acknowledge that I feel great Gratitude to God for his great mercy in taking care of me in so many dangers, when exposed to so many privations and temptations. Though I have been unfortunate in some respects, yet I have been blessed in many others; though my life blood has been poured out upon the ground like water, and the whistling missiles of Death flying thick as hail around me, while many others have been taken from time to a boundless eternity, yet through the goodness of Jehovah I have been spared to be able to communicate with you through the medium of the Pen, though the privilege of being with and seeing each other is denied us. Ought we not then to be very thankful to the great Preserver and Benefactor of us all? Ought we not to give Praise and Thanks to Him! O yes, Let us not forget when we lie down each night to send up our humble petitions to the great Jehovah to protect us and take care of us through all the journeyings and meanderings of this unfriendly and wicked world. And we may yet live to see each other, though the future looks dark and gloomy. At least let us hope for it, and pray for it. I often think how many times I have seen you kneel at night, around our couch, and send up your supplications to the Throne of Grace; and I did not join with you. O, how I regret that negligence, that indifference that I showed then. Methinks had I the liberty of enjoying those privileges now, how eagerly would I embrace them. Yes, Sallie, I would cheerfully kneel with you and pray to God for his Blessings. O, how I long to be with you once more. How long, oh how long will this cruel war last, keeping me from your presence. Though we seem to be doomed to undergo a long separation yet it may all

be for some good. Let us not murmur at the workings of Providence, but meekly resign ourselves to His just will.

Well, as I said before, I am guard today. We have no duty to do except the latter, which is merely around the camps to keep the boys from bringing in hogs and other things which they sometimes go into the country and steal. We have some mighty bad boys. They will take anything in the world they can lay their hands upon. We are two miles from Meridian in the Piney woods. You may guess our appearance when you consider that we have to burn a great deal of pine wood, which smokes us pretty Black.

As I told you, we are building houses to stay in during the winter, as we have but very few tents. It is my opinion that we are going to be kept here as a place of rendezvous in order to intercept any raids that the enemy might attempt to make through the state. We have been run about more than any other Division in the service and I think they ought to let us rest awhile. It is thought by some that we will be transferred across the river in the course of six months, but I fear very much it will not be the case. A good many of the Boys from the brigade attempted to come anyhow a week or so ago. Some of them made it, but others were caught and brought back. I can't tell what their punishment will be. There were some boys from our own company who would have tried to come if they had had money. I don't like the idea of running away, and I don't believe you would want to see me coming home in that way, would you? No.

While we were at Brandon John¹ came up to see me; he looked quite natural though I had not seen him for sixteen months. He looks just like John yet, full of his jokes and in good spirits. He is determined to fight as long as the war lasts, if he is able and lives. I gave him the clothes which I brought from home for him, which came in good time. He said he thought he would get a furlough shortly, and if so, he was going back to S. Carolina. John told me of Bob Ligon² being marshalled, and was first sentenced to be shot, but the punishment was commuted to working on the Breastworks at Mobile during the war. Pretty tight sentence sure.

I would like very much to hear from Robert,³ as I have not heard from him for several months. I recon his boy (Little It) is coming on finely. Becca's⁴ children are growing well. Billy is a great big boy. Johnnie is the best looking, favors Mary⁵ a good deal. To ask him who Mary's Type is and he says Aunt Mary. Ask him where Aunt Mary is, he says in Tex. They have all had the whooping cough.

The people in some respects are much as they were when you were there. Some of them have changed considerably, and those whom you would suspect. Your Sister can tell you, if she ever lives to see you, who was true friends and who were not. As for my own part it did not matter so much, but it looked bad for her nearest kinsfolk to discard her in time of need. I do not wish to make any unfavorable impressions upon you, nor do I wish you to think I am speaking unworthily of any of your friends. I am afraid to commit to writing that which induces me to talk as I do. One thing is, though, that some of the Lady friends made some very slightly remarks about me, which, were I to tell you, I know you and all the rest of your Pa's family would say was not the case. It does not matter with me because I am too well known. I was not treated as a friend, or even as I would have treated a connection.

I have had no news from S. C. in a week or two. The last, they were all well. I have had one letter from Sister Mollie⁶ since I have been here. I am sorry to say she still continues to keep aloof from Pa's.⁷ I did my utmost, when I was there, to get her to return, but could not prevail upon her. The difference is simply because Pa did not like the treatment he got from Frank,⁸ and both being a little too rash, neither will succumb to the other. Thomas⁹ is still in Va. yet, and in tolerable good health. Uncle Nathan¹⁰ and Aunt Caty¹¹ were just as they were when I left home. Uncle Nathan expresses great anxiety in our future welfare and talks of you all a great many times.

I have given you all the news I can think of at the present. Why does not Pa. (Pamelia)¹² and the other girls write to me sometimes with you. I would like very much to see a line from them and your Pa also, if he could spare the time. But I know he is too busy now to write any one almost. I think Pamelia has promised me more than once to write me, and I know Mary and Alice¹³ are not so busy but what they might devote a few minutes in dropping me a few lines. I imagine that Tom¹⁴ is a whale by this time and that Jim¹⁵ is like Tom was when I left. I would like to see them all very much.

Well, I guess you think it is time I was drying up, but I have not anything else to do until night, and I recon you will pardon me for intruding upon your patience thus. We have no amusements in camps at all, but reading sometimes. Some of the boys employ their leisure in playing marbles. We have preaching on Sunday twice and prayer meetings three times through the week, and a debating society once a week. It is quite an imposing scene to look upon a group of men seated around the rudely built altar, upon the ground for the seats, and the heavens for their covering. It is truly a solemn sight. There are some very strong and able men in the brigade, who seem to take some interest in the welfare of the poor soldier. I never go there but what I think of you. We have a chaplain from our Com. who is young, but I think he will make a very good preacher. But there is a great deal of wickedness prevailing in camps.

I have written you often lately, almost a letter a week, and I hope it will not be long ere I can have the pleasure of some answers. For anything from any of you never comes amiss. And I will continue to write to you as often as I can. A mail route is established now, by which you can send letters through by paying forty cents in advance.

Crossed writing on several pages (in pencil).

Nov. 20th. The weather has been very fair for two weeks, but today it has been raining a little. We have nearly got our houses completed. They are small but will do very well to protect us from the wintry blasts. Tom Hanson¹⁶ is in today. He is left on this side of the river and thinks probably he will be transferred. He looks very well, has been at the hospital for some time. I send this letter by Lieut. Wynn¹⁷ from our Company. You must be sure to write back by him. He lives close to Col Spinks.¹⁸

Several of our company is on that side of the river, by whom you can send letters, if

you will inquire when they are going to leave. I have Benton's Bible¹⁹ yet, which I will send to you when I can. I have taken care of it and I am fearful I will lose it. It was lost on the battlefield at Murfreesboro with mine and some of the boys found them both, and took care of them. I have plenty of clothing and blankets for some time if I will not lose them. Martin²⁰ and Garner²¹ are both doing very well.

Kiss my boy for me every day, and do not spoil him. But I know you will all spoil him too much. Please send me a lock of his hair. Enclosed you will find a ballad of the Poor Soldier. Give it to Mary as I know she is the greatest singer among you. I think it is very sympathetic. Also you will find a Yankee Type picked up by Bro. Thomas in Virginia. I was fooled by it for some time. He wrote to me first that it was his. I could not believe it, but Pa and all the rest made me believe it was his. But he wrote to me a few days ago that it was a Yankee's.

I will have mine taken the first opportunity. I would like to know what sort of a fellow that sweetheart of Mary's is sure. Somebody back at home will cry if he knew it for he is taking on about her. (Page missing?) Direct via Shreveport. I have not wrote any that way yet.

Are you all getting any better satisfied by this time? I hope that you are. I have come to the conclusion, if I can be so fortunate as to get back to Texas once more, to be perfectly satisfied. For I have seen enough of the world to believe it is pretty much on an equality. John told me that he thought your Pa was becoming better satisfied. I suppose he is making fine crops of corn. I can't say anything about the supervision of your affairs. Your Pa will attend to them, I know. For which I am under many obligations to him, and will reward him if I live. I suppose you have been able to settle up what little we owed by this time. I will send some money home by the first good chance, which I think will be soon. It takes a great deal of money to buy a few little tricks though, and we are almost compelled to buy something to eat. Try to manage the best you can. If you can't make money, if you can just keep even with the world while this war lasts it is as much as I can expect. I do not care to lay up money such times as these. Buy what you want if you can get it. Do not experience any uneasiness about me more than what is natural. If I live till next Sept. I will try to come home. When we have to go into active service again I will be detailed for something as I am unable to march, probably transferred to the Cavalry.

I must close. Give my respects to your Pa & Ma and all the children, Dr. Goodman and family,²² Mr. Goforth²³ and family and Mr. Wallace's.²⁴ Also remember me to Willie²⁵ and Stewart²⁶ and the other negroes. Always be mindful of me in your prayers to God. Pray that we may meet again, and I will do the same for you.

May the blessing of God rest forever upon you and Little Bridgie is the fervant prayer of your Devoted,

Elbridge.

37

Meridian Miss, Nov. 29th 1863

My Dear Wife and Friends,

Let me impose upon your patience again by pening to you a few lines relative to myself, and the other circumstances of camp. Today has been very raw and cold, the wind whistling mournfully through the Pines reminds one of the bygone days, when at home he was allowed the privilege of siting around the family circle fireside, where the fire burned merrily and we are unconscious of all that is going on without doors. Here we listen to the cold wind rustling through the tree tops and talk about the good times we used to have at home and the good things we used to have to eat. But it is really vexatious to try to do anything here in camps such weather as this. When you undertake anything around the fire, you are burning on one side while the other is freezing, or else your eyes are blinded by the fumes of smoke, which blacken your face and hands till it is a hard matter to tell whether you belong to the class denominated as White, or whether you belong to some colored race. Perhaps when you sit down to collect your few scattered ideas the gnawings of a rapacious appetite begin their unwelcome task of warning you that you have had no dinner today; and nothing but the mortifying reflection that you have got nothing but bread to eat to console you. Now just think of all these pester some things and know that such has been my Doleful, Deplorable predicament today before siting down to write this letter.

Well, as to news, I will give you what few items I know relative to the late fight in Tenn.¹ On the 24th Inst. the enemy drove in our pickets. On the next morning they went at it hot and heavy. Our troops fell back on the centre and left. Next day they continued to drive our forces farther back until they now rest on Chickamauga Creek,² where they fought them before. Gen. Bragg's Hdqrs. are at Ringgold, Ga.³ The papers state that we lost about five thousand prisoners and one thousand killed and wounded, all of whom fell into the hands of the enemy.⁴ It is to be hoped that we have not lost anything by this backward movement of Gen. Bragg but that he had some other important move in view which we hope will counterbalance the other. It is said that Longstreet⁵ is now in Knoxville, but there are conflicting reports about it. It is certain, however, that he is near that place with considerable force. The enemy has had very large reinforcements. Their loss put down at twenty thousand.⁶

We have been looking and expecting to receive orders every hour to go to Bragg's assistance.⁷ It's true, if we are needed we should not hesitate to go, but I somewhat rather spend the winter here than so far north as that. I am not particularly fond of neighboring with the Yanks, because they are treacherous and sometimes fool us. Occasionally they send us over leaden messengers, which are by no means welcome visitors,

and often bring suffering and sorrow to us. I have been partially acquainted with these Messengers and I can assure you they are not pleasant company. I had much rather be at home where I can converse with loving friends, than to be anyway near neighbors to these fellows. But to hasten back to where I left off. It looks like it would be somewhat ungenerous to send us away there now, for we have just about completed our cabins and will be ready to move in them in a few days. I am in ours now, while writing, and had it not been for the protection afforded by it, you would not have been troubled with reading a letter from me at this time. We have nothing more to do to ours but stop the cracks and make a door, as we have no floor to be troubled with. Though they are rude, yet they are preferable to being out without tents. We have no news about camps, only now and then the subject of a transfer gets up and its importance or insignificance is discussed by the boys.

Gen. Ector has taken in hand, as I learn, and I hope he may accomplish his design. Almost anything to get where I can hear from you all, for that is about all the satisfaction I have. The hope of hearing from home soon, but very often my hopes are blasted. I expect to get a letter from home by every one who comes but it is not often the case. The bearer of this (Mr. James McCormick)⁸ can tell you all about everything here, more accurately than I can write. You can very easily see him by going to Mr. Wallace's⁹ as I suppose he will make that his base while at home. I have not spoken to him about carrying this, but I suppose he will.

Today I received a letter from my old friend Wm. Goudelock,¹⁰ at Charleston. He gives no news of interest, only that the enemy are incessantly booming and pounding away at the devoted Fort and City. Had been at home very lately and almost regretted going. He says it was the hardest trial of his life to part with his wife and children this time, and says he believes a man will do better not seeing homefolks, but yet likes the idea of a furlough. All were well. I also recd a letter from your sister¹¹ a few days since. All were well but Johnnie, he had the sore throat. That disease has been very prevalent in that country. She wrote me that Mr. Blanton¹² lost a daughter with that complaint, one whom you did not know. Palmer,¹³ that married Sallie Moorehead,¹⁴ was killed in a fight in Va. They have made plenty to live on. Davis¹⁵ passed through this place a few days ago en route to Texas. He came by our camps and spent two or three hours with us. His wife has another daughter, born 5th Oct. He told me he would come to see you all when he got home and straightened up things. I believe he will go back shortly, if not conscripted while on that side of the river. I did not have time to write by him.

Well, you are getting anxious, I recon, to know who this letter to Mary¹⁶ is from, and how came it in my letter. The other day unexpectedly, a letter came to me from one whom I never before recd one, and on reading it, I found it to be from one who called me cousin. I will not mention his name but you can guess when I tell you how he said I might know who he was as he had never been acquainted with me. He calls himself by the nice title of Devil Bill Wilkins or Jack's Bill.¹⁷ He requested me to forward it through by the first chance (which I have done), saying that as he had not heard from any of the family for a long time he thought he would just write a few lines to Mary to know how your Pa's family were getting on. It is strange that he should write to her and not to the Head of the family for such news, but I think I can smell a mice, Mary. I think you might write and tell me the news in it, for not telling who it was. Sallie, don't you tell anybody what I have said about it nor let them see this part of the letter. I suppose its only a friendly letter. That Louisiana Beau will have to call off or somebody else will put his eyes out crying. The boys are now drawing furloughs. I suppose our com. will draw tomorrow, but who the lot will fall it is beyond my weak comprehension. But I am sure it will not fall to me, for I have never been so lucky as to draw anything yet. But I have one consolation, that is, if I can't go home myself, I can have the pleasure of writing to you by those who do come home.

Well, don't you think it is time for me to close. I am nearly out of paper unless I cross this, which makes it troublesome and hard to read.

The health of our command is very good now. We have but very few sick in the Brigade. We have one sick man in our company at this time. His name is Wilson¹⁸ and lives near Mr. Goforth's.¹⁹ Mr. Martin²⁰ is well, and the other boys. Martin got a letter from Reuben G.²¹ the other day. He is getting on very well, is able to ride about, has his furlough extended for thirty days. Nathan Littlejohn,²² Bill Rowland,²³ and Smith Lockhart²⁴ were wounded in Tenn. not long since. Smith was severely shot, the other boys only slightly. John R. Jefferies²⁵ has not yet returned to his command, but is improving, I learn. John D.²⁶ is staying at Jonesville,²⁷ agent for collecting the tax in kind. Goodman²⁸ has joined the Baptist Church. Manda Goudelock²⁹ is teaching school near her Pa's. She has been teaching two sessions and pleases them very well, but does not like it herself. Dick Littlejohn³⁰ is teaching near Derbin's.³¹ The crops in Caroline were short to what was expected. Pa made about three barrels of corn. I learn that fine crops have been made in Texas. We get scanty rations of meat but plenty of cornmeal. We buy about half of what we eat. Potatoes at \$4.00 per bush'l, and bacon at \$2.50 per lb. You may think this is pretty digging, but we must live, while we do live. I hate to spend money so fast too.

Well, I imagine that you are sitting in the room we used to stay in by the fire, playing with little Bridgie as you used to play with me, don't you recollect? What would I give only to spend two weeks with you and him. Though I never saw him, yet for all that I love him dearly. Tell him of me, so that when I come home he may have some idea of whom you tell him that I am. Kiss him every morning for me and think of me.

I must close this evening. Give my love to all the family. Tell them this letter is as much to them as to you and therefore they must write. You will think paper is scarce by my crossing this. It is.³² I had to borrow this sheet. I have sent for some. And if you are bothered, be not vexed.

Remember me in your prayers at night and I will do the same for you.

I remain your affectionate husband, Elbridge

LITTLEJOHN

Samuel Felix Walker
LITTLEJOHN
"Corn Sam"
(1808-1896)
m.1
Elizabeth SMITH
(1821-1850)
m.2
Rachel Lucinda MACOMSON
(1826-1894)

Elbridge Gerry
LITTLEJOHN
(1841-1913)
m.
Sarah Ann Jefferies

Thomas Marcellus
LITTLEJOHN
(1847-1931)
m.
Carolina Elizabeth Littlejohn

Molly LITTLEJOHN
(1846-1928)
m.1
W.B.Frank Littlejohn
m.2
Thomas L. Wilkins
m.3
Jesse B.Gary

Samuel Felix LITTLEJOHN
(1848-1884)
m.
Melissa Jefferies

Davis Livingston LITTLEJOHN
(1856-1922)
m.
Belle M. Cantrell

Katherine LITTLEJOHN
(1858-1900)
m.
James Elliott Webster

Sallie LITTLEJOHN
(1860-1938)
m.
Walter Mitchell

Nathan H. LITTLEJOHN
(1866-1943)
m.
Edna Smith Easterly

Julia LITTLEJOHN
(1864-)

Agnes LITTLEJOHN
(1869-1888)

JEFFERIES

William Cory JEFFERIES
(1809-1873)
m.1
Millie(y) GOUDELOCK
(1813-1846)
m.2
Evaline WILKINS
(1816-1891)

Elbridge Gerry LITTLEJOHN, Jr.
(1862-1935)
m.
Mary Helen Cullens

Elizabeth Bernice LITTLEJOHN
(1866-1868)

Samuel Wickliff LITTLEJOHN
(1870-1951)
m.1
Ione Coonie Beall

m.2
Anna Ray Beall

Sallie LITTLEJOHN
(1875-1919)
m.
Gus Pinkerton

Alma Corrinne LITTLEJOHN
(1879-1967)
m.1
Frank W. Marsh
m.2
Henry W. Niblack

Walter Glenn LITTLEJOHN
(1882-1951)
m.1
Ruby Markham
m.2
Rae _____

Rebecca Cory JEFFERIES
(1832-1900)
m.1
Wm.F.Reynolds
m.2
John Hall Wilkins

Pamelia Goodman JEFFERIES
(1834-1910)
did not marry

John JEFFERIES
(1835-1867)
did not marry

Robert D. JEFFERIES
(1837-1909)
m.
Bicol Davis

Sarah Ann JEFFERIES
(1839-1927)
m.
Elbridge G. Littlejohn

Nathaniel Benton JEFFERIES
(1841-1862)
did not marry

Mary E. JEFFERIES
(1843-1892)
m.Wm.O.Kay

Alice JEFFERIES
(1845-1900)
m.1 John L. Kay
2. A.J.Lawrence

Terril (Terrel?) JEFFERIES
(1849-1928)
m.Mary O'Neal

Melissa C. JEFFERIES
(1851-)
m.
Felix Littlejohn

Infant JEFFERIES
(1854)

Thomas P. JEFFERIES
(1857-1945)
m.1 Emma J.Ford
2.Lula Lowry
3.Mamie Nash

James Edward JEFFERIES
(1861-)
m.
Alice Jones

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS of persons mentioned in Littlejohn's letters, we are reprinting the two corrected family charts above from the last issue. They were compiled by SARAH L. HANES.

Since the type was set for all the letters and footnotes, additional research by JOHN W. WILKINS has corrected William Jefferies' middle name from Carl to Cory as indicated above. William's mother was Rebecca Cory and William and Millie named their oldest child after her. ---ED.

Camp Harper, Brandon,¹ Miss. Decr. 22 1863

Well, Pamela,² I now proceed to do as you have requested me in writing but I do not promise to be altogether so lengthy as you desire, for a two fold reason: the first is, it is a hard matter to get plenty of paper in this country, and in the next place, if I had a superabundance of it, I could not find matter sufficient to fill more than two pages, instead of five as you requested. And you will please pardon me, if my letter should prove uninteresting, as I am not posted up on the news of the day. The last papers contain nothing of importance. It is rumored that Grant's Army has left Chattanooga, that is, the greater portion of it. It is believed it has gone to Va. to reinforce Meade, who has been superseded by Grant.³ I would not be surprised if a portion of that army were sent to Miss also. There is but a small garrison left at Chattanooga. The Yankee army in Va. seems to have fallen back.⁴ I guess it is the intention to take Richmond this time, by them sending Grant there.

But they will have to travel a rough road before they get that place. The army in Miss. is resting quite easy. The enemy seems to have no desire to penetrate far into the interior of the State, their operations being confined chiefly to the narrow limits of the river bank, (occasionally they scout into the country to forage a little). We have had quite an easy time since I came back to the regt. 'Tis true we have had to move several times, but it has been by railroad altogether. When I wrote to Sallie the time before the last, we were just on the eve of moving from our houses at Meridian. We had just completed them with a great deal of hard labor. We left them with much regret, as they were much more comfortable than sleeping in the open air and on the ground. But that is the fate of war and we ought not to expect more. I expect we will remain here for some time. Last night, unexpectedly to me, a letter came in from Sallie. It was nearly bed time when I got it, but I could not rest that night without seeing the inside of it before I lay down. It is the second letter I have from any of the family in six months and you may rest assured I was glad to receive it and to learn you were all well. You cannot imagine the feeling of delight that fills the bosom of a poor soldier when he gets a letter from home informing him that the Dear Ones at home are all well. But I was sorry to see that paper is so scarce in Texas. Also she seems to get out of writing matter so quick that it almost looks like her attention has become too deeply engaged in some other business to lend a few moments to the task of writing to me. I want you to tell her to lay aside every other thought when she goes to write and tell me everything. I am glad to know that my boy is coming on so finely. I would give all I possess to be there to eat dinner with you all Christmas. I flatter myself that I could enjoy such a time remarkably well. But such can't be the case now. The news from the old State is unimportant. I recd a letter from Manda Goudelock.⁵ She does not give any news of interest only that her Bro. Sam⁶ was severely wounded at the last fight in Tenn. in the shoulder. She says her Pa started to Atlanta after him. Nathan Littlejohn⁷ was severely wounded in the arm at Lookout Mountain.⁸ He was at Atlanta and was very bad but was considered to be a little better the last accounts. Becca⁹ and Reynolds¹⁰ are well. I guess you will get their long letters, long before this comes to hand, and in them you will find news about the hard feelings of the Folks at home than I can tell you. Some things have taken place which I would not like to commit to writing. However, I am sorry to say things are not as I would have them to be. I suppose Mary¹¹ can give you the latest news from Rutherford, as she has had later news than I.

Well, Pa., I have almost filled out my piece of paper and can't write any more unless I cross, which I hope you will excuse me for. I suppose you would not care to know what we are getting to eat. Well, I'll tell you in a few words. We get plenty of corn meal and for a few days past have been beef aplenty. Now this is what we draw. We have been buying potatoes until lately, at high prices. But they are all gone now in the country. We have been making homany, and yesterday we made a potful, as good as you generally see if we only had some lard to fry it in. But we are all of us fat as you ever saw boys that live on buttermilk and butter. As for clothes, I am doing very well at the present. I drew a pair of pants yesterday but they are not much account. I have plenty of shirts and socks and upon the whole I have plenty to last me this winter. Sallie said you spoke of sending me a comfort &c. If you have not sent it you need not send it as I have a very good one. I am, however, obliged to you for the offer of it. Let me tell you what the Georgia Gals done for our company. A week or so ago, one of our Lieuts. went up there on a visit and the Ladies, taking compassion on our desolate condition, sent a pair of socks to every man in the company, many of whom stood in need of them. Now, I think this is an example worthy of imitation. And this is not the first time they have done so. If the men were half as patriotic as the women, I think our cause would prosper more.

I hope you have received the Bible I sent by John McCormick.¹² It is the only memento of a departed Brother.¹³ Although he is gone himself, he still lives in our memory, and will never be forgotten by us. Although he now reposes where the insolent foe tramples the earth with pride, yet I hope the time is not far distant when his grave may be rescued from thralldom, and his body laid in the old church yard at home among other kindred tombs.

Before this cruel unholy war ends, it may be the lot of many of us to lie in an unknown grave or our bodies left to bleach in distant lands. But then, those of you who are left, will have one consolation, though a comfortless one. Though they are gone, yet they fell in a good cause. But I have hopes that I may live to get home again to enjoy the liberties I have been fighting for.

Well, by the time you read all this you will be tired, and I will now close. Will you

please write me as long a letter as I have written to you. But I hope it may not be as uninteresting as mine. Give my respects to all the family and tell the others to write me also. And accept a due portion of Respect and Esteem from your friend and Bro.

E. G. Littlejohn

39

Brandon, Miss. Decr. 22nd 1863

Well, Sallie,

As I am writing to Pa. (Pamelia)¹ I will drop you a few lines also. I have given all the news in the other letter. This leaves me with the other boys, in good health. Your letter of the 17th ultimo came in last night. I do not know how it came but I suppose Mr. Nobles,² as it came with one for R. Goforth,³ which was brought by him to John⁴ and forwarded to us. I see that you have made a good crop and have plenty to eat, which is a comfort to me. I think you have done finely in making as much as you have. I am under lasting obligations to your Pa for his care and attendance, and give him my best regards to him. Although that is poor pay. I sent you \$170 by Capt. Kilgore,⁵ which I hope you will get. I am about out of money now, but I have no particular need for it. We will draw again shortly. It is rumored in Camps that our wages will be reduced, but I can't think it true. I got a letter from Pa⁶ a day or two since. All were well. He says the government has pressed my horse that he gave me.⁷ He did not know the price but thought four or five hundred dollars. He says he wants to see you and little Bridgie very much. I also recd a letter from Manda Goude-lock.⁸ Sends her lasting love to you. If it were possible, would you be willing to come to this side of the river and stay with our friends? If I thought I could get you across safely I would be proud to do so, as I could have the pleasure of hearing from you often, and chances of seeing you occasionally. I have been thinking of such things. I can't see any chance for me to get a furlough soon. Martin⁹ has one now and will go back to S.C. when our other man gets back from Texas. Tell Mr. Goforth¹⁰ Reuben¹¹ is doing well, and give them my respects.

Please write to me the next time about what I write, and write often, on every chance. Tell where Robert¹² is and what doing. I am going to send this letter by Parson Birdwell¹³ from our Com. who lives at Mount Enterprise.¹⁴ Send a letter to him by mail, if no other chance, and he will bring it to me.

Accept the pure love of your true husband,

E. G. Littlejohn.

Crossed on first Page:

I forgot to say to you that Bill Hanson¹⁵ is elected to the office of Lieutenant and his brother Tom¹⁶ is transferred to that Com. Garner,¹⁷ Martin, Rosson¹⁸ and Spinks¹⁹ are all well. I will write you again shortly, and you do the same.

40

Camp Cannon near Meridian, Miss. Jan'y 14/64

My Dear Wife and Friends,

Thinking perhaps you would like to hear from me at this time, I seat myself to drop you a few lines. It has not been very long since I wrote to Pa. (Pamelia)¹ but not knowing whether it ever reached you or not I will write again. This leaves me well as usual. I have been unwell since I wrote you, with cold and diarrhea. All the other boys are also in good health. I have no news to give you of interest. I recd a letter from Thomas² yesterday from Va. He was well when he wrote but had been unwell and had been at the Hospt. They are near Orange C.H.³ in winter quarters. The enemy is all lying still in that quarter. He said that he had written you a letter by mail but did not suppose it would ever reach you. He is anxious to hear from you. The news from S.C. is uninteresting. The Friends are generally well except some cases of sore throat. You will see by the caption of this that we have moved camps again. We came to this place last Sunday night, and found our houses all right that we built before we left here; and they were quite acceptable too, as the weather was cold and rainy. We have had a spell of severe weather for Miss. having had some snow. But it has moderated now, and has the appearance of being nice weather. I am not able to understand the cause of our being brought back to this place, but I would not be surprised if we were ordered to Mobile or Savannah, as it is thought the enemy intends making an attack on those points. A Missouri Brigade that belong to this Div. has gone to Mobile.⁴ It would not be against my feelings to have to go to either of those places. All is quiet about Chattanooga. But when winter breaks I expect we will have tolerable warm times here in Miss. as soon as the rivers get up.

Well, Christmas has come and gone again as is usually the case in camps. No fun, no enjoyment. Some of the boys seem to have enjoyed themselves finely in their way, but such a way does not suit me.

I have some rather bad news to give you. About the 4th Decr. Capt. Kilgore⁵ of our Com. started home on furlough, by whom we were all sending letters and papers. I started three letters by him, one to you and two to your Pa and Pamelia from Mr. Reynolds⁶ of several pages, and more than all \$170 to you. He was captured before he got to the river. So all is gone. Such has always been my luck through all the time. But I shall not grieve over spilt milk. I am now out of money but I hear we will draw in a few days. I was very much surprised the other day to get a letter and who should it be from but you. It came by mail in 30 days. I am obliged to you for the favor and hope you will do so

again. Has Jim McCormick⁷ ever got home? If so did he give you Benton's⁸ Bible I sent you? I have been looking for Capt. Howes⁹ for several days but he has not come in yet, and I am fearful he is captured, together with our Col.¹⁰ It is getting very dangerous to cross the river now, the Yanks watch so closely. Mr. Martin¹¹ has drawn a furlough and will go to S.C. as soon as our other furloughed man comes back, but I don't believe he will come back.

As to writing or saying anything to you about the hard feelings with some of the friends in S.C. tis more than I can do, for I promised the one that told me not to tell; but it is nothing that relates to you or any of your Pa's family, and I hope I will yet get home to tell you verbally. I am afraid to trust to writing. It is a matter of small consequence anyway, one that does not bother my mind but very little; and if I never get home any more Becca¹² can tell you all. I quit for the evening.

Since writing the above lines a man from our Company has got a furlough, by whom I will send this letter. He has a furlough for fifty days, and got it slyly. I don't see any chance for me ever to get a leave of absence until the war shall end, which I hope will not be long. But let me entreat you to keep in good spirits. I trust to come out safe. Please write to me every chance you have, for it is a great consolation to hear from you. Tell Pa. (Pamelia) I have written to her and I shall look for an answer. Bill Wilkins's Jack¹³ has gone back to Virginia. You have never written to me as you promised who Mary's¹⁴ beau is.

We are going to draw clothing today. I have got a very good supply. I want to see you all very much, and my boy a little of the worst. Train him up in the right path while he is growing, and in mature years he will not depart from them. When you write again, please send me a lock of his hair. Write to me all the news, how much cotton your Pa¹⁵ made, who is at home and all the family news of everything. Tell your Ma¹⁶ I am going to write to her sister Melissa¹⁷ shortly.

Well, I must close. My Love to all the family. And to my Dear Sallie, what shall I say! Live in hopes of my return and when this war shall end we will live the happier for our long separation. Always remember me in your evening prayer and I will do the same for you. Accept the pure and never dying love of your devoted husband,
Elbridge.

41

Marshall, Texas, April 11th/64

Dearest Sallie,

Today I am waiting at this place for two soldiers who were to be here by this time going across the river. I am in company with a young man by the name of Williams from Free-stone County,¹ who is also going to try to cross the river. We will go tomorrow morning whether the other men come or not.

As I expected, Capt. Brown² could not go, nor do I believe he intends going much. Oh, what feelings I have experienced since I left you and little Bridgie. I've been heart-sick. Kiss him for me. More anon. E.G.L.

Shreveport, La. April 13th

My Dear Sallie,

You see that I have got here. Just been to Kirby Smith³ and got a pass to cross the river. I will proceed immediately and try the River⁴ about Rodney.⁵ I met a man yesterday who has just crossed. Says he had no difficulty. Had to swim his horse. I am in company with a Mr. Williams. Experience no uneasiness about me. I will try to take care of myself. The news from this fight below is rather encouraging.⁶ I can't give any particulars. You will hear them soon.

I cannot hear anything from Robert.⁷ I suppose he is at Jefferson.⁸ When you or Bicol⁹ write to him tell him I wanted to see him very much but have been disappointed. I will direct Bicol's letter to him at Jefferson.

The news from the other side of the river is encouraging. I will write you again as soon as I cross the river. My horse does very well. I think will stand it. Spring has fairly opened down here and everything else seems to be gay, which only conspires to make me think of the dear ones at home so much the more.

Take care of Little Bridge and kiss him twice for his Papa, and accept the same for yourself. My respects to the Family and Friends.

From your devoted Elbridge.

42

5 Miles below Winsboro, La.¹ Undated

Dear Sallie and Friends,

Having met a man going to Millville, Rusk Co. I will drop you a few lines to let you know where I am and how I have got along. So far I have succeeded in getting along finely. I have very good company - met up with Lt. Buckner,² from Rusk Co. This side of Shreveport. We will get to the River tomorrow evening, if nothing happens. They are picking up some of our men but I will be on my guard. I want you to write me by this man if he comes back. His name is Williams. You can find where he lives by sending and enquiring of Scruggs. I have but a small piece of paper, and I must save a piece to write on when I get across the River. Feel no uneasiness for me. Kiss Little Bridge for me. Give my

respects to all the family and friends.

Your husband, Elbridge
The man's name is Jones Williams,³ Millville, Texas. I am well.

43

5 miles this side of Miss River Undated

My Dear Wife and Friends. Knowing that you are anxious to hear from me I will just say to you that I crossed the river last night (22nd) at St. Joseph.¹ I had to lay over two days in the swamps, had to sell my horse, when I came to the river. And it being so rough I was afraid to try to swim him. Got \$400 for him. I met with ten of my regt who did not cross with their horses. The river was very rough indeed. Be not uneasy about me. I am out of danger of the river. I have no envelope and will just send this so.

I remain as ever your Elbridge

Addressed on back of sheet: Mrs. S. A. Littlejohn
Starville, Texas
Soldier's letter
Co. G. 10th Texas Cav.

44

Camps near Tuscaloosa,¹ Ala., May 5th, 1864

My dear Sallie and Friends:

Knowing your anxiety to hear from me and to know how I succeeded in getting to my command influences me to hasten to write you a short letter to inform you of the facts.

I suppose you have read the little notes I wrote you: one before I crossed and the other just after crossing the river. But for fear you did not get them I will give you a short account of my trip.

After leaving Shreveport I was overtaken by Lt. Buckner² of Rusk Co. He was apparently a clever man, and his company served to dispel the gloom of mind which would have been natural for me to experience otherwise. He, having some relatives in La., had to stop a day and night and of course we stopped with him. We were treated very kindly and it cost us nothing while we stayed there. Nothing of interest transpired until we got within twenty miles of the river. We found the man who was to put us over, but said he would not do it for two days. We laid over in the swamps in the night and employed ourselves by fishing in the daytime. The time arrived for us to go into the river, got to the river about 9 o'clock at night. The river was so rough he would not cross horses. So I concluded to go over anyhow. I sold my horse to a man belonging to our Regt. who was afoot, for \$400 - that is I get \$300 and I saved one hundred in ferrriage, which is equal to \$400. I crossed and left the balance of the crowd on the other side, who did not get over for four days later. I walked till I came to the cars, a distance of one hundred and sixty miles. I took the train and came to Randolph in Bibb Cty. Ala.,³ and there took the stage for this place, which I reached the 3rd May, having been on the road twenty-three days. The first of the com. was Martin.⁴ The boys were not looking for me back and of course were disappointed. Nothing was said to me about overstaying my furlough, although I was a little uneasy about it, as they had arrested one of our com. who is now under guard. The boys were or seemed to be glad to see me back again. I found them all well: the trip cost me \$180, one hundred for crossing the river, without my horse. The highest bill I had to pay on the trip was \$20 (to a man at Meridian.) I got all my money over. Five dollar bills off before I crossed except twenty dollars which was discounted 33 1/3 per cent. I got to camps with \$10. I did not receive the money for my horse, for I knew it would be discounted when I got to this side. I will get it in the new issue. I was very uneasy all the time until I crossed over. Jayhawkers⁵ were very plentiful over on that side.

Well, as you would suppose, I was asked a great many questions about everything. But chiefly about the great fight which came off after I left home. Capt. Brown,⁶ as I expected, failed to be ready. I was low spirited until I heard the results of that fight, for I did not know but that our homes might be over run. After I heard of the issue I could proceed with much better heart.

I recon you are all anxious to hear the news from this side of the river. I have some very bad news, if it be so, which I have no doubt is the case. Reuben Goforth⁷ told me that Sam Jefferies⁸ had killed Shelt Sparks.⁹ I can't get at any of the particulars as I have seen no letters from home yet. Little Tom Littlejohn,¹⁰ who has just come from there on furlough says it was a drinking frolic. It happened some time in Feby. Sam was in jail when he left S.C. but he said it was the general impression that Sam would not be hurt. Jim McCulloch¹¹ said Sam only saved him on the trouble of doing it. I am going to write home for the particulars of the affair. My opinion is that that negro scrape is at the bottom of it. I suppose John¹² can tell you about it, as I heard on coming into camps that he had gone on furlough to Texas. From what I can learn, he had been gone long enough to have gotten home before I left. I am fearful he has been captured but hope to the contrary.

Oscar Wilson¹³ started home long enough to get home before I left, but I saw nothing of him. Josh Milburn¹⁴ was in our Regt. the day before I arrived. I would have been glad to have seen him, as I might have learned something of John. I am told that Jo Mil-

burn¹⁵ and Dr. Larkins's brother¹⁶ belonging to the same company, are under arrest in Tuscaloosa. In fact, Jeff Rosson¹⁷ told me he saw the (?); the latter for deserting and the former for assisting him in some way. The Brigade is camped within thirty miles of us.

I mailed all the letters for the Brigade at Meridian, thinking they were in Miss. but I recon they will all come through straight to their respective companies.

There is quite a talk in our camps of our being mounted again. Col. Young of the 9th Texas¹⁸ has gone to Richmond now with some strong documents, from Gens. S.D. Lee,¹⁹ Polk,²⁰ French²¹ and others. I hope he will be successful in the attempt, but is more than I expect, at least. I guess we will know shortly what will be the result.

Polk's whole command has been moved from Miss. to this part of Ala. What the object of the move is, I can't say, but I am of the opinion it is to prevent a flank movement by the enemy on Johnson's left wing.²² This is only my conjecture. There are strong indications of a fight at Dalton.²³ The enemy are concentrating a great many troops at that point.²⁴ Grant is there in person.²⁵

A fight is also anticipated at or near Richmond.²⁶ I think myself the big fight will come off at the latter place. Beauregard and Longstreet are both with Lee with their commands.²⁷ Every person on this side of the river are in very high spirits and sanguine of success, whenever the fight comes off, I would not be surprised if we were ordered to Dalton before long, though we may not be.²⁸

We are camped on the bank of the Black Warrior²⁹ at Tuscaloosa. The boys have been catching lots of fish in traps. One night before I came into camps they caught 3000 lbs. We are all tired of fish. We are getting rather slim rations now. I had nothing but corn-bread for breakfast this morning. Although the boys said that during my absence they were fed splendidly. I was on guard yesterday and last night. I could have got off from standing for several days by going to the Col. but I did not mind it.

I brought all that I started with except the pound cake. I eat it the night I crossed the river and it answered a good purpose for the inner man.

The boys are just now going to drill. I am excused on account of standing guard yesterday. Roe Spinks³⁰ is guarding the fish trap. Garner³¹ is still at the provost guard. Looks well and hearty, in good spirits. Martin has the same excuse as myself. Reuben Goforth is wagon driver and W. Nicholson also. Reuben is well but not stout enough in his leg to drill. I told you I thought he would bring me some clothes from S.C. He brought me a pair pants, shoes, and socks. When I got here the boys had sent all my clothes off with the rest of their baggage so it was well I brought clothes with me. The boys are all getting scarce of clothes. Reuben wants John's pants if he has gone home. Tell P. (Pamelia)³² I did as she requested me. I wrote in Becca's³³ letter. Reuben tells me that Mr. Reynolds³⁴ has gone back to the army, in some cavalry regt. Tom Kink³⁵ had not gone back - was sick. I recon it goes against the grain for him to leave his Darling. Jack Littlejohn³⁶ was at home on furlough in March. Nathan³⁷ (his brother) had not got able for duty. They had heard that I had gone to Texas until Little Tom³⁸ was at home. Poly Littlejohn³⁹ thinks his foot will have to come off. He was at Atlanta when last heard from.

Col. Graham (ex-Congressman from Rusk Co.)⁴⁰ was captured a day or two before I crossed the river. The furloughing system has been stopped in this Brigade for awhile.

I must close for this time. Write when you see an opportunity and I will do the same. My Love and regards to the family and Friends. Kiss Bridgie for me, and also Billie.⁴¹ When any of you write Bob⁴² tell him why I did not stop to see him at Alexandria. I regret that I did not see him. Don't forget your prayers at night and remember me in them. I think of you all often, but better satisfied than I was before I came home. When you write tell me if you "are all right". You know what I mean, I know.

I remain as ever, Your affectionate husband and Friend,

Elbridge

(Note at top of first page: This is my 1st letter. Number your letters so I can tell how many I get.)

May 6th, 1864

As we have just recd marching orders I will drop you a few lines to let you know of it. I am not able to say what point we are going to but from here we go to Montevallo,⁴³ a distance of sixty or seventy miles. Have to march. I would not be surprised if we kept on to Dalton. The papers say a fight is imminent there. We have again just recd news of another victory on Red River.⁴⁴ I hope it is true. I felt very badly on leaving home, not knowing how soon it might be until our homes might be invaded, and our wives, children, and all that is most dear to the soldier's heart might be insulted by the insolent foe. But hearing of the results made quite a different feeling within me. I then could rest more quietly. I don't think there will be any danger of Texas being invaded this year unless the Red River rises again, which is not at all probable.

We have very fine weather now. Indeed, the nights are rather cool. Everything is very backward. The wheat crop is not at all promising this side and I hear it is the same way in S.C. Corn was selling at \$16 per bushel in Columbia some time ago. I expect it is worse now.

If I could get a letter from home now it would do me a great deal of good. I often imagine I can see dear little Bridgie running in the yard at play, or in his Mother's lap. Oh how I wish I could see him. If I had known it I could have had my Type taken at Shreveport, but not knowing, I did not do so. Martin has gone to town today to have his taken. I know of no chance of sending it to you and therefore I will not have it taken. Martin and Reuben has found an aunt of theirs living in six miles of camps. Martin is going to see them. Tis said that the 3rd Texas⁴⁵ are all going home soon on furlough.

Sallie, I want you to send that money of the Pages I left with you to them by letter if Tom Still did not take it. Direct it to Mrs. Holly Page, Edom P. O.,⁴⁶ Van Zant Co.,

Tex. This is the wish of the old man. Send it before 1st July for by that time the money will have to be funded. The old man's wife has died.

I must close. Give my love and respects to the family and accept the same from your affectionate

Elbridge

P. S. Direct to Co. G., 10th Tex. Ector's Brig. French's Division, Polk's Army, Alabama.

45

Line of Battle, Kenesaw Mountain,¹ Georgia
July 2nd/64

Dear Friends,

At a late hour this evening Ruben Goforth,² who is at the Div. Hospt. sent me a piece of paper to write a letter on, for which I am under many obligations, it being altogether out of the question for me to have obtained any writing material otherwise.

Without using any apologies I will proceed to write you all that will interest you. Since I wrote you last, which I believe was at Tuscaloosa, many have been the difficulties and dangers and trials that I have undergone. But through the great kindness of Providence I am yet spared to live. Almost daily and hourly I have been exposed to the missiles of Death and even now while writing the enemy's guns are thundering away not more than a thousand yards from me and the Minnie balls are flying thick over me. But I am protected from them by being in a ditch, dug for the purpose of sheltering us.

After leaving Tuscaloosa we joined Johnston's army at Rome, Ga.³ Our Brigade was there called upon to go into the ditches there to keep back the enemy who were said to be advancing. I was called to go out on picket and proceeded about a mile in front of the command to skirmish with the enemy, but fortunately we did not meet them. The Cavalry were in front of us and brought on the attack. I was in sight of the fight but did not get a shot. Josh Milburn's regt. was in the fight and lost some good men. Josh did not get hurt. After we got with the main body of the army events are not worth chronicling. It is true we have had many skirmishes and little fights but nothing of consequence. At New Hope Church⁴ we laid in the ditches about ten days. Most of the time it was raining. One day we had to stay in the ditch. The ditch was full of mud and water and yet we had to stay in it close to keep from being shot. The fighting commenced about 9 o'clock A.M. and we laid in the ditch until dark, the mud and water being half leg deep. Three of our boys were wounded that day, Arnold,⁵ Howel Hale,⁶ and Jeff Rosson.⁷ None of them dangerous. Hale was shot in the thigh but broke no bone. Rosson was slightly wounded on the same arm that he was wounded in before. Jeff is well again. We have been on the top of this mountain about fifteen days. It is about two miles west of Marietta and in plain view of the town. On the west side of the mountain is plainly to be seen the vast numbers of the enemy scattered around as far as the eye can reach. Our lines are not more than six or eight hundred yards apart and our pickets much nearer. Last night I was on picket duty and stood not more than two hundred yards from the Yanks. I was close enough to see the flash of their guns. I was behind a tree which they hit several times. But in the meantime we make them lye low too. Sometimes when we can get a safe position, we have considerable fun shooting at them and seeing them dodge. And not a doubt that we hit many a one. Last Monday morning I thought as everyone else did, that we were going to have a general engagement but it turned out otherwise. Our Brig. had been held in reserve for several days. About ten o'clock heavy canonading and musketry commenced along the lines of our Division at the foot of the hill. Our Brigade was called to go down to the foot of the hill to assist the Missouri Brigade, which is a part of our Division. The enemy made a feeble attempt to take our works but failed in the attempt. Some of them reached within forty yards of our works but were driven back. Our Brigade did not get into the Fracas, it being in reserve as I said before. A good many of them were killed and wounded. They got most of their wounded off, but their dead were left in our lines. Not a great many of ours were killed or wounded, the Missourians suffering the worst. At the same time the enemy made a furious attack on Hardee's corps⁸ and were repulsed with severe slaughter having lost, agreeable to statements, from 8 to 10,000 men. Our loss was small. But all these things a sad misfortune has befallen the Confederacy as well as our corps in the loss of the lamented Gen. Polk, of which you have heard before this reaches you. On the 14th June, while riding around the lines in comp. with Gen. Johnston and others he was instantly killed by a shell from the enemy which struck him in the breast, almost severing his back in two. He was deeply lamented by all the soldiers of his command and all feel as if they had lost their best military friend. By and through the instrumentality of him, we all expected to be carried back to Miss. as soon as this command or campaign is over and furthermore to be mounted in the fall, which he had promised us he would do. But Alas! Our expectations are blasted. We will no longer be known as the Army of Miss. but will be united with the Army of Tenn. Maj. Gen. Stewart⁹ has been appointed Lieut. Gen. and will take command of Gen. Polk's corps. Since the campaign set in we have lost a great many men. Several from our Regt. have been killed. Our Lieut. Col. Craig¹⁰ was wounded. Besides what I have written many incidents have occurred that I could relate had I the time and chance. Our boys are all in fine spirits yet and anxious for the fight to come off. We are almost worn out with fatigue and marching &c. We get plenty to eat most of the time, cornbread and bacon. I am very dirty and lousy, not having changed clothes for nearly two months. I expect if Mrs. Wallace¹¹ could see me now she would think I was very lousy "sure enough sheep (?)." But I keep them picked off pretty well. I drew me a good shirt the other day. I have clothes at the wagon (Ruben's) but I can't get a chance to get them; and if I could they would be as

bad as these I have on in two or three' days. I have the pants on that I wore from home, but they are worn out on the seat.

I have had good health since I left Texas, with the exception of the diarrhea several times but not so bad but what I was able to go. If I can only be spared to live through this conflict I will be more than thankful to Him who rules in high and holds the destinies of all men in his hands. As paper is scarce I will finish writing across this the remainder of what I have to say.

Jeff Rosson got a letter from home which John brought and why it was that I did not get one I can not see. I am sure you wrote one, but I think he mailed it and it failed to come. Martin¹² got one from Mrs. Wallace, of the 13th May, which I suppose John¹³ brought also. But I am not discouraged for all that. I have not heard from John yet. Don't know whether he has got back to the regiment or not but suppose he has. I would like much to see him indeed, as I am sure he could give me some satisfaction from home, about my boy &c. My anxiety is very great to hear from him, and the rest of you too. I trust you are all in good health and doing well. How is your Pa getting along with his farm. I suppose you all have wheat bread aplenty now, and may you all enjoy it. I would give anything for as much biscuit and butter as I could eat now. I think I could hide about 2 dozen and a pound of butter, and other things to mix with it.

I have not had a letter from Pa.¹⁴ in some time. The last one said that all was well. Said nothing about Thomas¹⁵ nor any of the other boys in the army. I am more than anxious to learn something of Thomas' fate. I am almost afraid to hear, too, for his company has been in some hard battles. I hope he is yet right. I have nothing from your Sister R.¹⁶ since I came back across the river. I recon she is well or Pa would have said something about her. I forgot to tell you that Pa's family had increased by a daughter,¹⁷ a thing very unexpected to me, indeed, but there is no accounting for people these times. I wish I had some news from S.C. to write you all, for I know you are very anxious to hear, but not having heard myself, I can't do so. I wrote a letter to Pa the other day and am looking for an answer soon.

The day is drawing to a close and it has the appearance of raining so I must begin to close. It is thought we will fall back from our present position to Atlanta, and I think it very probable myself. Roe Spinks¹⁸ has got to be courier for Gen. French and lives fine. All the boys from our neighborhood are well. Martin, Rosson, Garner,¹⁹ Go-forth,²⁰ Nicholson,²¹ and Still.²² The latter says tell his friends that he is well. I have not seen Ruben nor Nicholson for a month, they being with the wagons.

Have you disposed of that money that I left with you? If not, I can't advise you. Tell your Pa to treat as he would treat his own negroes and whip him if he needs it. You must excuse this as it is written under peculiar circumstances. The boys send their respects to all. And give my love to all the family. Tell them to write to me when convenient. May the richest blessings of heaven rest upon you all and may I be spared to return to you all once more is the wish and prayer of your husband,

Elbridge

Remember me to God in your prayers daily. E.G.L.

46

Atlanta, Ga. Aug. 6/64

Dear Wife and Friends,

Having a good chance to send you a letter by Mr. S. F. Birdwell who lives at Mt. Enterprise,¹ I will endeavor to give you a short communication by way of retaliation for the . . .

John,² which came to hand in due time, I suppose. I have not seen nor heard from John until a few days ago. He wrote me a little note saying he had been unwell since he came back, was at the Field Hospital but was going to leave that morning for the Com. I am at our Div. Hospital myself, have been here three days, but expect to go back to the front tomorrow if we . . . I have not been very sick but worn out with constant diarrhea and fatigue. I am not stout but able to return and try it again as long as I can.

I have no other news that would interest you. We are so hemmed in here in Atlanta that it is next thing to impossible to hear anything at all except the constant firing of artillery at some point along the lines, almost every minute of the day, and . . . small arms which are waiting to fill up the intervals between the artillery. It is so general and has lasted so long that we do not pay any attention to it unless it is directed at us. Occasionally some of our men get shot. Last night our Regt. went on picket in front of our works. This morning the authorities wishing to make a feint on our part of the lines, our regt had to deploy in front and advance. While in motion Maj. Redwine³ & Charlie Birdwell⁴ were both severely wounded, both in the left foot & by the same ball. I think that both of them will be disabled from the service. Two more of Regt were wounded soon after, in the arm, but as yet none have come into the Hospital dangerously wounded. We have had ten or eleven of our com. wounded in this campaign, none killed, but one died, Arnold,⁵ a boy beliked by all the com. who knew him. Sam⁶ (?) had his arm shot off just below the elbow by a fragment of a shell. Others of the company have been seriously wounded in the many little skirmishes we have had. The loss of our regt. has been as great as it would have been in a general engagement. Gen. Ector, a few days since, while siting on the Parapets directing the fire of the battery, was severely wounded in the leg by a piece of shell hitting him above the knee and ranging upwards into his thigh showing the bone and causing amputation immediately. It is thought he will recover. His misfortune is lamented by all his Brig. Col. Young (?) of the 9th Texas Inf. takes command of the Brigade.

There is no telling when this campaign will end. It may stop soon, or it may continue until cold weather. I hope how soon it may terminate for I never was as tired of anything in my life. We have been digging entrenchments and falling back till all are worn out with fatigue. It is believed by all, if Gen. Hood⁷ had been in command of the army all the time that the fight would now have been over with. It might have been the case and the results and position of our force might have been different too. I have great confidence in that Old Captain (?) Joe Johnston, and rely equally as much on the ability of Gen. Hood. He has called into service all the details in the numerous workshops of Ga. and also the militia, which strengthens our lines considerably. I am glad to see all these "play outs" put into the service, but I do hate to see old grey headed men lying in the ditches taking the mud and water as it comes. We have very strong works around the city, which the enemy have assaulted a few times, but have gained nothing. I think we would be able to hold the ditches against great odds if they would only charge our works. I think we could make the ground blue with them, and should they ever try it they will find it so. Had I more paper and ink to write with I could send some particulars which would probably interest you, but I have neither at this time.

Your letter by John was great comfort to me, although a portion of it was old. I must apologize to you for saying it was short. The length of it did very well, I must confess. Excuse me for that, if you please.

I have no news from S.C. later than the 10th May. A note was handed me a few days ago by Lt. Trammel⁸ from Bro. Felix,⁹ asking him if he knew anything of my whereabouts, whether I was alive or dead. He wished to know as they had not heard from me for three months. I am truly sorry to hear that they were troubled so much on my account. I have frequently written to them, but they have failed to get them. I suppose you have heard that Bill Rowland¹⁰ and Frank Littlejohn¹¹ were wounded and died in May. I have not heard from Becca¹² since I came from Texas, although I have written to her. In fact, I know no more about the friends in S.C. than you do.

This man, Birdwell, is going to act as courier for the Brigade and will start back to this side of the river soon. I want you to be sure, all of you, to write to me by him, and by all others that you may hear of coming this way. Jeff Rosson¹³ was wounded. All the other boys are well. Garner¹⁴ has got an easy and safe position, is Provost Guard and does not have to go to the front. That money I left with you, I cant tell you what to do with it. You had better use it if you have not already done so. Old man B... is not in camps. I would like to write you much more if I had paper, but cant get it. Had to borrow this from Reuben,¹⁵ who is about out.

The news has just come in that Mobile is threatened by a strong fleet of the enemy. It is said they have captured one or two of our gun boats.¹⁶ I am fearful they will take that place, and should they succeed, I fear for the results. The news from Virginia is encouraging. Grant has attacked the works around Petersburg and lost heavily, our loss was heavy, too. They blew up our works by undermining.¹⁷ I expect they will try the same project on our lines.

Here at the Hosp we are getting mighty short rations. I could have eaten all this morning myself that twenty-eight men got. I have been with the regt. from the time we left Tuscaloosa until the 1st day of August when I became so weak that I had to go to the rear. I have been in all the engagements with the regt. I would like very much to see John, but I have no chance to go to see him and I suppose it is the same way by him.

I imagine that you are all living finely now in Texas, on watermelons, vegetables, peaches, &c, &c. I wish I was there with you all today, to help you eat some of the good things which you will have for dinner. Does Davis¹⁸ & Johnnie¹⁹ visit you pretty often now?

Today is Sunday. Oh, what a pleasure twould be to me to be at home today with my baby boy & all my Friends. I would enjoy their company so much. How is my Boy doing. He is almost talking, is he not? I know he is running about everywhere by this time. He will soon be two years old. How is Billy getting on.²⁰ Is he as bad as ever. Is Bicol²¹ staying with you. I would not be surprised if her trip to Jefferson did not prove to be one of some consequence to her & Bob.²² Tell her so. Where is Robert now? Lucky fellow that he is, your Pa has one son who acted wisely in the outset of the war. John was lucky. But I was either a fool or else the Fates were against me. But should Fortune be propitious and I ever get back, home and its pleasures will be the sweeter to me after so many hardships, privations and dangers. But should I never get home again do not deplore me. I have some presentiments that I will get wounded in this campaign. I feel just that way. If I do, and not too badly, I will go to Pa's again. I feel for him now because I know his mental suffering is great. Thomas²³ may be dead. I have not heard from him for a long time.

I would have liked very much to have written to Dr. Goodman & family²⁴ & intended doing so, but could not get paper to write on. Give them my best respects and tell the Dr. & Sam²⁵ I would be glad to hear from either or both of them. Also give my regards to Mr. Wallace & family.²⁶ I have not seen nor heard from the McCormick boys²⁷ for some time. I am doing very well in the way of clothing now, have plenty. I have worn the pair of pants I wore off from home until two days ago, every day. I have on a pair now that I drew. I am keeping my others that you made me for winter. I expect Reuben will take those I brought for John. He brought me clothes when he came from S.C. but they are with our baggage in Montgomery. We have not drawn any money since I left. We are all out.

I must come to a close. Tell Pamilia I am going to look for a letter from her sure, and would like to get some from the rest of the family also. I dont expect your Pa to write. Terill²⁸ might write if he is not too busy at something. I intend this little scribbled letter for all the family, though I may not mention all. Give my warmest regards to your Pa and Ma and all the children, and to you, the Idol of my heart, accept the purest love of a devoted husband -

Elbridge

Be sure to find out when Birdwell starts back and write by him, for he will be a good chance to send anything by. I want to see a piece of that dress, too.

47

Henry Co., Ga.¹ Sept. 7/64

Dear Wife and friends,

Having a few moments only to write in by Charles Furlough,² one of our Comp. who has been wounded and is placed on the retired list, I will not have time to give you anything like a lengthy letter, as I did not have the chance and time to write you before.

We have been in somewhat of a bustle and confusion for a few days past. The Yanks out-generaled Gen. Hood and compelled him to evacuate Atlanta.³ Our corps was completely cut off from the rest of the army. The enemy crossed Flint River⁴ and Gen. Hardee tried to drive him back but failed to do so. Hardee lost a great many men. We left Atlanta Sept. 1st about 9 o'clock at night, traveled all night and did not get more than six miles. We are about 30 miles south of Atlanta. We have been confronting the enemy until yesterday morning - they disappeared from our front. I do not understand their move. Can't tell which way they are going. Their prisoners say they are going back to Atlanta.⁵ One corps of their army has gone out on the Augusta road. I hope they will stop their movements for this season at least, in order that we may all get to rest. There are some movements towards making peace in the north. They have nominated a peace candidate for president and passed some strong resolutions in favor of Peace.

I have no other news to write you. I am sorry to say that I saw one of John's comp. a few days ago. He says nothing has been heard of John⁶ since he was taken prisoner. I suppose he has gone north ere this. Josh Milburn⁷ had gone to the hospital sick but nothing serious. I do trust John will get through safe. No news from S. Carolina since I wrote you before. I am looking for a letter from there soon. I expect we will move north in pursuit of the Yanks. Some of our Comp. went on a scout yesterday. Captured one Yank and two horses. They get a good many little tricks from them. Some of the boys get hats, pants, knives, etc. We have had a spell of rain for several days past, the weather has the appearance of Fall. We will soon begin to need more clothes. I have just heard that another one of our comp. has died, Sam Mitchell,⁸ making three that we have had to die. You must excuse this short note as I am writing merely to let you know that I am well. I sent you several letters by Capt. Booty⁹ about a week ago. Hope you will receive them. Will write more next time. Excuse penmanship and composition. Give my love to the family and regards to the friends. You will please write me when you can. All the boys are well. May Heaven bless you all is the wish of your devoted

Elbridge

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Encampment near Palmetto, Ga.¹ Sept 23/64

My dear Wife and Friends,

Hearing that Maj. Redwine² is going to start to Texas, I will write you a short letter by him, although it is a very unfavorable time for letter writing, owing to the inclemency of the weather. We have had rain for several days. We have just come here and got settled down, arriving yesterday about noon. This place is between Atlanta and West Point R.R.³ and the Chattahooche River,⁴ four miles from the latter. We left our other camp last Sunday at 2:00 P.M., which place is on the Macon R.R.⁵ The Augusta road and the Macon road are entirely given up as I hear.⁶ But there is no telling the movements of this army now. Most all are of the opinion that we will go to north Alabama. I will not be surprised at any move at this time. All departments are dull in the way of news. Nothing late from Va. We have been laying up in camp for the last two weeks, since the enemy retired to Atlanta, and we have enjoyed the rest very much. There was an armistice of ten days between Sherman and Hood in order to remove all citizens out of Atlanta.⁷ We were all very much in hopes that the campaign would end for this season, but since arriving here we have had to build breast works again. I believe now that this campaign will last the bigger part of the winter, and there is no telling where we will go to.

These lines leave me in the enjoyment of good health, as well as all the other boys. Martin⁸ has been out into the country today foraging and has just got back, bringing half bushel sweet potatoes, which will be quite a treat for us. Gave at the rates of seven dollars and a half per bus. Garner⁹ has come back to the country. He, Martin and myself are in one mess, and we will have a mess of potatoes tonight if we can get anything to cook them in. I saw Josh Milburn¹⁰ yesterday. He looks in fine health and was dressed like a lawyer and not a soldier. He said he had not heard from home since John came back. Nothing yet from poor John.¹¹ He captured a horse worth \$2000 from the Yankees and a gold watch worth much more. He has an easy time of it compared to us. He speaks a little like coming home this winter.

Enclosed I send you a letter I recd from Beca¹² as she requested me. From it you may see the depths of her trouble and her situation. If it was in my power I would go to see her and assist her in any way that I could. From the tone of her letter, it seems that relations are not true in all times of need. I have no late news from any of the other friends.

I have written you several letters lately and hope you may receive them. Wrote one to your Pa. Today is the birthday of my darling boy. O how I wish I could see him today, in the beginning of his third year. I imagine he is talking and runing all about. I trust the time is not far off when I may be permitted to see you all. As my paper is short I must close. I hope you have several letters on the road for me at this time. All of you write. Jeff Rosson¹³ was far from well at last accounts, at Augusta, Ga.¹⁴ I will write you again the first chance. Goforth,¹⁵ Garner and all the neighbor boys are well. When you write direct your letter to the army of Tenn. My love to all enquiring friends, and accept the best wishes of your loving and affectionate husband,
Elbridge

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Envelope:

Politeness
Lieut. Trammel

Private Littlejohn
Com'y G., 10th Texas Vol

Mrs. Sallie A. Littlejohn
Jamestown, Smith Co., Texas

Campbell Cy., Ga.¹ Sept. 26th, 1864

Dear Sallie and Friends,

Again I take up my pen to write you. It has not been but four or five days since I wrote you by Maj. Redwine.² This time I am writing by Capt. Zeigler of our Regt.³ In writing so often I am at a loss to give you anything new, but as I know your anxiety to hear from this side of The Great Water I always take it as a pleasure to write you whenever I can. I have just eaten a hearty breakfast of half-cooked beef, cold corn bread and bread coffee (a good substitute). The sun has risen bright, and there is not a cloud to be seen now. The morning is pretty cool making fire feel very comfortable. We have had no frost yet, but I don't think it will be very many days before there will be.

Today we have orders to remain close by all the time ready to be called into lines in a moment, for the purpose of going on Review before Pres. Davis, who came here yesterday.⁴ I have not seen him yet, nor have I heard his business. But I suppose it is to see something about the condition of the army and to consult with the Gen. Commanding on the further prosecution of the war, and the manner in which it will be carried on. I would like very much to hear him speak. There appears to be a perfect calm in the army at this time. I hear of no movements in any direction. I have seen no papers lately and therefore wanting in the news line. There are a thousand and one various reports and rumors in circulation in camps. Some are that Richmond has fallen into the hands of the enemy, that the combined armies of Lee and Beauregard are both captured. Some say that this army is going to evacuate Georgia and go to Northern Ala., and just anything else that you want to hear or don't want to hear. All that I know is that we are yet in line of Battle, with a little prospect of moving into camps in a day or two. We would have moved out sooner, but the weather has been too bad. I believe it is the general opinion that the campaign is over in this Dept. but there is no telling. We all hope it is so. Two days ago I was agreeably surprised to have Whit Moorehead⁵ with me a few hours. He looks quite natural but broken some. He gave me a history of his ups and downs since he left Carolina. He has traveled and straggled around almost everywhere. He said he started to Texas once and got as far as Shreveport but went no further. I think he has become very reckless of himself every way. I have heard of some scrapes that are not at all creditable to any person. Such as I would not be guilty of for anything. He told me that he has just recd two letters from Carolina. All the Friends were well except Uncle Adam's family,⁶ who had the measles, but nobody dangerous. Wm. Goudelock⁷ was improving very fast. It appears that everybody has quit writing to me. I can't get any news from there. I intend to write to them some of these days and give it to them for their indifference.

Paper is scarce with me but I recon you think I have that just for an excuse to keep from writing, as I say that every time. I am getting along very well now, if they would only pay us some money. I think they will in a few days. I have plenty of clothes to do until Christmas. I have three shirts, three pair drawers, 1 pair cotton pants, and the red pants you made. I let Reuben Goforth⁸ have the pair I brought for John⁹ as he was needing them, and they were too small for me. I was under obligations to him for taking care of my clothes through the campaign. I hope I will be able to get some clothes from home this winter. Garner¹⁰ has plenty also. The boys are engaged this morning. Rube is grinding corn to make bread. Martin is going to make some lightbread today. We had a big pot of mush for supper last night out of new meal. There are a great many molasses in this state. Thousands of gallons are being made, they sell very high from ten to fifteen dollars a gallon. Potatoes are selling the same way, flour is worth \$1.00 a pound, pork \$1.00. Thus you see everything is very high. When I draw money I intend to have something to eat if I can get it. I would like very much to be in Texas now. From all I can hear you have all made fine crops of everything. I would like to get a letter from your Pa to know how he is getting along with his farm, and what he has made. I suppose an abundance however. As I have said before, I now repeat, for you all to do the best you can until the war is over. Whit requested me to give his respects to all his old acquaintances. Why does Pa (Pamelia)¹¹ and the other girls keep so silent, I would like to get letters from them. I want to see Bridgie mightily. Tell Pam. not to spoil him too bad. Kiss him. I must close. My kindest regards to all the friends. My Dear Wife, will you pray for me at night when you retire? Tell Pa to remember me, for it is said that the prayers of a righteous person availeth much.

Your husband, Elbridge

Sept. 27th. I have just heard that we move soon across the Chattahoochee River.¹² I do not know whether the whole army will go or not. Sister M.¹³ did not write much news. She hasnt been back to Pa's¹⁴ yet. Seems to be in great distress of mind. Says that many of our friends and relations are dead. The letter from Uncle John¹⁵ was quite unexpected. I send it to your Pa that he may read for himself. Farewell

Note: Criss-cross at top of first sheet: We have just been reviewed by the president. He is a very stern looking man, fine features. Gen. Hood also reviewed us. I want you to write to me. My last letter from you is the 16th July. I think you might get letters across by mail. I hope I will get a letter from you soon.

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Tuscumbia, Ala.¹, Nov. 8th, 1864

My Dear Wife and Friends,

As there is a probability of having a chance to send this letter across the River I will drop you a few lines on this letter to let you know that I am well. I have nothing more of interest to write you, as you doubtless have heard of the movements of this army and its whereabouts, etc.

Your kind letter came to hand in good time, of which I was proud, as I had not heard from you in a good while. I have written you a good many times but fear you have not recd my letters, have been captured. These are letters which have been sent to me to be forwarded to you. I put them all in one envelope as I am too poor to afford any . . .

I recd a letter from Pa² a few days ago by the hand of Mr. Scruggs,³ with \$25.00 enclosed, which came in good time, being in need of it. Recd one from Bro. Felix⁴ a few days later, saying to me that Pa had my clothes made and would send them to me when we got settled down in camp. Sister Mollie⁵ has been back to Pa's which makes my heart rejoice. On reading these letters you will see who they are from. I take great pleasure in forwarding them to you, particularly John's⁶ as I know you are all anxious to hear from him. I have not answered his letter yet but will as soon as I get paper. You must not feel too much uneasiness as he will fare much better than many of us who are in the field. If any of you wishes to write to him write and I will send the letter through. We have been here at this camp longer than anyone expected.⁷ Have had some tremendous hard rains. Don't know when nor where we will go to when we move. Some are still of the opinion that we will move into Tenn. but I hardly think we will.⁸ We have just recd some encouraging news from Forrest. A dispatch was recd yesterday by Gen. Hood from Forrest stating that he had captured four gun boats, eleven transports, and twenty barges, all loaded, and from seventy five to one hundred and twenty tons weight of clothing.⁹ I hope it may all be so. One corps of this army is fifteen miles across the river now. I hear that they have had a hard fight in Va.¹⁰ I have heard nothing from Garner.¹¹ All the other boys are well. Martin¹² sends his respects.

We are out of anything to eat for the day but I recon we will get some tomorrow. You must excuse this bad writing and short letter. My love to all the family and tell them to write to me. I remain your husband,

E. G. Littlejohn

51

Encampment on Tenn. River, near Tuscumbia,
Ala., Nov. 17th, 1864

Dear Wife and Friends,

Tis always a pleasant task for me to write you all whenever I have anything that I think would interest you or be worthy of notice, but this time I am at a loss to know how to write or what, this time, as I have recently written you twice, which letters I hope may reach you in safety as one of them contains letters of interest to you. One from John,¹ one from Sallie C.J.² and one from Bro. Thomas.³

When I wrote you last I thought we would have been far into Tenn. by this time but contrariwise, we are still on this side of the Tenn. River. We have moved our camps near the river, building forts and breastworks for the protection of the crossing. I suppose from what I can hear that it is the intention of the authorities to make this a base of supplies and operations. Gen. Hood made a speech in town the other night to this effect and also saying that he expected to make a raid into Tenn. of six weeks, after which he would return here.⁴ I hope he will not stay longer there as the weather will be getting very cold and we are illy prepared to withstand the inclemencies of the weather, having but few blankets and no tents at all. I was in hopes our Division would be left to guard the river but orders have come to Division Hdqrs that we would cross the river tomorrow.⁵ So I suppose there is no doubt about it now. The army is building some very strong works at this place. Two corps of the army has been across the river for some time. I saw a number of Douglass' Battery,⁶ formerly a member of our Comp., that there were some Yankees on the other side some eight or ten miles, but did not know how many. I guess somebody will have to fight a little when we commence to advance, though I hope it is nothing but a cavalry force. I saw a portion of the 3rd Texas⁷ a few days ago. They had been to the river to cross, but the bridge being down did not get over.

I suppose you all have heard of or probably seen the Milburn boys long before this, as I understand they left their command and started home on a kind of French furlough.⁸ This is what I hear. Do not report anything that I write, as I do not wish to hurt any-

The Tenth Takes A Federal Flag



"BATTLE OF ALLATOONA--CAPTURE OF REDOUBT"...from *Two Wars: An Autobiography*, by General Samuel G. French. (Nashville, Tennessee: Confederate Veteran, 1901).

According to the "Reports of Maj. Gen. Samuel G. French, C.S. Army, commanding division," dated November 5, 1864, in *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Volume 39, Part I, page 819*:

"Lieut. M. W. Armstrong, Tenth Texas, seized the United States standard from the Federals, and, after a struggle, brought it and the bearer of it off in triumph."

The same source, page 818, states that the flag captured might have belonged to the 93rd Illinois Infantry. (The 93rd was opposite Ector's brigade, and its flag was one of two or three captured, of which one of the others might have been a garrison flag.)

Lt. Armstrong, of Company I, was assigned to the provost guard from May to October of 1863, and if he was successful at that duty he was probably a pretty formidable physical personage.

(caption by Jon Harrison)



SEE PAGE 46 FOR FOOTNOTE 1, LETTER 46. --Ed.

one's feelings. The last time I saw Josh⁹ he told me he intended going home this winter and said he would write and let me know when he got ready to start, but did not do it. If you have seen him he can give you a short history of some of the hard times this army has seen this summer. Although he has only a smattering knowledge of what the Infantry has been. But we have suffered more for the want of something to eat on this campaign than on any previous one, having been compelled to eat parched corn right ahead. On one occasion our generals had corn hauled up and issued out to us like we were horses or hogs and they (Gens) also were short. I recollect of seeing Gen. French one day sitting by the roadside cracking hickory nuts like a good fellow. But I don't mind to do without when I know it can't be had, or that the Generals are doing without. We are getting plenty of bread now but short rations of poor beef. I would like very much to have some of your potatoes to roast. I feel as if I would make way with a half bushel. If we go into Tenn. I think we may have a little more to eat as we will have a chance to forage now, having drawn our money today. They paid the command six months wages, paid me eight, as I had not drawn with the others, \$192.00. I feel pretty rich having more money in my pocket at this time than I have had for a long time before.

I have had no letters from Carolina since I wrote you before. Some of the boys of this comp. recd letters today from Texas by mail. I wish you would try it and see if they won't come for me too. Birdwell¹⁰ told us that paper was selling for sixty five (\$65) dollars a quire. This is pretty steep but I hope you will not let that stop you from writing. We can get plenty of paper on this side whenever we have the money, at \$10.00 a quire, such as this I am writing on.

I have come to the conclusion to buy anything whenever I can get it and have the money and I hope you will do the same way. The money is not worth anything to lay up. I wrote to Pa¹¹ to buy me some good Boots and send me this winter, which he said he would do if he could get them. He has my clothes already made and will send me when we get back off this trip. I am very well supplied with clothing now, as is most of the army.

We have had a great deal of rainy weather but not much cold weather yet. This is or has been a very wealthy and populous country but it is almost a waste now. All the citizens have been run off. It is a beautiful country. We are at the mouth of the Muscle Shoals,¹² at Florence,¹³ which you can see by looking on the atlas. I expect we will go up toward Nashville. I hear that Hardee is marching on Atlanta with all the militia from S.C., Ga., and Ala.¹⁴ I hope he may succeed in recapturing it as it would restore a great deal of confidence in the weak-hearted. Gen. Beauregard is with this army at this time,¹⁵ reviewed us. He is a fine looking man, indeed. I guess he will go on with us into Tenn.

I hear that Clay Holt¹⁶ is going to start home in the morning, on furlough, by whom I will send this letter. If he returns you will write by him, and by all others whom you may hear of coming back. He is in very bad health. The rest of the boys in our company are well. I have not heard from Jeff Rosson¹⁷ for some time. The last account I had of him he had a sixty day furlough and had gone down into Ala. I guess he was faring well. Spinks¹⁸ has been sick a little and salivated but is well. Martin¹⁹ is doing finely all to a run round on his finger. He is more of a granny than ever. I have not heard a word from Garner²⁰ since he was left, but I hope he is well and out of the hands of the enemy before this time.

I must bring my letter to a close. How is my boy getting on? And the rest of the little ones. I would like to see them all finely. Give my love and respects to all the family and friends. I can't advise you anything about your affairs. When you write to Robert²¹ give him my respects and tell him to write me, as I would like to hear from him. Tell Mary²² and Alice²³ tis time they were writing. When Birdwell starts back I will write by him. It will be some time before he starts back as he is going with us into Tenn. May the purest wishes of your absent but loving husband and friend ever be with you all,

I remain your &c, E. G. Littlejohn

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Encampment near Verona, Miss¹. Jan'y 22/65

My dear Wife and Friends,

Again I assume the opportunity of addressing you another short letter, thinking perhaps you have by this time finished reading the one I sent you by Birdwell,² if perchance it has reached you. I know you were vexed a good deal in reading it and wearied with its extraordinary length. However, I will promise you not to be so lengthy hereafter.

Three of our Comp. C. Birdwell,³ Hale⁴ and Johnston,⁵ who were wounded last summer at Atlanta, are coming home on furloughs, by them I will send this letter. They are yet unable for duty and have been furloughed for sixty days. The rest of the company have drawn. There will be eight or ten men from our comp. on furlough when they all get off. Since I wrote you by Birdwell we have finally settled down in regular camps at Verona, five miles from Tupilo, the first time since last Spring. Rest feels very comfortable and agreeable to us who have been constantly on the move for the last nine months.

I have nothing new to relate to you since I last wrote. No new changes to note except that of the removal of Gen. Hood by his own request, and the placing of Richard Taylor in command.⁶ Although Gen. Hood was not beliked by the soldiers nor the people, yet he is preferred to the latter. Gen. Johnston is the only man to put confidence in this army. Everybody wants him to take charge again. There is also a great stir among the soldiers about arming and putting the negroes in the field.⁷ I am firmly of the opinion it will be done in the spring. All, or at least, some of the first men of the land are favoring the plan. Gen. R. E. Lee, Jeff Davis, and a great many are in favor of the

move. I believe the majority of the soldiers oppose the measure, saying they do not think it is right to adopt a principal which they have been fighting against, and moreover do not like to go in ranks with our sable brethren of the South. I have heard many say they would quit this service if such a measure was adopted by Congress. What do the people of your Department think about giving up their negroes? The features of the war have changed very materially from what it was at the beginning. Instead of fighting for the existence of slavery as at first we are now fighting for the existence of the government. And what other changes will take place within the next year it will take a wiser head than mine to foresee.

Since I wrote you before I have been to see my old Friend (Capt. High) at whose house I told you about staying when I was at home. He lives only three miles from here. He and his wife were as glad to see me apparently, as if I had been their own son. Mrs. High recognized me immediately on entering the house; the old gentleman knew me, but could not call my name. They treated me very kindly. They had me to pull off my old, dirty, ragged, lousy clothes, put on some of theirs and washed mine clean and nice. When I went to leave they gave me about a bushel of the finest potatoes imaginable and a canteen of molasses. Mrs. High feels almost like a mother to me. She inquired of me particularly about Garner.⁸ But unfortunately for them and me the Yankees on the day after Christmas took everything they had nearly and left them destitute of everything almost, not leaving them one ounce of meat. If they had not met with this misfortune, I could have had plenty to eat while I remained at this Camp. I think I shall visit them before I leave again. Mrs. High passed quite a compliment on your type.

I recd a letter from Bro. Thomas⁹ since I wrote you last. He was in Petersburg, had been at home on furlough for twenty one days; writes as if he enjoyed himself very well, but did not marry as he pretended that he was going to do. Got a good suit of clothing &c. Says that Pa¹⁰ has a good suit ready made for me and waiting to send them to me and I need them much I assure you, that is pants and coat. I have not recd any letter from S.C. yet from anyone, but am looking for one every day. I will finish my letter on another sheet.

Note at top of sheet: I have let Johnston have Thirty (\$30) dollars to come home on. I will direct him to pay it over to you and you can pay your Pa¹¹ or Mr. Goforth¹² as you see proper. I have some left to answer my purposes. E.G.L.

53

Camp near Mobile, Ala.¹ Feb 9th 1865

Dear Sallie & Friends,

Phon. Belle² is to start for Texas this evening, by whom I will write you. You will see from the caption where we are. We arrived here last Saturday night from West Point.³ Had no idea of coming to this place until we got to Meridian but on arriving there, orders were awaiting to send us here. We had thought all the time previously that we were going to stop at Meridian. No troops are left in Miss. except our Div. (French's). All the balance of the Army have gone to S.C. It was quite a favor to us to be left here as we had great abhorrence to going there: by whose influence we were ordered to be left, I am unable to say at present, but I hear by command of the War Department. It was very well too; for if we had started to the East many of our men would not have gone; but few have left as yet. I think the Army of Tenn. and the Army of the Potomac will be consolidated in S.C. as both are being sent there. From newspaper accounts it seems that Sherman is making slow work of his march in the swamps of S.C. and G. having only moved forty miles from Savannah.⁴

It is now thought that Thomas is preparing to move on either Montgomery, Selma, or Mobile, as he is making extensive preparations.⁵ Scouts report a number of Transports moving down the Miss. River, destiny unknown. It may be that they are going to give Texas and La. another visit. If so I hope the soldiers may be as successful as formerly, or it may be they are going to give Mobile another trial by land and water at the same time. There are some very strong works here, and many a one of them will find a watery grave if he attempts to come to land. And many others will bite the dust for his last time if he should ever try the land route to this city, while as many brave and dauntless hearts remain to guard the works of this City, so well executed. But we are all encouraged to think that we will not have much of that business to do while here, and hope we may get to stay here and rest.

We are camped four miles from the city, west in a few hundred yards of the bay. The enemy's vessels, four, are very plain to view. There was some firing yesterday but I could not tell what at. I learn there is a small force of the enemy about twelve miles from here, about the mouth of Dog River.⁶

Mobile is not the place it was four years ago, very little business going on. Everything in price is beyond the reach of a private soldier. Small biscuit is selling at \$4.00 per doz., eggs \$5.00, butter \$10.00 per lb., pies \$1.00 for a slice as broad as your two fingers, and tapers to a point in the middle. A man can eat a month's wages in a day and not half try. But we are getting very good rations now, better than for a long time before, getting some fat beef and flour, I just finished building me a little chimney to my shantee last night, built us a little pen of logs, covered it with a fly. We have nothing at all to burn but green pine. We have learned to burn it finely. We have had a great deal of rain lately, but not much cold weather.

I have not had a letter from S.C. since I came back from Tenn. What is the cause I cant tell. I have written very often. I wrote to Pamela⁷ a few days ago by Lieut. Trout.⁸ I hope she will get it, and tell her I expect a long answer. The next turn

will be Mary's.⁹ I don't believe she ever writes to anyone now. Tell Terril¹⁰ to stick close to school and apply himself.

I want you all to write to me by the boys when they come back; if Beall comes back be sure to write by him. All the boys are well. Goforth¹¹ will be in in a few days. Nicholson¹² also. Well I must close. I have got some washing that ought to be done today but I don't know whether I will do it or not. My respects to all the friends, and particularly to the family and Bicol.¹³ My best wishes to you and my boy.

Yours affectionately, E. G. L.

54

Encampment, Meridian, Miss.¹ Apr. 18th, 1865

My dear Wife and Friends,

Knowing no better way to pass off the idle minutes of my time than by writing you I have determined to give you a short sketch of our short but severe siege at Mobile. If you have recd the other letters which I wrote you from that place it will be useless for me to go over again the dull routine of every day's transactions while encamped near the City. It will suffice to say that nothing transpired there worthy of note.

On or about the 26th or 27th of March orders came for us to take the boat and go to Blakely² on the East shore of the Bay, 12 miles from the City. As the enemy were approaching from Pensacola³ in force. We got on the boat about 9 o'clock Saturday night and everything being made ready we started. Had not gone more than five or six miles up the Mobile River⁴ when we run into another steamer, the Gertrude, going down the river from Demopolis,⁵ laden with government supplies and having several passengers on board. Nearly all on our boat had gone to sleep but myself. I had reclined on my elbow and was meditating on the Past and the Future, when all of a sudden I felt a considerable shock and perceived that our boat had hit something. Being in the after part of the boat, I could not see before, I thought we had run aground. Soon I heard someone awakened by the shock exclaim "the boat is sinking." Upon this everyone jumped up and running to the same side of the boat came very near sinking ours. Our boat being large and heavily laden had knocked a hole about mid way of the other. She whirled around and went down in four minutes. But before going down all the passengers got on our boat. Several ladies jumped up in their night clothes and jumped fearfully on ours. One lady threw her baby on our boat and it was caught by soldier of our regt. Several women perhaps would have fallen into the water but by the timely aid of the soldiers all were saved. One beautiful young lady in her fright rushed to the edge of the boat and seeing no other means of escape, fell into the extended arms of a young soldier. No lives were lost but the boat load consisted of beef cattle, hogs, flour and a good many other things. It was an exciting scene, and it was a lucky thing that no one was drowned.

We proceeded on to Blakely and next morning went out five or six miles, camped for the night. Next morning the enemy were pushing our advance heavily and finding they were too strong we began to fall back to our works; however a main part of the Div. had fallen back to Spanish Fort.⁶ The Yankees soon closed in around them and began to ditch. From Blakely we could hear heavy firing. After we got back to the works at Blakely it was not long before a dispatch was recd from the Commdg. Gen. at Spanish Fort asking for reinforcements. Our regt. being the largest, it fell to our lot to go down there. We all felt as if we were going into a snare. We got on a blockade runner, steamed down in quick time. They were firing on the lines heavily when we got there but we did not lose a man in getting to the works. There was hardly any fortifications on the left. We took position in the center where the works were tolerably good. But soon our luck changed. Every day we lost some, more or less by their artillery and sharp shooting. One day we had four men killed and some wounded by the explosion of a shell. After this we moved on the left where we worked day and night on the works. By this time they had brought up their siege train and began to work on us heavy with their mortars, pitching the shells right into our ditches. They had ditched up to within two hundred yards of our works and they kept us awake night and day almost by throwing their 120 pounder shells. One or two evenings the canonade was terrific and said to be, by some the heaviest ever heard. By these we lost one brave boy, severely wounded. On the evening of the 8th Apr. they thought to try our lines on the extreme left and meeting with no resistance, came right through. On the extreme left was a marsh of two hundred yards in which we had nothing only picquets,⁷ it being impossible for men to stay there. They turned the left of our lines about sundown,⁸ and as soon as our boys heard it, it spread like electricity among them, and they became alarmed for fear the enemy would get between us and our getting out place and had they known our situation they could have caught the last one of us. A narrow plank bridge had been made across a portion of the marsh, about a mile long. We walked on this till we got out of hearing of them and then we split the mud.⁹ The mud was from knee to waist deep. I got into one place from which I had to be pulled, not being able to extricate myself. I waded for about a mile and then got on a skiff and went to a blockade runner launched in the river. Many of the boys trudged six miles through that mud. It was an awful time. In this fight we lost two men from our Comp., Jo Bicton,¹⁰ orderly sergt. and George Moore,¹¹ two as noble boys as ever lived. We lost several from our regt. About half our Brigade was captured and killed. On the next day the enemy forced our lines at Blakely and captured the whole garrison except a few, who swam out on planks.¹² Three Generals were captured at Blakely. Roe Spinks¹³ was taken there also. After going on the boat we, the garrison from Spanish Fort was taken to Mobile. The city was taken very easily and with but little loss to the Yankees.¹⁴ They lost one or two gunboats. We met many a sad face on our return to the city. The ladies wept bitterly. They were kind to us as they could be. In many instances they gave our boys money, clothing, hats and everything. I could hardly refrain from shedding

tears myself. We left many a true Southern heart in Mobile; and many a traitor.

A great many soldiers staid in the city and give up to the Yanks. We did not lose much government property. True, we had to burn a great number of the finest canons I ever saw. We left Mobile on Monday and the Yankees came in next morning. I learn that a train has gone to Mobile after the prisoners, which I understand are to be paroled. I hope many whom we considered dead will yet come in. Our men are very much demoralized and good many are running away. More anon.

April 30th. Having just dined heartily on fat bacon and corn bread, I will proceed to close my letter as I hear of a chance to send it home. I have been listening today at the speeches of Cole, Jno. R. Baylor¹⁵ and B. F. Sexton,¹⁶ members of congress from the State of Texas; and being just from Richmond on their way home were called upon to tell us what they know about matters and to give us their opinion in regard to same. We had two very good discourses. It is needless for me to attempt to give even an outline of what was said. You will hear and see all in the papers when they get across. They tell us it is no use to think about peace until we shall have convinced the yankee nation and the world that we can contain ourselves. The yankees are having some great jubilees over here, over the fall of Charleston, Wilmington, Richmond and Mobile.¹⁷ They say the war will soon be over, it will take them but a few days to clean us up now.

Our prospects are quite gloomy now I must confess, it appears that everything is working against, but I think we will come out all right yet. You will have heard the numerous reports current on this side of the river before this reaches you.

It is common report now, but not credited now, that Genl Lee and Johnston have been whipped,¹⁸ that Lee had surrendered himself and whole army to Grant.¹⁹ There is no doubt about Richmond being evacuated and that some troops were lost, but it is not believed that Lee surrendered the finest army in the world ever saw to Gen. Grant. I expect there has been some very heavy fighting in N.C. but as communication is interrupted we can get nothing straight. We hear that Johnston having been reinforced by Lee gave Sherman a severe whipping.²⁰ One thing is certain that he has been checked in his onward march. We have also recd telegraphs to the effect that Lincoln and Seward have been assassinated in Washington, that Lincoln was shot through the head in the theatre and lived a few hours, and that Seward's throat was cut, supposed to have been done by some northern man.²¹ We got all this news by Yankee papers. It may be so and it may not. As for my part I dont believe any of it. But I wish to the bottom of my heart that the last report was true. Though it does not show a spirit of Christianity to rejoice at such wickedness.

But I can tell you what is so: the Yankees have taken and burned Tuscaloosa, Selma, Montgomery and all the public works at these places.²² It was done by a raid who came down from north Ala. At last accounts they were making their way on to Columbus, Ga. If they reach that place they will destroy all the manufacturing town left us. Nearly all our clothing, shoes, hats and a great deal of ammunition was put up there. The raid numbers from seven to ten thousand.

Since we have left Mobile we have been here at this place doing nothing. There has been considerable excitement about consolidating our brigade. I am in favor of the act if done right. The Commanding Gen. wants to consolidate our four Texas regts into one and put it into an Alabama Brigade. To this we are not willing, from the fact that it would be humiliating to put us, after having made a name for ourselves, into another brigade, who has no history. If they would put us with other troops from Texas none would object, but numbers of the boys say they will quit if the other takes place. I think they might please us now and then. I want a chance to get new officers, our old ones are of no account in the world, regular sot drunkards, the most of them. They were all dog drunk when Spanish Fort was given up, and it is the same all the time when they can get it.

We lost four noble soldiers at Mobile, Jo. Becton, George Moore, Roe Spinks, and Hollingsworth.²³ Spinks was captured at Blakely with Gen Cockrell.²⁴ The others were killed or wounded. All of the Missouri Brigade was captured except a few who made their escape on planks &c. We were surrounded by water on one side and by the Yanks on the other. No one can tell which way we will go from this place. My prediction is that we will go into Tennessee again. We have but a small army in this Dept. We cant go to Johnston. I suppose you are anxious to hear from S.C. So am I. I have not had a line from there since the last of Jany. It is just as difficult to hear from there as it is from Texas and I believe a little more so. There is no chance of writing to them either. I am so anxious to hear from Bro. Thomas.²⁵ A great many prisoners have been exchanged but I hear nothing from John.²⁶ I suppose it has not come to his turn yet. Capt. Kilgore²⁷ has been paroled but has not come into camps yet. I hope John will soon come in. Ross' Brigade is now on the Yazoo and Miss. Rivers, doing piquet duty.

I have had no letter from you since Maj. Redwine²⁸ came over. I would like to hear from you very much. I have thought about you and Bridgie²⁹ a great deal lately. I dont think our furloughed boys will come back. Jeff Rosson³⁰ is still at Cuba Station,³¹ about 22 miles from here, doing finely, talking something about coming home. Goforth,³² Nicholson,³³ Watson³⁴ and Still³⁵ are all well. I heard that Martin³⁶ had come out of Tenn. but he has not come to the command. I expect he has gone to S.C.

I would like much to be with you again but do not know whether I ever shall be or not. I have escaped well so far, for which I thank God. But I hope I may be spared to get home again honorably. Some of the boys are going without papers, but unless my notion changes I shall never come until the Brigade comes or the Army ceases to be an organized command. I will never run away. As my letter is already too long I must close. I wish you all to write to me. Give my regards to all enquiring friends. My love to your Pa,³⁷ Ma,³⁸ Pa (Pamelia),³⁹ Mary,⁴⁰ Alice⁴¹ and all the other children. And to you and Bridgie I can only say, may the blessing of Heaven and my best love and wishes ever be your constant companions, and may He, who presides over the destinies of men and nations decree for us to meet again on this earth, and finally in Heaven.

Your Husband, E. G. L.

Encampment, Cuba Station, Ala, May 4/65

Oh! My Country! My Country! What a deplorable condition Thou art in; what future destiny awaits thee I can't tell, but necessity knows no law. Her sons, though numerous, have forsaken thee. No longer will be a free people, no longer have our rights, but must submit to the cruel relentless yoke of Yankee Tyranny. Far better to have fell on the Gory battle field than to witness what is now going on. Thrice happy are they whose bodies bleach on the plains of Shiloh, Manassas, Murfreesboro, and Chickamauga, and whose spirits now rest from strife. They will be remembered with all honor, praise and reverence.

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First pages of this letter missing.

I was very sorry to hear of so much sickness in the family and regret the loss of the girl.¹ I am very uneasy about my baby and would like so much to hear from him again. It seems that every good crop year is sickly.

I suppose Robert² is at Alexander yet.³ Tell Bicol⁴ she need not laugh at you any more. Things are no more than I expected. She must not go to Jefferson⁵ any more. Why are you afraid to laugh at Bob? Mary's⁶ sweetheart has long since left this side of the river. Has he not come home? I heard that he and his brother had joined Price's Army.⁷ Tell her that her letter did not come to hand if she sent it to me. He promised to let me know when he started home but did not do it. I saw young Scruggs⁸ before we went into Ten. He had been to S.C. on furlough. He went to see Pa⁹ and Rebecca.¹⁰ Pa sent me twenty five dollars by him. I have not seen him lately. Sent his respects to your Pa and all the family, but I recon he means to the girls particularly.

Johnston,¹¹ who is a messmate of mine, promises to bring me a hat if you can get one for me, you oblige me much, as I am in great need of one. As far as anything else, you need not mind unless you can send a pair of socks and a pair of suspenders. I would like to have some other things. But the boys cant bring any more. Perhaps Pa may send me some, when he heard where I am. I know I will not suffer for the balance of the winter. I must close. I wrote to your Bro. John¹² but have not heard from him lately. Nor from Garner.¹³ I will write to John before long. Did you get the letter I sent you from him?

I will write to Becca soon. I sent the letter you wrote me to Pa and then to her. You must all write to me when you can. Give my love to all the friends particularly to your Pa and family. I remain your affectionate

Elbridge

All the boys from the neighborhood are well. Jeff Rosson¹⁴ is at Cuba Station, Ala. on sixty days furlough. Crippled for life, his leg is very crooked. Some of you must go to see Hale¹⁵ and Johnson.

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Monday May 18th 1863

Sallie, as Felix¹ has been trying to write you a letter, I will try to fill out the sheet. I have nothing new to write. We are all about. Gabriel,² a negro boy, is unwell. Dr. Nott³ says it is the Dropsy.⁴ I think he is young to have that disease, being about my age. You will have heard of the great Battle of Fredericksburg⁵ before this reaches you, from accounts the most bloody fight of the war. Not many of our acquaintances were killed that I have heard of as yet. William E. Lipscomb, son of Elias, and grandson of old Ned Lipscomb⁶ was killed, the papers say. Capt. Charles Boyd,⁷ son-in-law of Davis Goudelock,⁸ was killed by a ball which struck him in the forehead. Tom Goudelock⁹ was slightly wounded, Jack Littlejohn¹⁰ had not been heard of since the fight, and also Robin Wilkins.¹¹ We have not heard from Thomas¹² since the Battle only we learned by a letter that he was in the fight. We are anxious to hear. I hope there is nothing serious the matter with him as I do not find his name among the casualties. Uncle Jimmy's John¹³ is Capt. now of Capt. Byd's Com.¹⁴

Yesterday I went to preaching at Goucher.¹⁵ Mr. Scruggs¹⁶ preached the funeral of Tommy Lipscomb.¹⁷ There was a large concourse of people out. But I was surprised to find so many that I did not know. A great many have grown up since I saw them last. I knew not half the people. Mr. Scruggs is to preach there again the first of next month. Mr. C.¹⁸ preaches Jim Wilkins¹⁹ the 5th Sunday. I wish you could be here to go to church with me. I expect to go to Spartenburg C.H.²⁰ tomorrow to try to get a discharge as the surgeons will be there to examine the conscripts. If I can get one I am coming home before long. I went to Union²¹ but that Doctor had received orders not to grant any more discharges. My wound is improving very fast. But I have not much use of my leg. Cant walk at all on it.

Afternoon. Since I wrote the above I have been visiting a little. I went down to Mr. Garrison's²² this morning and have just returned. He is going to

Lynchburg Va.¹ Dec. 2nd 63

Dear Sallie,

Having received a letter from Elbridge a few days since stating that an express for letters had been established between the cut off states of the Confederacy, I hasten to write you a short letter hoping per chance that it may reach you. My seeming forgetfulness has not arisen from any want of appreciation but candidly from the reason that I thought communication was entirely cut off. It has been a long time since I wrote you and longer since I recd a letter from you. Many things have occurred under my personal observation since last Christmas when I arrived at my company. I fear that my letter will not interest as much as I could wish to many things present themselves for room to be inserted.

I have been with the Regt ever since my arrival till a few days ago. Having a severe attack of diarrhea and the regt having orders to march, I was sent to a Hospt in this place and am rapidly recovering. I have taken a hand in all the great struggles this army has had this summer, except one may have been fought since I left the army. Chancellorsville was fought and the Yankees whipped completely.² We lost many men but the enemy more.³ 16th June left Fredericksburg⁴ for Penn.⁵ The weather was very warm and we suffered much from heat. Reached and crossed the Potomac River 23rd about 120 miles passed through the beautiful valley of Virginia⁶ which bears signs of the vandalism of the Yankees. Milroy⁷ has been tyrannizing at Winchester⁸ for some time. Gen. Ewell surprised and captured his force of 6000⁹ destruction marked their path, many houses being burnt along the road. This is the finest and most prosperous country of Va. is a perfect waste. The ladies greeted our appearance by many kindnesses. We had a jolly time wading the Potomac, deep, rocky and wide. Everthing was mirth. You never saw men in better spirits. We went on through Maryland into the Heart of Pennsylvania. Many flags of the red, white, blue were given to the breezes. This part of Maryland is just as it was 100 years ago, nothing left but log houses whitewashed. There are more ugly women in there than I ever saw. We passed through Hagerstown¹⁰ - which is an old dilapidated town of some note. Our Bands struck up the tune of Dixie. The doors and winders and streets became thickly crowded to see the farfamed rebels, who had begun to spread a dreadful consternation over all yankee land by their movements. Went on up the Valley of the Cumberland, a fine country indeed, in a high state of cultivation flowing with milk and honey, present the finest appearance the eye ever beheld. Every field covered with waving wheat. The citizens were well provided with all the necessaries of life in great abundance, but our men deprived many of their luxuries nothing but pillage and take. I became disgusted at this conduct and thought nothing good would result

June 12th 1862

My dear Sallie,

Yours of May the Seventh has just come to hand and I assure you that it was very well-com for I had been indispoz for sometime and anxious to hear from you and allso to hear about Elbridge and am sorry to hear that his health was still bad. I have allso this day heard from Tommy.¹ He is weakly in Richmon Virginia has cronic dierar. I fear his health will never be much better as he has been sick so long.

I have no news of importance to write you. We have missed making wheat from some cause unnoon to us. It looked promising until felling time and all at once failed. Allso our corn crops are doing bad we have had so much rain that everything looks bad. You have heard of the fight at Richmon² before this can reach you. I learn that our boys fought like tigers and many of them fell on them days. And the balance dont intend to be whiped. Some of your acquants. fell on that bloody field. Some of the Boners, Browns, Lipscombs and others it was a day that will be long remembered. I am still in hopes that the war will soon come to a close. Direct your letters to Richmon Va. 12th Regt. S.C.V.³ in care of A. K. Smith Capt., when you write to Tommy I dont think there is any settlement news though you write as though you had not heard of Mollie's⁴ marriage. She was maried to B. F. Littlejohn⁵ the Eight of March. Stole a march on the family. I will say nothing moore on the subject but you may guess the balance. We are all well at present. Your friends allso so far as I know. I have not heard from them for a little time. I want you and Elbridge to write me often as my children ar much scattered it is all the means we have of communicating one with the other. I would love to be with you all and have your company but it is two fare off. Sallie, my daughter for you feel like one, write to me often and send me how Bridge⁶ is doing. Give my respects to your Par⁷ and family and receive the balance yourself.

Saml Littlejohn

Limestone Springs S.C. May 18 1863

Dear Sallie,

I seat myself this sabbath evening to drop a few lines to inform you of the health of the family. We are all well with the exception of Elbridge and a negro boy. Elbridge is doing finely. He was at Union Court House Friday to get a discharge but the Doctor was thrown out of office. There is to be two other doctors at Spartanburg Tuesday and Wednesday and he is going up on the same purpose. The negro boy has been sick with dropsy but he is getting better. Aunt Caty¹ has lost another negro man with consumption and there will be another in a few days he is going out as fast as any one could. She has mighty bad luck with her negroes for the last few years. Well I will quit this subject and begin another.

Wheat crops looks fine now if the rust dont hurt it. If wheat crops failed it will be bad. Wheat has been selling five dollars a bushel. Corn is a big price two. Corn looks middling. It is a mighty scarce article here now the poor women and children will be obliged to suffer if the crops failed. The speculators buys up everything the reason everything is so high. They ought to be driven out of good company. Well Sallie I have been looking for you some time. E. wants to see you bad and I do to the worst sort. We received a letter from you Friday. We were all glad to hear from you as soon as you get this note I want you to come hear. I want to see your boy. E. says you can use your pleasure about it. I say come.

Give my love to your sisters and old folks. I remain yours &c &c

Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn²

Camp near Brandon Miss July 23rd 1863

Dear Father,¹

I hear this evening that there will be a chance of sending a letter by hand across the river so I will try and write as I seldom have an opportunity of writing to you now. My health is very good now and I am getting along as well as usual. I suppose that you have heard of the downfall of Vicksburg before this. When the Yankees got in possession of the place they made a forward movement for Jackson, our forces being too weak we were compelled to retreat, our regt. bringing up the rear. We fought them from big black to Jackson and there we gave them up to our men in the breastworks who held them off for five days. In that time the federals made several charges upon our breastworks but were repulsed with heavy loss. Goodman Jefferies² was wounded in the hand so Jo Byers³ told me. I have not seen him since the evacuation of Jackson. On the morning before Johnson⁴ left Jackson we were ordered to go in the rear of the army. We did so and took about one hundred federals, burnt up their train and took a no. of mules and horses. We then started back but when we had got about half way back we found that we were cut off by a large force of yankees. We made them think that we were going to make battle and they formed a line of battle and while they were at that we were getting off in another direction. We made the trip without the loss of a man. It is rather a gloomy time for us now but we will show them what it is yet. I for one am willing to fight them always. I do not pretend to say that I am very brave but death in preference to a northern ruler. Our Generals say let them take all of our seaports and they will have to leave a force to guard them while it will strengthen our army and weaken theirs. We have never met them in an open field yet but what we have given them a whipping. Gen. Lee has lately whipped them in Pensilvania and Maryland⁵ and we are looking for reinforcements from his army to this. Our scouts report that the Yankees are leaving Jackson but we cannot ascertain which way they are going. The boys that were taken at Vixburg say that they saw a hard time while they were there. They had to eat mule meat and half rations at that. The Yankees took all of their negroes and put them into their ranks some of them ran away and come to their masters since they came out. Well Pa I received a letter from Cousin Sallie Jefferies.⁶ She rites that they are all getting along finely. Cousin Millie⁷ and Tom Kink⁸ are married and so on. Crops are very fine. Wheat crops in particular. Bill Reynolds⁹ is at home. He gave 2000 dollars for a substitute. I am afraid he is not doing much. Sister R.¹⁰ and her three little boys¹¹ were well. She named her last boy Benton. I rec. a letter from E.¹² which I will send to you. He is doing finely. I wish that I could get the chance to go back there but I have no idea that I can go this year unless we have a fight and whip the yankees out from here. Josh Milburn¹³ got here a few days ago. He is well. We were all glad to see him. He sends his love to you all. Tell Ma¹⁴ and the girls¹⁵ that I am very well supplied with clothing now but they cost me very high. I gave 37 dollars for 1 pr pants and sixty five for a pr boots. 30 for a coat and other things in proportion. That is the way things sell here. Tell Uncle Sam¹⁶ that I will answer his letter the first chance I get. I have not time to do it now. Pa, if you have any more money like you sent me, that is Hoyer and Ludwig,¹⁷ get it off your hands for that issue has been called in and it is not good. That Plate has been stolen and there is a great deal of counterfeit. The rest is all good. I have about written all I can this time so I will quit. Give my love to all the family. Tell Terril¹⁸ and Tom¹⁹ that I will come to see them some time. My respects to Mr. Wallace and family,²⁰ Uncle and Aunt,²¹ also Sam²² and all the neighbors. Tell Mrs. Mil-

burn²³ that her boys are both well. All my mess are well. Write to me some of you every chance you can get. Nothing more but I am your son,

John Jefferies²⁴

Give my love to Bicol²⁵

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Salttillo Miss.¹ Aug. 10 1862

Dear Sisters,

As I have an opportunity of writing I will try and let you hear from me again. I received a letter from you yesterday that you sent by Col. Cumby.² I tell you I was glad to see it for it is the first scince I left vanburen.³ I can say to you that it found me in excellent health. I had just started a letter to Pa⁴ by mail when I got yours but I am afraid he will not get it as the mails are so uncertain.

Well Sisters, I have no news of great importance to write. I wrote in the letter to Pa about the fight in La.⁵ and scince that we have got papers that tell all about it. We gave them a good whipping. There has been another fight in east tenessee⁶ and we have taken the Yankee army there. We are now listening to hear from Chattanooga⁷ and when that fight comes off then I think we will start north. I hope now soon the time may come for us to start. I have not seen E.⁸ in four or five weeks, he is at Chattanooga. I will try and send your letters to him some way. Sallie he looked better the last time I saw him than I ever saw him in my life. I tried to get a transfer to his company but could not do it. I have not seen Garner⁹ but once scince he came over here and then I was very sick and did not know who he was for some time. I sent a letter to Mary¹⁰ by Mr. Fourtson.¹¹ Has she got it or not. You ought to have seen our company on review this morning. There were fifty seaven suits of uniform come to our regt and we drew for them and got them so now we are as proud as a parcel of little negroes. I have got one over shirt and two under ones and three pr pants two pr socks two coats 1 hat and a pr of shoes and five dollars so I am rich. I let Johnston¹² have 100\$. We either have to spend our money or nearly perish for we do not draw half rations half the time. We get plenty of fruit but have to pay very high for it. Twenty five cts per doz for peaches and apples. I suppose Miss Mollie¹³ is married. I think she could have done better if she had not been in such a hurry. I got a letter from Sallie C. Jefferies¹⁴ the other day. All of our friends are well back there. Bill Rowland¹⁵ was killed at Richmond, also Dolf Foster,¹⁶ Billy Austell¹⁷ and Alexander Lipscomb¹⁸ had both legs shot off. Perry Pearson and son¹⁹ Bank Lile²⁰ Jimmy Littlejohn²¹ were badly wounded. Jim Blanton²² was killed also. I have written to Mr. Reynolds²³ and Sister R.²⁴ several time but get no answer from them.

We have very hot weather here now. Crops are prity good in this country. Not much cotton planted. As the man who is to take this letter does not know when he will start I will quit writing for today and will finish before he leaves. By waiting perhaps I may get some more news to write.

Aug. 12th. Well Sisters as the man who will bring this letter starts today I will finish. There has been nothing of importance happened as we have learned. I am sorry to tell you that the boat I have told you about has been blown up on the Miss. Our men did it themselves. I sent those letters to Elbridge the other day. I will finish for I know nothing to write. Give my love to all the family. Also to Uncle Sam²⁵ and Aunt Pamela²⁶ and the neighbors around. So goodby. Write soon to your brother,

John Jefferies

Direct your letter to Salttillo Miss., Itawamba Co. Price's Command,
1st Division 2nd Brigade Co. (H)²⁷ Third Texas Cavalry.

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HdQrts Army of the Potomac Jan 2nd 1863

Dear Sallie,

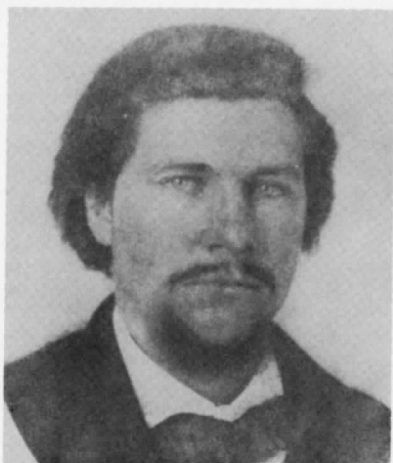
Thinking twas time for me to write you a line, I considered this the most suitable opportunity being at leisure this pleasant evening, though I have nothing very interesting to communicate.

The health of the boys seems to be very good and all are enjoying themselves as well as circumstances will permit. I am enjoying, myself, very good health, comparatively speaking. We are having very fine weather here indeed.

I left home Dec. 15th and arrived at this place 23rd. Was detained on the way owing to the misconnections of the R.R. I found the Regt some 8 miles below Fredericksburg on the Rappahanock River. We are without tents and have very bad fare every way. Some of our boys are needing shoes, but have plenty of other clothes, though this deficiency is being supplied by the Government Quartermaster. Our Regt suffered some in the Fredericksburg fight.¹ The enemy have recrossed the river but we can see the smoke of their camp fires. We have thrown up fortifications in the valley of the river. I don't think they will try again here.

I have not heard from home since I left though Pa² reced a letter from Elbridge a few days before. Was well. I will write to him soon. He said he had written to me, but his letter has not come to hand. There is a great deal of speculation in Ginger cakes, candy and apples. going on here in camp, the men have not been paid off and they spend it

Tenth Texas Brass



MAJOR H.D.E. "RAZ" REDWINE was the captain of Co. E, 10th Texas Cavalry when it was formed, but was promoted to major in 1862. Before the war he was Rusk County's chief justice and served in the state legislature in 1859. (SEE LETTER NO. 46, FOOTNOTE 3). photo courtesy of the late Mrs. Raz Redwine IV of Austin, through Jon Harrison.



COL. MATTHEW F. LOCKE served as colonel of the 10th Texas Cavalry which fought in Ector's Brigade. Locke served as a state representative from Upshur and Harrison counties and as speaker of the House in 1856-58. He died in El Paso in 1899. (SEE LETTER NO. 1, FOOTNOTE 1). photo from "Texas In the War."



BRIG. GENERAL MATHEW DUNCAN ECTOR, 1822-1879. He served as colonel of the 14th Texas Cavalry, and in 1862 was promoted to brigadier general. Littlejohn's regiment served in Ector's Brigade in the Army of Tennessee. (SEE LETTER NO. 19, FOOTNOTE 8). photo from "Texas In The War."

"We Strike For Liberty"



The battle flag of Company E, 10th Texas Cavalry in the Texas National Guard Museum. The meaning of "Bully Rocks" has not been determined. Photo courtesy of the Adjutant General's Department, State of Texas. (photo courtesy of Gen. Jay A. Matthews, Jr., publisher of Military History of Texas and the Southwest.)

without reflection.

I think we will stay here this winter unless the enemy transfer his base to some other field. I must come to a finish by asking you to write soon and give my Respts to all the enquiring friends of

Thos. M. Littlejohn³

P.S. I through mistake backed the letter wrong.

FOOTNOTES

Letter 33

1. Samuel A. Goodman, Jr. (1836-1899), son of Dr. Samuel A. and Pamela (Jefferies) Goodman. He enlisted in Company K, Third Cavalry, was discharged due to poor health, reenlisted in the Thirteenth Texas Infantry, and was again discharged due to poor health. He married Miss Kate Vinson of Rusk County, Texas (Sid S. Johnson, *Some Biographies of Old Settlers, Historical, Personal and Reminiscent* (Tyler: Sid S. Johnson, 1900); reprint edition published by Smith County Historical Society, Tyler, Texas, 1965, pp. 190-191.

2. Davis Jefferies, see Letter 16, Footnote 9.
3. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.
4. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 6.
5. Samuel Jefferies, brother of William C. Jefferies.
6. Adam Saffold Goudelock, see Letter 25, Footnote 24.
7. Alf, a slave.
8. John Jefferies, brother of William C. Jefferies.
9. Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 6.
10. Col. C. R. Earp is unidentified.
11. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
12. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.
13. "Capt. Howard" is unidentified.
14. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 4, Footnote 11.
15. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.
16. William C. and Evaline (Wilkins) Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.
17. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.
18. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
19. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
20. Terril Jefferies, see Letter 26, Footnote 10.
21. Melissa C. Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
22. Thomas P. Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 27.
23. James Edward Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 28.

Letter 34

1. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
2. The Big Black River flows through central Mississippi to join the Mississippi River south of Vicksburg. On a line east of Vicksburg, the Big Black is ten miles away from the city.
3. William S. Rosecrans, Union general, who replaced Buell in October of 1862 and was in turn replaced by Thomas in October, 1863.
4. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.
5. W. B. F. D. Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.
6. Samuel A. Goodman, Jr., see Letter 33, Footnote 1.
7. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
8. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

9. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.
10. William C. Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

Letter 35

1. Richard W. Wynne of Company G. He was promoted to second lieutenant on June 11, 1863 and was absent because of sickness in September and October of 1863. He was later wounded at Nashville, Tennessee and was captured at Franklin, Tennessee on December 17, 1864.
2. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
3. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
4. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.
5. In 1860 Robert Ligon was an eighteen year old day laborer living with his guardian B. L. Goodman in Tyler. He had a large amount of real estate, thirty-one slaves, and was attending school (*Eighth Census, Schedule 1: Free Population, Smith County, Texas, household 1116; Eighth Census, Schedule 2: Slave Population, Smith County, Texas, p. 49.*) He enlisted as a private in Company K, Third Texas Cavalry but in September and October of 1863 he was absent under arrest. He was captured by federal soldiers near Natchez on February 14, 1864 and was taken to Rock Island Barracks in Illinois where it was recorded that he wished to remain in the North and take an oath of allegiance. By March, 1865 he was back in the South, at Jackson Hospital in Richmond, Virginia with a diagnosis of "debilitas." Robert Ligon later returned to Smith County, where he is buried. (*Compiled Service Records, Roll 20: Third Cavalry (South Kansas-Texas Mounted Volunteers), H-L.*)
6. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
7. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.
8. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 4, Footnote 11.
9. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

Letter 36

1. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
2. Robert Ligon, see Letter 35, Footnote 5.
3. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.
4. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.
5. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
6. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.
7. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.
8. W. B. F. D. Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.
9. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.
10. Nathan Littlejohn, see Letter 21, Footnote 12.
11. Catherine Littlejohn, sister of Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn.
12. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.
13. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
14. Thomas P. Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 27.

15. James Edward Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 28.
16. Tom H. Hanson, see Letter 25, Footnote 48.
17. Richard W. Wynne, see Letter 35, Footnote 1.
18. John Crawford Spinks, see Letter 16, Footnote 11.
19. Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 6.
20. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 1.
21. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.
22. Dr. Samuel A. and Pamela Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 11.
23. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 4, Footnote 11.
24. A. J. Wallace and wife, see Letter 15, Footnote 7.
25. Willie, a slave.
26. Stewart, a slave.

Letter 37

1. The Battle of Chattanooga on November 23-25, 1863. Union generals Grant, Sherman, Hooker, and Thomas pushed Bragg's men from Missionary Ridge toward Georgia (Parish, pp. 300-301.)
2. Chickamauga Creek ran east and south of Missionary Ridge, flowing into the Tennessee River above Chattanooga (Parish, p. 299.)
3. Ringgold, Georgia is a town approximately fifteen miles southeast of Chattanooga on the road to Dalton, Georgia.
4. The Confederates lost 361 killed, 2,180 wounded, and 4,146 missing (Henry E. Simmons, A Concise Encyclopedia of the Civil War (New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1965, p. 54.)
5. Before the Battle of Chattanooga, Bragg sent General James Longstreet in an unsuccessful attempt to force General Burnside from his position in Knoxville (Wakelyn, p. 289; Parish, p. 300.)
6. The federal losses at Chattanooga were 753 killed, 4,722 wounded and 349 missing (Simmons, p. 54.)
7. The regiments in Mississippi did not move to support the Confederate forces between Chattanooga and Atlanta until late April or early May, 1864 (Hooker, p. 195.)
8. James McCormick is unidentified.
9. A. J. Wallace, see Letter 15, Footnote 7.
10. William Lipscomb Goude-lock, see Letter 22, Footnote 5.
11. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.
12. Mr. Blanton, a friend from South Carolina.
13. Palmer (first or last name?), husband of Sallie Moorehead.
14. Sallie Moorehead, probably related to Nancy Moorehead, wife of William Lipscomb Goude-lock, Sallie's cousin.
15. Davis Jefferies, see Letter 16, Footnote 9.
16. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
17. Probably William Terrell Wilkins, son of John Wilkins, see Letter 22, Footnote 29.
18. Pvt. William O. Wilson of Company G. He was left sick at Ringgold, Georgia in December of 1862, was sick again in July and August of 1863, and was in the hospital at Newton, Mississippi in December of 1863.
19. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 5, Footnote 11.
20. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.
21. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.
22. Nathan Littlejohn, Elbridge's second cousin. He was the son of Elizabeth and Dr. Felix Walker Littlejohn and was a brother of Frank and John Hall Littlejohn.
23. Bill Rowland, see Letter 22, Footnote 19.
24. Smith Lockhart is unidentified, but may be related to William "Smith" Lipscomb's mother, Rebecca (Lockhart) Lipscomb.
25. John R. Jefferies, see Letter 27, Footnote 18.
26. John D. Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 3,

27. Jonesville, South Carolina, a town twelve miles south of Thicketty in Union District, South Carolina.
28. Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 22, Footnote 6.
29. Mandeville Goude-lock, see Letter 22, Footnote 11.
30. Dick Littlejohn is unidentified, but probably related.
31. Thomas Durbin Littlejohn, see Letter 23, Footnote 3.
32. Paper was also scarce in Tyler and had been so for at least a year. Most paper mills were in the North and those supplies were no longer available. In November of 1863 Mittie Marsh of Smith County complained to her husband in the 17th Texas Cavalry that "I have no more envelopes and their (sic) is none in Tyler." There were also no postage stamps, and pens were of poor quality (Araminta and Bryan Marsh, "The Confederate Letters of Bryan Marsh," Chronicles of Smith County, Texas XIV (Winter 1975) 46, 52.)

Letter 38

1. Brandon, Mississippi, a town between Meridian and Vicksburg, twelve miles east of Jackson.
2. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.
3. Grant was not given command of all Union armies until March 12, 1864. Up to that date he was still in charge of the eastern Mississippi Valley only (Hooker, p. 186.)
4. Meade and Lee took up winter quarters on opposite sides of the Rapidan River in December and held that position for five months (Parish, p. 294.)
5. Mandeville Goude-lock, see Letter 22, Footnote 6.
6. Samuel Elbert Goude-lock, see Letter 8, Footnote 4.
7. Nathan Littlejohn, see Letter 37, Footnote 22.
8. Lookout Mountain was one of the principal engagements in the Battle of Chattanooga in which Hooker forced the Confederates from Lookout Mountain on the first day of the fight.
9. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 37, Footnote 11.
10. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 6.
11. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
12. John McCormick is unidentified.
13. Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 6.

Letter 39

1. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.
2. Probably either Ed B. Noble or Frank Noble, both in Company K, Third Texas Cavalry.
3. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.
4. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
5. Constantine Buckley Kilgore, see Letter 8, Footnote 5.
6. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.
7. The Confederate government "impressed" Elbridge's horse, taking it by force either at a set price or with no reimbursement at all, for use in the Confederate service.
8. Mandeville Goude-lock, see Letter 22, Footnote 6.
9. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.
10. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 4, Footnote 11.
11. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.
12. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.
13. George Preston Birdwell was the son of Allen and Lucinda (Ross) Birdwell of Mt. Enterprise, Rusk County. He was chosen chaplain of the Tenth Texas Cavalry in 1863 and at that time returned to East Texas to be ordained a Baptist minister. He soon returned to his company in Mississippi and served the rest of the war.

14. Mount Enterprise is a town in southern Rusk County, Texas.

15. Pvt. William F. Hanson, of Co. B, Tenth Texas Cavalry, was appointed lieutenant on December 16, 1863. He was admitted to the hospital at Meridian, Mississippi for rheumatism in April of 1865 and surrendered there one month later.

16. Tom Hanson, see Letter 25, Footnote 48.

17. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

18. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

19. John Monroe Spinks, see Letter 2, Footnote 12.

Letter 40

1. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

2. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

3. Orange Court House in Orange County, Virginia, northeast of Charlottesville.

4. No regiments from the Meridian area were moved to Savannah, and only Forney's command was transferred to Mobile (Hooker, p. 187.)

5. Constantine Buckley Kilgore, see Letter 8, Footnote 5.

6. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 6.

7. James McCormick is unidentified.

8. Nathaniel Benton Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 6.

9. Capt. Howes is unidentified.

10. Col. C. R. Earp is unidentified.

11. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

12. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

13. "Bill Wilkin's Jack" is unidentified, but Letter 28, Footnote 9 refers to Uncle Jack's Bill." One of these may be a mistake.

14. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

15. William Carl Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

16. Evaline (Wilkins) Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

17. Melissa Wilkins, see Letter 28, Footnote 4.

Letter 41

1. Freestone County, a Texas county west of Anderson County.

2. Possibly Lt. John P. Brown of Company B, who went from Brandon to Quitman, Texas on furlough between December 26, 1863 and February 15, 1864.

3. General Edmund Kirby Smith, under whom Elbridge had served in Tennessee and Kentucky, was now in charge of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

4. Mississippi River.

5. Rodney, Mississippi, a town about three and one half miles downstream of St. Joseph, Louisiana.

6. "This fight below" probably refers to the Battle of Mansfield or Sabine Cross Roads on April 8, or to the Battle of Pleasant Hill on April 9. General N. P. Banks attempted to advance up the Red River to Shreveport and join Steele's forces marching from Little Rock to cut Texas off from the rest of the Confederacy and to seize cotton stores in the area. Banks was severely beaten at Mansfield and was forced to retreat back down the Red River to New Orleans. This was the closest Federal threat to East Texas (Parish, p. 456.) Union prisoners from this campaign soon flooded Camp Ford, the prisoner of war camp at Tyler, Texas.

7. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.

8. Jefferson, Texas, a major East Texas town on Cypress Creek, fifteen miles north of Marshall.

9. Abicol (Davis) Jefferies, see Letter 19, Footnote 22.

Letter 42

1. Winnsboro, Louisiana, a town approximately half way between Monroe, Louisiana and Natchez,

Mississippi.

2. Lt. Buckner is unidentified.

3. "Scruggs" is unidentified.

4. Jones Williams is unidentified.

Letter 43

1. St. Joseph, Louisiana, approximately thirty-six miles south of Vicksburg, on the east side of the Mississippi from Port Gibson.

Letter 44

1. Tuscaloosa, Alabama is a town southeast of Birmingham and about ninety-one miles northeast of Meridian.

2. Lt. Buckner is unidentified.

3. Randolph is a small town in the southeast corner of Bibb County, Alabama. Elbridge probably rode the Blue Mountain and Selma Railroad.

4. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

5. Jay hawkers were marauding thieves who respected neither Yankee nor Confederate.

6. John P. Brown, see Letter 41, Footnote 2.

7. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

8. Samuel Jefferies, brother of William C. Jefferies.

9. Shelt Sparks is unidentified, but is most likely from South Carolina.

10. Tom Littlejohn is unidentified but may be a brother of John Hall, Frank and Nathan Littlejohn, the sons of Elizabeth and Felix Walker Littlejohn.

11. Jim McCulloch is unidentified.

12. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

13. Oscar Wilson is probably William O. Wilson, see Letter 37, Footnote 18.

14. Joshua Milburn, see Letter 24, Footnote 26.

15. Joseph E. Milburn, see Letter 2, Footnote 9.

16. Owen J. Larkin of Company K, Third Texas Cavalry. In 1860 he was a twenty-one year old clerk who was living with A. G. Larkin, a pharmacist, in A. G. Irwin's hotel in Tyler. He may also have been related to Dr. R. R. Larkin of Starrville. Owen Larkin was court martialled on May 28, 1864, but there are no locally available records which reveal the charges or the outcome (Eighth Census, Schedule 1: Free Population, Smith County, Texas, households 66?, 1095; Compiled Service Records, Roll 20: Third Cavalry (South Kansas-Texas Mounted Volunteers), H-L.)

17. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

18. William Hugh Young (1838-1901) became colonel of the Ninth Texas Infantry Regiment in 1862 after the Battle of Shiloh. He also fought in the battles of Perryville, Stone's River, Vicksburg, Chickamauga and the Atlanta Campaign during which he was made brigadier general. He was wounded and captured in Hood's Tennessee campaign (Wright, p. 97.)

19. General Stephen Dill Lee (1833-1908) served the early part of the war in the east. He was captured at Vicksburg but was soon exchanged and promoted to major general. On June 23, 1864 he was promoted to lieutenant general and was given command of the Department of Mississippi and Alabama. He later commanded the Army of Tennessee in Tennessee and North Carolina (Wakelyn, p. 282.)

20. General Leonidas Polk (1806-1864), major general in the Confederate Army who participated in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Corinth and Murfreesboro. He was later promoted to lieutenant general and fought in Chickamauga before being assigned the Department of Alabama in early 1864. Polk was killed near Marietta, Georgia in June while on reconnaissance (Wakelyn, pp. 349-350.)

21. General Samuel Gibbs French (1818-1910) served as brigadier general at Malvern Hill and in May, 1863, after being promoted to major general, he was sent to Mississippi to serve with General Joseph Johnston in the Army of Tennessee. His division later participated in the Atlanta and

Tennessee Campaigns (Wakelyn, p. 192.)

22. Polk was in the process of moving his men into position to support Johnston in the Atlanta Campaign (Hooker, p. 195.)

23. Dalton is a town in northwest Georgia, about twenty-seven miles southeast of Chattanooga.

24. Johnston was entrenched at Dalton. Sherman led his troops out of Chattanooga in early May in flanking movements forcing Johnston to fall farther back towards Atlanta (Parish, pp. 469-471.)

25. Grant was not in Georgia but in Virginia leading a campaign against Robert E. Lee.

26. At the time this letter was written the Battle of the Wilderness was being fought, to be followed by Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor and the siege of Petersburg (Parish, 458.)

27. This is correct.

28. Polk moved his men, including the Tenth Texas Cavalry to support Johnston before the battle at Resaca on May 15 (Nevins, Vol. IV, 25.)

29. Black Warrior River is a major river of western Alabama; it flows on the north side of Tuscaloosa.

30. John Monroe Spinks, see Letter 2, Footnote 12.

31. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

32. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

33. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 37, Footnote 11.

34. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 6.

35. Tom Littlejohn, see Letter 23, Footnote 12.

36. John Hall Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 41.

37. Nathan Littlejohn, see Letter 37, Footnote 22.

38. Tom Littlejohn, see Letter 44, Footnote 10.

39. Napoleon Littlejohn, see Letter 4, Footnote 9.

40. Colonel Malcolm Daniel Graham (1827-1878) represented Rusk County in the Seventh Legislature and later served as attorney general of Texas. He was elected to the first Confederate Congress but in May, 1864 he was appointed judge advocate of the Trans-Mississippi Department. It was probably while he was returning to Texas that Graham was captured by the Federals. He was taken to Johnston's Island and was exchanged in March of 1865 ("Graham, Malcom D.," Handbook of Texas, Vol. 1, 714.)

41. Billie is probably a son of Robert and Abicol (Davis) Jefferies.

42. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.

43. Montevallo, Alabama, approximately forty-three miles east of Tuscaloosa.

44. This victory was possibly the battle at Natchitoches on April 22 in which Taylor defeated Banks, pushing him further down the Red River. (John Dimitry, Louisiana, Vol. X of Confederate Military History, edited by Clement A. Evans, 12 vols., (New York: Thomas Yoseloff, 1962, 152.)

45. The Third Texas Cavalry, Company K was from Smith County.

46. Edom is a town in Van Zandt County, Texas, about eighteen miles west of Tyler.

Letter 45

1. Kennesaw Mountain is located west of Marietta, Georgia and northwest of Atlanta. The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was fought on June 27, with Sherman directing a futile frontal attack on the Confederates on the mountain. Johnston was forced to retreat to Peachtree Creek on July 9 (Parish, pp. 471-472.)

2. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

3. Rome, Georgia is located about twenty-one miles southwest of Resaca.

4. New Hope Church is eleven miles west of Marietta. Johnston temporarily stopped Sherman's advance there in a battle on May 26 (Parish, p. 472.)

5. George W. Arnold of Company D. He was promoted to corporal in May of 1862, was slightly wounded at Murfreesboro, and on July 10, 1864 he died in the hospital at Barnesville, Georgia.

6. Howell P. Hale, sergeant in Company G.

7. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

8. General William Joseph Hardee (1815-1873) participated in the battle of Shiloh, the Kentucky campaign including Perryville, the battles of Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, and the Atlanta Campaign. In September, 1864, he took charge of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida (Wakelyn, p. 216.)

9. Alexander Peter Stewart (1821-1908) served under Polk for most of the war, leading a brigade in the battles of Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Atlanta. Stewart took over Polk's command in June, 1864 and fought the rest of the war in North Carolina (Wakelyn, pp. 401-402.)

10. Col. William de la Fletcher Craig of the Tenth Texas Cavalry.

11. Mrs. A. J. Wallace, see Letter 15, Footnote 7.

12. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

13. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

14. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

15. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

16. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

17. Julia Littlejohn, born February 11, 1864.

18. John Monroe Spinks, see Letter 2, Footnote 12.

19. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

20. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

21. Walter C. Nicholson, see Letter 15, Footnote 13.

22. Pvt. C. A. Still of Company G, who enlisted in May of 1863 at Shreveport.

Letter 46

1. "Mr. S. F. Birdwell" of Mt. Enterprise is probably Pvt. Benjamin F. Birdwell, brother of George Preston "Parson" Birdwell. See Letter 39, Footnote 13.

2. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

3. H. D. E. Redwine was the captain of Company E when it was formed but was promoted to major in June of 1862. He was given a leave of absence for disability in March, 1864, and was absent with a wound in August of 1864.

4. Charles A. Birdwell of Company G, brother of Benjamin F. and George Preston Birdwell.

5. George W. Arnold, see Letter 45, Footnote 5.

6. "Sam" is unidentified.

7. John Bell Hood (1831-1879), leader of the famous Hood's Texas Brigade. He participated in the Seven Days Battle, Second Manassas, Gettysburg (where he lost an arm) and Chickamauga (where he lost a leg.) He led Johnston's army into Tennessee after the fall of Atlanta in an unsuccessful counter offensive (Wakelyn, pp. 238-239.)

8. George W. Trammel, see Letter 16, Footnote 5.

9. Samuel Felix Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 38.

10. Bill Rowland, see Letter 22, Footnote 19.

11. W. B. F. D. Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.

12. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

13. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

14. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

15. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

16. On August 5 Farragut took Mobile Bay, the next to last major blockade running port in the South. The city of Mobile, however, remained under the control of the Confederates (Parish, p. 430.)

17. Petersburg was attacked on June 15-18 and then was besieged by the Union army for ten months. On July 30 a section of the Confederate line was blown up after the federals had tunneled under the line and put in place a large store of gunpowder. Burnside's men, however, were unable to take advantage of the situation. This incident was later known as "The Crater" (Parish, p. 468.)

18. Davis Jefferies, see Letter 16, Footnote 4.

19. "Johnnie" is unidentified.

20. Billy, see Letter 44, Footnote 41.

21. Abicol (Davis) Jefferies, see Letter 19, Footnote 22.

22. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.

23. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

24. Dr. Samuel A. and Pamela Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 11.

25. Samuel A. Goodman, Jr., see Letter 33, Footnote 1.

26. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wallace, see Letter 15, Footnote 7.

27. The McCommick (or McCormick) boys are unidentified, but may be James and John McCormick mentioned previously.

28. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

29. Terril Jefferies, see Letter 26, Footnote 10.

Letter 47

1. Henry County, Georgia is southeast of Atlanta. Hardee had withdrawn from Atlanta toward Jonesboro. Hood's army except for Hardee, had gone east to just south of Decatur, and then turned south to join Hardee. On August 31 Hardee and two corps of Hood's men attacked Howard's army near Jonesboro but was forced to fall back to Lovejoy's Station (Long, p. 593; Nevins, Vol. IV, 123; United States Military Academy, The West Point Atlas of American Wars, Volume I: 1689-1900, (New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1959) 147.

2. Charles B. Furlow of Company B.

3. Sherman occupied Atlanta on September 2 (Parish, p. 472.)

4. The Flint River flowed south from the Atlanta area.

5. Sherman did pull his men back into Atlanta for a month of rest and planning.

6. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

7. Joshua Milburn, see Letter 24, Footnote 26.

8. Pvt. Samuel T. Mitchell of Company G.

9. Capt. A. J. Booty of Company F. He was captured in Tensas Parish, Louisiana on September 27, 1864, so the letters Elbridge sent home with him probably never reached Texas.

Letter 48

1. Palmetto is a town about twenty-four miles west of Lovejoy's Station on the Atlanta and Western Railroad. Hood's entire command moved here from Lovejoy's Station.

2. H. D. E. Redwine, see Letter 46, Footnote 3.

3. The Atlanta and Western Railroad ran through Palmetto so Elbridge was probably encamped somewhere between town and the river, a distance of about seven or eight miles.

4. The Chattahoochee is a major river in western Georgia.

5. The other camp was at Lovejoy's Station on the Macon Railroad.

6. The Augusta and Macon roads were east and southeast of Atlanta.

7. Sherman decided to evacuate all of the civilians in Atlanta on September 7 because of the problem of food supply and partly to cut down on the number of Union soldiers needed to keep order in the city, thus freeing more men for any military action in which they would be needed. Approximately 1600 persons left between September 11 and 20, leaving nearly all of their possessions behind. Hood was violently opposed to this measure but a long

correspondence with Sherman did not get the order changed (Parish, p. 476; Long, p. 567.)

8. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

9. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

10. Joshua Milburn, see Letter 24, Footnote 26.

11. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

12. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

13. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

14. Augusta, Georgia, on the eastern boundary with South Carolina.

15. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

Letter 49

1. Campbell County, Georgia no longer exists. It merged with Fulton County in 1926 and 1932.

2. H. D. E. Redwine, see Letter 46, Footnote 3.

3. Jacob Ziegler was promoted to the position of captain of Company B on September 19, 1863 and was in command of the Tenth Texas Cavalry at its surrender on May 9, 1865.

4. President Jefferson Davis visited Hood's encampment at Palmetto on September 27 to build up morale. In his local speechmaking he also inadvertently informed Sherman that the Confederates planned to move back toward Chattanooga (United States Military Academy, map 148.)

5. Whit Moorehead is probably related to Nancy Moorehead, wife of William Lipscomb Goudelock, Sallie's cousin.

6. Adam Saffold Goudelock, see Letter 25, Footnote 24.

7. William Lipscomb Goudelock, see Letter 22, Footnote 35.

8. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

9. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

10. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

11. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

12. Hood started crossing the Chattahoochee three days later, on September 29 (United States Military Academy, map 148.)

13. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.

14. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

15. John Jefferies, brother of William C. Jefferies.

Letter 50

1. Tuscumbia is a town in far northwest Alabama on the south side of the Tennessee River. There seems to have been one or more of Elbridge's letters which were lost, having been written between September 26 and November 8. Between those two dates, Hood had moved his men northwest of Atlanta along the railroad to Chattanooga with the idea of disrupting Sherman's communication line. General French, under whom the Tenth Texas Cavalry served, was sent to Allatoona to attack General Corse, seize the stores and destroy the railroad. On October 5, the battle of Allatoona was fought, largely hand to hand and with close range rifle fire. The Confederates were forced to retreat having failed to cut the railroad after reports came that Union reinforcements were approaching. The four regiments of Ector's Brigade, which included the Tenth Texas, began the battle with a total of four hundred men; there were almost two hundred casualties. Ector's Brigade rejoined Hood on his march to Rome, Georgia. From there Hood moved to Resaca and Cross Roads, then doubled back to Gaylesville and Gadsden, Alabama. By October 26 Hood was at Decatur, Alabama, in the northern part of the state and on October 31 he arrived at Tuscumbia to join Forrest and replenish supplies. One division was sent across the Tennessee River to Florence. Hood stayed in the area until November 19 (U. S. Military Academy, maps 149-151; Jon Harrison, Part 2, pp. 173-178; Nevins, Vol. IV, 155.)

2. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

3. "Mr. Scruggs" is unidentified.

4. Samuel Felix Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 38.

5. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.

6. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

7. Delays were caused by Forrest's late arrival and the disrupted supply system (U. S. Military Academy, map 151.)

8. Ector's Brigade did move into Tennessee, but after the rest of Hood's forces. They escorted supply trains to near Nashville, Tennessee in time to guard Hood's retreat from the disastrous Battle of Nashville on December 15 (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 178.)

9. On October 29, Forrest and his men captured two gunboats and two transports near Ft. Henry on the Tennessee River. Their loads included 9,000 badly needed pairs of shoes. The combined cavalry/navy then moved on to Johnsonville, Tennessee, and did almost seven million dollars worth of damage (by Confederate estimate) to gunboats and stores there (Long, pp. 591-592.)

10. The "hard fight" may have been the Battle of Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah Valley on October 19, or the Battle of Burgess' Mill near Petersburg on October 27 (Long, pp. 585, 589.)

11. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

12. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

Letter 51

1. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

2. Sallie Jefferies, cousin of Elbridge's wife.

3. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

4. The Tennessee Campaign lasted from November 19 until about December 25, about six weeks, but the army retreated to Meridian, Mississippi, not Tusculumbia.

5. Ector's brigade did not leave with the rest of the army on November 19, according to Jon Harrison.

6. The Douglas Battery, also known as the First Texas Battery, was composed half of men from Smith County, Texas and half from Dallas County, Texas.

7. The Third Texas Cavalry of Ross' Texas Brigade. Company K was raised in Smith County, Texas.

8. Soldiers who took a "French furlough" deserted.

9. Joshua Milburn, see Letter 24, Footnote 26.

10. Probably Benjamin F. Birdwell, see Letter 26, Footnote 1.

11. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

12. Muscle Shoals is five miles east of Florence, where Shoal Creek runs into the Tennessee River.

13. Florence is located north of Tusculumbia directly across the Tennessee River.

14. Hardee did not take command of the few Confederate troops facing Sherman in Georgia until November 24.

15. Beauregard assumed command of the Department of the West on October 17. This position had very little authority (Parish, p. 477.)

16. John Thomas "Clay" Holt (1844-1879) of Company G, enlisted at age sixteen and appears to have been an off-again, on-again soldier, having been discharged in 1862 for being underage, then reappearing in 1863 but was absent without leave in the summer of 1864. His name appeared on the list of paroled and exchanged soldiers in the Trans-Mississippi who surrendered at New Orleans on May 26, 1865.

17. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

18. John Monroe Spinks, see Letter 2, Footnote 12.

19. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

20. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

21. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.

22. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

23. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

Letter 52

1. Verona is five miles due south of Tupelo in northeast Mississippi. Again there seems to be several letters missing. Ector's Brigade followed Hood into Tennessee in late November, attempting to bring him supplies for the campaign. They arrived, however, during the battle of Nashville on December 16 and were ordered into Reynold's brigade and then under Forrest's command to guard the retreat of the Confederate army into Mississippi near Tupelo. General Forrest and his troops headquartered at Verona, while Chalmers settled at West Point and Taylor centered his troops at Meridian (Jon Harrison, Part 2, pp. 178-179; Hooker, p. 223.)

2. Probably Benjamin F. Birdwell, see Letter 46, Footnote 1.

3. Charles A. Birdwell, see Letter 46, Footnote 4.

4. Howell P. Hale, see Letter 45, Footnote 6.

5. John H. Johnson (Johnston?), see Letter 8, Footnote 11.

6. On January 13, 1865 at Tupelo, Mississippi, Hood asked for and received permission from President Davis to be relieved of his command. He was replaced by General Richard Taylor (1826-1879) who had been the leading general in the Confederate victory at Mansfield, Louisiana. He was given the command of the Department of East Louisiana, Mississippi which he surrendered in May, 1865 (Wakelyn, p. 407.)

7. By the fall of 1864 the Confederates were coming to the end of their available white manpower and their idea of using slaves either as soldiers or as teamsters, cooks, etc., was gaining respectability. In October the state governors met and approved this measure and in November President Davis proposed to Congress that the Confederacy buy and then set free slaves who would work in the Confederate camps. In January Lee came out in support of using blacks as soldiers in exchange for their freedom (Nevens, IV, 275-276; Parish, pp. 561-562.)

8. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

9. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

10. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

11. William Carl Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

12. George Washington Goforth, see Letter 4, Footnote 11.

Letter 53

1. In the latter part of January, French's division was ordered to defend Mobile, while most of the other Confederate troops in northern Alabama were sent to try to stop Sherman in his march through South and North Carolina (Hooker, p. 224; Long, p. 628.)

2. John Alphonso Beall, see Letter 8, Footnote 9.

3. West Point, Mississippi is a town fifty-five miles south of Tupelo.

4. Sherman found the rice fields and swamps of South Carolina, north of Savannah, hard to travel through during the rainy months of January and February. Confederate-made obstructions and broken causeways increased the difficulty (Nevens, IV, 256-257.)

5. Although Thomas himself did not leave Tennessee, Schofield's Twenty-third Army Corps did leave on January 15 to help make parts of North Carolina, and James Harrison Wilson led a cavalry force toward Selma, Alabama, in mid-March (Long, pp. 625-626.)

6. The Dog River is eight miles south of Mobile on the west side of the bay.

7. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

8. W. S. Trout of Company A became a third lieutenant in May of 1862 and a first lieutenant in

March, 1863. He was evidently still on furlough when the war ended because he surrendered at Marshall, Texas on August 9, 1865.

9. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
10. Terril Jefferies, see Letter 26, Footnote 10.
11. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.
12. Walter C. Nicholson, see Letter 15, Footnote 13.
13. Abicol (Davis) Jefferies, see Letter 19, Footnote 22.

Letter 54

1. Elbridge Littlejohn's letter indicates that part or all of the Tenth Texas Cavalry retreated as far north as Meridian, Mississippi after the fall of Mobile. According to Jon Harrison, however, the regiment only got as far as Citronelle, thirty miles north of Mobile (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 182.)

2. Fort Blakeley was on Blakeley River on the east side of Mobile Bay.

3. Major General E. R. S. Canby was in the process of moving his 32,000 men into position to besiege Mobile. One force attacked from the area of Pensacola, fifty-five miles east of Mobile, and the other approached from Mobile Point up the east side of the Bay. The Confederates, under Brigadier General Gibson numbered only 2,800. The siege began on March 27 (Long, pp. 653, 657.)

4. The Mobile River flows south into Mobile Bay.

5. Demopolis, Alabama, is 134 miles north of Mobile on the Tombigbee River, a tributary of the Mobile River.

6. Spanish Fort was an earthwork fortification on the east side of Mobile Bay, five miles south of Fort Blakeley.

7. Picquets (usually spelled pickets or piquets) were either pointed stakes used as obstacles against attacking forces, or men on guard duty only. This swamp was "more or less covered by water and trees" and lay between Ector's brigade and Bay Minette (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 180.)

8. This attack came on April 8, with heavy artillery fire covering the federal advance through the swamp. Half of Ector's brigade was captured (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 181.)

9. Spanish Fort was cut off from any rescue by sea because of Union gunboats in the river. The bridge that Elbridge describes was eighteen inches wide, 1200 yards long, made of moss covered wooden planks, and was "exposed to Union artillery fire for the whole distance." Those that escaped Spanish Fort were picked up by small boats in a protected area near an island where the treadway ended, and were carried to Battery Huger and from there to Fort Blakeley, then to Mobile (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 182.)

10. Joseph S. Becton of Company G.

11. George W. Moore of Company G. He had been wounded severely in the head at Murfreesboro but was captured, not killed, at Spanish Fort on April 8, 1865. He was also on the roll of Lt. M. W. Armstrong's detachment of Company F which surrendered at Meridian in May, 1865.

12. Fort Blakely was captured on April 9, 1865. (Jon Harrison, Part 2, p. 182.)

13. John Monroe Spinks, see Letter 2, Footnote 12.

14. Mobile fell on April 12, 1865.

15. Col. John Robert Baylor (1822-1894), from Weatherford, Texas, served as lieutenant colonel of the Second Regiment of the Texas Mounted Rifles which was active in New Mexico and Arizona. He was removed from command and was elected to the Confederate Congress in 1863, serving until the end of the war (John L. Waller, "Baylor, John Robert" in Handbook of Texas, I: 124.)

16. Franklin Barlow Sexton (1828-1901) was elected to the Confederate Congress from the San Augustine area in 1861 and 1863 (Mary Sexton Estill, "Sexton, Franklin Barlow," in Handbook of Texas, II: 594.)

17. Charleston fell on December 21, 1864; Wilmington on February 22, 1865; Richmond on April 4, and Mobile on April 12, 1865.

18. Johnston surrendered to Sherman near Raleigh, North Carolina on April 14, 1865.

19. Lee surrendered his army to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.

20. This report is totally inaccurate.

21. Lincoln was shot in the back of the head at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D. C., on April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth. He died nine hours later. William Henry Seward received several knife wounds in the face and neck from an accomplice that same night. He was at home at the time, recovering from a carriage accident.

22. Tuscaloosa, Alabama fell on April 4, 1865, Selma fell on April 2, and Montgomery was occupied on April 12 (Long, pp. 664, 666, 674.)

23. W. H. Hollingsworth, of Company G, was among the wounded abandoned and captured at Mobile, Alabama on April 12, 1865.

24. General Francis Marion Cockrell (1834-1915), participated in the battles of Wilson's Creek, Elkhorn Tavern and Corinth. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1863 and was captured during the fall of Vicksburg. Cockrell later fought in the Atlanta and Tennessee campaigns and was captured at Mobile in April of 1865. (Wakelyn, pp. 142-143.)

25. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

26. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

27. Constantine Buckley Kilgore, see Letter 8, Footnote 5.

28. H. D. E. Redwine, see Letter 46, Footnote 3.

29. Elbridge Gerry Littlejohn, Jr., see Letter 13, Footnote 1.

30. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

31. Cuba Station is unidentified.

32. Reuben Goforth, see Letter 2, Footnote 5.

33. Walter C. Nicholson, see Letter 15, Footnote 13.

34. Watson is unidentified.

35. C. A. Still, see Letter 45, Footnote 23.

36. Isaac Martin, see Letter 2, Footnote 4.

37. William Carl Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

38. Evaline (Wilkins) Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

39. Pamela Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 4, Footnote 19.

40. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

41. Alice Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

Letter 55

1. "The girl" may possibly be a slave. Neither Elbridge and Sallie nor William Carl and Evaline Jefferies lost a daughter at this time.

2. Robert Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 15.

3. Possibly Alexandria, Louisiana.

4. Abicol (Davis) Jefferies, see Letter 19, Footnote 22.

5. Jefferson, Texas.

6. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.

7. General Sterling Price unsuccessfully invaded Missouri in 1864, then led his army into Texas in 1865 (Simmons, p. 165.)

8. "Scruggs" is unidentified.

9. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

10. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

11. John H. Johnson (Johnston?), see Letter 8, Footnote 10.

12. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

13. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.

14. Thomas Jefferson Rosson, see Letter 11, Footnote 18.

15. Howell P. Hale, see Letter 45, Footnote 6.

Letter 56

1. Samuel Felix Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 38. This letter was completed by Elbridge Littlejohn.
2. Gabriel, a slave.
3. Dr. Nott, see Letter 21, Footnote 2.
4. Dropsy is a condition in which fluid accumulates in body cavities."
5. Battle of Fredericksburg, see Letter 24, Footnote 12.
6. Edward "Pompey Ned" Lipscomb was the son of John Lipscomb, who was the brother of Molly Lipscomb, Elbridge Littlejohn's paternal grandmother. Therefore, Edward and Elbridge were second cousins.
7. Charles Boyd, see Letter 24, Footnote 14.
8. Davis Goudelock is not identified, but is probably related.
9. Tom Goudelock, see Letter 24, Footnote 13.
10. John Hall Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 41.
11. Robert Wilkins, the son of William Terrell Wilkins, who was a first cousin of Sallie's mother.
12. Possibly John R. Jefferies, son of James Jefferies, see Letter 27, Footnote 18.
13. "Captain Byd" is unidentified.
14. Goucher is an unidentified town. It is not located on current or Civil War maps of South and North Carolina.
15. Rev. D. Scruggs, see Letter 25, Footnote 23.
16. Thomas Lipscomb, see Letter 13, Footnote 9.
17. "Mr. C." is unidentified.
18. Jim Wilkins is unidentified, but probably related.
19. Spartanburg Courthouse in Spartanburg District, South Carolina, approximately thirteen miles southwest of Thicketty.
20. Union, in Union District, South Carolina, south of Thicketty.
21. Mr. Garrison is unidentified.

Letter 57

1. Lynchburg, Virginia, a major city almost one hundred miles west of Richmond. This unsigned letter was written by Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, Elbridge's brother.
2. Chancellorsville, Virginia (May 1-4, 1863) was a stunning Confederate victory. General Joseph Hooker expected an easy battle but was outmaneuvered by Lee and Stonewall Jackson despite their forces which numbered less than half of Hooker's. Hooker was forced to retreat toward Washington, but in the battle General Stonewall Jackson was killed, a severe loss to the Confederacy (Parish, pp. 275-281.)
3. Confederate losses at Chancellorsville were 13,000 while the federals lost 17,000.
4. Fredericksburg, Virginia, approximately half way between Richmond and Washington, D. C.
5. This was the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign.
6. The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.
7. Union Major General R. H. Milroy.
8. Winchester in far northwest Virginia.
9. On June 15, 1863 General Richard E. Ewell attacked Milroy's forces as they were attempting to retreat from Winchester. Of 6,900 effectives, Milroy lost 4,000 captured or missing, 95 dead and 348 wounded. The Confederates also captured a large amount of stores (Long, p. 366.)
10. Hagerstown, Maryland is forty-three miles northeast of Winchester.

Letter 58

1. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.
2. Probably the Battle of Fair Oaks, or Seven Pines on May 31-June 1, 1862. See Letter 28, Footnote 8.
3. South Carolina Volunteers.
4. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.
5. W. B. F. D. (Frank) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnotes 13 and 14.

6. Elbridge Gerry Littlejohn, Jr., see Letter 13, Footnote 1.

7. William Carl Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.

8. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

Letter 59

1. Catherine Littlejohn, see Letter 22, Footnote 12.
2. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

Letter 60

1. William C. Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.
2. Goodman Jefferies, see Letter 22, Footnote 6.
3. Jo Byers is unidentified.
4. Joseph E. Johnston evacuated Jackson, Mississippi on July 16, 1863 (Long, p. 386.)
5. Lee was defeated at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1-3, 1863.
6. Sallie Jefferies, see Letter 25, Footnote 30.
7. Millie Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 13.
8. Tom Littlejohn, see Letter 23, Footnote 12.
9. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 6.
10. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.
11. Billy, John D., and Benton Maxey Gregg Reynolds.
12. Elbridge Gerry Littlejohn.
13. Joshua Milburn, see Letter 24, Footnote 27.
14. Evaline (Wilkins) Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.
15. Pamela Goodman, Mary C., Alice, and Melissa Jefferies, see Letter 22, Footnote 6; Letter 2, Footnote 20.
16. Dr. Samuel A. Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
17. The printing company of Hoyer and Ludwig in Richmond, Virginia, produced the first Confederate currency. It was "crudely executed and printed on coarse paper" (Judith Ann Benner, Fraudulent Finance: Counterfeiting and the Confederate States: 1861-1865 (Hillsboro, Texas: Hill Junior College, 1970), p. 6.
18. Terril Jefferies, see Letter 26, Footnote 10.
19. Thomas P. Jefferies, see Letter 23, Footnote 27.
20. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wallace, see Letter 8, Footnote 15.
21. Dr. Samuel A. and Pamela Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 11.
22. Samuel A. Goodman, Jr., see Letter 33, Footnote 1.
23. Mrs. Williamson Milburn, see Letter 27, Footnote 3.
24. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.
25. Abicol (Davis) Jefferies, see Letter 19, Footnote 22.

Letter 61

1. Saltillo, Mississippi, in the extreme northeast corner of the state, north of Tupelo.
2. Col. Robert H. Cumby of the Third Texas Cavalry (Wright, p. 24.)
3. Van Buren, Arkansas.
4. William C. Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 14.
5. Probably refers to the battle at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on August 5, 1862.
6. May refer to Forrest's capture of a Union garrison at Murfreesboro, Tennessee on July 13, see Letter 11, Footnote 5.
7. Chattanooga was a rendezvous point just prior to the Kentucky campaign. There was no battle there at this time.
8. Elbridge Gerry Littlejohn.
9. William Garner, see Letter 2, Footnote 13.
10. Mary Jefferies, see Letter 2, Footnote 20.
11. Probably either Asbury Fortson or Richard

Fortson, both in Company K, Third Texas Cavalry.

12. Possibly D. W. Johnson of Company K, Third Texas Cavalry, who lived in Jamestown, or Sidney Smith Johnson, also of Company K, Third Texas Cavalry, who lived in Tyler.

13. Mollie (Littlejohn) Littlejohn, see Letter 11, Footnote 13.

14. Sallie C. Jefferies, see Letter 25, Footnote 30.

15. Bill Rowland, see Letter 22, Footnote 19.

16. Dolf Foster, a friend from South Carolina.

17. Billy Austell may be distantly related.

18. Alexander Lipscomb, see Letter 22, Footnote 18.

19. Perry Pearson is not related.

20. J. Bankston Lyle, see Letter 22, Footnote 16.

21. Jimmy Littlejohn is unidentified but probably related.

22. Jim Blanton is a friend from South Carolina.

23. William F. Reynolds, see Letter 22, Footnote 6.

24. Rebecca (Jefferies) Reynolds, see Letter 21, Footnote 4.

25. Dr. Samuel A. Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 11.

26. Pamela (Jefferies) Goodman, see Letter 2, Footnote 11.

27. John Jefferies, see Letter 1, Footnote 8.

28. Probably Company K, Third Texas Cavalry.

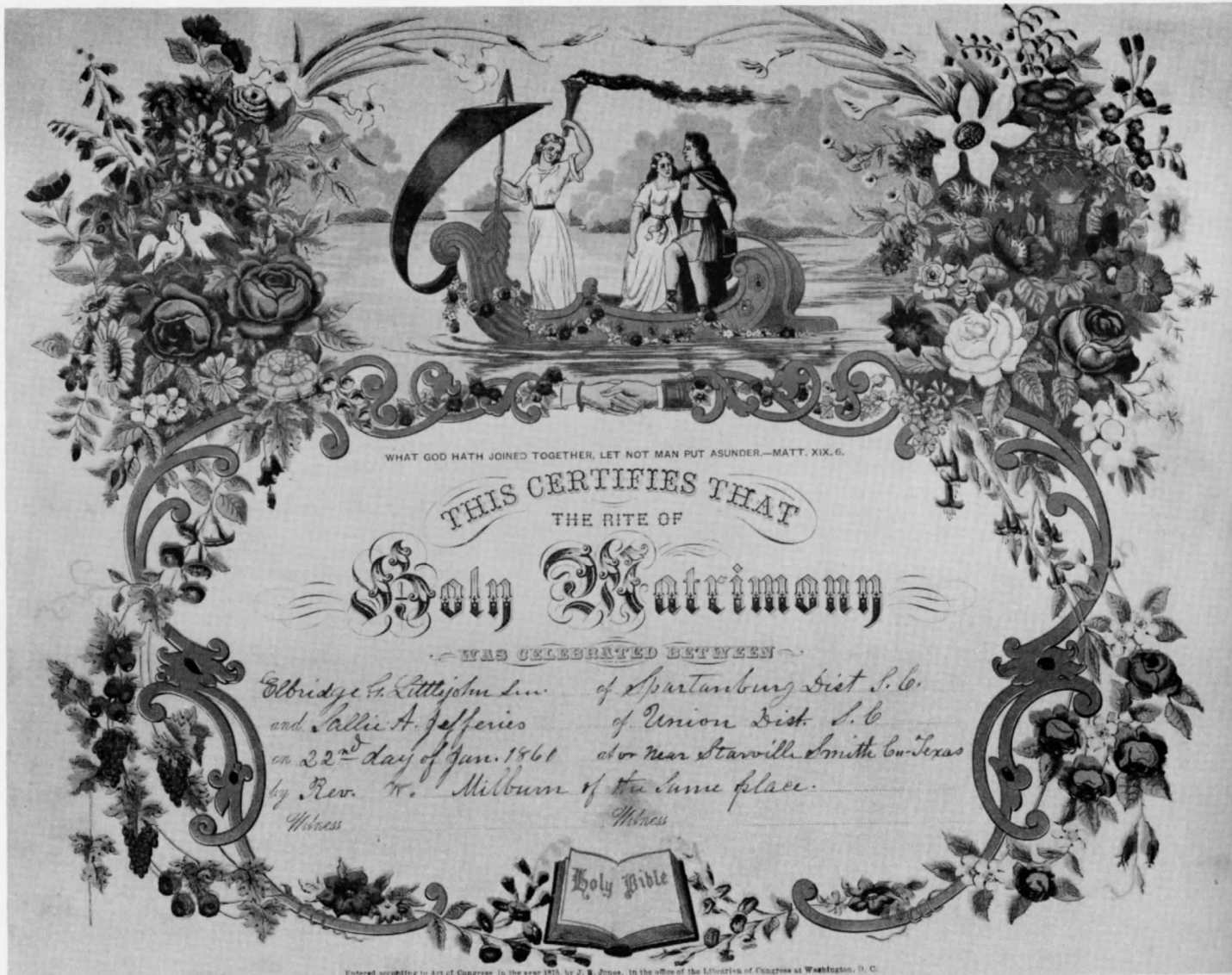
Letter 62

1. Battle of Fredericksburg, see Letter 24, Footnote 12.

2. Samuel Felix Walker Littlejohn, see Letter 1, Footnote 12.

3. Thomas Marcellus Littlejohn, see Letter 2, Footnote 17.

THIS FAMILY PAGE is from the Elbridge Littlejohn bible owned by his granddaughter, Mildred Littlejohn of Tyler. The bible was published in 1879 and the actual page size is 9"x11-3/4". The handwriting is that of Elbridge's wife, Sallie Jefferies Littlejohn.



(loaned by Mildred Littlejohn)