The Letters of Joseph H. Trego, 1857-1864, Linn County Pioneer
Edited by Edgar Langsdorf
Part Two, 1861, 1862

Introduction

Shortly after the firing upon Fort Sumter, Joseph H. Trego volunteered for military service. He was chosen second lieutenant of a company commanded by Capt. Charles R. Jennison, also a physician and resident of Mound City who later became a colonel and commander of the Seventh Kansas cavalry, known as “Jennison’s Jayhawkers,” and subsequently a brigadier general in command of all Kansas troops west of the Neosho. This company went to Lawrence to join the Second Kansas infantry, commanded by another Linn county pioneer, Col. Robert B. Mitchell, a veteran of the Mexican war who had been treasurer of Kansas territory and was the first adjutant general of the state. However, a disagreement between Jennison and Mitchell caused the unit to return to Mound City and disband.

In July, 1861, under authority of Gen. James H. Lane, James Montgomery began raising the Third Kansas Volunteers, a regiment, like the Fourth, of mixed arms: infantry, cavalry and artillery. Montgomery had settled near Mound City in 1854 and was widely known as leader of the local “Self-Protective Company” which he had organized in 1857 (see Trego’s letter of January 24, 1858, Kansas Historical Quarterly, May, 1951, p. 128). Trego volunteered and was mustered in as first lieutenant of Company E, a cavalry unit composed almost entirely of Mound City men, with Henry C. Seaman as captain and Orlin E. Morse as second lieutenant. The Third and Fourth regiments, with the Fifth Kansas cavalry, constituted Lane’s brigade, and served in the campaigns on the border in the fall of 1861, including the Battle of Dry Wood on September 2. The Third regiment joined Fremont’s army at Springfield, Mo., in October, but returned to Kansas in December and camped for the winter on Mine creek, southeast of Pleasanton.

In February, 1862, Trego was placed in temporary command of Company C. On the 20th of that month an order was issued dis-
banding the Third and Fourth Kansas regiments. The infantry companies, including Company C, were consolidated to form the Tenth Kansas infantry. Company E of the Third was assigned to the Fifth Kansas cavalry with its designating letter changed to D. Trego went with Company C to Fort Riley, where he remained until he was relieved in May to rejoin his own unit at Rolla, Mo. In the months following, Company D was used extensively in scouting and Trego’s health failed seriously, the dust and exposure particularly affecting his eyesight. He offered his resignation, which was accepted on October 17, and returned home to Mound City to rest and recuperate.

The following letters were written by Dr. Trego to his wife while he was serving as an officer in the Union army.

**The Letters of 1861, 1862**

**Camp No 1 enroute to M[ound]. City**

**Dear Wife**

**Aug. 13th 1861**

We have been under orders to march South, for several days but were delayed from day to day by difficulty in getting what was required. Lane has reported every thing on hand and in readiness for his brigade but we did not find it so and have not been able to get a start until yesterday, after dinner.

I could not go home with the team but sent it down by E R Smith and H. A. It will require us to wait where we are—5 miles from Leavenworth—until the remaining can be loaded. We have 21 government wagons with us, loaded with provisions, arms, uniforms and camp equipage, and when the freighting wagons are all together—each drawn by six pairs of oxen, and numbering seventy five,—we will be ready for another move.

We will not, I think, reach Mound City before the middle of next week. The 75 wagons are loaded with provisions for Lyon’s forces. A company from Ill. among them Edgar Trego, Cyrus Twining, Waugh and some others from Mercer, Henry & Rock Isld counties arrived here, last Saturday. They are now in camp between Leavenworth City and the fort, awaiting the arrival of Lane.

We would be very glad indeed if they could come into our regi-

7. Colonel Montgomery, with the artillery company and the two cavalry companies of his regiment, had gone to Leavenworth to be outfitted. Their return journey was announced by the Leavenworth Daily Conservative, August 13, 1861: “A train with supplies for Montgomery’s troops started out yesterday morning. A rather singular circumstance about it is that all the drivers were negroes! The wagon-master, even, was a negro! Nearly all were ‘contrabands’ having left their ‘comfortable homes’ within the past ten days and made for the Fort and Montgomery. Two or three a day have been coming in to him. A cavalry company escorted the train.”
ment in place of Stewart's company. The weather continued very sultry until the 8th a light shower the evening before produced a change which has kept up an agreeable coolness since.

We were fortunate enough to draw our tents the day before the rain commenced, a very pleasant consideration as it has been rather rainy weather since.

While we were in camp near Fort Leav. two of our horses were stolen in day time. A guard was placed over horses at night but none in day light as it had not been considered necessary. The other horse Company [Company I] also lost one horse. Yesterday as we came through the eastern suburbs of the city, one of the lost horses was discovered, hitched to a wagon. It was Bill Baird's horse and he immediately took possession of it. To-day some of the boys were off from the camp to water their horses and overhauled a gentleman in a buggy who had the other horse taken from our company, and was leading him behind his buggy, having as he said, just obtained from an Auctioneer in the City. We have all back again and 3 fine gov. horses beside.

I made a picture this morning representing one of our company who had been married but a few weeks before starting out, to the school marm, Miss Kennison, and has had the blues the worst kind since stopping at the fort. He spent most of his time away from every body and nothing could begin to put any animation into him. Being utterly useless in the camp I wrote out a furlough for him to be signed by the commander of the companies, if he saw proper. It was signed and the fellow was as springy as whale bone at once. They are all ready to go so good bye—

Your affectionate H.

S. Edgar P. Trego. of Preemption, Ill., was a first cousin once removed of Joseph H. Trego. At this time he was a second lieutenant in the 14th regiment of home guards, a Missouri unit commanded by R. H. Graham which had been raised for service in New Mexico. On February 25, 1862, this organization was consolidated with the Eighth Kansas infantry, and Colonel Graham became the regimental commander. Trego became captain of Company H, serving with distinction until his death at Chickamauga on September 19, 1863. Trego county, Kansas, is named for him. —Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, 1861-63, reprinted by authority (Topeka, 1896) [hereafter cited Adjutant General's Report], v. 1, p. 284, and Pt. II. "Military History of Kansas Regiments," pp. 100, 101, 141; Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army, Pt. VII (Washington, 1867), p. 99; A. Trego Sherzer, A Historical Account of the Trego Family (Baltimore, 1884), pp. 96-98; Wichita Daily Eagle, June 1, 1866, address by Gov. John A. Martin, delivered at Wichita on Memorial day, 1886.

Washington Waugh, of Moline, Ill., also became a member of Company H, Eighth Kansas infantry. He was promoted to the grade of sergeant on January 30, 1862, and was discharged for disability on April 28, 1863, at Nashville, Tenn. —Adjutant General's Report, pp. 284, 287.

Cyress Twining has not been identified.

Capt. John E. Stewart of Lawrence commanded Company I (calvary) of the Third regiment. At the time of the reorganization he was transferred to Company C, Ninth Kansas cavalry, and served until he was mustered out at Leavenworth October 32, 1864.—Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kansas, 1901-02 (Topeka, 1902) [hereafter cited Thirteenth Biennial Report, p. 159; Adjutant General's Report, p. 604.
FORT SCOTT, SEPT 5TH 1861

MY DEAR WIFE

Last Sunday I wrote two pages of fools cap and was going on for at least two pages more, when I was suddenly interrupted by the bugle call to arms. The wagon master of Col. Weer's regiment had put their mules, 90 in number out on the Missouri side of our camp about two miles, and had them left with a guard, more than himself and some of the teamsters might be considered as constituting a guard. In the afternoon, a body of 100 horsemen suddenly made their appearance, surrounded the mules and drove them and the wagon master off in a hurry. Several companies started in pursuit as soon as possible and gave chase until dark but to no advantage. It is generally believed that the wagon master is a secessionist.

Price has been near us for more than a week and it was believed that he would attack Fort Scott within twenty four hours at least, as his forces numbered from 7000 to 8000, and ours was less than six hundred. Such another time as they had pitching tents, and loading up company wagons. Citizens fixing up their effects preparatory to leaving, and Government wagons hustling out provisions &c has not been seen before in this country. They, the rebels, have not been yet and the houses, with all their furniture, are turned over to the use of the soldiers. Col. Montgomery, Adjt Zulasky, Chaplain Moore, Capt's Jewel & Seaman, Lieuts Trego & Morse, (I forgot to mention Capt Flint) with four soldiers as servants and a contraband wench for cook are occupying the house where Mr Williams was living. The parlor and one bed room are richly furnished, fine paintings & engravings on the walls, spring bottom sofa, divan, chairs &c. A good piano which Zoulasky is now amusing himself with. Preserves & jellies, magazines & book[s] and everything we want are here, so you see we are living high at present.

Last night was dull, some rainy and the road excessively muddy

9. Col. William Weer was commanding officer of the Fourth Kansas volunteer regiment. When the Third and Fourth Kansas were combined to form the Tenth Kansas infantry he was assigned as commander of that regiment.—Adjuant General's Report, p. 347, and Pt. II. "Military History of Kansas Regiments," pp. 178, 179.

10. Casimir B. Zulasky (or Zularsky or Zulaosky) of Boston, Mass., and Mound City, enrolled as a private in Company E, Third regiment, on July 24, 1861, and on the same day was promoted to first lieutenant and regimental adjutant. No official records of his service have been found, but he was mustered out on the date the regiments were consolidated. He was a nephew of Louis Kosuth.—Leavenworth Daily Conservative, July 31, 1861.

H. H. Moore was enrolled on July 24 and served as regimental chaplain until he was mustered out on February 14, 1863.

Capt. Henry C. Seaman and Lts. Trego and Orlin C. Morse, all of Mound City, were the officers of Company E.

Captains Jewel and Flint have not been identified.—Thirteenth Biennial Report, pp. 125, 144, 148.
and I had the pleasure, by way of contrast, of riding fifteen miles in the enemies country, reconnoitering, being up and awake the whole night and did not return to quarters until noon to-day. Done some hard riding, was plastered all over, face and all with mud and went with[out] breakfast. This morning Price pulled up stakes and started for Lexington. To-night about 300 cavalry men will stir up their camp and retake the mules if possible.

I will go back away and tell you what we have been at since we arrived here, which was at day light after marching all night, in the evening following we set out for Spring river to explore. We went as far as a little place called Medock, nine miles from Carthage. All the rebels in that village made their escape except one who was shot in the act of loading his rifle. We (here I made a long pause to listen to Zulaksky sing Annie Laurie) were so near Carthage at this point, that we did not deem it safe to remain there with our little party of 140 men.

Capt Williams, Stewart and myself, Capt Seaman being sick in Mound City, after cooking up a large quantity of mutton, which was all we had to eat except a scanty supply of sea-biscuit, and taking a nap of two hours we mounted and were off going ten miles out on a vacant prairie where a dog would hardly find us, and then slept until day light without even one sentinel. Our departure was accelerated by a great commotion among the dogs along the road leading toward Carthage. We have since learned that a force did come up and were in the edge of the timber within gunshot of us just after our picket was recalled for the march. If they had had the grit they could have stamped[ed] our horses and then had their own time to cut us all to pieces as there is nothing but level prairies between Medock and Fort Scott. The commander ordered the men to form into line of battle ready to make a charge, but fortunately for us the men concluded it would be safer for them to disobey orders and fall back farther into the wood than to charge upon Jay Hawkers.

This was a rough trip having no tents or wagons but laying right down in the big grass wet with dew and eating when we could find something to eat. One morning we pulled up some potatoes and roasted them for breakfast. Some of the boys had broiled chicken. I tried the hind leg of a hen that was pulled off of about twenty eggs that were nearly ready to hatch. It didn’t eat very well because it wasn’t warmed quite thro’. We took possession of La Mar

11. James M. Williams was captain of Company B, Third regiment, and after the consolidation was transferred to Company F, Fifth Kansas cavalry.—Ibid., p. 131.
but found no rebels in it. I was greatly in hopes that we would have kept up by way of the battle ground of Siegel but our trip was likely to be too hard on some who were so poorly clothed that they laid shivering in the grass one night, that was pretty cold. We had all the peaches and apples we wanted—

We made another trip down the Osage to Ball’s Mill, came near having a fight, the rebels, numbering three hundred to our one hundred and forty, placed themselves in attitude for fight but a few shots of shell thrown among them to burst, caused them to speedily decamp. We suffered no damage except that Capt. Williams had his horse shot under him. That old stamping ground of the rebels Ball’s Mill was burned together with a fine covered bridge over the Little Osage.\footnote{This second expedition into Missouri, on August 29, was led by Captain Williams, and consisted of his cavalry company, with those of Stewart and Seaman, and Captain Moonlight’s artillery. Ball’s Mill, sometimes called Ball Town, was a “noted rendezvous” on the south side of the Little Osage, in Vernon county, Mo.—Leavenworth Daily Constitution, September 8, 1861.}

We drove out over 200 head of cattle for Uncle Sam, and between 30 and 40 horses. Our enemy that has been growing so fast was camped on Dry wood 10 miles from this. We had heard a great many stories about the forces on Dry wood and on Tuesday last all the cavalry went down to see what they amounted to. The day was sultry and up to this time we had had no rain for some weeks consequently the dust was very deep. Our company was some distance from the scene of battle when it commenced as the boys had that morning, drawn their uniform[s] and were delayed in that and the fitting of their garments. Jennison had a few men who came up about half an hour after us.\footnote{Charles H. Jennison had been commissioned a colonel by Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, commanding the Western department, and authorized to raise a regiment of cavalry to be attached to Lane’s brigade. He and 500 of his men were reported to be with Lane at this time.—Ibid., August 21 and September 4, 1861.} It was not the intention of the Col. to engage the enemy in a regular fight but having driven a squad[?] thro’ the timber the companies in advance soon found themselves actively engaged with a powerful enemy who had 7 cannon to play upon our side while we had nothing but the howitzer and that was of but little use as it could not be kept near enough to do execution without greater danger of having it taken. We had but just arrived on the ground and formed in line of battle when an order came to retreat. The enemy followed us a short distance, and about the same time that we met Jennison’s regiment coming to us they stopped. Our company was not on the ground more than 20 to 30 minutes before we began a backward movement, but all this time and until we got past the range of cannon balls we had them flying thick and fast overhead and occasionally
one would strike the ground near us making the dust fly. Several horses were shot all up with cannon balls and two men were killed. Three wounded. The enemy did, as we learned by Esq Radfield whose residence is close by the battle field, lost in killed and wounded at least 54, and he thinks many more. Price left their camping ground today ostensibly to move toward Lexington but perhaps it is to make a break in some other direction. It is very likely that we shall have a fight soon. All the Mound City folks are in Fort Lincoln, on the Osage. the cavalry are all in Fort Scott and the Infantry and artillery are at the fort on the Osage which Lane is having built. They number in all over 3000 men.

I had another picture taken when in Lawrence which I will forward, as soon as I can get to go up to M[ound]. City May be sooner as there seems to be but little chance of getting away. When I sat for the picture I had on Lieut. Morse’s coat mine not being finished. The only difference in them however is that the epauletts on mine have a small bar in each end of the square. Capt. Allen and several others in our regiment had their likeness taken at the time, dressed in their uniform. Zulavsky is at the piano again getting off some of his Hungarian songs. It does me good to use the luxuries of these fellows that have always been the enemies of Anti-slavery men particularly in Mound City and vicinity. Just think of it, Montgomery is using every thing for himself and men that belonged to his persecutors, except what they cou[l]d carry away with them. Well my love I will say good bye for awhile. Your affectionate Husband

Direct your letters as below and they will be sent to the Regiment wherever it may be and with additional postage

Lieut J H Trego
3rd Regiment Kansas U. S. C.
Mound City Kansas

Camp No. 3. September 12th 1861

We are on a march from Fort Lincoln to some place north in Missouri, perhaps to Lexington but I dont know, and it is quite probable that our destination is dependent upon circumstances that leaves it uncertain. This is our third day out and we are now encamped in the valley northeast of Trading Post.

14. Lane was building fortifications on the Little Osage river ten miles east of Fort Scott.—Ibid., August 31, 1861. The Conservative’s informant added that he did not know the purpose of the earthworks, for he was sure no secessionist would come near them voluntarily, unless Lane wanted his men “well practised in the use of the spade” so that they would be able to bury the enemy after they had killed him. Fort Lincoln, in north-eastern Bourbon county, was on the Little Osage just north of the town of Fulton.

15. William R. Allen, of Jefferson, Ohio, was captain of Company C. He was enrolled July 30, 1861, and mustered out February 18, 1862.—Thirteenth Biennial Report, p. 137.
Gen. Lane is along. There is of Cavalry not many more than six hundred, of which Col. Montgomery has charge and [sentence not completed]

I have been well every day until last Tuesday when I had one of those old spells of dizziness. It happened to be a very rainy day so that we did not move and yesterday I was straight again tho not feeling very briskly. Col Montgomery was too unwell to ride when we left Fort Lincoln but we heard this morning that he will be with us in a day or two. Col. Jennison is out with 36 men to-day. The army that has been camped on Dry-wood [creek], where we had a little brush with them, is now moving northward, and we will keep somewhere near them until Lane can get his Artillery. He would have had artillery so as to be able to meet them with some show of success, but Gov. Robison has placed every obstacle possible in his way. . . .

The excitement of Camp life has ceased to be interesting except when near an enemy; the prospect of an engagement will always be attended with feelings of the liveliest interest no matter how used a person may become to scenes of strife and it is only those who can maintain an approach to an equilibrium in the excitement of battle that are fit to lead. Col. Johnson was so wrought up that if he had had command at Dry-wood we would have all been killed or taken prisoners but Montgomery was sufficiently self possessed to order a retreat in time to save nearly all, tho' not quite, a few being cut off and taken prisoners.

Since we are not employed as a regular guerilla force but are to move with the main army I conclude that we shall have no more fighting to do until a great blow shall be struck which will decide the fate of one side or the other, that is, of these two armies. . . . Since writing the foregoing we have received orders to be in readiness to ride to Butler to-night. The object is mainly, I suppose, to take in a few secessionists and a good many horses and cattle, if they can be found, to supply the army.

Secessionists have furnished us all the sheep and cattle we have needed. It is getting so dark that I cannot see to write and I must send my letter to Mound City [by] Kelsey or I may not have a chance again soon and maybe something will transpire by another time for writing that will be interesting.

With much love to yourself and our dear little girls I will say good night and pleasant dreams—

Your Husband

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16. Col. Hampton P. Johnson of Leavenworth was the commanding officer of the Fifth cavalry. Five days after this letter was written, on September 17, he was killed in action at Morrilton, Mo.—Adjudant General's Report, p. 125, and Pt. II, "Military History of Kansas Regiments," p. 66; Leavenworth Daily Conservative, September 20, 1861.
MY DEAR WIFE—

CAMP MONTGOMERY SEPT 25th 1861

We are now encamped near West Point the Infantry are in the town. All who were fit for duty, five days ago, went to Osceola. They returned yesterday, having had a little brush with the enemy, scattered them, took the town, obtained all the horses, mules, wagons and niggers; loaded the wagons with valuebles from the numerous well supplied stores, and then set fire to the infernal town it was burned to the ground.

I remained in camp this time, the first that the company have moved without me being with them.

It was a tedious stay here while they were gone, because the tents, provisions, and all the wagons, except the few they took with them were left here without a sufficient guard to protect them if the rebels had known how we were situated. I remained in camp to meet Simp and Ellwood and deliver to them some contraband property taken at Morristown and which the Captain and myself drew after the appraisement. I sent up a better buggy than the one Lyman got, for which I pay Gov. $35. I send to-day a lot of Merinos, velvet, barred muslins, calicos, shoes &c most of which is to be distributed among those who are unable to buy. There are about a dozen plaid shawls of various sizes.

Cap. made me a present of two pr of first quality white silk gloves for parade. I bought Ellwoods white horse and rode him about two weeks. our brush on Drywood cut him down very much and the subsequent trip to Butler was so hard on him that I was unwilling to use up so valueble a horse when another less costly would do as well and have sent him home. I took at Butler another of the same kind which I now ride. He is quiet and dont wear himself out frettin as Whitey did. I have to keep two horses, but they come cheap so far.

We start to-day for Kansas City or some other point on the Missouri. Affairs are looking squally there and in the S. W. part of this state. There being a large secession army on each side If Gov. would send in troops to take care of the river towns we could do the rest, but to go now to the river with only a portion of our forces and leave the other portion behind we will stand a chance of being beaten north and McCullough will probably come into S. E. Kansas and just use up the first range of counties. So it seems to us who only get the rumors. Lane may know much more about it than what we are able to learn. Cap, Lieut Morse & self have a camp stove that Simp & Ell brot down a few days ago, which is a first rate thing . . .
MY DEAR WIFE

We had been on the march for several days, until Monday last when we arrived at this place. McGee's Addition is full of soldiers. Two Regiments from Ohio, one or two from Iowa and Col. Jennison's regiment of Cavalry, numbering about 200 men. They are on foot yet. Lieut Col. Anthony, editor of Leavenworth Conservative is the support of the whole institution and is here in command. He may make it go and we all hope that he may as in our present condition we need all the assistance we can get, if not more. (Gen Sturgis and Peabody are here with their commands making in all over 5000) I am ignorant of the moves of the Generals until after they are made and therefore cannot tell what the present move is likely to effect. Most of our Brigade left camp this afternoon and I learn that the camp will all move to-morrow at 10 a.m. All of the well men in our Company have gone except the teamsters, camp keepers, Charley, who is Q. Master, and Lieut Morse and myself who were detailed for Jury men in a court-martial which has been in operation since we arrived here and is not yet through with the business that was brought before it. One chap is likely to be sentenced the limb of a tree or something worse, for stealing horses.

There is a matter that is to be attended to tomorrow before court that interests many of us very much just now. It is to secure the services of a Brass band for our Regiment. Other regiments are trying to get them but they prefer Montgomery's and I think we will succeed. We have heard no music since we have been out, unless the noisy drums and squeaking fifes make music, until we came here. Last night, about 10 o'clock a band came to Col. Montgomery's Markee played several pieces. They were far enough from us to make the music sound right and we lay in our tent enjoying the fullest measure of the favor.

17. Daniel R. Anthony, I, of Leavenworth entered military service September 29, 1861, as a major in the First Kansas cavalry, which shortly thereafter was redesignated the Seventh cavalry. On October 29 he was promoted to lieutenant colonel. He was appointed provost marshal of Kansas City on October 7, when General Sturgis placed the city under martial law. In 1862, while in command of Brig. Gen. Robert B. Mitchell's brigade in Tennessee, Anthony issued an order prohibiting Southerners from passing through the Union lines in search of fugitive slaves. When he refused to countermand the order he was placed under arrest by General Mitchell, but after an investigation was restored to duty by Maj. Gen. H. W. Hallock. He resigned his commission September 3, 1862.—Adjutant General's Report, p. 214; E. C. Connolley, Standard History of Kansas and Kansans (Chicago, 1918), v. 5, p. 2385; Leavenworth Daily Conservative, October 9 and 11, 1861.

18. Charles Eaton of Mound City was quartermaster sergeant of Company E. He was transferred with the rest of the company to the Fifth cavalry and served until his death from disease, October 16, 1862, at Kaskaskia, Iowa. See below, letters of September 30 and October 28, 1862.—Adjutant General's Report, p. 135; Thirteenth Biennial Report, pp. 144, 146.
LETTERS OF JOSEPH H. TREGO, 1857-1864

[Several lines missing] Cavalry hats for the company, with the yellow cords and tassells, eagles for the sides, ostrich feather &c which makes a splendid uniform. Lane is having his whole Brigade rigged out in as good style as any soldiers that I have seen since this war was begun, the Regulars at Fort Leavenworth not excepted.

Thursday 3rd I left off last night thinking I might get time this morning to write some more but I have not. Must go to attend the Band meeting which is to be over before court time.

MY DEAR WIFE

I have an opportunity to send a line to Fort Scott, perhaps to Mound City, to be mailed, if I can have it ready in just five minutes. This evening, since we encamped, Lane has called upon us for some men to carry a despatch to Fort Scott. I will just say enough to let you know where I am and what we are doing or what we suppose we are doing. I have been well all the time. The whole Brigade is healthy. The Missourians speak of the healthy appearance of the men every where we go. The southern army seems to be very much affected with sickness. We are now moving south west towards Springfield. Hunter Fremont, Sigel, Nugent, Lane, Sturgis and others are getting into close proximity and we are told that we are going South to meet the great army of Missouri Arkansas and Texas, said to number 50,000 & from that up to 80,000. We will have 50,000 when we get together, and if they want a fight they have a good chance now. We want to see that great army whose trail we have crossed so many times. We have been stopping in Cedar Co to get some contraband wheat ground. A few days since our whole company was out in a grub settlement hunting up wheat that had be[en] secreted we found 100 bus. in one place, entirely surrounded by thicket for miles. We had native for a guide. We send off niggers by the hundreds. Two hundred left for Kansas under the care of Capt Baine the day we left Osceola.

While we stopped in that town—what is left of it, the business part being all destroyed—the union men in the surrounding country were invited to come in and help themselves to salt and stores of which there was a great abundance. Direct we left, Sturgis came in with his command and forthwith placed a guard over the mdze to prevent any being carried away, when he came thro' on

MONTEVALO, OCT 28TH 1861
the road we had traveled, instead of living on the rebels as we had done, he purchased all his supplies of forage, beef &c from known rebels when he could have bought of Union men just as well. Such a course is regarded as traitorous because he is giving aid to the enemy by so doing. In fact, the neutral men along the way did not hesitate to say that they would just as leave Sturgis would march thro the country as not, and neutral men are just about all of them secessionists in principle.

The two Ohio regiments under his command are desirous of getting into Lane’s command. Col. Nugent’s regiment of Missouri home guards who are now in the U. S. service say they will not remain with Sturgis command. Lane said he meant to make the secessionists in Missouri feel the difference between being loyal and disloyal citizens and he is doing it. We have camped where there was secession farms on one side and Union farms on the other, when we would leave the secession farms were stripped of every thing like crops & fencing while the others remained untouched. We have plenty of first rate horses and so far we are getting along finely.

After we have had a fight we may not feel so crank. There are a great many little incidents in Camp life that I might relate but must stop now. Will begin to-morrow to write a long letter— I have received but the one letter from you yet. Cant think you have not written. We want to have a big fight and then, if I am spared I expect to leave the army for sometime. . . . Do write to me and tell me all about your self and of the children. What disposition you are going to make of yourselves this winter

Yours affectionately

Husband

LAMAR, BARTON CO. MO. NOV. 12TH [1861]

MY DEAR LITTLE WIFE,

This evening, Page came in from Kansas, bringing with him about a hundred letters, one for me which you sent from Atkinson [Ill.] the 21st ult. I received three letters while at Springfield from you.

Nov. 18th I had written so much and was interrupted, and soon after we started out towards Fort Scott, where we landed on the evening of the 14th, I came up home on Saturday to see how the folks were getting along and also my horses. . . .

It would be very agreeable to have you here if we remain somewhere in this vicinity which is probable since the new division has
been created. We may take up winter quarters at Fort Scott.
... If you have a good chance to come and think it best to
do so I shall be very glad to see you, and if the forces now under
Lane are to remain here to protect the Union people in Western
Missouri and at the same time Kansas, as it was at first intended
we think there will be no further trouble here. ...

We had 250 slaves ready to follow us out of Springfield. Some
of them were white girls. Kansas is about full of niggers now. All
our servants are niggers. The Missourians have been into Kansas
at several points retaking some of the property that was taken from
them by those fellows who would not join the army because they
could do better at Jayhawking on their own hook. Several of them
were killed. Three on Mine Cr. one of them was in our company
last summer.

Quite recently a company of 75 went into Missouri and gathered
up a lot of stock and several wagonloads of plunder, a load or two
of salt, and were attacked by 300 men as they said. All ran away
and left the wagons but 15. Among them was Baine Corbins Jim
Manor and some others in this vicinity. Jim has not been seen
since. 5, I think they say, are missing. All that remained with the
wagons had to fight their way through. By Hildreth had a wagon
load of salt which he tossed out on the road to enable him to make
better time. They wont want to go out again in that shape while
there are so many sesesh in the country. Many are getting back
from the Southern army because they cant live down where Price
retreated to. They must come up north to live and they slip along
at night in small squads. When at Lamar our pickets brot in such
squads at several different times during the night. Some of them
had deserted from the Southern Army and had no arms. All such
represented that they were sick of secession and couldn’t stand it
any longer.

There is a large force yet in Pineville Ark. which is made up of
Missourians, Arkansans, Texxans, and also from Tennessee, Louisi-
ana Cherokee Country &c. Don’t know whether we will yet have
a chance to fight them or not.

Miss McDow, and Miss Baird have lately returned home. Metz
married Emma McDow. Frank Barnes married Liz Allen and there
has been a general time of marrying amongst the lads and lasses.
Squint-eye Veatch has run away with Col. Montgomery’s daughter
and the Col. is just boiling about it. ...

Wednesday 20th I go back to the army this morning. ...
I shall be very busy this morning before starting and can only write
a few lines. If you can get me 2 knit under shirts, and two prs of
drawers, and enough good flannel of slate color, or something neat
if of a fancy color, to make three shirts, it will probably save con-
siderable in expense. I dont wear white shirts at all now. French
flannel is generally worn but I dont know the expense of it. I have
material for you and Maria each a white dress. Several yards of
nice velvet for sacks, plenty of black silk thread, over 100 skeins—
and you may perforate your ears ready for some cheap ear bobs.

They done all right in advising you to remain on account of the
children but there is no doubt but that the Kansas Brigade will re-
main where it can protect Kansas, now that the new division has
been created, so you can be quite safe here.

My best respects to friends and hoping to see you within a month
at least I am

Your ever loving Husband

MOUND CITY Dec. 18th 1861

My Dear Wife

I wrote to you, when I was here before, that I would be in Leav-
enworth on the 13th. At that time I knew of nothing in the way
of my being there at that time.

The withdrawal of the federal troops from Missouri has given
Price's army full possession of southwestern Missouri and at the
same time the Kansas brigade was divided up until at this time
there is more danger of invasion than ever has been before. On
last Thursday night a party was sent up on Mine Creek who pill-
laged Potosi and several neighboring houses, getting all they could
carry away. They killed one man and took two prisoners. We
were escorting a train from Leavenworth, having gone up towards
Pottawatomie to meet it. Since returning we have been on the go
constantly. The Infantry had gone to Papinsville and Butler to
burn those towns, also to burn every sesesh house, on the way. It
was but a small party and they were away so long, a day over their
time, and no word from them, Montgomery became uneasy and
had the Cavalry go over to meet them and ascertain if Price had
cut off their retreat. We rode 40 miles and found them all right
and on their way home, having done the work they were sent to
do. It was a hard case as families had to be set out of doors, not
however without every thing that belonged to them except their
buildings.

This was done to stop, if possible, the persecution of Union men
in Missouri, who have since the federal troops left, been robbed and driven from their homes, more than at any former time. Just at this time it is impossible to know what shape affairs will take here, but if the new Generals will return to the border the forces that have been ordered away, and add to them enough to be able to make anything of a show of defence for the country and the Gov. stores that are now here then there will be no danger of invasion. At this time there is 14 to one against us if Price should undertake the job.

A few days will develop something that will enable us to decide how it is going to be here, and if the agents of the government do as we think they should I will go to Leavenworth, send for you to come there and await your coming. . . . I am hoping that we may be left to rest here a few days. We are encamped in the woods below the mill. It is a nice cosy place and with such splendid weather as we are having it is very comfortable being in camp.

. . .

I will write again this week

Goodbye your loving Husband

Camp Defiance Dec. 28th 1861

My Dear Little Wife

It is impossible for me to express the disappointment I have felt in not being able to meet you at Leavenworth at the time I designated. Just about that time we were very apprehensive that the Southern army would invade Kansas, which they could have done if they had attempted it at the right time. Of course I did not wish to have you coming here while that danger existed and it was expected that this condition of things would be of short duration, which was the case, and after matters were put into better shape I began to make preparations for going to Leavenworth. We had never received any pay, but were assured that the pay would be forth coming as soon after the 6th of this month—the time when muster rolls was made out and sent off—as the Pay master could make it convenient to come down. I had obtained some money of Col. Blunt\[19\] for present conveneince and would have had no difficulty in getting more in case we were not paid in time, but for a new view that the gov. agents took of the matter which precluded the possibility of getting any pay until the first of next month. I

19. James G. Blunt was lieutenant colonel of the Third regiment. On April 8, 1862, he was commissioned a brigadier general, and on the following November 29 was promoted to major general, the only Kansan to win two-star rank during the Civil War.—Adjutant General's Report, p. 6; Thirteenth Biennial Report, p. 125.
cannot leave now until after next mustering day which will be on the 31st. as soon as possible after that I will hasten to Leavenworth to meet you. You will understand by the above, though I have not expressed it, that without more “dust” than I was in possession of, I could not make the trip right, or as would comport with the dignity of an officer in the U. S. Army. We are now located, for the winter probably, at the old military crossing, on Mine Creek, eight miles from Mound City. We have had splendid weather nearly all the fall. Have had two cold snaps and a few days since, we had 4 inches of snow, but with stoves in our tents we live comfortably. It is a great contrast to our constant, and often very hard marches all the summer and early fall.

29th  Last evening, while I was writing and had progressed so far, our company returned from a trip, twenty miles into Missouri whither they had gone to attend a secesh ball. They missed the road on their way down last night, which made them too late for the dance, the company having dispersed. They however scoured the neighborhood and took in some prisoners one of whom is an officer in the Southern army who had come home to remain awhile. They brought in several teams loaded with bacon, dried fruit, apples, lard, butter, honey &c but had no fight. The stir attendant upon their arrival prevented me from writing any more last evening. To-day we have been busy, all day, in moving our camp to a point nearer the stream; only a few rods. We now have our two tents set together end to end, with the stove in the “back parlor” where we have a table covered with a splendid red and black centre-table-cloth, upon which we have our books and writing materials. We also keep our clothing, arms and musical instruments in this apartment. In the “front room” we keep saddles, blankets and a large box in which we have been carrying our bedding and which now serves as a clothes press and dining table. Lieut. Morse is a good hand to help keep things in order but Capt. Seaman don’t know how to do one thing toward it, don’t so much as know where his clothes are or if he has any at all. The Capt. is at home so often that we are getting to not expect to find him in camp only semioccasionally.

Col. Montgomery has an old Sibley tent, smoky and cheerless, in which he receives all the yahoos from Missouri who are anxious to see him, and there is generally a tent full of them, who will lay around him by the hour, talking about border Ruffian times when they supposed that Montgomery was an ‘awful man’ but they had
gone right, far enough to vote for Lincoln, and for that they were driven from Missouri. If they had been worth as much as a good cigar they would have defended themselves at home, instead of running at the first approach of danger. Why the Col. permits such men to occupy so much of his time is known only to himself. . . .

Your impatient Husband

Have just received a letter from you in which you express disappointment in not hearing from me some where near the time that was agreed upon. I knew that you would be placed in a very unpleasant situation and I have worried a great deal about [it], but have not had it in my power to shorten the suspense. Heavens! what a miserable out the officers of this Brigade have made in the matter of pay. There are lots of men whose families are in a more destitute condition than were the poor of last winter and they cannot get a cent for them, or go home to do anything for them, except in a few cases near us. The men are getting very much discouraged but not so much as they might, and those who have been so neglectful of their duty as to cause so very much of suffering on the part of soldiers' families should, and may be they are, ashamed of themselves, to say the least.

Camp Greenwood
June 1st 1862

My Dear Wife

I left Fort Scott on Monday afternoon in company with Lt. Col. Jenkins, Major Hoffman, Chaplain Fisher, Lt. Hedden, and Kelly, Capt Miller and sixty men.20 We came together as far as Springfield where we stopped half a day. On Friday morning the Col. and I, with fourteen men started out for this place, the regiment having moved here some days before. We were two days coming through, a distance of 88 miles.

Houston—near which we are now camped,—is the county seat of Texas County [Mo.], on the road from Rolla to Genl Curtis' Army and the regt. was ordered here to protect the provision trains that pass over this road. I did not find our Company here, they went with a train to Rolla. Hope we will all go there or some other

civilized place soon. We are buried up here in a forest where no-
body lives and where there is nothing but Mountains, covered
everywhere with trees so thick that we can scarcely see the sun.
The teams have gone out twenty five or thirty miles to a valley for
corn and will not be back for three days. The hills are awful.

There are some things attractive too: the high piles of rock, fine
springs of clear water running over clean white sand and gravel
and the pines. I had my tent pitched this morning—fortunately for
me it was left behind with Fairbanks, Minchell, and half a dozen
others who could not go with the company—Minchell helped me
to gather a lot of pine boughs to spread over the ground for a car-
pet, and I am now fixed up as nice as an old maid. Yes, very like
an old maid, for I would like to be married.

... Williams and Seaman have gone to Washington, it is
said, and I think it not unlikely that a change for the better will
be effected in this regiment.

Capt. Clark, a slaveholder in northern Missouri, who has been
in the regt. since its organization was killed at Springfield a short
time before we arrived there. Although on duty as officer of the
day, he became intoxicated and attempted to force a guard and
was shot through the heart, as he should be. A house that had
been occupied by a squad of accommodating girls, changed hands
and a family moved into it. Those who had been in the habit of
visiting the place continued to call without knowing that the for-
mer inmates had been removed. This annoyed the present oc-
cupants and a guard was placed there to prevent intrusion. The
guard did a righteous act. An old nut named Rice was in com-
pany with Clarke and fired a revolver at the guard and killed a
young lady belonging to the family. Her betrothed was present
and he in turn fired upon Rice, hitting him in the shoulder, inflict-
ing a dangerous wound but the old sinner is likely to recover. I
dont know when I can get this to a post office, but I will have it
ready whenever an opportunity does offer. Write me on receipt
of this. A letter may happen to come thro' very soon to Spring-
field and I shall want to hear from you as soon as I can

Your ever loving Husband

21. Elihu Fairbanks served as a private in Company E, Third regiment, and Company
D, Fifth cavalry. Byron L. Minchell was mustered into Company F, Third regiment, on
July 24, 1861, where he was promoted to sergeant, but was transferred on September 1 to
Company E as a private. He, too, was assigned to Company D, Fifth cavalry, at the time
of the consolidation. Both men continued in service until they were mustered out at Leaven-
worth, September 5, 1864.—Ibid., pp. 136, 137; Thirteenth Biennial Report, pp. 146, 147,
151.

22. John R. Clark, captain of Company B, died May 21, 1862.—Adjutant General's
Report, p. 129.
ROLLA

Friday morning, June 6th. I did not have an opportunity to send my letter, and yesterday I came here myself. We came fifty miles through forest and are all very well pleased to be out of the wilderness. Col. [Powell] Clayton is to take command of this post and we will probably remain here for some time. We can get anything we want here, and the whistle of the locomotive sounds quite refreshing as a reminder of civilized times.

A regiment of Dutch came up from St Louis last evening. They are on their way to Springfield. It is reported that a large force is marching on Springfield and it is likely that a large additional force will be added to what is already there of our own troops. There may be a good deal of fighting yet in Mo. The Dutch that came up on the cars last evening are a part of Sigel’s men.

A company of men, part from Ark. and the rest of this state, under command of one Coleman have been engaged in destroying Gov. trains for some time past. The regt. was ordered into the mountains at Houston to disperse or arrest this party but they are not to be caught in the vicinity of any considerable number of Federals.

Lt. Morse took 40 men, was gone 3 days and brought in, last night, several of the party who had returned to their homes since destroying the last train that started to Genl Curtis. Our company has been scattered about for two weeks, in five different places but this morning we are all together again except four that are in Kansas and Charley Perin and one other with him who were left 30 miles west of us hunting their horses, which escaped from them night before last when they were scouting for Coleman’s men. They have had small-pox in the Regt. but there is now no case of it in the camp.

We have had rainy weather since Monday night; to-day is dull but no rain.

I hunted around on the mountains for some new flower to send you but could find nothing there is not even grass there and if we had not been ordered away our horses would soon have been unable to carry us away.

Your affectionate Husband

23. Charles H. Perrin of Mound City joined Company E of the Third regiment on July 24, 1861, was transferred to Company D, Fifth cavalry, and died at Pine Bluff, Ark., on October 25, 1863, of wounds received in action.—Ibid., p. 136; Thirteenth Biennial Report, p. 147.
My Dear Wife

I write you this time to send you some funds. I hope you will get it all right. I have been thinking for some days how I might send it with the most safety. Charley Varnum leaves to-day. He will carry a large amt. for the boys; quite as much as he can do with safety, travelling as he will have to do on the deck of a boat. I have finally concluded to send by Q. Master [James] Davis to Leavenworth where he will drop it in the office. If you get this take good care of it as it may be all that I shall be able to supply you with and you may need it before you will find anyone to take my place if I should be so unfortunate as to get killed.

If I should be made a prisoner with the money about me it would then all be lost; for these reasons I have concluded to risk sending it. Now dont think that the probabilities of my being killed or taken prisoner are so great that you will begin at once to look up another partner. It is not likely that I shall ever be placed in so dangerous a position as the one from which we escaped on our way down. Brother Fisher’s letter did the thing up most splendidly when he represented Lts Morse and Harrington24 as pursuing the rebels after they were put to flight as though they had nothing to do with starting them, when in fact, they did all that was done in the whole transaction. Again, when he had the old Q. M. Doct Davis, Morse and myself cooking supper while the train was crossing the river. Lt. Morse was where the fighting was done.

If this comes to you all right you will find enclosed six one hundred dollar bills, or U. S. treasury notes, one of fifty dols and two of twenty dollars, making in all $890.00. We are paid now to June 30th. It is costing me more to live this summer than it did last. We are boarding now at $3.00 per week; cheaper than keeping our own table. The weather is so excessively hot every body is prostrated in strength and the number of sick is daily increasing.

There are very few bad cases however. It is not likely that we will do much before cool weather. Horses are improving very much in appearance on green corn, but they cannot endure any fatigue. If we could only get out of this dutch arrangement we

24. Stephen R. Harrington of Burlington served as regimental adjutant until he was promoted to captain and given command of Company K on July 1, 1862. He was promoted to major October 29, 1864, and mustered out of service January 10, 1865. —Adjutant General's Report, pp. 125, 154.
would all “rejoice exceeding much” Our company would rejoice still more if we could be reinstated in the old 3rd Regt.

Charley Varnum has started I dont know when Q. M Davis will leave but I will have this ready. . . .

Good bye love and dont forget. Will send the check by bearer of this, C Varnum

Your Husband

P. S. . . . Our Regt has been changed and may be again so direct 5th Kansas, Genl Curtis Army

Aug. 7th The Q. M. was not willing to carry the money and I have got a check which you can keep with more safety than the money itself. Let me know at once when you get it.

J. H. T.

HELENA SEPT. 7TH 1862

MY DEAR WIFE

We are having a very little rain this afternoon, the first we have had for about six weeks. I dont feel in good frame of mind at all. I am sick. Lt. M[orse] is sick, lots of the men are yet sick, the regiment is badly managed. Major Walker25 improves backward as he goes up, showing that he is much better as a Captain than acting the part of a Col. as he has been trying to do since Lt. Col. Jenkins went home to see his family. We have always been in bad odor in this army. The Missouri Repub hates all Kansas troops and the bulk of this army read and admire the Repub Walker is likely to increase this distaste at Head Quarters. We are not now surprised that Robison should send Walker here. He was our only hope for the salvation of the Regiment. That hope is gone and we are gloomy. I cant make up my mind to leave the boys and yet I believe that to remain in this regiment and in this army so much dissatisfied, and the debilitating effects of this climate operating upon me I shall never get well. . . .

I dont regard the news we get of our army in Virginia retreating, as alarming. The rebels will likely take Washington yet. It will probably have to come to that before the men in power and the

25. Samuel Walker of Lawrence had been an active Free-State partisan since 1855, when he settled in Douglas county. In that year a local militia company called the Bloomington Guards was organized, with Walker as first sergeant. In 1856 he was elected colonel of the Fourth Kansas cavalry, participating in the siege of Lawrence and the capture of Fort Titus, and in the same year was a member of the house of representatives under the Topeka constitution. In June, 1861, he was mustered as captain of Company E, First Kansas Volunteer infantry, and received his promotion to major, Fifth Kansas cavalry, on May 24, 1862. On October 29, 1864, he was again promoted to lieutenant colonel of the Sixteenth Kansas cavalry, and was mustered out with that regiment on December 6, 1865. He was brevetted brigadier general of volunteers in the campaign against the Sioux Indians in 1866. —Ibid., pp. 41, 125, 554; W. E. Connelley, op. cit., v. 3, p. 1223.
pro-slavery men in the north who put them there, will understand and be willing that the war on our part must be carried on as the south is carrying on their war, and if we get whipped that we will all have to bid goodbye to freedom. The south understand that if they can effectually destroy the government they can rule us afterwards. There is no better evidence, perhaps, of the weakness of our government than the great number of northern journals that are faulting the President, and the constant changes that are being made in the Military commands or departments. England and France too seem to be very successful in their efforts to keep up the war to the end that the country may be ruined.

It is now too dark for me to write more this evening. I cannot see to write by candle light so will defer the matter until the 8th.

It is cloudy this morning and not near so sultry as it has been for some days past. Lt. Morse went this morning to see if he can get a leave of absence for a few weeks, to enable him to regain his health. When we were on our way down here he had a serious fall, horse and all, in giving chase to one of the parties of guerillas we met near Salem, the effects of which, he has felt ever since and for a month past he has been growing much worse, not able to be up but very little during the day. . . .

I shall not now see home again before frost has destroyed everything, perhaps not before another Spring opens them out again, because much fighting must necessarily be done this coming winter and we are likely to be called upon to do our full share. The probabilities are that we will have to leave this point soon or be surrounded in which case we will have to fight our way out if we can.

The gun boats have been cannonading heavy between 12 and 1 o'clock today; don't know what it was for. . . . Day before yesterday one gun boat and four transports went down, on their way to Vicksburg. the transports had on board four thousand five hundred rebel prisoners from Camp Douglass Ill.

With much love to you and children I am your H

Heleana Ark. Sept. 30th 62

My Dear Wife

To-day our regiment left the river bank and moved eight miles into the country. It was expected that the move would be much farther, the common talk and the preparations together would seem to indicate an extensive move.
Under the impression that a long and tedious march northward was about to be made I came here with others on the sick list to take boat for it, but the probabilities are that we will remain here-about for some weeks to come.

I shall stop in this city a few days and then go out to the regiment I expect. A week ago last Saturday I was taken with a very severe attack of a bilious character. Not much fever but vomiting enormous quantities of bile from 9 a. m. until after dark. Had been troubled more than a week with dizziness and that day nearly used me up. Am just able to move about again at a very slow rate.

Charley Eaton began to be sick several days before I did. He is jaundiced terribly, looks fairly green and is so far gone that he is not likely to recover. We kept him with us until this morning when he was brought to the hospital. There are three lying in the hospital now awaiting coffins. We will all be thankful if we ever get out of this place. Lt. Morse has so far recovered his health as to report for duty again a few days since. . . .

The way they are enlisting in Kansas I think the ladies are likely to be left quite alone, not even enough old wilted men left to provide for their numerous wants. We are rejoiced to learn that Abraham has, at last, begun at the bottom of the difficulty to solve it. We now look anxiously forward to see what kind of reception it will receive and how many true union men there are in the north and especially among the higher officers in the U. S. service.

There is nothing transpiring here in this army that would be of much interest to you or any body else. . . .

Kiss the children once around for me and put an additional lump of sugar in Harrietts coffee

Your devoted Husband

[Part Three—the Letters of 1863, 1864—Will Appear in the November, 1951, Issue]