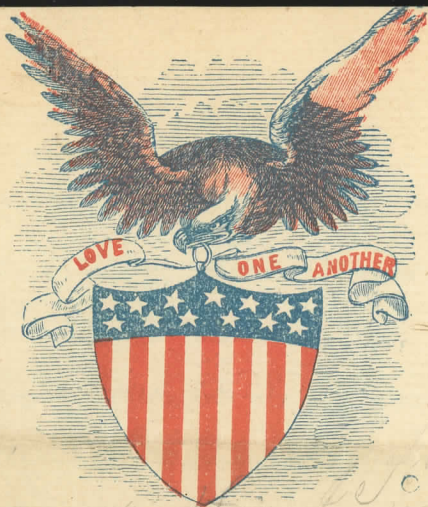


bring it for
I don't like to
risk it in a
letter but if
I can't come I
shall send it in a few days.
We have got some first rate
fellows in our band, the
first Major is a real good
natured fellow & a splendid
player. I tell you it is well
for me that I enlisted as
fifer if I take into consider-
ation the difference in the
respective duties of each. The
men have been out drilling
four hours this forenoon
while I sat in at home
in sight of them practis-
ing. but sometimes I think



Camp Randall.
September 3rd 1862
Dear Friends at
Home
Just after I com-
menced this I was called out
for dinner & will now finish it
if possible. I am well & have
been ever since I came here
although many have been unwell
their illness caused by a change
of diet & eating apples & one
thing & another which are ped-
dled around by the boys from
town. We have received our
uniform excepting our shirts.
I have one coat, cap, pair of
shoes & pants, two pair drawers
& stockings, my over coat, &
blanket. Our Regiment is for-

Camp Randall

September 3, 1862

Dear Friends at Home

Just after I commenced this I was called out for dinner and will now finish it if possible. I am well and have been ever since I came here although many have been unwell, their illness caused by a change of diet and eating apples and one thing and another which are peddled around by the boys from town. We have received our uniforms excepting our shirts. I have one coat, cap, pair of shoes and pants, two pair drawers and stockings, an overcoat and blanket. Our Regiment is furnished with better clothing than any other in or from the state. The coats are as fine as broadcloth. We have had new barracks erected for us as comfortable almost as a house. There are three rows of bunks one above another each side of a partition running lengthwise of the house and then a space of about 6 feet wide, between the bunks and side of the building. There are eight bunks in each row and two sleep in each bunk so each building accomodates 98 persons. Alexander and I sleep together. We have not had a great deal to do yet. The Regiment hardly being organized yet. The whole Regiment Received their arms day before yesterday and they are good ones too but I think they were partial not to give me one. I have not got any fife yet will ansvere. I tried one this morning but it was not good for much. I shall have to furnish one myself I guess. Our Company has received the #25 advance bounty in treasury notes and expected to get the rest today and were marched up to headquarters for that purpose this afternoon but for some reason (a soldier never knows the why of anything you know) did not get it but will probably tomorrow. The prospect of getting a furlough is poor now but few have been allowed to go yet and they the ones that have families to see, too, many having enlisted expecting a 20 days furlough and left their business expecting to come back immediately so you see the disadvantages of not being married. I don't think there is. Sept. 4'th, just as I wrote the last word preceeding this date we werè called into rank to march up to headquarters to get our month's pay in advance which we did quite readily. Musicians only receive \$12.00 per month so I have \$37.00 in Treasure notes just as good as gold. I wish I could come home to bring it for I don't like to risk it in letters but if I can't come I shall send it in a few days. We have got some first rate fellows in our band. The fife Major is a real good natural fellow and a splendid player. I tell you it is well for me that I enlisted as fifer if I take into consideration the difference in the respective duties of each. The men have been out drilling four hours this forenoon while I sat in a house in sight of them practicing, but sometimes I think I ought to be in the rnaks while others less able are required to drill. The boys are in first rate spirits and have been since we have got regulated. Before that we had to sleep just where we could pick a place, but now everything goes off as orderly as could be wished. Yesterday while passing along thru camp I met three women and the one next to me I thought I knew but she did not know me so I went on and happened to think to was Roana Wordworth and then I went and spoke to her. She was quite surprised to see me here. They are well. I have been up to town once since we came into camp and staid an hour or two and we have been out to the lake twice to bathe. We were glad of that for it's a nice place and the water is warm. I wish you had time to come out here and see us as we are now. A great many folks are in the camp every day to see the boys. If you could come out you would enjoy the visit first rate. Our rations consist of bread, beef, potatoes, beans, rice, sugar, coffee, tea and molasses twice a week. There are so many around talking that I cannot half write so please excuse all mistakes, and poor writing and write immediately. I have spilled my ink and had to use a lead pencil. News, reliable news (for all kinds of rumors are afloat in camp) are mighty scarce here and I wish you would send me some papers.

Yours truly

R. Coats
Madison Wisc.
Camp Randall
Company K, 23'd Reg.
Wisc. Volunteers
c/o Capt. Frost

Cincinnati O, Sep 17 62

Dear Parents
& Sister

I have a very few
moments to write to you
in & that I would
improve them, we have
just arrived here &
I am well as usual, a
great deal better than
when I started. We
rode two days & two
nights without hardly
stopping. We changed
cars twice. I do not know
where we will camp yet
We are now right in the
street expecting to go
over the river. I will
write again soon R Coats

21/11/1862

David N Coats

Spring Green
Wis



6185

Cincinnati Ohio
Sept-17-62

Dear Parents & Sister

I have a very few moments to write to you in & that I would improve them. We have just arrived here and I am well as usual, a great deal better than when I came. We rode two days and two nights without hardly stopping. We changed cars twice. I do not know where we will camp yet. We are now right in the street expecting to go over the river. I will write again soon.

R. Coats

Heat the 11th is around here somewhere
but I don't know whether it is or not
I wish it was for there would be a
chance of seeing the boys. We don't
know how near we are to the rebels
some think they are within 5 or
6 miles & some think they are
more than 20. I think they will
not trouble us while we are here
at any rate. We have had very
pleasant weather here thus far & it
is lucky for us it has been for
we had not got our tents yet but
expect them soon. We have good
bread and meat & coffee & sugar
& that is about all. The water we
use we get out of the Ohio river
about a mile distant but is rather
poor. Well I guess I've written about
as much as you will wish to see
My hat and will send a pack of hats
to all friends & write soon & often &
send me some papers. Your affectionate son
W. W. C.

W. W. C. 200
I got a lot of them they looked just
like the boys in Columbus about an
hour & then rode all night & got
into Cincinnati about 8 o'clock the
next morning. We left the car
for good a mile or so through the
city & then halted night in the
street & threw up our ~~trunk~~ knapsack
each one, and after a little had
a first rate breakfast - permission
we buy the citizens good bread,
ham, coffee, tomatoes, onions, apples
peaches, cheese, & ate it in a good
table under shelter. We then had
permission to run around town &
staid until noon when we had a
good dinner as the breakfast
was. There were plenty of peaches.

Camp Bates, Sept 20th 1862

Dear Parents & Sister

I now have a little more time to write to you and will try and improve it and will begin by giving a little sketch of our journey here. We were called up last Monday morning in Camp Randall about 3 o'clock to prepare for starting but the trains did not arrive to us until nine o'clock. Then we marched out of camp, the band ahead playing Jefferson & Liberty. We went in the same car that the Col. & the other officers were in, which was a very nice one. We played until we got underway out of town. We had a great time between McFarland & Stoughton. The track had sunk about a week previous as much as ten feet & they had just got it toggled up but could not run over it with an engine and we pushed to it and then all the soldiers got out and walked around it & then they pushed the cars across where another engine hitched on and away we went. We turned off at Milton Jct. onto the Chicago & Northwestern R.R. and went directly to Chicago. We passed through Janesville but could not see much of it. We saw some nice country between there & Chicago, the best we saw at all. We had some hot coffee & some of the hardest crackers I ever tried to eat before. I managed to eat one & that was enough. We did not stop until dark & then had to march two miles to another depot by gas light. I wish it had been in the daytime so we could see something of it. We (the Band) played all the way which took some wind. We got aboard of another train & the band had a car mostly to ourselves. We then had some good crackers & cheese & coffee or ice water but I guess the rest did not fare so well. The trains started about nine o'clock & we rode all night & arrived in Toledo the next morning. We had some more hot coffee but very poor bread & beef. There we had to change cars again & did not have enough cars to give one to the band so each one of us had to go with his company. I had to get into a 2nd class car without any cushions which was rather hard for us. We went within 25 miles of Cleveland & then went almost back again to Columbus and got there just after dark. There we had our supper but without coffee, had some water instead & some good cakes. We saw lots of fruit coming through Ohio but what a country, nothing but trees or woods & then a farm covered with stumps, but it was worse in Indiana for there was hardly nothing but woods, woods, & elms at that. The cars stopped at one place in Ohio & I got out the cars & went to an apple tree a little way off where the owner gave me permission to get what I wanted & I got a lot of them. They tasted first rate. We staid in Columbus about an hour and then rode all night & got into Cincinnati about 8 o'clock the next morning. Then we left the cars for good a mile or so through the city & then halted right in the street and threw off our knapsacks, and after a little had a first rate breakfast furnished us by the citizens, good bread, ham, coffee, tomatoes, onions, apples, peaches, cheese, & ate it on a good table under shelter. We then had permission to run around town & staid until noon when we had as good a dinner as the breakfast was. There were plenty of peaches peddled around by the boys & women, great large ones for a penny & smaller ones for almost nothing. Here were nice large grapes for 5 cts a pint. I bought 3 cts worth and that was all I could eat. I had quite a misfortune happen to me while here. My feet commenced to swell & became feverish & painful about 11 o'clock and in two hours I could hardly walk, so when the Reg't marched away I was carried with the sick. The Reg't was marched across the Ohio River into Kentucky about 3 miles and by that time it was dark. The Reg't had to camp right out without any tents or supper. I slept in a wagon which had a cloth cover. The next morning we had our breakfast of bread & cheese and beef. My feet were not bad in the morning, yet I could hardly walk a rod. John had been on the sick list but was almost well & he took care of

COATS

9/20/62

me. If he had not I don't know what I should have done. That morning the Regt. marched 3 or 4 miles to our present camping ground & it was astonishing how many gave out in walking that little distance, but there are not a great many sick now. Alexander has not been very well but is getting better now. We have a pleasant camp here but it is an awful rough country around here. There are a great many Reg'ts around here guarding Cincinnati. The 21'st and 24'th Wisc. are here, & I have heard that the 11'th is around here some where but I don't know whether it is or not. I wish it was for there would be a chance of seeing the boys. We don't know how near we are to the rebels, some think they are within 5 or 6 miles & some think they are more than 20 miles. I think they will not trouble us while we are here at any rate. We have had very pleasant weather here thus far & it is lucky for us it has been for we have not yet our tents but expect them soon. We have good bread and meat and coffee & sugar & that is about all. The water we use get out of the Ohio River about a mile distant but is rather poor. Well I guess I've written about as much as you will wish to read. My feet are well now & I feel first rate. John is well. Give my love to all friends & write soon & often & send me some papers.

Your affectionate Son
R. Coats
Co. K 23'd Reg't
Wisc. Vol.

Phillikens Bend. Pa. March 25th 63

Beloved Father

It is with pleasure I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your kind & affectionate letter of the 12, day before yesterday & am happy to inform you of my good health & spirits & hope these few lines will find you all the same I am glad you were so thoughtful to send me those stamps as I had sent away the last one I had the same day & although we have plenty of money not a postage stamp can we get here & I shall have to depend on you to furnish me & this currency is to purchase some with & send three or four at a time. O Father if I were only permitted to receive thy counsels as it was my privilege to formerly how precious it would seem for to yearn for Christian society for it is so dreary & lonesome here when I view the course of life so many adopt in the army, so much profanity & immorality every exhibited yet I dont know as this

bring
restri
to xx
from

March 16~~22~~ 25th 1863.

~~March 25 X 22 X 15~~



are
social
& differ
tendencies

Rev. David N Coats
Auna Iowa Co
Wisconsin

Milliken Bend La. March 25'th 1863

Beloved Father

It is with pleasure I hereby acknowledge the receipt of your kind & Affectionate letter of the 12'th , day befor yesterday. I am happy to inform you of my good health & spirits & hope these few lines will find you all the same. I am glad you were so thoughtful to send me those stamps as I had sent away the last one I had the same day and although we have plenty of money, not a postage stamp can we get here and I shall have to depend on you to furnish me & this currency is to purchase some with & send three or four at a time. O Father, if were only permitted to receive thy counsels as it was my privilidge to formerly, how precious it would seem, for I do yearn for Christian society for it is so dreary & lonesome here when I view the course of life so many adop in the army, so much profanity, & immorality are exhibited, yet I don't know as this is to be wondered at where so many are brought together & then the absence of all social restrictions & under strict military laws so different in their moral & religious tendencies from our civil and liberal laws at home, that even old professors go astray & grow cold in their love to their Saviour, but I do ~~not~~ try to do my duty & live in his love & there seems to be a feeling of peace & security in thus trying in my feeble way to lead the life of a Christian & how cheering the assuran that I am remembered in your prayers at home & Father, I do know if I am permitted to return to you we can live more happily & enjoy each others society much more. I thank you for printing out the excellent passages of scriptures & hope it may be of true value to my soul. O how the importanc of being a Christian has developed itself to my mind since I have made up my mind to find & love my Saviour . I daily feel the need of his love & protecting care & pray to be strengthened in my faith & acknowledge his ways in all my doings. You always write such encouraging letters that it is a great comfort to receive them, & is, as it were a beam of sunshine across our dreary pathway , but yet I dont intend to convey the idea that ours is only a tedious & cheerless routine of duties, for it is a life we are getting accustmed to & hence our difficulties are regarded as trifle and if it were not for so much sickness in our midst the boys would be much more content & there would be less pinning for the comforts of home The change of climate and water has had a terrible effect on the health of our boys and many is the one but for this might have still been with us in the full enjoyment of health and where so many are sick it is difficult to care for them properly. At best it is poor treatment a soldier can expect in the army. You generally speak hopefully of a speedy termination of this bloody strife. I did not know but you might speak so as an encouragement to us or it might be your sincere opinion in view of expected events for our past we think we have a mighty work to do yet

before the south is conquered. It is just two years since the war was begun and then consider what we have gained and what we are to gain. I know we have drove them inch by inch in the west and gained many glorious victories but yet they seem as determined as ever. That statement mother sent me respecting the various successes of each party I received and it was a fair view of our affairs, but we look the matter right in the face and make up our minds to fight it out, long or short. Two months ago there was a good deal of talk about running, deserting, being taken prisoner & paroled, etc. etc. but now that is all over with & every one is bound to stick it out. Often-times when I get to thinking about home and its pleasant associations, I do wish I could be there but generally speaking I am about as cheerful & in as good spirits as any of them and much more fortunate than a great many having an easy position as musician & enjoying such uniform good health. I am gld you had a good time at the quarterly meeting & I should like to have been with you. I would like to have heard Eld. Miller preach first rate for I used to like him so well. How I wish he could have been our chaplain, for he would have been the right man in the right place. We are now without any and have no divine services at all. It seems to bad to sell one of your horses to pay the debt as you have had them so long together and then you will be without any team. If you could pay for them by using the money I have sent you, would it not be best to yse it? You can act your pleasure but you are perfectly welcome to use iy. If you think best I suppose it would be best to let those people take the children if they would be kind to them as it must be a great task for you & mother to support and care for them these hard times. Yet I suppose it would be hard to part after being with you so long. I, m sure as little as I, ve been with them I should miss them if I were to come home. The weather is getting pretty warm in these parts this early & by a month to come I expect eggs will bake in the sun, it will be so hot. Father, you wrote me a real good letter and I was very glad to get it. I received one from Susie & mother The same day I got yours & shall ansvere it in a day or two. John is quite smart now & if vit were not for that heartburn that troubles him so. Frank is well & so is Alex & most of the boys in our Co. It is getting nearly bedtime & I shall have to bring this to a close. I have just been out to play tatoo. This morning I had to play all alone as the others were not very well. Give my love to all my friends & neibors & ever remember your affectionate & truant son. Romanzo Coats

Our over-coats have been drawn to the boats tongo up river & I suppose you will have to go after it or send for it. It will go to L.V. Tabor in Prairie du Sac & your name is marked on it. Good night.

Holmes Plantation La.
April, 19.68

Dear Mother & Sister

The morning after arriving here I wrote you a short note and having more leisure time today I thought I could better improve it in no way than by having a sociable thot with you at home. I am well & hope these lines will find you all the same. Day before yester day I was quite unwell with the sick headache but feel well today as usuall. At first I did not know what ailed me, only I knew I had most an awful headache which commenced in the morning & kept growing worse until in the afternoon when it was so bad I went up to the surgeons & he gave me a dose of castor oil & turpentine & excused me from the dress parade much to the disappointment of vthe boys in the band for I was the main one they depended on. I felt a good deal better in the & am well enough today. This was the first dose of medicine the docte ors gave me & the first dress parade I had missed, on account of being sick. Well Mother, your predicted long letter did come sure enough & right glad was I to get it. The fellows think I'm the luckiest fell- in the Co. for getting letters & I think no one has been more thought ful of the soldiers sons than you at home have of me, at least none of them get so many letters & that is about as good an evidence we require of being remembered at home for nothing hardky will so ani- mate the boys as to know the mail has come. Then theres sure to be two or three for me & good long, long good ones too. Dear! it was to bad we didnt get thosethings that were sent to John & I feel if you had only said at first that it had been sent by express we might have had it long ago for we would have had to send an order to the express agent at Memphis & have it forwarded to us & then by the time we knew it was sent by express we had to leave and come here so I had/ don,t know where we will get it. I don,t know as it will do to have to have to many chaps named after me as I could not remember them all in my will. I did write to Lucy Ann & I presume she has got it by this time. To bad about Frank H- but dont know as I could advise him in this matter. I guess you will think by my letters lately that I am not down hearted & in truth I am not for I never have felt more cheerful, hopeful or heahtier than I have the last month or so especially since we were paid off, by that we mean we have had good living. In fact it seems as though the boys all are more encouraged & in better spirits than any time since we left Ky. We are getting used to soldiering & only desire to whip the rebels soundly., restore the Union & (not slavery) but free- dom. I guess you can tell pretty well how I feel by the way I talk for you were always a pretty good judge of humane nature, & could not be very well deceived- by me at any rate. Yes, Mother, how thankful we ought to be to God for his kindness & mercy to us.

I, m sure we could not have asked for more & I pray that it may be continued. O Mother, I, m so glad you feel so reconciled to our separation. & apparently in such good spirits. For it would grieve me ex- ceedingly to know I should cause you unhappiness on account of my will- fullness. Keep up your spirits, dont get to wrrying & dream any of your ominous dreams & all will turn out all right in time only have patiece and trust implicitly in Gods mercy. I knew the Harris you spoke of well and he had a pretty hard time before he got his discharge. As he said I have to take the lead in the music and I dont like it much either. I did not think Abbie could scaee you so easily as that about sending small things in a newspaper for most all the boys get things that way & to think of your being in prison what a preposterous idea. But I suppose it is against the law & it is best to be on the safe side. Dear! Susie how excessively flattering you are getting to be. I believe you have become

so accustomed to such language in addressing or conversing with brother Frank that it has become a habit, hey? That makes me think about the story about Honey, or Sugar, but--Shaw what am I talking about but please excuse me & I, ll turn over a "new leaf" & try to do better. Yes I used to think there was something extraordinary about me but somehow I never could find out what it was & have about made up my mind I am only a common personage after all. I expect it was being praised so that made me think so isn't that it? If I only had time I would praise you ever so much but I have got to finish this tonite so I cant this time. I am really glad Willie has made a start & Im going to write him a letter one of these days & you must have him answer it to. I believe he could write a pretty good letter. I, m so glad Mary is getting better & hope to see the the day when we can have a good visit together. Well are you going about "keeping house" in good earnest? well you must be more carefull about breaking the dishes and tripping over the kettles or Frank will think you ought to have tin dishes. as we do. How did you know that letter was from a dash, I never heard of him. I, ll have to see about that, I have seen the house & think it quite a pretty one. Dear Susie, I know you will be happy if you only try to make others happy and let your happiness take care of itself. The 29th Reg't came down the river two or three days ago & yesterday I heard they were a mile or so from here, so I went up there & found King Buller & Joe King & had quite a talk with them. They say the most they have done is to guard cotten & they dont like it much. I heard yesterday the C Battery had come down and in hopes to see the boys Kinder curious how we come across the boys down this way ain't it, but it beats all how the troops are coming down the river. They are bound to make a sure thing of Vicksburg this time I think sure. We are making great preparations for it at any rate. Part of Farragut's fleet has come up and a night or two ago 8 or 10 gunboats ran the blockade by Vicksburg and two or three transports and one was sunk. According to reports the troops in Vicksburg and vicinity are pretty short of provisions and the plan seems to give it a regular seige. We had quite a rain shower last night but today it is pleasant. Where we are camped now the ground is 8 to 12, inches high and the cover arond here is five or six inches high & we have a right smart of warm weather too. I saw some peaches on a tree as large as plums and trees look as green as in June at home. We are in the land of crocidiles but as yet I have not seen any. One of the boys found part of ones hide & gave me a bit of it. John is well and in first rate spirits and appears almost like a new man. Franklin is well. Alex was not sick but was not strong enough to march. Isn't it singular about our tent boys,, only two left for duty; myself And Jefferson Daggett. Alex Thompson, Augustus Thomas, Wm Jones, Charley Frim, Geo. Partin, and Thomas Loysee & David James were left behind at the band unfit for duty. The rest are away in hospitals or dead. Well I guess if I write much longer you will not be able to read it at all for it gets poorer and poorer all the time. Give my love to all and ever remember your affectioate son and brother. Romanez.

Smiths Plantation La April 25th 68

Dear Friends at home

Last evening
after dress parade our mail came
in 2 letters from you, Mother &
Susie dated the 12th & was glad
indeed to receive it - we were
then on Holmes plantation & just
after supper came the un-
expected order to pack up &
march we hurriedly packed our
things & about an hour after
sundown we started. The roads
were pretty bad & in some places
a good deal muddy. The moon
did not shine much & it
was pretty dark but we jugged
along the best we could &
after marching 8 or 10 miles
came to a halt about midnight

Smiths Plantation La., April 25th 63

Dear Freinds at home

Last evening after dress parade our mail came in and letters from you, Mother & Susie dated the 12th and was glad indeed to receive it. We were then on Holmes Plantation and just after supper came the unexpected order to pack up and march. ~~hurriedly~~ We hurriedly packed our things and about an hour after sundown we started. The roads were pretty bad and in some places a good deal muddy. The moon did not ~~ix~~ shine much and it was pretty dark but we jogged along the best we could and after marching 8 or 10 miles came to a halt about midnight. We were tires enough and prepared to camp down. Our wagons did not come up but as we were going after some water we came across some bales of cotton and the way the cotton walked was a caution. I got me a good armfull which made me a nice soft bed worth from 6 to 10 dollars, rather costly but I dont have to pay it. What was our surprise to see two steamboats close by in the morning which had run the blockade past Vicksburg, and had run up a bayou to us 6 or 8 miles from the river. They fared pretty hard comming down I tell you. On one boat there were two shots through the pilot house, one through the smokestack from which a piece of iron ~~fi~~ flew & killed the pilot and then there were three or four shots through the engine room. They are to take the troops across the Mississippi to the mouth of the Black River. Part of our brigade went today and we may yet go tonight. I expect we are preparing to attack Vicksburg and perhaps before you get this it may be ours. It is getting very warm here now yet not very uncomfortable. I have not seen Leonard lately but the Reg't is on ahead of us and I think I shall see him. I have not the time to write much of a letter now. I thank you very much for those stamps as I was entirely out and had to send some without any.

Susan, I think a good deal of that photograph you sent me and it looks so natural and lifelike. Frank looks just as he used to. John is well and myself too. I forgot to tell you before, I feel as well as I ever have in the army. I got a paper also from you last night. You must excuse this poor letter as I have not much time but thought I would write a few lines as as I may not have time to write again for quite a spell. Remember me in your prayers and write soon to your affectionate son and brother.

Franklin is well & will send his love.

Romanez

6/23/63

I received your letter of the 11th inst. & perused it with my usual gratitude for
 its affectionate & if this is a poor method of conversing
 it is the bearer of those messages of love & friendship
 treasures inestimable to us cheering & enabling the heart
 to retain sacred those pleasant associations of bygone days
 & assurances of a loved remembrance even in this
 long separation. I acknowledge the probability of
 a special providence in being unable to participate
 in our recent engagements yet suined that I ought
 to be with the boys & perform my duty as a true
 soldier yet it may all be for the best. My ankle is
 not

I have
 with
 all my friends
 the
 in
 have
 do not
 I have
 the 11th inst.

I am indeed grateful that you write me so promptly
 & affectionately

it is the bearer of those messages of love & friendship
 treasures inestimable to us

cheering & enabling the heart
 to retain sacred those pleasant associations of bygone days

& assurances of a loved remembrance even in this
 long separation

I acknowledge the probability of
 a special providence in being unable to participate

in our recent engagements yet suined that I ought
 to be with the boys & perform my duty as a true

soldier yet it may all be for the best. My ankle is
 not

June 23 1863
 Soldier's Letter
 April 23 1863
 Due
 5820
 Mrs D. N. Coats
 Arena Iowa Co
 Wisconsin

I should
 the oil bottle
 each
 you
 can
 here
 I
 it

Hospital Rear of Vicksburg Miss.
June 23 Tuesday 1863

Loved Mother,

I received your letter of the 11th inst. and perused it with my usual gratitude for I am indeed grateful that you write me so promptly & affectionately & if this is a poor method of converseing it is the bearer of those messages of love & freindship treaures inestimable to us cheering and enableing the heart to retain sacred those pleasant associations of bygone days and assurances of a loved remembrance even in this long separation.

I acknowledge the probability of a special providence in being unable to partcipate in our recent engagements. Yet it seemed that I ought to be with the boys and perform my duty as a true soldier, yet it may all be for the best. My ankle is not entirely well yet for it is painful to walk the distance of a mile or two as it is weak. I should have ~~used~~ used that sweet oil you sent me but the bottle was broken that contained it and it was lost. It was really to bad Lephe should have missed my letter. I addressed her lond ago as I thought surely she had received it and I was waiting for an answee. Your motives for sympathizing with her were disintefested I suppose & Mary rejoiced at my misfortune should think she might be mote affectionate than to exhibit such a spirit as that I'll-----News indeed about Marion & Teresa, I 'low it'll be a shock to Sylvester. Guess it is only a story. It would be just like Alex not to write home even if he were well for I used to almost drive him to make him write before. He generally writes home and waits for an answee before he writes again which would be sometimes over a month.

I did not write home between the 10th and the 25th as we were marching & fighting so much & no opportunities for sending mails. I got a letter yesterday from Leonard and was happy indeed thus to learn directly from him of his partial recovery as I was very anxious about him. He wrote quite encourageing & I am in hopes he is much better. I have a real mind to scold you for talking so about your poor abilities in writing a lette for I think they are so good and kind I can almost imagine you as invisible, talking to me. Father must find time to write to me soon or I shall have to talk to him. Yes I think I could drink just about my hatfull of that new milk you spoke about and that would be about as much as one cow gives. Most of those things were good but I could not keep them all. I sold a few dried apples & currants but they were just as thankfully received. I did not see anything of the cake at all, too bad. I get all your papers and love them dearly. We were paid off a few days ago to the 1st of May but had to take all our money here. I have sent \$10.00 home by Mr. Paymaster. I am well as usual only a little tired out by sitting up nights takeing care of the wounded. I have to sit up half the night

Front of Jackson Miss.
Sunday July 13th 1863.

Dearest relatives. Again by God's Providence I am permitted to address you. Informing you of my good health & spirits. We received mail today, the first of the date respectively June 15th & 22nd & was very glad to get them & passed them & usual with interest. You doubtless have heard ere this of the surrender of Vicksburg & today we hear of the surrender of Port Hudson. I wrote you last on the 9th inst. the day the flag of truce came out & at 8 o'clock the 4th the white flag was hoisted on all the rebel forts & then it was that our hearts were cheered by our final victory & we expected immediately to march into town & take possession but alas for human expectations we found we were to march to Jackson & out Johnston but I was bound to see the town at any rate so I managed to elude the guard & went inside. I wish I could minutely describe the appearance of the forts & town. I don't see hardly how

a rebel was left alive in there. There was hardly a house tree bush or rock but what had been piddled hit or smashed. & the houses near the fortifications looked like a nutmeg grater on a large scale. Little you I felt proud when I could walk along that town on which I had so often looked with longing eyes & behold our boats lying alongside the town & I took the opportunity of taking a good bath in the waters of the Gulf of Mississippi which I had not before seen since we crossed the Grand Gulf. You probably know better than I how many prisoners guns & all took for I have seen no official statement but I wish were plenty in town that day if it was ours. I don't know what people at the north will think of the terms of surrender, that is paroling the prisoners. I think it is well enough as they are as tired of fighting as we are & I don't think their authorities will dare to force them to fight until honorably exchanged. They were considerably staggered at their defeat that is most of them. Some were sulky some mad & some glad. Our boys gummaged the town considerably.

Front of Jackson Miss.
 Sunday July 12 1863

The next morning the 5th we started for Jackson
 & came on by short marches to here yet it was

Dearest Relatives: Again by Gods providence I am permitted
 to address you informing you of my good health and spirits.
 We received mail today, the first in a good while & received
 a letter from you, Father, and Susie on the date respectively
 June 25th and 22nd, and was very glad to get them and peruse
 them as usual with interest. You doubtless have heard ere this
 of the surrender of Vicksburg and today we hear of the surrender
 of Port Hudson. I wrote you on the 3d inst. the day the flag of
 truce came out and at 8 o'clock on the 4th the white flag was
 hoisted on all the rebels forts and then it was that our hearts
 were cheered by our final victory and expected immediately to
 march into town & take possession, but alas for human expectations
 we found we were to march to Jackson & south-Johnston but I was
 bound to see the town at anyrate I managed to elude the guard &
 went inside.

I wish I could minutely describe the appearance of the forts and
 town. I dont see hardly how a rebel was left alive in there. There
 was hardly a house, tree, bush, or rock but what had been riddled or
 smashed and the houses near the fortifications looked like a nutmeg
 grater on a larger scale. I tell you I felt proud when I could walk
 along that town on which I had so often looked with longing eyes
 and behold our boats lying alongside. The town and I took the opp-
 tunity of takeing a good bath in the waters of the old Mississ-
 ippi which I had not before seen since we crossed below Grand Gulf.
 You probably know better than I how many prisoners & guns we took.
 I have seen no official statement out. I asked men plenty in town
 that day if it was ours. I dont know what people in the north will
 think of the terms of surrender, that is paroleing the prisoners,
 yet I think it is well enough as they are as tired of fighting as
 we are and I dont think their authorities will dare to force them
 to fight until honorably exchanged. They were considerably chag-
 rined at their defeat, that is most of them were sulky, some mad and
 some glad. Our boys rummaged the town considerably after getting
 in there but not as bad as I expected that they would.

Your loving son & brother,

Roman C.

but I will write some if I have
to go without eating & sleeping
out while out to Jackson we shall
not send mail not had secured
any writing material either
but please accept them as they
are if in old envelopes

I saw John a few moments
ago & he is very well & good
natured & ever has dont make
any difference with him
just the same every where
ever ready to do his duty to
both his country & God
You & Father may have the
press money if you want
it - or next time have it -
My well wishes & love to both

Frank & Susie
hear from
after
Mother
appears
love

Please accept
these verses
from Thomas

July 27 1863



Mrs D. N. Coats
Arend, Iowa Co

Pickens Miss. July 27th 63
Beloved Mother

Again with a
glad heart I improve this opportu-
nity of writing you a few lines in
answer to your excellent & affection-
ate letter written after your return
from Quarterly Meeting which I
received while on the march from
Jackson to this place but had the
misfortune to lose it, too bad, but
I had read it over twice & guess
I can remember most of it. It
was indeed a good long letter
deal of it. In
since you had
adon for not
ant" scold you
expect you to
I think you do
you used to write

Vicksburg Miss July 27th 63

Beloved Mother,

Again with glad heart I improve this opportunity of writing you a few lines in answer to your excellent & affectionate letter written after your return from Quarterly meeting which I received while on the march from Jackson to this place but had the misfortune to lose it. Too bad but I had read it over twice and guess I can remember most of it. It was indeed a real good long letter and I thought a good deal of it. In the first place I'm sure you had fully sufficient reasons for not writing sooner & shant scold you a bit. I cannot expect you to write all the time & I think you do extremely well as you used to write so seldom and are making fine progress in the epistoary science. Flattering aint it. I cannot think of half what I wish to write because I lost that letter. It was just at night when I got it and I had a great time reading it. We had no candles and we had to read it by the firelight for I could not wait until morning. Today it is Sunday and it is then that I think the most of home as I miss its privileges the more but I try to bear it all cheerfully & succeed well generally. I am still well and healthy and hope you may be the same. I have just got another letter from you of the 12th with the rhubarb in it and I thank you very much as it is sometimes very hard to regulate the stomache. I am glad you got the pictures. I knew you would like that one the best though I guess the features are not quite so distinct yet I thought you would like the position and appearance the best. But I guess I'm the "old plain sixpence" in them all. Yes Mother if I had only been there I would gladly have gone with you to meeting but I know you thought of and prayed for me, and that is one comfort to me and hope I may always live worthy of your lively affection. You need not thank me so many times for that money for I'm sure they are worth more than a penny a piece for them and then I shall be your debtor. I did send that money by the paymaster and doubtless you have received it by now. I was up to the 6th Bat today & Wiconn came back with me and I let him read your letter. He sends his love to you. He is not very well now and is not very tough I guess. Albie looks first rate and I had a good visit with him today. He is just as sober as ever. Rollin is not very well either yet is with the Co. I guess I will leave the milk question alone until I come and then I will settle it (the question and milk both). You must not place too much confidence in my coming home but if we get up the river as we think we shall now I shall try to get a furlough. I did ~~xxx~~ write about sending Mary's photograph but forgot to put it in both times. I think I am pretty well furnished in the medicine line at present & will not send any more orders. We have moved down on the river bank now and gone into camp again in regular style the first time since leaving Holmes Plantation along time ago and it seems real good too but yet I can sleep the soundest to spread down my rubbers & put my blanket over me with my coat for a pillow.

Richburg, Miss.

Sunday, Aug 2nd 1863.

My Dear Sister

After a long absence
I shall improve this pleasant
Sabbath evening in writing to you
I ought not to have delayed so long
but for one reason & another I
have kept delaying at which now
but this morning I thought I
would answer your excellent letter.
The first thing I did, I see it you
wrote to Mr. while in our campaign
out to Jackson & it put me at good
deal of pleasure & it was such a good
long one I have almost forgot how
to write them & had to work about
two found necessity but there with
my like trying I still enjoy and
but health & spirits & hope you
may have the same blessing. Love

Aug. 2th 1863.



Rev. David A. Coats
Arsenal, Iowa Co.

Wisconsin State 31

5810

Vicksburg Miss.
Sunday, Aug. 2nd 1863

My dear Father

After a long silence I gladly improve this pleasant Sabbath morning in writing to you. I ought not to have delayed so long but for one reason and another I have kept delaying it until now, but this morning I thought I would answer your excellent letter. I received your excellent letter while on our campaign out to Jackson and it gave me a good deal of pleasure and it was such a good long one. I have almost forget how to write them and had to write short ones from necessity, but theres nothing like trying. I still enjoy excellent health and spirits and hope you may have the same blessing.

A number of the boys are sick but not more than the usual number I guess. Although the weather is so warm here we have to take good care of ourselves or we have a good deal of sickness among us. After all our ardent desires to occupy this stronghold, it isnt a place to reside in long as it has been occupied by troops so long and under peculiar circumstances that it is a filthy unwholesome place, and I suppose our stay here will be rather short for we are under marching to go to Natchez as soon as transportation comes and our army corps is to keep the river clear between here and Port Hudson. I suppose it is a healthier place down there than it is here, yet I had strong hopes we would go back to Memphis. I suppose we will go in a day or two as Hoveys Division is getting on today. Our Corps comprises Gen. Osterhouse, Carr, Smith and Hoveys divisions averaging perhaps 3500 men apiece, efficient men because there is always a great difference between the aggregate and efficient number of a Regt. as ours for instance numbers between 150 and 200 men for duty and has over 600 sick and well here and in the hospital scattered from here to St. Louis. It seems almost a strange kind of a life to go into a camp and adopt its usages again instead of the march and the line of battle to which we have been so long used since crossing the river as also the whiz of the bullet and the crashing of the shell so common before. We fared harder out to Jackson than we did for here the country was such that we could find protection easily behind the ridges and be in comparative security while there we were in almost all level country where they could have range on us all the time and it is a wonder to me that there was not more of us hurt. But they generally shot to high as the shells would go thrashing through the tree tops making everything rattle and I have had the pieces fly all around me when the shell would burst and the bullets whizzing through the air continually with that peculiar sound which sometimes startles the most daring. But it is with this as with other soldiers duties -- nothing after we get used to it.

Grand Core. La. April 12th 1864

My Beloved Mother

Again through the mercies of a kind Providence am I permitted to inform you of my personal safety & good health hoping this may find you as well though not so wearied for we have just passed through one of the most trying & well as "terrible" scenes I might say that I have ever witnessed of which you will probably have learned before this & at present I can not write particularly as I would wish yet please let it suffice for the present. I last wrote you or rather Father at Natchitoches the 3rd inst. & this is the first opportunity since. We left that place the morning of the 6th last Wednesday our Corps taking the advance with only the Cavalry ahead of us leaving the 19th Corps to follow us & the 16th Corps Gen Smith's forces to follow them. That day we marched about 16 miles & camped right in the woods & the next day marched 18 miles & camped on Pleasant Hill the Cavalry having quite a severe fight just before evening & set pretty badly used as they

"And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the Free, and the home of the Brave."



Apr 12th 1864

DUE 6



Mrs D. A. Coats
Stone Rock
Wis.

Grand Ecore La. April 12th 1864

My Beloved Mother

Again through the mercies of a kind Providence am I permitted to inform you of my personal safety & good health hoping this may find you as well though not as wearied for we have just passed through one of the most trying as well as "terrible" scenes I might say that I have ever witnessed of which you will probably have learned before this & at present I can not write particularly as I please, yet please let it suffice for the present. I last wrote you or Father at Natchilocke the 3'd & this is the first opportunity since. We left that place the morning of the 6th last Wednesday, our Corps taking the advance with only the Cavalry ahead of us, leaving the 19th Corps to follow us & the 16th Corps, Gen Smith's forces to follow them. That day we marched about 16 miles & camped right in the woods & the next day marched 18 miles & camped on Pleasant Hill, the Cavalry having quite a severe fight just before evening & got pretty badly used as they ran into a kind of a trap the rebs set for them by concealing their front line of men & showing themselves in their rear when our men charged upon them & lost pretty heavily.

Friday Morning just our Brigade, having the four Regt's, 67th, & 77th Illinois, 19th Ky. & ours with one battery (Nims) of 6 guns, in all not numbering 2000 men were ordered up at 1 o'clock, ate our breakfast & were on the march by 8 o'clock to support the cavalry in their advance while the rest of the troops lay in camp till daylight. Our Regt. was in advance; we marched on till about 7 o'clock when we came to where the rebels were in line in the woods when our brigade passed all the cavalry but two Regt's who dismounted & went just ahead of us a skirmishers & our Regt. & the 67th formed in line of battle on side of the road & came on the rebels. They fired but a few shots & fell back slowly we following them up marching in line of battle. We went on in this manner all the forenoon getting pretty tired as we did not have much rest. Finally we came to a large clear plantation on the side of a sloping hill facing us which we crossed & stopped just on the top as we discovered a large force in the woods ahead of us ready to receive us. Here our brigade formed a line of battle & waited for our second brigade to come to our assistance as it was evident the rebels intended attacking us. It came up about 3 o'clock & formed on the right of ours. Our Regt. was on the extreme left supporting four pieces of Nims battery. We were anxiously wishing for the 3d Division to come to our support as we had only one line of infantry & did not know what force there was to oppose us - but it did not come. Soon we heard the rebels cheering & coming upon us with an overwhelming force of as much as twenty thousand against five thousand of us. The firing on both sides became almost ~~terrible~~ terrific; one continuous roar of musketry & the rapid boom boom of our cannon. Our boys fought bravely nobly and stood their ground while the rebels came on, on with irresistible power until they were almost to the very point of our bayonets. Then we were ordered to retreat. The line on our right broke before our Regt., leaving both the right & left flank of it exposed. Our Maj. then ordered us to retreat. I was right with the boys till then & we turned & ran as fast as possible across that field as much as a mile in width all the time exposed to the fire of the enemy who were following us in good line and as fast as possible. I ought to have mentioned there was a support of cavalry in the rear of us which somewhat checked them as they drove

John & Franklin
are both well

I have the best
of health &

My Mother
finds the way

find
you
as
well

Parents
& his

Beloved
Father

J. N. Grant

Sea Cross

Mo

Baton Rouge Sea June 5th 64

Dear Father

It seems a long
time since I have written to you & I fear
you'll think me too negligent but I
hope you will excuse me this time
& I'll try & do better in the future. I
rec'd your welcome letter of the 15th ult
written at Sea Cross a short time
ago & it seemed rather odd to hear
from you in that part of the state
I am glad you have such encouraging
success in your new business & I hope
it may be profitable & pleasant to you.
I suppose you have learned by this
time most of the particulars concerning
our late expedition & it will be un-
necessary to enumerate the rather
unpleasant details. Maj Gen McSher-
man came to us at Alexandria & took
command of our Corps & was greeted
with the most enthusiastic cheers by his

John and Franklin are both well. I have the best of health and hope this may find you as well.

Baton Rouge La. June 6th/64

My dear Father

It seems a long time since I have written to you & I fear you'll think me too negligent but I hope you will excuse me this time & I'll try to do better in the future. I received your welcome letter of the 15'th written at Sea Cross a short time ago and it seemed rather odd to hear from you in that part of the state. I am glad you have such encouraging success in your new business and I hope it may be profitable and pleasant to you. I suppose you have learned by this time most of the particulars concerning our late expedition and it will be unnecessary to enumerate the rather unpleasant details. Maj. Gen. McClelland came to us at Alexandria and took command of our Corps and was greeted with the most enthusiastic cheers by his old Vicksburg heroes but much to our regret he was soon taken sick & very severely too & the last I heard of him he was hardly expected to recover. Gen. Banks was very unpopular with the army but whenever Gen. Smith rode along the lines the boys would give cheer after cheer for him & I see he has been rewarded for his meritorious conduct during our recent struggles by an additional star, now Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson Smith. All honor to him I say. I hardly know when this letter will reach you as we hear the river is blockaded above here at Greenville but I guess it will be but a temporary obstruction but it deprives u from hearing of the news from Gen. Grant which we are somewhat anxious to hear. I do so earnestly hope that he may be successful for there is so much at stake in the result of that terrible strife for the capture of Richmond. The last we heard he was on the march again from the scene of his severe seven days fight. May providence favor him with ultimate success. We have had quite a pleasant time here although it is getting quite warm weather now making it somewhat uncomfortable in the middle of the day. The rest of those prisoners taken at Carston Crow have just come to the Reg having been exchanged for those prisoners captured at the battle of Pleasant Hills April 9th. They have been in the Parole Camp at N.O. ever since last Dec having had such an easy time of it. Col. Guppy has also returned to us. We have lately been joined by such a number of recruits from the state and now we have quite a respectable Reg. but the 11th boys in it have been ordered to the Reg they number about 100. The hardships & exposures of our late campaign are telling somewhat on the health of our boys especially the recruits as quite a number are on the sick list but not very serious. We have considerable drilling to do now to remedy the demoralization we have lately experienced. I suppose our band had only two drummers left when we got here but now it is pretty well filled out and of course have our dress parades and in military style. Ours is the only division now here but we soon expect the 1st here and then we expect to go to Carrolton again. Charlie Finn has come to the company again at last after an absence of more than a year. He looks well and hearty. I had a letter from Leonard a few days ago tho his Reg. is at Brashear. He thought the return to military life was somewhat Tedious after enjoying the pleasure of a visit home. How true it is of what you wrote of the comfort of true religion. It is an unestimable treasure. The more I strive to adopt its precepts yet it is a source of regret that I cannot enjoy it. I would wish a circumstance from its hallowed influence & the enjoyment of religious society. Yet this only endears the heart to its worth. I hope Mother may come to you there for it seems more lonesome to me to think you separated.

Please write Your affectionate son Romanez

Soldiers Letter

J. C. Gruze Maj

23rd Wis.

Apr 20th 1864



Mrs D. N. Coats

~~Arena~~ Iowa Co
Iron Brook
Wisconsin

forwarded 3th

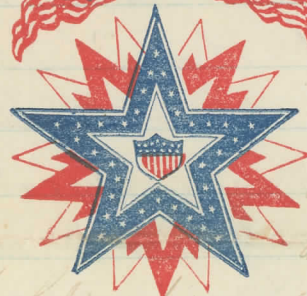
Grand Osce, La. April 20th 64

Dear Dear Mother;

I sit down cheer-
 fully to write a few lines in answer to
 your very good letter of the 21st ult.
 just after you had moved into the old
 home again. I think I must com-
 pliment you on your good improve-
 ment in writing - not by any means
 inferring that you were not a good
 correspondent before but have very much
 improved for you can write such
 long interesting letters. I think all the
 world of them. You have really moved
 back to the old homestead again. How dif-
 ferent from when we were all there
 before one of your children given away
 & the other - but you hope to get him
 back again some time, don't you. May a
 kind Providence permit it. I am
 going to write to Uncle Charles if I ever

"... REBELS WERE
 PRETTY BADLY
 DEFEATED...
 'MOTHER, I HAVE GOTTEN
 ENTIRELY OUT OF
 POSTAGE STAMPS...'

NOT A STAR MUST FALL



WITH PATENTED

Dear Parents &
Sister
Camp Randall, Wis
August 31st 1862

Although it is but
at short time since
I left home yet thinking you
would be anxious to know how
I prosper in my career as
a soldier I gladly occupy
these few moments in writing
you. You will know by the
date that I am far from the
place where I last wrote you.
Wednesday afternoon we were taken
down to Mayo Manie by teams &
got on the evening train going
east & arrived in Madison
about ten o'clock but did not
have any supper until past



THE
FOR THE UNION

Aug 31 1862



David A. Coak Esq
Spring Green Wis.

Matagorda Bay, Texas.
Post Cavallos, Jan 2^d 1864.

Dear & Loved Mother

Again in good health & enjoyment
I am permitted to write you
that you are still remembered
by your soldier boy although
you'll think it a long time
since I had last written at
least it does so seem to me
for we have just passed through
one of those ever changeful
scenes incident to our life
& are now landed on the
beach & sandy shores of Texas.
but still our hearts turn to
the far loved homestead & distance
only renders its associations the
more dear & whatever the va-
riations of life the heart like
the infallible magnet invariably



and
Jan. 2. 1864

Mrs. D. N. Coats.
Jones Rock Wis.

we some good butter before
we started which served us
well. Franklin was sick most
of the time & thought he would
not make much of a sailor
John was well. George Van
Loan was the expert in our co.
& many thought they would rather
march the distance if they could
but I wouldn't. The first second
our division are here now & part
of the 3rd have come to the bar
& when the rest of it comes
the 13th A.C. will be in Texas
instead of Memphis. Nothing I do
ever trust in God & love to read
& obey his holy word the best I can
though I often fall short of performing
my duty. But I pray that I may
be faithful & steadfast to the end.
Keep up good courage for our
time is nearly half out & then after
3 years service for my country I think
I can return conscious of having
done my part. Yours in love forever
Wm. A. Cat

MATAGORDA BAY, TX
PORT CAVALLA
TO MOM:
NOTES
BLOCKADE
+
JESUS CHRIST

Dec. 10. th. 1863



FA 7162

Rev. David A. Coak

Sore Rock
Ms.

BERWICK, LA.
MENTIONS GRANT
'BRILLIANT
SUCCESSSES'

Berwick, La. Dec 10th 1863

My Dear Respected

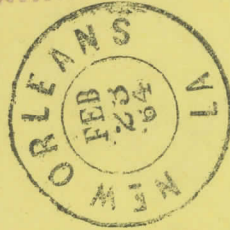
Father:-

I gladly embrace this opportunity to write a few lines so as you may of our whereabouts & that I am still in excellent health & spirits & hope that this may find you all well. You'll observe that we have changed camp again by this commencement as we are back again to our old camp on Berwick Bay. It is now ~~Wednesday~~ ^{Thursday} evening. Monday about ten o'clock we rec'd orders to be ready to march at one pretty short notice but we were ready & marched that day & part of the next two days & got in here about noon today.

Port Covalla, Tex. Feb 12th /64.

My Dear Mother

How do you do today?
I am very well indeed & have enjoyed excellent health since our arrival here much better than I might expect. Although we must live on just what Uncle "Sam" provides for us it is good wholesome food & I believe is better than buying those little knick-knacks we would sometimes if they were brought around to us. We have first-rate hard bread salt pork or beef beans coffee sugar &c. which we have got pretty well used to by this time. We have not had any soft bread since we came here as there is no flour that can be drawn for our use & I don't know but



Mrs. D. A. Coats.

Some Rock

Mrs. Coats

Feb 12th /64

PORT COVALLA, TX
'UNCLE SAM PROVIDES
GOOD WHOLESOME
FOOD.
'BETTER THAN BUYING
THOSE LITTLE
KNICK KNACKS...'

Dear square
 Please possibly writ
 in letter Will we
 have more leisure
 & all long to make
 around Good bye
 Bye.

P.S. the 23rd we
 of the 13th Corps
 were ordered to
 act as foragers
 guard of the
 town of Natchitoches
 N.Y. 2nd Apr. 86
 as stated in
 this paper
 Natchitoches
 My Dear Father

Again am I
 permitted to pen you a few lines & in-
 form you of our safe arrival at the
 above mentioned place after a five days
 march from Alexandria where we were
 a week ago today. We left Alex. a week
 ago tomorrow the 28th ult. It was a rainy
 day & we had a muddy tedious march
 which rather dissipated the romance of
 a soldier's life especially to our new recruits
 yet we only made the best of it. The
 day only making the more mercurial to
 that a person could but laugh in spite
 of himself. It cleared off before night
 & we had a good camp & bed for the
 night. The next day we came into
 rough hilly country covered mostly with
 pine timber & very poor land. heretofore
 it had been level rich country & had been

3c
 APR 23 1864
 ORLEANS
 APR 23 1864
 Co. H 23rd Regt. Ill. Inf.
 Rev. David H. McCall,
 Lone Rock,
 Richland Co. Wis.

Apr. 24/64
~~James D. [unclear]~~

NATCHITOCHEES
 " A MUDDY TEDIOUS MARCH WHICH RATHER
 DISSIPATED THE ROMANCE OF A SOLDIER'S LIFE,
 ESPECIALLY TO OUR NEW RECRUITS.
 " IT WAS EXPECTED THE REBELS WOULD...
 GIVE US A FIGHT. " BUT THEY SKEWADLED.

There we had to change cars again
& did not have cars enough to give
one to the band so each one of us
had to go with his company I had
to get into a 2^d class car with-
out any cushions which was rather
hard for us. We went within 8 to
miles of Cleveland & then went
almost back again to Columbus &
got there just after dark. There
we had our supper but without
coffee had some water instead &
some good cakes. We saw lots of
fruit coming through Ohio but
what a country nothing but trees
or woods & then a farm covered
with stumps. but it was worse
in Indiana for there there was
hardly nothing but woods. woods &
else at that. The cars stopped at one
place in Ohio & I got out the cars
& went to an apple tree a little
way off where the owner gave me

Sept 20th 1862



Rev. David N. Coats
Spring Green
Wis.

Camp 12 miles from Opelousas. ^{La.}
At Nov 4th 63

My Dearest Relatives

Having only a few moments allowed me to write you a few lines I hastily & gladly improve them to inform you that I am still alive & well although you will doubtless hear ere this of the terrible ordeal our Regt has just passed through, including the great loss of so many of our brave boys. I cannot write you in detail this time as I am now at the hospital taking care of the wounded & the mail will go out within a short time. Yesterday about noon our Brigade which was in advance of all troops about three miles quietly in camp was suddenly

Nov. 4th 1863.

12 MILES FROM OPELOUSAS



FATHER

Rev. David N Coats,
Sons Rock,
Wis.

Let's have a stamp book & put many a
pleasant card or letter in it
I have them for a reward from my
Morganza, La. Aug. 19th 1864

My loved & honored
Father

Your kind epistle of the 5th inst
was yesterday read with much
pleasure & it is a most agree-
able task to employ these few
moments in writing a few lines
in reply. you must not expect
much of a letter this time
There is such a dearth of any
interesting news from this
quarter that it is extremely dull
with us. That was a good story
about the 29th having been in a fight
& the other still more absurd about
the furlough. I think that Bowers
has a Machiavelli like style of
story-telling. furloughs can only
be granted in case of sickness.

MORGANZA, LA.

Aug. 11th 1864



Rev. David N. Coats.
Sons Rock
Richland Co.
Wisconsin

CUTS IN

5845

Aug 18th 1868



Mrs D. N. Coats.
Arcena Iowa Co.
Mo.