

CIVIL WAR LETTERS
OF
ARZA BARTHOLOMEW, JR.

Co. G, 21st Michigan Infantry

Enlisted Aug. 14, 1862

Died at Murfreesboro, Tenn., May 8, 1863

WRITTEN TO HIS WIFE, FRANCES

Compiled by
George G. Christman
17012 Country Club Road
Spring Lake, Michigan

Camp Siegel

August 21, 1862

Dear Frank:

I improve the present moment of writing you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We arrived here all right. We are all well. At present we had orders not to give any furloughs until we were mustered in and then they promise to let us have a pass for 10 days. I have not been up to your fathers yet, as Eber is going to the town and he is in a hurry to go. I will close my letter for the present, so good Bye for the present. The Boys are all well and in good spirits. I must go and be examined.

Camp Siegel

August 22, 1862

Dear Frank:

We arrive at Camp all right and the prospect of our leaving is the same as it was when we came down, but I think you had better come up Wednesday if you can get this in time to take the cars in the morning, as Charles is here and will stay two or three days, so that you will have company and Nancy will probably come up with you. You need not bring anything up to eat. We will probably have our guns this week as they are at the quartermasters. I will not try and write any news at present. If you had rather wait a few days until we are mustered in, you can, for it will not be anyway likely that we shall leave for 2 weeks yet. We have not got our clothes yet. I will try and find your folks if I can. I can think of no more to write at present, so good Bye from your affectionate Husband.

Arza

Camp Siegel

Sept. 10, 1862

Dear Frank:

As I have an opportunity of writing you a few lines and sending it to you by Mr. Albee, I thought a few lines might be acceptable. We are all well and I am getting hungry enough to eat a dog. We are ordered to start tomorrow at 9 o'clock. We were paid off yesterday. I will enclose \$20 for you and if you get a chance to let it for 10% with good security you can let it out, but if you can't, you may keep it. William encloses \$25, 15 for you to keep for him, and \$10 for you to give to father \$10 of it. The whole amount is \$45. I will write to you as soon as I get to my place of destination, so good Bye for the present.

Arza

PS That picture I told you I was going to get I would not take, for they was not right. William wants you to let his money with the rest if you can.

Camp near Covington, Kentucky
Sept. 15, 1862

Dear Frank:

As I have a few leisure moments to spare, I will try and write you a few lines. We arrived here all right, Sunday at 10 o'clock after a pretty tedious ride of 2 days and nights. I never was tired of riding in the cars before. I will give you a description of the journey to this place. We had orders to start Friday morning. We broke up Camp at 4 o'clock in the morning of Friday. We packed up our knapsacks and marched to town and had a breakfast provided by the Citizens of Ionia. We had about 10 minutes to feed then we were marched to the cars and started for Detroit at 9 o'clock AM. We arrived at Detroit about 3 PM. We were marched through town about 1 hour and back to the Station where the citizens had a good supper provided which we did justice to, You may be sure, after waiting all day for dinner. We were kept in the station of the Detroit & Milwaukee railway where we had a fair view of the land of Canada. Then at 9 o'clock we were formed in and marched to the cars of the Detroit & Toledo Road and started off and went about 4 miles to the crossing of the Michigan Central Road when we were all fetched up standing by another train running into us and throwing the Engine from the track and smashing two of the cars of the other train to kindling wood, and waking all of the soldiers up rather suddenly. But as good luck would have it, no one was hurt except some noses were bumped rather hard. ~~after the excitement~~ After the excitement had subsided, we all went to sleep the best way we could until morning, when we all started out in the Country for breakfast. Then we started after the track was cleared, for Toledo, Ohio, where we arrive about noon. We were provided with Coffee and hard crackers. From there we were put in freight cars which the boys soon riddled to pieces. They were pretty cold when it came night, but we all stood it first rate. At 10 o'clock we got to Cincinnati and marched to the 5th street and market place where we were provided with a good breakfast, which we did ample justice to you, you may depend. We were received with demonstrations of joy by the people of Ohio. The excitement has somewhat subsided in Cincinnati. They told us they had shut up their stores and

turned out to either fight or work on the entrenchments which are very numerous. The country around Covington is very hilly and broken and every hill is fortified. ~~Riflex~~ Rifle pits are dug all over the country. I was somewhat warm yesterday when we got to the campground but I stood it better than some of the other boys. But it is new business to us all. Yet I think after we get a little used to it I think we will stand it first rate. We had to sleep on the ground last night but I never had a sweeter nights rest in my life. The dew wet the blanket completely. About 12 o'clock last night we were ordered to pack up our knapsacks and be ready to march. All was hurry and confusion, but the order came at last to lie down again. They took two of the companies of our regiment and took them somewhere, but I can't tell where as they have not come back yet. Our Officers know about as much about what is going on in camp as we do, ourselves. We are on the bank of the river called the Licking River, but I don't know whether it is or not, as we are not allowed to mingle with other regiments at all. There are apple trees on the ground where we are that looks as though they are a hundred years old. The boys are a stripping the trees as fast as possible, but the apples are hard and sour. I could not eat any of them at all. There is a rumour that the 2nd Cavalry are here. There was a battery of Artillery passed us this morning that they said belonged to that regiment, but it may be a humbug. We have very poor water. The well water is good but the well failed before we got all of the canteens filled. I have the pleasure of seeing from where we are encamped, the place where the Rebels were a week ago, but they say that they are all left for Dixie. They took 6 prisoners Saturday and they had them to show there Sunday. Well I must close for the want of room. Write soon. Give my love to all. Good Bye. For the present direct my mail to Cincinnati, Ohio, 21st Reg., Mich. Inf. Co. G.

Arza

PS You must excuse bad writing for I have no accomdation but a cartridge box to write on. There is a perfect rush of mules teams all along the road. Write how Fathers eyes are.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Sept. 19, 1862

Dear Frank:

As the cars have stopped for a few minutes, I thought a few lines might be acceptable. I write under different circumstances that I did the last time I wrote you. Yesterday we received orders to pack in one hour but where we should go we could not tell. But we packed up and struck our tents and marched for Covington. When we arrived there we found a very heavy force there embarking on board steamer for down River. That is the Ohio. But when there were about half the force aboard it appeared there was not room so we marched to Cincinnati and there we took cars for someplace we were not informed, but the supposition was we should go to Louisville, Kentucky. But that I can tell better when we get to our journey's end. The Enemy were menacing Cincinnati and we have been ordered to be ready to march at a moments warning. Night before last we slept on our arms and we thought we should have a brush with Secesh but we were disappointed for the present but I can't tell how long it will be. I think the Rebels wanted to keep our army on the watch for an attack and they kept driving our pickets in every night and occasionally killing a few. They shot two and took 10 of our men night before last. The Rebels are playing a pretty sharp game. They want us to watch one place while they made an attack on another place but we are going to follow them right up. The other letter I wrote you I thought we should stay in Camp Rysil but it is not for a soldier to know where he will be from one days end to another. I like it first rate, better than I thought I should. We live a good deal better than we did in Camp Sigel. The boys went out hunting geese and hens every other night and we could get mile without paying for it. The boys are in high spirits I tell you. We have some of the old Heroes of Pea Ridge. We will start about two minutes.

One Hour Later...I thought I would bring my letter to a close as I have not a very good accomodation for writing. We have halt at a place called Sezmores for a few moments and I wanted to write you a few lines. I will close for the present. Good Bye. I will write again soon. I would write more if it had time.

Direct to Louisville, Kentucky.

Camp near Louisville, Kentucky
Sept. 27, 1862

Dear Frank:

As Peter has got a letter and it stated that you had not got a letter from me, I thought I would write another. I have written 2 already and I will not try ~~to~~ and write the 3rd one and I hope that you will get it which I have no doubt of. We have been on the move almost day and night since we left Camp Sigel. I wrote you a letter on the cars at a station on the road between Indianapolis and Louisville. We got to Louisville about 10 o'clock at night. We were marched to a fair ground and we were ordered to lay down and rest. I never slept better in my life than I did that night. The next day we were marched to a Camp about 8 miles from Louisville. I am getting so that I can sleep on the ground as well as an Indian. I never in my life saw such a place for dust. It is from one to two and four inches deep, just as light as snow and when we march it is so thick that we can't hardly see the man in front of us, but it is done with for the present for it is raining at present. Well I must stop for the present for I have just been detailed for guard for the first time.

Sunday Morning. Well I will resume my letter again. It has cleared off very pleasant. I have seen the warmest weather here that I have seen this summer. Well I will go on with my description of our marches. We were ordered last Wednesday to strike tents and march. We did not know where but it proved that it was not far, only about 4 miles just to the east of the City on the common. We were ordered to march about 4 o'clock with our haversacks and no guns. We started and arrived on the field of action about dark, where we found a plenty of arms in the shape of shovels and pick-axes, where we fell to work on a rifle pit and were left at it until about 1 o'clock when we were relieved by another Regiment. We all lay down and took a very pleasant sleep until morning when we returned to our quarters. Now I must tell you about the battle we had with the Rebels the next night. After we marched to our new quarters about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the order came to put out for the rifle pits to meet the hostile foe. There were a few that remained in camp that had aches and pains too numerous to mention but there were a pretty fair turnout, considering the notice we had of it. We were marched to the pits with our hearts set upon a fight, but after looking in vain until darkness set in, we returned, covered with glory, to our camp. The next night and the next morning, the scene was enacted over again. That day we had orders to march again, we were marched to the other side of the town, where we are at present encamped, just back of the city. I must give you a description of the city. It is a very pretty place on the south side of the Ohio River. There are some splendid buildings in it, but of the female portion of the town, they are the worst looking specimens of humanity that I can say. They are so dirty that you can hardly tell the negro from the white population. I suppose all of the aristocracy here have left the city, but the black and white are all together in the same house. They all seem to be for the Union now. It is rumored that we are to march tomorrow, but we shall not know more than 4 hours before we start. There is an awful amount of men here at present. You can form no kind of an opinion of an Army until you have seen the men. They are all over the country now. Frank you must write to me as soon as you get a letter for this is the 3rd one that I have written to you. One to Father, & one to Amanda. The other boys all get letters and it makes me jealous, but I will look for one until I get it. Write often. The boys are all well but Frank Garrison & Rofs. He is lame with his foot & Frank is rather bilious but the health of the men is good. I must close for the present, bidding you good bye for about 4 days, if I can get a chance to write. This from your affectionate husband.

Arza Bartholomew

Write where you have got that Note of Truce Castle and all of the money.

Hqs. 21st Mich. Inf. in Camp on Mill Creek

Friday, Oct. 5, 1862

Dear Frank:

As I have a few leisure moments I thought I would answer your letter. I received it Monday and have neglected until now to write to you, as Willie wrote a letter the next day to father and I had not much time to write. You wanted me to write to Patience and _____ and I went right at it and wrote a letter to both of them. I fancy you will excuse me this time at any rate. It is snowing quite hard this morning. It commenced about daylight this morning and the ground is quite white at present (noon). We just came in from Picket. We have to go on about once in 5 days. It is not very disagreeable to stand Picket. There is something exciting about it. When the Rebels are about a mile from you, there is no danger of the boys going to sleep on duty.

I suppose you have pretty nice times out there by this time. Sleigh riding, probably. I shall not get a ride this winter for the snow does not stay on long enough to amount to anything. The people say that live here that they never have any snow to last over a day or two at a time. It is very pleasant weather here this fall. It is very dry and warm most of the time. We are looking for rainy weather all the time but it holds off pretty well. Well Frank, I can't think of anything to write at all. There is talk that we shall make an advance but there is no signs of it yet. The papers say that just as soon as the Cumberland River rises so that we can get supplies, we shall move. There is some skirmishing all along our line almost every day, but it don't seem to affect us much, for all we know of it is the firing. We have not been called on yet. I think I had better ~~make~~ make a family letter of this and write to Father & Mother both, as paper is pretty scarce here at present. Well good bye, I remain your affectionate husband.

Arze

Dear Father & Mother:

As I still have a little room left I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know that I have not forgotten you. We are all well at present with the exception of William & Silas. Wm. had got a cold but I guess that it will not amount to much as he is getting better and Tip is a little better than he was, as he is so as to be around, but not very well. I hope that he will get so as to be on duty pretty soon. William is so as to be on duty and has been all the time. I think his cough is caused by traveling in the dust. I was very sorry to hear that your eyes were so bad, but I am in hopes that you will not have as hard a time as you have with them. I suppose you are getting a little news by this time, from Washington, as Congress has convened. I have not seen the President's Message yet. Probably you have got it before this time. I was very glad to get those papers in my letter but it takes rather too much of my letters and I like to get a full letter when I get one. I would like to have you send me a Weekly Paper that has got the Congressional proceedings in. Either the N. Y. Tribune or the Detroit Weekly. There is no use of sending a daily here. Since the road is opened from Louisville, the other boys get their paper regular. You can have it sent direct from the office or any other way that you see fit. Mother, I want you to help Frank take care of my young soldier and don't let him enlist until I get back. I suppose you have great times feeding him on Catnip and saffron. I want you to tell me what for a looking fellow he is. Frank rather praises him up which is natural for a mother. I must bid you good bye. I remain your affectionate son.

Arza Bartholomew, Jr.

Park Barrack

Oct. 6, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received your much welcome letter Sunday evening and you may be sure was glad to hear from you once more and to hear that you were all well. I don't want you to think that I am dangerous, although I am down a little at present. The day that William wrote you that letter, that day I was out on picket and took a cold and it pulled me right down, although I have been able to be around the whole time. Yet I am too weak to follow the Regiment. There was a general forward movement of all of the troops commencing Wednesday and I was left behind with several others that was not able to carry their knapsack. Mr. Ross was left behind. He had got a very bad foot. It is all broke out. I guess he will get his discharge but it is not certain. There are men here that have been lame for a year and can't get their discharge. I was very sorry that I could not go with William but there is no chance to help one another in a march. They have had a pretty hard march of it. There is a man here that whot himself while on picket duty and he says they put them right through at the rate of 20 miles a day, and I heard that the most of the boys threwed their knapsacks away. They are bound to catch old Bragg if it takes a let. At any rate I hope so. He is a slippery old fellow to deal with. I can't tell where Williams is but I think if any of them can stand it he can, for he gets fat every day that he is here. He did not have as heavy a load as some of the boys, but it is heavy enough. I don't know where Mr. Ross is, but probably you do. I left him in town but I think he is in the Hospital. He told me he was going to write that day.

Well as I had hardly room to finish my letter on the other sheet I will take another. I suppose you would like to know how I am situated. It is a very large brick building about 2 miles out of town, with first rate water and plenty of air, which they don't have in town, for it is the stinkiest place that I ever saw in my life. It would do you good to see the shades. Sunday night the streets are lined with them in their best clothes. They dress better than anyone I ever saw in the North. I believe that they are a great deal better off here than they are at ~~any other place~~ any other place you can put them. They seem to be contented and have enought to eat and drink. We are, and you can hunt the State over and you can't find a nigger that is as well off as they are here. Well I will write more on that subject for it might be considered by some of the friends as rather niggary. You must not neglect to write about all our wordly affairs. I want to know how much grain we have got and how much potatoes and buckwheat too. And how much it costs to thresh the grain and if John wants anything. He must take the wheatas he agreed to. I hardly thought that John would try to take the advantage but it is hard telling what a man will do until he has a chance. You must not worry about me for I am not what you can call sick only a cold and that is getting better. I can't tell how soon I can get to the Regiment for they are a good way off from here at present. Well I will bring my letter to a close. You must excuse me for writing with a pencil for I have nothing else to use. Direct to Park Barrack, Louisville, Ky. Don't put on the Regiment nor Company. When I leave here I will let you know more than at present. From your affectionate husband,

Arza

Camp on Mill Creek

Oct. 10, 1862

Dear Frank:

As William was writing to father and he was stopped pretty suddenly and did not mail his letter on that account, I thought I would drop you a few lines to let you know that I was all right yet. Well, I suppose you would like to know what stopped William from sending his letter. We came very near having a little skirmish. We heard several pretty heavy guns and we were ordered to have everything in readiness to leave at a moments notice. About noon they began to shoot pretty fast off to the south of us and so we were taken about a mile out but the secesh failed to come up to the scratch and they ceased firing and we have not heard of them since. We were allowed 15 minutes to get some supper and get ready for another march. We went out about a mile on the pike and lay there in line of battle all night. We had a pretty strong force at that point together with a section of our Battery, but morning came and no rebels came. We had just finished a cup of Coffee when we were once more ordered to fall in and we were marched back toward camp. But to our surprise, when we came as the paddy says, where the camp was, it was not there and we went on a short distance in the rear of the division and found all of our tents and camp equipage, so that our position is changed from the front to the rear of the division. Of course I know nothing of the reason for the change. We are about 1 mile nearer to Nashville now than we were before, but how long it will be so remains to be seen. We are on a very pleasant campground. It is in a piece of woods and plenty of water close by. We have very good water since we came to Tennessee. Oh, Frank, I must tell you about our adventure yesterday. The old Colonel came to our Captain and told him to take ten men, one from each Company, and go out in front and see if we could find any Grey-backs (What he calls Rebels). But the Captain did not want to go unless he would let him take his own men, so he told him to choose his men and he called for volunteers. William and I went out with him. We scouted about 2 hours and to his disappointment we found nothing but our own soldiers. We went to an old Slaveowner and had a good chat with the old lady. They are all Union at present. I believe if they could vote their state back into the Union they would do it by a large majority, but they don't know which will hold the state yet, but I hope they will not be in doubt long. I think as soon as the River raises, that we shall make an advance, but it keeps very dry here yet. It is very pleasant here at present. There is frosty nights here now, but the days are very pleasant. We had a little snow here last week, all gone now. Peter Ross got a letter from Mrs. Fosse the 7th. She got to Louisville all right but she found no Peter there. He has given up of getting his discharge at present at least, for his foot don't look very bad now, but I guess it would break out if he was to march again. Well I must bring my letter to a close for I have got to help the boys pitch the tent and it is getting late. Give my love to all. Tell Amandy and John that I got their letter and I will answer it just as soon as I can. I got the one that you wrote with the lock of hair and have answered it. You must write often. I am well and tough as ever. Well Good Bye for the present. This from your affectionate Husband,

Arza Bartholomew, Jr.

to his old vim vim,

you understand

Park Barracks

Sunday Mng. Oct 12, 1862

Dear Frank:

I thought I would write you a few lines once more as I have got tired of waiting for a letter from you, but I suppose they have all gone to the regiment so I will excuse you for not writing. I suppose you write as often as you get a letter from me. I am getting a little better now but I don't get any strength at all. I have a kind of a dumb ague. I have a kind of a fever and chill every afternoon, but I am pretty well in the morning. I think I will be able to go to the Regiment in a few days but I can't tell how soon there will be a chance to get to it. Now Frank, I want to have you write all about our business and tell me how things go on in that place. I want to know how many potatoes there was for I suppose they are dug and how the Buckwheat turned out and what you have done with the hogs. If you can sell them do so, but if you can't sell them why you will have to fat them if there is corn enough. I want to know whether they have sowed the wheat on my place. In fact, I want to know all the news and some that are not news. They are news to us. Anything you can write is as acceptable here. I have not heard from William since I came here. We heard they was in the battle but I guess it is not so, for it was mostly Kentucky and Ohio men that were engaged in the fight. I want you to have father send me the paper for these papers here don't never tell anything about the Michigan troops at all. Have him direct them to Park Barracks and don't put the Co. or Reg. on at all. Well I can't think of any more to write at present for I haven't had a letter since I wrote the last one. You must excuse me for writing with a pencil for I can't get ink to write with here, and I have no good place here anyway. I have not heard from Ross since I came here and I don't know where to write to him. If he has wrote home and you know where he is I want you to write and let me know so that I can go and see him. Well I can think of no more this time so good bye,

From your affectionate Husband

Arza

Park Barracks

Oct. 19, 1960

Dear Frank:

I just received your kind letter of the 14th of Oct. and you can imagine something of the pleasure it gave me when I got it. I have been here almost 3 weeks and this is the first one that I have got since I came here. I got one just before I left the Reg. which I answered after I came here. I have not got the letter that you wrote about Jenette being killed. I wish you had of written the particulars of it. I suppose the letter that you wrote has gone to the Reg. but I may get it, for the letters that were directed to the Reg. are all here and there was a Lieutenant that got left by being sick is going to open the packages and the letters that belong to the soldiers that are sick, their letters are to be taken out and brought to them, so perhaps I shall get a letter tomorrow and if I do I will answer them immediately. I have not heard a word from ~~the Reg. yet, but I expect~~ Mr. Ross yet, but I expect he is at some hospital in town. His foot was no better when I saw him last. We were all ordered to go to the hospital that were not able to march with the Reg. I had a pretty hard cold and had just taken a portion of Pills and was pretty weak so the Captain told me to stay and come with the Baggage, but the surgeon put a veto on that and ordered us to the Barracks and we were marched to town. They were so full that they could not take us in, so the most of the boys had to lie on the sidewalk, but I was more fortunate and so was Ross, for we went into a house and slept and the next day we were marched to this place. I am pretty well except the dysentery that makes me pretty weak but I don't think it will be very serious. I don't know when I can get to the Reg. for they are a good ways from here now. I have heard by men that came back from there and they say that the Companies are reduced to from 30 to 40 men so you see that I am not the only one that could not stand the march. The Boys all threw their knapsacks and overcoats away and all they kept was their blankets so that they could march easy. I heard that they marched 24 hours without stopping. That is enough to kill anything that is human. Our Orderly Sgt. was taken Prisoner on the march. He went to a spring and was taken prisoner, and paroled, and he is in town now. I want you should write about Jenette being killed for I may not get the letter at all, and I want to know the full particulars of it. You must keep up good courage for it may not be long before the war will be over and then I shall come home to my dear old woman and then you will be repaid for all of your trouble. You need not let anyone have the money without hand security and I am not very particular whether you let it or not. Well I must stop. We had preaching here today. No more at present, this from your affectionate husband.

Arza

Park Barracks
Oct. 23rd, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received your kind letter of the 19th and you may be sure I was glad to hear from you once more although I have nothing to complain of since I came here, in the line of letters. I have got 3 since I came to this place, two from you and one from Amanda. I got one from you and one from Amanda last evening and I thought I would answer it immediately. I have no news of importance to write at present. We were all ordered to pack up and go to the Reg. this morning but the commander of the barracks excused me from going on account of my health. I am pretty well, all but being weak. I have had the dysentery until I am pretty weak in the legs but it has entirely left me now, so that I am only weak. As soon as I get strength I shall be able to join my Reg. but it is hard telling when there will be another chance to get to the Reg. I have not heard from William yet. The Reg. is about 150 miles from this place and I suppose they are still on the march but I am not certain about that. The Rebels are still on the retreat and the supposition is that our Army will follow them up, but time will tell better than I or an other individual. I am very well pleased with the way you have managed the business, you are equal to any man. You may tell father that he can use his own judgment about what to sow the land to. I want it seeded down at all events. In the Spring, if it is possible for it to be sown, I think that Spring wheat will be the most profits to both. Or Oats if it is too late and wet in the Spring for wheat, and I wish to have the ground that Rice clears put into wheat and seeded down when it is sown to wheat. Please write when that was to be done that Rice was to clear. I should like to know so that I could tell whether it is according to agreement or not.

Now I will try and describe a couple of Secesh soldiers that were brought into this camp this morning. You would think that they were anything but soldiers, they were dressed in a suit of cotton clothes colored a buttermut color. Their coat and pants were of the same kind of cloth and such dirty looking fellows you never saw in your life. They were deserters from Braggs Army. They said that there was two more with them, but they gave out on the road and stopped. I could not get a chance to hear them talk for they were taken to head-quarters and from there to town. The Rebels seem to be tired fo fighting but they fight w when they are drove to it like very devils.

I got a word from Ross the other day, that he was in No. 1 barracks, so I got a pass and went down to see him but I could not find anything of him. I was so tired that I could hardly get back to camp again. You wondered how it was that we did not know where one another was, but I am about 2½ miles from town and he is in town. Well I must bring my letter to a close. Tell Father not to send any more papers for I don't get any of them at all. You need not be afraid to write anything that you want to, for nobody but me will see it. I shall be very anxious to hear from you now, You may depend. Don't wait for a letter from me, but write every week. This from your affectionate husband

Arza

Bowling Green

Sunday Morning, Nov. 2nd, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received a letter last night, bringing the news of your sickness. You may think me hard harted, but I was glad to hear that you had got through with what has been a source of great anxiety to me, and I know it had to you. But Thank God, I hope it is over with. I have been looking for a letter from you. It is a great relief to me at any rate. I left Louisville Saturday for the Reg. and came to their camp last night and found the Boys all well with the exception of being pretty tired with the marching, but they are all in good spirits and that is the main thing with a soldier. We are all resting today and can't tell how long we shall remain here but probably not long. But you know just as well as I do. Bragg has got away and it is hard telling whether we shall follow him or not. The Boys have been near enough to a battle to smell gun powder. I did not have the honor of participating, but I may yet, for all of that. I am very well pleased to get back to the Reg. once more. I can tell you it seemed like getting home, to see all of their faces once more. We are encamped in a very pretty place and we have good water which is everything in a camp.

Now Frank, I want you should take good care of yourself and the little one whose name I have not learned. I want you to hire someone to take care of you until you are perfectly well and able to work. But don't be in any hurry either about going to work for the cost is nothing to your health, which is everything to me. I am surprised to hear the weight of the soldier. He will be able to help a good deal by next summer, won't he. I want you to describe him to me in your next letter, yourself. I am afraid that others only make him a little more than he really is, but you can tell me all about it yourself. I would have been glad to have been there but it was otherwise and can't be helped. But keep up good courage for a little while and I will be with you again if the Lord spares my life. It seems as though I should be there in a short time. At any rate I hope this war will end by next Spring and it will if they will let the men have a chance to fight. But if they don't then there is no knowing anything about it.

Now I want you to keep the money unless you can let it for 6 months and with good security for I calculate to want it to use when I come and if it was out for a year, I could not get it to use.

My health is good now and I am getting pretty strong so that I think I can stand it first rate. Please excuse bad writing for I have no chance at all. Tell Father that I thank him and mother for writing to me and just as quick as I can I will answer it.

Give my love to all. Now take good care of yourself and write soon. Direct to the Reg. as you did before I left it. Good bye for the present from your affectionate husband

Arza

Mitchellville, Tennessee

Nov. 6th, 1862

Dear Frank:

I write under different circumstances. Only 2 days ago we left Bowling Green and now we are in Tenn., but only just over the line. We had a pretty hard march of 2 days but we all stood it first rate. It was a little hard on my feet for I have lain still so long that my feet was tender.

There is a rumor that we shall stay here for a while and guard this place. The 1st Mich. Engineers and Mechanics are here, and they are going to build a storehouse that Rebels burned. There is a piece of the road they they destroyed. There is a tunnel about a mile and a half that they run a train of cars into from each end and set fire to them and blowed the tunnel up and they say that there has been a fire in there for 2 months and it will be something of a job to clear it out and if we are allowed to stay here and guard this place until they get the Road in running order we shall have to stay quite a while.

There is a great difference in the feelings of the soldiers since Buell has been relieved of the command of this army. They think that if Rosecrans gets a chance at the Secesh that they won't get away as easy as they have before. We have got some Generals that will give them fits if they get a chance at them. Well I hardly know what to write. I have not heard of any news since I left Louisville. We can't get any news while we are on the move that there is any dependence in, but if we believed all we hear we should all be at home in 2 months. The Wisconsin troops all voted for their State Officers but the people of Michigan don't think their soldiers votes are worth anything, but I hope they will elect the best men. I don't think that the troops are ~~taxwaterfor~~ well enough informed to tell who they do want to vote for. The Wisc. troops went Democratic. That is the majority.

I just wish that you could see the country that we have come through. There is hardly a fence left in the state of Kentucky and they will take just what they want if they are short of meat they will take the last cow a man has and poultry is free for anyone and so is hogs and sheep. You know but little of the horrors of war where it is carried to such an extent as it has been in this state. There is the poorest houses in this state that I ever saw in my life. We would hardly think of wintering our cattle in them, but the Rich have good houses but no barns. I have not seen anyplace that I like as well as I do our own state. It is either all stone or clay as hard as a stone. We are filling our Reg. with contrabands. Our Capt. has two and every Officer almost has from one to two apiece. I expect each Non-commissioned Officer will have one before we get through but if they all liked them as well as I do, they would not have as many shades in camp as they do now. After they have been in camp a little while they are the biggest men in the mess. I have no confidence in a nigger at all. If they should get with the Rebels they would tell them all they knew. Well enough of the nigger. The boys are all well and in good spirits and prettymuch all are writing to their wives and sweethearts. William is dipping his pen into the same inkstand to write to Father and Eber is the same way writing to Burt Hancock. Lew and Sile are well and both writing. Tell Mrs. Ross that the Capt. has sent his, that is Ross's descriptive roll to him. Tell here to write to Ross to that effect. I did not see him while I was in Louisville. I was in town 2 days and did not see him at all. Give my love to all and tell Father take good care of the boys and tell me who he looks like for I want to know whose it is for you know I have my doubts about the fellow, for I expected a girl. Write twice a week and direct to Louisville just the same as you have. Well ~~enough~~ I have wrote nonsense enough. Don't worry about me for I am well and tough as a bear. From your affectionate husband

Arza

Naashville, Tenn.
Wednesday Nov. 12, 1862

Dear Frank:

I take my seat on my knapsack once more to write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. We arrived in this place last Monday about 2 o'clock in the afternoon and went into camp in a piece of woods about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from town on the north side of the River. It is a very good camp in the woods. We have to bring our water from the Cumberland River, that there was so much fighting done on last winter. I will give you a description of the River and the other great sights to be seen as far as I have had an opportunity of going and that is not far. The River at the present stage of water is about $\frac{1}{2}$ as large as Grand River but if it comes up to high water mark, it must be quite a little stream, for they say that it raises 60 & 70 feet higher than it is at present. It is very low now. The Rebels have done a great deal of damage here. They destroyed a most splendid suspension Bridge that crossed the River, that could not have cost less than a million dollars and another that was built with piers and timber that was a pretty costly bridge. It looks hard to see so much property destroyed, as there is on the whole road that we have traveled over. It is amusing to see us as soon as we stack our arms for the night when we go into camp. There is a perfect stampede for rails. The fences move off as is by magic. Every man does his best to get the most rails he can. Well we have got to go on battalion drill

Wednesday evening. I will try and finish my letter this time. We had a Brigade drill this afternoon and we had the honor of seeing Gen. Rosencrans and having him inspect us. I like the looks of him very well. The soldiers all have perfect confidence in him and think that where he goes that the Seesah will be made scarce. I suppose you will want to know when we left Mitchelville. We left there Saturday about noon and traveled 5 miles and Sunday we resumed our march and made 20 miles before we went into camp for the night. We can't pay much respect for the Sabbath here a soldiering, sometimes. We marched 12 miles on Monday and got through by noon. Oh, by the way, I had almost forgotten to tell you that the Wolverines are the best company in the Reg. When we traveled 20 miles in a day, and the dust so thick that a man could not hardly see the man in front of him, we all stacked our arms at night and the other companies were not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ up with the company at night. I tell you the old Colonel noticed it and the next day they wanted an advance guard for fear of Gen. Morgan as he cuts some strange pranks in these parts with our Baggage Trains. So who does he pick for the position but the Ottawa Wolverines and we loaded our old Rifles with the hope of ^{his} showing his Rebel head but he disappointed us for once and the guns are loaded yet. I think that we have got Old Kentucky pretty well cleaned. There will probably be a few bushwhackers but it is hard to tell who they are for. They are good loyal citizens when we are there, but as soon as we are gone and they can pick up a few sick men and get a wagon train, they are soldiers. We had a pretty good rain here last night, the first I have seen of any account since we came to Kentucky. Frank, I want you to write all of the news for a newspaper is a luxury that we are not blessed with here. Write the war news for we have all kinds of rumours. One day they will tell that Richmond is taken and another that England and France had ordered us to stop fighting and it keeps us in doubt all the time. So you need not be put to it for news for me at any time, and write twice a week at least. Tell father that I did not get the one that Wheeler spoke about. I guess you directed to the Barracks. Well I will have to bring my letter to a close for I have filled my sheet pretty well this time. The boys are all well. William & Sile are writing by the same candle that I am. My health is 1st rate since I got back with the Boys. You must take good care of the boy and tell me what you have named him and when he is large enough get his and your likeness taken and send it to me by mail for I want to see how the fellow looks. I suppose you will think he is handsome as can be, considering his parents. Tell father to write to me if he can see to write and I will answer if we stay long enough in a place.. Will I will bid you good bye and a good kiss for you and the little one. Give my love to all. This from your Affect. husband

Arza

You wanted me to send a name for the boy. Now it is hard for me to tell what name I do want for him. If I could see him I could tell better what to call him. I would much rather you would name him yourself, but you can write and tell me what you want and I will tell you in ~~my~~ next, what to call him.

Nashville, Tenn.

Sunday Morning, Nov. 16th, 1862

Dear Frank:

As it is Sunday and I have a few moments to spare I thought that I could not spend it better than by writing you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along, although I wrote only 3 or 4 days ago, but I promised to write every opportunity and I am going to fulfill every promise that I am able to and I want you to do the same for there is no regular mail here yet, but there will be, just as soon as they get the Railroad done. They think it will be done in a week or two. I have not had a letter since the day I got to Bowling Green but that doesn't discourage me in the least for I have written 4 since I got a any. I shall keep doing just the same until I get home and I don't think that will be a great while, if they give us a chance to fight them. I guess that they will do that for Gen. Rosencrans is putting things right. Though the state of Kentucky is pretty much clear there are a few Bushwhackers, but it is hard finding them out for they are good loyal citizens but just as soon as we are gone and they can get a chance to cut off a few wagons they will do it, but they get fooled a little once in awhile. There is an immense army here. You can form nothing of an opinion of it without seeing it. We are encamped about 1 mile from the River where the City is. We are on the north side of the River and the principal part of the city is on the south side. I gave you a full description of the place in my other letter and I think you will get that without any doubt. If you don't, I will tell you more in my next. There ~~is~~ is nothing of importance to write from here. I am getting so ignorant that I hardly know who is president of the United States, and consequently I want you to write what the news are, for I have not had a paper since we left Louisville. They will not carry a paper if they have a great deal of mail so you will be doing me a great favor by writing often and writing all the news. Write what the prospect is of peace and if there is any talk of intervention. I can't tell whether I am pleased with the election or not but I rather think I am. Probably father will think I am getting to be a Democrat, but I guess not, but I am glad that Church was elected over Kellogg. I think Kellogg was too much of a fanatic to suit me and I believe that Church was a good Union man. There has got to be good sound Union men to settle this war and no fiery abolition fire-eaters. I am getting perfectly disgusted with these Contrabands. There is no trusting one of them. They will steal the last cent a man has. The Captain got two of them and one was so honest that he wanted to borrow a revolver of Milo Hatch and he lent it to him, and he borrowed a good jack-knife of another fellow and he left and forgot to come back again. It was amusing to see how eager the Officers were to get a nigger to wait on them. The Old Chaplain got two and one of them stole his Revolver and left for town and forgot to come back also. I have an idea that the nigger is about played out. I hope that our place will never be blessed by one more of them than there is now. Will I will say no more of the nigger at present. The boys are all well at present. William is on guard today. The Lieut. Colonel died last night. He was ~~sick~~ not sick over 5 days before he died. The Boys did not like him as well as they do the other Officers but he was a brave man for all of that. Lew & Sile are well. There is a good many a little sick but not many that are very sick. Well I can think of no more at present. You must write often, twice a week at least. Tell father to write the news to me for I don't know anything at all. If I was obliged to stay here 3 years I would not know what state I belonged to. Write all about the young soldier that you have found and tell me all about the young chap for I would like to form some kind of an idea about him. I hope you are well. Lew got a letter today from Matilda and she did not say anything about you. I suppose you have cold weather there now. We have quite mild weather here. It is raining here today but very slow. It has been dry all summer. Eaber is off foraging. He was out yesterday and got a pig. They live on the country as much as they can. There is not much left now. No more at present so good bye. This from your affectionate husband.

A za

On picket 8 miles South of Nashville

Sunday, Jovember 23, 1862

Dear Frank:

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I improve the present opportunity of adressing you once more through the medium of the pen, although it has been 3 weeks since I have received a scratch of a pen from anyone. The day I left Louisville I got one letter from Dr. Niles and Father and that is the last ~~time~~ I have received myself, but the other boys got letters so that I hear from home once in awhile. We left Nashville yesterday and I suppose it is a prelude to an advance, but of course I can't tell until it is fairly under way, but but things begin to look a little that way. They have the Railroad about complete so that there is not the trouble to get supplies that there was before, as the provisions had to be transported ~~30~~ miles by team and it took a very strong force to guard a train for fear of the Rebel Cavalry which tried to capture ~~xxxx~~ a train that was going through the mountain but they failed for the want of men which is very often the case with them. There is a pretty large force here at present but I can't tell the amount of men. The country is all alive with camps and teams all over the country, foraging, which is a pretty profitable business for Uncle Sam as his boys are very faithful hands at it. We get a little fresh meat now and then just as soon as we got into camp last night there was a perfect rush for Pork which was plenty and fat as mud. I must tell you a little anecdote of our Brigadier. He was riding around looking at things in general when a gun was discharged that attracted his attention and he rode over that way to ascertain the cause when he discovered our old friend Lew and a couple more of the boys at work skinning a fine porker (which by the way is the only mode of dressing a hog that we have in this part of the Confederacy) when our friend thought best to leave his prize and pretend to be carrying rails for a fire when the old fellow followed him up until he got close enough to speak to him when he said that those fellows was making off well. Says he, I would not take anymore than I wanted and especially of the rails. Two or three ought to do for a man. You may be sure we had a good ham for our squad that night. We can live likd fighting cocks for awhile in this country, for the pigs and hens are plenty here, and we have learned to board with them, if they have anything to eat which by the way, is not always the case where we have been, for where the Army moves they take everything there is to eat for man or beast. Well I can think of no more news to write, so I will write something of our health. We are all well at present and able to eat the Rations that Uncle Sam furnishes together with all that we pick up which is quite an item, and sometimes quite a luxury. Oh, I had almost forgotten. There was a very sad tragedy ~~that~~ took place the other day in camp. One of our comrades that messed with us was taken sick and lay in the tent for about 3 or 4 days when he was taken to the Hospital tent and stayed there one night and the next morning he came to our tent and stayed awhile and told us that the Doctor was going to take him to the Hospital. In about 2 hours we were informed that he had shot himself. Sure enough, he committed suicide by putting a Revolver to his forehead and blowing his brains out. We can't live any reason for such conduct in a soldier ~~farayx~~ For my part, I prefer waiting and letting nature take her course. Well I will have to bid you a good Bye, hoping that you are ~~more~~ more fortunate in getting letters of mine than I am of you. Write the news and direct to me as father did to William, and I will bid you a good Bye. This from your affectionate Husband and the father of 10 pounds of boy.

Arza

Headquarters, 21st Regiment

November 24, 1862

Dear Frank:

I found on coming into Camp, to my joy, a letter and I had not closed my letter yet, so I thought I would just answer it as it has been so long since I got a letter that I hardly knew how to act over it. I am very sorry to hear that you have such a hard time with your breast. I wish I could be there to help take care of you and the baby. I want you to have the house fixed, for if it leaks you can't live in it and it won't cost a great deal to shingle our part of it and make it comfortable, and the cost is nothing to me in comparison to your comfort. And if you are not well, hire someone to help take care of you and the boy.

You spoke about John McMann being promoted. He is, but it is to 8th Corporal of Co. G., where he stood when we left Camp Sigel. He came very near being elected one notch higher when I went to the Hospital. If I had of died there he would have been promoted, but I lived to get back and his hopes were blasted. He went while we were in Louisville and had a stripe put on each leg and bought a nice military vest, so you can see how near he came to being promoted.

You spoke of writing a letter about the time I left Louisville. I never got it but I got the one that Father wrote to me the same day that I left Louisville. Just as I reached Bowling Green a man that was at the Barracks handed that letter to me and that is the last letter that I have got from anybody until today. I answered that the very next day after I got it, so that I don't consider I owe anybody a letter. I have written as many as two a week since I came here. Well I must tell you about our picketing. It is fun, and no mistake, for we can get any amount of fresh pork and turkeys to bring to camp. The weather is fine as it ever is there in September. There is some frosty nights but the days are pleasant and warm. It is just such weather as we have in that country in Indian summer. This is a most splendid country here in Tenn. as I ever saw anywhere in my life. We came very near having a little brush with the Rebel Cavalry. The Captain went out scouting and came to a house where there had been quite a force, some sixty in number. They must have made good their escape and that was about all. If they had of been 10 minutes later they would have had a chance at them, but as it was, the boys got the dinner that was prepared for them. I did not have the honor of attending the expedition as I was put in charge of a post of pickets but I will have some of the turkey that was captured from the old Secesh. Tell father that I have written him two letters since I left Louisville and I will write him another one as soon as I get time. I heard by the way of a sick man that came to the Reg. from the barracks that Petet Ross came to see me and I had just gone. He said that Ross was quite mad because I had not been to see him. Well the way that was, I did not know where to go until he wrote his address and sent it to me. Well, the next day I got a pass and went to the other place and looked as long as my pass lasted, for him, but could not find him at all. When I went away from the Barracks to Louisville, I went there and stayed there 2 days and could not find anything of him. There was a man that said he slept with him but he had gone and he did not know where he had gone. I am glad he is going to get his discharge, if he is lame, for a man can't do anything soldiering if he is lame. All I ask is to have my health and I can stand anything that is reasonable. All I want is to see it honorably settled and all of us be permitted to come home with our health. Tell me in your next whether you ~~can~~ think of going to Mr. Bruce if you chose you can as you like. I have plenty of stamps for the present. You will have to name the Boy what you choose and you will suit me. All but one name, and you know what that is. Well I must close. William is well and so is all of the other boys. I will bid you a good Bye for the present. This from your affect. husband.

Arza

Hqs., 21st Reg. Michl Infantry, Mill Creek, Tenn.

Nov. 27th, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received your welcome letter bearing date 19th and you may be sure I was glad to hear from you once more. I had almost given up hearing from you again but I ~~wonderfully~~ was happily disappointed. I am very sorry to hear that you are having such a bad time with your breast. I should like to be there and help you along but there is no use of talking about home at present, but it seems to me that I shall be there before long. At any rate, I hope so on your account, for I know that you are very lonesome without me to help you get along. I think you are more lonesome than I am but you must keep up good spirits and hope for the best. This is always your doctrine, you know, to me. It pains me to hear that you have been so sick but thanks to a kind providence you got along and lived through it. I would have been glad to of been with you but I could not. I am glad to hear that Father and Mother are so kind to you. They will be doubly dear to me by being so kind to you when you are sick. You must be careful and not get cold if you can help it. I think you had better hire someone to help you until you are better. You spoke of going to stay with Mr. Bruce. You can do as you think it best for you. If the house is cold you must get someone to fix it or go and stay somewhere until it is warm weather. I expect to be there by the time warm weather comes. At any rate you need not be surprised if you see us there by the 1st of May.

I have never got the letter that you wrote me and sent the baby's hair in, nor the one that Father wrote me. You tell him that as soon as I get time I will write him a letter but we are drilling so much that we hardly get time for anything else. But as soon as there is any news to write him, that I will write a long letter to him and Mother. Tell Charles that I should like to have him write to me as soon as he can. We are in readiness all the time for a battle. Today is Thanksgiving so we have not a great deal to do. We were called out on dress parade and the Colonel said that we might be called on to reinforce the other troops that are in advance and we have heard some firing. There was quite a number of troops gone out this morning, but I don't think there will be a very heavy battle here. We have too strong a force in this vicinity for them. Well I have just been surprised by seeing you can't guess who. Well, it is Peter Ross. He just came up with us. He is lame yet and he walked to the Reg., about 10 miles from town. He came on the cars from Louisville to Nashville. He could have got his discharge if he had got his descriptive roll, but I think that he will get it now, for he is too lame to travel on foot. But it will be doubtful how soon he is discharged, but I hope he will soon, for if a man can't keep up with the Reg., he is lonesome. Oh, Pet Snider has lost his voice entirely, so that he can't speak louder than a whisper. Well I can think of no more news to write you today. I will write again soon. Oh, Frank, you did right enough with the money, William was perfectly satisfied. If I come home right off, I shall want it soon as I can get it. The Boys are all well as usual. Silie is learning to fife. Oh, I forgot, John McMann has been promoted to 7th Corporal. It happened by the orderly being taken prisoner so that there was a general promotion of all of the Non-commissioned Officers. It happened night before last. Please tell how many potatoes we had and how much corn. You had better sell the Pork if you can sell it readily I hear that hay is high there this year. Probably we will have some to sell. The weather is delightful at present, very dry. Well, no more at present, so good bye, from your affectionate husband.

Arza

Camp on Mill Creek
Sunday Morning, Dec. 7, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received your welcome letter bearing date Nov. 28 last Friday night and I trust you will excuse my not answering it immediately for I had just put one in the office for you and Father & Mother all in one. I guess that you will think that I come up to Sally's man for writing often but I think you for one will excuse me for I take a great pleasure in writing to you, for it seems like talking to you.

I am very sorry that you are having such a hard time with your breast but I am in hopes that you will get better very soon. I see that you have a good deal of trouble with the boy, but you say that he is a nice little fellow for all of that. I guess you think something of him at that. I was very pleased to hear that you had heard from Lute and to hear that he was well and in good spirits. I think that we are in better spirits than you are at home. I am very sorry that father's eyes are so bad. I am afraid that he will be entirely blind yet, but I hope not. You stated that you had written a letter stating that you had let our money out. Well I got that all right. I was very much pleased to get that lock of hair of the babys. I have dreamed of him every night since you wrote and sent to me. Oh, I must tell you about my dream last night. I thought that I was going home and when I got almost there I began to wonder how you would look taking care of a baby. You wanted to know if I was contented here. Well, to tell you the truth, if it was not for you I would just as lief be here as not, but I had, as you know, rather be with you than anywhere else. I don't believe there is a single man in this Co. that is anymore contented than I am. There is something about soldiering that I really like, but we have to endure hardships that you can tell nothing of, but as soon as we get to camp it is all over and forgotten and then we have something to talk over among ourselves. I don't think that we shall have as hard a time again as we have. I have not had as hard a time as all of the others but I have had a little share of the fun. The boys are all well as usual. At present William is better than when I wrote before. I am perfectly well and tough as a bear. Mr. Ross wants I should tell Mrs. Ross that he has not got his discharge yet and he says that he does not expect to. He says that he is getting gritty and doesn't want any. He got a paper of disability from the Surgeon of the Regiment and went to Nashville to be examined and he did not pass. His foot is a good deal better than it was. He was going to write today but he thought that he would wait until he sees whether she got his letter or not, telling her not to come to Louisville. He doesn't know whether he can get back to Louisville or not, now, since he has gotten here. Well, I must go to meeting for that is the order. I will resume my writing again, meeting is over. I want you to write about whether the Cattle are all right and how much the pigs weigh for I suppose you have killed them by this time, for I want to know all about the affairs at home, just as much as though I was there, and perhaps more.. I have got the little lock of hair that you sent to me. It is as black as mine so I don't know but what I will have to own him, at any rate, as mine. Just as soon as he is large enough to get his likeness taken I want you to get yours and his and send it to me for I want to know how he looks. Tell Father that I wrote to him and as soon as I get time I will write again. I write a letter to someone almost every day. I wrote to Lute and Patience, as you wanted me to do. Well I must bring my letter to a close for it won't pay to write every day and write long letters. Lew writes about one a day and writes on foolscap at that. Our Co. is getting pretty small I tell you, for they have taken our 2nd Lt. and John McMann and two other men for fusiliers and today they have taken 6 more men for Sharpshooters, amongst them is Frank Garrison. Well, I will bid you a good bye for this time but I will have to write again soon and you must do the same for I want to hear from you often. Give my love to all of the friends and keep a good share for yourself. This from your affectionate husband,

Arza Bartholomew, Jr.

Dec. 14th, 1862

Dear Frank:

I received your letter Friday, bearing the date 7th Dec. and was very glad to hear from you but was ~~very~~ sorry to hear that you was not well, but I hope that you will not get down sick for I cannot be there to take care of you. I am very sorry for Father for I don't know what he will do if he gets blind and only Wheeler to depend on, but I am in hopes that he can be cured by that Doctor that you spoke of that they are writing to. You must excuse me for not writing yesterday for I did not have time for we drew a ration of soap yesterday and we had not had any before for two weeks and you ~~may~~ may be sure we wanted to wash. I just wish you could see us all down on our knees. I tell you that we present a very humble appearance and the cloths present a splendid scene. They resemble a union flag, only the stripes are all grey instead of red and white. I suppose you would call us poor hands to wash but we are as good as the rest of the soldiers. Oh, I must tell you about our little shelter tents that Uncle Samuel has sent to us for our special benefit. I will try and describe them to you. They are made of common factory and they are in two parts and each piece is two breadths long and about the size the other way of a sheet. They will admit of two men. That is about 5 feet of a man, so that there is from 6 inches to 2 feet of a man that lays out of doors. But the man can take his choice of the end that lays out of doors which is a great accomodation. At least there has been no order telling us which end must be left out, but we expect there will be. I will try and draw a picture of one so that you can see and form some kind of an opinion of the comfort of a shelter tent. But we have not given up our other tents yet and some Regiments talk pretty strongly of not giving up their tents. I don't think that the General in Command will be in a hurry to take the tents from us. The boys was out on picket day before yesterday and the Secesh Cavalry made a dash but they did not come up near enough to give the boys a chance to fire before they made off. I was not out that day for I was on guard and so I did not get a sight of the Butternuts. I do not think there will be an advance at once, but there may be soon. There is a general organization of the Army here now. There was about 20,000 Cavalry arrived in this vicinity in the last week. We lacked Cavalry very much, for the Secesh have lots of them and we did not have any to speak of, so they had the advantage of us in that respect. But our Cavalry went right at them and took about 30 prisoners and killed 6 at a little town a few miles out from where we are. You wrote that you had about 6 inches of snow. Well it is warm, pleasant weather here at present, as warm as it is there in the month of April and a good deal such weather. But how long it will last is hard to say. Mr. Ross has gone to the Hospital. He went the day I was on guard and so I did not see him before he went. His foot is all healed up but he is afraid it will break out again if he should march on it, but it is rather doubtful whether he gets his discharge right off. But they might as well send him home as to keep him for he is bound not to do anything if he can help it. But if I was in his place I had rather do duty than to go to the Hospital but every one to his notion. He got a letter from Mrs. Ross. She was in Louisville. He was sorry that he did not stay but he thought if he could get to this place he could get his discharge, but it was a perfect failure. Well I will tell you how we are. Our Co. is getting pretty small, for they are detailing men all of the time for something and there is a good many that have gone to the Hospital but none that you are acquainted with but Tip. He has gone. We got a letter from him yesterday. He is not very sick but if a man is not able to do duty he has got to go to the hospital. The other boys are all well as usual. Lew is not very well but is able for duty. Wm. and myself are well. They all say that they never see me so tough as I am now. I can eat about 4 hardtack to a meal. We are living pretty fast now. We have pancakes every day and Coffee to sell so that we can buy paper to write all we want to, which is quite an item with us. I will give you some of the prices down in Tennessee. Sugar is 30¢, Coffee is 50¢ and butter is 60¢ and the sutler has it in cans that will hold about one pound and a half and he charged ten shillings a can. They have fruit in cans that will hold about a pint and they are a dollar a can.

If Mr. Bruce has his cans of fruit here he could sell it at a paying price but I hardly think he will come down here yet a while to sell fruit. I wish I had some of our Butter here this winter but I am getting so that I don't miss it as much as I did while I was in Camp Sigel, but it would be good for all of that. But we live better than I thought we should down here. We have plenty. We draw flour and we are getting so that we make fried cakes and what the boys call flitters. They are first rate to eat, at any rate. We draw tea about once a week and we have more coffee than we can use and fresh Beef about twice or three times a week. You could make a good meal of it if you had what we have to cook, but we are learning pretty fast to cook. I expect we will be paid off about the first of January but I can't tell for certain. The most of the boys are out of money now and would have been if they had had 50 dollars. I have lent some and am not out yet. The old sutler don't get any of my money to make him rich. ~~But~~ Our Lt. Colonel has come to the Reg. There is a great difference in him and the one that died. He is a very pleasant man, if he only holds out as good as he begins. I suppose you are at Mr. Bruce's by this time. If they want you to stay there, I don't know but it is the best you can do this winter, if the house leaks and it will be lonesome for you now and the Baby might get cold in that house. You wanted I should tell you what to name the boy. I had as leave you would call it what you want to as anything that I can think of. Take good care of the little fellow and he will make something yet. Give my love to Mr. Bruce and Anna and Dennis and tell them to write and I will answer all that they can send. Well I will bring this to a close for this time. I am going to number my letters and would you do the same so that I will know whether I get all of them or not. This is No. 1. No more at present. This from your affectionate husband

Arza

Letter No. 2. I shall number all of my letters and I want you to do the same so I can tell whether you get all of them or not.

Camp on Mill Creek
Dec. 17, 1862

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I improve the present opportunity of addressing a few lines once more to you to let you know that I am well. It has been 5 days since I received a letter and I thought I would not wait for a letter to answer but would write about once in 4 days. There is times when I cannot write just when I want to, for we are drilling pretty much all of the time at present. I got a letter from Patience, Sunday, and she said that they were all well but your Father and he is not better than when he was in Ionia, and George Gary was troubled with that cancer but was better than he had been. She said that she is not at home at present and has not been for two weeks, but was going the next Sunday. She says that Didi weighs 154 pounds. She rather thinks that you have done a pretty large thing writing to her. Three of you only filled half a sheet. She says that you brag over the boy a good deal. She wants to name the little fellow but I told her in my other letter that you had named him and that she could name the other one which would be a girl. She wants ~~me~~ ~~me~~ me to send here my likeness but I don't think I can get it taken at present, for we are 6 miles from Nashville and no way of getting there at present. We are in the same camp that we were when I wrote to you the other time and there is no prospect of our leaving here at present. Yesterday we were ordered out to hunt up the Rebels and about noon we started off in a southern direction and went about 5 or 6 miles but failed to discover anything of the enemy. We went out with the 1st Missouri Battery and just the Brigade that we are in. We traveled out and back from noon until about 6 o'clock. You had better believe we had done some tall walking but we had nothing to carry but our guns, so that we can just go when we are light. I tell you we are running down fast. The Reg. is not half what it was when we left Camp Sigel. We get out about 200 men on drill at present. The toughest men are the 1st to give out. We have 80 men in our Company when we go on drill, but there is lots in the Hospital and lots lying around in the tent. Sile has gone to the Hospital. I told you about it in my last. He is getting along 1st rate. That is he was the last time I heard of him. Lew Robinson is some sick and will go to the Hospital tomorrow. I expect there have been a good many that have lost their speech. One of the Two good boys has lost his speech and Rate Snider has lot his too. There was one man in another Co. that was taken all of a sudden and could not speak. He did not feel bad nor did not know what it was that ailed him. They are going to take all of the sick tomorrow to the Hospital. William and myself are well and hearty. William came very near losing his voice but he is alright now. Frank, tell Mr. Bruce that if he wants to raise peaches to come out here and buy a farm and all the niggers on it. There is a good chance to purchase here. This is the prettiest country that I ever saw in my life. You have seen pictures of landscapes with hills in the background. There are places here that will remind you of them. This country is pretty hilly but the land is splendid in Tenn. but in Kentucky I would not take a farm as a gift and live on it. But I think I will be contented in Michigan if I get back all right in the Spring. We have heard that our Army on the Potomac was whipped out, but I hope not for that would be a hard blow for the Union. Well, I must bring my letter to a close for it is bedtime and we have to be in bed by nine. No more at present. Write often and I will do the same. This from your affectionate husband,

Arza Bartholomew, Jr.

Camp on Mill Creek, Tenn.
Dec. 20, 1862

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I improve the present moments of leisure in answering your kind letter bearing date Dec. 14th. I am very sorry to hear that you and the babe are sick but I am in hopes that you will be better the next time I hear from you. You must be very careful of yourself and get well as soon as possible, for I want you should enjoy yourself as well as you are capable of. I am afraid that you worry a good deal about me but you must not do that, for it will not do me any good and it will make you very miserable. You say that your breast is not better. You must doctor it and you had better go and see a doctor and get something to care for it. I am very sorry to hear that the babe is troublesome, but you will have to endure it until I get home and then I will help you. You say that Aunt and Uncle are very kind to you. We shall ever owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, but I will try. You think he is crying to see his Father. He will get over that when he forgets him a little, ~~xxxx~~ I think, don't you. I think that Peter played smart when he send for his wife to come out to Louisville. He wrote a letter to her not to come when he made his mind up to come to the Regiment, but it failed to reach her in time. It's characteristic of the man, he's just like a boy. He said he got a good place for her to go when she got there and she would not have to do anything, only serve a little, but I guess by the time he gets her back to Munica, that he will be about \$50 short, but I have nothing to say on the subject. He is determined to get his discharge or he won't do anything. I rather think that if he was at home that he could do a little at least, but he is the most worthless soldier that is in Co. G. But you must not tell anyone that I told you so. He was as lousy as a bear and he was too lazy to wash and keep rid of them. He gave us all of the body-guard that we were able to take care of, but just as soon as he left, we soon cleaned them out. Now Frank, I will answer your question that you ask in reference to our living. I will tell you just what rations we draw. We have crackers, all we want, and Bacon, Coffee and Sugar, Rice flour and fresh Beef twice a week, and tea about once a week. So you can see that we don't want for the substantials, but if we could get potatoes it would be better for us, but if you had what we do to cook, you could make pretty good livings of it. We are getting so that we are pretty good cooks. We have pancakes about once a day, since we draw flour, and as for clothing, a man can have all he can carry. I have seen more clothes thrown away since I have been in the Army than I could wear out in 5 years. Some of the boys will throw a shirt into the fire just as soon as it is dirty and draw another, but they are charged with them. I can assure you that I am as comfortable as I ever expected and more too. We have had some hard times marching in the dust but the roads are very nice now. It is quite warm weather here now, and pleasant. I suppose you are having sleighing out there, by this time. I like the climate here 1st rate. We have just heard that the Rebels have whipped Burnside, but we are in hopes that it is now so, for that would be a bad job. There is pretty brisk firing out in front today, but we have not heard what it is for, but I suppose it is a foraging party. They take about 2 Regiments of Infantry and a section of Artillery and a few Cavalry so that the Puttermuts, as we call them in this country, can hardly take a train of wagons. Well, Frank, I must tell you about the boys. William and myself are well and High Castle is well and so is Frank Garrison, but Lew & Sib are both to the hospital. Harlo Griswold is dead. He died last Monday in Nashville. The Captain has gone to town today to see the sick boys and I will not seal this up until he gets back so that I can tell you how they are. I have written one letter to Lute but have not received an answer yet. I want you to write to him and tell him that I have wrote to him and I would like to hear from him. I have wrote 2 letters to Patience and I got an answer to the 1st. Give my love to Aunt & Uncle and to Denice and all of the friends. No more on this sheet. This from your affectionate husband,

Apza Bartholomew

The Capt. has just returned from the Hospital and he says that the boys are getting along 1st rate.

Dear Frank:

I wish you a Merry Christmas. I suppose you are having a good time today, at least I hope you are. We are not doing much today. I suppose the General thought we would want to have a little time to ourselves but it does not seem much like Christmas here today. The weather is so mild that we can write with comfort in the tent without a fire. I guess it is not quite as warm there as that. I was looking at a wheatfield this morning and thinking how much different it was there. It looked as green and fresh as it would there in September. If it doesn't get any colder than it is now, it will not be very bad this winter. It can't be very long, for they commence planting in March. I must tell you of what has transpired since I wrote before. We were ordered on picket the day I mailed my last to you. Well, there was nothing very startling in that although Co. G. held the advance post. Consequently the post of danger. It's something to do, so we had just as lief be out there as not. It so happened that there was a house that must be guarded and I was detailed to guard it with the choice of 2 men. I took Wm. and Eber Rice and we had a very nice time you may be sure, for they gave us milk to put in coffee and all the sweet potatoes that we could eat. But that was not the best of it, for the old fellow had 2 girls and there was quite a strife between the boys in consequence. I might have stood a chance if Eber had not of told them that I was married. But you must not get jealous, for the boys were so much better looking that I have no chance with them at all. Eber thinks of sending this girl up north and having her sent to school to learn her to read. It is surprising to see how ignorant the poor class are. There is not $\frac{1}{2}$ of them that can read a word and it is not to be wondered at, for you can travel all day and not see a school house. I had a talkd with a man that lives here, that is poor, and he says that they had free schools in Nashville but they would not allow a poor man to send his children. That is the beauties of slave aristocracy. He said that a poorly dressed woman would be run over in the road by the rich, if she did not get out of the way. Well, I must give you a little description of a foraging party and the way it is conducted, for by that means the government seams are all kept in this army. I did not know nor could form no kind of an idea of the extent that they were carried ~~in the first place~~. In the first place, if they have to go out beyond the Picket lines there is about 4 regiments of Inf. taken, and a Battery and about from 100 to 300 four & six mule teams to load. The Infantry goes in front and in the rear and the battery goes about 2 pieces to a Reg. so that each Reg. can act independent of the other in case of an attack. There are skirmishers sent out in front to guard against a surprise and in that way they advance until they find enough to load all of the wagons. Then the battery is placed in a good position and the Regs. of Infantry are placed so as to guard the men that load. The principal forage is corn. It takes but a little while for us to harvest a man's corn for him and take it to market which by the way, is very handy where their niggers are all run away. But if they have hands to harvest it, it is all the better for we can load a great deal quicker. We struck tents yesterday and formed in to march about a dozen times, and at last we started with 3 days rations in our haversacks, for we did not know where and I guess nobody else did, for we marched out about 2 miles and came to a halt and the old Colonel gave us good advice how to fight in case we found the enemy, but while we were listening to him, the troops that went out ahead came back and we were aboutfaced and marched back to camp and our teams were there with the tents and we pitched them and we are here yet, with no prospect of leaving. Well I must bring this to a close for the want of room. We are all well and William is writing to John now on a cracker box by my side. I have not heard from Tip & Lew since I wrote last. Oh, P. Ross has gone to Louisville so I have heard. I will bid you good bye for tonight, for I have got to draw my rations. Give my love to all of the friends. This from your affectionate husband,

Area

Murphreesborough, Tenn.

Jan. 5, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with heartfelt thankfulness that I take time to drop a line once more to let you know that I have been spared to write you another letter. I have been through one of awefullest scenes that can be imagined. We met the enemy in a general engagement last Wednesday. I will not try to tell you anything about how long we fought but we were under fire about 5 days. One day was skirmishing and one day we were in it from daylight until dark and when we came off at night we had of our Regiment 85 men, but ~~many~~ a good many of them run away and did not come back for 3 or 4 days and some have not come. William and myself came off without a scratch but I can't see how it was, for I never heard such a perfect crash of balls. They were as thick as hail and the shot and shell cut the trees down like grass. It is a sight that I hope to be spared from ever witnessing again. We lost our Captain about 10 o'clock in the morning. He was wounded in the arm and it came out his shoulder, and I am afraid he is a prisoner. We don't know where he was taken. One of the boys helped him into an ambulance and that was the last we have heard of him. You will probably get the details of the battle before you get this from me. I tell you we were pretty well whipped in the forenoon, but in the afternoon we drove them a little, but it was one of the hardest battles of this war. There were some that you were acquainted with that were killed that I can think of. Charley Dickinson is missing but I don't know whether he was killed or wounded. The Rebels drove us in all the time until noon so that all that we left the Rebels got. Yesterday the Secesh left the River but where they have gone is more than I know. I have no doubt they will turn up again in some new place. I can tel you they can fight awfully. We have nothing to brag of in this battle. I think they killed more of us than we did of them. Some men of our company and prisoners have gone just now to bury the dead. We did not get ~~paper~~ ~~possession~~ possession of the field until yesterday so we had no occasion of taking them off until today. William behaved first rate in the fight, at least as well as any. The regiment were ordered to retreat in the morning. The first fire we got they were right on our right before we knew it and they drove the whole brigade and ~~haway~~ of course we were obliged to fall back, and we did fall back to a fence and behind ~~thare~~ their right. Well we had to leave that place and they got us into a swamp and fired in from front and rear and piled our men in there in heaps. Sile and Lew was left in Louisville in the hospital and High Castle was full of fight and came off without being hurt except in the boot leg. I got a ball through my blanket but it did not hurt me any. You must excuse for writing on such paper but it is all I have for we have left our knapsacks behind and all that were in them and they have not come up yet. No more at present, but do you write often.

Your affectionate husband

Arza

Letter to Arza Bartholomew

Holly Springs, Miss.

Jan. 8, 1863

Dear Brother:

I received yours about 4 weeks ago and was very glad to hear from you. You will not think it strange in not getting an answer before this when I tell you that we had marching orders that night and the next morning we had to march. We marched south 60 miles and stayed there 2 weeks and back to Holly Springs yesterday. But that was not all the difficulty. The communications were cut off between you and me as you have probably heard of before now. So I think I am excuseable this time at least. I received a letter from Frank about the same time and I shall answer it today. Frank said if you come home she was going to call her boy after me and if you nevercame home she should call it Arzie. I hope she will not have to call it Arzie, under them considerations although it is hard telling what there is in store for us. My health is first rate at this present time and I hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing, for such I count it, to any man who is in the United States service, for they have to endure all kinds of hardships as you already know. When our communication was cut off we had to live on half rations 4 days and the next 5 days on $\frac{1}{2}$ rations and ever since that $\frac{2}{3}$ rations. We expect full rations now pretty soon. The cars run to us now. We have seen some pretty hard times, and should have been harder if we had not been Provost Guards. That give us a little liberty. My Company was detached from the Reg. about 3 months ago and have been on Provost duty ever since. When Frank wrote to me the last time she sent me your likeness. She did not send hers. She said she would wait and see if I got yours. I think yours looks as natural as any one could expect, dressed in soldier's clothes. It is raining here today and it makes me feel lonesome, although we are in a comfortable house which provost Guards are allowed, with a nice writing desk which we stole from the Seminary and a nice stool to sit on. Tell Tip & Ransie to write to me and give my love to them. Tell them I hope that they may forever, in spite of the Rebels. I had a letter from Patience a short time ago. She was well and the rest, except Father and he was some better than he had been. I heard that there has been some pretty hard fighting in your part of the country, which makes me anxious to hear from you. If you seen the 25th Michigan, enquire for Richard Andrews and Charles Coleman. I saw Bert Albert and he told me he thought they were in that, although he did not know what Co. they were in, so I don't know how to direct you. If you should see them, tel them where to write and tell them to write to me. Give my love to William and tell him to be a good boy and kill all of the Rebels he can. The boys had a pretty smart fight here a short time ago. One regiment was left here to guard the railroad and 10,000 Secesh came in & took them prisoners and paroled them and burnt a part of the town and destroyed a large supply of provisions and clothing and left. But our cavalry caught some of them. The 108th Illinois volunteers, all but one Company, have stacked their arms and say they did not come to fight to free the Niggers and they are all under Guard. We have not been paid for 6 months. I will stop writing now for I do not know as you will get this. Good bye for this time.

Geo. L. Daniels
Co. F, 53rd Reg. Illinois Volunteers
1st Brigade, 4th Division

Jan. 10, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines once more after a few days delay, but I think you will excuse me for it has been rather exciting times for the last 2 weeks. I wrote you a few lines last Sunday or Monday, I forget which, just to let you know that we were alive. I could not write much for the want of paper, but I thought it would be welcome. We left Nashville 2 weeks last Friday for Murfreesboro and we came up to the enemy's pickets about noon and had some skirmishing all that day until we came to Nashville where we had a pretty sharp little fight, but they kept up a running fight until Saturday night when they left us to rest over Sunday, which we improved to the best advantage, drying our clothes, for it rained all day Saturday and Saturday night and we had not tents at all. It is strange to see how the man can stand it to sleep on the ground with only a blanket over them and it raining as hard as it can pour down. I have lain down on the ground and it was dry and when I got up in the morning there would be a pool of water where I lay, but I never was so free from a cold at this time of the year as at present, and all of the boys are the same. We have been furnished with tents since the battle was over, and so we are right at home again. The weather is quite warm at present, with some rain. Well, I will try and tell you something of the little fuss we had out here. We left our camp where we stayed over Sunday, early on Monday morning for the scene of action, but we failed to discover anything that day. The next day we had not fairly got underway before we heard the skirmishers firing away pretty smartly, and Co. G was deployed to the right as flankers, until it became too hot and then we were formed in line of battle, in the edge of the wood where we supported a battery that sent a few shells over ~~the~~ to the enemy to feel of him, but he did not see fit to respond with artillery. At last we advanced about half a mile and 2 Regiments of our Brigade were advance about 10 rods ahead of us and opened fire on the enemy, when we were ordered to lie flat on our faces, which by the way, was quite pleasant, for we lay in a cotton field and the mud ankle deep and the weather quite cold. So you can see that we did not have a very warm time of it that day (Tuesday). But on Wednesday we just had time to swallow a little breakfast when the Rebels opened the Ball in good earnest about a half mile to our right and took a Battery and drove our men right back and the first we knew, the Regiment that we supported gave away and run right through our ranks and broke us all to pieces. When we got formed again and gave them one volley, they had us almost surrounded so that we were ordered to fall back and then the way that they poured lead into the 21st was beautiful to behold, at least in their eyes. Well, we fell back about 20 rods to a fence and every man went in on his own account and fired to the best advantage, but at last the order came to fall back again, and we fell back and formed in until there was not men enough to form a company. I can tel you that the Rebels had us about as tight as need be. Our Division was completely surrounded and cut to pieces but thanks to General Rosecrans, he came in time to save us from being killed or taken prisoner. I hope never to see such an time again. Every man fought on his own hook. They drove us into a swamp and surrounded the swamp and poured in shot and shell from both sides. Oh, it was awful to see the trees falling and horses running without riders. If you could just see the woods you would say that a man could not get out alive, for every tree had from 1 to 20 ball holes in it. The timber was all cut to pieces. Well I must stop for the present for dinner is ready and we have a potpie made of mutton and I don't want to lose a meal. Later - Evening- Well I have just got a letter dated the 21st so I will call this an answer to that. William just got a letter from Tip. He was a little bitter and so was Lew. Wm. is as cool in battle as an old veteran but I will say nothing of myself. Let others tell how I acted but I was no more scared than I am at present, but I did not know how it would go with the 21st, but I would have taken a shilling for the Reg. about noon, for they had us pretty tight. We lost about 150 in killed, wounded and missing. We have about 200 in the Reg. at present. Our Capt. is with us. He was wounded and taken prisoner but they had to leave so quick that they did not have time to parole him. He is going home to recruit for the Reg. I expect until he gets well. I must bid you goodbye for the present. I am very sorry to hear that you and the baby is unwell. You must take care of yourself and the baby. Give my love to all the friends and call the

Dear Frank:

As it is Sunday and I have a little leisure I thought I could not improve it to a better advantage than by writing you a few lines to let you know how we are getting along away down in old Tenn. I got a letter bearing date 19th after I had answered the one dated 21st, so did not hurry much to answer it. But it was none the less acceptable to me for being old. The mails are not very regular at present on account of the Railroad being ~~not~~ cut off. From Nashville to this place is opened so that the trains pass over now. There is nothing going on here at present. It is quiet along our lines but I cannot tell how long it will remain so, but we are building chimneys in our tents, which has the appearance of our staying here for awhile at least. But it is rumored here in camp that this Brigade is going to Nashville, but there is no reliance to be placed in these camp rumors. We have had quite a young winter for this Country. It snowed 2 days quite hard and it froze last night quite hard, but it has cleared up this morning as bright as Spring. It looks as though such a thing as war was unknown but the minds of men are not so bright as they should be. If they was, we would not be here. William was detailed to go down and help in the Hospital and he found the boys all comfortable and in good spirits. They are pretty much all paroled that is in this town, so that they will have a chance to go home and see their friends as soon as they are able to go. We have a great many of the enemy here in the Hospital, that are wounded. They are well provided for by the government, which is perfectly right in my opinion, for they treated our men that they took like brothers. All that were able to travel they took to Vicksburg and those that was wounded so that it was dangerous to move, they paroled and left in town. The prisoners that we took say that they have done enough fighting for them, but they say that they are just as near whipped now as they ever will be and if they do as they say, I guess they are. Their plan is to fight us just long as it does not cost toom many lives, but as soon as we are like to take a place, they will evacuate and we have got to leave a large force to guard the town which weakend our force, and they don't care for any of these towns that we take. They are going to keep a large Cavalry force and cut off our supply trains and in that way tire out the government. There is one thing sure and that is that there will be short picking for them where we go, for we eat all of the provisions and take all the forage and burn all the fences. It is idle to talk of starving them out for as far as we have been, there is an abundance of provisions, enough to last for 2 years yet. The new crop of Corn is not half husked yet and they have as much as one old crop in the cribs. Now I want to talk on business matters a little. I want you should get that money of Mr. Taylor. You had ought to have \$25 of it by this time and I have earned it dearly, and I want you to have it to use for you must need clothes by this time, and there is no telling when we shall get paid off. There is talk that we are to be paid off this month. We was to be mustered the day of the battle. There was many a poor fellow mustered on that day. I want you to pay the taxes on our land if you can get the money, and if you can't tell me and I will try and get it, but I have no doubt but Mr. Taylor will let you have the money. Please write how much the taxes are and write all about the cattle. How they are getting along, for I feel some interest in our affairs, and I want you to take good care of the little boy. As soon as you can ~~get~~ get his face straight long enough to get his likeness taken, send it to me. I want to see how he looks. Give my love to all the friends and Mr. Bruce in particular. No more at present, so good bye for this time from your affectionate husband, Arza

Dear Frank:

I just came in from off Picket and to my great joy I found a letter from you bearing date Dec. 30. It is the first that I have got for a considerable space of time and you may be sure that it was welcome. I just got a letter from Patientce. She was well, but I will not tell anything that was in it, but will enclose it and send it to you so that you can read it for yourself. William just gone one letter from Egbert Landon. They are all well except Lucinda and her eyes were not so well as they had been.. He thought that she would stay there all winter and perhaps more. There was a teamster just from Nashville and he saw Tip. He says that he is at the Convalescent Camp and that he is pretty hard up. He did not know how Lew was, as he had not seen him since Christmas, but one of the boys came from the Hospital and he said that Lew was better. He had the Mrysipilis and Jaundice. Zenas Sweet is sick in the Hospital and there is a few left in the Reg., but they are all trying to get their discharge. Our Reg. is all gone, but just the tail-end and I expect that we will snap the bush off from that in a few days at least. If we get into another fight, there will not be a Comm. Officer in the Reg. I think that before we get into another battle, all of the Red-Tape Gentry will be out of this regiment. It is amusing to see how anxious the officers are to get out of the service, since we had that battle. I hear that our old Colonel and Adjutant and Major have tendered their resignation. They have smelt gunpowder enough now, and would like to go home and relate some of their hair-breadth escapes and daring deeds. You can judge something of the conduct of our Officers when I tell you that the 1st night after the battle there was but 1 Capt. left. There was 1 killed and our Capt. was wounded and taken prisoner and since the battle there has been a perfect rush for a discharge of the Lieutenants. It is a perfect shame that men will get up a Co. and promise to stick to it and when they are fairly into it, they will be taken suddenly ill and send in their resignation and leave their Col to take care of itself. I will guarantee that the Reg. would not want for an officer while we are in a city and not any prospect of leaving. Tell Mr. Bruce that August Gottaling, the little Dutchman that worked for him is wounded and taken prisoner and is probably in Vicksburg by this time. He was wounded in his hand early in the morning, about the 1st one in our Co. Ransom Robinson is some sick, but is able to be around and is in our tent talking with the boys. Hiram Castle is rather under the weather, and has been for a number of days, ever since we came to this place. I tell you it is a pretty hard thing and not so hard wither, to lie in the mud and water without a tent, but it is surprising to see how well some will keep up. I used to think that a man would die if he had to sleep in the rain, but it is not the case. At least not with me, for I never was so clear of a cold before at this time of the year, and it is so in a great many cases. Almost all of the toughest men in the Reg. are gone, while the young and weak ones are perfectly well. I never thought that I could stand it so well. There is 10 dies in the Hospital where there is 1 shot, and there is not 1 in 5 that are shot that is killed, although there is quite a number killed. Our Capt. started for home this morning. He is pretty bad off. He is shot through the arm, just in the muscle of the arm and it affects the whole system so that he is almost helpless and he has a ball hole in his side that is pretty sore. There is some wounded in the arms that are all around as smart as though nothing riled them. There was 7 wounded in their left arm and hand in our Co., and only 1 killed that we are sure of. There is several missing, probably taken prisoner or run away, for there was a few that their legs carried them off in spite of all their exertion to stay and fight. But thanks to the Wolverines, they stood and came out of the fight in the best order of any other Co. in the Reg., and we have the largest Co. by $\frac{1}{8}$ in the Reg. We are almost run ashore for musicians. We have only 1 drummer and only 2 fifers. The rest were taken prisoner while in the act of picking up the wounded. You have heard no doubt, old people tell that they had drummers to drown the groans of the wounded and dying, but I can enlighten you a little on that subject. There is another means of drowning their noise and that is with guns large and small. Why, Frank, you could not hear a man groan ten feet from you and if you did, it would have no more effect than it would to see a dead hog. After a little, a man becomes perfectly regardless of suffering. In a little

while he will pass over a dead body without hardly looking at it, but if a man is wounded, they will do everything in their power for him. Well I must stop writing about the war, for you will have the old nightmare after you read it. You had better wean the Baby if your breasts get no better, for he will not be much more trouble and you will be better off than you are in such misery. You must not keep yourself so close for he will be no better for it. I tell you I am lost without any news. It is about a month before we get a paper after it is printed, so you see we are a perfect set of know-nothings. Well I must bid you good bye for this time. Give my love to all the friends. This from your affectionate husband.

Arza Bartholomew

Letter to Frank Bartholomew from her brother-in-law, William

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jan. 23, 1863

Dear Sister Frank:

As Arza is writing I will write a few lines. You seem to think that I rather slight you by not writing oftener to you. The reason I do not write oftener is because Arza writes so often to you, that there is no news to write. We are both well and fat as hogs. I am sorry to hear your health is not better this winter. I am afraid you worry yourself about us too much. Frank, do not worry. I think we will come through this war allright, yet. ~~we have~~ We have been in another hard battle and there was not a ball touched me this time. You have heard before this who was wounded. We live tiptop since we got here. Tip and Lew are both in Nashville sick. It is a hard place to be sick here. I was down to Murfreesboro about a week ago and ~~saw~~ was in the hospital. I tell you it is rather a hard sight to see the poor boys lay there wounded and cannot hardly help themselves if they want to turn over in bed. They have the best of care that can be taken of them. Our regiment is running down the worst way. There is not but 1 Captain here in the Regt. They are all resigning every day. I heard that our Major got his papers this morning for his discharge. He sent in his resignation about 2 weeks ago. I do not know but I shall resign before long. Tell Dennis I want him to take care of the girls until I get back. I want you to name that boy of yours before you write again, so I will know what to call him, so I can write to him too. Well, I will have to stop my nonsense for this time. Frank, now write often for we feel anxious to hear from home. I have not got any letter from home since we was to Nashville. Good bye,

From your affectionate brother

Wm. Bartholomew

Camp near Murfreesboro
Sunday Morning, January 25, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I improve the present opportunity of answering your welcome letter bearing date Jan. 4th. You will excuse me for not answering it sooner, as I had just written one and put it in the office about an hour before I got yours and I thought that it would be more welcome if I waited a few days. You write that you had heard that there had been a great battle and you feared that William and I had been in it. Your rears are well grounded for ~~murder~~ we were in it but there is no use of worrying about that for that is what we came here for, and we came out of it allright, thank God. I am sorry to hear that you have had such a bad time with your breast. I wrote in my last that you had better wean the babe, and I will repeat it, but use your own judgment in this matter for you can tell what is best in, being there. I would like to be there and help you take care of him when you have to wean him, for it is a hard job for anyone and especially if they are not well. It think if it was over with, you would be more healthy if you did not nurse him. I think it agrees with you better to nurse me than it does to nurse a child and consequently I think I shall come home before long, if you have no objections, which probably you have not. I guess by all accounts that you have a pretty open winter there. The weather is as warm here today as spring. We went out yesterday in a foraging expedition and it rained hard all the afternoon, but thanks to Uncle Sam, he has furnished us with oil blankets which are the very thing for a rain storm, for a man can stay out all day and not get wet at all. We went out about 8 miles and loaded about 150 wagons and got back about night without an accident. I wish you could see a train of 100 wagons. It would make a train that would reach from Mr. Brucers to Mr. Hathaways place with all the Artillery and Infantry that goes with a train of wagons. We are stripping this country of everything that is eatable for man or beast. Well, I must tell you something about the health of the boys. Hiram Castle is rather poorly. He has the Diareah which is the general complaint in this country. Melvin Parks is some sick but is here with the Reg. Rate Snyder has got a felon on his thumb and had it opened this morning. Zenas Sweet is at the Hospital yet. I have not heard from Sile or Low for sometime. The rest that you are acquainted with are well as far as I can think of. You wanted to know what to do about selling those sap troughs. If you can't let it pretty well, I think you havd better sell them and sell the store trough too, if you can get a chance. You may sell the whole lot for \$7 and if Burt will give you \$2 for my half of the sap pan you can let him have it. But if anyone wants to take the Bush and give you 100 pounds you had better let them have the bush, for that would be worth more than the whole would sell for. If Burt thinks that \$2 is too much for the pan you can give him \$2 for his half and I have some new troughs down to Al's place, that if anyone wants to take the Bush, they can draw over to my Bush and that will make about 200 trees and the pan is large enough to boil for 300 trees. I don't suppose that you can tend to all of these things, but you have time enough to send word by Dennis up to Fathers and they can see Fred before sugar making. Perhaps John will want to take the Bush. There is time enough to let it to someone and if you can, I had rather you would, for I intend to work that Bush myself next year, but I don't think that I shall be there this spring to make sugar. There is no prospect yet that the war will end very quick but I hope that something will turn up before long, but I am afraid that the government will not settle the war unless they can free the Niggers. I would be satisfiaed if they would come back just as they were in the first place but that never will satisfy the abolition. There is 1 thing sure and that is that the war never will be a settlement by fighting, for the Rebels are just as good at fighting as any Northern men. They used to tell us up North that they could not fight as well as a Northern man, but that is no such things as that, for they will fight as long as there is a chance for them. Well I must bring this to a close or you will think that I am ~~murdering~~ homesick, but I think that I am as clear of that disease as anyone in this Reg. I don't think that here is anything else ailed Tip but homesickness, now, but he was sick at first and got down hearted and I am afraid that he will go hard with him but I hope not. Don't tell Uncle Siles folks anything about it, for I don't know anything about him for certain. Well, I will bid you a good bye for a short time. Give my love to all the friends. No more at present, this from your affect. husband

A za Bartholomew

February 1, 1863

Dear Frank:

I have delayed writing for some time, hoping that I should have a letter so that I could answer it, but I have waited in vain for almost a week and as it was Sunday, I thought I would improve a few leisure moments in writing. We are all well, that is all that are with the Reg. There was a death in the Company, Malcolm Enos. He used to live to Mr. Laurences. I wish you would try and inform Mr. Laurence in some way by word or letter. He died yesterday, that is, January 31st. He was well and stood the march as well as any man, from Louisville to Nashville, and just before we started for this place he began to fail, but did not give up until after the Battle. He was not fit to do duty for 6 weeks before his death. He went into the Regimental Hospital and he has just run down ever since until he got his honorable discharge. He was thought a good deal of by the whole Company. He had a brother wounded at Perryville battle. Our orderly, Abram Vreeland, came to the regiment last evening. He was taken prisoner in Kentucky and paroled. It seemed as though I was at home to hear from old Michigan. I dreamed about home all night last night. He brought the news of the death of Zenas Sweet. He died sometime this month in Nashville (Jan.). He brought the word that Lew Robinson was discharged and was going to start Monday. Probably he will be there before you get this. I am glad for it, for when he went away I was afraid that he would never get well. If he can get home and get taken good care of and change climate and diet, I think he will get better. Abe did not know how Tip was, but I heard that he was getting better. Ever Rice got a letter last night which stated that our folks had not heard from us for a long time. I have written, excepting just after we started from Nashville and there I had no chance of writing, but as soon as the Battle ceased long enough I found an old ~~novel~~ novel and tore out the blank leaves and wrote you a little, enough to let you know that we were safe. About that time the Rebs tore up the railroad and perhaps the mail was lost or delayed but I hope that you won't worry about me, for it won't make the matter any better and will make it a good deal worse for you. Oh, I had almost forgot to tell you about Rance. His health is miserable. He has been running down for a long time. He is with the company but is not able for duty. William got a letter from Dennis yesterday. He is writing today to Father. I wrote about 3 days ago to Father, and one to Amanda. There is no news of importance here at present. I just wish you could see how a paper is read and reread. One of the boys got a package of papers last night and he has had more than fifty applications to lend them. Well I must bring this to a close ~~far~~ You must write often for you can't tell how I want to hear from home. I want you to write what all of them are doing. Good bye for this time. Give my love to all. This from your affectionate husband, Arza.

Murfreesboro

Feb. 9th 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I improve the present opportunity of once more addressing you through the medium of the pen, after a considerable delay. But you will excuse me I trust, when I tell you that we have been off on a 5 days picket duty and we had no chance of writing at all. I got 2 letters before I went out but did not have time to answer them on account of having to work on the entrenchments, or rather, forts. We are building a good deal of works in this place. One of your letters was dated the 24th, the other the 29th. You may be sure I was glad to hear from you, but I was disappointed when we got in and I did not get a letter from you, but I blame the mails, always, instead of you, if I fail in getting a letter as often as once a week. I suppose that there is a good many days pass without your getting any tidings from me, but I hope you won't neglect to write as often as you can, for it is about all the news that I get that does me any good. It almost makes me sick to read a paper from home. It seems by the papers that they are getting divided at home in opinion as much as the North and South used to be. Now my humble opinion is that such sentiments are going to ruin the country if there is not something turns up to unite them again. The Ebs know it as well as we do and it helps their cause more than all of the fighting that they can do. I believe that with the present division of the North, that the South can never be subdued, but if they were once united in action, and the Army on the Potomac could gain one good victory, that they would offer terms of peace. But with the present state of affairs I must own that it looks rather doubtful to me whether they are ever subdued and it is the general impression throughout the whole army as far as I know. I did believe that we were perfectly able to bring them to terms but I must acknowledge my faith of late is almost gone. You must not think that I am getting homesick for it is not the case. I don't allow myself to get in that way for that will wear on a man more than anything that I know of in the Army. You must not worry about me for the same hand that protects me at home protects me here, and all of your worrying will not make a hair difference. With me, the times look rather dark at present, but it is said that the darkest time is just before days, so you must keep up good courage and take good care of the little boy for I hope to be there to help take care of him before the summer is out. Oh, tell Harriet McMann that John is sick in the Hospital at Murfreesboro. They say that he has the liver complaint. Rance is pretty hard up. He is here with us at present, but is not able to do duty at all. Melvin Sparks is some better. I have not heard from Tip of late but I rather think that he will get his discharge. Lew has got his and is probably at home by this time, at least I hope so. William and myself are well. I never was but a little heavier than I am at present. William is 10 pounds heavier than I am. There is no prospect of a forward move at present but I can't tell how long it will be before there will be a move. Well, I must bring my letter to a close for the present. I am glad to hear that you are so well and fleshy. I hope you will remain well all the while I am absent. Oh, by the way, I want you to pay the taxes if you can make a raise of the money, for I have not received a cent of my pay as yet. There is talk that we are going to be paid off, but we have not seen it. If I should get any I will send enough at least to pay our taxes. I have \$1 left yet out of the \$10 I started with and have lent \$4 of that to the boys. Well, I will bid you good bye and may God bless you. This from your affectionate husband

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

February 18, 1863

Dear Frank:

I once more employ myself at my favorite occupation of writing to you, although it has been but 4 days since I wrote to you but as soon as I have a moment to spare I am uneasy unless I am writing to you. I have not had a letter for some time but I am in hopes I shall get one soon. There is no news of moment in this part of the country so you must be content with a short letter this time. The boys are all about the same as usual. William is well and hearty, so am I. Melvin Sparks is getting a little better. Hiram Castle is pretty sick at present. He has not been very well for some time and yesterday he gave up doing duty, but I am in hopes that he will not be sick long. Rance Robinson is no better than when I wrote last but he is so that he has crawled down to the River to try his luck at fishing. John McMann just came up to the Reg. He has been in the Hospital for some time but he is better now. I have not heard from Tip yet but I suppose he is at the Hospital. I wrote in my other letter of Lew's discharge. I suppose he is at home by this time, enjoying himself. At least I hope so. William got a letter from Marthy and Geo. and they made enquiry about Zenas Sweet. I wrote sometime ago of his death and I supposed you must have heard of it before this time. He died in Nashville. I will give you my opinion of the cause of his death. He is one of the most careless fellows I ever saw. This country abounds in nuts, Black Walnuts and Hickory nuts and just as soon as we would stop for the night he would lie right down and crack and eat as long as he could hold any, and the consequence was that it gave him the dysentery and he would not wash himself for a month at a time, and he was homesick as a fellow could be until he was taken to the Hospital and death put an end to his misery. It will be a hard blow for his mother, to lose her husband and son, both about the same time. William got a letter from John the other day and he wondered a good deal how any of our company could get taken prisoner and not have the whole company taken. Now it is the easiest thing in the world, for a man to be shot and not be hurt enough to kill him and still he can't get off from the field and if the enemy are driving us as they did the first day of the Battle, he could get taken easy. I am glad John did not enlist. I think it is to his credit that he did not, for as Hi says, he would be so homesick that he would die. I do believe that one week would kill his patriotic notions entirely so that he would never swear so when he read any retreat of the Army. I am willing to admit that I don't want to get into another fight if I was sure of coming out all right, but you will never hear of my running away to get rid of fighting. There is nothing to indicate a forward move yet. Now I wish to say to you that there is a prospect of our being paid soon and if you want any, please let me know and I will send it by mail, but that is a risky way and if you are not in need of it, I will not send it. I will not send it until I can send it without any risk of losing it. Please let me know just how you are on it, for means to live and dress yourself. Please tell Mrs. Kortright that Joseph was just here to see me and he is well and fat as a cub and would like to see all the folks at home. We have good times playing ~~baseball~~ ball here. Our orderly Sergeant just came to the Reg. and took his place as he was and it makes them squirm that was promoted. ~~said~~ As it is it puts Rance back to a Serg. Well I must bring this to a close. I did not think I could fill this but you see it is. Please give my love to Uncle and Aunt and Dennis and kiss the little boy for me. Oh, the weather is delightful and warm as may be here. No more at present. Good bye and God bless you, from your affectionate husband,

Arza

Camp on Stone River, Tenn.

Feb. 16, 1863

Dear Frank:

I just received your long looked for ~~int~~ and much welcome letter bearing date Feb. 9th and you may be sure I was glad to hear from you once more. It has been about 2 weeks since I had a letter from you although I have written every opportunity. You must not delay writing and write long letters. You are getting stingy of paper or time and it is hard for me to tell which, but you must try and write longer letters if there is no news please mention all of our neighbors for I have no way of hearing from them only by letter. So try and fill a sheet full if it is one of these little sheets. Now don't take any offense at what I say and go and write a letter so long that it will take a whole day to read it, for that would be an awful punishment. Well enough of that. I will try and tell how the boys are. Hiram Castle is pretty bad off. He is at the Reg. Hospital. He was taken there Saturday. I just went in to see him. He is not as well as he was yesterday. He had been taking some medicine and it makes him feel worse. At present we are in hopes that he will get along soon and either get better or be discharged. His complaint seems to be the dysentery, which by the way is a general complaint in the Army. The boys all say that if they get so to shit a hard tird tho', the Doctor will discharge them immediately. You need not show this to everyone for they might think I was getting rather choice of my language but it is a fact that I have had it almost all of the time since we left Camp Sigle, and have grown fat on it of late and it is so with a good many and it kills a good many. Rance Robinson is no better. He is getting so that his nose is as wide as any of his face. To look him square in the face you can't see him at all, for his nose covers his whole face. Well he is hard up and no mistake. He has to walk with 2 canes. He has taken so much medicine that he has almost lost the use of his limbs entirely. Melvin Sparks is better. At present he is a little out of his head I think and I rather guess he thinks to much about that young wife of his but he will get over that when he gets home. The boys are all looking forward to Spring when they think the war will be settled by that time, but I can't see where it is but I am in hopes that it will close soon, for it don't look any more to an end that it did when it commenced, but of course it is. Tell Father I wrote him a long letter only a short time ago and will write again soon. I am going to give you some of the prices of articles down her in old Tenn. They, that is the sutler, has got a few potatoes and he only asks \$4 per bushel and onions are the same. Butter is 70¢ per pound. Tobacco is worth about \$3 per pound and you should see how the boys do twist and turn to get a chew. They have been out of Money for a long time and they have borrowed and begged ever since they came to this State. These little sheets of paper that I write to you on costs 3 sheets for 5¢ and everything in proportion. But all I buy is paper and ink and stamps and I sell a good deal of that. By selling my rations of coffee, which is more than I can use when I get full rations. William and Ober Rice volunteered to go out foraging today. Willim will send a letter with this to Martha and George. He commenced it last night but got so sleepy that he quit and has not finished it yet, but will tonite, when he gets back. You say that you are at Fathers visiting. I wish I could be there with you to enjoy a social chat but I will improve the time when I do come. Well I can think of no more at present. Give my love to Father & Mother and Grandfather and the whole family and kiss the little boy for me. I must close for the present. Good bye. This from your affectionate husband,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

February 22, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure I improve the present opportunity of answering your very welcome letter that I received yesterday bearing the date Feb. 15th. It has been some time since I got a letter from you until yesterday. I was very glad to hear that you keep good health which is one of the greatest blessings that we enjoy. You cannot imagine how well please I was to hear that Father's eyes are getting better. I want him to get so that he can see us when we come home and he must be more careful and not expose himself for if they get worse again I am afraid that he will never get well again. You just tell John that I am as free from homesickness as I was when I enlisted and have the same confidence in putting down the rebellion, if they don't all make asses of themselves at the North and all get divided, but if I can judge anything of the feeling there by what I read in the papers, they are making fools of themselves but I hope not, for it does more to encourage the Rebs than anything else. Every paper we get gives some account of the division in the North. Now if they want us to gain anything they have got to give us their support and not encourage desertion or what is just as bad, encourage these lazy louts that never do any duty, only Hospital duty, which by the way is at least one half of this Reg. that we are in. And another thing, and that is getting taken prisoner and being paroled and then run off home and forget to come back. Don't give yourself any ~~message~~ uneasiness about my getting homesick for I am as free from that as anyone in this company. There is a prospect of our being paid off before long and I can't tell what to do with it, for I don't want to keep it with me and I don't like to send it by letter for fear of losing it and there is no express office here yet. But perhaps there will be before long. I don't want to keep any, only what I have lent. I suppose we shall get 4 months pay this time. I got a letter from Lute and I will send it to you so you can read it for yourself. Well I must tell you something of the health of the boys. Hiram Castle is still at the Reg. Hospital. He is not much better but I am in hopes that he will get better soon, for if he don't, he will never see home, for he is homesick and run down pretty low with the dysentery. I think the health of the Reg. is better than it was a while ago. Rance Robinson is going to get home I think. I have heard that the Brigade Surgeon came to see him and ordered his papers to be made out right off and have him sent home. If they don't they will have his carcass to send home for he is about as poor as any person that I ever saw and be around. He has to go with two canes and he can hardly go at that. We received orders to move camp yesterday, but at the time appointed to move, it began to rain as hard as it could pour down and the order was countermanded and today being Sunday it is all quiet. I don't think that we shall go a great way, only across the river to a better ground. There is no prospect of our moving forward but I can't tell anything about it myself. Melvin Sparks is getting better. You said you hope that we would not get any more bad habits. Now to tell you the truth, a private has no chance to learn any bad habits, only swearing, but that is bad enough. And some of them improve the opportunity to an alarming extent but there is no chance to indulge in drunkenness for the want of money and there is no liquor here, only what the government furnishes and the Officers get the most of that, and some of them use it to an alarming extent. Frank, I want you to keep what potatoes you have got until Spring for if I should come home I would want them to use and they will be worth more in the Spring than they are now. I wish I had them here for they would fetch \$4 per Bu. I have not eaten one since we left Louisville. You must write to Lute and tell him that I have answered his letter and want him to write often and keep up a correspondence for we want him to let us know how he gets along and tell Patience that I wrote the last letter to her since she wrote to me. I hope you and Lucinda will live together and let Mrs. Ross go to pot. I suppose if Uncle Sam had a few more of such soldiers that they would end the war in a few days. Well I must close for this time. Give my love to all and I am much obliged for the likeness that you sent. I suppose it favors its parents in an alarming degree. No more. Good bye. This from your affectionate husband

Arza

Murfreesboro
March 5th, 1863

Dear Frank:

I have ~~just~~^{just} been blessed by what do you suppose? Why, 4 letters all at once, two from you and one from Amanda and one from Grandfather. One of yours was dated Jan. 25th and the other one Feb. 22nd. which by the way, is a long nice letter. You may be sure that I had a good time of reading the news from home. I was pleased to hear that you were all so well at home. I have been sick for a number of days but am getting better fast. I had a genuine attack of the Lung Fever but thanks to a kind providence I think it is broken now. The Doctor allowed me to doctor my own way and I used cold water, all that I wanted, and the result is I am so as to be around and will be able for duty in a few days if I have good luck and don't get any fall back. I shall be all right. I have some cough but I keep a towel on my stomach and that is helping me right along. It is rather lonesome here at present because the whole Brigade is gone away. They took 4 days rations, 2 in their haversacks and 2 in the wagon. It is doubtful when they will be in. There is none left in camp but such as I and they are not much company. It is more lonesome when anyone is sick than when they are able to do duty. Well, I must tell you about the health of the boys. Hiram Castle is very sick. He was removed to a private house, day before yesterday. The Dr. said that there was no other hopes of him and that might save him. He is a very sick man and he stands but a slim chance of getting well at all. He has a man to take care of him, and he has a nice bed-room with a good bed and fire-place in it. He has got so poor that his own folks could hardly recognize him at present, but I hope he may get well, for it would be a hard blow for his mother if he should die. Well, Rance started for home yesterday. He got his discharge and was not slow to leave. I sent \$20 to you by him and William sent \$24 to Father, all in one package and you will get it and use it to the best advantage. I suppose it will take all of that to make you comfortable in dress. You can get what you think proper with it and I shall be satisfied. We did not get as much as we expected, not two months pay. I got \$20.65 so you see that I did not keep a great deal on hand, but I have enough to last quite a while, if I am saving, and I think I know how to be. I am very sorry that Hiram's boy was born so soon. It looks bad, but of course it is all right or it would have lived to bless its happy parent. John McMann has just been in. He is not very well. He brought the news that our forces had been whipped out at Vicksburg with the loss of 20 thousand but I hope not, for that would be a hard blow for us. I got a letter from Patience the day after I was taken sick and have lost it or I would send it to you. I was not able to take any sense of it, but the folks were all well as usual. She wanted you to write and she insinuated that if you did not do so that she should not write again very soon. You talk about the boy a good deal. Well, I suppose he is a nice little fellow. Now about his name. You can call him anything but Arza and it will suit me. Harry is a pretty name and it suits me very well, especially as it is the name of my Capt. But nevermind the name, but get his likeness when it gets warm enough and send that to me so that I can see what he looks like. There is a chance for a few to go home on a furlough and perhaps I might come but it is for so short a time that it is hardly worthwhile and the parting would be worse than at first. So I don't think much of it. When I come home I want to come to stay, not to stay overnight and leave in the morning. I would like a lump of wax on a chip. I suppose your sugar is all gone by this time. If it is, when you go to keeping house you had better buy 50 lbs. at a time. Well I must stop for today. Hoping that God will bless and prosper you until my return. Give my love to all of our folks. I remain your affectionate husband,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tennessee

March 8th, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I once more sit down to answer your kind letter bearing date March 1st, which I received last night, and you may be sure it was read with pleasure. I am sorry that you and little Harry have such a bad cold but you must take good care of yourself and the little one, for my sake, for you know that I cannot help you. I wish I could, but perhaps I will be there before many months and then I will do all that I can to help you. It is Sunday and it is awful lonesome for the Boys, that is. The regiment went out with 4 days rations and today is the 5th day and I have not heard anything from them yet, but I am in hopes that they will be in before night. There is a thousand camp rumors but there is no dependence to be placed in any of them. I hope that they will be allright when they come in. This is the first time that the Reg. has been out and left me behind, but I was not able to hardly walk when they went out, but I am getting well fast. I am so as to be around in the camp. I had a pretty severe attack of the Lung Fever but the Dr. broke the fever and the boys put the cold water on until I could breath quite easy. The Dr. told me to keep on using the water until I was well. Now about home affairs. You say you are going to keeping house. That will suit me if it does you. I want you to do as you think best for you and the way that you will take the most comfort. I suppose you have got provisions enough for the summer, all but sugar, and that won't cost you much. Please write how many potatoes you have got and you have never told what you have done with the pork. You must not go into the House until it is warm enough so that you will not get cold. Now this letter that you wrote was a real family letter and I want you to write just such every time. You must not take offense at what I said about your not writing longer letters, for I know that you write very often, but I want you to mention all the neighbors and how they get along. I am glad that you are going to have Sarah Baldwin live so near this summer, for she is good company. I suppose that you will keep the old cow this summer for that will be a great help to little Harry and you both. You spoke about a good many going sailing. I suppose that they are exempt from the draft if they are sailors. Well, let them get out of it if they can. I don't blame them but someone has got to come and it don't matter much who. I hope that they will fetch enough this time. I got that conscript law that Father sent. I think that will make some of them squirm but if they put it in force it will be a quick way of filling up the Ranks. Oh Frank, tell John's folks that Him is no better. I must heard from him this morning. They can't stop the dysentery on him yet and he is pretty low. Frank, I sent \$20 to you by Rance. Probably he will be there before you get this letter, and I want you to use all you want for your comfort and little Harrys and keep the balance until you want it. It is just as safe in your hands as it is lent out. If you want to buy any furniture you can do so or not, just as you think proper. Well I must bring this to a close for the present, by bidding you a good bye. Give my love to all of the friends and kiss little Harry for me. You want me to be steady. I am as steady as an old family clock. No more at present. God bless you and protect you. This from you affectionate husband,

A⁴ 2a

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

March 14, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure I once more resume the pen to communicate with you. I have delayed writing longer than I should, if I had not wanted to get a letter from you, but I have looked in vain for one for a week and another thing, I wanted to hear from William before writing, but I have not heard anything of them since they left, yet, and I begin to feel somewhat anxious, but there is no use of that for they are just as safe as we are here, I suppose. You may be sure it is lonesome here in camp, for there is only the sick left. There is only 6 left in our Co. I am getting better. I consider myself well as far as bodily health is concerned, but am a little weak yet, but shall be able for duty in a very few days. Hiram Castle is thought to be a little better but not much. He is in a critical condition yet, but I hope he will get better soon. Melvin Sparks is lame with the rheumatism, so that he can hardly get out of the tent. I must tell you what a time we had moving camp. We were ordered last Monday to strike tents and load them, for they expected an attack and we struck tents and loaded them all onto the wagons and got onto them (that is all that was not able to walk) and we sat there waiting orders until dark and no orders came. We went and made our beds where our tents had been, for the night, and it was pretty cold, but we are used to sleeping out of doors in the cold. But about 3 o'clock it commenced to rain and it rained awful hard. Well we stood it as well as we could until there came an order for us to go to Nashville, all that could go. We were examined by the Dr. and he thought I could go, for we were going on the cars. Well, we all started and I went about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile and the Dr. saw that I was about done over and he told me to go back and I told him I wished he had of told me before and he said that he thought he would try me. Well, I got a ride back in an ambulance but I was just about done over when I got back. We were allowed to pitch a tent and we just got it up and back they all came that started for Nashville. They got part way to town and they were ordered back, for they had no transportation for them. Day before yesterday they ordered us to clean up and pitch all the tents, for the Reg. was coming in, but we have not seen anything of them yet. So we are just as we were before the Reg. left and probably shall be until they come in. There was one of our company came up yesterday from Nashville that was at the Hospital and he saw Tip before he started and he said he was pretty well and he thought he would be up to the Reg. before long. I hope so, for I want to see him again. Well, I can think of no more news at present to write. I suppose Rance Robinson is at home before now and enjoying himself. Please write whether he has got there or not, in your next. I would like to be there long enough to get some wax on a chip and then come back, but you must eat enough for me, and yourself too. I was hopes I should be there in sugaring, but I shan't this spring. But if they bring out those conscripts in double quick, they may put an end to the ~~xxx~~ war this summer. I suppose that that law makes some of the men tremble back there, don't it. Well it is no worse for them and it will make it easier for all, to have a large force in the field. That law just suits the soldiers, if they will only fill the ranks of the old Regiments and not get up new ones. An old Reg. is worth 2 new ones and a man to go into an old Reg. will learn quicker than if he went into a new one. Well, I must bring this to a close for this time. Please give my love to all and to Fathers folks, especially, and keep a good $\frac{1}{2}$ share for yourself and give little Harry a good squeeze for me. I will pay you when I come home by squeezing you. Write soon and mention everybody that I know and tell me how they are getting along. No more this time, so good bye. This from your afft. husband

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

March 20, 1863

Dear Frank:

I just received a letter from you and as I had a little leisure for the 1st time for a week I thought I would answer this immediately. You have got the start of ~~me~~ one letter so I will have to write and answer 2 at once. The reason that I did not write immediately was that I had just wrote that day and put it into the mail box and I thought I would wait 2 or 3 days and ever since that we have been doing something so that I could not write until now. I am very sorry to hear that you have such a bad cold but you must take good care of yourself and get well so as to take good care of the baby, of he has the whooping cough. but I am in hopes that he will not have it while he is so young. I am very glad to hear that Mr. & Mrs. Ross have gotten back to Crockery once more, but I am very sorry to hear that his foot still troubles him so bad. Well, I will tell you about our health. If you could have seen the dinner that we eat you would think we would all be sick. We bought some flour and made a mess of biscuits and had biscuit and butter and fresh beef, but they would hardly come up to some of them that you used to make. I would give some money for them now, but I can eat hard tack and Bacon until this little fuss is over and then won't I enjoy the little home. I don't want you to think that I am homesick, if I write anything about home, for I am not any more so than any other boy in this little army. They all want to get home and so do I, but not bad enough to worry about it. If the conscript the Conscript law fetches them out and fill our Reg. up I would like to drill some of them right ~~as~~ smart, but I am afraid that the President won't call them out. We moved camp day before yesterday and have come almost into town. We are about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Murfreesboro and we have taken in our Pickets a good deal, so that we don't have to do so much Picketing. The troops are all drawn into a smaller compass. I cannot give the reason for it but I suppose old Rosy could if he chose to make know his plans, but he don't publish his plans before he executes them. You must take good care of little Harry. If he has the whooping cough you had better get some molasses and give him all you can get him to take. Milk & molasses are very loosening. ~~Orphanage~~ I know you will do the best you can. Well I tell you the boys are having a good time. Melvin Sparks and one of the Dutch boys have just got each of them a box of good things such as Butter and cake and dried fruit and I suppose that they will live for awhile. I would like a box but it costs a good deal and if we should have to march I should have to leave it, for I could not carry it with me. I went out and helped to bring Hiram Castle in yesterday when we took our pickets in. It left him outside and we were afraid that the Rebs would come and take him and the nurse so we went after him. He is better, or seems to be, today. I was afraid his ride would hurt him but I guess it did not. I think if he gets able to ride he will be discharged and be sent home. There was one poor fellow got an honorable discharge a few hours ago. I want to have you tell me where Hank Morse is. I have not heard from him in a long time. You must write to Lute often. I have got perfectly well and in good spirits. While I am sick I want to be at home, but I can stand it pretty well when I am well. I sent you \$23 by express and if you get it I want you to keep what you don't use, so that when I come home I can have some to use. You had better take good care of it and keep it with you all the time. I sent \$20 by Rance. Well I must stop for this time. Give my love to all and tell father I will write soon. The weather is as warm as May and peach trees are all in bloom. No more at present, so good bye for this time and God bless you. This from your affectionate husband

Arza

March 23, 1863

Dear Frank:

I just received 2 letters bearing date 14th & 16th and you may be sure I read them with pleasure and you have gratified me by writing a long letter. You did extremely well this time, although I have no fault to find with any of your letters. I am glad to hear that you are well but am afraid that little Harry will have the whooping cough, but I hope not. You say that Father calls you a Secesh. Now I hope he has no reason for it, for I don't want you to get any such notions into your head, for I am a stronger union man than when I enlisted, but sometimes am afraid that we will not be able to conquer them on account of the Copperheads at the North, but rather than see a dishonorable settlement. You wrote that Charley Jennings had been arrested. I am heartily glad of it for every man that deserts leaves more for us to do. I hope that they will catch every one that is mean enough to run away, and put him into the regular service for 5 years. I have no sympathy with a man that will desert. You wanted to know whether I wanted your likeness with the babys or not. Of course I want it. I wish you could have been here today. There was a grand review by Gen. Rosecrans himself. You have no idea of what an army is until you have seen one. Just in our division there is enough men to reach 2 miles in four ranks, and the artillery is a great sight. The Rebs are getting real saucy. They attacked our pickets and kept up a pretty brisk fire for several hours. At last we were ordered out in line of battle and our Artillery soon made them skedaddle, but there was one poor fellow brought in, shot right in the eye and I don't know how many more were wounded or killed. You spoke about selling some of the cows. I would like to have them all sold, if cattle are high. All but the steers and one cow, but if they are not worth a fair price, I want to have Father keep them until I get home, but I shan't want but one team and one cow if I should get home now. Now I don't want you to scrimp yourself to save money any more than if I was there. I wrote in my other letter that I had sent \$23 more by express and I am in hopes you will get that and I shall keep doing so as often as Uncle Sam lets me have money. Now about that freak of nature, I want you to understand that I am a nice young man, so never fear. Well I must close. Give my love to all of Father's folks and Rosses, also. I almost envy Ross his happiness, but never mind, there is better times coming. Good Bye from your affectionate ol man. William is picking gray-backs off his shirt and writing between times.

Well Frank, I thought I had filled this sheet but come to fold it, I find it is not, and so will try and fill it with some nonsense. You sent a prescription for Hiram Castle. His dysentery is about stopped and all he needs is strength and if he had something nourishing, but that is almost out of the question. He will be at home as soon as he is able to ride. You are of the same opinion of myself about my coming home on a furlough. I don't want to come without I can stay for I know that the first parting would be nothing to what it would be to leave the second time, for I am afraid you would tease me to stay. But if I ever do come home on leave I will come back, if I should live. I hear from Tip every little while and I hear that he is well. Melvin Sparks is pretty hard up. He has got the Rheumatism and he is awful poor. The rest of the boys except Joel Bond are well. He has got a good deal of fever. I want you to tell me who is elected in town this Spring. I have some interest in that town yet. You need not fret about Eber running away. It is not very easy to get away from here. I believe he would stand in another battle. Write the prices of provisions. It is awful high here and they say that there is a good many that are actually in a suffering condition. Well, it is bedtime and I will bid you good night. I will dream of you and home.

Arza

Murfreesboro,
March 23, 1863

Dear Sister Frank:

After so long a delay I will write you a few lines. The reason I have for not writing before, if I have any reason, is because Arza writes pretty often and the most of his letters are written to you. But I must write once and a while. We are both very well at present. Hiram Castle does not change much either way. I think it is rather a doubtful case with him to get well. Joel Bond was taken sick last night. He is quite sick. There is no use of our trying to tell what ails him, for the Dr. does not tell what ails anyone here. The Dr. says that Hiram Castle shall have his discharge just as soon as he is able to write. The Rebs think we are gone from here so they are picking away at our pickets every little while. They pitched on our pickets Saturday and they hung on for about 3 hours. They began to fire pretty sharp and we had to go out to the front but they left before we got out to where they were. If they think we are all gone and pitch onto us, they will be mistaken. They will find the children and old folks are at home if the boys are all gone. I heard they had ordered Rosy to surrender the town, but before he surrenders it will cost the Rebs one man for every dollars worth that they get. Well Frank I'll tell you what it is. I had rather they would fight us here rather than to be obliged to follow them off and fight them on their own grounds. But I'll tell you, I had rather not fight them fellows at all, for they are so careless with guns, for they will sometimes aim them right at a fellow. We had a General Review today. I just wish you could have seen it. It was splendid. Old Rosy rode along and every green looking officer he see, he would stop and talk to them. He wanted us when the new conscripts get here, to learn the m how to live and work. We can learn them the work part but the live we don't learn. I expect soon to see Charley & Hiram and some of the others down here beofre long. We need them all. While we was out on that scout, we did not have a fight as you heard. That is, our Division did not, but there was another Division had a little brush with them before we got to hem and they killed and wounded and took 1313 men from us. The 19th Mich. was most all taken. You say you heard we lost one man, but there is quite a difference between one and 1313 I think. Well Frank, I will have to beg a little from home. I'll tell you what Arza and I want you and the rest of the folks to send us when Capt. Albee comes, if he will, see to it, and that is a little dried Fruit or berries of any description. If you have anything to spare and another thing is if we had some Horse Radish grated up, and put in a can or other thing and put a little vinegar on it. It would be so nice to eat on our meat, but do ~~not~~ try to send anything unless someone is coming right here. I got a pound of peach peelings and dried fruit today. They was cheap for this place, they only cost a quarter of a dollar. We cannot get them very often. Well Frank, I have got to stop writing for this time, for it is bed time. Kiss the little boy for me. Poor Jane Jennings, what luck.. Well I will close my letter for this time. My love to you and all enquiring friends, from your brother,

Wm. H. Bartholomew

March 24th

We are all about the same old sixpence, This morning, Hiram is about the same. Tell Johns folks to write to him often, for it makes him feel so much better when he gets a letter. I have not got one for 5 weeks. Frank, you must not worry about Arza so much for it will ~~make~~ make you sick if you do. The peach trees are all in blossom. It is very nice weather now. I suppose you have had warm sugar to eat before now. I wish you would eat some for me.

On picket near Salem, Tenn.

March 28, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure that I take the present opportunity of adressing a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. We are on Picket and will be for 2 days yet. We have been on 3 days already but the weather is warm and pleassant and the woods begin to look quite green, but we had a hard rain last night. I don't know the object of this picketing here, but I suppose that it is to give the forces in town good notice of the approach of the enemy. They have failed to appear along our lines. I have been looking for a letter 2 or 3 days but have failed to get it. I begin to feel somewhat uneasy about that money I expressed, but that will not do any good, but I hope that you will get it for I have to work too hard to lose the money. We have been told that we were to be paid two months more but that is doubtful, but if we do I shall send it all home for it is more safe there than it is with me. Some of the boys have lost their money already. I have not seen Hiram since I came out on picket but the day that we came out he was a little better. He thought, but he is very low. If he gets well enough to ~~ride~~ ride he is going to be sent home either on a furlough or adischarge. I don't believe that he will ever be able to do duty again while he stays here. William and the rest of the boys that you are acquainted with are all well. You must excuse me for not writing a full sheet but I have no chance of getting any more and I thought this would be acceptable. I want to see some of them conscripts coming out here for I should like to show some of them how to soldier. We want to have our Reg. filled up to about 800 or 1000 and then we won't have so much duty to do. William and I wrote you a letter about 5 or 6 days ago and William wanted to have you send us some dried fruit by the Captain, if it was convenient, but if not, why you need not trouble about it. If you do send anything, send some Horse Radish for that will be first rate on meat and we can't get any such thing here. I suppose that you have all the sugar that you oan eat by this time. It is quite warm and the grass and trees look quite green. It rained last night awful hard. There was a few wet hides here, but a soldier gets used to that so that it does not trouble him a great deal. Well, I must bid you good bye for this time. Write often and I will do the same. Give my love to all and kiss little Harry for me. No more for this time. This from your affectionate husband,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 2, 1863

Dear Frank:

I received your kind letter day before yesterday dated 23rd but neglected to answer it until today on account of having written one while on picket. You need not worry about me sleeping on the ground for it does not have any effect at all on me. I can lie right down on the ground if it rains ever so hard, and not take cold. I have waked in the morning and found myself right in the water. If anyone had told me that I could stand such hardships when I was at home, I would not have believed it. I am sorry to hear that little Harry has got the whooping cough but I am in hopes that he will be spared to us. You wanted to know what Brigade we were in. We are in Sheridans Division (the 3rd) and 1st Brigade, commanded by Col. Sherman of Illinois, and to the 20th Army Corps which is commanded by Maj. Gen. McCook. Gen. Sheridan is a perfect tiger. He is a fighting man every inch. There is not much fighting right here, but the Rebs skirmished a little to bother us, but nothing serious. I will try and tell you how the boys are. Hiram I think is getting better and probably will go home before long. Melvin Sparks is pretty hard up. He is awful poor. I don't know what ails him but he has some disease that is pulling him right down. Our best and largest healthiest men are the first to give out. Joel Bond is sick but is getting better. I begin to feel somewhat anxious about the money that I expressed but am in hopes that you will get it so I can hear from it the next letter. There is talk that we are to be paid off again soon. There is 3 months due now. If they do, I shall send you about \$25 more. If we are paid in time to send it by Hiram Castle I shall do so. Now for a little business. I suppose that it comes pretty hard for Mr. Taylor to pay you money and if he is doing business for Lucinda and she has to pay him the money and she had just as lief turn it on what I owe her, I will give her an order on him. Please let me know in your next what the prospect is and I will be very much obliged. I just as lief have that pay my debts as anything else and I think it will come hard for him to let you have money. There is a rumor here that the old 3rd Reg. is coming here. I should like to see some of them. You wrote that they were all sailing out there this season. You did not tell what vessel they were going on. I suppose that will exempt them from conscript. I hear from Silly every few days. They say that he is well. I don't see why he don't come to the Reg. It would make a good deal of difference with me, for there is only one more Corporal in the Co. besides me that is able for duty and if he would come it would make a great difference. There is not a Sgt. in the Co. now but Hiram and he is sick. Our Co. has run down lately. We have 4 men that have lost their speech and are well other ways. I hope the Capt. will come back soon. Oh Frank, I want you to get somebody to set out them fruit trees just as soon as the ground is fit and have them set out on the dry knoll in the back of the lot. It won't take more than $\frac{1}{2}$ day to do it. You spoke about selling some of the cattle. I don't care anything in particular about selling them if I can have them as good as I left them, but if cows are high and Father had as lief let them go, I don't care. I don't want to winter them myself if I should come home this summer. I shan't keep only the steers and 1 or 2 cows. You can do as you see fit about keeping the calves. Now I liked this letter because you mentioned everyone almost. That is what I want, is to hear from everyone in the neighborhood. Well I must close for this time. Give my love to all. Everyone in our circle of acquaintance. No more at present, so good bye, from you affectionate husband,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 12, 1863

Dear Frank:

Yesterday I was on picket and the mail came out there and to my joy I got a letter. I feel somewhat anxious to hear while the babe is sick. I was afraid that the money that I sent was lost but I see by the letter that you got it and I am glad for \$23 don't grow on every bush. I am glad to hear that Father's eyes are so well. They must be a great deal better if he can do as much as to move Luinda, but he must be very careful or he will be worse again. I am glad to hear that you have got another letter from ~~from~~ Lut. I had almost given up of ever hearing from him again. He has never answered the last one that I wrote to him ~~and Patience~~ often. But you must not neglect to write to him and Patience often. You have more time than I do I think, although I don't know but I have the most time, but we are pretty busy. We have to drill from 9 until 11 o'clock and 2 until 4 and we have our own washing and guns to keep clean. You spoke about me writing how many heifers I have got. There is 3 heifers that are 3 years old this Spring that Father was to keep for the use of them, besides the old cow he was to keep the steers and the old cow on my hay and the rest on his own and consequently I should not feel right in taking them from him in the Spring without paying him, but if you should have a good chance to sell any of them and get the money or some improvements on the place, and he had as lief endorse their keeping on his note, I would be perfectly willing but you know that when I left there that I could neither sell nor let them at that time. You had ought to have \$20 for any of them at this time of the year. I suppose they are worth more than when I left. I think that if you don't raise the old cows calf that you had better send by someone and buy a little pig and raise it. The milk from one cow is enough if Father has got any. You had better get one of him that is if they are of a good breed. Don't get one of anybody but a good one, if you have to pay double. The keeping of the cows, all but the old one, don't cost me anything and I had about as soon have a cow as a mans note, for it is a risky time at present. We are expecting to be paid off in a few days now. Dan & Charley & Hank have been over here all day. It is Sunday, as there is not much to do on Sundays unless we are on picket. The boys was paid yesterday and as Dan used to say, they are going to live again. There is lots of boys that keep all of their money and spend it for things to live on. I will give you something of an idea of what it costs to buy things here. Potatoes are \$6 per bu. as the sutler sells them. That is 10¢ per pound, and apples are 3 for a quarter or \$1 per dozen, and butter can't be had at any price. Dried apples are 25¢ per pound, eggs are 60¢ per dozen and milk, what little can be had, is 25¢ per qt, and buttermilk is 20¢ per qt. The boys buy little cans of fruit put up like Bruces peaches and they have to pay \$1 for a can that will hold a pint. These sutlers take the money faster than any two merchants in Michigan. I have just got a paper from New York. It costs 63¢ where it is sent to a soldier and I subscribed and it has come. It is the N. Y. Times. So there is no use of sending papers here for they are not very apt to come until they are old. There has been quite a stir amongst the officers. Our Lt. Smith has been promoted. Oh Tip Hunter has got to the Reg. and is pretty well. Well, I will have to bring this to a close by bidding you good bye and God bless you. Give my love to all of father's folks and all our friends, so good bye, from your affectionate husband,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 17, 1863

Dear Frank:

It is with pleasure I sit to answer your of the 8th. It has been some time since I got a letter and I had become very anxious to hear from you. I was afraid you were sick but I am glad to hear that you are well and that the babe is no worse. I feel a good deal of anxiety for him, but I know he is in good hands. I would like to be there so as to help you take care of him. It seems that since Charley Jennings came to that place he has furnished the town with something exciting. I don't know but it is right for 2 or 3 to pound one, but I hardly think it is. I think they will get some fighting that will not be so agreeable as pounding an old man. You have not told me whether Mrs. Ross had moved or not. If she has I suppose you are some lonesome but you must make the best of it. I don't think that it will be any better for her to live up there than with you. You stated that there was a battle expected here everyday but we fail to see it. I don't think they will attack us. If they do, they will meet with a warm reception for we have a few men and some big guns planted in the forts around this town and old Rosy means to hold this place and he is the man that can do it, if anyone can. I must tell you about our division Commander having a sword presented to him. It is the most beautiful thing I ever saw. The sword is a pretty blade and then there is a steel scabbard and a gold scabbard that belong to it. The gold one is the prettiest thing I ever saw. There is a diamond set into the hilt of the sword that cost \$200 and then the initials of his name are set with diamonds and then the hilt is leather, all covered with gold and the sash must of cost as much as 4 or 5 hundred dollars. Then there was a set of Silver and Gold dishes presented with it, one wine pitcher cost \$200 and then there was a service that was solid silver laid with Gold and he had a saddle and bridle and spurs. The saddle was just as nice if not nicer than Gen. Rosecrans. The spurs are of solid Gold and quite heavy. The rings in the bits are Gold. The whole cost I have heard was \$3000 and was presented by the Officers of the division. Probably you will see an account of it in the papers. He is a good General and a perfect tiger to fight. He went as Colonel of the 2nd Mich. Cavalry and now he is a Major General. His name is Phillip H. Sheridan. The Officers all went over to his headquarters the day that it was presented and some of them got beastly drunk. There are a great many men that are ruining themselves by drinking here. The privates can't get much but the officers can, and there is too much drank for the good of the cause. Well, I will have to close. We are expecting our pay every day. The weather is very warm days, but nights are cool. The wood are all leaved out. Give my love to all of our folks. The health of the Reg. is good. Oh, Hiram has gone home. He started day before yesterday. This from your old man,

Arza

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 20, 1863

Dear Frank:

I just received another welcome letter from you and I thought although I had written only 3 days ago that I would answer it immediately, for there is no drill today. We just came in from Picket and we never drill the day after we come in, and we are to be paid this afternoon I think. We were on Picket right close by the old battlefield and the stench is awful. There is horses without number and men that have been over the ground say that there is Rebs there that are not buried yet and some that are buried are not put in deep enough to prevent them from smelling. I am sorry to hear that little Harry has such a hard time of it but I should think that he stood it pretty well if the hand that you sent is a pattern of his. I hope that Wheeler will not be sick long for I don't know what Father will do without him. You state that Ross has gone but you did not say whether he had gone to join his Reg. or to Washington. I am sorry to hear that Lucinda has lost that land. It is too bad. I don't believe that they can keep it from her but I don't know anything about the circumstances. You wrote to know what to do about selling the steers. I don't want them sold yet, for if I do get home before Winter I would much rather keep them and they will grow all Summer and I don't think that cattle are going to be any lower for sometime to come. You wanted to know how much I owed Lucinda. I think it is about \$50 and I have written to have you pay her \$20 or \$25, and I want father to pay the rest of it. The note that I hold against him is due before that that is against me. I probably shall send you about \$20 more this pay day. I wish you would write what the prospect is of Mr. Taylor's paying you anything. I thought that he would be right up to his word and I think he will pay it yet sometime. You have not written what the result of the election was yet and I rather feel some interest in town matters. Frank, I want to have that piece of ground seeded down and perhaps Father can get the seed of Mr. Taylor. If he can, have him do it. I hope that Father will be able to put that ground into crops for it will help us a great deal. Well, I can't think of much to write today and so I will wait awhile and perhaps something new will turn up so that I can fill this.

Tuesday Morning, April 21st.

Well, I thought I would try and close up this letter this morning. We were paid yesterday and I will enclose \$5 to you and I will try and go to the express Office today and send you some more. William is not going to send any right off. I would not let everyone know how much money I had in my hands for you must recollect that you are alone. I suppose that that money that we lent to Frank Carpenter is due, but I guess you had better let him keep it a year. I suppose there is no such thing as hiring a man this season. If I could, for a reasonable rate, I would get some logging and choppin done, but I hear that wages are high and help scarce. Well I can't think of much this morning. William is writing a letter to George & Martha and is going to send it too, by this letter. Frank Garrison has recovered his voice again. I have not seen Dan and the other boys for some time but the last time I did, they were awful homesick. Seph Brown is playing off, I think, for a discharge. Tip is well and so are the rest of the boys. Give my love to all our friends and take good care of yourself and little Harry. No more this time so good bye. This from your affectionate husband,

A. J. A.

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

April 26, 1863

Dear Frank:

After waiting in vain until after the mail came, and no letter, I thought I would not let so favorable an opportunity slip by without improving it. Although there is no news of any importance, it was rumored last night in camp, that the Kentucky and Tennessee troops are all coming into our lines. It is too good to be true, but I hope it is so, but there is always all kinds of camp rumors with no sort of a foundation. If it was so, I should think that the Southern Confederacy was about played out and I hope it is, but we must wait and see the end with patience. The boys are all well and in good spirits. I am well except a slight cold, but it is getting better fast and the warm weather is favorable for colds. I think by what we hear that it is more sickly there than at this place. I am afraid the next letter that I get will bring bad news but I hope not. Sile got a letter since I did and that stated that little Arza was no better, but I am in hopes that he will be spared to all of us for he would be sadly missed. It will put Father back a good deal if Wheeler is sick long, for he is the mainstay at present in the family. I hope our little boy will not get the Diphtheria for it is a very dangerous disease. It seems as though they had all the diseases that the human family was heir to in that town. I wrote you a letter about 4 or 5 days ago and enclosed \$10 to you and I shall enclose \$5 in this and I am in hopes that you will get it. I thought that it was about as safe to send a little at a time as to send by express for they will not insure from this place. I have not seen Dan or Charley for some time but I guess they are well. They are homesick, boiled down and Seph is dreadful bad but he don't show it in his face. I think he would like to take his discharge if they would offer it to him. This is a poor place for boys that are any way childish. We are ordered to be ready for Divine service at 4 o'clock. We have not had a Chaplain in our Reg. for 5 months. I would like to be there to go to meeting with you and I hope it will not be long before we will be there. I must not write so, for I will hear again that I am homesick, but I feel lonesome Sundays unless I get a letter from you, but I shall by tomorrow if it is not delayed. I have written to Lute again and I hope he will answer that one. Where did he say he was the last he wrote to you? Now I wish to tell you something you must be very careful about your money and keep it pretty close, for there are people in the world mean enough to rob you of every cent. You need not tell them that I have sent you any of the last. You had better get some of Father's folks to stay with you nights, for it is close by and will be but little trouble. I want you to use what money you want for your comfort, and keep the rest until I come. I don't want you to lend any more but I guess we had better let Frank keep what he has got for a year because you won't need it and I think the security is good. Please let me know how much your note is against him and what amount you have on hand, in your next. Well, I must close. Give my love to Father & Mother and Grandfather and all the children, please. And keep what you think you can bear for yourself, and the little one. Write often and all the news. No more at present. Good bye for this once. From your affectionate husband, Arza