

Neokuk Iowa  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Capt W. F. Permision

Dear Sir.

I received yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst, to-day.  
It was very interesting and well worthy of  
perusal—almost equal to the Daily Gate, for  
news. Well Capt, I suppose you have had,  
and still having, a good time; and, also, some  
tolerably warm times—such warm times  
as a true loyal man, can not avoid in  
Appanoos. For it is like fire and water  
coming together, for an experienced soldier  
to emerge in that County amongst those  
Mongre Copperheads (I mean the mixture  
caused by the renegade rebs of Mo. & those  
of Appanoos) who infest that section as  
a pestilent. When I heard of the time  
you & the boys had among those damnable  
traitors— for such I think is their title—  
I was attracted with one of those spasms  
of good feelings for them, such I used to  
have at Helena, when I sent them my  
respects occasionally. A thing that grieves  
me, connected with that affair, was, that  
Brown's boys & Kimble took sides with the  
rebs, giving them something to crow about.  
However, Bless told me that they soely repented



The act. I suppose it may be attributable to their ignorance. Brees told me that Danever said he would settle with you before you left; I "remarked," that after he got through settling with you, that he would be done carrying sling shots for Jake Grimes' head. Cas. Brown told me while here about the sling shot arrangement & had I not known something about bush-whackers they would, like-enough, had the opportunity of using it for they tried to decoy me to Chariton Bottom to lay out with them one night before I returned to the Regt., but my eyes were open to all their damnable tricks of treason. Capt., I believe that if hating, abhorring & cursing these dastardly Minions of Jeff's, was good for Bronchitis, I would soon be well. I think the day is near at hand, when they will strive, but in vain, to wipe from their Physiognomy, that indelible brand, "Traitor," which they have cherished so long, as an ornament.

I received a letter a few days ago from two of my cousins (Grimeses) who are members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Va. Cav. which did me a great deal of good. They informed me that not one of the name (my relatives) is a rebel but my Brother, and a letter which came to



hand This evening, states that he is now a refugee. I do not believe that he would desert a good cause, but when he waked up on the wrong side, like his Brother Jake, he sees the fence like a sinner fleeing the wrath to come. What an outlawed being I would be, were I taking sides against my friends & relatives who have sacrificed their all home, property & every thing else & come out in defence of the Union.

Thanks God, Capt. you used to call me out of the school-house at Teonium, once & a while & ask me to go to war with you in defence of my country; otherwise, I might have been a ruined man - that is, a Copperhead. I have espoused the right cause - to war for the Stars & stripes till they shall wave in triumph over every state in this Union as the ensign of patriotism & liberty to mankind. The day of restitution, I think, is not far distant when rebellion will wither & die. - My health is tolerable good - my Cough does not trouble me so much as it used to do. The Ague is bothering <sup>me</sup> sometimes. I think I will come all straight this summer. The boys are doing very well; Bill McBuley, Quia, Davis,



Nothing & myself are all of C 7  
that are here. C. E. Phillips is living  
here. Dr. Richard is here attending  
Medical Lecture. There is no news  
about her that is worthy of your  
attention. Write again, for I shall  
be happy to hear from you at any  
time. Good luck to you

Yours truly  
J. F. Grimes

P.S. Keep your eye on the father.



Davenport Iowa April 23<sup>d</sup> 1864

My Darling,

Here is to The War way of talking to our friends. Do you think we can make it answer our purpose. So far we have had a very pleasant time, considering that we have just left our dearest friends behind. The ride over on The Stage was not so bad as I expected I did very well. At Albia I found our recruits all ready, but Burch, who had deserted. Herkenloper had four fine recruits whom he had never reported. We brought them all along. Duckworth was much better. He came along with us. Henry Meisher made a very significant remark as we were riding along in the night. We were talking about the high price of goods, and he was telling me that his father was keeping his wife while he is in the service. "If it were not for that" he seemed to think it would use up all his wages to keep his wife decently clothed. After that remark he seemed to go into quite a study. Then he remarked very solemnly, that he would hate to be in Brigham Young's place. At Eselyville I got the joke on him again. He said he wanted to stop at The Heavy house that The Land Lord was a relative of. Mr Cupprie, and of course wouldn't charge him anything. We stopped there and got our break-fast. Henry let himself be known, and The Land Lord charged him fifty cents. I wouldn't pay but twenty-five cents a piece for the other boys. I tell him relatives are a great help sometimes. The boys have all come in. I will have to stop writing until morning.



Later the boys didnt stay as long as I expected they would  
so I will talk a little while longer

I have succeeded in getting all my bills through, but the  
Commutation for Quarters. I will get that Monday. Other  
Recruiting Officers have collected theirs, and I think I will  
have no trouble. The amount due me will be about one  
hundred & fifty dollars I write an order - is it mat? I have  
collected all of Col. Heckscocks money, except for  
Daniel Gard. He didnt get in on my enlistment. Col. Brier  
rejected him. Afterwards he went to the Provost Marshal and  
enlisted again, and was received. Of course Col. couldnt  
get pay for him, as he didnt present him to the man who  
last enlisted him. Tell Mr. Heckscocks about it  
The money for the other four amounting to \$6 a. or I will  
send to you, and you can pay him. I cant start it be-  
fore Monday or Tuesday. I will send it to Mr. Prailer  
You can get it there

We will go forward Monday evening or Tuesday morning  
if I get the rest of my business settled. I will write  
you again before I start. It is quite late. I am sleepy  
May I not go to bed? You must grumble about this little  
space being left will you Dollie? If you do, I will keep  
on talking whether I say any thing or not.

Goodly Dollie. I love you

Vernilion



Davenport Iowa April 25<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling,

It is now eleven o'clock P.M.  
I have got my business all finished up. I have  
had no trouble. This afternoon I expressed to  
Mr. Walker \$3.80. <sup>100</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Sixty Dollars of it  
belong to Col. Hitchcock. I paid 25 cts for  
expressing it - Collect it. Don't be uneasy, I am  
keeping plenty to do me.

We start to morrow morning for St. Louis.  
We go by Boat. I will write again the  
first opportunity. Be cheerful Dollie - I  
love you. It has been cloudy and raining ever  
since we got here, so I could not get any  
Photographs. Don't have the blues, I will get  
them some time. I sent those books to  
Mr. Pratt

Wm. Miller



Steamer Savannah  
Mississippi

April 27<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling

I mailed you a few lines  
this forenoon at Burlington. I believe I dated  
it the 24<sup>th</sup>. This you see is dated the 27<sup>th</sup>.  
I am not sure which is right, but it  
won't make any difference, you will  
understand which was written first.  
We passed Burlington a little before  
noon, I saw the State Prison at Ft.  
Madison, and got a good view of the river  
portion of the City. It is quite a neat  
looking place. Late this evening we came  
on to the Propide. The boatmen tell me they  
estimated about eighteen miles. The river is  
quite full, but still heavy loaded boats have  
to take up to pass over safely. We are lying  
to night at Montrose. On the Illinois side  
is Korvax. (I don't know whether that word is  
spelt correctly or not I am a shame to myself)



I wish I had time to ramble over it for an hour or two, but I have not. The town is situated on a beautifully situated piece of ground (that is bully English) There appears to be but one corner of the old Temple standing. It was built of stone. The town extended over a large piece of ground at one time, but many of the original buildings have been neglected, and are now like the Temple tumbled to ground. Some of the pass-  
engers say there is a colony of French occupying the place. I wish I could tell you all I thought while I looked at the dilapidated buildings this evening, but I can't. You know I can't write quite as well as I can think.

The boat will have to lie here till it is quite light in the morning. And then it will have to stop at Keokuk about two hours tomorrow. The Cars pass down at 4 o'clock in the morning. I am going to get on them and go down and Sergeant Prime. This is all I can write. The last men are shutting the light off.  
Good-bless you I love you. Willie  
Newell



On board Steamer Savannah  
Mississippi River

April 28<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling,

We will be at Burlington in  
a few minutes. I saw Matt yesterday. Thank  
you for the letter, the love and the news. Matt  
was well so am I. We go by St Louis  
We'll get there on the day after tomorrow  
Matt will go to Cairo on a day or two  
Be cheerful, I will write every  
opportunity. You can tell that was not  
written at Cairo at the last shakes  
so I can't write. How I wish I could  
see you Dolly. You are a Soldier  
good wife. You were so brave when we  
parted. I love you for it. I love you for every  
thing you do because every thing you do is good  
If the boat stops long enough before we get to  
St Louis I will write you a long letter. I can't  
over Dolly. Goodbye for this time. I love you,  
Vernilion



We are sending No for Burlington for We  
will leave soon this afternoon



On board Steamer Ames  
St Louis Mo. April 30<sup>th</sup> / 1864

My Darling:

Don't expect me to write much this evening, for I am really too tired. I have been on the trot ever since 8 o'clock this morning, and now my feet are hurting me so I can hardly be still. I will be all right in the morning.

We got here yesterday about eleven o'clock. Some men of our regiment came down just before us on the Steamer Warsaw, and went to the Schofield Barracks. They were on their way to the regiment. I thought it my duty to take them in charge. So Lieut Warden and I went to the Barracks as soon as we got here yesterday, and made application for them. This morning we sent for them, and brought all the stragglers that were for the 30<sup>th</sup> here (on the wharf). Then we had to make a Provision Return, and get it approved by the Post Commander before the boys could draw rations. That took us two or three hours. Then we had to get transportation



for ourselves and men. We wish you may last too for  
another good while. In the first place we had to  
ascertain where the Master of Transportation kept  
his office. Then we had to go and make application  
The Mr & Mc told us we would have to get an  
order from the Superintendent of the Recruiting Service  
for this State before we could get it. That caused  
us another trip of five or six blocks, for of course  
we must have the order. At last we got the thing all  
huddled up, and they gave us a pass from here to  
Memphis. The next thing was to find a boat. The  
first one found for that city, and that caused me two  
or three <sup>trips</sup> of 2 miles each up and down <sup>the</sup> Levee. We heard  
of one boat - the Summay - that was advertised to  
start this afternoon. After looking for an hour we ascertain-  
ed she went down yesterday evening. After another half  
an hour's hunting we found that the White Valley  
was to start at five this P. M. but the Capt. & Clerk  
were gone, and would not tell us whether we could  
get a State pass or not - so we were to Sprukey to  
go with them. At last we ascertained that this boat -  
the Henry Ames was going down tomorrow morning at  
10 o'clock. So we came aboard, and now we are all  
right I think. Supper will soon be ready



Then the Lieut and I wanted to shop a little before  
leaving, and to be safe safe we thought best  
to comply with Gen. Bascorans order requiring all  
Officers passing <sup>through</sup> St Louis to report on their  
arrival, at his head Quarters and obtain passes  
So that was another job. The finding of an office  
in a City like this is not always an easy thing  
But we had but little trouble this time in find-  
ing the office and in obtaining the necessary passes  
Since then I have been on the run all the time, and  
have bought about all I need - every thing I believe  
but a pair of shoes, and I don't think I will go  
out again unless I find other business. We  
may go to the Theatre this evening. The boys want  
to go, and they cant unless we do. You want to  
know what I bought. I will tell you. First I got  
a pair of small, and tolerably small size shoulder  
straps. They cost me \$2.75. Then I got me a hat, and  
cord, at \$4.50. This morning I got me a pair of some  
pant at \$11.00. That I believe is all I have bought  
Lieut Warden has just bought me a pair of  
nice buck shoes. That is all.

Your crew, morning are start again. We are all quite  
well, and in fine spirit. We still get the fun on  
Life Marches occasionally.



You see I have been too busy to get those  
1 Photographs. Don't get the blues over it  
my pet. I will get them as soon as I can  
and send you a good lot.

With this poor excuse for a letter Dollie I  
send you boundless love. I have not got the  
blues my Darling, but I think of you all  
the time, and I will think of you all the time  
Goodly for this time my precious Darling  
Vermillion