

Camp 36 Du Pont
Little Rock Nov. 17/54

My Darling,

Sometimes I don't feel as though I could possibly write a letter, and I am in just ~~in~~ one of those conditions to night. If it were not that you are grumbling in a sly way - because you don't get more letters I should not attempt it till to-morrow. But then, I put it off. The mail may go out without a letter for my Darling, and that would not be right. So here goes at what facts have come before the Court for the last few days; and, first, I received a letter from Henry this morning, in which he stated, that, he had got off from the draft, and was all right. There was no other news in his letter.

Didn't I make fine Grammar and
Rhetoric on the first page. Then I got
Three letters from Dollie and one from
Jane. Your latest one was dated on
the 14th ult. I was glad to get it
I was glad to learn that your wound
was no worse. You have not treated
it very well my pet, or it would have
been better before the 14th. If you have
kept it well dressed it is surely
nearly well by this time. I want it
to get well quick. The Dr. charges
you a very small bill.

Do you think it best for Jane to
travel around with the youngsters so
much Dollie? What girl is she
associating with? Be sure and have her
keep clear of a Nicholas girl. They
won't do for her to associate with. I
want to get her into Letter Society
just as soon as we can get to living.
It is getting late, I must sleep some

I will finish this in the morning
in time for the mail. That will do
wont it my pet. But before I quit
perhaps I had better talk about bus-
iness a little; and first; what do you think
you had better do with the corn when
Mr Knapp gathers it? And; Last - or Sec-
ond - what do you think; you had better
do with the corn when Mr Knapp gathers
it? Good night my pet.

Later, I don't go to bed, but went
into Capt. Porters tent and had quite
a talk with him, about things in general
We are looking for Col Fittredge
in every day, and when he does come we
are going to have an exciting time I
think. Col Drake is getting up char-
ges and Specification against him, and
if he gets at it rightly he will make
a good thing of it. In my opinion, Col.
Fittredge will have to resign, or he
will be dismissed the service

One of the charges will be drunken-
ness, and that its self, if proven, will
dismiss him. I can furnish mate-
rial during the summer-sufficient
to do the work. I handed them to
Col. Drake this evening. The papers
will be forwarded within a few days.
Other officers are beginning to realize
what I told them two years ago. They
have suffered enough to realize the
fact now, but it is nearly too late.
Our term will soon be out, and some-
times we can stand, until the end, but were it
late in the evening of the 31st of Oct 1805
he should be punished, that better
men might receive justice. I can't
make Col. Kirtledge any more bitter against
me. If it does let him pitch in, for
Col. Drake is my friend, and I will
assist him all I can, and know it. I
have not got the blues. Because of that
I will write soon again.
Sincerely
Vermilion.

Don't say any thing about the affair with Anthony & Drake

Camp & Iowa July
Little Rock Nov. 5th / 54

My Darling
The clock has already
struck eleven, but I don't want to go
to bed until I talk to my feet a while.
The mail came in this morning and brought
me just a short letter from you dated
on the 14th ult. It was short. Your
arm and shoulder were so stiff and,
I know it, hurt you to write it.
Your warm hand has done well my
feet. It should have been dressed sooner
that is if it swelled much; but
you have done the best you could I
know, and I do hope it is well now.
I shall be a little uneasy until I
learn it is well, and that you have
the use of your shoulder and arm.
It is so near the joint, it may
injure it, but I hope not.

As soon as the wound heals you must
use it as much as you can, and not let
it grow stiff

There is a rumor in town, that Pleasant-
on has captured Massachusetts and
Ten Thousand men I hope it is so
Pine surely cant get out of Missouri
and Kansas with his whole army. If
he does he surely can go any where
We have forces enough in that coun-
try to either capture or disperse his
whole force, if they push their advantages
as Sheridan does in the Shenandoah
Valley. This should be their last trip
north. They should be made to realize
the fact that that Country has been
fought over sufficiently often already
and that it is in reality a northern
State. Tied ^{to} the old Government
by bonds so strong to be severed
for any length of time, by any Confed-
erate army west of the Mississippi

I am hopeful now for the war is
going right. Give Grant a statue
for Richmond, and Sherman for At-
lanta, we have met with no serious
reverse, and I don't think we will;
yet I doubt very much if Grant
get Richmond this season. The weather
will soon be so cold for the boys to
be and keep water in the rifle
pits the winter are cold then you
know; too cold for troops to campaign
much during the winter. There must
soon be a lull, for awhile at least
The election is all right, already
All we have to do is to cast our
vote next Tuesday, and the final count-
ing will foot up all we could see-
in. I feel confident of that for
Eleven months more and my time
will be, even if we are to serve for three
years from date of muster, which I suppose
we will if the Government needs us

I have not got time to talk about
business to night and I don't know
what I should say if I had the time
Do as you think best

Mr Garrison is still living, but
there is but little prospect for him
to get well. He may live on for
some time. He is still suffering very
much. Col Fittredge has not got
here yet. So of course we must wait
until he does come before we can know
how he and Col Drake makes their
troubles

It is actually my bedtime, which
generally is seven or twelve o'clock at
night. - There the old city clock
is striking twelve

I can't find time to read this

Love Sweet Dollie

D. F. Vermilion

Tell Jerry I remember he

V

Camp at Iron Spring
Little Rock Nov. 5th 1864

My Darling I must talk awhile before I go to bed for the night. I received the letter from my pet this evening, and they make me sorry too. Your wound has not done well. I am afraid you have not done altogether as the Doctor directed, or it surely would have been better. There are but two things that am afraid of. One is Erysipelas of the surrounding tissue, &c. The other is anchilosis of the shoulder joint. But the wound being superficial, and as I suppose, didn't involve the joint. There surely can't be much danger of stiffness. You must not use it enough to irritate the wound; but when it gets well so it doesn't hurt you to raise your ^{arm} up and move it backwards and forward, you must then exercise it smartly, though be sure and not irritate it. I do hope it will soon get well. I must not remain sore much longer. That is I hope it want

What a blunder I made on the first
page in spelling Shoulder. I knew
better when I read it

The news from Missouri is cheering.
The papers confirm all the previous re-
ports about the defeat of Price and
his army of twenty-five thousand men.
The papers of the 31st report that Gen.
Pleasanton has whipped him, and cap-
tured several of his General Officers,
fifteen hundred men and all of his
Artillery but one piece, and that Price
has lost four hundred of his wagons
and ^{has} blown up all of his ammunition
train. Poor old rebel. Out on an ex-
tensive raid with but one gun and no
ammunition for it. I hope Uncle Sam's
boys will keep him up in his own
state for the rest of the war. I have
been looking at the map of Missouri
this evening, and I don't see how he will
ever get out of his present position
without suffering still greater losses in
men. He surely can't lose many more
guns and wagons.

I saw Col. Drake ~~many~~ more this after-
noon. He is more firmly determined than
ever in his cause than Col. F.

He will be put in arrest immediately on his arrival here. Gen Solomon has so assured Col Drake. He should have been here before this. I am afraid he has succeeded in getting his three hundred Conscripts for our regiment I dont want them. Our work will be much more and much harder, and the boys dont want them to come. They want to see the drafted men go into the service but they dont mean want them in the 80th and especially in Company "A". They may not come

The late papers are lying here on the table unread. I must stop writing and look over them a little before I go to bed. Perhaps I will lie down and read until I drop to sleep. You want love will you my Darling. I am not going to let you grumble any more about not getting letters, although I have been writing three and sometimes three each week. If I knew what to say I would finish this page. I guess I cant, for I see I come to a standstill. You see there is but one word that comes to me readily. Dont you see in the fourth line above it is the pronoun I. I love you just
Will

Camp of Iowa Troops
Little Rock, Nov. 7th 1864

My Darling
Our recruiting Party have all got in but Col. H. H. Hedges. He reported at Davenport with the others, but left them there under the pretext that he was going to Des Moines to look after what men we have there, and was to meet the other boys at Cairo. They have heard nothing more of him. Some of them think he will never show himself here again. For the first time in my life I want to see him. Not for five hundred Dollars would I have him to resign before coming to the Regiment. Some people - yes many people have thought - and may still think I have been too hard on him. Just now there will be a chance for the proper authorities to decide that question, and I tell you I don't fear the result. I want Humphrey May to know just what his good Colonel has come to, and just what he has done for the Country, and then let him decide if he or I have always been right in our judgements as to his virtues.

You may think I write too much
about him, but I don't write all I
think I don't write all other people
think. Capt Clifton (who went north
with him) said this evening that he
hoped he was in h. l. That came from
one of his neighbors, and from a Capt
of our regiment. The boys say
he was too generous to pay the expense
of his own baggage, and Capt Clifton says
he compelled his negro to load himself
all the time they were traveling. Can
you imagine anything means than that
But I must go to bed. My candle
is giving its last flicker, and I have
no more here. The commissary is half
a mile or more off, and the establishment
is not open. If it were I don't think
I ^{would} go for candles this evening. Perhaps
I will try to borrow one to read by
while I go to sleep. Goodly sweet Dollie
Morning 8th

The drum will beat in a few minutes
for the election to commence, and I would
be glad to say that every soldier in this
regiment would vote in the sake of his
country, but they will not. Some few
very few will vote for McClellan and

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Some few will not vote at all
that is the strangest thing of all
The man has the carriage to fight
for his Country, but not the carriage
to fight for it. Some of them say
they cant vote for Lincoln, and they
wont vote for McClellan on the
Chicago Platform. Why is it so?
Have they reasoned correctly, or do
they want no President at all? It
seems to me every man who wants
a President should make a choice
He should vote for the one or the
other. If he likes Lincoln and the
Baltimore Platform better than McClellan
and the Chicago Platform, he should
surely vote for Lincoln, if not he
should vote for McClellan, and if he
is opposed to having a Chief Executive
he should not vote at all. At such
a time as this we cant all be pleased
in men. We must take choice of
such as are before the people. Suppose
we were to refuse to support this
General, or that General, simply
because we dislike some of his measures
what would become of our Government
and our institutions. But my sheet is full

I am quite well this morning
I am getting a long first rate
We have plenty to eat, and we have
a pretty good negro woman cooking
for us. She has been working for
us now for nearly six months.
I hope we will get some more mail
to day. I want to hear from Peis
I want to hear of his army be-
ing cut all to pieces.

I love you Dollie

Wm. L. L.

Camp Co Iowa Infantry
Little Rock Nov. 8th / 64

My Darling

We have had an election, and what do you suppose the result is? The regiment has polled two hundred and thirty seven votes, and all of them are for McClellan but two hundred and thirty three. What would ~~bully~~ think of that do you suppose? He thought the Eastern Soldier would cast four or five for Lincoln, to one for McClellan. We do a little better than that. We have given fifty eight and a fraction for our Country to one against it. Bully for the Co Iowa. Yet I am not satisfied. I didn't want any man who has been with this regiment for two years to cast a vote on the side of our enemies. But there are four. I hope they did it through ignorance. There surely can't be a man in our regiment who voted the Copperhead ticket understandingly. There was not a vote cast by a member of my Company against our Country. ~~Samuel Marchbanks and John Penter~~ voted for Lincoln and the rest of the Union ticket.

Or study Davenport & Dave Stuart didn't
rate at all Sam. Allen rated all
right. That was mainly camped
with Davenports actions. The judges are
counting the rate now I want to get the
rate of our County yet to night

We have not heard yet what the
other Iowa Regiments have done We
dont expect much from the 20th Last
year it gave Tuttle three majorities, but
it is thought by those who profess
to know, that they will do better this
year. I shall hate it if they dont

I dont want any of you to write
down here any more, about this one
or that one's going to rate the Copper
head ticket. for I doubt if there
are a half a dozen regiments, ^{in the} service
that do any better than we have done
Last year we cast about three hundred
and seventy five rates and seventy one
of them were for Tuttle. That was
about Greeley's count. From this on
count us all right

Yesterday and today have been two
very warm days, almost as warm as
August in Iowa. This afternoon it has
been thick cloudy, and every now and
then raining quite a shower

To night I think it will rain very
hard. The time of year has come for
heavy rain in this climate, and last
year at this time we had quite cool
nights. The ground freezing considerably.

Our camp is in much better condition
at present than it was at this time last
season. We have better cabins than half
the people in Iowa.

Another mail came in today, and I got
one good letter from my pet, and it
did me a heap of good. I was a little
uneasy about your wound my Darling,
but now I hope it will get well. You
must not work enough to irritate it.
Give it time to heal up, and then
you will be all right. You will
never know just how glad I am that
it is out. I didn't want to have
a great large tumor growing on my Darling's
shoulder, and then I knew the danger every
body nearly runs in waiting too long
before having such things taken out. In
all probability it would have been a dan-
gerous operation to you, had you waited on-
other year before having it taken out. But
now it is done and you will soon be well.
You see this sheet is nearly full, and I must
sign it and go and see how the country gets along.

Later. The vote is counted Aphanass 20
stands Sixty nine for the Union and three
for the Copperheads. So we only get a
majority of Sixty six. That will help
our legal friends considerably I must
write a few lines to Judge Hamblett
or some other friend at Centerville
Perhaps I will write a few lines in
the morning. Sincerely
yours

Later I will put this up to night
for fear I dont get it in the mail
in the morning.

W. H. Vermillion

Sat a word from our
bags at Tyler

Camp & Iowa Infy
Little Rock Nov-9th 1864

My Darling

I started you a letter yesterday morning and one again this morning. Do you want me to start you another tomorrow morning? If you do here is at it. But what shall I say? I have learned nothing all day but a little election news. The 29th Iowa cast about five hundred and thirty-five votes, and seven of them were for McClellan. The 40th - formerly a Copperhead Regiment, gave about sixty majority. The 4th Ohio Infy gave McClellan some twenty odd, and Lincoln two hundred and twenty odd. The 6th Ohio Battery went unanimous for Lincoln. I believe I have not learned how any of the other regiments voted. They are all right though. I am sorry the 40th Iowa has done so poorly. They should have given Lincoln more than sixty majority, but they have not.

We expect to hear of Price at some point on the line of the Arkansas in a very short time. The latest accounts I have placed him at Carthage (that is good orthography), with Pleasanton following him closely. I hope he has caught him and given him fits again.

Sheridan seems to be watching Longstreet is
in the Valley of Virginia. I am not much
uneasy about affairs in that part of the
Country. Still I believe there will be
some more very hard fighting there yet this
fall or winter. The rebels will hold on to
that valley until they conclude to give
up Richmond, and I am not around guessing
as to when that will be, probably not before
Spring. You will laugh at me for saying
that, or else turn around and say I am
not hopeful enough. But I am my pet.
I have unlimited confidence in Grant and his
army, but the task is herculean. It will
take a long time to accomplish the work.
The result will be sufficiently great to
pay you well for all it will cost.

The war seems to be sloping badly in Sher-
man's Department. I don't like the idea of
thoats getting so far in our rear without having
to fight for it. Sherman is after him I know
but he don't seem to catch him, and fight him.
Perhaps he will yet. He must do something
you know, or he will have to evacuate Atlanta.
The conscripts that are being sent forward will
surely increase his army to a sufficient number
to enable him to move with safety against any
force the rebels have in that part of the Country.

Truly
Yours

Nov 11th

Got a line did I get to write yesterday. There was something to do all day and all evening and then today I have not felt like writing. Don't rec'd yet the 29th Iowa has not done as well as was first reported. They gave McClellan fifty one vote, and Lincoln four hundred and fifty. So you see we have beat them all. Copperheads have no show in this regiment. All of us who have been at home know them too well. Corporal Walker says they are the meanest set of men he ever knew in his life. They boys who have been at home this summer say I never told them just how bad the Copperheads were in and about Missouri. Their going home has done the most of considerable good. Noah Broham can say the hardest things of them of any man I nearly ever saw. Orsely Davenport can't near sit and listen at the boys read his letter. He goes for Lincoln with all his might.

I am well to day, I have not been sick to amount of any thing all summer. I am going to keep well if possible. It Missouri is much better. He starts home in a few days.

Vernon

Camp ^{of} Iowa Infy Col
Little Rock Ark Nov 11, '64

My Darling

I have just been to the Post Office and put a letter in for my pet, and you may think strange that I come back and sit right down and go to writing again, but I don't know what else to do till bedtime there is nothing going on here to talk about, Yes, I forgot, there is a rumor (God bless the rumors in dull times) that our forces, that went up the river a few days ago have been fighting up near Lewisburg (is that name spelled correctly) off and on since day before yesterday evening there are no particulars given by Mr. Runner I am not posted as to the strength of our forces, some say the Commanding Officer sent a day for reinforcements, if that is the case there may be some pretty hard fighting to do in that part of this Department. The rebel force is supposed to consist of all Greaves Command and that they on their way to help old Pop Price out of his difficulty, if that be true I think we have an army up there sufficiently strong to head him off, and perhaps whip him badly. We will be apt to hear from up there in a few days.

If our army is not sufficiently strong
in that part of the Country to prevent
reinforcements going to Briv it should be
But suppose we talk of something else
I am perfectly willing if you will name
the subject, About you Dollie? Shall it be
The moon, The stars or The sun, or shall it be
neither. I am no poet you know, and of course
I can't sing of The moon like Byron, I am
no theologian, and can't sing The Course of Time
like Pollock, Neither am I like Pope, or as
learned as he was. If I were I might
write an essay on man, and astonish the Col-
onists by leading off in their peculiar ideas
farther than they go themselves. But I am
not learned, I am not great, and of course can
never know and say great and wise things, as
great and wise things have been said in days of
yore. But there is one thing I can say, and
say it as truthfully too as any one who has
ever lived and been blessed with the power to
write or speak; and that is I love my
Dollie with all my heart. A little longer
we must suffer and then we will be gather
unto our friends, and then I hope The war
will be no more, and that peace will reign
through out The land. But this holy sheet is
nearly full, and it is quite late I must go to bed
and sleep and dream of Dollie's beauty

Nov-12th 184

My Darling,

During this afternoon I have been reading an English story. It is not much in its self but it has, ^{made} me a little sad for all that. A young Doctor married a young girl of sixteen, and she loved her fondly. He was a good every day fellow. She was romantic, kind and caring but little of the realities of life. She was a great reader, but her reading was confined to poetry and novels. He read his medical books and earned by dollars, and wanted his wife to put her time in working with ^{the} needle. In one week after they were married they found out that they didn't like to talk to each other. Suppose that had been our condition my Darling, what would have become of us? Suppose that was our condition now what would become of us in the future. What would we do with Spring coming and passing, the Fall come Summer coming and passing, the Fall and Winter coming and passing, with their long evenings (you know we always liked them) I guess I would just make you talk. That is about what I would do. But the Doctor and his wife didn't do that way. They didn't quarrel, but they did the next worst thing, they didn't talk to each other.

Nov-19th

All well this evening Col Fitzhugh
came in yesterday in the afternoon. He attracted
very little attention from any one but Lt
Warden and May Hamilton. Col Trobe
didn't see him until late this afternoon
I have not learned how they made it
Neither have I learned if Col Trobe
has handed in his charges and specifications
Perhaps I will learn something about
it tomorrow.

I am going to see my Darling. But I
must tell you one thing before I go.

I love my Dollie

Good bye

Vernilion

Camp of Iowa Territory
Little Rock Nov 15th 184

My Darling
Something often happens to prevent my writing to Dollie, just when I want to. This evening I was sitting here by the fire thinking what I would say to her to night when some of my friends called and wanted me to play a game of evens with them. I couldn't make an excuse very well, so I took a game, and it proved to be a longer game than I expected, for it is now nearly ten o'clock; but I am going to write to my pet yet. I never get to sleep to talk to her, and I never get to time to talk to her. You know that don't you sweet Darling? There was you tell me just what you think of that question?

There are plenty of things to talk of, but I don't know what to say, I guess though I had as well tell you what I love you to night, and that I would give upwards of a good deal to be by your side chatting to you just now. It is a good while till morning, but I think we could talk till then, but have half said that we would never say

The war will be over after awhile. Then we
can chat and chat and chat and keep chatting
until we grow so old so chat any more,
provided we should live so long; and how
old do you think that would be Dollie?
Would it be nine hundred and six ^{thirty} ~~four~~ ^{nine}
years? I suppose Methuselah talked quite
well at that age, and why shouldn't old
things become new? Why shouldn't men
and women live as long, or to as great an age
as they did in the days of Methuselah?
God is God, and is all-powerful; and it would
be just as easy to give some of us a long
life, as it were to give it to men living
in the beginning of the world. But I sup-
pose you will laugh at me for talking
so; but why should you? Every man
has a right to say just what he pleases
about such things, whether he believe what
he says or not. I might as well tell to
you about such things as that, as to try to
interest ^{you} in what is going on in a military
way in this Department; for everything here
is irksome. We get nothing from the seat
of war only as the mail comes in, and that
is only once in every six or eight days. We don't
make any news for any more. We don't do
anything but eat private Sam's rations, wear his blue
clothes and do drudgery of the worst kind at least every other day

I have written one half sheet my feet
and I can't see that I have said any
thing sensible or nice. Don't you think I had
better go to bed and sleep over it until morning
and then try and say something more sensible
I think I had better. So I offer you a good
kiss, and take myself to my blankets

Nov. 12, 184

Good evening Dollie. I wish I could see
you and talk to you in place of writing.
The mail came in this morning, and this
evening. I got just one letter from my feet
and that was dated on the 8th of Oct
that has been over two weeks. That is a
good while to do without a letter from
you my sweet love, especially when
your arm is so sore. I hope it is better
than it was when you wrote last. I wish
I was there to come it up for you. I am
afraid you are not treating it rightly.
Do the best you can for it my feet.
Tell me what was ever done with
your mortgage. Have you got a deed
for your land yet? Tell me if you
know, and can write, without hurting
your poor arm. I have a table full
of papers lying here waiting to be read.
You think I have nothing to read, so I will

you what I have here, and then I will go
to bed and sleep and think of Dollie
I have the N Y Tribune of the 5th
the Cincinnati Dollar times of the 3^d
the Memphis Bulletin of the 11th and Henry
Walker has a Missouri Democrat of the
6th. There are plenty of other papers
in camp - among the boys - but there be
enough to do me for a few days? You
know I always was a great fellow to
scatter papers around at home (not while
we were at Pratt) you remember no doubt
I am the same way here, or if any dif-
ference worse, for there is no one here
to scold me

I have run out of your socks, I have
taken the one you sent by me to Will
Is that right? They were in the way
and I thought I would give him plenty
when he gets in, which I am afraid
will be along, while we have heard
nothing from them for several months
I will put this up and have it all
ready to go out in the morning

Tell Jenny to write me some good letters
and to tell me all the home news she
has. Don't forget to give me all the
news you have my feet. I love you, and
I will always love you
Sincerely
Vermin

Camp of Iowa Infantry
Little Rock Nov 19th 1864

My Dear Dollie

This mornings mail brought me a letter from Sergeant Brimes He writes that Mathew had died at the pest house the night before of Small Pox What a sad thing my Darling, that he should die of that disease, and under those circumstances in the fourth year of his soldiers life. He was the first of our number to enter the Service of our Country, the first wounded on the battlefield, and the first to yield his life in the sacred cause for which we are all contending. It is hard to think of his death as it occurred. All brave soldiers like him, who have to die, want to die on the battlefield, with the Stars & Stripes floating proudly over them and the roaring Cannon. But we must submit to the laws of Him who rules in the hospital as well as on the battlefield. It makes me sad to talk about his fate my Darling. I am sorry - truly sorry, for you and for your aged father & mother. It seems to me now that I surely knew the brave fellow would never get through his second term.

I know I thought much more than I expressed. You know he told me, while at Mr Pratt's, that one reason for his reenlist-
ing, was that he feared if he didn't he might never get home; that there would be hard fighting to do in the Department in which he was, before the expiration of his first three years. That was hard my Darling; for a soldier who had fought the battle of his country for three long years, to be influenced in the least to serve three more years rather than to run the risk of a few more months of strife without seeing his friends. And it was not that he was afraid or timid on the battlefield, but he wanted to be sure and see them, before yielding up his ^{life}, if such had to be his fate. He had a present^{ment} of what was to come, yet he had no fear about him. I will talk of something else my Darling.

We have no news here - nothing whatever that would be news to you. Col Kirtledge is here, and is now in command of the regiment. He and Col Drake have met several times, but I am not informed as to what took place. The charges & specifications against Col Drake Kirtledge have been handed into Gen Salmon, our Division Commander and I have learned indirectly, that Col Drake

requested the General to let him
withdraw them but he refused, so there
is no stopping until the Case is tried by
Court Martial, and then unless the Col. is
acquitted the Case will have to go to the
President of the United States. The case
is such that he must be either acquitted
or dismissed the service, I am perfectly
willing to submit the matter to the
judgement of an unbiased Court

There is nothing else I believe to talk
about my feet, Dont fret about Wood-
side. Some one will turn up to work it
Take good care of your best self my love
You am must get well and stay well
Tell Jenny to keep her spirits up,
and that next October will here after
while and then I want to see her look-
ing as bright as a new dollar

I love you my feet. Cordly
D. F. Vermilion

Camp of Iowa Infy
Little Rock Nov-21st 1864

My Own Dollie,

I dont know whether I ought to attempt to write you a letter to night or mat. It is quite late, and cold, so you must not expect much this time

I have just been looking over Adjutant General Bowers report from Jan. 11th 1863, to Jan. 11th 1864. It is the most botched thing I ever saw in my life, in the way of an official paper. Three of our first recruits, that were enlisted in Appanose County, ^{are} credited to Monroe Co, and six of them to Wapelle Co, and those that ^{are} enlisted to Appanose Co, are not half credited to the proper townships. Some are credited to Gell, and some to Keuma, townships in Appanose Co. There are no such townships in the Co. I have just been writing to Judge Tompkins in regard to it. Perhaps he can have some corrections made.

We can appreciate our fire places since last night. The wind blew, and the ground has been frozen all day.

We have no news, We never have any
news here, only when we get a mail
I hope we will get a big one in the mor-
ning, I want to hear from Dollie and
I want to hear from the election in
Appanoose Co. We have already heard from
the State, I would be at all sur-
prised if Iowa turned out to be the
Lumber State, I am of the impression
that we will give Lincoln the heaviest
majority in proportion to the number
of votes cast of any other State in
the Union. I sincerely hope such
may be the case, I would be proud
of such a vote as that, but nothing
else, I want Iowa to be a head of
every other State

I am tired writing my sweet Dollie
I am going to send you this, if you
grumble ever so much at me, it is
this or nothing, this time, I know
you want something, so don't grum-
ble

I love you more precious pet, and I
think of you all the time, I will
think of you for a long time after
I go to bed and then perhaps dream of
you though I am not much of a dreamer
Sincerely
Dollie Vermlin

Camp Co Iowa Infy
Little Rock Nov-24th 1864

My Darling,

We have had a busy day of it. The regiment is gone. A few of us are left. Three or four Officers, who are on detached service, and fifteen or twenty men who are left to guard what we have left here. It will take us nearly a week to move, provided we take all that justly belong to us. I am in favor of taking every thing we can, for I don't think we will get to come back here again this winter.

Col. Hittredge had to go. That gets him. He is the ranking officer in the Brigade, and if he was worthy of a command, would ^{be} Commanding the Brigade, and Part of Little. But he has been Commanded by a junior Colonel ever since his return from the North, and now has to take his two hundred men, and go some distance out, and guard what many consider, the private interest of some military man high in command. The place is a lonesome one. We will not have any Company, and we can't tell how long we will have to remain. Perhaps a month; perhaps six months. We are going to build quarters, and a substantial Stockade, to keep the Rebs from fucking us up.

Nov 27th

Some of the boys have been in from their new camp. They say they have a very nice place, and timber handy to build with. Col. Kit. said this afternoon - that the boys had done very well today; that they had killed one hog and one deer; "Lurt." says he "I didn't get any of it;" a very significant remark. There is a cavalry regiment still beyond our camp. I think I will be relieved tomorrow; then I shall go out immediately. I want to be out there to help plant the Cobin, and the boys will soon think I have deserted them if I don't go. We will be better off out there than here. We will get plenty of fresh meat and, perhaps vegetables. The boys have found ^{a triumph} fields of some ten acres, but a mile and a half from camp, and are already helping themselves freely.

I have just received three good letters from Dollie, but I am real sorry for her. Your arm is not doing well my pet. I do wish I could be there long enough to cure it up. I wish you would get some Doctor to look at it, and tell you what to do for it. Do my sweet pet.

Appanose County is all right. They have beaten us but thirty-five on the home side. We did enough right here in this regiment to overcome that and considerable over. Their balls and, whisky in the cellar last winter didn't do them any good. They are gone up in Appanose County here forever and for ever.

I have one bit of news my feet, and I may thank
Sona troops for it. The 33rd Sona is just now
the talk of the whole 4th Army Corps. They returned
from a trip to Ft Smith on night before last, and
went into their old quarters just of tonight. The Division
Band, a band of dutchmen, brought here from Wisconsin
by the dutch Gen. Salomon, for the especial benefit of
of the various dutch organization of the army, and espe-
cially of the 1st Division, went into their camp to give
them a serenade. They stopped before Col McKee's tent
and commenced playing. The Col. was bathing at the time
The enlisted men fell upon the musicians, and beat them
with stones until their flesh was very sore. The Lt Col.
The Major, and the line officers went out and told them
that they were sinning against the dutch, the army
regulation, and the privilege of lands in general, but they
heeded them not, but caused the stones to fly so thick-
ly, that the safety of the officers required that they
return to the place from whence they came. So the
Wisconsin dutchmen, who it seemeth are here without prop-
er authority from the War Department, were left to
the mercy of the infuriated 33rd Sona. Truly the flying
stones, and it seemeth that the 33rd Sona truly and the
stones prevailed, and that the dutchmen composing the
band had to go away with their flesh all bruised, and their
heads more sore than when they came. Since then it has come
to pass that, when one soldier meets another soldier, in the road,
or on the streets of the city, or in his quarters, they say ^{one to an-} ~~to each~~
the "The 33rd Sona truly hath stoned the dutch band because the dutch that rule-

sth in this Department, doeth unto the dutch soldier better
things than they doeth unto the white soldier. Some
who prize their Country well, sayeth one to another
Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously;
The dutchmen of the Land hath He shown to be stone

I would not care so much if some other regiment
had thrown the stone, the 29th June had had some
trouble with Gen Solomon about the same Land
Some say the Gen. is not allowed to master the
Land, and that he trise to collect a tax from the
various regiments to pay them, and that the 29th
being the 1st Colled of an, refused to pay. Since
then the 29th June has been transferred to another Division
My lame back has got well, I am in first rate health
again.

Tell Jerry, I will write her a letter sometime
Till he sends her love

I send my Dollie a kiss and plenty of love
Respectful

Camp of Iowa Troop
Little Rock, Nov. 23rd 1864

My Good Dollie,

My health is good, and I can eat as much as almost any soldier, and that is saying a good deal. We still have plenty to eat. At supper we had cold boiled beef, fried bacon, coarse hominy, Onions, molasses, good coffee, & good light bread. Wasn't that that sufficient for a well soldier? I think it was. We generally have nice fresh Irish potatoes. The last time we got rations the Commissary of Subsistence was out, and of course we had

Nov 24th

After I got the "T. mail" last night, and before I got it crossed, Col Kitzbridge came to my door, and told me to form my men immediately. I asked him if they were to come out under arms? He answered yes - no - yes, no, and a last said he would go and see. In a few minutes he said the men go into line under arms. So I had Sergeant Brachar to form my Company as quickly as he could. I hear your question my pet? You want to know if the Pickets were fired on, or if there was danger of an attack. Of course there was that

I. you may as well rest easy about that
there was nothing worse than a fire in the
City, which proved to be very destructive, both
to the Government and private citizens, and, there
were orders for us to send in case the fire
alarm was given - one half of our men to the
place of danger at once, I had heard the bells
ringing for several minutes, and I had thought
I would give the fire time to get under way
before putting myself to the trouble to get
up and look at it. But after the bells had
been ringing sometime the Mayor happened to
think that there was an order requiring us to
go and assist in extinguishing it. I took my
men down - under arms - on the double quick, while
the rest of the regiment followed lazily
without arms, there was nearly one whole block
burned. The government lost heavily in quarter-
master's property. I have not learned just how
much. Private losses amounted to about fifty
thousand dollars. We didn't get back until ten
o'clock, I didn't have any work to do but the
double quicking down then put me all in a sweat
and as a consequence I took a cold. Sometime in
the night I woke up, and tried to turn over, but
I couldn't make it. As ol Doct^r Albin used
to say I have a rheumatism in my back. It hurt
me very much during the afterpart of the night and this
forenoon, but it is much better this evening.

I will be all right by to morrow. You must not be uneasy, for all of my mess fellows say they are not making any thing by my rheumatism - that if I had had rheumatism they would have to charge me two price for board. I dont want them to have to do that. It cost me enough to pay for one ration. My fire has burnt down my feet, I must go to bed. It wont for me to sit here and get cold. That would make my back worse. I will write you a long letter tomorrow or mess day. Dont be uneasy about me my sweet feet I will be all right in a day or so. In the meantime I hope there will not be any more fires in the city.

Tell John Davis wife that he is gone to Ft - Smith as an escort on a boat. He will be gone several days.

Sergeant Hancock is in the General Hospital but is able to run around. Ordeley Davenport will go in a few days. I sincerely wish they were both discharged.

Be good Dollie. Love to my sweet feet.
W. F. Hamilton

Camp of Iowa Infy
Little Rock Nov. 28th 1864

Dollie,

This is Sunday. Some of the days have been to church, but I was not one of them. That is not in my line of business you know. But you don't like to hear me say so.

We have not had a mail - to amount to anything for over ten days. The last letter I received from Dollie was dated on the 4th inst. That is a long time my feet to have to wait. Seventy long days and nights without one word from my sweet feet. But she has written plenty of good letters - I know if she has been well enough, they will be a long one of these days.

We have just received orders to quit our comfortable quarters, and move out on the Benton road three miles, and guard a saw mill that the Government is just finishing up. We received the order about three o'clock this P.M. to go immediately, but we didn't go. We will not get off until in the afternoon tomorrow. I shall not go for a few days; not until my lame back gets entirely well, so we will have no quarters but our tents, without fire until we build them.

Col Droke and Major Hamilton are both on detached service, and I am almost sure Col Kirtledge is doing all in his power to get detached, and if he does, it will throw the command on me again. But as it happens my order putting me on the Commission to examine claims for exemption from the militia to free me from the Regiment. I have been commencing because the interest of the men has required it, but I can't go away until I am relieved. I am of the opinion Col Kirtledge has arranged that, and that he has arranged for himself. I will know in a few days however. All of our field officers show a disposition to get away from the Regiment. They think the command too insignificant for them, or in other words they think themselves too important for the command. The money is a very fine thing with some of them, and they are perfectly willing to have a Captain whom some of them detest, to do their work. But let me tell you now my pet I am not going to do it, if I can help it. Major Hamilton swears by the living God that he will not do it. I heard him say so late this evening, and I asked him at the time if he expected me to do more for the Regiment than he is willing to do. So that he had no answer to make. There is some excuse for Col Droke, but for the other there is none. Col Kirtledge has a brother in law who is

Captain of Company "E." The Captain and
the two Lieut. are all well and on Detached
service. I have been Commanding and taking care
of their men since last May. They have nice
situations, and of course are perfectly willing to
to throw their Company off on to me. Do you
blame me for getting a little irritated my sweet
pet? Would you love me if I didn't? Could you
respect any man, who would remain quiet and
suffer himself so imposed on; and especially
in the army. In my case "forbearance has ceased
to be a virtue", and Col. ^{Dodge} ~~Wittredge~~ had better know
what he is doing before he acts. Col. ^{Dodge} ~~Wittredge~~ has
about come to the conclusion to let him pass. But
let me tell you one thing my pet, if ever I sign
charges and Specifications and hand them in against
him, they will never be withdrawn by me, I
don't propose to do anything of the kind if I can,
in any way get along without it. But perhaps
you don't want to hear me talk so much about these things.
Dolly; but you you know I tell you everything. Don't be
uneasy about any thing of the kind pet. I am not going
to let it trouble me, I think I can take care of myself.
My back is much better. I walked two miles or more
this afternoon, but when I came back to quarters I was
about give out. I will be well by the time the reg-
iment gets moved and fixed up. That is old soldier
This letter is sufficiently long Dolly. But I must tell you that
I love you pet. Give me a kiss by lines
W. H. Vermin

Camp Co Iowa July
Little Rock Nov-30th 1864

My Darling

Three more good letters from my feet
The latest one is dated on the 12th that is not
so bad; only twelve days out. And then the
news is better, because Dollie's arm is better. I have
been a little, yet more than a little uneasy about
that wound. It has been so very long getting
well; and then when I learn that it had
gathered under the arm, I begin to think it was
going to get well at all. But now I do hope
it is well, and will not get sore any more.

Just as I expected, you don't know what to
do with the products of Broadside. What a
pity that Dollie can't trade in corn as well as
Mortgage on real estate, and Government Bonds
You must learn my feet. You must learn to
dispose of every kind of business as it comes up.
But I must tell you all about the corn, though
I suppose you have disposed of it, before now.
It won't do to dispose of a question of such
great importance without thorough thought & discussion,
so I hope you will be patient, and listen to all
I have to say on the subject; then you will be able
to determine just what to do provided you have not
already sold it. If you have you must not have the blues

because I have withheld the instructions so long, for I was not aware until I received your letter this week that you needed any information on the subject further than what I gave you sometime ago. It was mean my sweet pet, I ought to have said more, and been more explicit in what I did say, but I wrote hurriedly as I frequently do. It is one of my failings my sweet pet, but I do hope you will forgive me for it. All true people like you forgive their friends short comings. But I must watch myself or I will get off of the corn question before I have said all I wish to say. I don't know but I am more addicted to wandering from the subject matter of my letter than a great many other people, but we will discuss that question after I get home, and we are comfortably situated in some nice town, with plenty of good nice friends all around us. Such people are calculated to make one feel comfortable whether they are really so or not. But to the corn. Have just what you want to use to your father. Sell the remainder for the most money you can get paid in hand.

Corn will be very high, no doubt by Spring, but ours will all be stolen, if it is left at warehouse. Don't agree to haul it to any person. Have someone to measure it, whom you can depend on. If we could keep it till Spring it would be worth much more, but we can't

You know all about our regiment my
pet, I tell you everything you know. I have
not been relieved from duty in town yet, so I
have not been out to camp to see how the boys
are getting on. I hope to be able to go out in
a day or two at farthest

Mr Warden is trying to resign. His wife is
suffering from some pulmonary disease, that he
fears will take her off. He seems very anxious
about it

Do all you can to make Jenny meet in her
habits. She will learn I think

I am not the least uneasy about our Bonds

My room is getting cold. I must go to bed
My back is well but my tooth aches, like
will I don't what, unless it is that other tooth
of mine that used to ache

I love you my sweet Dollie
Sincerely

W. F. Vermilion